

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN HONOR OF DR. RUDY
CASTRUITA

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2006

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and pay tribute to Dr. Rudy Castruita of California on the occasion of his retirement as San Diego County Superintendent of Schools. I have known Dr. Castruita since 1994 when he became County Superintendent in San Diego and have always been impressed by his tireless commitment to children and the students across the school districts he served. He dedicated his career to furthering the cause of education and to helping our kids learn.

Prior to his appointment as Superintendent in San Diego, he served with great distinction for six years as superintendent of the Santa Ana Unified School District where he was recognized for his tremendous leadership and innovation. Among the recognition his leadership has brought to local schools are several highly coveted California School Boards Association Golden Bell Awards for leading edge efforts to address the educational needs of students, the Federal Blue Ribbon Schools designation and California Distinguished Schools designation. He has also received the prestigious Marcus Foster Award from the Association of California School Administrators and in 1992, he was named California's Superintendent of the Year.

As a San Diegan with deep roots in the public schools there, I took great pride in the role that Dr. Castruita played as Chair of the statewide effort to set standards for high school graduates in the state of California. This endeavor was perhaps the most important state education reform of the past several decades. He also served on the State Superintendent's Advisory Committee for implementing the Public School Accountability Act of 1999, a law that helped to instill rigorous standards into the curriculum and educational delivery system throughout the state.

He also served on the Governance Task Force of the statewide committee to develop a Master Plan for Education, and State Reading First Committee. Dr. Castruita's abiding personal commitment to eradicating illiteracy across our community has made the San Diego County Office of Education a beacon in literacy programs and distinguished him as a prominent leader in this important issue.

I have had the pleasure, along with a number of state leaders including governors from our state and other state constitutional officers to utilize the San Diego County Office of Education's state-of-the-art regional technology center that exists today because of Dr. Castruita's efforts. His enthusiasm and interest in cutting-edge technology to lift student achievement resulted in his being named one of 12 "tech savvy" superintendents in the nation by eSchool News.

In San Diego, we are also proud of Dr. Castruita's notable commitment to national leadership, serving on several national boards including Scholarship America and the prestigious Education Research & Development Institute. He was nominated by the President of the United States and appointed by Donald Rumsfeld, U.S. Secretary of Defense, and Rod Paige, U.S. Secretary of Education, to serve on the President's Advisory for the Department of Defense Schools, which are military-based schools overseas.

He has also built impressive and lasting relationships in the community with our public schools that includes work with the Greater San Diego Chamber of Commerce, the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, San Diego United Way/CHAD, the San Diego YMCA, the Natural History Museum, Laurels for Leaders, and the California Center for the Arts.

His work on behalf of California's children and our schools has made a real difference across our state, and we all owe him a great debt of gratitude for championing these issues. It is hard to imagine substantive discussions of education policy in our state without Dr. Castruita involved. He has provided me with tremendous guidance and advice on these important issues on countless occasions and his wise counsel will be missed. I wish both he and his family well in his retirement. Dr. Castruita continues a lasting and impressive legacy of commitment to public education within California and across the country as he begins other endeavors that will undoubtedly contribute to the well being of children and public education.

Thank you very much Mr. Speaker for allowing me this time to honor such a great leader and important figure to education.

CONGRATULATING EVAN SCOTT
GAWLIK

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2006

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Evan Scott Gawlik of Denton on his commitment, contribution and success as a finalist in this year's Intel Science Talent Search.

The Intel Science Talent Search is a science competition for high school seniors. Intel is committed to encouraging and developing America's brightest youths so that they may well be on the road to becoming tomorrow's elite scientists. As an Intel STS finalist, Mr. Gawlik is displaying to the world that he has exceptional promise and has the potential to become one of tomorrow's great scientists. Through education programs such as the Intel Science Talent Search, Intel works to inspire and educate children in communities around the world in the areas of science, mathematics and engineering.

One of those finalists was Evan Scott Gawlik, a constituent of the 26th District, who

attends the Texas Academy of Mathematics and Science in Denton. This honor will most certainly serve as a milestone in this young man's career as a scientist.

I extend my sincere congratulations to Evan Scott Gawlik for his efforts and for receiving this commendable award given by the Intel Science Talent Search. His commitment to science and to helping others serves as an inspiration to all.

IN HONOR OF THE 65TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE UNITED SERVICE
ORGANIZATION

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor, recognition and celebration of the 65th Anniversary of the United Service Organization (USO), a non-profit, civilian organization established in 1941. Since then, the USO has filled a void in the lives of men and women serving in the U.S. military, by providing them with entertainment, recreation, support services and the priceless sense of connection to home.

In 1941, the USO was incorporated in the State of New York. By 1944, USOs had been established in more than 3,000 locations across the country, held aloft by its volunteer membership. President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, who initially challenged six non-profit organizations to form a military support organization, became the first USO Honorary Chairperson—a role accepted by every President ever since. The mission of the USO has remained unwavering: To serve the spiritual, social, welfare, educational and entertainment needs of the men and women of the United States Armed Forces.

Over the years, thousands of entertainers, famous and unknown, have volunteered their time and efforts to perform to grateful audiences on U.S. military bases around the world. From the legendary music of Duke Ellington to the manic comedy of Robin Williams, the USO tradition has carried on. The brilliant legacy of volunteerism that illuminates the life of the late Bob Hope, whose name is synonymous with the USO, is carried on through the song, dance and comedy of every volunteer who continues to keep the spirit of hope alive for our men and women serving our country far from home.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of the volunteers, past and present, of the United Service Organization. During times of war and peace, the USO continues to serve as a vital bond of calm and familiarity, uplifting the spirit of men and women in uniform with heartening support and entertainment reminiscent of home. We extend our deepest gratitude to those who have traveled thousands of miles, crossing perilous borders and lands of strife, to uplift

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

their morale and reenergize the spirit of countless American soldiers around the world. On behalf of the memory of Bob Hope and the collective service of every volunteer—Thanks for the Memories.

HONORING THE 55TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY CLASS OF 1951

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2006

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 55th anniversary of the U.S. Military Academy Class of 1951.

The Class of 1951 has many noteworthy members such as the first black four-star General in the U.S. Army, Roscoe Robinson, a Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army, Edward C. Meyer, David M. Abshire a NATO ambassador and Special Counsel, and Bill Richardson who served as the Commander of the Army's Training and Doctrine Command. Buzz Aldrin, one of the first two men to land on the moon also graduated with this profound group.

The Class of 1951 has produced 3 four-star generals, 7 three-star generals, 12 two-star generals and 4 one-star generals. In addition, the Class of 1951 has earned 5 Distinguished Service Crosses, 6 Distinguished Defense Service Medals, over 100 Purple Hearts, and over 60 Silver Stars. The Class of 1951 also has approximately 200 Combat Infantry Badges, 100 Distinguished Flying Crosses and over 50 Distinguished Service Medals.

The Class of 1951 played a major role in securing the safety and security of the people of the U.S. during a critical period in our history. The class participated in the inaugural parade of President Harry S. Truman and the funeral processions of General John Pershing and General Henry Arnold. The Class of 1951 also participated in the wars of Korea and Vietnam with direct participation in The Battle of Pork Chop Hill in Korea, the battles connected to the Tet Offensive in Vietnam and the Cambodian operations in mid-1970. Most notably a majority of the class of 1951 saw combat during the Cold War. The class assisted in many new initiatives that were tested and implemented during this period. The class supported efforts during the Cold War, by assisting in the introduction of the nuclear age to the Armed Forces, participating in the activities to secure the Berlin Wall and additional activities involved or related to the Cuban Missile Crisis.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to commend and congratulate the U.S. Military Academy Class of 1951 on all of its contributions and accomplishments. They have served this country well, truly meriting recognition. I call upon my colleagues to join me in the applauding the Class of 1951's past accomplishments and in wishing the class continued success in the years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2006

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, during rollcall vote No. 67 on the motion to instruct conferees on H.R. 4297, I was on a leave of absence due to illness. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT A. FREY

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2006

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Robert A. Frey, the 2006 Boy Scouts of America Frontier District Honoree. Robert Frey has dedicated over 30 years of service to Boy Scout Troop 127 and served for 29 years as chairman of the Troop Committee. Robert will be recognized at the Boy Scouts of America Frontier District Annual Fundraising Breakfast for his contributions to the organization and his community.

Robert has dedicated his life to serving his community and his country. He served as a member of the U.S. Army in the Southwest Pacific for nearly 3 years, followed by 31 years of employment at Letterkenny Army Depot in Chambersburg, PA. He has also taken an active role in the Presbyterian Church of Falling Spring, serving as a deacon, ruling elder, Sunday school teacher, and youth group advisor.

In addition to his contributions to the U.S. Army and his church, Robert devoted much of his life to guiding hundreds of Boy Scouts, leading backpacking trips and teaching them about the outdoors. Robert served as chairman of the Troop Committee from 1976 until 2005, an almost unheard of length of service in which he provided direction to Scouts, counseling them through the Eagle Scout process and teaching them life skills.

Known as "Pop" to the hundreds of kids he has led, Robert Frey illustrates the important and rewarding role community members play in the lives of children. He has been recognized for his exceptional service with the Frontier District Award of Merit, the Keystone Area Council Silver Beaver Award, and the National Council/Presbyterian Church USA God and Service Award.

Robert has enthusiastically committed his life to helping others, serving his country, his community, and his church. The citizens of Chambersburg, the Presbyterian Church of Falling Spring, and the hundreds of boys he has guided throughout his service as a Scout leader would like to join me in thanking him for his outstanding service and devotion to his community.

TRIBUTE TO ELI SEGAL

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2006

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an extraordinary American, Eli Segal,

who passed away on February 20, 2006 at the age of 63.

Eli Segal was born in Brooklyn, NY, in 1943. He graduated from Brandeis University in 1964 and received a law degree from the University of Michigan in 1967.

Mr. Segal began his political involvement in 1968 when he joined Senator Eugene McCarthy's presidential campaign. Even though Senator McCarthy lost, Mr. Segal was not deterred. He went on to serve in key positions on several Democratic presidential campaigns, culminating with the 1992 campaign of President Clinton, which was Eli Segal's first presidential campaign victory.

Mr. Segal served as Assistant to the President in the Clinton White House, and within months established the Corporation for National Service, now known as AmeriCorps. Because of his superb skills and management, the once controversial program became an acclaimed success. Four hundred thousand young Americans enrolled in the program and helped to improve their communities and their country. Mr. Segal also took an active interest in City Year, another service program he eventually chaired. At the request of Nelson Mandela, he helped launch City Year in South Africa.

When President Clinton signed welfare reforms into law in 1996, Mr. Segal took on the challenge of creating opportunities for former welfare recipients who were now required to work. He began asking American companies to make commitments to hire former welfare recipients, and his "welfare-to-work partnership" grew from five companies to 20,000. As he did with AmeriCorps, Mr. Segal left a great legacy with the success of welfare reform.

Mr. Segal is survived by his wife Phyllis, his son Jonathan, his daughter Mora, two grandchildren, and his brother Alan.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring an outstanding American and an extraordinary public servant. We extend our deepest sympathy to Eli Segal's family and we pay tribute to a life filled with values and contributions to the country he loved and served so well. He made our Nation stronger and I consider myself blessed to have known him and worked with him.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2006

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, during rollcall vote No. 64 on the motion to recommit H.R. 4939 with instructions, I was on a leave of absence due to illness. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

CONGRATULATING LEON H. BRACHMAN

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2006

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Leon H. Brachman, who for his steadfast service on the Baylor All Saints

Hospital Board, has been selected to receive the Centennial Heritage A ward.

The Centennial Heritage Award recognizes individuals and corporations that support the All Saints Health Foundation with major contributions, as well as past hospital chiefs of staffs, and foundation and board chairs. These individuals who represent the leadership of the hospital for the past 100 years are honored with Centennial stars.

