

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF ALDERMAN PAUL GARCIA

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Alderman Paul Garcia for his public service to the city of Charlotte, Texas.

Paul Garcia joined the Army when he was 19 years old. He served throughout Europe for 7 years on various assignments for the United States. During his stay in service, he received the Instructor of the Year Award in 1997 and the Joseph Hibbs Award. He was also awarded of the Kentucky Colonel Award from the Governor of Kentucky. In 1998, he retired after 20 years of service in the military.

Mr. Garcia is currently serving his second term as Alderman Place 1. He works on several committees and fundraisers within the community. Currently Paul Garcia has been playing an active role in the establishment of a park in Charlotte.

Paul Garcia lives in Charlotte with his wife Frances and they have two children together. As a pillar of his local community, he is a route manager for all of San Antonio and the surrounding country.

Mr. Speaker, I am deeply proud to have been given this opportunity to recognize Alderman Paul Garcia of Charlotte for his dedicated public service.

A TRIBUTE TO MANUEL VARGAS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Manuel Vargas who is being honored at the Brooklyn Caribe Lions Club dinner dance as "Real Estate Broker of the Year."

Manuel is a successful licensed real estate broker in New York and Florida. He graduated magna cum laude from New York University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Real Estate. Manuel has more than 10 years of experience in the real estate market. A Hall of Fame member for a large franchise in the new millennium, Manuel decided to start PAN/AMERICAN Realty.

Amongst his reasons for doing so was because he wanted to deliver excellent, personalized service to his clients and to establish a household name that would be synonymous with honesty, professionalism and efficient marketing techniques. His goal was to give real advice to clients and customers about all facets of the real estate industry.

Throughout his career, Manuel has learned that he can also make a positive impact in the

community that he works in by helping those in need. He has received numerous awards for all of the support and dedication he has given to different organizations.

Mr. Speaker, Manuel Vargas has been a leader in his community and has been a wonderful example of how dedication and perseverance can lead to success. As such, he is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today and the award of Real Estate Broker of the Year. Thus, I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable person.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION DESIGNATING THE ED EILERT POST OFFICE

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation designating the United States Postal Service facility located at 12433 Antioch Road in Overland Park, Kansas, as the "Ed Eilert Post Office Building." I am joined in sponsoring this measure by my colleagues from Kansas: Representatives TODD TIAHRT, JIM RYUN and JERRY MORAN, and I am grateful for their support of this bipartisan legislation.

Later this month, an era will come to an end in Overland Park. Ed Eilert will step down as Mayor of Overland Park, an office to which he was elected six times and held for twenty-four years. Since he was sworn into office in 1981, Overland Park has grown to become Kansas' second largest city. Its population has nearly doubled to over 165,000, the number of people working within the city's limits has more than tripled, with roughly 120,000 jobs in Overland Park today, and hotel capacity has increased from about 800 rooms to 5,100 rooms. During his tenure, 21,897 single family and 19,533 multifamily residences have been added in Overland Park, along with 23.7 million square feet of office, retail and industrial space. Over the years, the city has seen the arrival of the Sprint campus, three new hospitals, the University of Kansas Edwards campus, the Carlsen Center at Johnson County Community College, and a city convention center.

Additionally, under Ed Eilert's leadership the city has added the landmark Clock Tower Plaza and the Farmer's Market in the downtown area, a neighborhood conservation program, the Arboretum and Botanical Gardens, the International Trade Center, the W. Jack Sanders Justice Center, and interchanges at 1-435 at both Nall Avenue and Quivira Road. Mayor Eilert also supported construction of the Fire Training Center, used by many other city and county fire departments in the Kansas City metropolitan area, and he worked with Johnson County Community College to create

a training facility for Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway employees on the college campus. And during Mayor Eilert's tenure, the city's land area expanded by 36 percent, to nearly 62 square miles. Finally, Overland Park enjoys a top rating for a solid financial condition. It has received numerous awards as an outstanding city. For years, Overland Park has had the lowest property tax rate of any first-class city in Kansas.

Ed Eilert was first elected to the Overland Park City Council in 1977 and became Council president in 1980. A former teacher at Shawnee Mission North High School, he knows firsthand how Overland Park has benefited significantly from its nationally recognized school systems. He had made his first visit to the city in 1960 because it was the home of Jan Bush, who he met while studying at Emporia State University and would marry two years later. The Eilerts moved to Overland Park in 1965 when he completed graduate school. In 1977, he began his first campaign for political office and has been a public servant continuously since then. He also has been a financial consultant with A.G. Edwards & Sons and serves on the board of directors of Metcalf Bank.

When you consider the daunting array of challenges that Ed Eilert faced in his twenty four years as mayor of Overland Park, you cannot help but agree with Bob Sigmund, the opinion page editor of the Johnson County Sun, who recently wrote that Eilert "provided the vision and leadership in shaping Overland Park's success as an ideal place to live, work and raise a family . . . Eilert's political skills have been especially useful in easing tensions—and maintaining an acceptable balance—between the older, established neighborhoods in northern Overland Park and the rapidly expanding new subdivisions in the south."

I am proud to call Ed Eilert my friend. While we are members of different political parties, I have always been impressed by his sound judgment, diligence, and dedication to his community and to the public welfare. When he sought the Republican nomination for the U.S. House in 1996, however, he lost narrowly to then-State Representative Vince Snowbarger for the nomination to succeed Representative Jan Meyers. I often tell Third District residents that I would have not sought election to Congress myself had Ed Eilert been elected two years before I became a candidate for the office.

Dedication of this Postal Service facility in Overland Park is a small but fitting tribute to a man who has dedicated most of his adult life to public service at the community level, working tirelessly to bring people together while ensuring quality economic development and competence in the delivery of local services. I commend Mayor Ed Eilert and again thank my colleagues in the Kansas House delegation for their support. I hope the House can move quickly to approve this legislation so we can soon see it signed into law.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

COMMENDING OUTSTANDING EFFORTS OF ARMED FORCES AND EMPLOYEES OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT AND USAID IN RESPONSE TO EARTHQUAKE AND TSUNAMI OF DECEMBER 26, 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 120, commending the outstanding efforts of our military and civilian personnel who responded to the humanitarian crisis engendered by the earthquake and tsunami of December 26, 2004. I commend my colleagues, Mr. BLUMENAUER and Mr. LEACH, for submitting this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I traveled to Southeast Asia in January to help assess the damage caused by the tsunami. I saw firsthand the overwhelming scale of the human tragedy that killed over 250,000 people. Without the heroic efforts of the U.S. Armed Forces personnel and the civilian employees of the Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development, the death toll would have been far worse.

These men and women worked tirelessly to help provide necessities, like drinking water, food, and medical supplies, to survivors of the tragedy. In addition, many worked to coordinate the relief efforts of donors, relief organizations, aid agencies, and governments. The civilian employees worked to identify and assist U.S. citizens who were affected by the tsunami.

Because of the courageous efforts of these Americans, I have no doubt that many lives were saved. This selfless giving in a time of crisis was beyond the call of duty. Their efforts deserve great recognition and I am proud to support this resolution commending them.

GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the 184th anniversary of Greece's declaration of independence from the Ottoman Empire. Against impossible odds, the Greeks defeated one of the most powerful empires in history and gained their independence.

In March 1821, after 400 years of Ottoman rule, Bishop Germanos of Patras raised the traditional Greek flag at the monastery of Agia Lavras, inciting his countrymen to rise against the Ottoman army. The Bishop timed this act of revolution to coincide with the Greek Orthodox holiday celebrating the archangel Gabriel's announcement that the Virgin Mary was pregnant with the divine child. Bishop Germanos's message to his people was clear: a new spirit was about to be born in Greece.

Greek Independence Day is an appropriate time to reflect upon the strong ties between Greece and the United States. Indeed, when the Greeks of 1821 fought for independence from the Ottoman Empire, they drew inspira-

tion from the ideals and institutions of the fledgling United States. During their War of Independence, the Greeks also received encouragement from many Americans, including Presidents James Madison and James Monroe and Representatives Daniel Webster and Henry Clay, each of whom gave memorable speeches in Congress in support of the Greek revolutionaries. Just as our defeat of the British army was remarkable, so too was the Greek triumph over the Ottoman Army, a momentous achievement in world history.

As many of my colleagues know, New York City is home to the largest Hellenic population outside of Greece and Cyprus. Western Queens, which I have the honor of representing, is often called Little Athens because of the large Hellenic population in that neighborhood.

New Yorkers celebrate Greek Independence Day with a parade on Fifth Avenue in Manhattan, along with a great many cultural events and private gatherings. These events, hosted by the Federation of Hellenic Societies and other Hellenic and Philhellenic organizations and friends, remind us of the Hellenic-American community's many contributions to our nation's history and culture.

On April 10, the President of the Federation of Hellenic Societies, Nikos Diamontidis, along with the organization's officers and board members, will join Parade Committee Chairman Dinos Rallis, Co-Chairmen Tasos Manesis and Philip Christopher and Co-Chairwoman Georgia Kaloidis in reminding New Yorkers of the glory of Greece, the joy of the Olympics and the hope of freedom and human rights for all. The Grand Marshals of this year's parade are my distinguished colleague, Senator PAUL SARBANES, his wife, Christine, Anthony Diamataris, the Editor and Publisher of the National Herald and his wife, Litsa. Adding to the day's ethnic pride will be parade emcees Nick Gregory, Anthoula Katsimatides and Petros Fourniotis.

In 2004, the Athens Olympics united the world. Today, while New Yorkers pay tribute to Greece's accomplishments, we also seek to add our hometown to the list of great Olympic host cities. It is my hope that one of Greece's most enduring contributions to world history will finally come to New York City in 2012.

As the founder and co-Chairperson of the Hellenic Caucus in Congress, I ask the nation to join me in celebrating Greece's independence. Additionally, it is my sincere pleasure to pay tribute to New York's Hellenic-American community for its many contributions to our city and nation.

"Zeto E Eleftheria!" (Long Live Freedom!)

IN CELEBRATION OF GROUP A BOYS' BASKETBALL STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. ROBERT C. SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great pride to call attention to a group of young students from Surry County, Virginia, who have distinguished themselves, their school, their community, and the Commonwealth of Virginia.

The Surry High School Cougars boys' basketball team had a remarkable season and I

believe the Cougars deserve formal recognition for their accomplishments. On March 12, 2005, the Cougars won their first Group A Boys' Basketball State Championship at the Virginia Commonwealth University Siegel Center in Richmond. Surry completed its 2005 season with a truly impressive record of 26-4.

The Cougars have dedicated this year's championship run to their Head Coach, Joe Ellis. Mr. Ellis was diagnosed with colon and stomach cancer twenty months ago. Despite his diagnosis and subsequent chemotherapy treatments, Mr. Ellis has continued to coach the Cougars, missing only one game during their championship season. His dedication and commitment to the team have given his players a model of how to face adversity both on the basketball court and in life.

Along with the State Championship, the Cougars won this year's Tri-Rivers District Tournament and the Region A Tournament. Coach Ellis was awarded Coach of the Year by the Virginia High School Coaches Association. Junior center Edward Barham was also honored as Player of the Year.

I want to extend my enthusiastic congratulations for a job well done to Coach Ellis and the Surry High School Cougars—the 2005 Group A Virginia High School League Boys' Basketball State Champions.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM DAVIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. DAVIS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on roll-call No. 90, had I been present, I would have voted "no".

HONORING DR. CONSTANTINE P. KIAMOS AND STEINMETZ ACADEMIC CENTRE

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of one of Chicago's great educators, Dr. Constantine P. Kiamos, former Principal of the Steinmetz Academic Centre.

Steinmetz Academic Centre stands in the heart of Chicago's Belmont-Cragin neighborhood, and has served the people of this community for over ninety years. Dr. Kiamos retired from Steinmetz last year after two decades of distinguished leadership, and was recently honored at a school event.

During his tenure, Steinmetz underwent many changes, including a major increase in enrollment. Through all of the changes, Steinmetz maintained its commitment to providing students with a high caliber education.

Dr. Kiamos has always believed in the importance of public education. Before he was the principal of Steinmetz Academic Centre, he served as Principal of Lovett School; Assistant Principal at Carpenter School and was a teacher at Medill Elementary.

Steinmetz's mission is to provide equal access to education for all students in an environment that is intellectually, physically and

emotionally stimulating, and to develop productive citizens competent in academic and life skills, accepting of themselves and others, and capable of lifelong learning. Dr. Kiamos' leadership and teaching style was an important factor in carrying out this mission.

Over the years, Steinmetz has provided many opportunities for students to excel, through programs such as the Illinois State Scholars, Advanced Placement classes, the Academic Decathlon team, the Chicago Debate League and competitive sports teams. Many of Steinmetz's students who took advantage of these opportunities have excelled and achieved tremendous progress in a wide variety of fields.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Fifth Congressional District of Illinois and indeed all of Chicago, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing a lifetime of service and dedication to our community by a great Chicagoan, Dr. Constantine P. Kiamos, and Steinmetz Academic Centre that he so proudly served.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, March 21, 2005, I did not cast my Floor vote on roll call number 90 on the motion to suspend the rules and pass S. 686, a private bill for the relief of the parents of Theresa Marie Schiavo. Had I been present, I would have voted nay.

My personal beliefs on religious morality belong to me, in my home and in my church, with my family and with my God. The Schiavos deserved this same level of privacy and respect. The good people of the 31st Congressional District did not elect me to impose my religious mores upon them or the American people through legislative acts in Congress.

Members of Congress should never have legislated on this very personal family matter—the Schiavos told us this and so even did the courts.

The mere fact that we took up this legislation sets a dangerous precedent where if the Congress dislikes a court's decision we pursue a law to overturn our own constitutional system of checks and balances. In passing S. 686, this Congress complicated what has already been a long and difficult journey for the Schiavos these past 15 years. May Theresa Schiavo now rest in peace.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF ALDERMAN AUGUSTINE MUNOZ

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Alderman Augustine Munoz for his public service to the city of Charlotte, Texas.

