

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

DEATH TAX REPEAL
PERMANENCY ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 13, 2005

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 8, the Republican Estate Tax bill. This legislation is further evidence of Republican's chronic addiction to digging deeper into debt. At a time when we face a deficit of over \$400 billion, Republicans today chose to pass a bill that will cost Americans another \$290 billion—with the cost growing to nearly a trillion dollars after 10 years. This vote comes less than a month after the Majority supported a budget that will slash funding from education and from our firefighters, police, and veterans. This is a clear statement of the majority's priority which is to put corporations and the very rich ahead of our families and communities.

Another rarely discussed provision of the Republican bill is the repeal of "step-up in basis", which will result in an increase in capital gains taxes and additional compliance burdens for many estates. This means that more families, businesses and family farms will have an increased tax liability rather than receive any benefit from this repeal.

I support the Democratic alternative, the Certain and Immediate Estate Tax Relief Act, which would take effect next year and exempt 99.7 percent of families and businesses from this tax for a third of the cost of the Republican proposal. In fact, if this substitute is adopted, all but 71 Minnesota families, 11 North Dakota families, and 5 South Dakota families will be exempted from the estate tax.

Permanent repeal of the estate tax benefits only the very wealthiest in our society while endangering our long-term economic stability and the solvency of Social Security and Medicare. It is my hope that Congress and the Administration will end this reckless spending and return us to common-sense, responsible public policy that makes the health, education and safety of American families our top priority.

IN HONOR OF ASSEMBLYWOMAN
LINDA R. GREENSTEIN

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 20, 2005

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Assemblywoman Linda R. Greenstein for her exceptional efforts and unwavering commitment to worker issues. Assemblywoman Greenstein received the Hubert H.

Humphrey Friend of Labor Award, sponsored by the AFL-CIO, at the annual Labor Awards Breakfast on Sunday, April 17, 2005.

As a third-term Assemblywoman for the 14th legislative district, Assemblywoman Greenstein has proven herself to be an outstanding political leader. She currently serves as the Chair of the Judiciary Committee, the Assistant Majority Leader of the Assembly, the Vice-Chair of the Assembly Federal Relations Committee, and as a member of the Budget Committee.

In the Assembly, she has strived to achieve positive policy changes, particularly in the areas of labor and the protection of personal freedoms and workers' rights. Assemblywoman Greenstein is the main sponsor of the Call Center Disclosure Bill and the author of New Jersey's anti-telemarketing law. She sponsored the bill-turned-law that added two union members to the State Health Benefits Commission. Throughout the years, she has consistently supported bills that would enact workers compensation reform and ensure the rights and well-being of New Jersey citizens.

Her past leadership endeavors include serving as Vice-President of the Mercer County School Boards Association and being elected to the Plainsboro Township Committee for six years. Currently, she is a board member of multiple community organizations, such as the New Jersey Council for the Humanities and the Boy Scouts of America.

Besides her political career, Assemblywoman Greenstein has had an extensive law career working as an Assistant District Attorney in Philadelphia, a Clinical Associate Professor at Seton Hall Law School, and a Deputy Attorney General in the Division of Criminal Justice in Trenton.

Assemblywoman Greenstein attended Vasar College, John Hopkins University, and the Georgetown University Law Center. She and her husband have one son and live in Plainsboro.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Assemblywoman Linda R. Greenstein for her dedicated commitment to serving her community, her extensive involvement in political affairs, and her tireless efforts to serve the people of New Jersey.

RECOGNIZING STEVEN TODD ORR
FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF
EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 20, 2005

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Steven Todd Orr, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 633, and in earning the most pres-

tigious award of Eagle Scout. Steven received his Eagle Award on March 5, 2005 at an Eagle Court of Honor in Platte Woods, Missouri.

Steven has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years, Steven has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but the respect of his family, peers, and community. He is truly an exemplary Scout.

For his Eagle project, Steven designed and built a Prayer Path at Platte Woods United Methodist Church, where I might add, his Eagle Court of Honor was held. Steven's work on this project included designing, planning, and implementing the path construction on newly acquired church property. Steven cleared the path area, and installed rock and flagstones, as well as plant life. The project provides church members with a place to pray and reflect.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Steven Todd Orr for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS
OF AMANDA VERNOR, BALL ELE-
MENTARY TEACHER OF THE
YEAR

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 20, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the many accomplishments of Amanda Vernor, Ball Elementary School Teacher of the Year.

Ms. Vernor holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Interdisciplinary Studies with a Specialization in Reading from Southwest Texas State University. She is currently updating her credentials as a participant in the University of North Texas Master's program, where she is pursuing a degree in Information Sciences.

Amanda Vernor instructs her fourth grade class in a variety of subjects: reading, writing, math, and science. She is a relatively new teacher: she has three years of experience, all with the Seguin Independent School District. She is already making a difference for her students, however, helping to turn them into successful lifelong learners.

Ms. Vernor believes in challenging her students: she is known to say that "students will live up to your lowest expectation." She believes that what students need is guidance in planning a course of action to achieve their goals, and she aims to provide that for them.

Amanda Vernor is an exemplary teacher, and a blessing to the people of Seguin. She has an excellent career ahead of her, and I wish her the best of luck.

• 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.

DEFIBRILLATORS IN ALACHUA
COUNTY SCHOOLS**HON. CLIFF STEARNS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 20, 2005

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak on the importance and effectiveness of defibrillators. Heart disease kills more than 250,000 Americans each year and many of these deaths result from sudden cardiac arrest, SCA. The most effective treatment for SCA is immediate defibrillation, in which thousands of lives are saved. Recognizing this years ago, I had the honor of working with the American Heart Association, AHA, in developing legislation addressing SCA. This cooperation led to the Cardiac Arrest Survival Act. Now, I am pleased to see that the AHA is donating, to Alachua County, Florida, defibrillators to be placed in each public school in Alachua County. The move comes in light of two incidents earlier this school year, in which area high school students collapsed. In Florida, nearly 12,800 people suffer a cardiac arrest each year, and 95 percent of them die. AHA's goal is to increase the survival rate from 5 to 20 percent and I support and stand behind them in reaching this end.

TRIBUTE TO POPE BENEDICT XVI

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 20, 2005

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a man who embodies the values of strength and wisdom. Seventeen days after Pope John Paul II sadly succumbed to illnesses related to Parkinson's disease, the Catholic community and the world witnessed the ascension of a new leader, former Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, to the papacy.

Today, I join millions of Catholics around the world in celebrating the election of Pope Benedict XVI and know that His Holiness will continue to lead our church with the integrity and compassion exhibited by the dearly departed Pope John Paul II.

Since 1981, Pope Benedict XVI has led the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith where his deep-seated religious beliefs played an enormous role in stabilizing the Catholic Church and community. He was a close confidant of Pope John Paul II and is known to all as a respected scholar and teacher of the Catholic faith.

For over 54 years, Pope Benedict XVI has dedicated himself to his God and his creed. He studied at St. Michael's seminary in Traunstein, Germany in the 1940s and believes intimately in church doctrine and the orthodoxy of Catholicism. As the first German pope since the 11th century, he will continue the legacy of advocating for peace, social justice, and the dignity of the human spirit.

Pope Benedict is a steadfast believer in religious freedom and respect among all people of this world. He has a vision of how the Catholic Church will shape our world and fu-

ture and will teach with humility and lead with grace.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud the Church for their decision to elect Pope Benedict XVI to this special and divine position. I am happy to have him as my spiritual leader and guide and hope that others will celebrate the new pope of the Catholic Church.

RECOGNIZING TRAVIS R. VOGEL
FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF
EAGLE SCOUT**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 20, 2005

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Travis R. Vogel, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 633, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout. Travis received his Eagle Award on March 5, 2005 at an Eagle Court of Honor in Platte Woods, Missouri.

Travis has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Travis has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but the respect of his family, peers, and community. He is truly an exemplary Scout.

For his Eagle project, Travis remodeled the walls of the VFW basement. Travis installed new window well frames, and installed new siding—which he also painted—on the exterior. His work on the interior included new drywall, patching existing wall surfaces, texturing and painting the walls, and adding a chair rail. The project provided the VFW with a nicer looking space, and the window framing in particular will help the VFW save on energy costs.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Travis R. Vogel for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. STEPHEN
ADUBATO, SR. AND DR. STEPHEN
ADUBATO, JR., RECIPIENTS OF
THE JEWISH NATIONAL FUND'S
"TREE OF LIFE" AWARD**HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 20, 2005

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great pleasure to honor representatives of two generations of an extraordinarily talented family from the great state of New Jersey, Mr. Stephen Adubato, Sr., and his son, Dr. Stephen Adubato, Jr. Both members of this truly remarkable father-and-son team are to be presented with the Tree of Life Award by the Jewish National Fund on June 1, 2005 in Livingston, New Jersey. The Adubatos, as well

as the former Governor, the very Honorable Thomas Kean, Sr. and his distinguished son, New Jersey State Senator Thomas Kean, Jr., have been chosen to receive this prestigious honor for compiling such exemplary records of public service. Past recipients have included such outstanding public servants as United States Senator JON CORZINE, Representative BILL PASCRELL, two former Governors of the State of New Jersey, and corporate leaders Ted Turner and Donald Trump.

Mr. Adubato, Sr., is the founder and Executive Director of the North Ward Center, Newark Business Training Institute, The Robert Treat Academy Charter School and Casa Israel. His life's work has demonstrated to the people of his native city, Newark, and the entire state of New Jersey, just what one dedicated, brilliant, and courageous man can accomplish to improve his community's educational, civic, and cultural life. Mr. Adubato, Sr., has also served as a teacher, supervisor, and counselor for the Newark Board of Education, an instructor and consultant at Rutgers University, a consultant to New Jersey's Chancellor of Higher Education, and Director of External Affairs at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey.

Like his father, Dr. Stephen Adubato, Jr., has also compiled a distinguished career as a four-time Emmy Award-winning broadcaster, best-selling author and motivational speaker. In the mid-1980s, at the age of 26, he served as New Jersey's youngest state legislator. Since then, he has been seen on-air as an expert commentator for MSNBC, the FOX News Channel, WABC-TV, and WNET, the leading public television station in the Greater New York City metropolitan area. In 1995, Dr. Adubato started a company called "Stand and Deliver" that is geared to helping people become better communicators. In 1999, he founded "Stand and Deliver: Communication Tools for Tomorrow's Leaders," a non-profit program which provides many young people with the communications tools they need to become better citizens and to more effectively compete for and succeed in the growingly complex job market. He currently hosts two shows on public television, "Caucus New Jersey," an Emmy Award-winning public affairs television series and "Inside Trenton," an insightful and innovative news program that covers public affairs on a weekly basis.

Founded in 1901, the Jewish National Fund is one of the premier organizations in the world devoted to the welfare of the people and land of Israel. The Tree of Life Award is a humanitarian award that the Fund presents to individuals in appreciation of their outstanding community involvement, their dedication to the cause of American-Israeli friendship, and their devotion to peace and security. The award recognizes outstanding leaders for their achievements and innovations in industry, government and education.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the outstanding contributions to New Jersey's civic life made by Mr. Stephen Adubato, Sr., and Dr. Stephen Adubato, Jr., and to acknowledge their lifetime of good works, as well as those of former Governor Thomas Kean, Sr., and State Senator Thomas Kean, Jr. Individuals such as these make me proud to be a New Jerseyan and proud to call these wonderful people my friends.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF PRISCILLA DIAZ, JEFFERSON ELEMENTARY TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 20, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the many accomplishments of Priscilla Diaz, Jefferson Elementary Teacher of the Year.

Ms. Diaz did not start out in education; originally, she received her Bachelor's degree in Business Management from Texas A&M University at Kingsville. She later returned to school at Southwest Texas State University, where she received her Master's in Education.

Priscilla Diaz is one of Jefferson Elementary's newer teachers, with three years of teaching experience. Already, however, she is making an impact in her profession, and changing the lives of her fourth-grade students.

Ms. Diaz believes in the importance of helping her students develop strong character. She teaches her children to be accountable for their actions, to have pride in themselves, and to fulfill the responsibilities that are assigned to them. She feels that teaching is a unique profession: both a privilege and a challenge.

Ms. Priscilla Diaz has accomplished a great deal thus far, and she has a bright future ahead of her in education. By helping our children grow up as responsible and productive citizens, she is doing a tremendous favor to all of us. I am proud to have had the opportunity to recognize her for her dedication.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MS. PEGGY STEWART

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 20, 2005

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, today I extend congratulations and thanks to Ms. Peggy Stewart, a teacher at Vernon Township High School in Sussex County, New Jersey. Ms. Stewart, who teaches and resides in the Fifth Congressional District, was selected from nominees across the state to receive the 2004–2005 New Jersey Teacher of the Year award.

This week, Ms. Stewart and other distinguished teachers from around the country are in Washington to be recognized.

Since she began teaching at Vernon Township High School in 1991, Ms. Stewart has received numerous awards and citations for her excellence in the classroom. She's been noted in "Who's Who Among America's Teachers," and was recognized as a premier humanities instructor by the New Jersey Council for the Humanities.

In selecting Ms. Stewart for this honor, the New Jersey Board of Education cited her individualistic approach to her students and her persistence in creating well-rounded experiences to develop her students' sense of citizenship.

I want to congratulate Ms. Stewart of Vernon Township High School for being se-

lected for this prestigious honor. She is a credit to New Jersey and a credit to our many outstanding educators.

Historian Henry Adams said, "A teacher affects eternity; he can never tell where his influence stops." We know that Ms. Stewart's work to engage young adults and encourage their development as informed, involved and thoughtful citizens will benefit our community for generations to come. Today, I am honored to join in the applause for one of the Nation's great teachers—Ms. Peggy Stewart. We are grateful for your dedication to providing New Jersey children with an outstanding education.

RECOGNIZING SPENCER PRESTON HARRIS FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 20, 2005

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Spencer Preston Harris of Platte City, Missouri, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 351, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Spencer has been a part of Troop 351 for 5 years, and during that time period he has served in a variety of leadership positions. He has served his troop as Patrol Leader, Quartermaster, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, Librarian, and finally Senior Patrol Leader. During that time period, he earned 45 merit badges and the God and Church Medal. In addition to the numerous leadership positions and merit badges, Spencer is a Brotherhood Member in the Order of the Arrow, a Warrior in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say, and spent 5 years at the H. Roe Bartle Scout Reservation. Spencer also participated in Junior Leader Basic Training and World Conservation, has 38 total service hours, 98 nights camping, and 50 miles hiking. He is truly an exemplary Scout.

For his Eagle Scout project, Spencer folded, repaired, and boxed 47,000 American Flags that decorate graves at the Leavenworth, Kansas military cemetery.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Spencer Preston Harris for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING PROVIDENCE PEDIATRIC MEDICAL DAY CARE, INC.

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 20, 2005

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Providence Pediatric Medical Day Care, Inc., for its valuable service to New Jersey's most medically challenged children. Providence provides world class medical day care with ongoing monitoring and assessment by professional nurses for a broad range of illnesses and medical conditions. Serving an overwhelmingly inner city infant population, the

company works with parents to help advise them on health conditions and care standards that can be followed at home.

On April 22nd, 2005, Providence will hold an official grand opening of its new corporate office in West Berlin, New Jersey. They currently employ 65 professional staff, and operate three pediatric medical daycare centers in Camden, Lawnside, and Pleasantville, New Jersey.

Mr. Speaker, Providence Pediatric provides essential services to some of the neediest people in our community. I applaud them for their hard work, and I wish everyone at Providence the best of luck in their new office.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF CAROL HARWOOD PATLAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 20, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the many accomplishments of Carol Harwood, the Patlan Elementary School Teacher of the Year.

Carol Harwood is a highly qualified bilingual first grade teacher at Patlan Elementary. She received her Associate Degree from Sullins College in Virginia, and later earned both a Bachelor's Degree from SMU, and a Masters Degree from Texas Woman's University.

She has spent the last 28 years gaining valuable experience in education, serving both our youth and our community. Carol Harwood worked as an assistant elementary school principal in both Dallas and Port Isabel before returning to teaching at Patlan Elementary.

As a bilingual first grade teacher, Ms. Harwood understands the unique needs of our students. Her passion for teaching is complemented by both her years of experience, and her unique perspective as a former school administrator. Carol Harwood is currently being honored as the Patlan Elementary School Teacher of the Year.

It is an honor to recognize the accomplishments of Carol Harwood of Patlan Elementary School. Her dedication and love of teaching has helped to ensure that our children are the real winners.

