

Mr. Dickerson's work at the Social Security Administration has touched countless lives in these States, where one in every six residents is a Social Security beneficiary. Under his stewardship, SSA has distributed \$49 billion in benefits each year and has processed, on average, 740,000 benefit claims annually.

Since becoming Regional Commissioner, Mr. Dickerson has been recognized several times for his outstanding leadership qualities. He is the two-time recipient of the Award as a Meritorious Executive in the Senior Executive Service. Mr. Dickerson has also been named a Distinguished Executive in Senior Executive Service and received the Presidential Distinguished Rank Award in 1999. Most recently, Mr. Dickerson was inducted as a Fellow into the National Academy of Public Administration, an impressive recognition from his peers of Mr. Dickerson's many accomplishments.

For his service to my constituents, the State of Texas and the country, I offer Mr. Dickerson my most sincere congratulations and wish him the best of luck in his well-deserved retirement.

HONORING RICHARD GALLO

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 17, 2005

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Richard Gallo, owner and president of Gallo Office Products in Indiana, Pennsylvania, who has been named a NFIB Small Business Champion Award Winner for 2005. The NFIB Small-Business Champion award program identifies a smallbusiness activist in each of the 50 States who have distinguished themselves through their involvement and participation in NFIB programs and activities.

Within months of starting his own business in 1992, Richard Gallo joined NFIB and has worked ever since to support Main Street small businesses. As an elected official, candidate for State office, civic leader, and NFIB member, Richard has been a tireless advocate for his community and a supporter for the free enterprise system.

As a committed member for over thirteen years, Richard Gallo is currently serving his second term on the NFIB/Pennsylvania Leadership Council as a vice president. Prior to his election as a LC vice president, Richard served as chairman of the Area Action Council—Pennsylvania's first AAC.

On top of his local NFIB leadership, Rich has supported the NFIB Young Entrepreneur Foundation Scholarship program, which encourages entrepreneurship in young Americans. Rich has testified before both Congress and the Pennsylvania State legislature. In 1999, Rich testified before the U.S. House Committee on Small Business concerning small-business health plans (formerly known as AHPs). In 2000, he testified before the Pennsylvania House Select Committee on Pharmaceuticals, and in 2004 Richard testified before the Pennsylvania House State Government Committee on Contract Bundling. Rich has represented NFIB at several Presidential events and has also worked actively to help the sales team to recruit new NFIB members, including attending drive-a-longs with sales

representatives. In addition to his extensive activities with NFIB, Richard is a long time community activist. Richard recently retired as Indiana Borough Council vice president and has run three times for the state legislature. In 1994, Richard was named Indiana County's Republican Man of the Year, and he also served as the State Board Vice Chairman of the Yokefellowship Prison Ministry. He is a past president of the Indiana Lions Club, a board member of a local YMCA, an Indiana Middy Rotary Club member, and a member of the Indiana County Chamber of Commerce.

Richard Gallo's contribution to America's small businesses, NFIB, and his surrounding community is truly invaluable. I am proud of his efforts to strengthen the economy and the engine of our economy, small business.

STEM CELL RESEARCH ENHANCEMENT ACT

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 17, 2005

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 810, the Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act. I am proud to be a cosponsor of this important legislation, which expands stem cell research and ensures that the Federal Government can implement ethical guidelines. This bill will provide hope and opportunity for millions of Americans suffering from chronic and life threatening health conditions. This legislation will also ensure that the Federal Government can implement ethical guidelines over this research.

On August 9, 2001, President Bush announced that for the first time, Federal funds would be used to support research on human embryonic stem cells, but funding was to be limited to "existing stem cell lines where the life and death decision has already been made." Prior to this decision, no Federal funds had been used to support research on stem cells derived from either embryos or fetal tissue. Previous experiments involving stem cells were conducted privately, with no oversight or public input.

I believe that the expansion of funding to stem cell research is an effective way of moving this science forward. Stem cells offer remarkable potential contributions to medical science and improve the lives of millions of people who suffer from incurable diseases such as juvenile diabetes, Alzheimers's, Parkinson's, AIDS, and spinal cord injuries. It may also help us to understand abnormal cell growth that occurs in cancer and birth defects and change the way we develop drugs and test them for safety and potential efficacy.

Former First Lady Nancy Reagan and 69 percent of Americans are in favor of the expansion of stem cell research. This effort is supported by over 200 patient groups, universities, and scientific societies, and has been endorsed by more than 75 national and local newspapers and eighty Nobel Laureates.