Augustine Munoz is no stranger to serving his country. A veteran of the Korean Conflict, he served as an artillery trainer. It was this same patriotism and dedication that later led him into the service of his local community.

Augustine Munoz has lived in Charlotte for over 72 years. His experience spans across many trades, including work in construction and the oil fields. He currently works on numerous committees and has spent time working with the Democratic Party.

As a longstanding community participant, he has dedicated much of his life to improving the City of Charlotte. While times may have changed, Augustine Munoz remains a steadfast community leader and organizer.

Augustine Munoz has been married for over fifty years. He is a devoted family man who loves to spend time with his children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I am deeply proud to have this opportunity to recognize Alderman Augustine Munoz of Charlotte for his dedicated public service.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF JUDGE HECTOR J. LIENDO

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the important contributions of Judge Hector J. Liendo in Laredo, TX in my Congressional District.

Born July 10, 1950, Judge Liendo attended Leyendecker Elementary School, L.J. Christen Jr. High and Martin High School. He later attended Laredo Junior College and received his Associates Degree in Computer Science.

Judge Hector J. Liendo enlisted in the military and chose the U.S. Navy right after high school. Through the navy he traveled to south East Asia, China, Philippines, Taiwan, Vietnam, Thailand, Borneo, Pakistan, Australia, Singapore, Okinawa, Japan, a brief tour to the ship's maiden name, "The Anchorage Alaska" and crossed the equator twice with a big celebration.

While in the navy, he made five tours to Vietnam during his four-year enlistment. He was awarded the Vietnam service medal, the Vietnam campaign medal, the combat action ribbon and the Philipino Presidential Citation. He received an honorable discharge in February 1973.

Shortly after arriving in Laredo, Judge Liendo left for Michigan where he worked as a crane operator for the Pontiac Motor Company. Later in 1973, he worked at the Laredo City Drug Store in downtown Laredo. He got married in June 17, 1974 and started attending Laredo Junior College, full time.

In 1978, Judge Liendo went to Houston, to work in the Seismic Processing Department. He was employed as a computer operator and his duties entailed payroll, accounts payable & receivables, and accounting general ledger.

He then worked for Entex as a marketing representative and served as a City Councilman for District VII from 1988–1992.

In 1993 he was elected Justice of the Peace, Precinct One, Place One and ran unopposed for a second term in 1997. As Justice of the Peace Judge Liendo deals with civil cases, criminal cases, traffic citations, fines and court hearings.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have this opportunity to recognize the contributions of Judge Hector J. Liendo.

IN HONOR OF DEANNE FITZMAURICE ON WINNING THE PULITZER PRIZE

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Deanne Fitzmaurice of the San Francisco Chronicle for winning the Pulitzer Prize for feature photography. This award, the most prestigious in American journalism, is presented to only one photographer every year for a distinguished example of feature photography.

Deanne Fitzmaurice earned this award for her moving photo essay on an Oakland hospital's effort to mend an Iraqi boy nearly killed by an explosion. Her powerful photographic narrative captures the story of this young child as doctors strive to give him a chance at a new life. With the accompanying articles written by Meredith May, these poignant photographs tell an overlooked but significant side of the Iraq war.

Deanne has worked at the San Francisco Chronicle for the past 16 years. Her work has been featured in numerous publications including TIME, Newsweek, and U.S. News and World Report. She was named the Bay Area Press Photographers Association's Photographer of the Year in 2002.

Deanne's collection is indicative of the high quality of work at the San Francisco Chronicle. The Chronicle is committed to excellence in journalism, as evidenced by Deanne's photography and its fine reporting. Congratulations to Deanne Fitzmaurice and the San Francisco Chronicle on this magnificent honor.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN F. TIERNEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res 95) establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2006, revising appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal year 2005, and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2007 through 2010:

Mr. TIERNEY. Mr. Chairman, throughout the year, Members often express support for certain policies and programs or advocate for fiscal discipline. However, during the consideration of the Budget Resolution our true commitment to those priorities comes to light.

What this Republican Budget Resolution reveals is that the Majority is more concerned with advancing a narrow ideological agenda. Carefully making sure to allow for a total of \$106 billion in tax cuts over five years for high-end earners, this GOP Budget Resolution carelessly exacts severe cuts to critical services that benefit students of all ages, veterans, first responders, poor and working families, and communities interested in economic development.

What this Republican Budget Resolution reveals is that the Majority is more interested in

advancing a reckless, unsustainable economic policy than restoring fiscal responsibility. In fact, the Majority's proposal calls for a deficit of \$376 billion in 2006—\$78 billion more than the Congressional Budget Office's estimate. This budget, which only accounts for five years, never reaches balance.

The Republican Budget signifies a failure in honest accounting not just because of what is included, but also for what it disingenuously leaves out. Excluded from this Budget are the details of the President's estimated \$754 billion 10-year Social Security privatization plan (\$20 Billion over the next decade), the cost of the over \$800 billion (and growing) Medicare drug bill, the longer term costs of the war in Iraq, the cost to stop the alternative minimum tax from penalizing regular families, and the implications of extending the tax cuts.

Feigning fiscal discipline and fundamentally at odds with what I believe are the real priorities and concerns of the American people, this GOP Budget Resolution also offers no 21st Century competitive strategy for our country and further shreds what is left of our ever-fraying safety net.

A much needed competitive strategy would start with education, which is the vehicle through which students of all ages can achieve and become what they may never have otherwise dreamed possible. Going to college and attaining a degree is, unfortunately, not a right of passage for the vast majority in our country. Achieving this goal must not be minimized. Each year, a young man or woman becomes the first member of his or her family to graduate from college. For them, and for all their relatives and loved ones, obtaining a diploma means progress and instills pride. A college degree translates into hard dollars: over their lifetime, college graduates will earn on average \$1 million more than they would have if they did not attend post-secondary school.

Schools continue to serve as the source where we can view the promise of America in progress, and our country's legacy depends upon how well we educate our young people. For those not completing four years of college, higher job skills and technical abilities acquired through vocational and technological training and education are the path to the middle class.

The Majority's budget cuts education programs by \$2.5 billion in 2006 and \$38 billion over the next five years and completely eliminates 48 programs, including the \$1.3 billion vocational education program, the \$437 million Safe and Drug-Free Schools Program, the \$306 million GEAR-UP program, and the \$225 million Even Start family literacy program.

These cuts come at a time when the cost of attending a four-year public college has increased more than \$2,300. In fact, according to the 2003 National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education survey, Massachusetts had the largest tuition increase in four-year public institutions (24 percent), and the second largest in community colleges (26 percent). They attack our increasingly successful community college and vocational-technical training programs.

These cuts come at a time when there is an increased need to college access programs, including GEAR-UP and TRIO, that help high school students prepare for, apply to, and find financial aid for college.

These cuts come at a time when many communities across the country are struggling

with a growing methamphetamine and opiate problem. In Massachusetts, according to statistics from the state's Department of Public Health, the number of deaths from opiates has risen over 300%—from 108 in 1991 to 468 in 2001, which is the most recent year for which statistics are available.

The Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities State Grants program has assisted states and school districts in developing youth anti-drug education initiatives, which has, in turn, helped parents and teachers learn more about the prevalence of drugs in the community. The program has been a source through which Massachusetts has been successful in obtaining \$40 million in funds over the past five years.

It is not just those who are looking to improve themselves through education that this GOP Budget Resolution betrays, but it also advances the Administration's all-out assault against those that depend on our longstanding safety net, those programs that assist the poor, children, elderly, and people with disabilities. Meanwhile, let me reiterate, the Republican proposal calls for \$106 billion in additional tax cuts. According to the Urban Institute-Brookings Institution Tax Policy Center, 46% of those who will benefit from these tax cuts in 2005 will be households who earn \$1 million, which comprise only .2 percent of all households nationwide. The average tax cut for this income bracket was greater than \$30,000 in 2003.

This GOP Budget Resolution finances its hundred billion-dollar tax cut for the highest income earners at the expense of the most vulnerable and least fortunate in society. That is wrong.

As required by the Republican Budget, the Agriculture Committee would be forced to cut spending by more than \$5 billion over five years. With the general reluctance to alter or scale back farm subsidies, the food stamp program would bear the brunt of these cuts. This is not a program that has been riddled with so-called "waste, fraud, and abuse." The Center for Budget and Policy Priorities calculates that "over 95 percent of food stamp benefits go to households with income below the federal poverty level. Virtually all of the remainder goes to the elderly and people with disabilities."

Further, their budget makes deeper cuts in Medicaid than the President's budget, directing the Ways and Means Committee and the Energy and Commerce Committee to cut \$19 and \$20 billion respectively. It is expected that the bulk of such cuts will fall on low-income programs such as the Earned Income Tax Credit, the Child Tax Credit, unemployment benefits, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, foster care, and Medicaid.

According to the Center for Budget and Policy Priorities, "these Medicaid cuts are likely to push hard-pressed states to eliminate coverage for a substantial number of low income people, increasing the ranks of the uninsured and the underinsured."

The Center for Budget and Policy Priorities estimates that, should these cuts affect all states proportionally, this would translate into a loss of over \$117 million for Massachusetts.

This is not the direction in which this country should be headed. What is being proposed in the Republican Majority's Budget Resolution is not a blueprint for success.

Certainly, our constituents want to know that their tax dollars are being well spent. There is no question about that.

But parents also do not want to pass on huge amounts of debt to their children, which is what the GOP Budget Resolution does.

Parents do not want their children to be denied opportunities to learn and advance in ways beyond what they achieved in life. Moms and dads want to ensure that their kids are educated about drugs. They want their kids to know how to maximize their chances of gaining acceptance at a college and have programs available to help minimize the cost.

They want to know there are enough police and fire fighters on the street to be able to respond effectively to emergencies, they want our country's veterans to receive adequate care after they return home from service, and they want to protect the environment so their sons and daughters inherit cleaner air and safer drinking water.

At the same time, they take offense to denying food stamps or eliminating Medicaid coverage for those who depend on such services just to make room for another hundred billion dollar tax cut for the already well-off. That doesn't meet their standard of fundamental fairness.

Their Budget Resolution does nothing to improve upon our long-term fiscal outlook, fails students, and exploits the poor. We must do better. We implement solutions that honestly and effectively address the budget deficit, chart a course that allows our students to competitively excel, and adequately provide for those who need the most help.

A Better Way: The Democratic Budget is a more fiscally responsible approach to balancing the budget. It achieves balance by 2012, while accumulating less debt and wastes fewer resources on interest payments needed to service the national debt.

The Democratic alternative is based on essential two-sided pay-as-you-go budget enforcement rules that led to a balanced budget in the 1990's. The cost of any additional spending, or any new tax cut, must be paid for by curbing spending, offsetting spending cuts, or new revenues. The 1990 pay-as-you-go rules had bipartisan support, including the support of the first President Bush. Those rules turned record deficits into record surpluses in large part because they subjected all parts of the budget, discretionary and mandatory spending, as well as revenues, to budget discipline. The Republican budget contains no such enforcement provisions.

The Democratic budget provides \$4.5 billion more for education and training programs than the Republican budget for 2006 and \$41 billion more over the next five years. It rejects the \$21 billion in cuts that the Republican budget requires the Education and the Workforce Committee to make over five years, increases the maximum Pell Grant by \$100 in each of the next ten years—twice the Republican increase—and eliminates the program's current \$4.3 billion funding shortfall.

The Democratic budget provides \$2 billion more than the Republican budget for 2006 and \$9 billion more over five years for community and regional development, blocking the President's proposal to eliminate the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). Cuts in food stamps, housing, elderly services and other safety-net protections would not be necessary.

The Democratic Budget works towards elimination of the deficit, paring it down dramatically in the next five years, and thus saving us from huge interest payments needed to service the national debt.

We pay for all this by not extending the tax cuts for those earning over \$200,000. According to the Urban Institute-Brookings Institution Tax Policy Center this would provide \$223.5 billion between calendar year 2005 and 2010.

The tax cuts were originally promoted as temporary—if extended, they will cost \$1.5 trillion over the next 10 years. Coupled with the costly challenges in Iraq and Afghanistan and the need to invest in our future, the tax cuts prove an unbalanced approach that creates huge deficits and shortchanges America's priorities.

It is time to seize the opportunity to restore sanity and candor to the budget process and to pass a budget that promotes the security and values of the American people without imposing increased social inequities and crushing debt to future generations.

IN RECOGNITION OF CHARLES G. WELLS, JR.

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, Warrant Officer 1 Charles G. Wells, Jr., 32, originally of Montgomery, Alabama, died on March 30, 2005, in Iraq. Warrant Officer Wells was assigned to the Marine Forces Reserve's 6th Motor Transport Battalion, 4th Force Service Support Group of Orlando, Florida, and according to initial reports died in action from an improvised explosive device. His survivors include his wife Freda Nicole and his daughter Cierra; his mother Orlean Johnson Wells of Montgomery, Alabama; and his father Charles Gary Wells, Sr., also of Montgomery.

Charles Wells, Jr. was a proud Marine and eager to serve his country, Mr. Speaker. He willingly signed up for a third tour of duty in Iraq after having just completed his second. Back home, Mr. Wells had planned a career serving the community as a firefighter, yet dutifully left behind his family and loved ones to serve our country overseas.

Words cannot express the sense of sadness we have for his family, and for the gratitude our country feels for his service. Warrant Officer Wells died serving not just the United States, but the entire cause of liberty, on a noble mission to help spread the cause of freedom in Iraq and liberate an oppressed people from tyrannical rule. He was a true American.

We will forever hold him closely in our hearts, and remember his sacrifice and that of his family as a remembrance of his bravery and willingness to serve. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for the House's remembrance on this mournful day.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF THE HONORABLE TOM BEVILL

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, the Fourth District of Alabama, and indeed the entire state, recently lost a dear friend, and I rise today to honor him and pay tribute to his memory.