REGARDING THE DIABETIC FOOT COMPLICATION AND LOWER EXTREMITY AMPUTATION REDUCTION ACT OF 2005

HON. RICHARD H. BAKER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 20, 2005

Mr. BAKER. Mr. Speaker, as the Federal Government seeks to provide better healthcare to more Americans while reducing healthcare expenses, we must look at the benefits of preventive care programs. Education, screening and preventive treatments can save patients and government significant heartache and expense. One area where preventive care shows tremendous promise is the treatment of diabetic foot complications.

Approximately 18 million Americans have diabetes, an increase of 61 percent since 1990. As diabetes rates continue to rise, the cost of treating diabetes, already estimated at \$132 billion, will certainly rise. One of the most serious complications diabetes patients face is poor circulation and infections in their lower extremities. In fact, diabetic foot infections are the most common reason for hospital admissions among persons with diabetes, accounting for 25 percent of all diabetic admissions in the United States. Loss of circulation and feeling present real challenges to people with diabetes and 15 percent of people with diabetes will experience a foot ulcer, and between 14 and 24 percent of those with a foot ulcer will require amputation. Each year approximately 86,000 non-traumatic lower-limb amputations are performed each year among people with diabetes.

Lower extremity amputations cost Americans \$2 billion a year, with each procedure totaling approximately \$60,000. Although private insurance bears some of this expense, Medicare is saddled with many of these costs since these complications disproportionately affect the elderly. For example, analysis of the 1995 Medicare claims revealed that lower-extremity ulcer care accounted for \$1.45 billion in Medicare costs and contributed substantially to the high cost of care for diabetics, compared with Medicare costs for the general population. In fact, the Medicare costs for diabetes patients with foot ulcers is 3 times higher than for diabetes patients in general, and inpatient care accounts for 74 percent of diabetic ulcer-related costs.

Fortunately, cost effective ulcer prevention and treatment interventions have proven effective at reducing foot complications and lower extremity amputations at only a fraction of the cost. Studies show that a multidisciplinary approach, including preventive strategies, patient and staff education, and treatment of foot ulcers, can reduce amputation rates up to 85 percent. Nationwide reductions of this size would save Americans as much as \$1.7 billion a year. The American Diabetes Association estimates that comprehensive foot care programs can reduce amputation rates up to 85 percent. Furthermore, the LSU Health Sciences Center Diabetes Foot Program in Baton Rouge, Louisiana enrolled over 2,300 diabetes patients with published research demonstrating their prevention and treatment program resulted in an 89 percent reduction in foot related hospitalizations, an 81 percent reduction in emergency room visits, and a 79 percent reduction in foot amputations at a cost of about 50 percent of standard care. Unfortunately, a 2002 National Institutes of Health (NIH) study shows that less than 2 percent of adult diabetics receive the level of care recommended by the American Diabetes Association.

With sound research showing the benefits of preventive care for people with diabetes, now is the time to commission a large, authoritative study on the issue. The results of this study will serve as solid evidence to public and private organizations of the need for preventive care to aid in the reduction of diabetes foot complications and will help foster technical and policy changes to healthcare programs. In addition, thousands of Americans who participate in this study will benefit from the education and treatment provided by this grant program.

Mr. Speaker, I hope members will consider these facts and cosponsor the "Diabetic Foot Complication and Lower Extremity Amputation Reduction Act of 2005."

RECOGNIZING SAWYER DANIEL
BRESLOW FOR ACHIEVING THE
RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 20, 2005

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Sawyer Daniel Breslow of Platte City, Missouri, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 351, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Sawyer has been a part of Troop 351 for 5 years, and during that time period he has served in a variety of leadership positions. He has served his troop as Assistant Patrol Leader, Patrol Leader, Scribe, Librarian, and Quartermaster. During that time period, he earned 50 merit badges and the God and Church Medal. In addition to the numerous leadership positions and merit badges, Sawyer is a Brotherhood Member in the Order of the Arrow, a Warrior in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say, and spent 5 years at the H. Roe Bartle Scout Reservation. Sawyer also participated in Den Chief Training, Junior Leader Basic Training, Snorkeling, Mile Swim, and National Camping. Sawyer also has 68 service hours, 93 nights camping, and 53 miles hiking. He is truly an exemplary Scout.

For his Eagle Scout project, Sawyer planned and built a large board game table with playing pieces for the Ronald McDonald House in Kansas City, Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Sawyer Daniel Breslow for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING CHIEF WARRANT
OFFICER TWO CLINT J. PRATHER

HON. CATHY McMORRIS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 20, 2005

Miss McMORRIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to posthumously recognize Chief Warrant Officer Two Clint J. Prather for paying the ultimate sacrifice in service to his country. Prather died when the CH-47 Chinook helicopter he was riding crashed during a sandstorm. The accident took place near Ghazni, Afghanistan on April 6, 2005.

Prather, 32 years old, was stationed in Afghanistan since February as a part of Operation Enduring Freedom. Serving as a helicopter pilot, Prather was assigned to F Company, 5th Battalion, 159th Aviation Regiment, Giebelstadt, Germany.

Prather has served his country in the Army since 1992, joining just after graduating from Cheney High School. He previously had served as a medic before becoming a heli-

copter pilot. Prather leaves behind a wife and two children.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Clint J. Prather for his spirit and his sacrifice that led him to the danger of the Afghan battlefield. I invite my colleagues to join me in remembering and honoring Chief Warrant Officer Prather for his service to our country, the Iraqi people, and Afghanistan.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS
OF MELANIE HUCKABY,
MCQUEENEY ELEMENTARY
TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 20, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the many accomplishments of Melanie Huckaby, McQueeney Elementary School Teacher of the Year.

Ms. Huckaby is a graduate of Southwest Texas State University, from which she received her Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education. She has seventeen years of teaching experience, in several diverse environments.

After graduating college, Ms. Huckaby taught first grade for the Seguin ISD for a number of years, before moving to Los Angeles to pursue her teaching career further. She moved back to Seguin to take up the position of Library Media Specialist, which she holds today.

Melanie Huckaby is a believer in the power of reading to help transform the lives of her students. She loves to read aloud to the children, and enjoys answering students' questions and helping them to learn how to find information on their own.

Her passion for reading and learning serves as a wonderful example for her students. The people of Seguin are lucky to have a dedicated teacher and librarian like Melanie Huckaby looking after her students, and I am proud to have the chance to recognize her here today.

RUBELLA ELIMINATION
ANNOUNCEMENT

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 20, 2005

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on March 21, 2005, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announced that rubella, or German measles, "is no longer a health threat in the United States." This great accomplishment is worthy of note, and indeed celebration.

Just 40 years ago, the United States had come out of what we now believe will be the last epidemic of rubella in this country. The 1964-1965 epidemic was estimated to have caused 12.5 million cases of rubella—including 20,000 cases of congenital rubella syndrome (CRS), where children were born with birth defects such as cataracts, heart defects, hearing impairment, and developmental delay. As a result, this epidemic was responsible for more than 2,000 fetal deaths.

Unless a safe and effective vaccine was developed quickly, the United States expected another outbreak within the decade. In 1969, Merck developed the first vaccine for rubella, and millions of doses were distributed through our Nation's strong vaccination programs. Fortunately, another epidemic never occurred, and by the end of 1979 only 12,000 cases of rubella were reported in the United States.

According to the CDC, since 2001, the annual numbers of rubella cases have been the lowest ever recorded in the United States: 23 in 2001, 18 in 2002, seven in 2003, and nine in 2004. Outside the United States, approximately 100,000 cases of CRS are reported each year. In our global society, diseases do not stop at the border. Therefore, we must remain vigilant, continue to invest in our vaccination system, and do our part to address the remaining international challenge.

Our ability to protect our Nation's health from certain infectious diseases depends on a vibrant and innovative vaccine industry. As we emerge from recent vaccine shortages and exits from the vaccine business, we are fortunate that Merck, for example, has chosen to build new vaccine production capacity in Durham, North Carolina. The continued dedication and commitment of our vaccine manufacturers are essential if we are to make once-feared diseases a thing of the past.

RECOGNIZING SEAN DAVID HUNTLEY FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 20, 2005

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Sean David Huntley of Platte City, Missouri, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 351, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Sean has been a part of Troop 351 for 5 years, and during that time period he has served in a variety of leadership positions. He has served his troop as Assistant Patrol Leader, Patrol Leader, Scribe, and Librarian. During that time period, he earned 43 merit badges and the God and Church Medal. In addition to the numerous leadership positions and merit badges, Sean is a Brotherhood Member in the Order of the Arrow, a Warrior in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say, and spent 5 years at the H. Roe Bartle Scout Reservation. Sean also participated in Junior Leader Basic Training, Snorkeling, and National Camping. Sean also has 46 service hours, 99 nights camping, and 78 miles hiking. He is truly an exemplary Scout.

For his Eagle Scout project, Sean reconstructed an outside prayer area for United Methodist Church in Platte City, Missouri. Sean redesigned the fire pit, mulched the area, and then rebuilt the outside cross structure. He also constructed a trail and steps as a path to the prayer area.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Sean David Huntley for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DETECTIVE SERGEANT JAMES ALLEN

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 20, 2005

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the life of Detective Sergeant James Allen of Johnston, Rhode Island. After graduating from the police academy in 1978, Detective Sergeant Allen served on the force of the Providence Police Department for 27 years, until he was tragically murdered in his own police station while questioning a suspect on April 17, 2005.

Detective Sergeant Allen was first and foremost a family man, and he leaves behind his wife Marguerite and two teenage daughters, Jennifer and Caitlin. In addition to his work on the police force, he held down a part-time job to help pay for his daughters' tuition at private school. He was a fixture at St. Thomas Catholic Church in his Fruit Hill neighborhood, where he had regularly attended services since fourth grade. The Reverend Francis Kayatta said, "He was absolutely devoted to God and to his Catholic faith. He was absolutely devoted to his wife and his family. And he was absolutely devoted to the community that he gave his life for."

Detective Sergeant Allen followed his father Captain Lloyd Allen to the Providence Police Department. One of the longest-serving members of the force, James was a respected and well-liked member of the Department. Over the years, he had worked on some of the biggest cases in Rhode Island. In 1987, Allen evacuated several sleeping people from a burning tenement house. He received the Chiefs Award in 1989 for outstanding acts in the line of duty. In 2003, Detective Sergeant Allen played a key role in investigating a shooting at the Mount Hope Police Station, not far from his own office at the Providence Police Station. His affable demeanor, photographic memory, and attention to detail helped apprehend criminals and make Rhode Island a safer place to live.

In America, one law enforcement officer is killed every 53 hours, and Rhode Island is not immune to this tragic statistic. Detective Sergeant Allen is the ninth Rhode Island officer killed in the line of duty since 1952, and the fourth since 1994.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Michael Crugnale and his dispatcher for Yellow Cab. Their quick thinking helped apprehend the suspected murderer shortly after the shooting.

My thoughts and prayers are with the family, friends, and colleagues of Detective Sergeant Allen. Over the last quarter century, Detective Sergeant James Allen made a difference while protecting the people of Providence, and his absence will leave a large void in Rhode Island.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF DELIA MOLINA, JUAN SEGUIN PRE-KINDERGARTEN TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 20, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the many accomplishments of Delia Molina, Juan Seguin Pre-kindergarten Teacher of the Year.

Delia Molina received a Bachelor of Science and a Masters in Education from Southwest State University. She has taught in Austin, San Marcos, and Seguin Texas; along with her time spent teaching in Fort Knox Kentucky. Highly experienced in her field, Mrs. Molina has also served as Director of the Army Child Development Center in Germany.

She has over 21 years of teaching experience; her last eight years have been spent teaching at Seguin Independent School District. Mrs. Molina currently works with our district's youngest students, teaching bilingual pre-kindergarten to our kids. Over the years she has also served as a bilingual teacher supervisor, counselor, and curriculum specialist.

I am proud to have had the chance to recognize Juan Seguin Pre-kindergarten's Teacher of the Year, Delia Molina. Mrs. Molina has spent her life in the service of our kids, and her hard work has insured that our bilingual students receive the special attention that they deserve.

THE FINAL REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON THE INTELLIGENCE CAPABILITIES OF THE UNITED STATES REGARDING WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION

HON. MARK GREEN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 20, 2005

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker and colleagues, over the past several years I have had the privilege and challenge of serving on both the House International Relations Subcommittee on International Terrorism, Non-proliferation and Human Rights, and the House Judiciary Committee on Crime, Terrorism and Homeland Security.

As a member of these panels, I have closely watched the work of the Commission on the Intelligence Capabilities of the United States Regarding Weapons of Mass Destruction. That is why I was very pleased to see the commission, chaired by former Senator Robb and Judge Silberman, recently present its final report. As someone who works daily to try and formulate the best policies to augment American security both at home and abroad, I have found a number of the conclusions and recommendations contained in this sweeping report to be of great interest.

Those who have seen the news coverage of this report are aware that it serves as a broad analysis of the intelligence leading up to the war in Iraq. But those who have fully read the report know that it puts forth a helpful and needed blueprint for the continued reshaping of our intelligence community to meet the requirements of the 21st Century.

In particular, I'd like today to briefly discuss one of the most crucial areas of the commission's report, and one that has a substantial relationship to the work I've done on both of the committees I mentioned earlier—counterintelligence.

The commission report lays out, quite frankly, a rather bleak picture of U.S. counterintelligence over the past decade. To quote the report, ". . . since the Cold War . . . while our enemies are executing what amounts to a global intelligence war against the United States, we have failed to meet the challenge. U.S. counterintelligence efforts have remained fractured, myopic, and only marginally effective." The report states that these circumstances have produced "a cycle of defeat that cannot be indefinitely sustained."

Thankfully, the report suggests a number of what I believe are good, solid recommendations for working our way out of this counterintelligence "wilderness." Like the other changes that are already slated to take place throughout the intelligence community, these reforms will not be easy. But I agree with the commission members in their conclusion that systemic changes are required to prevent the kind of counterintelligence failures we've seen in the past—failures that I fear in the future could have even more devastating consequences.

The commission recommends that:

"The National Counterintelligence Executive (NCIX)—the statutory head of the U.S. counterintelligence community—become the DNI's Mission Manager for counterintelligence, providing strategic direction for the full breadth of counterintelligence activities across the government. In this role, the NCIX should also focus on increasing technical counterintelligence efforts across the Intelligence Community;"

"The CIA create a new capability dedicated to conducting a full range of counterintelligence activities outside the United States;"

"The Department of Defense's Counterintelligence Field Activity assume operational and investigative authority to coordinate and conduct counterintelligence activities throughout the Defense Department;" and

"The FBI create a National Security Service that includes the Bureau's Counterintelligence Division, Counterterrorism Division, and the Directorate of Intelligence. A single Executive Assistant Director would lead the service subject to the coordination and budget authorities of the DNI."

Each of these changes can play an important role in repairing and enhancing our current counterintelligence structure and capabilities. But I feel the first recommendation—related to empowered, centralized, strategic leadership in the counterintelligence community—is particularly important, and worthy of additional comment.

As the rest of the intelligence community as a whole begins to adjust to the new structure we've all read and heard so much about, it's important to note that some considerable progress has already been made in working to centralize leadership and stimulate change within the microcosm of the counterintelligence community.

Last month, President Bush approved the first National Counterintelligence Strategy of the United States—a document that sets forth a clear and unified direction for our nation's counterintelligence activities. This document

further advances the importance of undertaking counterintelligence as a strategic venture—a venture that ought to be incorporated into our overall national security policy just as is any other substantial instrument of national power.

In the context of this discussion of strategic counterintelligence, I am especially encouraged to see a new commitment by senior U.S. policymakers to shift our counterintelligence efforts away from the "defensive" activities of the past to a more robust, "offensive" endeavor as we look toward the future. From our many successes in the War on Terrorism, we have learned that an offensive approach—taking the battle to our enemies before they can bring it to us—is essential to success. Each of the commission's recommendations serve the achievement of that goal.

Mr. Speaker, it's my hope that the report of the Commission on the Intelligence Capabilities of the United States Regarding Weapons of Mass Destruction will not only assist in reshaping our future overall intelligence structure, but will also further enable the realization of many reforms that are already underway in our counterintelligence community. I look forward to working with President Bush and my colleagues in this body to fully consider these changes and help make them a reality.

RECOGNIZING MATTHEW KUEHL
FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF
EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 20, 2005

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Matthew Kuehl of Platte City, Missouri, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 351, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Matt has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. During the 4 years Matt has been involved with Scouting, he has worked his way through the ranks and earned 30 merit badges. Matt has held a variety of leadership positions within his troop, serving as Librarian, Quartermaster, and Scribe. Matt is also a Brotherhood Member in the Order of the Arrow, a Warrior in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say, and attended H. Roe Bartle Scout Reservation for four years. Matt participated in Junior Leader Basic training and World Conservation, has 101 service hours, spent 53 nights camping, and 26 miles hiking. He is truly an exemplary Scout.

