

Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my gratitude to Mr. Reese for his leadership in managing Idaho's forests. To Mr. Reese, I wish you the best in whatever you choose to do in retirement, whether it is volunteer service, fly fishing or just spending time with your family.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 18, 2005

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, on July 14, 2005 I voted incorrectly on rollcall vote No. 377. I meant to vote "aye" on the Flake/Blumenauer amendment that would require a thorough evaluation of the commodity traffic along the Mississippi and Illinois rivers before allowing the Corps of Engineers to proceed with construction of new locks and dams.

Mr. Speaker before we proceed with such massive new construction along these two rivers, costing billions of dollars and potentially damaging the natural environment along these rivers, the Corps of Engineers must show that this project is actually warranted. So far they have failed to do so.

THANKING MICHAEL B. BOWMAN
FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE HOUSE

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 18, 2005

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of his retirement in June 2005, we rise to thank Mr. Michael B. Bowman for 30 years of distinguished service to the House of Representatives.

Mr. Bowman began serving the House of Representatives in 1975 as a trainer for the Member Information Network on the mainframe computer at House Information Systems before he became the project leader for the first help desk "hotline" in 1977. During his career at the House, Mr. Bowman served as the Postmaster for the first House electronic mail system from 1980 to 1983, and following the Anthrax event in Congress in 2001, he was appointed to the Digital Mail team that developed the statement of work for conversion of postal mail to digital images.

As the Y2K project leader, Mike was responsible for preparing the House computer workstations for our transition into the year 2000. He successfully met the challenges for ensuring each of the 12,000 desktop and laptop computers in the Member, Committee, Leadership and House support offices in Washington, DC and over 950 District offices across our country were prepared to cross the bridge into the 21st century.

Serving as the Customer Relations Manager, Mike is responsible for ensuring all Members and House staff are satisfied with the information technology solutions and support services they receive from House support staff and vendors.

Mike's contributions while serving the House of Representatives have been significant. His passionate customer service, organizational

knowledge and project management skills earned him the reputation among his colleagues and customers as a person with a calm demeanor and great respect for this institution.

On behalf of the entire House community, we extend our appreciation to Mike for his many years of dedication and outstanding service to the House of Representatives.

RECOGNIZING DR. KRISHNA
REDDY

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 18, 2005

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Dr. Krishna M. Reddy and the 9th annual Gala Banquet, hosted by the Indian American Friendship Council happening on Tuesday, July 19th. I can think of no more auspicious day than the same day as Prime Minister Manmohan Singh visits the U.S. Congress.

Since I was co-chair of the House India Caucus, I have worked quite closely with Dr. Reddy and IAFC. The Indian American Friendship Council boasts a strong reputation for its eminent role in informing U.S. policy makers about several aspects of surrounding U.S.-Indian relations. It is accordingly a privilege to join them in this celebration.

From dining in Little India on 74th Street in Queens, New York, to my ties to the Friendship Council, I have made it a point to pursue an agenda in my tenure as Congressman that markedly addresses issues relating to Indian Americans and the Indian subcontinent. My district, consisting of Queens and the Bronx in the state of New York, boasts 55,000 people of South Asian descent, the second most of any community in the nation. The links I have to this community have served to enhance my resolve to improve relations between the U.S. and India.

As founder and current president of the Friendship Council, Dr. Krishna Reddy has been instrumental in promoting a strong agenda the Friendship Council. The Council helped rebuild the state of Gujarat following a disastrous earthquake in 2001, supported the global war on terror, and continues to assist the U.S. in the post-9/11 world. I commend the Friendship Council for their resolve in not only strengthening bilateral relations but also protecting the interests of the Indian-American community, advocating for global democracy, and educating fellow Members of Congress.

President Bush stated recently that relations between our two nations have never been so close as they are today. Organizations such as the Indian American Friendship Council have greatly contributed to this status. From the groundbreaking Next Steps in Strategic Partnership to the recent India-U.S. Defense Agreement to the opening of Indian economy to U.S. investments, our two nations share many common interests in today's global arena and have proven to be valuable allies to each other. I hope that we all can, continue to work together to further improve affairs of both India and the Indian-American community.

I would like to conclude by again congratulate Dr. Reddy and the members of the Friendship Council for organizing the 9th An-

nual Gala Banquet. I look forward to our continued cooperation.

HONORING PAUL MARTIN ON THE
OCCASION OF HIS NOMINATION
FOR ESPN'S 2005 ESPY AWARD

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 18, 2005

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker I rise today to honor Paul Martin, a world-class athlete whose story is one of admirable perseverance and inspiring optimism. This year, Paul was honored with a nomination for ESPN's 2005 ESPY award for best male athlete with a disability.

Athletics has always been important to Paul. During his difficult childhood and his time spent in foster care, Paul sought refuge in sports, enjoying the attention that he was unable to find elsewhere. But it was not until many years later that Paul came to realize the vital role that athletics would play in his life.

On December 12, 1992, at the age of 25, Paul Martin survived a car accident in which he lost the lower portion of his left leg. What, to some, might have been an insurmountable challenge, Paul credits with changing his life, as he says, "for the better." Following the accident, Paul considered himself lucky to be alive and made the choice to pursue his happiness even in the face of adversity.

Within two years, he began competing again, winning the gold in the 1500 event in the National Amputee Track and Field Championships. Buoyed by his success, Paul continued to participate in a wide variety of athletic competitions, amassing an extensive list of athletic accomplishments, including the 1997 U.S. Olympic Committee's Disabled Athlete of the Year award and a new national record at the 2004 Ironman USA competition at Lake Placid. Over the years, Paul has participated in national and international hockey, skiing, cycling, and track and field events.

Most recently Paul Martin set a new world record at the 2005 Ironman USA at Coeur D'Alene and also brought home silver and bronze medals from the 2004 Paralympic Games in Athens. These accomplishments, as well as his many prior years of athletic competition, have earned him a nomination for this year's ESPY awards.

Currently, Paul is continuing his athletic training for a number of events in the upcoming year. When he is not competing, Paul speaks to a variety of audiences, sharing his optimistic outlook with others.

Paul's impressive record is a tribute to his status as a truly outstanding athlete, but it is also a tribute to his dedication, athleticism, and love of life. I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Paul Martin.

IN RECOGNITION OF SCOTTIE L.
BRIGHT

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 18, 2005

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, Staff Sergeant Scottie L. Bright, 36, originally