Congressman Tom Bevill was a devoted family man and dedicated public servant throughout his entire life, and has the distinction of being the longest-serving congressman ever to come from Alabama. I am certain many in this chamber recall with great fondness and vividness their memories of working closely with this tireless advocate for the needs of his constituents and his state.

Born on March 27, 1921, and a native of Walker County, Alabama, Congressman Bevill spent his childhood in the mining community of Townley, witnessing the ravages of the Great Depression on his family, his friends, and his neighbors. He was a 1943 graduate of the University of Alabama School of Commerce and Business Administration. Within a short time following his graduation, he joined the United States Army and rose to the rank of captain, leading one of the units which went ashore in France on June 6, 1944. Ultimately, Congressman Bevill retired from the U.S. Army Reserves with the rank of lieutenant colonel. In 1948, he completed his legal studies at the University of Alabama School of Law and embarked on an 18-year career practicing law in Jasper, Alabama.

All told, Congressman Bevill spent 38 years in public office. Elected to the Alabama State House of Representatives in 1958, he served for eight years before embarking on a campaign which would ultimately lead to his winning the seat for the Seventh (later Fourth) Congressional District at the end of 1966. He would go on to serve 15 terms in this chamber and become one of the most effective and well-respected advocates for the state of Alabama ever to serve in the United States Congress.

Congressman Bevill became such an effective representative for his district and for the state—and became such an influential member of the House of Representatives that he was often referred to as "Alabama's third senator." Indeed, the work he accomplished during his three decades in this chamber, particularly as a member of the full Committee on Appropriations and, for nine terms, as chairman of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, had important and long-lasting effects on the economic growth of the state of Alabama.

To this day, signs of his influence and successful efforts on behalf of his district and his state can be found throughout Alabama, and his name has been attached to some of the most important public centers anywhere in the state. These include the Tom Bevill Chair of Law at the University of Alabama, the Tom Bevill Energy, Mineral, and Material Science Research Building, also at the University of Alabama, and the Tom Bevill Center for Advanced Manufacturing Technology at Gadsden.

In addition to his long and successful career in the House of Representatives, Congress-

man Bevill received numerous awards and citations in recognition of his distinguished career. Along with honorary doctorates he received from Livingston University, the University of North Alabama, and Troy State University, he was inducted into both the Alabama Academy of Honor and the Alabama Senior Citizens Hall of Fame.

Perhaps more than any other two projects, Congressman Bevill should be remembered for his work on two of the most significant transportation projects in Alabama history: the Memphis-to-Birmingham highway known as "Corridor X," and the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway. "Corridor X," when completed, will provide a vital link between the two cities in Alabama and Tennessee and will provide tremendous benefits and incentive for further economic development in north Alabama. The Waterway has already provided incalculable benefits for Alabama's economy and has resulted in thousands of jobs for men and women throughout our state.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a dedicated public servant and long-time advocate for the state of Alabama, a man whose significant impact and dedication to the needs and interests of his constituents will be felt for many years to come. Congressman Bevill, who was preceded in death in 2001 by his beloved wife of 58 years, Lou, will be deeply missed by his family—his daughters, Susan Bevill Livingston and Patricia Bevill Warren, his son, Don Bevill, his six grandchildren, and his three great-grandchildren—as well as the countless friends he leaves behind. Our thoughts and prayers are with them all at this difficult time.

TAUNTON GAZETTE DOCUMENTS THE VALUE OF CDBG

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, the Taunton Gazette recently ran a very comprehensive series documenting the social and economic importance of the Community Development Block Grant Program. Taunton, Massachusetts, which I am privileged to represent, is a very good example of how when this program is well administered, as it has been in Taunton, it can be of such enormous benefit in a variety of ways to its citizens. Joanna James of the Taunton Gazette deserves a great deal of credit for her thorough and insightful reporting, and the Taunton Gazette deserves a great deal of credit for devoting the space to this story. Too often today people are given only snippets of information about important public policy issues. The Taunton Gazette's in depth exploration of how the CDBG Program works in that city is a tribute to the program itself, and to its continued importance, to the people in the City of Taunton led by Mayor Nunes who administer it, to Joanna James for the quality of her reportage and to the Taunton Gazette for giving so much space to such an important public policy issue.

I find it hard to believe that anyone could read this series of articles and still feel that this is a program ought to be substantially diminished, as the President's budget would do.

(By Joanna James)

TAUNTON.—President George W. Bush's recommendation to dismantle the Community

Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) in his proposed budget would filter down the federal bureaucracy in no time and aim directly at the heart of each community nationwide, according to local and state elected officials.

David Bachrach, director of the Mayor's Office of Community Development (MOCD), predicts a looming crisis targeting the community, whether or not the CDBG program is cut. Taunton received \$1.2 million from its funding for 2004.

If the program isn't eliminated, then the question will be how much funding will be allocated to it, according to Bachrach. Bachrach said if it's significantly cut that will cause unnecessary Congressional pressure to take money out of other programs.

"These are huge resources that only government can will upon the community," Bachrach said. "It's a shame that the cuts are even a suggestion."

Bush proposed to eliminate the community funding program and replace it under the Department of Commerce while cutting its funding by 35 percent. The CDBG aids statewide municipalities with low income housing, public enhancements such as park and street renovations and a plethora of other community resources left to the discretion at the local level.

Mayor Robert G. Nunes said the CDBG is a "tremendous program" that will have dire effects on Taunton if it is cut. Nunes said over the last 10 years, the program has provided \$15 million to Taunton. The funds have been used on community issues such as housing, public safety, infrastructure, parks, roads and the hiring of police officers.

"There's a national, bipartisan effort from mayors lobbying heavy on this," Nunes said. Last week Nunes attended a roundtable discussion on the CDBG cuts in Boston with seven other Massachusetts mayors hosted by Rep. Michael E. Capuano, D-Mass.

"We discussed the impact the cuts would have across the country," Nunes said, "not just our communities."

As the former mayor of Somerville, Capuano spoke from first-hand experience on how the CDBG funding was critically important to the quality of life in communities.

"President Bush said in his State of the Union address that he wants to help the faith-based and community groups . . . yet he's cutting the very programs that help kids stay away from drugs, provide housing and opportunity," Capuano said.

Bush's CDBG proposal fueled mayors nationwide to take a stance against it because the CDBG program offers them flexibility to decide where to direct the funding at a local level.

Locally, Nunes is working with the person who utilizes the CDBG program the most. Bachrach's Office of Community Development is the second largest in the city to receive federal level funds (the first is Title I education).

"The CDBG is a significant tool," Bachrach said, "It's hard to fathom what will happen without the funds."

Currently the CDBG is funding 12 programs under the Office of Community Development; whereas if the grant was eliminated Bachrach would have to competitively find 12 separate grants toward neighborhood revitalization, head starts for small businesses, elder services, police detail and teachers—to name a few.

Over the past three years, the Office of Community Development has used the CDBG to benefit: 515 elderly, 740 single-parent households, 96 disabled persons, 348 youth and 622 families. The CDBG has also impacted Taunton's business growth and infrastructure improvements.