For his Eagle Scout project, Matt purchased and planted three trees at the Platte County Fairgrounds in Platte City, Missouri, mulched and tied the trees for wind resistance, and watered the trees for 4 months to ensure proper growth.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Matthew Kuehl for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING THE LATE FRED
TOYOSABURO KOREMATSU

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 20, 2005

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the late Fred Toyosaburo Korematsu, a man who through quiet determination and an unwavering belief in justice became one of the icons of the American Civil Rights movement of the 20th Century. As we reflect on Mr. Korematsu's remarkable life and his wonderful legacy, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in saluting this true American hero.

The son of Japanese immigrants, Fred Toyosaburo Korematsu was born in Oakland, California on January 30th, 1919. After graduating from high school, Fred went to work as a welder, a job that Fred would keep until war broke out between the United States and Japan. In February of 1942, 120,000 residents of Japanese ancestry, including American citizens, were ordered out of their homes and into camps following Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor. Fred, at the age of 22, watched as his parents vacated their home, but he decided to defy the order and remain behind because he felt it was wrong for innocent and loyal citizens to be rounded up at once.

In May of 1942, Fred was stopped by police and charged with violating the military's exclusion order. Fred was ultimately turned over to the FBI, and convicted and jailed for failure to report for evacuation. During his imprisonment, Fred was visited by Ernest Besig, the Executive Director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Northern California at the time. Mr. Besig, who was seeking for cases to test the constitutionality of the internment, posted \$5,000 in bail to free Fred, but the military police would not oblige. Fred was eventually transferred to a camp in Topaz, Utah, where he was generally ostracized by his fellow inmates for having attempted to dodge internment.

Fred's case against the government's internment of Japanese Americans was ultimately heard and struck down by the Supreme Court. Justice Frank Murphy, one of three dissenting Justices, called the internment order "legalization of racism." Fred tried his best to lead a normal life as he worked as a welder in Salt Lake City toward the end of the war.

At the end of the internment in 1944, Fred returned to the San Francisco Bay Area, where he and his wife, Kathryn, raised a daughter, Karen, and a son, Ken. Fred had a long career as a draftsman, but he could not get a job at a larger firm or government agency because of his prior felony conviction.

Legal historian and author Peter H. Irons discovered the government had lied to the high court while researching a book on wartime internment in the early 1980s. This discovery caught the attention of civil rights attorney Dale Minami. Mr. Minami, along with a team of dedicated attorneys, petitioned the U.S. Circuit Court in San Francisco to correct the error that was made before the court, which was that government prosecutors suppressed, altered and destroyed material evidence during its prosecution of the original case. After an arduous 2½-year process, the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals vacated Fred's original and wrongful conviction on November 10, 1983.

In January of 1998, Fred Korematsu was awarded a Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor, by President Bill Clinton. During the presentation, President Clinton said that the name Korematsu can be rightfully added to the list of Plessy, Brown, and Ferguson as the greatest civil rights pioneers in our Nation's history.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to Fred Korematsu. Fred Korematsu is the epitome of a true patriot; someone who is not afraid to stand up for what is right and just. Although he is no longer with us, his legacy will continue to live on for generations to come. I ask all of my colleagues to join me in thanking Fred Korematsu for his steadfast commitment to civil rights and justice.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF WANDA KOLLAUS, KOENNECKE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 20, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the many accomplishments of Ms. Wanda Kollaus, Elementary School Teacher of the Year.

Ms. Kollaus has seventeen years of teaching experience. Twelve years of her career were spent with the Seguin Independent School District. She is a proud graduate of Seguin High School, and now gives back to the district that has given her so much.

Ms. Kollaus has a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from Southwest Texas State University, with a specialization in Science. She wants her students to "get into science," and works on a daily basis to develop their skills and enthusiasm.

She believes strongly that learning ought to continue outside the classroom, as well. She especially enjoys involving her students in the Seguin Outdoor Learning Center, and providing hands-on learning opportunities through the Environmental Science Academies. In addition, she often stays after school to work with students on special projects, to ensure that they each reach their potential and leave school with a highly developed love for and understanding of science.

Ms. Kollaus is one of our state's most enthusiastic educators, and her efforts are a credit to Seguin and to our state. I am proud to have the opportunity to recognize her here today.

TRIBUTE TO LISA ZAGAROLI

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 20, 2005

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Lisa Zagaroli, a correspondent with the Detroit News Washington bureau, for winning the Sigma Delta Chi Award from the Society of Professional Journalists for excellence in journalism. Ms. Zagaroli is being recognized for her work on "Military Menace: Deadly Vehicles," a series of stories on the hazards of military vehicles.

Ms. Zagaroli's work exposing insufficient training and safety for Army drivers is another fine example of her investigative journalism talents. Her stories in this series uncovered shortcomings in the Army that might have otherwise gone unnoticed in the public, and her efforts deserve recognition.

Ms. Zagaroli has been recognized for her excellent work before; this is Lisa's second award from the Society of Professional Journalists. Last year, she was recognized for a series of stories, "Unsafe Saviors," co-written with April Taylor, revealing poor ambulance design and regulation.

Ms. Zagaroli, originally from Michigan and known to be a dedicated Spartan fan, has been with the Detroit News for ten years and has covered the Michigan Congressional Delegation extensively. The daughter of first generation Italian immigrants, Lisa frequently travels to Rome and is currently on assignment covering the election of the new pope. She is a talented journalist and deserves this honor.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that all of my colleagues join me in commending Lisa Zagaroli for her superb series "Military Menace: Deadly Vehicles" and recognizing her for the award she is to receive.

INTEREST FREE FUNDS FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 20, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation that would provide \$25.2 billion in interest-free funds over the next two years for public school construction and modernization projects.

Currently, our public school system has extraordinary unmet needs for funds to construct and modernize schools. Consider the following facts:

- (1) The average age of a public school in the United States is 42 years.
- (2) One-third of all public schools in the United States are in need of extensive repair or replacement.
- (3) Three and a half million students attend schools that need major repair or replacement.
- (4) According to a recent report from the National Education Association, it will cost \$332 billion to bring the existing public schools into overall good condition. Billions more will be required to construct new schools to meet expanding student enrollments.

President Bush's education program places strong emphasis on raising standards in America's classrooms, but does not provide promised Federal help for the cost of additional testing and services required to reach that goal. His program also ignores the fact that school facilities are an important part of raising student performance. Inferior facilities make teaching more difficult. They also send a clear message to the students that this nation does not value their education. The President's program seems to be designed to fail.

My legislation will provide funds for school modernization projects through a federal tax credit. The tax credit will, in effect, pay the interest on \$25.2 billion of school modernization bonds. All decisions relating to how those funds would be used would continue to be made at the local level.

My legislation is based on a successful model, the Qualified Academy Bond (QZAB) program enacted in 1997. A California local school official described that program as a "local school district's dream" after having successfully participated in a bond offering subsidized under that program. U.S. Education Secretary Rodney Page endorsed a similar proposal in 1999 when he was Superintendent of the Houston schools. In a statement submitted to the Committee on Ways and Means, he said that school modernization bonds "represent the approach to Federal aid that will have a truly consequential impact on meeting the infrastructure needs of Houston and other large urban high poverty districts."

Mr. Speaker, America's future can only prosper with the proper education of our children, and our children cannot receive such education with our public schools in a dilapidated state. Modernizing our schools is an investment in our future, and should be a main, bipartisan priority in the 109th Congress.

Attached is a brief description of the bill and a table showing how the funds will be allocated among the States.

SUMMARY

The bill would subsidize \$25.2 billion in zero-interest school modernization bonds. The federal government would provide tax credits for the interest normally paid on a bond. Funds that would have gone to pay bond interest would be freed for other education needs. For each \$1000 of school bonds, the net benefit of the program to State or local school districts would be approximately \$500.

Funding: The bill divides the interest-free funds for public school construction and modernization as follows:

- (1) \$22 billion over two years for zero-interest school modernization bonds (\$11 billion in both 2006 and 2007). The bill would allocate 60 percent of the \$22 billion in bonds to states based on school-age population. The State education agency has the authority to allocate the State's share among the school districts in the State with no restrictions as to what schools can qualify. The remaining 40 percent of these bonds would be directly allocated to the 125 school districts with the largest number of low-income students based on ESEA Title I funding (poverty-based distribution).
- (2) \$400 million in school modernization bonds for Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) schools.
- (3) \$2.8 billion for expansion of the existing Qualified Zone Academy Bond program (QZAB). This amount is allocated among the States based upon the number of poor students. The State education agency has the authority to allocate the State's share among the school districts in the State; except that amount may be allocated only to schools with at least 35% poor students—those schools located in Empowerment Zones, Enterprise Communities or which have at least 35 percent of their students eligible for free or reduced price school lunch.

Federal Role: The federal government would provide a tax credit to the bond purchaser equal to the interest that would otherwise be paid on a school construction bond. No new federal bureaucracy would be created.

Cost: The five-year cost to the Federal government is approximately \$1.7 billion and the ten-year cost is approximately \$6.8 billion.

The following table shows the estimated allocations under the bill.

ESTIMATED STATE BOND ALLOCATIONS

Alabama	\$354,922
Alaska	53,398
Arizona	337,448
Arkansas	183,516
California	3,109,598
Colorado	296,358
Connecticut	292,085
Delaware	49,070
District of Columbia	88,904
Florida	1,188,467
Georgia	654,051
Hawaii	77,438
Idaho	93,409
Illinois	1,221,868
Indiana	459,436
Iowa	196,453
Kansas	196,866
Kentucky	295,249
Louisiana	473,051
Maine	84,355
Maryland	395,270
Massachusetts	467,254
Michigan	1,006,867
Minnesota	378,952
Mississippi	237,537
Missouri	452,673
Montana	65,077
Nebraska	131,275
Nevada	92,951
New Hampshire	80,802
New Jersey	660,175
New Mexico	157,627
New York	2,476,435
North Carolina	488,119
North Dakota	46,596
Ohio	1,019,626
Oklahoma	277,839
Oregon	235,626
Pennsylvania	1,044,126
Puerto Rico	378,751
Rhode Island	90,648
South Carolina	284,932
South Dakota	56,180
Tennessee	421,577
Texas	1,998,390
Utah	175,947
Vermont	42,022
Virginia	422,902
Washington	402,308
West Virginia	123,951
Wisconsin	491,648
Wyoming	38,712
Outlying Areas	51,263
BIA Schools	400,000
Total	25,200,000

RECOGNIZING GINGER
LANGEMEIER**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 20, 2005

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Ginger Langemeier, a longtime member of my staff who will be leaving my office to work for my distinguished colleague from Nebraska, the Honorable JEFF FORTENBERRY who represents Ginger's home district. I must confess that my distinguished colleague Mr. Fortenberry was not the first Nebraskan that I had to compete with over Ginger, as she's always been a big fan of the distinguished gentleman from Nebraska's Third District, the Honorable TOM OSBORNE.

Ginger began her political career as an intern on my 1998 Missouri State Senate campaign, and leaves my office after rising through the ranks to become my Deputy Chief of Staff. In between she has served in a variety of different positions, and as always, I am grateful for her commitment and service.

My 1998 state Senate campaign was quite an introduction to politics for Ginger. I did not

have a large staff, but I did have a large Senate district, and Ginger was instrumental in helping me reach out to all of the voters across a vast geographic area. She also served as my Finance Director, and ever since she has been charged with maintaining our office finances.

I also must thank her for her service to my brother Todd. In 2000, Todd ran for state treasurer, and Ginger volunteered for him in her spare time. During the rest of her time, she was busy working at my office in the Missouri State Senate.

Later on in 2000, Ginger became the very first employee of Graves for Congress after I filed for election to this seat. In addition to her recurring role as Finance Director, she handled all of my scheduling, and brought to this race the same goal oriented attitude that led me to hire her in the first place.

Thanks to her hard work, I was elected to this House in November of 2000, and in January of 2001 when I became a Member of the 107th Congress, Ginger joined my official staff as a legislative assistant. Over the years Ginger has handled just about every issue in my office, and is known particularly for her expertise on agriculture, appropriations, the Missouri River, and crime. At the start of the 108th Congress, I promoted her to the position of Senior Policy Advisor, and in 2004 she returned to Missouri to become my Deputy Chief of Staff.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Ginger Langemeier for her dedication to myself and my constituents. While I am sorry to see her go, I know she will be a tremendous asset to my distinguished colleague Mr. FORTENBERRY and the citizens of Nebraska's First District.

IN HONOR OF PETER PUCHER,
"LATIN MAN OF THE YEAR"**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 20, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Mr. Peter Pucher, who has been recently honored as the "Latin Man of the Year, by the Cathedral Latin High School Alumni Association.

A life-long Clevelander, Mr. Pucher graduated from Cathedral Latin High School in 1955. His diligence reflected in his studies and athletic performance. Mr. Pucher's time as quarterback of the '53 and '54 Cathedral Latin football team is still considered as the finest in the history of the school. After receiving his Bachelor's degree in education from John Carroll University, Mr. Pucher embarked on a life-long journey that continues to focus on family, community and helping others in need.

Mr. Pucher taught at his alma mater for three years, then taught for two years at St. John Cantius High School. During his six-year tenure as teacher at Holy Name High School, he also served as the school's athletic director and head football coach. Throughout his profession, he guided his students and his players with heart, concern and unwavering dedication. The players and the team flourished under his leadership, and his commitment did not go unnoticed. In 1970, Mr. Pucher was named the West Senate Coach of the Year. Mr. Pucher's dedication to guiding our youth

parallels his strong sense of giving back to the community. Though awards and accolades do not impress him, Mr. Pucher's outstanding volunteer work has not gone unnoticed. In 1991, he was honored with the Greater Cleveland Football Coaches Association Golden Deeds Award. In 1994, Mr. Pucher was honored as the Greater Cleveland United Way Volunteer of the Year Award. To this day, Mr. Pucher and his mother-in-law, who is 93 years young, distribute donated food to a local food pantry.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honor and recognition of my dear friend and mentor, Mr. Peter Pucher. His dedicated service as teacher, coach and activist, focused on our youth and those in great need, has brought hope and possibility to many within our community. His kindness and concern has made a monumental difference in the hearts and lives of countless students, colleagues and family members, and his work continues to strengthen our community and alight our humanity.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FLORIDA INSTITUTE OF CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 20, 2005

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is an honor for me to rise today to recognize the 100th Anniversary of the Florida Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

There is little doubt that, without certified public accountants, the area of financial reporting would be a quagmire. Financial statements would be meaningless as everyone would strive to show favorable results without worrying much about honesty or accuracy. For these reasons, I am grateful that the Florida Institute of Certified Public Accountants has worked diligently over the past 100 years to work with CPAs throughout my state and ensure that the profession of public accounting remains safe and stable for 100 years more.

The FICPA has been instrumental in bringing the first accountancy law to my home state of Florida 100 years ago, and since then has worked diligently to bring the highest sense of professionalism to all areas of accounting. The Institute has also been a key supporter of legislation to require an ethics course for all Certified Public Accountants in addition to working closely with universities to provide aspiring CPAs the skills and education they will need to succeed, even going so far as to establish a foundation. Thanks to the FICPA, CPAs in the state of Florida also are required by law to take continuing education courses, further ensuring that citizens receive high-quality accounting services from well educated professionals.

The FICPA has not only focused on helping qualified accountants, but has also worked hard to prevent unqualified accountants from providing low-quality, unethical services to the citizens of Florida through an unlicensed accounting awareness campaign. Steps such as this have helped guarantee that CPAs in Florida will provide the quality service that the public deserves, and that Floridians can rest

assured that their financial reporting will be of the caliber they are entitled to.

With the continued help of their Chief Executive Officer Buddy Turman, I am confident that the FICP A will continue to build upon its legacy from the last 100 years and allow the profession of accounting to maintain its prominent role in our society. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to recognize the 100th Anniversary of the Florida Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

REGARDING: TEJANO SINGER
LAURA CANALES

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ
OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, April 20, 2005

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I join my fellow Texans—and many around the Southwest and the nation in paying special tribute to Laura Canales, a very special artistic pioneer, and a talented South Texan, who accomplished great things throughout her lifetime of performing.

Before there was the phenomenon of Tejano giant Selena, there was Laura Canales, who paved the way for a number of Tejano artists in the late 20th Century. She contributed much to our culture and to the music industry, and became known as the “Barbara Streisand of Tejano music” and as “Reina de la Onda Tejana,” (queen of the Tejano wave).