Leon Brachman has diligently served on the Baylor All Saints Hospital Board since 1958. In his tenure as a board member, the All Saints Health Foundation has enjoyed many expansions and advancements. In 1959, All Saints moved to a new facility and increased its number of beds from 110 to 365. The Carter Rehabilitation Center opened for cardio-pulmonary and rehabilitation services in 1979. In addition, the first liver transplant in Fort Worth was performed at Baylor All Saints in 2002.

Mr. Brachman steadfast dedication to improvement and vision to Baylor All Saints has benefited many. Today, he remains a prominent figure by setting a high standard of excellence and encouraging others. His compassion, drive and determination for the betterment and quality of service at Baylor All Saints Hospital should be emulated.

I extend my sincere congratulations to Mr. Leon H. Brachman on receiving the Centennial Heritage Award and commend his perseverance and desire to make Baylor All Saints Hospital a symbol of quality health care.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF
CLAYTON E. KEELING, JR.

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Clayton E. Keeling Jr., devoted father, Vietnam War Veteran, and friend and mentor to countless people throughout our community.

Mr. Keeling grew up in the City of Cleveland. He honorably served our Nation for 4 years as a member of the United States Marine Corp, retiring in 1969 at the rank of Corporal. His courageous tour of duty in Vietnam was recognized with a Purple Heart Medal, National Defense Service Medal and a Vietnam Service Medal.

Mr. Keeling's lifelong dedication to and focus on assisting United States Veterans was clearly reflected throughout his professional and personal life. He made an indelible impact on the lives of numerous veterans and their families as a Veteran's Representative at the Ohio Bureau of Job and Family Services, where he worked for many years. Moreover, Mr. Keeling volunteered his time and efforts to raise the lives of veterans and to raise their plight into the light of public consciousness. Mr. Keeling was a founding member of the Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 15 of Cleveland.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor, gratitude and remembrance of Mr. Clayton E. Keeling, Jr. I extend my deepest condolences to his daughter, Lindsay Keeling, to his dearest friends, Marie Sudduth, Jack Beech and Greg and Janet Tulley; and to his extended family and numerous friends. Mr.

Keeling's sacrifice, courage and service that he offered on behalf of our Nation and on behalf of the veterans of our community, has truly made a positive difference and will be honored and remembered for all time.

HONORING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF WEST SPRINGFIELD ELEMENTARY

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2006

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 40th Anniversary of West Springfield Elementary located in Springfield, Virginia.

West Springfield Elementary, like all Fairfax County public schools, has a commitment to excellence, and the students, parents, and staff of West Springfield are all dedicated to having each student reach their highest potential. To kick off the celebration of their 40th year of excellence, tonight the WSES students will perform a night of patriotic music. The program is entitled "Songs of America", and each grade level will perform a song, and the school ensemble will close the night's celebration. In addition, on May 31st, the school will hold an open house to reunite old friends and enjoy art displays and refreshments.

West Springfield Elementary School's commitment to excellence has extended outside the classroom and into the community. For the second year, West Springfield Elementary is holding its Wellness Walk on April 5th to benefit Sickle Cell Anemia. Last year's walk raised funds for lymphoma research. In addition, the school has a chess club, and a Just-Say-No Club in which fourth and fifth graders promote ways to resist negative peer pressure. The parents, teachers, and staff of the West Springfield Elementary community get involved in various activities including the Fun Fair, which raises money for the school, and BINGO nights which allow the school community to gather for a night of fun.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to thank the West Springfield Elementary School faculty and staff for the immeasurable contributions that they have made to the community by shaping today's youth and tomorrow's future. I congratulate the school on its many successes over the last 40 years, and I wish it more successful years in the future. I ask that my colleagues join me in applauding this outstanding and distinguished school.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2006

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Chairman, during rollcall vote No. 59 on the Conaway amendment to H.R. 4939, I was on a leave of absence due to illness. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

TRIBUTE TO ANDY'S ARMY

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2006

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Andy's Army, a children's volunteer organization in Connellsville, PA. During their last week of school vacation, members of Andy's Army sacrificed swimming in the pool and playing outside to raise \$10,000 for victims of Hurricane Katrina.

Andy's Army, formed after the death of Andrew Peperak, a 26-year military veteran, performs community service in the Connellsville area. In late August, the members collected money to donate to the American Red Cross Hurricane Katrina Relief Fund. The group sold bottled water at a community parade and collected money at two busy city intersections for three days. They set their goal at \$10,000 and did not give up until they achieved it.

After accomplishing their goal, Andy's Army was invited to Heinz Stadium to present the donation to Red Cross representatives. The kids were greeted by members of the Pittsburgh Steelers football team. Inspired by their enthusiasm and hard work, Pittsburgh Steelers' wide receiver Hines Ward matched their contribution and donated another \$10,000 to the relief fund.

The kids of Andy's Army have exhibited compassion and determination to help others who are less fortunate than themselves. Andy's Army participants Alex Peperak, Charles Peperak, Luke Peperak, Elizabeth Sparks, Andrew Sparks, Nicole Sparks, Tyler Sparks, Ray Craig, John Eutsey, Ashleigh Eutsey, McKenzie Wildey, Cassie May, Courtney McClain, Katie Wilbur, Ashleigh Hawk and Tiffany Sherbondy all deserve our thanks and congratulations on their hard work to give an extraordinary \$10,000 contribution to the victims of Hurricane Katrina.

EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT FOR DEFENSE, THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR, AND HURRICANE RECOVERY, 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 16, 2006

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4939) making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes:

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in opposition to this bill, the largest emergency appropriations measure to ever be considered by the House of Representatives. I do so with great reluctance because there are several positive aspects to the bill, including resources for our dedicated troops. Despite these reservations, I oppose this bill because the Administration and the Majority in Congress have failed to provide adequate oversight and accountability for our operations in Iraq.

Mr. Chairman, in four days we will mark the third anniversary of this tragic war, a war that

I opposed from the beginning and which has already cost our country over \$400 billion. Without a strategy for success or an end in sight, the Congressional Budget Office predicts the price tag for military costs alone will reach \$600 billion by the end of this decade. The added costs of long-term healthcare for our veterans, reconstruction assistance, and economic aid will of course raise this figure exponentially, prompting some of our Nation's best economists to predict that the long-term costs of this war will rise as high as two trillion dollars. Meanwhile, the loss of our best and brightest young people can never be measured.

Going into war without the approval and support of the international community and without a plan for the post-war occupation period has resulted in a Nation less secure now than at the end of major combat operations. Despite the heroic efforts of our military, and the hundreds of billions of dollars poured into Iraq, it is now on the brink of civil war. We've seen how disastrously this administration's strategy, or lack thereof, has played out in Iraq, and yet we continue to circumvent the normal budget process, putting hundreds of billions of dollars on the national credit card without any plan for success, any plan to begin the process of bringing our troops home, or any plan to turn Iraq over to the Iraqi people.

Mr. Chairman, I voted in favor of our last emergency supplemental bill because, among other things, the bill instructed the Department of Defense to provide a detailed report to Congress of its military expenditures in Iraq and Afghanistan to finally allow us to track how the Administration was spending the taxpayer's money. Despite this language, the General Accounting Office reported in November numerous problems in DOD's processes for recording and reporting costs for operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. As a result, the GAO found that neither DOD nor Congress can reliably know how much the war is costing, nor the details on how appropriated funds are being spent. The facts are not being made available and Congress is operating and appropriating without them.

Congress is not fulfilling its responsibility to act as the steward of the National Treasury. I, along with several colleagues on both sides of the aisle, have cosponsored legislation that would restore oversight and accountability to our budget process. Several of my colleagues have called for hearings and investigations into how funds are being spent in Iraq. These efforts have been met with near-total resistance by the Majority leadership in the House, and by the administration. Time and again we who are elected to keep close watch over spending are being denied the necessary tools to do our jobs.

The good in this bill is increased funding to address the crisis in Darfur, our fellow Americans affected by the tragedy of Hurricane Katrina and the language preventing the Dubai Ports deal from moving forward. I've supported these efforts in the past and were these provisions to be considered properly under normal budget procedures, I would support them.

Whether or not Members support the war in Iraq, it's becoming clearer day by day that the President's policies are unsustainable. Without a change of direction and a clear plan for success, I cannot in good conscience continue to

pass off trillions of dollars to our children and grandchildren to fund this debacle.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2006

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Chairman, during rollcall vote No. 58 on the Millender-McDonald amendment to H.R. 4939, I was on a leave of absence due to illness. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF JOHN PETER SMITH HOSPITAL'S DEDICATION TO CHARITY CARE

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2006

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor John Peter Smith Hospital as it celebrates 100 years. JPS has been serving the citizens of Tarrant County since its humble beginnings in 1906.

John Peter Smith Hospital has always retained its identity and mission to providing charitable care. Starting with a very small staff and limited space, JPS has tirelessly committed itself to the improvement of their patients' health.

In the past 20 years alone John Peter Smith Hospital has expanded outside the confines of the typical hospital. They have opened an AIDS clinic, a women's center and other multiple clinics across the county. Most recently, John Peter Smith Hospital has established a new hospital with 30 beds in south Arlington.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I stand here today to celebrate John Peter Smith Hospital for its 100th anniversary of actively providing quality health care to the thousands in need. As their representative, as a doctor and as a citizen of the 26th Congressional District, I am grateful for JPS Hospital's service.

IN HONOR OF REV. DR. JOSEPH SKRHA

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Rev. Dr. Joseph Skrha, as family and friends gather to celebrate his 80th birthday and his continued love and devotion to his North Broadway neighborhood in Cleveland, Ohio.

Dr. Skrha's joyous life is centered around family, faith and community. His closest confidant, his wife of nearly fifty-two years, Betts, along with their children—Joseph Ray, Betsy, John, the memory of their beloved son, Paul, his son-in-law Daniel, daughter-in-law Patricia and grandchildren, Katie, Christopher, Rebecca and Nathaniel—are the guiding stars of his life, illuminating a path they walk to-

gether—a journey of hope, strength and healing that he continues to share with the residents of the North Broadway community.

Dr. Skrha was born, raised and still lives on Broadway Avenue in Cleveland—in the heart of the neighborhood that he's served his entire life. He graduated with honors from both John Carroll University and Loyola University Medical School, completed his residency at St. Alexis Hospital then focused on establishing a family medical practice. Dr. Skrha could have practiced anywhere, but he turned down every offer to move away from the neighborhood that personifies the word 'home.' As a caring physician and an ordained Roman Catholic Deacon, Dr. Skrha's dedicated service has softened the hard urban edges of the North Broadway neighborhood. Dr. and Mrs. Skrha's united focus on making a difference in their community has not wavered. They continue to channel their social activism into numerous civic endeavors, including their volunteer efforts on behalf of the University Settlement, The Broadway School of Music and the Arts, and the Cleveland Sight Center.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor, gratitude and recognition of Rev. Dr. Joseph Skrha, as we join with his family and friends to celebrate his 80th birthday. Dr. Skrha's keen mind, compassionate heart and gentle energy continues to inspire, energize and strengthen the lives of the residents of North Broadway and far beyond—including my own. I wish Dr. Skrha an abundance of health, peace and happiness in his continued journey of faith and hope, today and for all time.

TRIBUTE TO THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF RAYMOND FLOYD

HON. CHARLIE NORWOOD

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2006

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Raymond Floyd for his service to our Nation, the game of golf and the Masters Tournament. Few events in the world of sports can compare to the pageantry, beauty and grace of the Masters Tournament in Augusta, GA. And there are even fewer individuals who have contributed to that prestige as much as Raymond Floyd.

Early in his career Raymond Floyd became a role model for young people with his dedication to the game of golf, his family, and family values.

Raymond was inducted to the World Golf Hall of Fame in 1989. In 1992, he was honored as Golf World's "Man of the Year." Then, in 1994, the Floyd family was named "Golf's Family of the Year" by Golf Week magazine.

