

encouraging the formation of NMVC companies in each of the ten geographic regions of the SBA.

Many of my constituents have fallen on hard times and are in need of help. A large portion of my district is in the midst of an economic crisis at this moment. In 2002, the Bureau of Labor Statistics found that 59 percent of working age African American males in Milwaukee were either unemployed or out of the workforce. In the past five years, Milwaukee has lost 33,000 manufacturing jobs, an industry that was once the lifeblood of the local economy. And, according to a study conducted by the University of Kansas, Milwaukee ranks 49th out of the 50 largest U.S. cities in terms of per capita venture capital dollars.

Small businesses create nearly 75 percent of all new jobs and account for 99 percent of all employers. It is not a stretch to conclude that increased investment in small businesses leads to the creation of new jobs and sparks much needed economic development in areas that have experienced better days. And given the high levels of unemployment that exist in many distressed urban and rural communities throughout the country, the New Markets Venture Capital program would provide a crucial source of investment capital to small firms and help create new jobs.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support this very important bipartisan bill.

**INTRODUCTION OF THE BLUNT RESERVOIR AND PIERRE CANAL LAND CONVEYANCE ACT OF 2005**

**HON. STEPHANIE HERSETH**

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 10, 2005*

Ms. HERSETH. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing the Blunt Reservoir and Pierre Canal Land Conveyance Act of 2005.

The origins of the bill stretch back to The Flood Control Act of 1944 which authorized a 190,000 acre irrigation project surrounding the Oahe dam and reservoir. As part of this project, the Bureau of Reclamation acquired approximately 19,000 acres of land in two South Dakota counties before organized opposition halted the project in 1977. Since then, the Bureau of Reclamation has retained ownership of the land and, even today, the original landowners continue to lease the land from the department.

Recognizing that the project will not be restarted, the State of South Dakota initiated talks to resolve the ownership situation. Working with the South Dakota Department of Game Fish and Parks, local stakeholders, the Bureau of Reclamation, and others, a general consensus emerged that the best way to deal with the associated economic, tax base, wildlife mitigation, and public access concerns would be to allow the original landowners to buy back the land. Years of negotiations and meetings led to the bill I am introducing today.

Under this bill, former Blunt Reservoir and Pierre Canal landowners would be allowed to repurchase their former lands, on which they currently hold preferential leases, from the Bureau of Reclamation. The bill also will transfer non-preferentially-leased lands and unleased lands to the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish, and Parks, GFP, as part of its

broader plan to restore wildlife habitat that was lost due to the construction of the Missouri River dams.

The proposals in this legislation were included in an identical bill that passed the Senate by unanimous consent last year. This legislation is an important opportunity to resolve a land ownership issue left open for over 3 decades. I urge my colleagues in the House to give this bill their swift consideration.

**TRIBUTE TO ERNEST C. FORD, AN AMERICAN VETERAN**

**HON. DANIEL E. LUNGREN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 10, 2005*

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, Veterans Day is a special day we set aside to honor all of our brave service men and women both past and present. It is a day to remember, a day to honor and a day to reflect upon our fellow citizens who, risking their lives, were willing to make the ultimate sacrifice. It is a day to honor those we know and those we have never met.

It is my privilege to honor one of our veterans in the Third Congressional District of California, Ernest C. Ford. Mr. Ford's story was brought to my attention some months ago. Like many of my fellow colleagues in Congress, we represent our constituents and are honored to have veterans among them. It is their story that humanizes the importance of Veterans Day.

In May of 1927, Charles Lindbergh took off from Roosevelt Field, Long Island, New York and flew into aviation history and into the imagination of a 5½ year old boy, "Ernie" Ford. With the onset of World War II, the young farm boy from Dodge City, Kansas left his family and friends to join a cause larger than himself.

Fifteen years later to the day of Lindbergh's faithful flight, Staff Sergeant Ernest C. Ford graduated from advanced flying school at Luke Field in Phoenix, Arizona. Like many, in what has been referred to as the greatest generation, he served with honor and distinction to preserve Liberty and Freedom throughout the world. Flying over 6,500 hours and 364 combat missions, the most of any pilot in the USAAF during World War II, he showed his dedication to duty, honor and country.

On February 6, 1943, Staff Sergeant Ernie Ford, a transport pilot, is credited with saving three C-47 planes, their crews, and 87 Australian infantry during the battle of Wau in New Guinea, Australia. While the battle raged around him, Mr. Ford proceeded to takeoff on a bombed out airstrip while under enemy fire. Witnessing his lead plane shot down on ascent, he decided to keep his plane low for maximum speed. With the plane only 10 to 15 feet off the ground, Ernie Ford escaped the fate of his comrades before him and showed the remaining C-47's a way to escape the battle.