Tejano is a popular type of music in Texas and the Southwest that has become a huge industry with its own category in the Grammy Awards. Tejano is a combination of rock-n-roll and German Conjunto music. Some of the cultural influences on Tejano music include: Anglo, African, German, and Italian.

Tejano was originally dominated by male performers and it was nearly impossible for women to break through in this genre. Laura Canales, with her unique voice and love of performing, became the first woman to enjoy real success in the world of Tejano, and was honored as the first woman to be inducted into the Tejano ROOTS Hall of Fame in Alice, Texas. This museum is the only one that is entirely dedicated in honoring great Tejano music figures.

Laura’s influence on Tejano music became readily apparent during the 1970’s and 1980’s. With her distinctive voice and popularity, she released various albums that became hits, including her debut album, *Si Vivi Contigo*. Her numerous accomplishments include a dozen Tejano music awards, including Female Vocalist of the Year, Female Artist of the Year, and Female Entertainer of the Year. This Kingsville, Texas, native also understood the value of education, earning a bachelor’s degree in clinical psychology from Texas A&M University and pursuing a master’s degree.

Laura Canales proved that a woman could be successful in the Tejano music industry . . . she broke the gender barriers that existed at the dawn of the emergence of popular Tejano . . . and she paved the way for future, female Tejano performers.

This Tejano legend and daughter of South Texas will truly be missed, although she will live on in her music, to be enjoyed by many future connoisseurs of Tejano. I ask my col-

leagues to join me in keeping her family—and her many fans—in our thoughts and prayers at this difficult time.

IN HONOR OF THE CITY OF
HOBOKEN, NEW JERSEY

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ
OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, April 20, 2005

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the city of Hoboken, New Jersey, on its sesquicentennial celebration. The people of Hoboken will be commemorating this event with a series of activities throughout the spring and summer. Last weekend, the community held its 150th Anniversary Parade on April 16, 2005.

Located on the shore of the Hudson River, Hoboken is known for its lively atmosphere and rich history. The area was developed almost single-handedly by Colonel John Stevens, who bought the land for \$90,000 in 1784. On March 28, 1855, it was incorporated as a city. The late nineteenth century brought a sharp increase in immigration due to Hoboken’s proximity to Ellis Island and, by 1890, over 40 percent of the population was foreign-born. Hoboken developed and grew as a manufacturing hub with shipbuilding as the primary industry. The 20th century also brought the development of public transportation and the railroads, ferries, and Port Authority Trans-Hudson, PATH, Tube that transformed Hoboken into a bustling transportation center. The city piers soon became a focal point for trans-Atlantic commerce. More than three million Americans passed through Hoboken on their way to or from World War I. In the past few decades the shipyards have closed as Hoboken has transformed from an industrial area into an affluent neighborhood full of young professionals and known for its variety of restaurants and vibrant nightlife.

The birthplace of Frank Sinatra, Hoboken also claims such famous citizens as photographer Dorothea Lange and painter Willem de Kooning. Additionally, it boasts many notable firsts, including the first ice cream cone, the first steamboat, the first locomotive, and the first brewery. Many also believe that the first organized baseball game was played on Hoboken’s Elysian Fields in 1846.

In order to commemorate its momentous sesquicentennial birthday, Hoboken has planned a wide variety of celebrations that will serve to honor the progress and development of the past 150 years. Some of these activities include the creation of a time capsule, the painting of a historical mural, an anniversary gala and fundraiser, an evening concert series, and a spaghetti dinner block party. Hoboken will also host a vintage baseball festival and an arts and music festival.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the city of Hoboken on its 150th anniversary. This momentous occasion allows us to reflect on the city’s colorful past and look towards its promising future with hope and enthusiasm. I am proud to be a resident of this community, and I congratulate the people of Hoboken on making this city a wonderful place to call home.

EQUAL PAY DAY

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM
OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, April 20, 2005

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of working women across America and in support of the Paycheck Fairness Act.

Every April, supporters of equal pay mark our progress on this issue by noting the time of year in which women’s wages “catch up” to the wages paid to men from the previous year. Although we have made great strides in women’s equality, women still earn \$.76 for each dollar that men earn. In my home state of Minnesota, that number is \$.72. In real terms, this means that women and their families are being shortchanged thousands of dollars a year.

Minnesota women have the highest labor force participation in the nation and educational attainment continues to grow. With this remarkable increase in women’s participation in the economy, more and more families are reliant on women’s paychecks to make ends meet. If we are serious about ensuring fairness for all, about leaving no child behind, and about helping families achieve financial stability now and in the future, then Congress must act to address this significant wage gap.

For this reason, I am proud to be a cosponsor of the Paycheck Fairness Act. This bill will take concrete steps to eliminate gender-based wage discrimination. It will provide for enhanced outreach and training programs for employers, allow employees to share salary information, and give women the opportunity to sue for punitive damages under the Equal Pay Act. It is my hope that the Administration and the Republican leadership will make a serious effort to address this discrimination this Congress.

Along with wage disparity, we must continue to focus on issues of work place safety, equal treatment, and career advancement. As a woman, a mother, and a Member of Congress, I will continue to fight for equal pay, quality health care, safe work environments, and education opportunities for girls and women to ensure that they can pursue the American dream.

RECOGNIZING EDWARD A.
MITCHELL

HON. DALE E. KILDEE
OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, April 20, 2005

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise before you today to honor Edward A. Mitchell, of Flint, Michigan, my hometown. On Wednesday, April 20, the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan will honor Mr. Mitchell’s selfless contributions and dedication to improving the quality of life for thousands of residents of Genesee County.

A native of Flint, Edward Mitchell graduated from Central High School in 1947, and later studied at Flint Junior College. At the age of 18, Ed began what became a 50-year career with the Flint Journal, starting out as an Ad Services employee. A year later, he became

an Outside Sales Representative, and in 1958, he was promoted to Assistant Classified Advertising Manager. On April 9, 1984, Ed became Advertising Director for the Journal, and ultimately became Assistant to the Publisher, a position he held until his retirement.

In addition to his tenure at the Flint Journal, Ed became a tireless advocate for civic pride and responsibility. He has been a vital part of more than 26 community organizations, including Big Brothers/Big Sisters and the United Way of Genesee County, among many others. He served on the Boards of such groups as Goodwill Industries and the Lions Club, and as Chair of four organizations including the Center City Club and the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan.

A member of the Food Bank's Board of Directors since 1991 and its Executive Committee since 1995, Ed has also acted as Nominating Chair from 1995–1997, and served on the Food Bank's Presidential Search Committee in 1994. Ed was elected Board Chairman in 1998, the position he holds to this day. During his time on the Board, the Food Bank has grown from distributing 2.6 million pounds of food in 1991 to 15.2 million pounds in 2004, providing emergency food services to more than 110,000 Genesee County residents, half of who are under the age of 17 or over the age of 65. Under Ed's leadership, the Food Bank has received several awards, and has been a national model for similar programs. In 2002, America's Second Harvest recognized the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan as the nation's best.

Mr. Speaker, it is with a tremendous amount of gratitude that I appear before you today to recognize my colleague, my constituent, and my friend, Edward Mitchell. For over 45 years, he has diligently worked to promote, protect, defend, and enhance human dignity, and he exemplifies the very best of what our society has to offer. I would also like to recognize Ed's wife Valia, their three daughters, and their seven grandchildren, and I ask my colleagues in the 109th Congress to join me in wishing them all the best of luck in all their future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 20, 2005

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, on the evening of April 19, I missed three Rollcall votes. I respectfully request the opportunity to record my position on Rollcall votes. It was my intention to vote "yes" on Rollcall No. 109 H.R. 683, Trademark Dilution Revision Act of 2005. "Yes" on Rollcall No. 110 H.J. Res. 19, providing for the appointment of Shirley Ann Jackson as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution. "Yes" on Rollcall No. 111 H.J. Res. 20, providing for the appointment of Robert P. Kogod as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution

At this time I would ask for unanimous consent that my positions be entered into the RECORD following those votes or in the appropriate portion of the RECORD.

STATEMENT IN HONOR OF MARLA RUZICKA

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 20, 2005

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Marla Ruzicka who was tragically killed on Saturday in Iraq at the age of 28. Marla's courageous work on behalf of civilian victims of war demonstrated the compassion of the American people and extended a hand in friendship to the people of Iraq and Afghanistan. Marla gave so much of herself in her short life; it grieves us to think how much more she had to give. She devoted her life to making the lives lost count. Marla's death is a loss to the world.

Ms. Ruzicka was born in Lakeport, Calif. and came to San Francisco at the age of 17 to start her career at Global Exchange. During her time with Global Exchange, she worked with African AIDS victims, Palestinian refugees, and Nicaraguan campesinos. When her work took her to Afghanistan during the war to remove the Taliban, she came face to face with the human costs of the conflict and dedicated the remainder of her life to aiding the civilian victims of war.

Two years ago, Ms. Ruzicka founded the Campaign for Innocent Victims in Conflict. With little staff and scarce funding, she successfully lobbied Congress for \$2.5 million to help Afghan war victims. The fund has since grown to \$7.5 million, and she has secured \$10 million for Iraqi victims.

Ms. Ruzicka worked not just in Washington, but on the literal frontlines of the conflicts. In Iraq, she was the leader of more than 150 volunteers who went door-to-door to compile a list of civilian casualties to determine the civilian cost of the war. She was a fierce advocate for the victims' families, serving as the point of contact between affected Iraqi civilians and the U.S.-led forces. Ms. Ruzicka helped direct aid where it was most needed, and she helped many Iraqi families begin to pick up the pieces of their shattered lives.

On April 16, Ms. Ruzicka was on her way to visit another Iraqi family devastated by the conflict when a suicide bomber attacked a nearby U.S. convoy. She died in the blast.

Mr. Speaker, Marla Ruzicka reminded us of the immense scale of human suffering that war brings. She gave her time, her energy, and ultimately her life to help ease the suffering of its victims. She is an inspiration to people around the world.

I hope that it is a comfort to her parents, Clifford and Nancy, her brothers and sisters, and all her family and friends, that so many people share their loss and are praying for them at this sad time.

IN HONOR OF LINDA SMITH

HON. ROBERT MENEDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 20, 2005

Mr. MENEDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Linda Smith for her years of dedicated service and outstanding commitment to the labor movement. Mrs. Smith received the

Labor Person of the Year Award, sponsored by the AFL-CIO, at the annual Labor Awards Breakfast on Sunday, April 17, 2005.

For 25 years, Mrs. Smith has been a member of the Communication Workers of America (CWA) Local Union 1082. During that time, she has demonstrated strong leadership skills as president of the Local 1082 for the past eight years and as an elected member of the executive board for ten years. Mrs. Smith is known by her fellow Local 1082 members for her willingness to volunteer her time and help in whatever capacity necessary to support the union, and her perseverance and self-sacrifice cannot be measured.

When she is not involved with the Local 1082, she is serving as vice-president of the Middlesex County AFL-CIO Labor Council and as a labor representative to the Middlesex County Workforce Investment Board. Additionally, she is a committee person for the Franklin Township Democratic Organization.

Apart from her involvement with labor and community groups, Mrs. Smith has worked for 25 years at the Middlesex County Board of Social Services. A graduate of Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School, she has also studied at the George Meany Center for Labor Studies and Rutgers University. She is the mother of three sons and lives in Somerset.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Linda Smith for her active participation in the CWA and her exemplary service to her fellow union members throughout the years.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER PRIVACY AND IDENTITY THEFT PREVENTION ACT OF 2005

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 20, 2005

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, the use of Social Security numbers is rampant. When Social Security numbers were created in 1936, their only purpose was to track a worker's earnings so that Social Security benefits could be calculated. But today, we literally have a culture of dependence on Social Security numbers.

Businesses and governments use the number as the primary way of identifying individuals. All of us know how difficult it is to conduct even the most mundane transactions without having to provide our Social Security number first. It's no wonder identity theft has become the fastest growing white collar crime.

Worse yet, terrorists, including those responsible for the September 11th attacks, misuse SSNs in order to assimilate into our society.

Barely a day goes by without hearing more examples of the truly devastating effects of identity theft. During a hearing of the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Social Security hearing, we learned about a widow whose husband died in the September 11th attacks on the World Trade Center—an illegal immigrant used her deceased husband's Social Security number to get a driver's license and to work. We also heard about individuals whose credit was ruined, who were arrested for crimes they did not commit, and who spent

years and hundreds or even thousands of dollars out of their own pockets trying to clear their names because of identity theft often facilitated by obtaining the individual's Social Security number.

Concerns about identity theft are increasing dramatically. According to the Federal Trade Commission, identity theft is the number one consumer complaint—amounting to 39 percent of complaints received in 2004. In fact, my state, Florida, is sixth in the nation in the number of identity theft victims per 100,000 people.

Clearly, there is need for a comprehensive law to better protect the privacy of Social Security numbers and protect the American public from being victimized. Today, I re-introduce the "Social Security Number Privacy and Identity Theft Prevention Act of 2005," which is similar to bipartisan legislation introduced during the last Congress. In the public and private sector, the bill would restrict the sale and public display of Social Security numbers, limit dissemination of Social Security numbers by credit reporting agencies, make it more difficult for businesses to deny services if a customer refuses to provide his or her Social Security number and establish civil and criminal penalties for violations.

Congress must act to protect the very number it requires each of us to obtain and use throughout our lifetime. Providing for uses of Social Security numbers that benefit the public while protecting these numbers from being used by criminals, or even terrorists, is a complex balancing act. This bill achieves that balance by ensuring Social Security numbers are exchanged only when necessary and protected from indiscriminant disclosure. I urge Members to co-sponsor this important legislation.

HONORING MATT KIEHL ON
ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE
SCOUT

HON. ERIC CANTOR

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 20, 2005

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Matt Kiehl, a constituent who at the age of 17 has been awarded the rank of Eagle Scout. Matt has been involved in scouting since the age of seven when he started as a Tiger Cub. For the last 10 years, he has worked toward this goal which culminated in his Eagle Scout project to construct a prayer path at the Shalom House in Montpelier, Virginia. He, along with about 25 volunteers, completed the project this past December 18.

Matt is an exceptional student at the Maggie Walker Governor's School. Next year, he will join the "We the People" Team. This nationwide competition is based on students' knowledge and understanding of the Constitution. He also finished second in the National Catholic Forensic League state competition this year and will compete at the national competition.

Mr. Speaker, I join the Kiehl family—his father, Mark; mother, Leslie; and his sisters Jennifer and Stephanie—in honoring and recognizing the remarkable achievements of Matt. I am confident we will hear great things from him in the future.

RECOGNIZING ANDRE SMITH

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 20, 2005

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you today to recognize the accomplishments of a man who has made a strong commitment to protect and defend human dignity. On Saturday, May 7, the members of Oman Temple No. 72, of the Ancient Egyptian Arabic Order Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, will gather at their 50th Annual Potentate's Ball, where they will honor their illustrious Potentate, Andre Smith.

Andre Smith was born in my hometown of Flint, Michigan, on August 8, 1965, the youngest and only son of Elworth and Vivian Smith. He attended Flint Public Schools, and graduated from Northwestern High School in 1983. He later enlisted in the United States Army, where he proudly served for 8½ years, attaining the rank of Sergeant E-5. He received an Honorable Discharge in 1992.

In addition to his tenure as Illustrious Potentate of Oman Temple 72, Mr. Smith is also a member and Senior Warden of John W. Stevenson Lodge No. 56, Saginaw Valley Consistory No. 71, and the Flint Roller Skating Association. As a member of these organizations, he has consistently been at the forefront of campaigns and projects designed to improve and beautify the city. In addition, Mr. Smith successfully balances his time as a community leader with his employment as an Administrative Security Tech at the Great Lakes Tech Center, and as a member of Grace Emmanuel Baptist Church.

Mr. Speaker, I am appreciative of Andre Smith's contributions to the Flint community. His civic awareness has made our city a better place in which to live. I ask my colleagues in the 109th Congress to please join me in congratulating him for his dedication and perseverance.

REGARDING THE DEATH OF PROVIDENCE POLICE DETECTIVE
JAMES L. ALLEN

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 20, 2005

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to express my deepest sympathy and condolences to Mayor Cicilline, Chief Esserman, the entire Providence Police Department, the friends and the family of Detective James L. Allen, a 27-year veteran of the police force in Providence, Rhode Island who was tragically killed early Sunday morning inside his own police station. I want to honor this heroic man by sharing his story with fellow Members of Congress and the nation.