"We're going to have to reevaluate the direction of money," Nunes said, "less money,

then less money toward infrastructure and other community needs."

Although locally there has been a collective effort to prevent the cuts, Nunes said at this point there is nothing more that can be done other than wait for Congress's decision.

TAUNTON.—President George W. Bush stands firmly by tax cuts as a means to economic growth, promoting the creation of more small businesses. Yet in Bush's 2006 proposed budget he supports cutting a grant that area officials and business people say is at the heart of creating small businesses.

The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) has helped many local business owners take the first step in making their dream come true from working as an employee to becoming an employer.

Over the past three years, the CDBG program has helped create 26 new local jobs, provided 10 businesses with loans totaling over \$218,000 and provided more than 30 start-up businesses with training, according to the Mayor's Office of Community Development.

Mezzaluna Deli on the Taunton Green is one of the businesses which got its start—and has also sustained itself—from the CDBG program. Holly and Harold Roderick, owners of the delicatessen, received \$25,000 from the CDBG and used its entrepreneurial workshop to learn how to create a business plan and present it for financing.

"If the city doesn't have the program, a lot of small businesses aren't going to get started," Holly said. "A lot of the new restaurants will be chains and the city will lose that little downtown business."

The Rodericks both earned bachelor's degrees from Johnson & Wales University and Harold (known as Butch) always wanted to own his own business. Holly said most banks won't finance restaurants because of the high risk involved, so they needed to get creative to find money. Holly said they attended the Taunton Entrepreneurial Workshop, which showed them how to create a business plan and helped them to apply for financing.

David Bachrach, director of the Mayor's Office of Community Development, said his office and the Southeastern Economic Development Corp. (SEED) often collaborate to get business owners started.

"Once someone is funded and business savvy, then SEED is the next step," Bachrach said.

The community development office provides funds from the CDBG program to Weir Corporation, which is a local community development organization. Weir Corp. provided the Rodericks with the first-tier help for them to get the entrepreneurial training they needed and to obtain \$25,000 for renovations.

Weir Corp. provides loans to approximately 25 small businesses per year, and training to more than 100 small businesses per year. Jill Cowie, Weir Corp. co-director, said the organization would not have been able to help in the creation of such local small businesses such as Golden Years, Ultimate Fitness or recently Dyetex without the CDBG.

"We wouldn't be able to do it anymore," Cowie said. "The CDBG is the source of our loan pool, our core funding."

Cowie said once the businesses need more than \$25,000, the risk is spread by working with SEED Corp. which will put up to 40 percent of the loan, while a bank will finance up to 50 percent.

SEED Corp. acted as a conduit for the Rodericks. The Rodericks were financed \$85,000 from SEED Corp. and Mechanics Cooperative Bank financed the rest of the \$179,900, so they could buy the property and start the business.

Mezzaluna will celebrate its third anniversary this November, and Holly said they

have seen a 40 percent increase in sales from last year. Holly pondered about the time when she and Harold couldn't find any bank to finance them, and how the CDBG program was the only way they got started and spurred their success.

"If I went out of business tomorrow a lot of people would say, 'where am I going to eat lunch now,'" Holly said. "I really hope they keep the program in effect."

Bachrach said there has been a philosophical change with the Bush administration in terms of helping the community.

"For Bush, community problems can be met with the open market," Bachrach said. "The administration no longer sees the need for the private and public working together."

The business collaboration by these different venues from the CDBG program provides sound community investments and creates opportunity in the community for more jobs, according to Bachrach.

"This is beyond myself because I have plenty of opportunity for work, it's the people we serve who don't have these options," Bachrach said. "It's going to be heart-breaking."

FUNDS THAT HELP REPAVE STREETS MAY FACE ELIMINATION

(By Joanna James)

TAUNTON.—One local official worries that motorists who drive through city streets will think bombs have been dropped and the streets were never repaved.

The official—David Bachrach, director of the Mayor's Community Development Office—now fears that the potential loss of federal funding for repair projects may make the situation worse.

For the coming summer, Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) money will provide \$1 million toward repaving roads and other infrastructure projects. Yet the federal funding may be eliminated if President George Bush's proposed budget is approved by Congress.

Even with more than a million dollars from the CDBG going toward roads and other infrastructure projects, city officials said borrowing will be necessary to repair potholes and repave streets.

Mayor Robert G. Nunes said he is confident the allocated CDBG money will remain for the upcoming projects, but he is nervous about the future.

"It [CDBG elimination] will have a devastating impact in terms of infrastructure," Nunes said. "The CDBG supplements operating projects for the next five years."

Forty-three percent of all Taunton streets need resurfacing, according to statistics provided by the Department of Public Works (DPW). In 2004, the CDBG paid \$360,000 toward local DPW projects, and \$640,000 for 2002 and 2003 improvements. For just the coming summer, CDBG will provide \$1 million for city projects.

Frank Nichols, director of the Department of Public Works, said the city already has a hard time filling potholes, and the situation will grow worse if the extra help from the CDBG was lost.

"Ultimately the city would have to come up with the money for the loss and I don't know from where," Nichols said. "Absolutely, it helps relieve some of the issues we would have to deal with."

Bachrach said Weir, High and Adam streets are three of the 11 streets where CDBG money helped pay for 8,000 linear feet of road reconstruction and 5,000 linear feet of new water lines over the last five years.

However Bachrach said the Whittenton Area is in dire need of road and water line reconstruction and is next on the list of projects.

"If you drove the streets you'd think they accidentally dropped bombs in this area," Bachrach said. However Whittenton is an upcoming project site funded by the CDBG.

"Once it's done they're going to be dancing in the streets," Bachrach said.

Debbie Maloney, owner of End of the Road T-shirts on Weir Street, said she is grateful Weir Street was repaved from CDBG funds. Maloney's business is also one of the local small businesses which received \$25,000 start-up help from CDBG funds.

"This road is really good compared to others," Maloney said. "I know I wouldn't be happy if it [CDBG] was cut, a lot of my customers complain the roads of Taunton are disgusting."

Other types of infrastructure completed from CDBG funds were the Paul Bunker Drive basketball courts, the Hopewell pool and 15,000 sq. ft. of new sidewalks including Park Street.

IN JEOPARDY

(By Joanna James)

TAUNTON.—Here are some faces hidden behind the numbers. Here are some people's stories hidden behind the political speak.

Local residents and officials said they would be heartbroken if services provided by the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) were eliminated. If Congress accepts President George W. Bush's 2006 budget proposal to eliminate the CDBG—three-year-olds, to high school students, to senior citizens—will feel the loss and city officials said they couldn't bear the burden.

David Bachrach, director of the Mayor's Office of Community Development (MOCD), said 348 youths have benefited from the CDBG over the last three years.

Project Achieve received approximately \$25,000 this year towards MCAS tutoring and providing after school jobs to 17- and 18-year-old students who may be the only bread-winners in their families.

Leonard Hull, budget coordinator for Project Achieve, said many of the students Project Achieve helps are born into difficult environments that they had no control over and can easily lose hope.

