

personnel in a number of peacekeeping operations worldwide, including the NATO-led mission in Afghanistan, displays Croatia's credibility as a future NATO member state. Furthermore, Croatia has a track record of cooperation with NATO allies through the PFP.

Mr. Speaker, it is clearly in our national interest to encourage peace and stability in the region of Southeastern Europe. To this end, the role of the Croatian American community and their representatives in the nation's capital, as an inherent component of the U.S.-Croatia partnership, cannot be overlooked. They represent a vital bridge between our two countries in order to strengthen deep historical and cultural links between the United States and Croatia since 1783. Special recognition should be given to the current Croatian government under the leadership of Dr. Ivo Sanader to solidify Croatia's place within the community of democratic nations and to move the country forward to becoming a model of stability, peace and cooperation throughout Southeastern Europe.

IN RECOGNITION OF FORT WORTH
METROPOLITAN BLACK CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE'S 25TH ANNI-
VERSARY

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor that I rise today to recognize the Fort Worth Metropolitan Black Chamber of Commerce (FWMBCC)'s 25 years of devoted service to the enhancement of the economic development in the African American community in my district. Since its founding in 1979, the FWMBCC's tireless efforts, on behalf of the black community of Fort Worth, have accomplished a great deal. I would like to mention a few of their accomplishments.

The FWMBCC has done much to improve minority involvement in the Fort Worth economy. In 1985, the FWMBCC contracted with the Fort Worth Convention and Visitor's Bureau for sales, and marketing initiatives to attract minority association conventions. Three years later, it established two enterprise zones in a partnership effort with the City of Fort Worth. It initiated the development of a comprehensive plan for redevelopment of Southeast Fort Worth in 1991.

The FWMBCC strives to get others involved as well. In 1989, it signed a Community Reinvestment Act Agreement with Bank One (Chase Bank) to benefit low to moderate income families. It also recruited the OmniAmerican Federal Credit Union to build a branch location in Southeast Fort Worth on Rosedale in the Poly neighborhood. It also lobbied to pursue development of workforce support for the Alliance Corridor, including public transportation to the growing Alliance business community from Southeast Fort Worth.

The FWMBCC is about more than just money, as shown by the way it adopted Como Elementary School under the Fort Worth Independent School District's Adopt-a-School program. Showing further concern for education, it collaborated with Downtown Fort Worth, Inc. on a strategic plan resulting in the refurbishing

of the F.W. Carver School for use by the Fort Worth Housing Authority and the I.M. Terrell School.

The FWMBCC believes strongly in integration of both race and gender. It established the Women's Business Issues Division as a part of the FWMBCC—the first women's division in the nation affiliated with a Black Chamber in recognition of the business assistance needs of women of color to much acclaim. It also served as an advocate on behalf of people of color for business opportunities in Sundance Square and other business areas in and around the City of Fort Worth as well as integration of the Colonial Country Club.

I would like to applaud the FWMBCC on its first 25 years, and encourage it to keep up its impressive work.

TRIBUTE TO RUTH SHACK, PRESIDENT
OF DADE COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION: DECADES OF
SERVICE TO THE PEOPLE OF
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2005

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, rise to honor a true leader in our South Florida Community, Ruth Shack.

After she became the President of the Dade Community Foundation in 1985, Ruth spearheaded a campaign to encourage philanthropy and charitable giving by developing a permanent endowment to meet Greater Miami's emerging charitable needs. The Foundation protects and manages the assets of philanthropic funds and provides grant-making expertise to donors with various interests at all levels of giving. By bringing together diverse groups in Miami-Dade County, the Foundation helps improve the quality of life and build a more cohesive community by supporting local nonprofit organizations with grants and technical assistance.

Spurred by her leadership, the Foundation made a radical change in its mission by diversifying its Board of Governors, its staff and its grant-making focus to better respond to the needs of Miami's greatest asset and our most intractable challenge: the incredible ethnic diversity of our community. They review the grants they award from the standpoint of their impact on the issue of cultural alienation and the need to help people work successfully across ethnic barriers. Empowerment and seed funding for emerging groups, based in the diverse multicultural communities of Miami-Dade, are the hallmarks of their grant-making program.

In addition to her two decades of leadership at the Dade Community Foundation, Ruth Shack has also served three very productive terms on the Dade County Commission and in leadership capacities in numerous other organizations, both locally and across the country. Throughout her career she has demonstrated a profound commitment to making Miami a community where opportunity is available to everyone.

Mr. Speaker, I know that I speak for our entire community in congratulating and thanking Ruth Shack for her 20 years at the helm of the Dade Community Foundation.

SCIENCE, STATE, JUSTICE, COMMERCE,
AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2862) making appropriations for Science, the Departments of State, Justice, and Commerce, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes:

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the Hinchey Amendment which will ban the U.S. Justice Department from spending taxpayer money to arrest or prosecute medical marijuana patients in the ten states where medical marijuana is legal: Alaska, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Maine, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Vermont, and Washington.

In 1996, my home-state of California passed Proposition 215, the Compassionate Use Act, which gave seriously ill Californians the right to obtain and use marijuana for medical purposes. The medical use of the drug must be deemed appropriate and prescribed by a physician.

Since then, the U.S. Justice Department has initiated actions against individuals who are following State law and making marijuana available to individuals with a physician's prescription. Federal law enforcement officials should not be deployed to override State law in this regard.

Although the Supreme Court recently ruled that Federal drug law supercedes State medical marijuana statutes, there is no reason to imprison patients who are seeking relief from chronic pain or the doctors trying to help them.

The use of prescriptive medical marijuana is supported by the National Academy of Sciences' Institute of Medicine, the American Academy of Family Physicians, and the American Public Health Association. This is a matter of medicine not self indulgence. The use of marijuana for medical treatment should not be criminalized.

I urge all my colleagues to support this Amendment.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. JIM MATHESON

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 20, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2863) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes:

Mr. MATHESON. Mr. Chairman, for the past few years, I have voted to redirect funding in support of smart bombs and other weapons that are actually usable against hardened, deeply buried targets. I'm pleased to see that this appropriations bill provides funding for conventional studies to defeat hard and deeply