Detective Allen embodied the great courage and dedication of those who risk their lives in order to protect others. His was known by his colleagues as being exceptionally talented in remembering names, faces and dates—so much so that they endearingly referred to him as "Rainman" in the department. He was also known as an extremely hard worker who never sought the limelight for himself, despite the fact that he handled high-profile cases and

acted heroically on many occasions during his over two decade-long performance of duty. In 1987, Detective Allen ran through a burning tenement house and evacuated several people who were sleeping inside. In 1989, he received a "Chiefs Award" for an outstanding act in the performance of duty. On this past Saturday night, he was once again going above and beyond the call of duty by returning to the police station after enjoying dinner with his family in order to "pull out all the stops" in the investigation of a vicious crime which had occurred earlier in the day.

He was clearly very proud of following in the footsteps of his father, retired Providence Police Captain Lloyd Allen. Out of a force of 500 officers, Detective Allen was one of the 20 longest-serving. Sadly, he is the third Providence police officer killed on the job since 1994. Incidents such as this one remind us of the daily sacrifice and risk endured by members of our law enforcement communities, who deserve the utmost appreciation from all of us. Detective Allen leaves his wife, Marguerite, and two daughters, Jennifer, 15 and Caitlin, 14, behind. Although his life ended abruptly in great tragedy, his legacy of selflessness, kindness, and service to his community will continue on.

RECOGNIZING MR. DONNIE R.
WHEELER OF VIRGINIA BEACH,
VIRGINIA, PRESIDENT OF THE
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
CLEAN WATER AGENCIES, FOR
HIS SERVICE AND DEDICATION

HON. J. RANDY FORBES

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 20, 2005

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mr. Donnie R. Wheeler, General Manager of the Hampton Roads Sanitation District (HRSD) in Virginia Beach, VA. Mr. Wheeler is an exceptional leader and public steward dedicated to the Nation's and Virginia's environment and public health. It is a great pleasure to congratulate Mr. Wheeler on becoming the first President of the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA), formerly the Association of Metropolitan Sewerage Agencies (AMSA). No one could be more deserving of this leadership position.

A graduate of Virginia Tech, Mr. Wheeler was employed by the Virginia State Water Control Board for seven years before joining HRSD in 1974. Mr. Wheeler's distinguished career with HRSD—a nationally recognized regional wastewater treatment utility, which serves 17 cities and counties covering 3,100 square miles of southeast Virginia—has spanned three decades. Under his management, HRSD has been honored with a host of awards from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and is recognized as a state innovator for initiatives such as Virginia's first municipal water reuse project.

On May 2, 2005, the members of NACWA elected Mr. Wheeler to be the president of the Association stemming from his exemplary commitment and dedication to the clean-water community.

With Mr. Wheeler as President, NACWA will no doubt be the leading advocate for responsible national policies that advance clean

water and a healthy environment. Simply stated, when I hear the term “environmentalist”, I think of public servants like Donnie first. This is because Donnie’s contributions to his profession, his community, and to Virginia are numerous.

Mr. Wheeler is a founder of the Virginia Association of Municipal Wastewater Agencies (VAMWA) and served as its president for six years. His career achievements have earned the respect of his colleagues at the local, state and national levels, resulting in awards from the Virginia Water Environment Association (VWEA) and Environment Virginia. Mr. Wheeler has also served as an Adjunct Associate Professor of Environmental Engineering at Old Dominion University.

Again, it is with great pleasure that I congratulate Donnie on becoming President of NACWA. I am certain the Association will continue to flourish under his able leadership.

AGRICULTURAL TRADE

HON. STEVE KING

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 20, 2005

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I stand today in support of the U.S.-Dominican Republic-Central America Free Trade Agreement and the benefits it will provide to hardworking American farmers. Currently, the U.S. market is already fairly open to agricultural products from Central America and the Dominican Republic, but U.S. farmers face a variety of tariffs and other barriers when exporting to the DR-CAFTA countries. This agreement will eliminate those barriers, reciprocate open market access, and put American farmers on a level playing field.

As the nation’s top exporter of corn, with farm cash receipts of over \$3.7 billion, corn producers from the great state of Iowa, which I represent, would benefit from the FTA. Recent price strength in U.S. pork markets is directly related to increased U.S. pork exports. Mexico is a good example. DR-CAFTA countries are also important export market for Iowa soybean farmers, who are the top exporters of soybeans. Nationwide these exports already account for 14 percent, a total of 1.0 million metric tons or 58 million bushels. Finally, the Iowa beef industry would benefit from the FTA. In 2003, the U.S. found bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) in a Canadian cow causing us to have export challenges with Japan. The U.S. has lost valuable beef exports, and this FTA would help expand access and market potential.

This Agreement will provide U.S. farmers with unequalled access to a large market with growing incomes and growing demands for agricultural and food products. The elimination of tariffs will provide American farmers with preferences over producers in Canada, Europe, and other countries. This will help to restore lost U.S. market share and increase overall exports to the five DR-CAFTA countries.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge my colleagues to support American farmers and to support this very important piece of legislation.

IN MEMORY OF MICHAEL
WRONIKOWSKI

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 20, 2005

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask that these moving words delivered on April 2, 2005 by Brian Wronikowski at a memorial service for his father, Michael Wronikowski of Detroit, Michigan, who passed away on March 16, 2005, be included in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

First of all, my family and I would like to thank all of you for coming today. We appreciate everyone taking time out of their busy lives to celebrate the life of someone who was and always will be such an important part of ours. Everyone’s thoughts, prayers and kind words have not gone unnoticed. Thanks again.

We would like to invite any and all of you to continue the celebration of Mike’s life after mass. Stop in for a bite to eat. Stop in to say hello. All are welcome to stop by at Mike and Kathy’s home. Just follow the caravan of people walking down Audubon after the service.

Joseph and Dorothy Wronikowski welcomed Michael John, their 3rd of 5 children into the world on September 3rd, 1946. He was born in the city of Detroit, where he lived all 58 of his years. Raised in the Catholic faith, he attended Guardian Angel Elementary School and graduated from De La Salle High School in 1964.

After graduation, he joined the Army Reserves, where he served as a security code specialist until 1972. It was also upon graduation that he began work as a printer, a career that would last over thirty years. In June of 1967, he met and began dating Kathleen McEvoy, a former classmate of his from Guardian Angels. Although they were in the same grade, they were never in the same classroom in any of their eight years. On May 10, 1968, a mere eleven months later, they were married.

Being the good Catholic young adults that they were, my parents got to work on starting their family. Nine and a half months after they were married, Anne Marie, their first child was born. Eleven months later, came John Michael. And so on and so on to the tune of eight children in nine and a half years. As the kids kept coming, and the bills kept rising, my father worked two jobs to provide for us and send us through Catholic schools. You see, public school was never an option for us kids in our parent’s eyes. They were both brought up in Catholic households and a Catholic education was the only way to go.

My Dad became a printer back in the ‘60’s because it meant a pay increase over his job in the mail room. But make no mistake, he took great pride in his craft. I can remember him bringing home picture after picture that he worked on. I think all of us kids had “The Tiger’s Roar in ‘84” poster that he worked on hanging in our rooms at some point.

It was not all work for my Dad. He was a spectacular athlete in his younger years. He dabbled in a just about everything. He was a solid third baseman. As you heard, he was lucky enough to play in the nets in the storied Montreal Forum. He was also a very good golfer, and he was the best bowler I have ever seen.

As the years went on, working the long hours on the printing press took quite a toll on my dad’s body. He developed degenerative disc disease, which resulted in four separate

back surgeries. He lived every day in constant pain, but you would never know it, because he would never show it. His desire to live and be active outweighed his desire to live in comfort.

As the surgeries mounted, he was forced to give up all of his hobbies that he loved for so long. Instead of feeling sorry for himself and packing it in, he moved on to other hobbies that I am sure were no better for his back than his sports were. He redid almost the whole inside of my parent’s house. You cannot step foot inside a room there that doesn’t have his fingerprints all over it. My mom even turned him on to the wonderful world of gardening. Pulling weeds, planting bulbs—all sorts of fun stuff. But it wasn’t the job that he was doing that was important to him; instead, it was how he did it. He was a perfectionist at heart. And it didn’t matter if he was working the presses or vacuuming our pool, the job was not done until it was perfect.

My Dad stopped working in 2000. And though we had some stressful times over the last few years, anybody that knew him knows that his last few years were his happiest. His kids were all grown up. He was blessed with five beautiful grandchildren. And he got to enjoy more time with my Mom than any other time in their marriage. Sure, they had their hard times like any other couple. But my parents were married 36 years. Neither one ever strayed. Through thick and through thin, their love never wavered.

Everyone has different things that will always stick with them. Different memories. Different “Dadisms”. Here are a few. My Dad was a very good listener. Sometimes he offered his opinions, but more times than not he just wanted to be there for his kids. His silent confidence is already missed. My dad was a huge hockey fan. Many a Saturday night was spent in our younger years with the TV tuned in to Hockey Night in Canada. And it didn’t really feel like the Wings had won the Cup until we were able to get Dad on the phone and share our excitement. My Dad was always very affectionate with both his kids and his grandkids. Every time someone was leaving our parents to go back home, wherever home may be, you knew it was time for a kiss on both cheeks from Dad. And a giant bear hug. Then he would stand at the door and wave goodbye, not moving until the car was out of sight. My Dad was always there for all of us. Whether someone needed a ride, a couple extra bucks or just a visit to say hi, you could always count on him. I will be honest with you now—my sisters gave my Dad some of the ugliest gifts I have ever seen. The hats. The shirts. Not so good. Didn’t matter though. If the card attached said Love, one of his kids or grandkids, that gift automatically became his favorite article of clothing. And he wouldn’t take it off. One of our neighbors gave us a card that read “I will personally miss Mike because of the man I knew him to be—a helpful, caring, involved and thoughtful neighbor.” Any time we were talking to my Dad on the phone, each call would end the same way. “I love you. Okay, bye.” That’s my Dad.

I will have many long lasting memories of my Dad. But some will stick around more than others. I think like just about every other five or six year old kid, I thought of my Dad as the strongest man on Earth, some type of super hero almost. He had these huge, Popeye like forearms that he got from the long hours working on the press. As years went on, and I looked at my Dad as more of a human being than a super hero, my thoughts of his strength faded away. The last few years, I watched him and marveled. Not because of his arm strength, but more because of his inner strength. He persevered through his life in a way that I cannot do

justice in words. In the last month, I saw that inner strength shining through. He was not ready to leave us. He was not ready to leave my Mom. And he fought and he fought til his last day. I realize now that maybe I was right when I was five or six. Maybe he was a super hero. But it wasn't the muscles in his arms that made him that, it was that giant muscle in his chest. And all of us who knew him are better people because of it.

When I started to piece this together, I came across a poem that reminds me of my Dad to a tee. I would like to share it with you. It is anonymously penned, entitled "Don't Quit."

"When things go wrong as they sometimes will;
When the road you're trudging seems all up-hill;
When the funds are low, and the debts are high
And you want to smile, but you have to sigh;
When care is pressing you down a bit—
Rest if you must, but do not quit.
Success is failure turned inside out;
The silver tint of clouds of doubt;
And you can never tell how close you are
It may be near when it seems so far;
So stick to the fight when you're hardest hit—
It's when things go wrong that you must not quit."

Well, thank you all for letting me share a little bit about him with you. And in my Dad's own words, "I love you Dad. Okay bye."

So Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to rise to recognize the memory of Michael Wronikowski.

IN HONOR OF ADMIRAL JAMES WATKINS

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 20, 2005

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great American and his significant contributions to building the smart, proud, and effective Navy and Marine Corps that so ably serve our Nation today. On April 20, Admiral James D. Watkins is being inducted in the Naval Postgraduate School Hall of Fame and, the following day, the Mechanical Engineering building on campus will be renamed "Watkins Hall". Admiral Watkins graduated from the Naval Postgraduate School in 1958 with a Master's Degree in Mechanical Engineering. That experience, perhaps more than any other, helped Admiral Watkins develop his second career as one of our Nation's pre-eminent science and technology policy statesmen.

Admiral Watkins graduated with the Class of 1949 from the U.S. Naval Academy. He retired from the Navy in 1987 after serving five years as the Chief of Naval Operations, the most senior military command within the United States Navy. In between, he built a naval career at sea and on shore that is the model for service to this Nation and for every officer who followed.

After retiring from the Navy Admiral Watkins began this second career when President Reagan asked him to chair the Presidential Commission on AIDS. In 1989, President George H. Bush appointed him Secretary of Energy. As Secretary, Admiral Watkins helped

shape the 1992 Energy Policy Act through Congress. In 1994, Admiral Watkins built on the NPS tradition of collaborative education when he spearheaded the formation of CORE, the Consortium for Oceanographic Research and Education. This public-private association is a partnership between the federal government and more than 80 marine research and education institutions. CORE developed a comprehensive national ocean science and technology research agenda. In 1996, I proudly joined my congressional colleagues in passing the National Oceanographic Partnership Act, legislation that grew directly out of Admiral Watkins' leadership at CORE.

In 2001, Admiral Watkins left CORE's helm to chair the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy. In 2004, the Commission delivered its landmark report to Congress and the President that recommended major reforms to U.S. ocean policy. Admiral Watkins' leadership infused the report and, as so often happened before, served as the catalyst for congressional action. I am pleased to be the sponsor of Oceans-21 that will implement many of the Commission's key recommendations.

While no one act can recognize all that Admiral Watkins has done for our Nation's military and environmental security, the dedication of Watkins Hall at the Naval Postgraduate School is a fitting tribute to one of our Nation's most distinguished Naval officers.

30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ONCOLOGY NURSING SOCIETY

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 20, 2005

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, as co-chair of the House Cancer Caucus, I rise today to pay tribute to oncology nurses. This year the Oncology Nursing Society is celebrating its 30th Anniversary. During that time, we have seen great advancements in cancer care. Cancer patients have a better chance of survival than ever before. In the past 20 years, the survival rate has doubled from 32 percent to 64 percent. Oncology nurses have played a big part in that.

Oncology nurses are vital to providing quality care. They are on the frontlines in our nation's battle against cancer, and serve an essential role to, not only their patients, but also to the American public. Dr. Andrew von Eschenbach, the director of the U.S. National Cancer Institute, has stated, "By 2015, we can eliminate cancer suffering and death." Dr. von Eschenbach's goal can only be achieved with oncology nurses. Every day, oncology nurses see the pain and suffering caused by cancer and understand the physical, emotional, and financial challenges that people with cancer face throughout their diagnosis and treatment.

These nurses are principally involved in the administration and monitoring of chemotherapy and the associated side-effects patients experience. As anyone ever treated for cancer will tell you, oncology nurses are intelligent, well-trained, highly skilled, kind-hearted angels who provide quality clinical, psychosocial and supportive care to patients and their families. In short, they are integral to our nation's cancer care delivery system.

The Oncology Nursing Society's mission is to promote excellence in oncology nursing and quality cancer care. To that end, ONS honors and maintains nursing's historical and essential commitment to advocate for the public good by providing nurses and healthcare professionals with access to the highest quality educational programs, cancer-care resources, research opportunities and networks for peer support. ONS has 13 chapters in my home state of New York, which help oncology nurses provide high quality cancer care to patients and their families in our state.

I thank all oncology nurses for their dedication to our nation's cancer patients, and commend the Oncology Nursing Society for all of its efforts and leadership over the last 30 years. They have contributed immensely to the quality and accessibility of care for all cancer patients and their families, and I urge my colleagues to support them in their important endeavors.

HONORING THE ONCOLOGY NURSING SOCIETY ON ITS 30TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 20, 2005

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to oncology nurses. Oncology nurses play an important and essential role in providing quality cancer care. These nurses are principally involved in the administration and monitoring of chemotherapy and the associated side-effects patients experience. As anyone ever treated for cancer will tell you, oncology nurses are intelligent, well-trained, highly skilled, kind-hearted angels who provide quality clinical, psychosocial and supportive care to patients and their families. In short, they are integral to our nation's cancer care delivery system.

I congratulate the Oncology Nursing Society (ONS) on its 30th Anniversary. ONS is the largest organization of oncology health professionals in the world, with more than 31,000 registered nurses and other health care professionals. Since 1975, ONS has been dedicated to excellence in patient care, teaching, research, administration and education in the field of oncology. The Society's mission is to promote excellence in oncology nursing and quality cancer care. To that end, ONS honors and maintains nursing's historical and essential commitment to advocate for the public good by providing nurses and healthcare professionals with access to the highest quality educational programs, cancer-care resources, research opportunities and networks for peer support. ONS has 19 chapters in my home state of California, which help oncology nurses provide high quality cancer care to patients and their families in our state.

