

It is with great sadness that I stand before you today to commemorate the life of one of this nation's outstanding public servants. Senator Larry Gene Taylor served in both the Missouri House and Senate during his career. He was a man filled with optimism and vision and he was a legislator who was truly dedicated to the people of Missouri.

Senator Taylor was born on August 7, 1953, in Carthage, Missouri. He was educated in the Sarcoux public schools and went on to attend Missouri Southern University in Joplin, Missouri. Mr. Taylor was a driven man who started his career in politics working in State Treasurer Wendell Bailey's office as his Director of Public Affairs. He was later elected to the Missouri House of Representatives in 2002. As a State Representative he served as the Vice Chairman on the Tourism and Cultural Affairs Committee and as a majority member of the House Committee on Appropriations for Transportation and Economic Development and the House Committee on Job Creation and Economic Development.

In 2004 he was elected to the State Senate where he was on several committees such as Aging, Families, Mental and Public Health, Ways and Means and Transportation. Senator Taylor worked vehemently to improve Missouri's infrastructure and played a key role in establishing a long term funding solution that greatly improved Missouri's education budget formula.

Larry Gene Taylor was a public servant by blood. He inherited his love for politics from his father, the late U.S. Representative, Gene Taylor of Missouri's 7th Congressional District. Congressman Taylor was also a native Missourian who began his career in Missouri politics when he was elected mayor of Sarcoux, Missouri in 1954. He spent the next 35 years of his life as a public servant holding numerous positions including that of a United States Congressman. Congressman Taylor retired from politics in 1989 and later passed away in 1998. Together this father and son team has left a great political legacy in the state of Missouri.

In a time when politics is dividing so many, Senator Taylor was known as one who united. He was capable of working with anyone regardless of their political ideology or party affiliation. He possessed the true spirit of bipartisanship. Senator Taylor was never one to play party politics; he was devoted to the people of Missouri. The compassion and understanding that he showed to them will always be remembered through his work and the genuine heart-felt relationships that he developed.

In spite of his bout with cancer, Senator Taylor's perseverance would not allow him to give up. In fact, many were astounded and moved by how he managed to work right through the unimaginable pain and suffering that he must have experienced. His love for life is truly an inspiration to all who had the opportunity to know him. Mr. Speaker, Senator Taylor was a source of great pride not just for Missourians but for Americans everywhere. Not only have I had the honor of working with Senator Larry Gene Taylor, I have had the privilege of calling him my friend.

IN HONOR OF MAJOR GENERAL  
RICHARD A. FREYTAG, USAF

### HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 14, 2005*

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a Delawarean of great character, courage, and patriotism, who passed away on July 4, 2005 at the age of 71. Major General Richard A. Freytag, USAF (Ret.), was born on October 26, 1933, marking the beginning of a lifetime of distinguished service to his family, community, and country.

General Freytag's 38 years of service with the United States Air Force began with his commission as a 2nd Lieutenant in 1956. Although he completed active duty in 1959, General Freytag's strong sense of duty compelled him to continue as an Air Force Reserve officer throughout his civilian career, holding positions at the Pentagon and the National Defense University in Washington. In 2000, already a decorated veteran, General Freytag was awarded the Medal for Distinguished Public Service, the highest tribute awarded to a civilian by the Department of Defense.

In his civilian life, General Freytag understood the importance of education, working tirelessly to earn graduate degrees from both Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. This ambition fueled a successful career with Citicorp Inc., eventually bringing General Freytag to New Castle, Delaware in 1984 to become President and C.E.O. of the Citicorp Banking Corporation.

Despite his substantial time commitments, General Freytag was an active member in his local community. For decades, he was involved with numerous Air Force charities. Following his retirement from Citicorp in 1996, he volunteered with several organizations in Delaware, including the Delaware Bankers Association and the Medical Center of Delaware. A devoted family man; he is survived by his wife Pamela, children Richard and Bliss, and grandchildren Henley and Coryell.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to remember General Freytag as a man of character, courage, and compassion, who I was proud to call my friend. I join with my colleagues in celebrating the life lived by this great American, and offer my sincerest sympathy to his family and friends throughout Delaware and the United States.

### THE ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH RESEARCH ACT

### HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 14, 2005*

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, during my life I've been called a lot of things from a microbiologist, to a mother of three and a grandmother of 7, to a Member of Congress, but today I seem to have earned a new title, one I never expected to have—I am now a walking chemical plant.

Recently, I was a surrogate blood donor for a study conducted by the Environmental Working Group and Commonweal. I partici-

pated in this important study to find out what toxic substances I in particular, and Americans in general, have been exposed to throughout our lives.

My stunning test results showed literally hundreds of chemicals pumping through my vital organs everyday. These chemicals include PCBs that were banned decades ago, as well as chemicals like Teflon that are currently under Federal investigation. Apparently, my body is home to toxic chemicals used to make insecticides, electrical cables, fluorescent lamps and even automobile engine oil, despite the fact that I tasked my husband with handling the car oil years ago.