"We're trying to help them believe that the American dream is still a possibility," Hull said. "They can make something of themselves, and in the long run the community gets a lot more back."

Three students—who work two hours, five days per week after attending full-time classes at Taunton High School and receive MCAS tutoring a few hours per week—said they now believe in the American dream because of Project Achieve.

Yarelis Rivera, 17, works at JC Penney in customer service and hopes to be a nurse or flight attendant one day after graduating from a community college.

"Once you set a goal and you have people to help you, you can make it come true," Rivera said, regarding her experience with Project Achieve.

Cheryl Bileau, 17, helps her mother by working after school at Redcats U.S.A./ Chadwicks and babysitting her cousin and younger siblings. Since Bileau's father died last Christmas from a massive heart attack she said it has been "tough" on the family, but she has been surrounded by supportive people from Project Achieve.

Once Bileau graduates, she has been offered a full-time job from Redcats. She said she is saving her money to attend Rob Roy Academy to become a cosmetologist.

Edwina Orelus, 19, came to the U.S. from Haiti in 2003 to conquer the American dream, and from the CDBG funding, her parents' dream for their daughter to get an education may come true.

Orelus first took the MCAS a few months after she came to the U.S. and failed from not knowing the English language well. Presently two years after, Orelus is more confident speaking English, and if she passes the MCAS, she has already been accepted to a community college in Staten Island, N.Y.

All three girls said they would be very disappointed if the CDBG was cut because it has funded a program that they said "everyone deserves the extra help and support of."

In a full year, the CDBG funds the Department of Human Services with \$81,000, which has helped 515 elderly people over the past three years, according to the MOCD.

Anne Bisson, assistant director of the department of human services for 21 years, said almost 100 percent of the program's elders are low income and would be devastated if the program was cut.

"They really rely on the staff and services. Some have no family or their spouse died and they need some support," Bisson said.

Lois Meunier, 71, moved from her mobile home after her husband died in 1999 and now lives in Caswell Grove Housing. Meunier has no children or local family and said the highlight of her week is the visit from her caseworker, Betty Charette.

"She's just so wonderful," Meunier said. "She's a Godsend for me."

Charette is one of the five caseworkers who go to senior citizens' homes to keep them company, talk and help them by filling out insurance forms, meals, or in Meunier's case, getting her hair done.

Other than the case workers, the CDBG also funds a visiting nurse to help with medicines and a computer center for elderly to use the Internet.

If the CDBG stopped funding the Department of Human Services, the case workers and nurse wouldn't exist anymore.

"I would feel very badly about it [if Charette's position was cut]," Meunier said. "I just look forward to it so much, she's been such a comfort for me."

More than 622 families and 740 single parent households have used the CDBG funds over the past three years, according to the MOCD.

The literacy program for families with educational risk provides parents with the confidence to know they can be their children's best teachers, according to Debby Jenkins, program's coordinator.

Home visitors bring educational toys, books, puzzles and other tools to teach children shapes, numbers and how to appreciate reading and learning. Every other week the parents get to keep whatever educational toy is brought to continue teaching the kids.

Jill Humann saw how much the program helped her daughter and wanted her son James, 3, to get the same experience. Both children were slow to speak and express themselves.

However, after their home visitor Lisa Smith has been coming to their house for two half-hour visits per week, the children have excelled.

"They really learn a lot, I love it," Humann said. "I think it's [CDBG funding towards the program] the best thing for kids. They'd be lost without it."

Humann said she has learned so much from Smith that she continues the lessons with her children when Smith isn't around.

Smith said when she first started lessons with the three-year-old, she faced behavioral issues and had to make him trust her.

"He loves social praise, how smart he is and how he wants to show Mommy all his work," Smith said. "Now he's conversing and he's doing so well, I'm so proud of him."

Bachrach said these success stories are just a few examples of how the CDBG has impacted the community.

Both the House of Representatives and the Senate passed resolutions to reinstate the CDBG program from receiving such a powerful, national grass roots advocacy.

However, Bachrach said the real advocacy must begin now that the Appropriations Committee decides how to focus the funds.

Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass., will attend next Tuesday's City Council meeting to discuss the CDBG program.

TAUNTON.—Congressman Barney Frank, D-Mass., congratulated and thanked city officials and residents last night for helping save the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program from elimination under President George W. Bush's 2006 budget proposal.

Frank said a nation-wide, bipartisan effort over the past few months has secured the CDBG program while proving "democracy is still very alive." "The efforts of people from all over the country made this happen, and I can tell you right now this vote is going to come out the right way," Frank said.

Frank said more than 50 senators from both parties signed a March 2 letter to the Senate Appropriations Committee asking to save the CDBG program and keep its current funding level.

The people who filled the standing-room-only City Council chambers last night and worked hard to keep the program alive heard what they hoped for from Frank.

David Bachrach, director of the Mayor's Office of Community Development, has worked tirelessly to save the CDBG program and said it was hard for him to put into words how happy he was.

"This is a huge relief. I'm totally psyched," Bachrach said. Local residents stood up and gave testimonials on how they benefited from the grant program.

After buying a city home that was in need of major renovations, Jeanne-Marie Beatty was laid off from her job. She had nowhere to turn and no money. Beatty saw a CDBG advertisement and said it was "too good to be true" when she realized the program would help her finish her house.

"I couldn't be happier. I'm thrilled the program will continue," Beatty said. "It's a win-win situation for so many people and it all goes back to the community."

Frank said the administration had no horror stories to tell about the CDBG program, because there were none. Rather, Frank said the only reason President Bush proposed the CDBG cut is because the Bush realized he has to reduce the deficit, yet he's committed to tax cuts and the war, "so to do all three he can't."

"It shows the president's philosophy that tax cuts to the wealthy and his commitment to the war in Iraq come first and everything else needs to get cut," Frank said before he spoke at the council meeting. "The president is denying that we have value on our city programs."

Some other city programs funded by the CDBG that local residents spoke about were the business training and lending programs for small business owners. City students also benefited from Project Achieve through the Taunton Area School to Career program.

Bonnie Brown, 17, and Cheryl Bileau, 17, both juniors at Taunton High School, work after school with provided transportation and get MCAS tutoring because the CDBG partly funds Project Achieve. Frank said people should not settle in just yet. City programs suffered from Section 8 cutbacks last year, and Frank said keeping the CDBG should not be used as a bargaining chip to hurt other programs.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF ATTORNEY JOAQUIN L. RODRIGUEZ

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize attorney Joaquin L. Rodriguez for his many years of service and civic involvement.

Born and raised in Uvalde, Texas, Mr. Rodriguez first attended Southwest Texas Junior College before transferring to University of Texas at Austin and attaining a B.A. in Government. Later, Mr. Rodriguez attended the Texas Tech School of Law and obtained a

Doctor of Jurisprudence from the University of Texas School of Law.