For his exceptional service, he won a battlefield commission and was promoted to the rank of 2nd lieutenant. At the end of the war in the Pacific, Mr. Ford earned 6 Distinguished Flying Crosses, one garnering a V for valor, 2 Air Medals, and was recommended for our nation's third highest military honor, the Silver

Star for his actions at Wau. Along with personal recognition, his squadron received three Presidential Unit Citations and two Battle Stars. Following World War II, he helped stem the tide of communism during the Korean Conflict by flying 21 combat missions. After 23 years of service, Mr. Ford eventually retired with the rank of Major with over 15 decorations.

The gratitude that all Americans owe to Mr. Ford cannot be expressed in mere words alone.

I will tell you everyday that I go to work; I am reminded of our veterans and the sacrifices they made by the sight of the many beautiful memorials erected in their memory. These memorials represent the dogged determination of our veterans and are a reminder of the heartfelt gratitude all Americans owe them for their service.

As President Ronald Reagan on the 40th anniversary of D-Day said, "We will always remember. We will always be proud. We will always be prepared, so we may always be free."

I thank you, Mr. Ford, and all our honored American Veterans for your service to our country.

**TRIBUTE TO THE MARCH-WESTIN COMPANY AND THE ST. JAMES CATHOLIC CHURCH**

**HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO**

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 10, 2005*

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the March-Westin Company of Morgantown, West Virginia and the St. James Catholic Church for their exceptional achievement in the field of occupational safety and health.

Incorporated in 1984, the March-Westin Company is a full-service engineering and general contracting firm located in Morgantown, WV. March-Westin has worked on over 600 projects throughout West Virginia, establishing themselves as one of the best firms in all of West Virginia. After a rigorous review by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, OSHA, March-Westin has been awarded the agency's approval as a Star participant in their Voluntary Protection Program, VPP. Since 1982, this demanding award has been given to fewer than 1,000 worksites across the Nation and I am pleased to recognize March-Westin and the St. James Catholic Church for their work in receiving this award. In fact, this exemplary small construction company had no employee injuries or illnesses during the qualifying period for the program. VPP sites serve as a model for what can be accomplished through a commitment to workplace safety, as these sites achieve a level of worker protection that goes far beyond compliance with already strict government regulations.

In Charles Town, WV, the March-Westin Company is constructing a 55,000 square foot, old style church which includes a parish hall, library, classrooms, a chapel, bell tower, and a kitchen. This \$10 million project will serve not only as a model for workplace safety but also as a wonderful place for worship and a welcome addition to the eastern panhandle of West Virginia.

In closing, I want to again commend the March-Westin Company, the St. James Catholic Church, and the Wheeling-Charleston Catholic Diocese for their commitment to workplace health and safety and ask my colleagues here in Congress to join me in recognizing their efforts.

**FREEDOM FOR JOSÉ ENRIQUE  
SANTANA CARREIRA**

**HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 10, 2005*

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about José Enrique Santana Carreira, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Santana Carreira is the national coordinator of the Democratic Party November 30 and a member of the pro-democracy opposition. Unfortunately, those who believe in truth are targeted by the tyrant's machinery of repression. According to an article for the Information Bridge Cuba Miami, on February 28, 2002, Mr. Santana Carreira was arrested for simply participating in a civic activity at the Catholic Church of the Passionists. More than 2 years later, in a sham trial, Mr. Santana Carreira was sentenced to 4 years in the totalitarian gulag.

In a letter to his mother that was translated and published at [punteinfocubamiami.org](http://punteinfocubamiami.org), Mr. Santana Carreira describes the horrible conditions in the gulag to his mother:

For my mother:

With lots of love is that I write you this missive which I know is going to hurt you, but it is hurting me already, since they have beaten me and I could not get up . . . they have beaten me with no Humanity whatsoever. . . .

My dearest mother, I am resolved to take this until the maximum consequences if they already have beaten me, this will not stop, the only thing that I want is for all to know of the abuses that we are being subjected to and to receive the necessary support from all the people so that all these abuses end and all the World learns about the cruelties committed against those who fight peacefully with their reason and their right. . . .

Take care my viejita, I am very ill, suffering with all this, but I am willing to die for the reason that assists me in this our pacific fight.

I love you a lot. José Enrique Santana Carreiras

Mr. Santana Carreras represents the very best of the Cuban people: No matter how intense the beatings, no matter how remorseless the repression, no matter how inhumane the conditions, he will never relent in his belief that the men and women of Cuba should be and will be free.