I also have auto exhaust fumes, flame retardant chemicals, and in all, some 271 harmful substances coursing through my veins. That's hardly the picture of health I had hoped for, but I've been living in an industrial society for over 70 years.

While I was born in a coal mining mountains of Kentucky, I grew up in a bucolic area that did not have industrial pollution. So I have assumed my exposure to environmental chemicals occurred during adulthood. But for the ten newborn babies that also were part in this study, they were born polluted. On average each one had some 200 chemicals in their blood, before they ever touched a blanket, a bassinet, a car seat, or even took their first breath.

If ever this country had a wake-up call, it's the blood test results of these newborns. If ever we had proof that our nation's pollution laws aren't working, it's reading the list of industrial chemicals in the bodies of babies who have not yet lived outside the womb. Obviously, banning chemicals after they have entered the environment is not enough.

That we have children coming into this world already polluted, at the same time we don't know what the effects of that pollution will be on their mental and physical development, is both bad policy and immorally wrong. We must test chemicals before they go onto the market, not after they get into our bloodstreams.

Over the last 30 years, the U.S. has seen a steep rise in the occurrence of childhood cancers, testicular cancer, juvenile diabetes, attention deficit disorder, learning disabilities, thyroid disorders, cognitive impairment, and autoimmune disorders. Autism cases alone rose 210 percent between 1987 and 1998.

And we ask ourselves, why? What's happening? Is there a connection with the more than 75,000 new chemicals that have been introduced into our environment since the 1950s?

Amazingly, there is still a lack of data on the potential neuro-developmental effects on women, on fetuses, and on how long-term, low-dose exposure to environmental pollutants impacts children at critical stages of development.

For 5 years, I have called on Congress to enact legislation that would allow NIH to research the impact that these chemical pollutants have on women and children. Now, once again, I am introducing the Environmental Health Research Act. Specifically, this bill does two things. First, it authorizes the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences to develop six multidisciplinary research centers to investigate the association

and impact of environmental factors on women's health and their offspring. It also authorizes the Director of this institute, in cooperation with other Federal agencies, to establish a comprehensive program to conduct research on the impact of hormone disrupting chemicals affecting maternal and child health.

We need to research the impact of these chemical pollutants now. Only then will we have the information we need both to detoxify and also to prevent developmental disabilities and other environmentally related diseases in future generations.

Let's pass this legislation. Let's clean up our environment. Let's clean up our bodies, but most importantly, let's not permit our babies of the future to be polluted before they are even born.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill today.

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#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 14, 2005*

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I was not in Washington, DC during the week of June 27–July 1, 2005 due to a family obligation. My father had bypass heart surgery and I was with him and our family in Arkansas during that time. Below are the recorded votes that were taken in my absence and how I would have voted had I been present.

On Monday, June 27, 2005—rollcall No. 322, "yea"; and rollcall No. 323, "yea."

On Tuesday, June 28, 2005—rollcall No. 324, "yea"; rollcall No. 325, "nay"; rollcall No. 326, "nay"; rollcall No. 327, "nay"; rollcall No. 328, "nay"; rollcall No. 329, "yea"; rollcall No. 330, "yea"; rollcall No. 331, "yea"; rollcall No. 332, "yea"; rollcall No. 333, "yea"; rollcall No. 334, "nay" and rollcall No. 335, "yea."

On Wednesday, June 29, 2005—rollcall No. 336, "yea"; rollcall No. 337, "nay"; rollcall No. 338, "yea"; rollcall No. 339, "yea"; rollcall No. 340, "yea"; rollcall No. 341, "nay"; rollcall No. 342, "yea"; rollcall No. 343, "yea" and rollcall No. 344, "yea."

On Thursday, June 30, 2005—rollcall No. 345, "yea"; rollcall No. 346, "yea"; rollcall No. 347, "yea"; rollcall No. 348, "yea"; rollcall No. 349, "yea"; rollcall No. 350, "yea"; rollcall No. 351, "yea"; rollcall No. 352, "nay"; rollcall No. 353, "yea"; rollcall No. 354, "yea"; rollcall No. 355, "yea"; rollcall No. 356, "yea"; rollcall No. 357, "yea"; rollcall No. 358, "yea"; rollcall No. 359, "nay"; rollcall No. 360, "yea"; rollcall No. 361, "yea" and rollcall No. 362, "yea."

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#### REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF R&B SINGER LUTHER VANDROSS

### HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 14, 2005*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and legacy of legendary R&B singer, humanitarian, and community activist, Mr. Luther Vandross, who died on Friday July 1st after health problems resulting from a stroke in 2003. Mr. Vandross was a Grammy

award winning artist whose deep, lush voice on such hits as Here and Now and Any Love sold more than 25 million albums.