It is imperative that we support efforts to improve the quality of life. I am pleased that we have the opportunity to move this important bill forward today, and it is my hope that the Senate will do the same. Unfortunately, the President has indicated that he will veto efforts

to expand stem cell research—even H.R. 810 which only proposes to allow stem cell research on discarded embryos with the donor's consent. In this case, the President is clearly choosing radical ideology over American lives.

THANKING MRS. ROSE AVALOS
FOR HER SERVICE TO THE ALDINE
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 17, 2005

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the work and dedication that Mrs. Rose Avalos, Principal of MacArthur High School, has done in the Aldine Independent School District and North Houston community for the last 33 years. She has led MacArthur High School to become a leader in academic achievement regardless of the socio-economic status of its students.

Mrs. Avalos's strong family upbringing enabled her to commit herself to others in educating the children of her own community. She is a role model for all of Aldine ISD as she was one of the first graduates of MacArthur High School in 1968. After graduating from Sam Houston State University, she went on to become a teacher in Aldine ISD and her success as a teacher led to her promotion as Principal of MacArthur High School in 1994.

Through her leadership, student test scores rose consistently and her commitment to educating all students was evident to everyone in the community when the school reached exemplary status in 2001–02. She gained the respect of her teachers, counselors, coaches, and support and administrative staff by setting high goals for the school and achieving them.

Mrs. Avalos will be greatly missed and thanks to her success, the next principal has a steady foundation to build upon. Again, we applaud the efforts of Mrs. Avalos and wish her well in her future endeavors.

A TRIBUTE TO WALTER J. ZABLE ON HIS 90TH BIRTHDAY

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 17, 2005

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and pay tribute to a leading San Diego citizen who, on this day, is celebrating his 90th birthday. Walter J. Zable, the founder of Cubic Corporation, has served as the chairman, president and CEO of the corporation for five decades.

Walt Zable formed Cubic in 1951 with just one product and plenty of grit and determination. Today, Cubic Corporation is a \$722 million company that employs 1,200 in the San Diego area and nearly 6,000 employees worldwide.

Prior to forming Cubic in 1951, Mr. Zable was project supervisor in charge of electronics for the Atlas and Terrier missiles, and the microwave and antenna development sections at General Dynamics Convair. His background includes engineering and management posts

with Sperry Gyroscope Company, where he directed development of fire control, guidance, communications, and command and control systems. He also held key technical, scientific and administrative positions with Federal Telecommunications Laboratories of ITT, Flight Research Company, and Newport News Shipyard and Drydock Company.

Before launching his engineering career, Mr. Zable was a professional football player for the Richmond Arrows and the New York Giants. He went on to receive numerous sports honors, including the 1962 SPORTS ILLUSTRATED Silver Anniversary All-American Team and induction into William and Mary's Hall of Fame in 1969. In 1971, he established the Walter J. Zable/San Diego Chapter of the National Football Foundation and College Hall of Fame (NFFCHF) to help preserve the genuine sportsmanship and integrity exhibited in high school and college football.

He credits the Boston school system for his success in business, because "if it weren't for athletics during the depression years, it would have been difficult to go to college," said Mr. Zable, who received a full football scholarship from the College of William and Mary. Today, he's still dedicated to helping other young student-athletes realize their dreams and reach their full academic and athletic potential through the NFFCHF local chapter, which is among more than 100 chapters in the country.

Recognized as Cubic's largest and most visible community relations project, the Walter J. Zable/San Diego Chapter has helped further the careers of the hundreds of honorees, including sports giants such as former San Diego Charger Junior Seau and Mark Malone, a sports broadcaster and former Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback. In 1987, the NCAA acknowledged his contribution to athletics by naming Walter Zable a winner of the Teddy Roosevelt Award, its most prestigious honor. Other winners of this award have included President George Bush, Dwight D. Eisenhower and Senator Leverett Saltonstall.

In addition to his work in helping young student-athletes, Walter Zable and his company give generously to charitable causes, most of them benefiting children. He has also set up a \$10 million endowment that will become effective for the College of William and Mary upon the deaths of Walter and his wife, Betty.

Walter Zable is a humble man who eschews the limelight and would rather see the focus be on his company and its hardworking employees. However, I think even he would be willing to make an exception for this special recognition for reaching his 90th birthday. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Walter J. Zable on attaining this significant milestone and wish him many more years in the company of his loving wife and family.

H.R. 1279, THE GANG DETERRENCE AND COMMUNITY PROTECTION ACT

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 17, 2005

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my disappointment with H.R. 1279, the Gang Deterrence and Community Protection Act.