Mr. Speaker, it is as inconceivable as it is unacceptable that, in the 21st century and only 90 miles from our shore, brave men and women are locked in grotesque dungeons because they believe that all people have basic human rights. It is a profound embarrassment for mankind that the world stands by in silence and acquiescence while political prisoners are systematically tortured because of their belief in freedom, democracy, human rights and the rule of law. My colleagues, we must demand the immediate and unconditional release of

José Enrique Santana Carreira and every political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

**CONGRATULATING CJ'S STUDIO OF  
PERFORMING ARTS**

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 10, 2005*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ms. Darion Albert, Ms. Brittany Carey, Ms. Christian Hargers, Ms. Brittanica Jones, and Ms. De'Ona Stafford of CJ's Studio of Performing Arts, located in my district, for their opportunity to dance in the Moscow Ballet's presentation of The Nutcracker in Dallas.

The Moscow Ballet is a classical ballet company that brings the grand tradition of a century of Russian ballet to audiences throughout the world, and it is considered a great honor to be part of the troop. Moscow Ballet's The Great Russian Nutcracker combines the family favorite with a special prayer for peace. Unlike many American adaptations, The Great Russian Nutcracker ends not in the "Land of the Sweets," but in the "Land of Peace and Harmony." The Russian Nutcracker has charmed us for more than a century because it takes its audience to a world of enchantment and peace where dreams are made real, language is no barrier, and it is always the season of love and giving.

The five young ladies of CJ's Studio of Dance were selected this year to perform in this timeless tradition and performance. Ms. Albert, Ms. Carey, Ms. Hargers, Ms. Jones, and Ms. Stafford have all attended CJ's for a number of years, under the direction of Ursula Gibbs. Ms. Gibbs serves as the studio's artistic director and dance instructor and is to be congratulated for her skillful dance instruction.

I extend my sincere congratulations to these young ladies for this distinguished opportunity. I wish them the best of luck in their dedicated pursuit of dance and the performing arts.

**HONORING AMERICA'S VETERANS**

**HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 10, 2005*

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, every year on November 11, the American people honor the men and women who have served and sacrificed for our Nation as members of the armed forces. The sacrifices of our veterans and their families are the foundation of our Nation's freedom. All Americans owe them a debt of gratitude for their service.

Veterans Day is a national holiday for remembrance and appreciation. Whether a veteran served during WWII, Korea, Vietnam, the Gulf War, or have recently returned from Iraq and Afghanistan, they have earned our respect. As a member of Congress, I feel strongly about honoring our veterans and their families. With over 25 million veterans in America, Congress must keep its promise to those veterans who have served, as well as those who will be returning home from Iraq and Afghanistan. Providing the necessary

healthcare, education, and disability benefits to meet the needs of our veterans is both a responsibility and a moral obligation.

This Veterans Day, let us thank our family, friends and neighbors who have served our Nation in uniform. Their courage is to be celebrated. Their commitment to our Nation must be matched by a commitment from Congress to truly honor their service by guaranteeing the benefits they deserve.

**RESOLUTION OF INQUIRY, H. RES.  
505 REQUESTING THE PRESIDENT  
TRANSMIT TO THE HOUSE OF  
REPRESENTATIVES, DOCUMENTS  
PERTAINING TO THE WHITE  
HOUSE IRAQ GROUP**

**HON. SHERROD BROWN**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 10, 2005*

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, earlier today the House International Relations Committee convened to consider an important resolution of inquiry, H. Res. 505.

The resolution would have required the President and Secretary of State to turn over to the House of Representatives all white papers, minutes, notes, e-mails or other communications relating to the White House Iraq Group (WHIG).

Unfortunately, the committee voted to report the resolution unfavorably, so we won't be getting those important documents.

It was also unfortunate that the committee called for a vote before all Democrats wishing to speak could be heard. Because the chairman acted in this manner, further debate was closed.

Due to this, I feel it necessary to have my statement from the International Relations Committee included in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

I hope that in the future, when our committee meets on important legislation with serious international and national security implications, all members will be allowed to address their concerns vocally and publicly.

My statement for the committee record appears below.

Here we are again, asking for the answers to the same questions we've been asking for over two and a half years.

I commend my colleagues for introducing H. Res. 505, a resolution that would require the President and Secretary of State to turn over to the House of Representatives all white papers, minutes, notes, e-mails or other communications relating to the White House Iraq Group (WHIG).

It seems many of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle have forgotten that Congress has an obligation to the American people to oversee the activities of the Executive Branch.

Because of that duty, we owe it to the American public to investigate the actions of the WHIG if we are to determine what the Bush Administration was peddling less than the actual truth of the Iraqi threat prior to going to war.

Over the past several years, Congress has continually failed to investigate the Administration's faulty intelligence claims with regard to Iraq.

Now we know that Andrew Card formed the WHIG in 2002, with the goal of marketing an