Raymond Floyd's record in golf includes 62 victories worldwide. He won two PGA Championships, one Masters Championship, and one U.S. Open Championship. He played in eight Ryder Cup competitions and served as captain for another Ryder Cup Team. He holds numerous scoring and course records. He is also the only player to win on both the PGA and Senior PGA Tour in the same year. He has also joined the legendary Sam Snead in winning during each of his four decades on the professional tour.

In addition to his accomplishments playing on the course, Raymond Floyd has made a

name for himself in the art of golf course design. His understanding of the game of golf, combined with a desire to create courses that are both beautiful and challenging has resulted in numerous quality golf courses.

Mr. Speaker, Raymond Floyd is among the names of the other greats in golf history. His accomplishments on and off the course will live forever.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2006

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Chairman, during rollcall vote No. 57 on the Neugebauer amendment to H.R. 4939, I was on a leave of absence due to illness. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

CONGRATULATING THE TEXAS
WESLEYAN BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2006

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the superior performance of the Texas Wesleyan Basketball Team on their victory over Oklahoma City for the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics' Division I Men's Basketball Championship at Municipal Auditorium.

The unseeded Rams won the final game 67–65 to become the NAIA Division I Men's Basketball Championship. The victory came when the Rams' senior guard, Ben Hunt, hit a three-point shot with 0.2 seconds remaining in the game. Senior forward Trevor Meier managed to tie the score at 64–64 which paved the way for Texas Wesleyan's climatic finish.

Additional honors came to individual team members when Evan Patterson was selected as the tournament's Most Valuable Player and Head Coach, Terry Waldrop, was named the Rawlings-NAIA Division I Men's Basketball Coach of the Year. The championship victory marked the first NAIA Division I Championship for Texas Wesleyan.

This victory was a combined effort and would not have been possible if it was not for the incredible sense of teamwork put forth by all athletes.

I extend my sincere congratulations to Head Coach Terry Waldrop, Texas Wesleyan President Harold Jeffcoat, as well as the members of the Texas Wesleyan Basketball Team. I am honored to serve as their U.S. Representative.

TRIBUTE TO MR. TIM CHESLEY

HON. CHARLES H. TAYLOR

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2006

Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize the fine work and achievements of one of my constituents in Western North Carolina, Mr. Tim Chesley. Mr.

Chesley serves as an engineer for the National Forests in North Carolina and recently earned the U.S. Forest Service's National Managerial Engineer of the Year award.

A Forest Service employee for 30 years, Tim Chesley garnered this prestigious award for his outstanding management of programs, projects and employees. "His extraordinary response to the massive destruction, that resulted from the remnants of three hurricanes in September of 2004, plus his long-standing leadership as the assistant forest engineer for the past 22 years merits this award," wrote Forest engineer Lynn Hicks in the nomination letter.

Mr. Chesley was selected as the deputy planning chief and engineering liaison, when an incident command team was formed, after flooding from the hurricanes wrecked havoc on Forest Service lands over a two-week period sixteen months ago. Working six days a week, he coordinated the planning, design, reconstruction, and contract administration for the repair of hundreds of miles of National Forest roads and trails and for nearly 50 bridges as well as for campgrounds, fisheries, offices and other Forest Service facilities.

Mr. Chesley continues to coordinate the administration of contracts that will exceed \$35 million, and in July he helped secure another \$5.5 million in Emergency Relief of Federally Owned Roads funding. He was also responsible for the recruitment, training and supervision of more than 150 engineering employees who have come to North Carolina, from across the country on temporary assignment, to assist with the storm recovery effort. As a manager for most of his career, he has supervised more than 30 people, including trainees, technicians and professionals. He is currently supervising seven engineering trainees, who were sent to North Carolina for one year in support of the hurricane damage recovery work.

A native of Conway, New Hampshire, Mr. Chesley received his bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering from the University of New Hampshire, and his Master's Degree in Civil Engineering and Transportation Planning from the University of California at Berkeley. In addition to his professional responsibilities, he has taken the lead on several major community projects, including raising funds and constructing playgrounds for Asheville's Kenilworth community and for Glenn C. Marlow Elementary School in Hendersonville. He is a member of the Board of Directors for the Asheville Kiwanis Club where he has been a member for more than ten years.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues in the House will be most appreciative of Mr. Chesley's devotion and hard work at the United States Forest Service. I am proud to announce that he will be presented the U.S. Forest Service's National Managerial Engineer of the Year award at a formal ceremony in Washington, DC on April 3, 2006.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2006

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Chairman, during rollcall vote No. 56 on the Sabo

amendment to H.R. 4939, I was on a leave of absence due to illness. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

CONGRATULATIONS TO DANIEL
MCPHERSON

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2006

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Daniel McPherson who, due to his superior performance, received the Texas Association of Basketball Coaches 2A honor as Player of the Year after scoring 26 points in the Lions' semifinal win over Tahoka High School.

As one of Ponder High's leading basketball players, Daniel, a 6–2 senior forward, manages to give his absolute best efforts when the team requires it most. He is aware that victory is a combined effort and would not have been possible if it was not for the incredible sense of teamwork put forth by all athletes.

I extend my most sincere congratulations to Daniel McPherson and wish him the best of luck in his academic and athletic career.

TRIBUTE TO AGNES DALE SMITH

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2006

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because on April 2, 2006, Agnes Dale Smith will celebrate her 100th birthday. Those who know and love her call her "Aggie" and she was born in Willow Hill, Illinois, in 1906. Such longevity is truly special and certainly deserves to be recognized and respected. It is truly amazing to think of all that America has experienced in the past century and to know that Aggie has witnessed it all.

In 1925, Aggie graduated from Robinson High School in Robinson, Illinois, where she served as Vice President of her senior class. She also wrote for the school newspaper and played intramural basketball and field hockey. On October 16, 1930, Aggie married Victor L. Smith. They would have one daughter, Emily Carol. Aggie went on to earn her Associate in Science degree from Vincennes University in 1967. Aggie then studied at Trinity College in Dublin during the summer of 1969. She also studied at American University in Washington D.C. as well as four other mid-western locations, including Lincoln Trail College in Robinson, Illinois.

During her life, Aggie has seen and experienced much. For instance, she was appointed as a Volunteer Services Director during World War II and traveled to Chicago on three occasions to attend conferences. She also witnessed the investiture of Prince Charles in Wales. Aggie has attended four Republican National Conventions in her lifetime. She was elected National Vice President of Delta Theta Tau philanthropic sorority. Aggie also proudly served the Illinois Daughters of the Revolution as Division VI director for two years. In 1987, Aggie was named a Distinguished Citizen by the Robinson Chamber of Commerce.

Again, I rise today to celebrate Aggie Smith's 100th birthday and recognize her many accomplishments. I hope my colleagues will join me in wishing her many happy years to come.

TRIBUTE TO VIOLA VAN DORIN

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2006

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the accomplishments of Viola Van Dorin, who served in the armed forces as a nurse during the Second World War.

Viola Van Dorin, as well as her late husband, Forrest Van Dorin, both valued their patriotic obligation to enlist in our nation's military shortly after the bombing of Pearl Harbor. After her exemplary service in the Army Nurse Corps, Viola devoted herself to preserving the memory of World War II by donating more than 240 items to the Michigan Historical Museum in Lansing. She currently lives in Jackson, Michigan.

Violet began her career as a nurse, graduating from the Sparrow Hospital School of Nursing in 1935. She worked at the Michigan State College Hospital, and then moved on to private practice with Dr. Kenneth Hodges and Dr. Kenneth Johnson. She excelled as both an office receptionist and an assistant to the physicians. Vi had the opportunity to even star in a film during the prewar period, a documentary called *The Case History of Lucy X*, which was the first to educate the public and medical professionals on the contagious disease tuberculosis.

In 1942, Vi was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Army Nurse Corps and assigned to Torney General Hospital in Palm Springs, California. There she met her future husband, then a dashing young Sergeant in the Army. They married on June 7, 1943, and their marriage lasted until Forrest's death in 2003.

In 1944, Vi was assigned to the 82nd General Hospital unit and transported to Wales where the unit helped rehabilitate wounded soldiers. Before the end of the War, Vi was promoted to First Lieutenant and received several citations: the American Theater Ribbon, three Overseas Service Bars and a Victory Medal. She and her husband were reunited in 1946, and they settled down in the Lansing area. She and Forrest had a son, Ken Van Dorin, as well as three grandchildren: Rebecca Louise, Natalie Ann and Robert Kenneth.

Violet's service in both the military and the medical field has demonstrated her commitment to serving our nation, caring for others, and preserving historical treasures. She should also be commended for her tireless devotion to preserving the memory of World War II and honoring the sacrifices of our veterans. Across Michigan's counties and communities, her legacy will be realized long into the future. I am pleased to know her remarkable story, and to share it with my Congressional colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Violet Van Dorin, a citizen and a veteran truly deserving of our respect and admiration.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2006

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Chairman, during rollcall vote No. 55 on sustaining the ruling of the chair with regard to the point of order against the DeLauro amendment to H.R. 4939, I was on a leave of absence due to illness. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

TRIBUTE TO DAVID MITCHELL

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2006

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor David Mitchell of Pt. Reyes Station, California, who recently retired after 30 years as the editor and publisher of the Point Reyes Light. The Light has covered community activities, misdeeds, and controversies in the rural small towns of West Marin since 1975.

Dave earned a degree in journalism at Stanford University and worked at various small papers before buying the Light with his former wife Cathy. After the couple split up in 1981, Dave sold the paper and worked for the San Francisco Examiner for several years before getting the paper back due to payment default.

Described as everything from "intelligent, scrappy, and folksy" to "controversial, opinionated, and hard-headed," Dave always presented the news in a lively, personal manner and encouraged his readers to participate through letters and columns. He considered himself a muckraker and determinedly pursued deceit and corruption where he saw it. In 1979 he and Cathy won a Pulitzer Prize for their expose of the Synanon cult.

West Marin has changed during Dave's tenure, and the Light chronicled issues such as politics, immigration (even sending reporters to the Azores, Italy, and Jalisco, Mexico, where many were from), relations between Point Reyes National Seashore and the community, and the struggles of ranchers to remain viable as the towns became more gentrified. The paper was always challenged financially as Dave used an inheritance to subsidize it, and he sometimes suffered from severe burn-out as he worked long hours to keep both the finances and the news activities in line. After achieving financial stability, he sold the paper in November, 2005, to Robert Plotkin who made a commitment to maintain its community focus.

Mr. Speaker, David Mitchell has provided a vital service to West Marin as well as setting high standards for community newspapers. I know he will continue as a fixture on the local scene and maintain his passion for the issues he championed.

HONORING THE LIFE OF
ALPHALONIA P. "PEACHES" GWYN

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2006

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the memory of Alphalonia P. "Peaches" Gwyn of Winston Salem, North Carolina.

We rely on a great number of people, in addition to the members of our staff, to do our jobs as members of Congress. The people we work with twice a week to help us get to and from our districts become part of the extended network of support that helps us fulfill our duties.

One of those people was Peaches Gwyn. A dedicated employee of US Airways, Peaches always had a smile and a friendly voice at US Airways' Capitol Desk. Peaches was tireless, making sure that members of Congress were able to get back to their districts and serve their constituents. She handled herself with grace and aplomb on the phone with staff members under pressure to get their bosses on the first flight possible.

I have heard of the help she offered through my schedulers over the years who were sorry to learn that she recently succumbed to cancer. Her coworkers told us that Peaches fought cancer every step of the way, never giving up. She wanted to keep busy and go back to work, but eventually lost her battle.

My thoughts and prayers are with those at US Airways who loved her and learned from her. May the Gwyn and Perkins families be comforted by peaceful memories and may they find strength in Peaches' spirit which lives on through everyone she touched.

RECOGNITION OF GREEK
INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2006

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the importance of Greek Independence Day, which was celebrated this past Saturday. In doing so, I reaffirm the historic and strategic ties between the United States of America and Greece, and acknowledge the heritage that all of Western civilization draws from both ancient and modern sources in Greece.