Arguably the most celebrated R&B balladeer of his generation, his music provided the romantic backdrop for millions of couples worldwide. In an era of sexually charged and explicit lyrics, Mr. Vandross spoke to love and romance with heartfelt emotions.

Even without gaining the crossover success which he sought, Mr. Vandross sold over 25 million records. He won eight Grammy Awards and many other accolades including the American Music Award, Soul Train, BET, and NAACP Image awards. He ranked as one of the most successful R&B singers of the 1980's and broke through to even wider commercial success in 2003 with his last album, Dance With My Father, which earned four Grammy Awards and has generated worldwide sales exceeding 3 million copies.

Luther Ronzoni Vandross was born in 1951 into a New York City family steeped in the musical traditions of gospel and soul. He was the youngest of four children, reared by a single mother after the death of his father when Luther was still a boy. He began his career writing and performing jingles for television commercials. But his biggest early break came when he landed a job as a backup singer for the British artist David Bowie, who later hired him to work on vocal arrangements for the album Young Americans.

After breaking into the music business Luther worked for artists from Bette Midler to Barbra Streisand as a highly sought-after backup vocalist and arranger. His 1981 debut album, Never Too Much, reached the top of the R&B charts and sold more than one million copies. Through the 1980's, he recorded a string of platinum albums, including Forever, For Always, For Love, Busy Body and The Night I Fell in Love.

Luther Vandross had a career that most singers only dream about and has served as a source of inspiration for people throughout the world. Especially among his musical peers, writing songs for musical icons such as Aretha Franklin, Diana Ross, Whitney Houston and Dionne Warwick.

He was a native New Yorker and before his funeral services on Friday, July 8th, a hearse carrying the singer's remains took him for one last tour of Harlem, pausing outside the Apollo Theater before heading west to the church. Before achieving stardom, Vandross had twice finished second at Harlem's famed Apollo theater and both the city and theater always maintained a special place in his heart.

Luther Vandross' accomplishments in life speak to his character and personality. He was a loving individual known for his kindness and generosity as well as his musical accomplishments.

He leaves to cherish and celebrate his life, his loving and devoted mother, Mary Ida Vandross, several nieces and nephews and millions of loyal fans.

OFFICIAL OBITUARY SUBMITTED FROM LABEL J RECORDS

Luther Ronzoni Vandross, the silky-voiced R&B crooner who spun romance into hits like "Here and Now" and "Any Love," died on Friday, July 1st, 2005 at John F. Kennedy Medical Center in Edison, NJ. He was 54.

With a smooth yet soulful delivery, the highly admired singer/songwriter/producer has sold in excess of 30 million records worldwide, winning eight Grammy Awards, nu-

merous Soul Train, BET, NAACP Image and American Music Awards.

He ranked as one of the most successful R&B singers of the 1980s and broke through to even wider commercial success in 1989 with the Best of Luther Vandross, the Best of Love, which included the new song "Here and Now," his first Grammy winning hit which became a signature wedding song.

Born in New York City in 1951, Luther was the youngest of four children. In 1972, a song Vandross wrote, "Everybody Rejoice," was included in the Broadway musical "The Wiz." But his biggest early break came when he landed a job as a backup singer for David Bowie and created vocal arrangements for the hit album Young Americans.

Luther soon became a sought-after backup vocalist and arranger, working for artists from Bette Midler to Barbra Streisand, and he helped pay the bills as one of the most popular jingle singers of the time. His 1981 debut, Never Too Much, reached the top of the R&B charts and sold more than one million copies. Through the 1980s, he recorded a string of platinum albums, including Forever, For Always, For Love, Busy Body and The Night I Fell in Love. His last album, Dance With My Father received 4 Grammy Awards (including Song of the Year for the title song "Dance With My Father") and has generated worldwide sales exceeding 3 million copies.

Luther was also a prolific writer and producer for such musical icons as Aretha Franklin, Diana Ross, Whitney Houston and Dionne Warwick thereby fulfilling a lifelong dream. "When history books are written, I'd like it to be said that I am one of the premiere singers of our time," said Vandross in an interview with BET.

He leaves to cherish and celebrate his life, legacy, and wonderful memories a loving and devoted mother, Mary Ida Vandross, nine nieces as well as eight great nephews, three great nieces and a circle of close friends and colleagues, his musical family and millions of loyal, supportive fans.

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#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. TRENT FRANKS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 14, 2005*

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, July 14, 2005, I was unavoidably detained and rendered unable to vote on H. Res. 356, condemning in the strongest terms the terrorist attacks in London, England, on July 7, 2005. Had I been able to vote, I would have voted "yea."

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#### IN RECOGNITION OF DICK KURTENBACH

### HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 14, 2005*

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the achievements of Dick Kurtenbach, the former Executive Director of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Kansas and Western Missouri and tireless advocate for the constitutional rights of Americans. Mr. Kurtenbach retired on June 30th, 2005 after 20 years of distinguished service to