Cancer is a complex, multifaceted and chronic disease, and people with cancer are best served by a multidisciplinary health care team specialized in oncology care, including nurses who are certified in that specialty. Each year in the United States, approximately 1.37 million people are diagnosed with cancer, another 570,000 lose their battles with this terrible disease, and more than 8 million Americans count themselves among a growing community known as cancer survivors. Every day,

oncology nurses see the pain and suffering caused by cancer and understand the physical, emotional, and financial challenges that people with cancer face throughout their diagnosis and treatment.

Over the last ten years, the setting where treatment for cancer is provided has changed dramatically. An estimated 80 percent of all cancer patients receive care in community settings, including cancer centers, physicians' offices, and hospital outpatient departments. Treatment regimens are as complex, if not more so, than regimens given in the inpatient setting a few short years ago. Oncology nurses are involved in the care of a cancer patient from the beginning through the end of treatment, and they are the front-line providers of care by administering chemotherapy, managing patient therapies and side-effects, working with insurance companies to ensure that patients receive the appropriate treatment, provide counseling to patients and family members, in addition to many other daily acts on behalf of cancer patients. I thank all oncology nurses for their dedication to our nation's cancer patients, and commend the Oncology Nursing Society for all of its efforts and leadership over the last 30 years. They have contributed immensely to the quality and accessibility of care for all cancer patients and their families, and I urge my colleagues to support them in their important endeavors.

HONORING JULIAN BURNSIDE—A
TRUE HERO

HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 20, 2005

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Julian Burnside, a friend and fellow veteran whose long and distinguished life recently came to an end.

Julian was an extraordinary man. Born in Tampa, he worked for the city as well as for Tampa Electric Company. Later in life he worked as a safety engineer for Underwriter's Laboratories. Julian was active in the community, volunteering his time and expertise to charitable and civic causes, especially during his busy retirement. He founded a Republican Club in my congressional district back when being a Florida Republican was unusual. He was a loyal Republican who held fast to his conservative principles, though he did so amiably and without disparaging those who held differing opinions.

Julian also was a distinguished and decorated Army veteran of the Second World War. He fought in the Battle of the Bulge, where inexperienced and battle-weary American soldiers stopped German troops from breaching their lines and splitting Allied Forces. British Prime Minister Winston Churchill called it "undoubtedly the greatest American battle of the war," which thwarted Hitler's last attempt to stop surging Allied fortunes. Julian justifiably was proud that some believed it was the greatest battle in American military history, a battle in which he was injured and earned the Purple Heart.

Julian also endured a seven-month stay as a prisoner-of-war in Dresden, Germany, a time during which he lost 60 pounds from near starvation. He credited thoughts of his wife,

and of the desire to again eat pork chops, for helping him get through those tough times. "I could see those pork chops frying in a pan," he once said in his typical lighthearted way.

Mr. Speaker, I was blessed to know Julian Burnside for so many years and benefit from his friendship, humor, and kindness. I will miss him as will everyone whose lives he touched.

COMMON SENSE AUTOMOBILE
EFFICIENCY ACT OF 2005

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 20, 2005

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation that provides credit for the purchase of new qualified fuel cell, hybrid, or other alternative fuel motor vehicle.

The Common Sense Automobile Efficiency Act of 2005 encourages consumers to purchase environmentally friendly vehicles that will help reduce greenhouse gas emissions while simultaneously reducing our country's oil dependence. It repeals the phase-out of the Qualified Electric Vehicles Credit and Deduction for Clean fuel-Vehicles so that 100% of the credit can be claimed through 2009. Consumers would receive a tax credit of up to \$1,000 for hybrid gas-electric powered vehicles and \$4,000—for fuel-cell vehicles.

Making our environment cleaner and reducing our dependence on foreign oil requires the participation of all stakeholders, including both consumers and manufacturers.

Cars, SUVs and other light trucks consume millions of barrels of oil every day and emit harmful amounts of carbon dioxide, a principal greenhouse gas. Passenger vehicles alone account for one-fifth of all U.S. carbon dioxide emissions. With significant fuel economy and low tailpipe emissions, alternative-fuel and advanced-technology vehicles help to reduce the environmental impact of driving an automobile. Getting more miles out of a gallon of gas means lessening our dangerous reliance on oil, lowering levels of key air pollutants, and saving consumers money at the gas pumps.

All Americans need a choice in buying cars that can increase their fuel-efficiency. While the average fuel economy of vehicles on the road is at a twenty-one year low, gasoline prices continue to strain business and family budgets. Americans now spend more than \$500 million per day to fuel their cars and light trucks. Families deserve a more affordable way to get to work, school, vacation, home or any destination on the road. Businesses that rely on vehicles to function need the cost-efficiency of driving hybrid vehicles.

Although major automakers currently offer advanced technology and alternative fuel vehicles and plan to produce a full range of fuel-efficient options, including SUVs, minivans, and pickup trucks, the cleanest vehicles available to the public should be more economical.

The tax incentives provided by this bill would not only save consumers money—but spur market demand for more fuel-efficient vehicles. As people around the country embrace cleaner, more efficient cars, American automobile manufacturers must continue to improve fuel efficiency in order not to lose market share and jobs. This bill would help automakers invest in the production of alternative

fuel motor vehicles—and accelerate the introduction of newer models into the marketplace.

The Common Sense Automobile Efficiency Act of 2005 provides a win-win situation for consumers, the economy, and the environment. It offers valuable incentives for the purchase and production of alternative vehicles and fuels—and enables consumers to help limit fuel consumption, reduce our dependence on foreign oil, and protect our air quality.

TRIBUTE TO CONGREGATION BETH
AM ON THE OCCASION OF THE
FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF ITS
FOUNDING

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 20, 2005

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Congregation Beth Am as it celebrates its 50th anniversary. Since its founding in 1955, this Reform Jewish Synagogue has been a leader in social action and community welfare in the Bay Area, and has embodied the Jewish community's longstanding involvement in religious and public life. Since its beginnings with 100 families represented at its first meeting, the congregation has grown to nearly 1,400 families from the mid-Peninsula area who gather at Beth Am to worship, to study, to lead and to strengthen both the Jewish community and the Bay Area community as a whole.

When Congregation Beth Am was founded, the population of the San Francisco Peninsula was booming. Beth Am filled a need for a new Reform Synagogue and it grew accordingly after its establishment. The first formal meeting, which was held in March of 1955, was attended by 300 people representing 100 families. A year later, the congregation grew to 250 families. Registration at the religious school, which also opened in March of 1955, jumped from 100 children at its founding to 340 children only 2 years later. Beth Am first met in the First Methodist Church and Unitarian Church for Shabbat and High Holy Day services. Today, members congregate in a beautiful synagogue in Los Altos Hills.

As Beth Am's congregation has grown, so has its involvement with the communities on the Peninsula. Members have volunteered their time and resources to a variety of causes throughout the area, including the Ecumenical Hunger Program, the Urban Ministry of Palo Alto, and Opportunities Industrialization Center West. The congregation's Social Action Committee notes that "We, as Jews, are commanded to pursue Justice, and to participate in Tikkun Olam, or Repairing the World." The congregation's website has a "Tikkunometer" that counts the number of hours the congregation has pledged to community service. Fueled by this sense of responsibility to the community and dedication to service, Congregation Beth Am has improved our community and the lives of those around them.

None of this would be possible without the outstanding leadership that Congregation Beth Am has been blessed with since its founding 50 years ago. Rabbi Irving A. Mandel was Beth Am's first Rabbi. He was followed by Rabbi Sidney Akselrad in 1962, who for 24 years imbued Beth Am with a social-action

consciousness by participating in a variety of interfaith endeavors, spreading understanding of Jewish heritage, and fighting to break down racial barriers in the United States. Rabbi Akselrad served as President of the Northern California Board of Rabbis, the Western Association of Reform Rabbis, and the Palo Alto Ministerial Association. When he became Rabbi Emeritus in 1987, Rabbi Richard A. Block took on his role as Senior Rabbi. For 12 years, Rabbi Block led the congregation, initiating a process of educational innovation he dubbed "life-long learning," which inspired a national partnership, the "Experiment in Congregational Education." His successor, Rabbi Janet Ross Marder, has been leading Beth Am since she became Senior Rabbi in 1999. She served as the first woman President of the Pacific Association of Reform Rabbis, and the first woman President of the Central Conference of American Rabbis. She's married to Rabbi Sheldon Marder of the Jewish Home in San Francisco, and together they are raising 2 daughters, Betsy and Rachel.

Mr. Speaker, I'm exceedingly proud to honor Congregation Beth Am as it celebrates its 50th anniversary. For a half century it's been a center of worship and service and it has truly lived up to its name, Beth Am, which translates from Hebrew to "House of the People." Beth Am is a source of pride to everyone in our Congressional District and will continue to be a pillar of our community for decades to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROGER F. WICKER

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 20, 2005

Mr. WICKER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 90, the vote to suspend the rules and pass S. 686, a bill for the relief of the parents of Theresa Marie Schiavo, I was unavoidably absent. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

TENNESSEE CRIMINAL JUSTICE LANGUAGE ACADEMY

HON. LINCOLN DAVIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 20, 2005

Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the efforts of individuals in Tennessee who are providing a much needed training program for the law enforcement community. Columbia State Community College under the direction of its President, Dr. Rebecca Hawkins, in partnership with the Governor's Highway Safety Office directed by the distinguished Charles Taylor, along with countless others have worked together to institute a Spanish Language Training program for police officers.

These two organizations have joined in the development of the Tennessee Criminal Justice Language Academy. The Academy is housed at Columbia State Community College and provides Spanish language training for police officers in Tennessee. The program is funded through a grant from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA).

As you know, Mr. Speaker, the Hispanic population is surging across our nation. A large number of Latino and Hispanic individuals have made their way into Tennessee. Both urban and rural communities in Tennessee have seen a great influx of people with Hispanic origin. This causes new demands on the social institutions of our state and it has created a major need in the law enforcement community. Law enforcement officers must be able to communicate with the citizens in their communities or they will not be effective in carrying out their duties. In large cities, police departments sometimes have officers who can speak the diverse languages of the citizens, but this is not the case in most areas of Tennessee due to the rural composition of our state. Most law enforcement in Tennessee are English speaking only, which causes many disadvantages for both the officers and the Hispanic citizens in the community.

Verbal communication is crucial for police officers in traffic stop situations. The officer and driver must have a common understanding and way to communicate. If not, a barrier develops leaving both the officer and the Hispanic citizen with few options to resolve the issue. Officer safety becomes a problem in these type cases as well.

In traffic stops where the driver is suspect of being impaired, it is extremely important for the officer to be able to communicate with the individual. The commands for the NHTSA approved Standardized Field Sobriety Test (SFST) must be given by the officer and understood by the suspect to be effective. If the officer cannot speak and understand Spanish and the suspect cannot speak and understand English then the SFST is not effective in assisting the officer in making the decision to arrest or not. This leaves two scenarios: the officer allows the impaired driver to leave without arrest, or an innocent driver is arrested. The breach of communication causes both actions.

Tennessee has not overlooked these problems. The Hispanic population is already in our communities, and we have started providing training to law enforcement agencies so that a bridge of communication can be built. The Spanish for Law Enforcement Program has trained over 1000 officers thus far. This joint program by the Tennessee Governor's Highway Safety Office and Columbia State Community College serves as a model for other states that are experiencing the same need. Simply put, this program provides officers in Tennessee with a necessary new tool to better serve their communities.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF FRED AND ROSEMARIE GORTLER

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 20, 2005

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to draw attention to the 50th wedding anniversary of Fred and Rosemarie Gortler of Fredericksburg, Virginia. I first became acquainted with the Gortlers during Fred's two decades of serving here as a Democratic floor assistant in the House of Representatives and it is an honor to celebrate this loving couple's marital milestone.

Fifty-one years ago, Fred Gortler and Rosemarie Battista met on a blind date in their hometown of Staten Island, New York, while Fred was home on leave from the Navy. At the time, Rosemarie was a nursing student at St. Mary's Hospital in Brooklyn, New York. They were engaged only four months later and were married on May 14, 1955.

The couple remained in Staten Island for over 20 years before moving to their current home in Fredericksburg in 1977. Both Fred and Rosemarie have committed their careers to serving the public and their communities. Fred worked for 21 years in the New York City police force, in positions ranging from administrative to mounted police officer in Central Park. Shortly after relocating to Fredericksburg, he began his service in the U.S. House of Representatives where he stayed for over 20 years.

Rosemarie was a practicing nurse at Saint Vincent's Hospital in Staten Island where she was also a member of the faculty, teaching psychiatric nursing. She returned to school to obtain her Masters in Counseling and currently works as a private counselor, specializing in individual, family, and substance abuse counseling. She has also co-authored several children's books including Little Acts of Grace, Just Like Mary, and A Very Scary Time, written numerous newspaper and magazine articles, and contributed regularly to a mental health column in a local newspaper, titled Minding the Mind.

The couple has been blessed with five children and 18 grandchildren, the newest addition to the family coming all the way from China. The Gortler family extends out from Virginia to Connecticut, Illinois, and Florida.

The couple's 50 years of dedication to each other reflects that of their own parents, as both Fred and Rosemarie's parents also enjoyed 50 years of marriage. In late April, the couple will be joined by many friends and family at the Chapel and the Officers' Club in Fort Belvoir, Virginia to toast their half-century of marriage. Their children and grandchildren will be proudly hosting the couple's anniversary celebration, where Fred and Rosemarie will renew their wedding vows. The celebration is being held early due to grandparent obligations—six grandchildren in three different states will be graduating in May.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring and celebrating 50 years of marriage between Fred and Rosemarie Gortler, a union built on devotion and love for family. I have had the privilege of knowing this loving couple for many years, and have witnessed the strong sense of family values, self-sacrifice, and commitment to public service that defined their lives together. It is with great joy that I extend my congratulations to Fred and Rosemarie Gortler and their beloved family, and I wish them many more years of wedded happiness.

HONORING SCOTT TOWNSLEY CHASE

HON. HENRY J. HYDE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 20, 2005

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, they say the sinew of our representative democracy is its citizens.

We lost one of our model citizens—Mr. Scott Townsley Chase—on Easter Sunday, March 27, 2005. I have known the Chase family for several years, and I was saddened to hear of Scott's passing as a result of cancer at the young age of 46 years. He loved his family dearly and will be sorely missed by those he touched and impacted within the Elmhurst community.

Upon graduation from York High School, Scott matriculated to Valparaiso University. After completing the requirements for a Bachelor of Science degree, Scott entered the Valparaiso Law School and graduated with a law degree in 1983. He was proud to be an attorney and thought it was the noblest profession a person could pursue. His family indicated that Scott liked solving people's problems and took pride in providing the best representation for all his clients.

Scott was married to Michelle Chase—an attorney as well—and was the proud father of three wonderful children—Austin, Kelsey, and Morgan. Though Scott's family and friends will dearly miss him, they will always take solace in knowing that Scott has provided a foundation from which all can build upon while living life to the fullest.

ADMINISTRATION'S AMTRAK
REFORM LEGISLATION

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 20, 2005

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I join Chairman YOUNG in introducing, by request, the Administration's Amtrak "reform" legislation. It is a common practice for the Chairman and Ranking Member of a Committee to jointly introduce an Administration's bill, regardless of which political party controls the White House or Congress or the specifics of proposed legislation, and I do this as a courtesy to the Administration. However, introducing a bill "by request" should not be interpreted to imply endorsement. In fact, in this instance, I am strongly opposed to the Administration's legislative proposal for Amtrak and the direction this Administration has chosen for intercity passenger rail service in our Nation.

The Administration's proposal is nothing new. It is the same flawed bill that the Administration sent to Congress in 2003. The bill establishes two private for-profit corporations to separately manage and maintain infrastructure and operations, eliminates our Nation's intercity passenger rail network and shifts the cost burden of continuing rail service to the States, separates the Northeast Corridor from the rest of the rail network, divides Amtrak into three separate entities, and eliminates Federal operating support for all intercity passenger trains over a four-year period. As a practical matter, within three years, all long-distance train service is likely to be eliminated. Soon thereafter, the United States entire intercity passenger system could consist of skeletal service along the East and West coasts.

The Administration's trust in the magic of privatization and decentralization to solve Amtrak's problems is astonishing. It shows this Administration's ignorance of the disastrous consequences of privatization and underinvestment in rail. Great Britain's experience

with privatization is a perfect example. In 1994, government-owned British Rail was dissolved and the British government separated intercity passenger rail infrastructure from operations. A private corporation called Railtrack took over ownership of all track, signaling, and stations. Passenger train operators competed with each other to provide service. Unfortunately, the new approach assumed that private sector innovation and discipline would drive down the railway's public funding requirement and drive up quality of service, overcoming recent trends of falling demand. It didn't work, and it led to tragic consequences.