On March 25, 1821, the people of Greece declared independence from their Ottoman occupiers and reclaimed the mantle of democracy that they originated in ancient Athens. Since then, they have been a true and steady friend of the United States, working together to promote our common ideals, common goals, and in recognition of our mutual admiration. We are partners in seeking peace and prosperity in the Balkans and southeastern Mediterranean, as well as throughout the world. In celebrating Greek Independence Day this year, we recognize the contributions of ancient Greece to the establishment of democracy and culture, and the continuing importance of modern Greece in national affairs.

Additionally, we affirm the innumerable contributions that Greek Americans have made to

the United States. Their independence and creativity have been an essential component of the American success story, adding immeasurably to our economic strength. Greek American cultural values have enriched our communities and added to the diversity we cherish as Americans. I hope that you will join me in saluting Greece and Greek Americans in this 185th anniversary of Greek Independence Day.

TRIBUTE TO BEA WATSON

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2006

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to rise today in tribute to a most distinguished member of the Fontana community and my dear friend, Bea Watson.

In recognition of Bea's outstanding achievements and contributions to our community, I am pleased to share with you a few of her numerous recognitions, including the honor of over twenty-two prestigious awards. These include two esteemed Congressional Awards, the Fontana PTA Council Award, the Chamber of Commerce Outstanding Volunteer Award, the California Parks and Recreation Award, the Community Spirit Award, and the title of California Legislature Woman of the Year. Bea is held in high esteem by all who have been touched by her tireless devotion to others, and deserves every accolade we may present her in thanks for her service.

I am endlessly grateful for Bea's involvement on behalf of the citizens of her community. As a member of the California League of Cities, the Fontana Unified School District, the Fontana Chamber of Commerce, the Fontana Women's Club, the Fontana Teen Center, and the Fontana Historical Society, Bea has profoundly influenced the impacts of these organizations and has directed efforts to improve the community. As City Clerk of Fontana, Bea has proudly represented the city, serving as the keeper of the City Seal and of the official city documents.

Bea's commendable dedication to the City of Fontana has nurtured a sense of pride among her fellow citizens. Her efforts have touched the lives of her neighbors and her exceptional impact upon our community will create a lasting legacy for generations to come. Bea's enduring commitment, enthusiasm, and concern for others' wellbeing have advanced women's rights, education, the arts, and the spirit of the Fontana community. As a volunteer, public servant, and friend to her community, Bea has proven herself as an exemplary American. Bea continues to serve as an inspiration to us all.

I thank Bea for dedicating her life to serving on the behalf of the Fontana community. I am honored to consider Bea my friend and I truly appreciate all she has given to our community and our country.

GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2006

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, last Saturday, March 25th, the people of Greece celebrated the 185th anniversary of their independence from the Ottoman Empire.

As the brilliant Romantic poet Percy Bysshe Shelley wrote in the preface to *Hellas* in 1821, "We are all Greeks. Our laws, our literature, our religion, our arts, have their root in Greece." Nowhere is this more true than in America, a country crafted to embody the vision and ideals of the ancient Greeks, and home to more than three million citizens of Greek descent.

The building in which we now stand, along with many prominent structures in our Nation's Capital, draws heavily on the architecture of ancient Greece, and is a fitting tribute to the civilization that provided the model for our own democratic experiment. America's founders were deeply inspired by the heroic individualism of Homer's epic poetry, the search for truth embodied by Socrates, and the passion for justice that guided Greek political theory.

The American Revolution was driven by the Greek idea that the authority to govern derives directly from the people, and this successful assertion of autonomy in turn inspired Greece to declare its independence on March 25, 1821, after nearly 400 years of rule by the Ottomans. Weeks later, the Messinian Congress sent a letter to then Secretary of State John Quincy Adams asking for moral support, asserting: "Your virtues, Americans, are close to ours, although a broad sea separates us." In response, stirring speeches by President James Monroe and Daniel Webster led the Congress to send funds and supplies to aid the Greeks and motivated many Americans to fight alongside the Greeks in their struggle for freedom.

Today, history, mutual respect, and shared values continue to strengthen the alliance between Greece and the United States. After fighting side-by-side in every major war of the 20th century, we are now united in the war against terror that poses a threat to liberty and justice everywhere. Together we have stood up to the forces of oppression in conflicts from World War II to the Persian Gulf, we have joined as strategic partners in NATO, and are working to build peace, stability, and democracy in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Unfortunately, not all Greeks are celebrating their independence this week. In one of the most militarized regions in the world, members of the Greek Cypriot community continue to live under conditions of oppression, harassment, and deprivation imposed by some 35,000 Turkish soldiers. I am disturbed that Turkey continues to defy the international community and the U.N. resolutions with its policies towards Cyprus.

If a solution to Cyprus can be finalized it would reshape the eastern Mediterranean and could lead to an improvement in relations between Greece and Turkey. I am saddened by the persistence of tensions between these two neighbors, both of which are strong friends of the United States and vital partners in NATO and the war on terror. I hope that a negotiated agreement will soon be reached, so that

Greeks everywhere can realize the inherently human desire for freedom.

I also support the reunification of the remains of one of the most magnificent and best-known monuments in the world: the Parthenon. I welcome the announcement last month that the British and Greek governments have engaged the Director General of UNESCO to lead a cooperative approach to resolving the issue of the Parthenon Marbles. I congratulate both parties for the shift in focus from contentious restitution to cooperative reunification and look forward to the opening of the New Acropolis Museum, where all the Sculptures will be displayed as close to their original position as possible.

The United States' kinship with the Greek people was reflected in the enthusiasm with which America embraced modern Greece's fight for independence 179 years ago. Similarly, the American ideal of freedom has drawn generations of Greek men and women to America's shores. Today we celebrate and give thanks for the contributions Greek Americans and their devotion to family, faith, community, and country that has enriched our Nation.

Through decades of challenge and change, the shared admiration, cooperation, and friendship between Greece and the United States has endured and deepened, and together we have proved the fundamental truth of the Greek proverb, "The passion for freedom never dies." Today we reaffirm that sentiment and our commitment to promoting liberty, democracy, and justice in America, in Greece, and around the world.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great joy and admiration that I wish the people of Greece a happy Independence Day and continued freedom and prosperity.

185 YEARS OF GREEK
INDEPENDENCE

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2006

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 185th anniversary of Greek Independence. I would also like to make a special honor of Congressman BILIRAKIS, who is celebrating his last Greek Independence Day as a Member of the House of Representatives. I commend him for his service not only to our country but his indefatigable support of Hellenic issues. I know he will be missed not only by his constituents in Florida, his colleagues here and by all Hellenic Americans.

March 25th is a date that will live in the hearts and minds of Greeks all around the world. After close to 400 years of Ottoman rule, on March 25, 1821, the people of Greece rose up against the Turks and won their independence.

The Greeks have a history dating back almost 4,000 years. Greece is the cradle of democracy and its great philosophers were an invaluable inspiration for our founding fathers. In ancient Athens they found a model for the new democracy that our forefathers used to establish our democracy in America.

We are joined by blood, culture, and a profound commitment to shared values. Greek ideals of democracy and freedom inspired our

Nation's founders and breathed life into America's experiment with democratic self-government.

Mr. Speaker, I have the great honor of representing a number of Greek-Americans in the Seventh District of New York. Their influence and active participation in the life of their communities has fostered economic, political and social growth throughout New York City.

Generations of Greek Americans have enriched every aspect of our national life, in the arts, sciences, business, politics and sports. Through hard work, love of family and community, they have contributed greatly to the prosperity and peace that we all enjoy as Americans today.

But as we celebrate Greek independence, we must keep in mind the ongoing struggle for freedom and demand for human rights on the island of Cyprus. I believe the United States and the international community must remain steadfast in our resolve to bring peace and unity to an island that has been home to violence and division for far, far too long.

Mr. Speaker, let me reiterate my strong commitment to Greek communities in my district, the country, and throughout the world. Their strength and dedication to democracy and peace in the world has made them a shining star of modern civilization.

IN HONOR OF CURTIS RELIFORD

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2006

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the dedicated work and inspiring courage of Curtis Reliford. Mr. Reliford's life story reflects the best of the American Spirit and reveals the incredible generosity to our nation's people.

Mr. Reliford experienced a troubled youth in his native Louisiana. In his early years, he was lured down the self-destructive, illusionary path of drugs, alcohol, and money, all resulting in dead ends and unhappiness. Twenty one years ago, after much contemplation and perseverance, Curtis decided to move to California, with the hope of creating a better life for himself. In Santa Cruz, CA Curtis has found himself by aiding those who need a hand. He is an active member of the NAACP, and created his own business as a landscaper, a skill he used, and will continue to use, in Hurricane destroyed New Orleans. Through strong determination, great self-sacrifice, and enduring dedication, Mr. Reliford began his long healing process. He believes, and has proven, his calling to aid those who require and ask for assistance.

The fruits of Mr. Reliford's life transformation have been truly spectacular, not only benefiting our local community, but touching people's lives on a national level. Mr. Reliford is a small business owner and has started a non-profit community support group "Brothers teaching Brother." Most recently, Mr. Reliford has turned his sights back on his native Louisiana. Due to his selflessness, Curtis has been awarded the Jefferson Award from the County of Santa Cruz. His commitment to the assistance of others is inspiring. He also shows no signs of stopping.

After witnessing the devastating destruction wrought by Hurricane Katrina, Mr. Reliford, in-

spired by his daughter's proclamation of "Daddy, you can do anything!" decided to focus his nurturing spirit on the people devastated by Katrina. He began taking donations in Downtown Santa Cruz, in order to raise funds for those who lost their homes. Enough was collected to make a life altering trip down to Louisiana. Mr. Reliford has now completed three relief trips to the Gulf Coast, but he believes his work will not be complete until every person who lost their home receives full assistance. Mr. Reliford is setting up a new organization, "Follow Your Heart Action Network", dedicated to bringing continued help to people in the South.

Mr. Speaker, it is people like Curtis Reliford that make the United States the great country that it is, and it's truly an honor for me to represent individuals like Mr. Reliford. The service of local members of the community is an asset to this nation, and I applaud Mr. Reliford's contributions. Curtis Reliford's dedication to advancing the condition of human welfare throughout our nation has had a positive impact on countless individuals, and for that reason I rise in honoring him.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN H. STROGER,
JR.

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2006

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great public servant: John H. Stroger, Jr., President of the Cook County Board of Commissioners.

John Stroger is the first African-American to have been elected as Cook County Board President after serving Cook County for many years in other capacities, including as Chairman of the Board of Commissioners Finance Committee. During his lifetime of public service, President Stroger has always served with distinction and with an unwavering dedication to improving the lives and well being of all of the residents of Cook County.

As Chairman, he was instrumental in the development and construction of a new hospital facility, which bears his name, John H. Stroger Hospital. The facility, which is state-of-the-art, serves the health needs of all of Cook county's residents, including the indigent and uninsured. John Stroger is the past President of the National Association of Counties and in that capacity, he provided leadership on public policy issues affecting local governments across the Nation. He was particularly concerned with the need of county governments to ensure health care access for all county residents.

Mr. Speaker, I know that you will join me in wishing President Stroger a full and speedy recovery from his recent illness and all the best to his wife and family.

A TRIBUTE TO DR. JADICK

HON. CHARLIE NORWOOD

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2006

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, there is a physician in my district who deserves the

thanks of our Nation and this Congress for his actions in combat in Iraq.

Naval Commander Rich Jadick, MD, of the Medical College of Georgia in Augusta deployed to Iraq in the summer of 2004. He arrived just in time for the Battle of Fallujah, the heaviest urban combat American troops have endured in a generation.

Newsweek Magazine quotes Dr. Jadick's commander, Lt. Col. Mark Winn, that as a direct result of Dr. Jadick's courageous actions under fire, at least 30 U.S. Marines were saved from death.