The Gang Deterrence and Community Protection Act will neither deter youth from entering gangs nor add protections to our community. This legislation increases the use of the death penalty, creates new mandatory minimum sentences, and subjects more juveniles to trial as adults. I believe strongly that criminals must be punished and that we need to do more to deter our youth from entering gangs. However, research shows that these measures do not have their intended effect of reducing crime, have been misapplied based on race, are not the assistance requested by law enforcement, and do not address the reasons given by youth for their participation in gangs. In fact, this bill does nothing to address the real problems facing our youth or the needs of local law enforcement working with youth on a daily basis.

This year, in order to make room for tax cuts for the wealthy, the President and House Republicans have chosen to cut the very programs that provide hope and opportunity for youth. In his Fiscal Year 2006 budget, the President proposed eliminating funding for Safe and Drug Free Schools and freezing funding for after school programs. He also proposed eliminating funding for TRIO programs, which offer the opportunity for disadvantaged students to access higher education and for many job training programs currently serving youth in our communities.

Republicans have also chosen to cut funding for local law enforcement by eliminating funding for the COPS program and Byrne grant dollars which are vital to ensuring our peace officers have the training and manpower they need to keep our communities safe. In addition, Republican Leadership has failed to keep promises to fund juvenile justice programs that promote prevention and early intervention.

Investments in our youth and in local law enforcement will reduce crime and improve the safety of our neighborhoods. Law enforcement needs adequate equipment, training, and personnel. In order to succeed, children need recreational opportunities, a quality education, and role models to provide a positive example. Families need to have safe housing, access to health care, and the opportunities for good-paying jobs. Our priority should be investing in families—not prisons. For these reasons, I opposed H.R. 1279.

FREEDOM FOR ALFREDO MANUEL PULIDO LÓPEZ

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 17, 2005

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about Alfredo Manuel Pulido López, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Pulido López is a dentist, an independent journalist and a member of the Christian Liberation Movement. He believes in writing and speaking the truth about the nightmare that is the Castro regime. As a dentist, trained in protecting and nurturing human life, he could not tolerate the tyrant's incessant abuse of Cuban people. He understood the human condition and he knew that freedom is infinitely superior to the ills of tyranny and repression.

On March 18, 2003, as part of the dictator's condemnable crackdown on peaceful pro-democracy activists, Mr. Pulido López was arrested because of his belief in liberty over repression. In a sham trial, he was sentenced to 14 years in the inhuman, totalitarian gulag.

Mr. Pulido López' wife, Rebeca Rodríguez, described the abhorrent treatment of her husband in a phone call with Reporters Without Borders. She said:

My husband has 11 ailments, seven of them chronic. They include high blood pressure, liver problems, malnutrition and migraines aggravated by cervical osteoporosis. He has permanent bronchitis which affects his breathing and gastric problems that are the cause of rectal bleeding. I don't know all of the problems. The prison officials know. But my husband has not been hospitalized since August 2004. He is in a critical condition and that's the price paid by all those who have wanted to defend human rights in Cuba.

Reporters Without Borders also reports that Mr. Pulido López he has been placed in solitary confinement. According to the Department of State's Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2004, he has been "held in 'punishment cells,' which usually were located in the basement of a prison, with continuous semi dark conditions, no available water, and a hole for a toilet." This is in addition to the grotesque depravity of the gulag that also includes beatings, isolation, denial of medical treatment to detainees and other forms of condemnable abuse.

Mr. Pulido López is a brilliant example of the heroism of the Cuban people. No matter how horrifically brutal the consequences of a dignified struggle for liberty, the totalitarian dungeons are full of men and women of all backgrounds and ages who represent the best of the Cuban nation.

Mr. Speaker, we must speak out and act against this abominable disregard for human rights, human dignity, and human freedom just 90 miles from our shore. My Colleagues, we must demand the immediate and unconditional release of Alfredo Manuel Pulido López and every political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 17, 2005

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained on June 16, 2005 during rollcall vote No. 268. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on final passage of H.R. 2862, the FY06 Science, State, Justice, Commerce appropriations bill.

COMMENDING COAST GUARD AUXILIARY FLOTILLA 11-08 D1NR AT AIR STATION CAPE COD

HON. WILLIAM D. DELAHUNT

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 17, 2005

Mr. DELAHUNT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the members of the Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 11-08 D1NR for their distinguished service at Air Station Cape Cod. As a