

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.

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.”

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.

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.”

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