During just 30 days of combat, Dr. Jadick treated over 600 Marines and Iraqi soldiers and civilians. He established a forward aide station well advanced beyond the safety limit prescribed for combat medical personnel. His courage in ignoring the danger to himself in order to provide life-saving treatment for wounded personnel led to his being awarded the Bronze Star with a "V" for valor.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of the Ninth Congressional District of Georgia, I commend and thank Dr. Jadick for his heroism and extraordinary service to his Nation and his fellow man.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS
OF THE CUBAN-AMERICAN JEW-
ISH COMMUNITY

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2006

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I offer congratulations to members of the Cuban-American Jewish Community who have contributed greatly to our Nation. They were elementary school classmates at the Plantel del Centro Israelita de Cuba and graduated from the sixth grade on June 20, 1958. Some of them were part of the Peter—Pedro—Pan Operation, which brought over 14,000 children and teenagers from Cuba who came to this country without their parents, thanks to the generosity of the U.S. Government. These Cuban Jewish children were cared for by the Hebrew Immigration Aid Society, HIAS, which assisted them in finding housing in foster homes and orphanages.

Despite the fact that they all left Cuba after 1959, they have remained in contact since. Most of these individuals will be celebrating their 60th birthday this year and are holding a reunion in Miami. It will be their first gathering as a group since they risked their lives in search of freedom and liberty to come to this great country that warmly accepted them with open arms. They are proud citizens and are very grateful for the opportunities they have enjoyed in this country such as freedom, peace and prosperity, opportunities that our brothers and sisters in Cuba do not enjoy. I am glad to see such a wonderful group of people committed to bringing freedom and democracy to Cuba.

Many members of the Cuban-American Jewish Community have had long and successful careers that span many years of outstanding service, dedication, hard work, devotion, and love for our country. They are successful parents, professionals, businessmen, community leaders and grandparents. I am proud to recognize the Cuban-American Jewish Community for their tireless dedication to

the well being of our South Florida residents. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Cuban-American Jewish Community for their wonderful service to our great Nation.

Below, I have included the names of the individuals that are part of this distinguished group. In parentheses are the married names of the women.

Aliva Lipschitz (Mingel), Aron Lew, Becky Gol (Eshkenazy), Berta Perelmuter (Faigenblat), Betty Kozolchyk (Savariego), Cecilia Lurie (Berenthal), David Vainstein, Eli Bick, Enrique Bekerman, Enrique Goldberg, Zolia Eva Becker (Don), Gela Arber (Altman), Isidoro Stein, Jacobo Fridzon, Jacobo Rydz, Jose Kluger, Joseph Roisman, Judy Derechinsky (Feder), Leon Kopel, Leon Papir, Luis Kosobucki, Luis Lidsky, Luisa Kopel, Manny Feinstein, Marcos Kerbel, Mark Faigenblat, Moises Golobovich, Nicky Vaserstein, Perla Radlow (Stein), Polita Rubinstein (Chyzyk), Rebeca Rosenzweig (Shapiro), Rebecca Roth (Glinsky), Richard Novigrod, Ruth Silber (Kurkin), Sara Hochman (Zands), Sarita Zditowsky (Blaugrund), Tere Treibich (Ben Hain), Toni Rosenberg (Taubenfeld), Vivian Celniker (Mechaber).

I would also like to recognize the loving memory of those who are no longer with us: Salomon Milner and Alberto Rabinsky.

HOWARD JUNIOR COLLEGE WINS REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. RANDY NEUGEBAUER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2006

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Howard College for winning the NJCAA Region V Championship on March 12, 2006. Head coach Mark Adams led the Hawks to an 81–71 victory over their arch rival, Midland College, in spectacular fashion. With this victory, the Hawks have earned their first trip to the NJCAA National Tournament since 1969.

Even greater than their triumph on the court, the Hawks have overcome many obstacles and trials along the way. Last year, Howard sophomore Dezmon Harris lost his mother in the same week his team lost the Regional Championship game to Midland. With fierce determination and an unyielding desire to win, Harris led his team to victory this year and showed why he was recently named WJCAAC Player of the Year.

Since 1945, Howard College has been a beacon of education in my district. It brings me great pleasure to honor the athletic achievements of an institution that continues to be a leader in educating the young people of West Texas.

TRIBUTE TO MS. BEA'S COMMUNITY READING PROGRAM

HON. CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR.

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2006

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize a community reading program in Crowley, Louisiana founded by Joey Webb.

Ms. Bea's Community Reading Program organizes 20 community volunteers each week

to visit Ross Elementary School and work for half an hour in each of the four first grade classrooms. These patient and caring volunteers work one on one with the students to help them learn to read and improve their reading skills. To ensure the effort isn't just one day a week at school, the program issues each student a weekly reader to practice at home. In addition, the volunteers serve as valuable role models and inspire the students to continue learning and staying in school.

The faculty at Ross Elementary has commented that the impact of the program is improving the entire school. Although the program is focused on the first grade, students in the other grades have taken notice of the community members coming to the school. Students are working harder, classroom behavior has improved and they are more focused on schoolwork.

Earlier this year, I participated in the program and visited with several classrooms and spoke with them about the importance of learning to read and attending school. These young students are the future of Louisiana. As our state rebuilds from the devastation caused by two hurricanes it is now more important than ever that we inspire our youth to work to improve and contribute to our great state.

I want to congratulate Joey Webb and the citizens of Crowley on their dedication and spirit to help others in the community.

PEACE BETWEEN TAIWAN AND CHINA

HON. JOHN ABNEY CULBERSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2006

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Speaker, on February 27, 2006, Taiwan's President Chen Shui-bian declared that Taiwan's Unification Council will cease to function and the National Unification Guidelines will no longer apply. This decision was made in an effort to guarantee Taiwan's freedom from communist China and its people's right to democratically choose their own future.

Since peace in the Taiwan Strait is critical to all nations in the region and military confrontation must be avoided, I urge China to suspend its jingoistic rhetoric towards Taiwan, rescind the Anti-Secession Law enacted last spring, and dismantle the hundreds of missiles targeted at Taiwan.

Furthermore, on the first anniversary of the passage of China's Anti-Secession Law and the tenth anniversary of The Taiwan Strait Missile Crisis, it is time for a meaningful dialogue between the communist Chinese leaders and the democratically elected leadership in Taiwan in order to find a peaceful resolution to their differences.

TRIBUTE TO SUSAN BAILEY-SCOTT, CARE AWARD RECIPIENT

HON. THELMA D. DRAKE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2006

Mrs. DRAKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Susan Bailey-Scott of Virginia Beach,

Virginia, upon receiving the Commonwealth Academy Recognition for Educators (CARE) Award.

The CARE award honors outstanding educators who work to enhance the lives of their students. This year's honorees are recognized for their unrelenting work to enhance the lives of the students they serve. It is presented by Commonwealth Academy, located in Alexandria, Virginia, and honors those committed to diverse learning throughout the nation. Susan Bailey-Scott, a middle school math teacher at Ruffner Academy in Norfolk, Virginia, is honored for her work in promoting diverse learners in the spirit of the No Child Left Behind Act.

Ms. Bailey-Scott has been teaching for nine years, including two years in Japan. She received her B.A. in Business Administration from James Madison University and her master's in Education from Old Dominion University. Ms. Bailey-Scott also has completed some post-graduate work at Old Dominion and William and Mary.

Ms. Bailey-Scott is the Math Department Chair at Ruffner, and she is very active in teacher training. She has been a cooperating teacher with both Norfolk State University and Old Dominion University teacher candidates and has been a presenter at numerous education conferences.

Ms. Bailey Scott has won a variety of awards for teaching, including Who's Who Among America's Teachers and Norfolk Public Schools District Teacher of the Year.

I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding Susan Bailey-Scott and congratulating her on this distinguished achievement.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WEBSTER VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2006

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 100th Anniversary of the founding of the Webster Volunteer Fire Department. Fifteen courageous citizens formed this outstanding and brave fire department on March 23, 1906. Since its inception, the department has had over 850 faithful volunteers that have protected the communities of East Webster, Village of Webster, and North East Penfield.

Today, the Webster Volunteer Fire Department has a membership of 140 brave firefighters who on average respond to 1200 calls per year. These calls for aid range from fires, accidents, emergency medical care and service calls; all showing the departments ability to assist the varying needs of the communities they proudly serve. In addition to their heroic tasks, the department also provides fire prevention programs, CPR and first aid training for all citizens. The Webster Fire Department also works closely with various neighborhood groups such as local Boy Scout troops, Girl Scout troops, and various other groups.

In honoring their 100th anniversary, the Webster Fire Department will begin its celebration with a Founders Banquet, followed by a gigantic Carnival and Parade for the entire community.

I stand here today proud of the services these brave men and women provide our area. Their strong tradition of service and bravery has kept our citizens safe over the past century. I personally thank the Webster Volunteer Fire Department and thank them for their past service as well as the next 100 years that lie ahead.

HONORING THE LIFE AND CAREER
OF JACK B. MCCONNELL, MD

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2006

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the American Medical Association has established a new honor, the Jack B. McConnell, MD, Award for Excellence in Volunteerism, which recognizes the work of a senior physician who provides treatment to U. S. patients who lack access to health care. After a full career of practice, this physician remains dedicated to the future of medicine through the spirit of volunteerism.

Jack B. McConnell, MD, is a distinguished physician and scientist who served as Corporate Director of Advanced Technology at Johnson & Johnson. Widely acknowledged for his medical contributions, he directed the development of the TB Tine Test used in the detection of tuberculosis, participated in the early stages of the development of the Polio Vaccine, supervised the discovery of Tylenol, was instrumental in developing the technology for MRI's and helped write the enabling legislation to map the genome.

Dr. McConnell saved his greatest achievement for retirement: the creation of Volunteers in Medicine. His visionary concept—using retired medical personnel to volunteer their time and talents in a network of free community clinics for the working uninsured—coupled with his enthusiasm and determination has enabled the VIM program to grow to over 40 clinics in less than a decade. The initial VIM clinic was opened on Hilton Head Island, South Carolina, and continues to serve with over 20,000 patient visits in 2005.

Today, I am honored to recognize the tremendous life and career of Dr. McConnell. His service has benefited so many citizens throughout the Second District of South Carolina.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FEDERAL
JUDICIAL FAIRNESS ACT OF 2006

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2006

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the "Federal Judicial Fairness Act of 2006"—bipartisan legislation to correct the current inequity in our compensation system for federal judges. I am pleased that Representative JUDY BIGGERT has joined me in this effort, as we both serve as Co-Chairs of the Congressional Caucus on the Judicial Branch.

Mr. Speaker, the federal judiciary is an integral part of our democracy, providing an im-

portant check to the other branches and protecting the rights of the American people. However, if certain steps are not taken, we risk compromising the quality of our judiciary. The salary of federal judges has decreased by almost 40 percent since 1969 compared with the private sector. Consequently, judges have been leaving the federal bench in increasing numbers, many before reaching retirement age, and a large proportion leaving to work for private law firms.

Members of Congress, for a variety of reasons, have determined that it would not be appropriate to give themselves pay raises on an annual basis. Since judicial salary increases for justices and judges are linked with the salaries of Members of Congress, federal judges have also been denied a cost-of-living adjustment in the 5 of the last 13 years that Congress voted to deny themselves one.

Several reports over the last few years have specifically recommended that salary adjustments for Members and judicial officials be determined separately. In 2003, a report by the National Commission on the Public Service (the Volcker Commission), cited "the compelling need to recruit and retain the best people possible" to serve on the federal judiciary and urged Congress to move on "an immediate and substantial increase in judicial salaries," since "the lag in judicial salaries has gone on too long, and the potential for the diminished quality in American jurisprudence is now too large."