The safety of operations and the quality of service declined steadily. More than 30 people were killed in an accident at Ladbroke Grove in 1999 and four more were killed in an accident at Hatfield in 2000. In 2001, another fatal accident occurred at Potters, just north of London. These accidents were directly traceable to privatization and Britain's long history of under-investment in rail.

Today, the British government is reeling from the legacy left behind by privatization. The government has almost doubled funding for rail, and has taken steps to improve performance and tackle the backlog of maintenance and renewal needs that exploded under privatization. British government officials have described their rail privatization as "an absolute disaster".

Despite the British experience, the Bush Administration's blind faith in the ideology of privatization leads it down the same wrong path. Let us not repeat Britain's mistake. The solution to Amtrak's problems is not privatization. Amtrak's problems have one root cause: money. Lack of adequate investment and the annual threat of elimination have conditioned Amtrak to focus on survival.

Amtrak's opponents are quick to point fingers at Amtrak management, and claim that private corporations could dramatically improve intercity passenger rail service. The truth is that a succession of hardworking and dedicated management teams at Amtrak could not do the impossible—that is, operate our Nation's intercity rail passenger service without a substantial level of investment from the Federal Government. Railroads throughout the world receive some government support to supplement the revenues paid by passengers. But the Administration continues to insist on the impossible.

Yet despite Amtrak's starvation budget, Amtrak has had its successes. Under David Gunn's leadership, Amtrak has improved operations and increased ridership to more than 25 million passengers in 2004: an increase of one million passengers from 2003 and an Amtrak record. In Southern California, Amtrak's Pacific Surfliner has had a 26.3 percent increase in ridership in the past year. In Southern California, Amtrak's Pacific Surfliner has had a 26.3 percent increase in ridership in the past year. Similarly, several Midwest trains, the Pere Marquette (up 22.1 percent), the State House (up 13 percent) and the Illini (up 11.4 percent), experienced the next largest increases in passengers. In the East, regional trains carried more passengers than any other Amtrak service in the country, increasing from 5,760,499 last year to 5,974,806—an increase of 3.7 percent.

Amtrak has also made significant progress in rebuilding infrastructure and rolling stock after years of deferred maintenance. In fiscal

years 2003 and 2004, 256,000 concrete ties were laid; 2,755 bridge ties were replaced; 266 miles of continuous welded rail were installed; 34 miles of signal cable were replaced; and 19 stations and 37 substations were improved.

Amtrak's mechanical department plowed full steam ahead. In 2004, it remanufactured 180 passenger cars, rebuilt 51 wrecked cars and locomotives, and made seven Superliner baggage modifications in passenger cars.

Amtrak sold excess equipment, eliminated unprofitable services, lowered fares on long-distance routes to increase ridership, and, in partnership with the State of California, opened a \$71 million maintenance facility.

In short, Amtrak is making great progress. All of this progress will halt under the Administration's radical Amtrak reform plan.

Therefore, while I join in introducing this bill as a traditional courtesy to the Administration, I want to be clear that I do not support its initiatives. Together with Chairman YOUNG, Subcommittee Chairman LATOURETTE, Subcommittee Ranking Member BROWN, and the other Members of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, I strongly support both H.R. 1630, the Amtrak Reauthorization Act of 2005, and H.R. 1631, the Rail Infrastructure Development and Expansion Act for the 21st Century (RIDE 21). In the 108th Congress, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure reported similar bills with near unanimous bipartisan support. I am very hopeful that the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure will again soon consider this bipartisan legislation and begin to provide the necessary investment for our Nation's intercity passenger rail system—that is the "reform" that Amtrak so direly needs.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 20, 2005

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from votes in the House on Tuesday, April 19, due to a previous and unavoidable commitment. Therefore, I was unable to vote on H.R. 683 (rollcall No. 109), H.J. Res. 19 (rollcall No. 110), and H.J. Res. 20 (rollcall No. 111). Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on all three measures considered before the House.

HONORING THE DISTINGUISHED
SERVICE OF BILLY PAUL
CARNEAL

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 20, 2005

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Billy Paul Carneal, a Springfield, Tennessee, native who has dedicated his life to public service and the past 11½ years as the executive director of the Springfield-Robertson County Chamber of Commerce. Billy Paul has decided to retire from the chamber, and I want to thank him for all he has done for his community, which I have the honor of representing in this esteemed body.

Billy Paul has served as a teacher in Robertson County, a school principal and administrator in nearby Cheatham County, the mayor of Springfield and a volunteer firefighter. In addition, he currently serves as a Robertson County commissioner. Billy Paul's contributions to his community can be traced to his grandfather, R.W. Darke, who was a member of both houses of the Tennessee General Assembly and the city clerk for Springfield.

Billy Paul's service as a public school teacher and administrator is especially admirable. He says he became an educator because his teachers in high school and college served as excellent role models for him. He then passed his own passion for case history and government to a new generation. Today, his former students are doctors, lawyers, public officials and teachers.

As mayor of Springfield, Billy Paul was instrumental in changing the city's form of government from three at-large commissioners to a board of mayor and aldermen, with a city manager to oversee operations. He says the decision to seed the change in government was one of the toughest he made as mayor.

Billy Paul's latest contribution to his community involved a very successful tenure as the executive director of the chamber. In this capacity, he improved immensely the quality of life for Robertson County residents. But Billy Paul did not do all this alone. He had help from many in the community, and he had the love and support of an understanding wife and family. He attributes the support of his wife, Pat, and their three children for his accomplishments. Billy Paul, I wish you well in your future endeavors and thank you for your service to a community you obviously cherish.

CONGRATULATIONS TO DR. JOHN PETILLO, PRESIDENT OF UMDNJ

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 20, 2005

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. John Petillo on his inauguration as the third president of the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey. UMDNJ has been a vital resource for the people of New Jersey for more than 30 years. Comprised of eight schools on five campuses, a behavioral health network, and Newark's University Hospital, UMDNJ provides world-class education to practicing and future healthcare professionals and scientists, including physicians, dentists, researchers, nurses, and scores of allied and public health professionals. With more than 13,000 employees, UMDNJ is the eighth largest employer in New Jersey. There are nearly 19,000 UMDNJ alumni, the overwhelming majority remains in New Jersey. It is estimated that the University's health care and educational programs touch the lives of two million persons yearly.

Dr. Petillo brings many strengths and talents to this important appointment. He has enjoyed an extensive career in the corporate, nonprofit, academic and theological fields. He has served as the chief executive officer for several national corporations, chancellor for Seton Hall University, and as a member of the board for many nonprofit foundations.

More recently, Dr. Petillo served as the first president and chief executive officer of the

Newark Alliance, a nonprofit organization composed of representatives from private and civic groups whose shared goals is to improve the educational opportunities and economic redevelopment in Newark.

Prior to joining the Newark Alliance, Dr. Petillo was chief executive officer at Tribus Companies, Care Advantage, Inc., and Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey. As president and CEO of Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey, Dr. Petillo was influential in eliminating the reserve deficit and replacing it with a reserve surplus. During his tenure he advocated legislation requiring all health insurance carriers to underwrite individual policies regardless of medical histories.

In addition to serving leadership roles with corporate organizations, Dr. Petillo has also served as chancellor of Seton Hall University and the Archdiocese of Newark. While chancellor and chief executive officer at Seton Hall, Dr. Petillo was credited with completing the first development campaign in the institution's history and significantly increasing the residential student capacity. He also succeeded in achieving competitive salaries for the full time faculty, expanded institutional research, and with faculty consensus and monitoring instituted merit compensation.

In June 2003, Dr. Petillo was appointed Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey by Governor James E. McGreevey. In June 2004, Dr. Petillo assumed the responsibilities of Interim President of UMDNJ. The Board of Trustees named Dr. Petillo University President on November 16th, 2004. Dr. Petillo has a Ph.D. in Counseling and Personnel Services from Fordham University, an M.A. in Counseling from Seton Hall University and an M.P.A. from Rutgers University.

Under Dr. Petillo's stewardship UMDNJ is embarking on a new chapter in its history—proud of its accomplishments and focused on its future as a leader in health sciences research, education, and healthcare. UMDNJ and the State of New Jersey are fortunate to have the benefit of Dr. Petillo's leadership. I look forward to many more accomplishments made possible through the University's considerable intellectual capacity and fulfillment of its community service mission.

CONGRATULATING MS. PAULETTE W. WILLIAMS ON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT AS DIRECTOR OF THE MOBILE COUNTY, ALABAMA EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 20, 2005

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise to honor Ms. Paulette Williams on occasion of her recent retirement from the position of director of the Mobile County Emergency Management Agency. Throughout her 40-year career, Paulette has contributed her extensive knowledge and expertise at the local, State, and Federal levels of emergency management and civil defense.

As an area frequently impacted by natural disasters and other such events, particularly

during hurricane season each year, Mobile County has a well-established need for an efficient and well-run emergency management system. Paulette Williams has provided the leadership for such an organization, and her presence and expertise has been extremely helpful numerous times during the past several years, most significantly during Hurricane Ivan which made impact on Alabama's Gulf Coast on September 16, 2004. In the hours and days immediately following the storm, Paulette worked tirelessly with her team and with officials from all levels of government to coordinate the emergency relief so vitally needed by the tens of thousands of residents in the county. The work was incredibly difficult and the hours quite long, but through it all she maintained a firm hold on the situation and worked to ensure the county returned to as normal a life as possible in as short a time period as possible.

This work ethic has been a hallmark of her entire career and has resulted in numerous professional accomplishments. In 1992, she was selected by the Federal Emergency Management Agency as one of four emergency management staff members from Alabama to assist in the State of Florida following Hurricane Andrew. In 1994, she was invited by the United States Department of Defense to participate in the first International Emergency Management Conference. The Alabama House of Representatives appointed her to serve as a member of the State's Homeland Security Task Force in 2003, and the next year she was chosen by Alabama Governor Bob Riley to serve on the Alabama Citizens Corps Council.

At the present time, she serves as president of Alabama 3, one of the state's two disaster assistance medical teams, and serves on the executive board of the Greater Mobile Emergency Planning Committee. She also serves as the legislative chairperson of the Alabama Association of Emergency Managers.

In addition to her impressive professional resume, Paulette has been recognized numerous times during her career for her outstanding contributions to her career field and her community. She was selected to be included in Who's Who in America for the 1998–1999 year, and she was listed in Who's Who of American Women between 1995 and 2000. Additionally, Governor Riley honored her when he selected Paulette as the first female and first merit employee ever selected for the post of Director of the Alabama Emergency Management Agency.

Mr. Speaker, there are few individuals who have provided more invaluable service to their community, their county, and their state than Paulette Williams. She is an outstanding example of the quality individuals who have devoted their lives to public service, and I ask my colleagues to join with me in congratulating her on the occasion of her retirement. I know her colleagues, her family, and her many friends join with me in praising her accomplishments and extending thanks for her many efforts on behalf of Mobile County and the state of Alabama, and I would like to wish her much success in all future endeavors as she enters this new phase of her life.

TRIBUTE TO EARL STERNKE, MILWAUKEE, WI, IN RECOGNITION OF 40 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE BOY SCOUTS

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 21, 2005

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent, Mr. Earl Sternke. Mr. Sternke is a model of service to his community, having provided leadership and mentoring to youth for over 40 years.

Mr. Sternke is a distinguished exemplar of the American spirit of generosity. A veteran, husband and father, Mr. Sternke has made a commitment to the Boy Scouts from the earliest days of parenting his own children. As a troop leader, he raised his two sons in Scouting, helping both achieve the prestigious rank of Eagle Scout. But his work did not stop there. He continued to lead troops long after his children were grown, training boys to follow the same Scout Oath that he lived every day of his life.

Mr. Sternke also contributed to the strength and development of the Boy Scout institution in innumerable other ways. As a trainer and training chairman, Mr. Sternke was responsible for helping many young Scouters become leaders. He helped design emblems, certificates and badges, some of which are still used by troops today. His award-winning design for the Boy's Life Display for the 1981 National Jamboree brought national attention to the Milwaukee Boy Scouts Council.

Throughout the period of his involvement, Mr. Sternke received numerous awards from the Boy Scouts. I am especially impressed that Mr. and Mrs. Sternke were awarded the Silver Beaver Award in 1975 as a tribute to their work together in training young Scouters. Clearly, these two provided a model of leadership that could inspire youth to dedicate themselves to family, community and country.

It is a distinct pleasure to offer my thanks to Mr. Sternke for a lifetime of service. He has been unselfish in volunteering his time, his experiences, his resources and his money to improve the community in which he lives. Our community and Nation are better places because of his work.

RECOGNIZING VICTOR MARCUS OF SAN FRANCISCO, CA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 21, 2005

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to join with my colleague Democratic Leader NANCY PELOSI to honor our friend, Victor Marcus, on the occasion of his 90th birthday.

Victor Marcus was born in 1915 in Berlin, Germany. He escaped Nazi Germany in 1936 and immigrated to America.

He is one of San Francisco's most prominent residents and has been president of a real estate firm, the Victor L. Marcus Company, for the past 52 years. He serves on numerous committees and boards and actively participates in a variety of civic and political

endeavors. His leadership and vision have no doubt strengthened his beloved home, San Francisco, California.

In 2003 Victor Marcus received the Distinguished Leadership Award from the Jewish Committee of San Francisco for his immeasurable contributions to San Francisco's business world, cultural institutions, and the Jewish Community. He has generously and enthusiastically supported the Jewish Community with particular expertise in issues relating to Israel, foreign affairs and diplomacy.

Victor Marcus is a connoisseur and patron of the arts and one of his greatest passions, music, is demonstrated by his support of the San Francisco Opera and Symphony. His loves in life are music, fine wines and wonderful food. He is the proud uncle of three nephews from South Africa who have traveled to the United States to celebrate this milestone with him.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, we join Victor Marcus's family and friends in congratulating him on his 90th birthday and extend our best wishes to him.

TRIBUTE TO YWCA OF ESSEX AND WEST HUDSON—CELEBRATING NINE DECADES OF EXCELLENCE

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 21, 2005

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise today to recognize a valued institution in my Congressional district. For the past ninety years, the YWCA of Essex and West Hudson has been dedicated to the empowerment of women and girls as well as the elimination of racism. Founded at a time when women suffered through inhospitable working and living conditions, the YWCA of the USA was founded, in 1858, in order to fight for gender parity. The early pioneers of the organization realized that they could overcome racial and gender discrimination by banding together to form strong alliances of determined women.

Since 1914, the Essex and West Hudson affiliate of the YWCA has provided the highest quality in health and fitness, recreation, education, child development and social services programming. Over nine decades, it has evolved from offering camping activities to providing childhood development classes to pregnant and parenting teens. Currently, the Essex and West Hudson affiliate serves nearly 200 children in its after-school programs, over 500 children in its summer camps and over 200 birth through 5 year-olds in its early childhood education programs.

In commemoration of 90 years of service, on May 19, 2005, the YWCA of Essex and West Hudson will celebrate the grand opening of its new state-of-the-art building. This facility will house amenities such as a computer learning center and an Aquatics & Fitness Complex.

I salute the YWCA of Essex and West Hudson as they "celebrate nine decades of excellence" for their dedication to women, girls and the community at-large. I am proud to have this organization in my district and I wish them continued success in their future endeavors.

WHATEVER IT TAKES TO REBUILD ACT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 21, 2005

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the "Whatever It Takes To Build Act" with Representatives OWENS, ISRAEL and SERRANO of New York.

This legislation would remove a \$5 million cap placed on the Community Disaster Loan program that provides communities with lost tax revenues following disasters. This cap was added in 2000. Prior to 2000, no cap was in place and several communities received in excess of \$5 million from the Federal Government for lost tax revenues, to recover from disasters.

Right after 9/11, the President promised New York City that he would do whatever it takes to rebuild. While he and the Congress has provided billions in relief, much more still needs to be done to make New York City whole. The new GAO report shows that we are still suffering significant tax losses. Lack of this revenue forces New Yorkers to payout of their pockets again and again for the attacks of 9/11 or suffer the loss of essential services. New Yorkers should not be forced to bear this burden alone. That is why I am introducing the Whatever It Takes to Rebuild Act and I implore the Congress and the President to support this legislation. I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

A TRIBUTE TO THE FIRST CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE OF PASADENA

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 21, 2005

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the First Church of the Nazarene of Pasadena, California. During the months of February and March, the First Church of the Nazarene of Pasadena will be celebrating its 100th Anniversary.

The church began in 1905 and was led by Founding Pastor Dr. John W. Goodwin with 54 members that met in each others' homes. As the congregation grew, the church moved to Mary Street in 1906, then Raymond Avenue, Mountain Street, and finally Sierra Madre Boulevard, where it resides today. Today the church has over 2,000 members, which includes a congregation with nine different cultural backgrounds.