After passing the Texas Bar in 1982, Mr. Rodriguez started his legal career and quickly became partner at Knickerbocker, Cowan, Heredia & Rodriguez law firm in Eagle Pass, TX. Over the years of his career, Mr. Rodriguez has mainly dealt within the area of personal injury and the representation of Plaintiffs.

In 1997, Mr. Rodriguez became a founding partner at Rodriguez & Muniz-Berain Law Firm and worked there for 11 years. Afterwards, Mr. Rodriguez found Joaquin L. Rodriguez & Associates in 1999 and has since been working there, serving the citizens of Eagle Pass.

While living and working in Eagle Pass, TX, Mr. Rodriguez has continued to involve himself and serve in the civic community. Among

his involvements, Mr. Rodriguez has served as Chairman of the Eagle Pass Housing Authority, Legal Counsel of the City of Eagle Pass Library Foundation, and as Advisory Board Member on a number of local Texas banks. Mr. Rodriguez was also elected as Mayor of Eagle Pass with an impressive 94 percent vote in May, 2002.

Among his honors and awards, Mr. Rodriguez was distinguished as "Professional of the Year" in 1999 by the Eagle Pass Business Journal. He also became a Keeton Fellow of the University of Texas School of Law Alumni Association in 2001.

Mr. Speaker, it has been my pleasure today to recognize the accomplishments and services of Mr. Joaquin L. Rodriguez.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, April 7, 2005 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

APRIL 11

9:30 a.m.

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of John Robert Bolton, of Maryland, to be U.S. Representative to United Nations, with the rank and status of Ambassador and U.S. Representative in the Security Council of the United Nations, and Representative to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations during his tenure of service as Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations.

SD-419

2 p.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine S. 241, to amend section 254 of the Communications Act of 1934 to provide that funds received as universal service contributions and the universal service support programs established pursuant to that section are not subject to certain provisions of title 31, United States Code, commonly known as the Antideficiency Act.

SR-253

Armed Services

Emerging Threats and Capabilities Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the Chemical Demilitarization Program of the Department of Defense in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2006.

SR-222

APRIL 12

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services

To receive a closed briefing regarding assessment of Iraqi Security Forces.

SR-222

10 a.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Michael D. Griffin, of Virginia, to be Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Joseph H. Boardman, of New York, to be Administrator of the Federal Railroad Administration, Nancy Ann Nord, of the District of Columbia, to be a

Commissioner of the Consumer Product Safety Commission, William Cobey, of North Carolina, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority, Floyd Hall, of New Jersey, to be a Member of the Reform Board (Amtrak), and Enrique J. Sosa, of Florida, to be a Member of the Reform Board (Amtrak).

SR-253

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine developing a reliable supply of oil from domestic oil shale and oil sands resources, focusing on opportunities to advance technology that will facilitate environmentally friendly development of oil shale and oil sands resources.

SD-366

2:30 p.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

National Parks Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine management and planning issues for the National Mall, including the history of the development, security projects and other planned construction, and future development plans.

SD-366

Armed Services

SeaPower Subcommittee

To hold closed hearings to examine Navy shipbuilding and industrial base status in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2006; to be followed by an open hearing in SR-232A.

SR-222

Aging

To hold hearings to examine role of employer-sponsored retirement plans in increasing national savings.

SD-106

APRIL 13

9:30 a.m.

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Daniel Fried, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary of State for European Affairs, and Robert Joseph, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security.

SD-419

Indian Affairs

To hold oversight hearings to examine Indian Health.

SR-485

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine securing electronic personal data, focusing on striking a balance between privacy and commercial and governmental use.

SD-226

10 a.m.

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the Federal Home Loan Bank System.

SD-538

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Business meeting to consider the nomination of Lester M. Crawford, of Maryland, to be Commissioner of Food and Drugs, Department of Health and Human Services.

SD-430

Armed Services

Readiness and Management Support Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine high risk areas in the management of the Department of Defense in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2006.

SR-232A

11:30 a.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.

SD-366

1:30 p.m.

Armed Services

Personnel Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine active and Reserve military civilian personnel programs in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2006.

SR-232A

2 p.m.

Judiciary

Constitution, Civil Rights and Property Rights Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine judicial activism regarding federal and state marriage protection initiatives.

SD-226

APRIL 14

10 a.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine S. 388, to amend the Energy Policy Act of 1992 to direct the Secretary of Energy to carry out activities that promote the adoption of technologies that reduce greenhouse gas intensity and to provide credit-based financial assistance and investment protection for projects that employ advanced climate technologies or systems, to provide for the establishment of a national greenhouse gas registry.

SD-366

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine lifelong education opportunities.

SD-430

Veterans' Affairs

To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans Affairs to examine the legislative presentations of the Military Officers Association of America, the National Association of State Director of Veterans Affairs, AMVETS, the American Ex-Prisoners of War, and Vietnam Veterans of America.

345 CHOB

2:30 p.m.

Judiciary

Immigration, Border Security and Citizenship Subcommittee

Terrorism, Technology and Homeland Security Subcommittee

To hold joint hearings to examine deportation and related issues relating to strengthening interior enforcement.

SD-226

APRIL 19

10 a.m.

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the Near East and South Asian experience relating to combating terrorism through education.

SD-419

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine S. 334, to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to the importation of prescription drugs.

SD-430

APRIL 20

10 a.m.

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Education and Early Childhood Development Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine early childhood development.

SD-430

Small Business and Entrepreneurship
To hold hearings to examine the small business health care crisis, focusing on alternatives for lowering costs and covering the uninsured.

SR-428A

2 p.m.

Armed Services
Readiness and Management Support Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the readiness of military units deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2006.

SR-222

APRIL 21

9:30 a.m.

Foreign Relations
To hold hearings to examine the anti-corruption strategies of the African Development Bank, Asian Development Bank and European Bank on Reconstruction and Development.

SD-419

10 a.m.

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
To hold hearings to examine Association Health Plans.

SD-430

Veterans' Affairs

To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans Affairs to examine the legislative presentations of the Fleet Reserve Association, the Air Force Sergeants Association, the Re-

tired Enlisted Association, and the Gold Star Wives of America.

345 CHOB

2:30 p.m.

Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine the patent system today and tomorrow.

SD-226

APRIL 26

10 a.m.

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
Retirement Security and Aging Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine pensions.

SD-430

APRIL 27

9:30 a.m.

Indian Affairs
To hold oversight hearings to examine regulation of Indian gaming.

SR-485

10 a.m.

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.

SD-430

APRIL 28

10 a.m.

Foreign Relations
To hold hearings to examine U.S. Assistance to Sudan and the Darfur Crisis.

SH-216

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
To hold hearings to examine Higher Education Act.

SD-430

MAY 11

9:30 a.m.

Judiciary
To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Federal Bureau of Investigation's translation program.

SD-226

SEPTEMBER 20

10 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs
To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of the American Legion.

345 CHOB

CANCELLATIONS

APRIL 19

10 a.m.

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
Retirement Security and Aging Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine pensions.

SD-430

POSTPONEMENTS

APRIL 12

9:30 a.m.

Foreign Relations
To hold hearings to examine U.S. agricultural sales to Cuba.

SD-419