The late Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, William Rehnquist, also frequently stated that inadequate compensation seriously compromises the judicial independence fostered by life tenure and risks affecting judicial performance. His views were recently echoed by new Chief Justice Roberts in his Year-End Report where he stated the following:

"There will always be a substantial difference in pay between successful government and private sector lawyers. But if that difference remains too large—as it is today—the judiciary will over time cease to be made up of a diverse group of the Nation's very best lawyers. Instead, it will come to be staffed by a combination of the independently wealthy and those following a career path before becoming a judge different from the practicing bar at large. Such a development would dramatically alter the nature of the federal judiciary."

The "Federal Judicial Fairness Act of 2006" will address this issue and restore equity. Specifically, the bill provides for the following:

1. Termination of Linkage to Congressional Pay—the bill terminates the linkage of congressional pay increase to judicial pay increases, so that Congress's decision to deny itself pay raises will not also place that burden on Federal judges.

2. Partial Catch-Up Increase in Judicial Compensation—the bill increases the salaries of all Federal judges by 16.5 percent, to partially make up for the decline in real pay for judges over the last three decades. In 2003, both President Bush and the late Chief Justice Rehnquist agreed that a pay adjustment of at least 16.5 percent was needed.

3. Annual Cost-of-Living Adjustments—the bill would provide Federal judges with annual cost-of-living adjustments based on the Employee Cost Index, the index already used by the Federal Government to keep Federal salaries in line with inflation.

This important legislation has been introduced in the Senate by Senators FEINSTEIN, LEAHY, and KERRY. Mr. Speaker, if Congress does not provide reasonable compensation adjustments nor address the growing pay disparity between judges and other members of the legal profession, the quality of our judiciary will be compromised.

RECOGNIZING THE OUTSTANDING
SERVICE OF GENERAL WAYNE
DOWNING (RET.) BEING THE RE-
CIPIENT OF THE GENERAL AL-
EXANDER M. HAIG "GUARDIAN
OF LIBERTY AWARD" BY THE
WEST POINT SOCIETY

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2006

Mr. FITZPATRICK of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, on March 18th, the West Point Society recognized the outstanding service of General Wayne Downing (Ret.) by awarding him the General Alexander M. Haig "Guardian of Liberty Award," an honor that is presented to select individuals who exemplify West Point's motto of "Duty, Honor, and Country." I want to take a moment and recognize General Downing's contribution to the United States Army as well as the security of our nation.

General Wayne A. Downing, U.S. Army (Retired) is a graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point where he earned a Bachelors of Science degree in 1962. General Downing also holds an M.B.A. from Tulane University. A highly decorated combat veteran, General Downing served in a variety of command assignments in the infantry, armor, special operations, and joint units, culminating in his appointment as the Commander-in-Chief of the U.S. Special Operations Command. He saw combat during two tours in Vietnam and later as a general officer, Downing commanded the special operations of all services during the 1989 invasion of Panama and commanded a joint special operations task force operating deep behind the Iraqi lines during Operation Desert Storm.

After 34 years of service to the United States, General Downing continued to serve his nation after his retirement from the Army. He was appointed by the President to assess the 1996 terrorist attack on the U.S. base at Khobar Towers in Saudi Arabia. From 1999–2000, General Downing served as member of the Congressionally mandated National Commission on Terrorism, known as the Bremer Commission. And most recently, he served the White House as National Director and Deputy National Security Advisor for Combating Terrorism.

There is no question that General Downing's service to the United States is a tribute to patriotism and dedication to service. I now want to read into the RECORD a letter written by the superintendent of General Downing's alma mater, West Point in recognition of his being awarded the "Guardian of Liberty Award." The letter, from Lt. General William Lennox reads:

DEAR GENERAL DOWNING: Congratulations on receiving the General Alexander M. Haig, Jr., Guardian of Liberty Award. All of us at the United States Military Academy are

proud of your many achievements. Your career of distinguished service is a tribute to your professionalism as an officer and leader of character to the nation. Your accomplishments, past and present, are exceptionally well known. Your receipt of this award is yet another confirmation by the West Point Society of Philadelphia and the Long Gray Line that you have been an outstanding role model for us all. For you, the words from our Alma Mater ring true, "May it be said, well done!" The Corps of cadets, staff and faculty and the entire West Point community wish you the very best in the years ahead.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM J. LENNOX, Jr.
Lieutenant General, U.S. Army
Superintendent.

Congratulations, General Downing.

RECOGNIZING MR. MARCO
ANTONIO FIREBAUGH

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2006

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the life of Marco Antonio Firebaugh. Marco Antonio Firebaugh was a former California state Assemblyman and a tireless advocate for working families.

Mr. Firebaugh was an advocate for millions of Californians who have no voice in government. He represented the 50th Assembly District in southeast Los Angeles from 1998 to 2004 before leaving office due to term limits. Mr. Firebaugh was appointed Assembly Majority Floor Leader in 2002 and chaired the California Latino Legislative Caucus from 2002–04. His achievements on behalf of the people of Los Angeles significantly improved their day-to-day quality of life.

Perhaps Mr. Firebaugh's most notable accomplishment was the passage of his legislation to allow students living in California to pay in-state tuition to California state colleges and universities regardless of their immigration status. During his time in the Assembly, Mr. Firebaugh's work also included a bill directing state air quality funding toward low-income communities heavily affected by pollution. At the time of his death, Mr. Firebaugh was a candidate for the state Senate in the 30th District, in southeast Los Angeles County.

I want to extend my sincere condolences to the family and friends of Marco Antonio Firebaugh—a man who so passionately fought to improve the lives of those he was elected to serve. Mr. Firebaugh is survived by his two children, Tlalli Ariana and Nicolas Andres, his mother, Carmen Ramos Garcia, brothers Carlos and Jesse, and sisters Cecilia and Esmeralda.

TRIBUTE ON THE OCCASION OF
THE 185TH ANNIVERSARY OF
GREEK INDEPENDENCE

HON. MICHAEL R. McNULTY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2006

Mr. McNULTY. Mr. Speaker, the American people join with the people of Greece in celebrating the 185th Anniversary of the revolution

that freed the Greek people from the Ottoman Empire.

The bedrock of our close relationship with Greece is our mutual devotion to freedom and democracy and our unshakable determination to fight, if need be, to protect these rights.

Greek philosophers and political leaders—Cleisthenes and Pericles and their successors—had great influence upon America's Founding Fathers in their creation of these United States.

We, as a nation, owe a great debt to Greece. Greece is the birthplace of democracy, as we know it.

Thomas Jefferson said, "To the ancient Greeks, we are all indebted for the light which led ourselves (American colonists) out of Gothic darkness."

The terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 were an attack on democracy and freedom—not just against our people, but also against all freedom-loving people everywhere in the world. The Greek people understand this.

I congratulate the people of Greece and wish them a Happy National Birthday.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DR. HERMAN
ASH

HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2006

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great man, a great American, and a great friend of mine, Dr. Herman Ash, who passed away in Saugerties, New York at the age of 96 earlier this month. I have had the pleasure of knowing Dr. Ash for most of my life, since he treated me for a football injury in high school.

After fleeing Germany in 1937, Dr. Ash and his wife, also a doctor, settled in Saugerties and opened a medical practice. What many will remember most about Dr. Herman Ash, in addition to his medical practice, was his love of music. Dr. Ash was an accomplished pianist and violinist and enriched the small town of Saugerties with music that he played, composed, and taught. In addition to his own musical talents, he brought the Saugerties Pro Musica to town in 1995. This organization continues to host regular performances each year.

Not only was Dr. Ash's service to his community commendable, he was a true American. Endearing to the country that gave him refuge in 1937, Dr. Ash joined the U.S. Army and served as a captain in the European Theater of Operations during World War II. He was also a member of the Lamouree-Hackett Post #72 American Legion for over 60 years, most of which he served as the Post's medical officer.

Dr. Herman Ash's commitment to service to his community is something to be celebrated. Over his lifetime he tutored young musicians in Saugerties, was a literacy volunteer, taught English as a Second Language classes, volunteered for the Heart Association, the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society and the Juvenile Diabetes Association, a cause near and dear to my own heart.

Words cannot express the gratitude and appreciation felt by those whose lives, including my own, Dr. Ash touched. The world would be a much better place if everyone gave back to

others just a fraction of what Dr. Ash gave throughout his life. My thoughts and prayers remain with the family and friends of this great man.

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND WILBERT
LEO DANIELS

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2006

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the late Reverend Wilbert Leo Daniels and his brother the late Reverend Cooper Darryl Daniels for their dedication and service to the elderly and non-elderly disabled citizens of our community.

During his tenure as pastor of the Greater Jerusalem Baptist Church, Reverend W. Leo Daniels secured the funding from the Department of Housing and Urban Development to begin development of an eight story housing facility in Northeast Houston. His dream of constructing a home for the elderly and handicapped was realized after his death under the guidance of his brother, Reverend Cooper Darryl Daniels.

The W. Leo Daniels Towers were dedicated in 1979 and have maintained nearly full occupancy for 27 years. The Towers, located at 8826 Harrell, Houston Texas consist of 100 units and serve to assist residents in their daily independent lifestyles. The residents are offered a variety of services including a beauty shop, a washateria and a cafeteria with a central dining room that accommodates 299 persons. The Towers also offer a remedial education class that is supported through the Houston Community College.

The W. Leo Daniels Towers has become a powerful influence among the residents and the Northeast Houston Community alike. In 2002, a computer literacy lab with bi-weekly classes was opened for all the residents and Northeast Community population to attend. The Towers have also collaborated with the Houston Food Bank and with the United Way of Houston Gifts to provide access to food, furniture, office supplies and clothing for its residents.

The solidarity of the Greater Jerusalem Baptist Church membership and the united efforts of all concerned have made the dream of Reverend W. Leo Daniels a reality. The Towers have helped fill the need of so many in the Northeast Houston Community, and I ask that we all honor this great achievement and pay tribute to those that are responsible for its success.

RECOGNIZING ACADEMY NOMINEES FOR 2005 FROM THE 8TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2006

Mr. FITZPATRICK of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, since 1830, Members of Congress have had the great honor and privilege of nominating outstanding young men and

women to our military academies. Each year, I have the opportunity to meet students who have excelled in both their academic fields as well as their extracurricular activities. Each of these fine young men and women would excel at our finest private and public universities; however, they all share a singular distinction that separates them from their peers—they all share a deep commitment to their communities and their nation and so, they seek nomination to our prestigious military academies.

This year the nominating board interviewed over 60 superb applicants from the 8th District of Pennsylvania to our service academies and I want to take time to recognize each one of them by name. I think it is also proper to acknowledge the board members who had the arduous job of interviewing so many exceedingly qualified students that the 8th District has to offer. I congratulate these students on their commitment and dedication. They all make our nation and our world a better place.

ACADEMY NOMINEES FOR 2005 FROM THE 8TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA:

United States Military Academy: Rocco C. Boccuti of Doylestown, Bronne Joseph Bruzgo, Jr. of Yardley, Evan Alexander Cumming of Yardley, Andrew Curtis Detwiler of Souderton, Thomas R. Dunn of Chalfont, David Edison Geib of Telford, William Paul Herbert of Dresher, Andrew Kim of Dresher, Charles Kenneth Ridge, Jr. of Langhorne, Alexander C. Shelby of Morrisville, and William Warren Zuber, Jr. of Newtown.

United States Naval Academy: Eamon Emmett Coleman of Yardley, Carli Ann Dimino of New Hope, William Edwin Doar of Langhorne, Thomas Michael Kane of Doylestown, Rachael Elizabeth Koehler of Perkasio, Van Gordon Lawson of Doylestown, Aaron Christopher Marchant of Doylestown, Stephen William Ullrich, Jr. of Southampton, Andrew Ventresca of Chalfont, and William Warren Zuber, Jr. of Newtown.

United States Air Force Academy: Kathryn Leigh Aden of Newtown, Bronne Joseph Bruzgo, Jr. of Yardley, Evan Alexander Cumming of Yardley, Andrew Curtis Detwiler of Souderton, Jason Robert Hallenbeck of Upper Black Eddy, Jacob Cody Hunt of Morrisville, Andrew Kim of Dresher, Daniel Andrew Lusardi of Holland, and Philip Michael Smith of Doylestown.