First Church of the Nazarene of Pasadena had several Pastors, including Pastors J.W. Ellis, Earl G. Lee, H.B. London, Jr., Dr. Stephen Green, Dr. Jeff Crosno and the current Pastor, Jay Ahlemann. One of the church's notable members was James Dobson, Founder and Chairman of Focus on the Family, and his wife Shirley, who were members for over 30 years.

The church has many programs that serve the community. The Compassionate Ministries program consists of: Helping Hands—a food and clothing facility on the church campus, Church in the Park—service to the homeless on Sunday mornings, El Centro Trabajo—an

advocacy organization for day laborers, and a South Central Los Angeles food distribution center. Compassionate Ministries fed and clothed more than 22,000 people last year.

Other programs include PrimeTime which provides fellowship for seniors and Loveline, a phone ministry for homebound seniors. In His Image serves families of special needs children on a weekly basis, providing Sunday School classes, parent connections and support groups, respite events for the parents, an all-inclusive sports programs for the entire family and special events like the Special Olympics Unified Basketball event, San Gabriel Valley Region. Parent Education Seminars, Support Groups through the Recovery Ministries, Sunday School, Sunrise Preschool and Academy of the Arts are also among the many services that the First Church of the Nazarene of Pasadena offers to its members and the community.

I am proud to recognize the First Church of the Nazarene of Pasadena for its 100 years of offering a place of loving care and joyous worship to the people of the San Gabriel Valley and I ask all Members to join me in congratulating the congregation for their remarkable achievements.

IN MEMORY OF CAROL SEAVER,
MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 21, 2005

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life and accomplishments of Carol Seaver. Ms. Seaver, a Milwaukee-area activist and advocate for victims of domestic abuse, enjoyed a life of service and compassion. She died February 10, 2005.

Born Carol Zagar, Ms. Seaver was raised on the south side of Milwaukee and went on to the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where she met her husband, Ted Seaver. She was active in the civil rights struggle in other parts of the country, but moved back to Milwaukee in 1968, where she continued her education and focused her work on service to the elderly. She worked as the director for the Interfaith Retired and Senior Volunteer Program, serving senior citizens throughout Milwaukee, before working for the Milwaukee Women's Center.

At the Milwaukee Women's Center, Ms. Seaver was the founder and director of the Older Abused Women's Program, the first of its kind in the nation. The program, which offered counseling and support services to elderly women suffering from abuse by partners or caregivers, celebrated its 10th Anniversary in 2002. That same year, Ms. Seaver was honored with the National Sunshine Peace Award, presented in recognition of extraordinary efforts in the field of domestic violence.

In 2004, the Carol Seaver Suites at the Milwaukee Women's Center were dedicated in her honor, providing emergency housing for older or disabled women fleeing domestic abuse.

Friends and colleagues of Ms. Seaver credit her with enormous compassion and dedication to the cause of elder abuse. It saddens me to note the passing of such a committed and caring individual. I am honored to have known

Carol Seaver, and to have this opportunity to celebrate the many contributions she made to the lives of residents of the Fourth Congressional District.

HONORING BRIAN JAMES MCINNIS
FOR INNOVATIVE VOTING
PROJECT AT UC DAVIS

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 21, 2005

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the outstanding efforts of Brian James McInnis, a student at the University of California, Davis, to increase student participation in the electoral process. In 2004 Brian McInnis conceived and coordinated with the Yolo County Clerk/Recorder, the first UC Davis Early Voting Satellite Station which had the effect of increasing student participation in the 2004 Presidential Election by 100 percent, resulting in 3,000 more students voting.

Brian took full responsibility for every aspect of the UC Davis Early Voting Project, was faultless with regard to dependability and fairness, and made the program so successful that early voting will be extended to other satellite locations.

Brian, who was reared in Marin County, California, has been enrolled at UC Davis since 2002, majoring in history and economics. He has been active in the Associated Students of UC Davis where he has served in numerous capacities, including Founder and Chair of the Associated Students of UC Davis Lobby Corps Program. Currently Brian is Director of External Affairs for ASUCD.

Nominated by UC Davis Chancellor Larry Vanderhoef, Brian was the honorable mention recipient of the 2005 USA Today's All-USA College Academic Team program which recognizes students who excel in leadership roles both on and off campus. Brian was also recently recognized as "Advocate of the Year" for his work with the California State Legislature and the University of California Board of Regents.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we commend Brian James McInnis for his outstanding record of community service and dedication to the democratic process, and who serves as an inspiration for all young people who may want to become more effectively involved in public service.

TRIBUTE TO ANTOINETTE "TONI"
DENISE WILLIAMS-MCCEARY

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 21, 2005

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise today in memory of Antoinette Denise Williams-McCeary who was a life long resident of my Congressional district. Mrs. Williams-McCeary, lovingly known by friends and family as "Toni", was the third of 10 children and a mother of one.

In 1982, she began work in the financial services field. Unfortunately, that career came

to an abrupt halt after developing pulmonary sarcoidosis, a multi-system disorder that currently has no cure. Yet as the saying goes, "when one door closes another one opens". Instead of resigning in defeat, she became a champion of the less fortunate through volunteer work.

She served as coordinator of the Self Help and Resource Exchange (SHARE), a program that is engaged in self-help food distribution systems, economic development, community service and educational programs. Mrs. Williams-McCeary also gave of herself by feeding neighborhood children and assisting her church in various capacities.

Ms. Williams-McCeary passed away on April 9, 2000. Her family created the Antoinette Denise Williams-McCeary Foundation in order to carry on her legacy of giving. The organization's primary focus is to provide financial assistance to the National Sarcoidosis Resource Center which conducts research in hopes of finding a cure.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues here in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in honoring Antoinette Denise Williams-McCeary, who in life and death continues to help others in need. I am proud to have had her in my Congressional district and wish her foundation never-ending success in its future endeavors.

9/11 CAN YOU HEAR ME NOW ACT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 21, 2005

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the 9/11 Can You Hear Me Now Act with Representatives CHRIS SHAYS of Connecticut, ANTHONY WEINER, MAJOR OWENS, and CAROLYN MCCARTHY of New York.

The attacks on the World Trade Center in 1993 and on September 11, 2001, exposed serious communication problems for the New York City Fire Department, FDNY. Since these attacks, there have been major efforts to improve the FDNY's communication system, but much more needs to be done.

As we all know New York City is repeatedly mentioned as a top terrorist target and the lack of a fully-functional communications system is a threat not only to FDNY and New York residents lives, but also to all those who visit there.

The terrorist attacks were not just attacks on New York City, but on the Nation. With New York as a continuing top terrorist target, the protection of New York City is becoming a national responsibility. Other cities with tall buildings throughout the country face the same challenges with their communication systems and will need the same upgrades. Improvements in New York will lay the groundwork for improvements to communications systems across the country.

Recognizing this need, the 9/11 Can You Hear Me Now Act instructs the Department of Homeland Security, DHS, to provide the FDNY with a communication system that must be capable of operating in all locations and under the circumstances we know firefighters face and will continue to face when responding to an emergency in New York City.

This bill would require a communication system that includes three components—radios,

dispatch system and a supplemental communication device. It would require it to work in all buildings and in all parts of the city, something that the radios, unbelievably, do not now do. The supplemental communication device would allow firefighters to transmit an audible emergency distress signal when a firefighter is in need of immediate assistance, and DHS would work with the city of New York in their planned upgrades of the emergency 911 system and any interoperability initiatives with other public safety communication systems.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this important legislation.

IN HONOR OF THE GLENDALE SALVATION ARMY'S 80TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 21, 2005

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise may to congratulate the Glendale Salvation Army for 80 years of providing outstanding social services to the City of Glendale and surrounding communities.

Established on June 1, 1925, the Glendale Salvation Army has a firm vision of maintaining a multi-program facility while serving a multi-ethnic neighborhood. The Glendale Salvation Army provides spiritual social services and excellent community outreach.

The Salvation Army participates in several outstanding programs that bring hope to the hearts of those that walk through their doors. Meals on Wheels provides hot, nutritious meals to those unable to leave their homes or prepare their own food. Volunteer drivers deliver the meals and socialize with the recipients. The Lord's Kitchen is a growing partnership with nine Glendale churches that help Glendale's homeless and low-income families with food and rental or utilities assistance. The Nancy Painter Home is a partnership with the City of Glendale and U.S. Housing and Urban Development. The home provides hope for families trapped in a cycle of homelessness. Six families with children may live in the facility for up to 2 years while they put their lives back together. The Salvation Army is also supportive of Silvercrest which is a 78 unit senior low-income housing complex. In addition, the organization supports an outstanding after school tutoring program for middle school students. These are just some of the exemplary services that the Glendale Salvation Army provides to meet the specific needs within the community. Each program remains faithful to the Army's vital mission.

I ask all Members of Congress to join me today in congratulating the Glendale Salvation Army for 80 years of exemplary public service, and for its immense commitment to the City of Glendale and its residents.

TRIBUTE TO STEPHEN H. MARCUS, WISCONSIN 2004 BUSINESS LEADER OF THE YEAR

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 21, 2005

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Stephen Marcus, a Milwaukee business leader and philanthropist, who was recognized this month by the Harvard Business Club of Wisconsin and the Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel as the Wisconsin 2004 Business Leader of the Year.

Mr. Marcus joined the family business in 1962, after graduating from the University of Michigan Law School. By 1980, Steve Marcus was President of the theater, restaurant and hotel business. He became chairman in 1991, succeeding his father Ben.

Marcus Theatres is the ninth largest theatre circuit in the United States. The family's investments, under Stephen Marcus' leadership, extend from southern Wisconsin to southern California.

To be a truly successful business leader, you must be a leader in your community. You accept chairmanships to raise funds that help your community thrive. You sit on boards that fund and approve grants to organizations that reach people in need and lift them up. You give of your time, your energy, your resources and your leadership skills. Steve Marcus is that kind of leader and he is the kind of person that makes a difference. For these and many other reasons, I am pleased to congratulate Steve Marcus for being named the Wisconsin Business Leader of 2004.

RECOGNIZING MIKE RIPPEY OF AMERICAN CANYON, CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 21, 2005

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize former Napa County Supervisor Mike Rippey of American Canyon, California as the Sierra Club honors him with the Earl Thollander Award for his outstanding environmental achievements.

Mike's keen interest in the environment has led him to a lifetime dedicated to environmental preservation. After earning his Bachelor of Science degree from California State University, Humboldt and his Masters Degree from Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government, Mike returned to Napa County where he has made numerous invaluable contributions to our community.

Mr. Speaker, Mike is known to be a soft-spoken man, but his actions resonate throughout the community. After garbage companies threatened to turn the Napa County into San Francisco's dumping grounds in the 1980's and 90's, Mike quickly took action. A passionate and dedicated man, Mike worked tirelessly to fight the garbage companies, spearheading an opposition group that raised awareness of the potentially hazardous landfills. His activism was met with overwhelming success. He was not only able to stop the creation of these landfills, but also encouraged

the garbage companies to implement recycling as a method of reducing unnecessary waste.

He has also served on multiple environmental boards across Northern California including the CalFed Task Force-Bay Area Water Forum and the Bay Conservation and Development Commission. Mike also chaired the Napa County Local Agency Formation Commission working to prevent urban sprawl.

Mr. Speaker, from 1992 until 2004, Mike served on the Napa County Board of Supervisors. During his tenure, Mike played an integral role in the creation and implementation of the Napa River Flood Control Project. Each year heavy winter rain has caused the Napa River to flood, destroying many homes and hundreds of acres of land. Instead of constructing man made channels to re-direct the flooding river, Mike helped design an environmentally sound alternative to allow the river to flow naturally without damaging homes or land.

Mike's most recent accomplishment has been the creation of the new solar powered Sheriff's office which is the only law enforcement building in the country to have been awarded a National Leadership in Energy Efficiency Gold Certificate.

Mr. Speaker, it is necessary that we take this time to thank Mike Rippey for his service and dedication to protecting our environment and ask that you join me in wishing him the best in all his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO SACRED HEART PARISH—100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 21, 2005

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues here in the House of Representatives to join me as I rise to acknowledge the Sacred Heart Parish of Jersey City, New Jersey on the celebration of its 100th anniversary. Sacred Heart's role in serving the community began before the parish was approved and continues to this day with the St. Martin de Porres Soup Kitchen.

The Parish consists of a campus of buildings that include the Dominican Priory, the Church, the School and the Parish Hall. While those buildings define the physical presence of the parish in the neighborhood and Jersey City community, the most important and lasting features of the parish are the people of Sacred Heart.

Sacred Heart Parish was approved by Bishop O'Connor on February 14, 1905. The Church building was designed by Ralph Adams Cram who was guided in the Dominican tradition by Father McNicholas, O.P. and Spanish Gothic was the basis for the church design.

The long history of Sacred Heart School is a story of deeply rooted faith, passionate work and a belief that the spirit inspires all undertakings. It encompasses the response of a parish, the Sisters of Charity, dedicated teachers and volunteers. It is a story of children educated in knowledge and values. And, it is a story of a good seed planted and sown and brought to fruition.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues agree that the Parish of Sacred Heart and the surrounding community have every right to be

proud of the lasting contributions that Sacred Heart has made to the residents of Jersey City. I am pleased to congratulate Sacred Heart on its first 100 years.

PROTECTING THE PURPOSE OF
THE ETHICS COMMITTEE

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 21, 2005

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, for the past six weeks, Democrats have attacked Majority Leader TOM DELAY's character, leadership and intentions.

Although Democrats continue to smear Congressman TOM DELAY, they forget that they are responsible for preventing the Ethics committee from investigating the charges directed at Mr. DELAY. Since the beginning of the 109th Congress, House Democrats have refused to allow the Ethics Committee to meet to address this issue.

Four Ethics Committee Republicans have pledged that as soon as Democrats permit the Ethics Committee to function again, they will vote to form an investigative subcommittee to review various allegations concerning travel and other actions by Congressman DELAY.

Majority Leader DELAY has said all along that he wants to appear before the Ethics Committee to address recent accusations. Unfortunately, Democrats prefer to attack his character for political purposes rather than officially investigate these allegations. Democrats should stop playing politics with the House Ethics Committee, and should give Congress-

man DELAY the opportunity to defend himself through the Congressional ethics process.

In conclusion, God bless our troops and we will never forget September 11th.

THANKS AND GRATITUDE TO
HIPOLITO ACOSTA, DISTRICT DI-
RECTOR, USCIS

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 21, 2005

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today to extend my thanks and gratitude to Hipolito Acosta for his service to Houston, Texas and the United States as District Director of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services office during the last three years and his 24 years serving our country.

A native Texan, Mr. Acosta was born in Presidio, Texas and started his career with USCIS as a U.S. Border Patrol Officer in Marfa in 1975. Throughout his career he has received numerous awards as well as international recognition for his leadership in customer service and enforcement duties. He is a four-year Navy Veteran and a former member of the Illinois National Guard. He is also one of the most highly honored legacy INS officers, including six Commissioner Awards and the prestigious Newton-Azrak Award for courage and heroism displayed in the line of duty.

His domestic career included front line and leadership roles in the fight against alien smuggling in key positions such as Criminal Investigator in Chicago, Special Agent with the El Paso District and Border Patrol Sector, and

as Supervisory Special Agent in Brownsville, Texas. High profile investigations and successful undercover operations involving thousands of smuggled aliens from Central America, Europe and the Middle East were trademarks of his investigative career.

In 1989, Mr. Acosta was selected as Assistant Officer in Charge of INS operations in Manila, Philippines, assuming command of the office in February 1991. During his tenure in the Philippines, Mr. Acosta developed relations with host country government officials, to include the Office of the President and was one of six U.S. diplomats to receive high recognition by President Corazon Aquino. While in Manila, he developed the first ever citizenship program for thousands of Philippine World War II veterans. He was highly recognized as the driving force in the citizenship program abroad with the naturalization of over 7,000 applicants.

Following his tenure in the Philippines, Mr. Acosta was appointed to Officer in Charge in Monterrey and Ciudad Juarez. Later, as District Director for the INS Mexico City Office, he was responsible for overseeing sixteen different offices in Latin America and the Caribbean with operational jurisdiction over 42 countries, including a pre-inspection station in Aruba and refugee office in Havana, Cuba. In 2002, Mr. Acosta returned to Texas and assumed leadership of the INS Houston District and then became the first District Director of the U.S. Customs and Immigration Service in Houston.

I commend Mr. Acosta for his service to the United States and congratulate him on his retirement.