United States Merchant Marine Academy: Jacqueline Elizabeth Bors of Willow Grove, Bronne Joseph Bruzgo, Jr. of Yardley, Evan Alexander Cumming of Yardley, John Anderson Geating of Roslyn, Stefan Nordtveit of Newtown, Haley Rae Wallace of Doylestown, and William Warren Zuber, Jr. of Newtown.

USMA Board Members: Mr. Joseph R. Barkley '65, Mr. Scott Belveal '92, Mr. Dan Caraccio '84, LTC Willis C. Collett Jr. '58, Ms. Elizabeth W. Fineburg, Mr. Alex Gorsky '82, Mr. Frederick R. Gudknecht, Mr. Paul Pryor. USMA-MALC: Mr. Kevin J. Wallace '84, Mr. Robert J. Welch '84.

USNA Board Members: Adm. Steven Chadwick, USN, Mr. James J. Gormley, Jr., Mrs. Barbara Z. Kolbe, Col. Tom Manion, USMC, Dr. Jonathan W. McCullough, Captain Dave Stacy, USN, Mrs. Suzanne M. Twiggs, Captain R. A. "Skip" Wiegand, USN, (Ret.).

USFA Board Members: Col. Harris H. Brooks, USAFR, Mr. Bob Campbell, Lt. Col. Janice B. Cope, USAFR (Ret.), Lt. Col. Sue DeGiovanni, USAFR, Lt. Col. Vincent DeGiovanni, USAFR, Maj. Wayne Fowler, USAFR, Mr. Raymond Fresella, Mr. Eugene Schaefer, Jr.

HAND-IN-HAND

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2006

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Hand-in-Hand, an organization that seeks to break down barriers by uniting the entire Saint Joseph's University community, area volunteers, and the disabled communities of the tri-state region. Saint Joseph's University was founded by the Society of Jesus in 1851 and is home to 3,450 full-time undergraduates and 2,900 graduate and nontraditional students. The University's strong liberal arts tradition is marked by rigorous and open-minded inquiry, high academic standards, and the development of the whole person.

Hand-in-Hand was founded by George Carasiti, a Saint Joseph's of 1978 graduate. Hand-in-Hand brings to campus approximately 450 area people with mental and physical handicaps and 750 local high school students who have volunteered to be their buddies for the day. The high school students also pair with Saint Joseph's students from various campus organizations, sports teams, and fraternities and sororities who in turn, run game booths, play music, and serve as mascots and buddies for their annual event.

Hand-in-Hand earned a 1988 Presidential Citation from the White House Office of Private Sector Initiatives for "outstanding contributions to the American spirit of volunteerism and community action." Also honored by the Montgomery County Association for Retarded Citizens and the Elwyn Institute, Hand-in-Hand is the model for similar festivals at 10 other colleges and universities, including the University of Scranton, Johns Hopkins University, and Georgetown University. Additionally Saint Joseph's Office of Student Leadership and Activities named Hand-in-Hand the best student organization in 2000 and again in 2004.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in honoring Hand-in-Hand for their efforts to change the mindsets, open hearts, enrich lives, and break down the barriers of fears and ignorance that have isolated people with disabilities from the rest of American society.

RECOGNIZING PECO INC.'S DESIGNATION AS BOEING'S "SUPPLIER OF THE YEAR"

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2006

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize the accomplishments of PECO Inc., a company that operates in Oregon's 3rd Congressional District and has been in business for nearly 70 years.

PECO Inc. has received Boeing's "Supplier of the Year" honor for the Interiors category. This distinguished award highlights the value of efficient, professional companies with long histories in this region.

PECO Inc. employs more than 200 people, and has previously won the Boeing President's Award in 1988 and the Outstanding Performance Award in 1994, as well as similar awards from IBM, Raytheon, Control Data, Varian, and Storage Technology. The employ-

ees at PECO Inc., have earned a high honor for the region.

HONORING UNITED STATES COAST GUARD COMMANDER NEIL L. NICKERSON

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2006

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor United States Coast Guard Commander Neil Nickerson and to commemorate his illustrious career of dedicated service to our nation.

Commander Nickerson graduated from the Coast Guard Officer Candidate School in March 1984. Since then, he has served a wide range of tours taking him from the Atlantic, to the Pacific, through the Panama Canal, across the Equator and into the Arctic Circle.

During his first tour in Miami Beach, Florida, Commander Nickerson assisted with search, rescue and recovery for the tragic Space Shuttle Challenger explosion. He then served in Guam and Alameda, California, where he began law enforcement missions ranging from drug interdiction to fishery regulation. Several years later, Commander Nickerson began service as Coast Guard Liaison Officer to the San Diego, California Navy Fleet Training Group. From there, he became Commanding Officer of USCGC *Liberty* in Alaska.

Over the course of these tours, Commander Nickerson distinguished himself as an outstanding officer, earning the respect of his peers and superiors alike. Based on these merits, in 1995 he was one of the elite few selected to attend post-graduate education at the Naval War College. Upon completion of this rigorous coursework, he began service in the Budget Office of Coast Guard Headquarters in Washington, DC.

Soon thereafter, Commander Nickerson assumed the position of Executive Officer of the USCGC *Alex Haley* in Alaska. During his tenure, he oversaw the complete refurbishing of the former US Navy ship. Commander Nickerson then led the USCGC *Alex Haley* on its maiden voyage from the Naval shipyard in Philadelphia through the Panama Canal and up to Kodiak, Alaska. Following this tour, Commander Nickerson began service as Executive Officer of the USCGC *Jarvis* in Honolulu, Hawaii, where he continues to serve today.

This year, Commander Nickerson will retire from 22 years of service to the US Coast Guard. Throughout his accomplished career, Commander Nickerson has kept with the highest traditions of the US Coast Guard and serves as an inspiration to us all. In recognition of his exceptional performance of duty, Commander Nickerson has been awarded six Coast Guard Commendation Medals with Operational Distinguishing Device on all. On the occasion of his retirement, the US Coast Guard also will be awarding him the Meritorious Service Medal. This prestigious honor recognizes officers that have demonstrated expert knowledge, effective management and outstanding leadership.

I ask that my colleagues join me in commending this dedicated public servant and in congratulating him on a well-deserved retirement.

HONORING NORTON PARKER
CHIPMAN AT THE UNIVERSITY
OF CINCINNATI COLLEGE OF
LAW

HON. STEVE CHABOT

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2006

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Norton Parker Chipman, an esteemed graduate of the Cincinnati Law School. On April 4, 2006, his memory will be honored as the newly ordained namesake for the Norton Parker Chipman Federalist Society for Law and Public Policy Studies located at the University of Cincinnati College of Law.

Norton Parker Chipman led a distinguished life, including time spent as a United States Congressman, author, first presiding justice of California's Third District Court of Appeal, and perhaps, most notably, a Civil War hero. Seriously injured and reported as dead at Fort Donelson in 1862, Chipman's bravery and resolve was rewarded with an assignment to President Abraham Lincoln's staff at Gettysburg. As judge advocate, Chipman's successful prosecution of Captain Henry Wirz, commander of the Confederacy's infamous Andersonville war prison camp, earned him a spot on the platform at Gettysburg next to his close friend President Lincoln while the President delivered his famous Gettysburg Address.

Among several of his accolades, Chipman also was a co-founder of the Grand Army of the Republic and authored the order creating Memorial Day. He was appointed as the first presiding justice of California's Third District Court of Appeal in 1905 and served honorably until his retirement in 1921. To this date, Chipman remains the longest serving presiding justice of the court.

It gives me great pleasure to recognize Norton Parker Chipman for his contributions to our country, and I am pleased that his legacy is being commemorated at the University of Cincinnati College of Law.

TRIBUTE TO MR. M. BRIAN MAHER

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2006

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to your attention to the life and work of an outstanding individual whom I feel fortunate to call my friend, Mr. M. Brian Maher. He was honored on Tuesday, March 7, 2006, at the 13th Annual Archbishop's Business and Labor Recognition ceremony, under the auspices of the Newark (NJ) Archdiocese.

Mr. Maher is Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Maher Terminals, Inc., a major marine terminal in the Port of New York/New Jersey, as well as a supplier of state-of-the-art marine terminal computer services and software. Mr. Maher, who has been in the business for 35 years, carries on in the tradition of

his revered father, who founded Maher Terminals after serving in World War II.

A graduate of the Ohio State University and a lifetime resident of New Jersey, Mr. Maher is currently a member of the board of trustees of NJN Foundation, and of St. Peter's College. He serves as director of the New York Shipping Association and as director and officer of the United States Maritime Alliance, Ltd.

Mr. Maher has been chosen to receive numerous service awards, including the Ninth Annual Labor Award, from New Jersey's State AFL-CIO, "Person of the Year 2001" from New York/New Jersey Foreign Freight Forwarders and Brokers Association, Inc., the International Maritime Hall of Fame Lookout Award, the Admiral of the Ocean Sea Award for distinguished service to American ships and American seafarers, and the Bi-State Harbor Carriers Conference of NJMTA award for being the individual who has contributed most towards bolstering the image of the Port Community.

Additionally, Mr. Maher is past chairman of the New Jersey State Chamber of Commerce, past member of the Board of Overseers, New Jersey Institute of Technology, and past vice-chair of St. Peter's College Board of Trustees. Mr. Maher is a past member of the board of directors of the Regional Business Partnership, the Regional Plan Association and the Union County Alliance. He served as president and member of the Board of Directors of the National Association of Waterfront Employers and is a past director of the National Maritime Safety Association. Originally, appointed by Governor Christine Todd Whitman, Mr. Maher served on the Dredged Materials Management Team, formed to ensure the viability of the Port of New York/New Jersey, and to protect the environment. He also served on the Dredging Project Facilitation Task Force.

Brian remains happily married to Sandra, with whom he has two children, Amanda and Michael. Throughout his life, his generosity to charitable causes, and Catholic schools in particular has been admirable. It gives me great pleasure to honor such an upstanding individual.

Mr. Speaker, the job of a United States Congressman involves so much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to recognizing the efforts of fine citizens like Mr. M. Brian Maher. I ask that you join residents of New Jersey, the employees of Maher Terminals, Inc., Mr. Maher's family and friends and me, in recognizing M. Brian Maher for his years of outstanding service to the citizens of our Great State of New Jersey.

HONORING SALME HARJU
STEINBERG

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2006

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Salme Harju Steinberg, President of Northeastern Illinois University. President Steinberg recently announced that she will retire from the University in 2007, ending over thirty years of distinguished service to the university.

President Steinberg began at Northeastern Illinois University as a professor of history in

1975. She went on to serve as both Department Chair and Administrator. For the past eleven years, she served as President of NEIU.

Under President Steinberg's leadership, NEIU experienced an increase in enrollment and marked improvements in the academic and cultural opportunities available to its students. President Steinberg's intelligent stewardship and forward thinking have resulted in increased funding for academic programs and improved financial assistance for students.

President Steinberg has also demonstrated a commitment to assist first generation college students. Today, Northeastern University can boast a minority enrollment of over 60 percent, with as many as forty-seven languages spoken across the campus.

In addition to the breadth of diversity President Steinberg has worked to introduce, she also developed heritage programming to deepen the cultural education and appreciation of NEIU students, including an innovative study abroad program.

Mr. Speaker, President Salme Harju Steinberg's many contributions to Northeastern Illinois University will always be remembered, and her dedication will continue to benefit NEIU students long after her retirement. I wish her the best in all of her future endeavors.

CELEBRATING LTC HARRY GAUNT
AS VETERAN OF THE YEAR 2006

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2006

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the announcement of the Joint Veterans Committee of Maryland's Veteran of the Year 2006. The Joint Veterans Committee of Maryland is an active organization that focuses on military veteran legislation on the local, State and Federal level. Recently, they elected LTC Harry Gaunt, United States Army, retired, for this prestigious award because of the contributions he has made to this great Nation.

Lieutenant Colonel Gaunt was active for 22 years in the Armed Forces, serving in WWII, as well as the Korea and Vietnam wars. Because of his tremendous determination, steadfastness, and perseverance, he received the Army Commendation Medal; Good Conduct Medal with Cluster; American Defense Service Medal; American Campaign Medal; Asiatic Pacific Medal; World War II Victory Medal; Army Occupation Medal; National Defense Service Medal; Korean Service Medal; Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal; Republic of Vietnam Service Medal; Philippine Liberation Medal; and two Presidential Unit Citations.

Even after retirement, Lieutenant Colonel Gaunt remained active in military life through veterans' organizations. Among these organizations he took active leadership roles confirming his dedication to the United States Armed Forces. Through the Wells McComas Post 2678 VFW, Gaunt completed two terms as All State post commander and also the VFW District 14 commander. He served as the chairman of the Buddy Poppy Contest for the Department of Maryland Veterans of Foreign Wars, chairman of the Citizenship, Education and Community Activities Committee, and

chairman of the Department of Veterans Service Committee. Most recently, he continued his leadership role as a delegate of the Joint Veterans Committee of Maryland.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join with me in celebrating the outstanding commitment Lieutenant Colonel Gaunt has made to the United States of America. Lieutenant Gaunt used his leadership skills and the vast knowledge gained from active duty to continue serving his county. LTC Harry Gaunt is truly deserving of our thanks and appreciation for the contributions he has made throughout his career.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT
OF MAYOR JOHN THOMAS

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2006

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor for me to rise today to recognize the retirement of John Thomas from the office of mayor of the city of Mary Esther, FL.

Throughout his entire career, John has been unquestionably devoted to serving his country. In 1952, he joined the United States Air Force and began a career that would extend over 40 years. Through Air Force bases across the Nation and around the world, he was in charge of coordinating essential services for our soldiers, especially in the area of transportation. As the chief of services for a United States Air Force Base in Spain from 1989 to 1994, John aided his country in time of war as his base provided support to Operation Desert Storm 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

After retiring from the Air Force in 1994, John and his wife returned to the United States and decided to take up residence in Mary Esther, a city in my district in Northwest Florida. Never tiring, John became involved with the City Council within 2 years, and shortly thereafter took over a vacated seat on the council. After an unsuccessful run for mayor of Mary Esther, John persisted and was elected to the mayor's office in 2000.

For three terms, John Thomas served as the mayor of Mary Esther. He dedicated his energy, as he had before, toward making his city the best place to live. John is well-known for the efforts he put forth toward that goal. From 2003 to 2004, he also served as president of the Northwest Florida League of Cities, where he shared his insights with others and looked at ways he could better aid and lead the city of Mary Esther.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I commend Mayor John Thomas for his excellent leadership in Northwest Florida and for his selfless service to our Nation. The city of Mary Esther has benefited greatly from his service, and I wish him well in his retirement.

TRIBUTE TO MR. DON DILEO

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2006

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call your attention to the life and work of an

outstanding individual whom I feel fortunate to call my friend, Mr. Don DiLeo. He was honored on Tuesday, March 7, 2006, by the Archdiocese of Newark, NJ, at the 13th Annual Archbishop's Business and Labor Recognition ceremony.

Don DiLeo is president of Teamsters Local Union Number 408, which represents members in the building materials, heavy highway and construction industries. He was appointed as a business agent in 1969 and has served as president of the Local Union since 1980. In 1984, Don was appointed to the Executive Board of Teamsters Joint Council Number 73, which represents 60,000 members affiliated with 20 local unions in the State of New Jersey. Over the course of his tenure, he has served as both president and chairman of the Joint Council Number 73 Pension Fund, chairman of the North Jersey Construction Negotiations Committee for Teamsters, and contributing member of the New Jersey State Board of Mediation.

In 2005, the New Jersey Industrial Union Council honored Mr. DiLeo for a lifetime of distinguished service and significant contributions to the trade union movement. The following year, he was named as a vice president to the New Jersey State Building Construction Trades Council.

Under Mr. DiLeo's leadership, New Jersey Teamsters have become very active in many charities. He began an annual golf tournament to raise money for the Joint Council Number 73 Scholarship Fund, which awards grants to the children of council members for their college education. He formed the Joint Council Number 73 Food Bank Corporation, which provides food for striking or locked out union members. The Joint Council also works closely with the Community Food Bank of New Jersey on its Thanksgiving Turkey Drive and other projects. Additionally, in 2004, the council was awarded the Community Food Bank Distinguished Partner Award. Also, the Joint Council participates in the Ocean County Saint Patrick's Day Parade and annually donates a beach wheelchair to a shore town that contributes to the noteworthy event. The Joint Council sponsors the Australian Challenge "Trip of a Lifetime" group. Over the past 12 years, Challenge has arranged overseas trips to the United States for children who are seriously ill. The Joint Council and its affiliated locals have provided accommodations and transportation for the children to events, while they are visiting the metropolitan area. In addition, the Joint Council and its locals have remained prime supporters of Camp Fatima, advancing the interests of handicapped children.

Don remains happily married to Jacqueline, his wife, with whom he has four children, Joseph, Donald, Jessica and Ralph. He is the proud grandfather of two.

Mr. Speaker, the job of a United States Congressman involves so much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to recognizing the efforts of committed citizens like Mr. Don DiLeo. I ask that you join residents of the Eighth Congressional District, the Borough of Flemington, members of the Teamsters Local Union Number 408, Mr. DiLeo's family and friends and me, in recognizing Don DiLeo for his years of distinguished service in representing the trade union movement.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF RAY MEYER

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2006

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with sadness to offer my condolences to the family and friends of Ray Meyer, who passed away recently at the age of 92. Ray Meyer was a loving husband and father, as well as the face of college basketball in Chicago since 1942.

Best known as the legendary head coach of the DePaul University Blue Demons basketball team from 1942 until his retirement in 1984, Coach Meyer's success while roaming the sidelines rates him among the greatest coaches college basketball has ever seen.

Meyer led the Blue Demons to 37 winning seasons and 724 overall victories, and his teams played in postseason tournaments 21 times. He mentored legendary players like George Mikan, Mark Aguirre and Terry Cummings. The entire country was captivated by Coach Meyer's team and his personality as the Blue Demons made a historic run to the Final Four in 1979. He subsequently led a series of number one ranked teams in the early 1980s and was enshrined in basketball's Hall of Fame before he even finished his coaching career.

Although these feats are impressive, he made an even bigger impact on the hearts and minds of his players, colleagues and fans. His grin and compassionate personality were among his most memorable traits. He taught his players important lessons about life as well as basketball.

In addition to being a dedicated coach, Ray Meyer was also a loving family man. His late wife had such a large impact on his life and DePaul University that the Blue Demons now play on Ray & Marge Meyer Court. His sons Tom and Bob played under his tutelage, and he groomed his son Joey to be his successor in 1984, where he would remain head coach until 1997. In the 55 years from Ray Meyer's first game as coach through the last Blue Demons game with Joey Meyer at the helm, Ray Meyer attended each of the 1,467 games they played.

Mr. Speaker, Coach Meyer left an indelible mark on everyone he touched. His oversized personality captivated generations of Chicagoans. The DePaul community, the city of Chicago, and all of basketball will always remember him.

RECOGNIZING PETTY OFFICER TERESA
RESA PADILLA AS THE BALTIMORE
AREA COAST GUARD PERSON
YEAR 2006

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2006

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise before you today to recognize Petty Officer Teresa Padilla as the Baltimore Area Coast Guard Person of the Year 2006.

Petty Officer Padilla is well known among her peers as being highly dedicated and loyal

to her post. Recently, she took on many more roles within the United States Coast Guard due to a shortage of staff. Under her leadership, the Outpatient Department of the Coast Guard was handled exceptionally well. She also supervised five corpsmen, assisted in the treating of 5,236 patients, assumed responsibility of the Leading Petty Officer, as well as excelled in her position as the Clinic's Supply Petty Officer.

Petty Officer Padilla has done exceptional work in the Baltimore Area Coast Guard. She accepted each new challenge with poise and dignity. According to her superiors, her positive outlook was infectious. The individuals under her management also kept an optimistic attitude in their daily routines. Petty Officer Padilla thrived in the new responsibilities she received.

Along with her work in the Coast Guard Yard Clinic, Petty Officer Padilla took an active role in setting up Nate's Open Door Baby Pantry. This organization supplies families with a wide range of materials including car seats and baby bottles. Petty Officer Padilla not only donated her personal time to assist this organization, but she also donated clean used clothes from her own children to provide assistance to families in need. Being a member of the Yard Morale Committee, Petty Officer Padilla graciously volunteered to assist at the Yard Christmas Children's Party as one of Santa's helpers.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join with me today to recognize the outstanding devotion and faithfulness Petty Officer Teresa Padilla has shown to the United States Coast Guard. Her loyalty and commitment to this country and its citizens deserves our unwavering gratitude.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2006

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I would like to offer a personal explanation of the reason I missed rollcall vote No. 56 on March 16, 2006. It was a Sabo amendment vote on H.R. 4939, the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense, the Global War on Terror, and Hurricane Recovery, 2006. I was detained and could not make it to the floor for this vote.

I respectfully request that it be entered into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD that if present, I would have voted rollcall vote No. 56, the amendment increasing spending by \$1.225 billion, increasing Customs and Border Protection by \$700 million, Coast Guard Operating Expenses by \$125 million, FEMA Regional Operations by \$300 million, and FEMA Preparedness funding by \$100 million, "nay."

MEMORIALIZING THE TWELVE MEMBERS OF B'NAI B'RITH INTERNATIONAL WHO PERISHED IN A TRAGIC BUS ACCIDENT

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2006

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, a few days ago on March 22nd, 12 Americans—all from B'nai B'rith International—a Jewish organization committed to fighting human rights abuses—lost their lives in a tragic bus accident in the mountains of Chile. What should have been a relaxing day excursion for these 12 senior citizens to Chile's beautiful Lauca National Park instead became a horrible nightmare as their tour bus tumbled more than 300 feet down a cliff, killing all but four on board. The driver of the bus remains under investigation as Chilean authorities try to determine the exact cause of the wreck.

As Chairman of the House International Relations Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere, I have visited Chile, and I know first hand its beautiful land and culture. I understand what drives Americans to visit this great country, and I am deeply saddened that this part of Chile will be forever marked by tragedy.

I know all the victims of this terrible tragedy will be sadly missed by all who knew and loved them. I respectfully ask my colleagues to join me in sending the deepest sympathies and heartfelt prayers to their families. May God bless them and help them get through this very difficult time.

TRIBUTE TO TOM LAURIN FOR EXCEPTIONAL PUBLIC SERVICE AS SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2006

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like today to pay tribute to a longtime public servant, Thomas R. Laurin, who has played a key role in improving the economy and quality of life for San Bernardino County over the past three decades as community development agency director.

Although Tom Laurin is not a native of San Bernardino, he moved there at a young age when his Air Force father came to Norton Air Force Base. He graduated from San Geronio High School (a rival of my alma mater, San Bernardino High) and received a bachelor's degree from California State University, San Bernardino.

After receiving his master's degree in Urban Geography at the University of Northern Colorado, Tom Laurin returned in 1977 to join the San Bernardino County Office of Community Development. He eventually became the Director of Community Development and Housing.

When Tom joined local government, San Bernardino County had 746,000 people and only two cities had more than 50,000 residents. Today, nearly 2 million people live in

San Bernardino County, and 14 cities include a population of more than 50,000—four have more than 150,000.

As my colleagues know, this kind of explosive growth brings tremendous challenges to local government. Urban problems like crime, dilapidated housing, and a lack of local amenities have all been confronted by the Community Development Agency.

Under the leadership of director Laurin, I believe the agency has more than met those challenges, and made the county by far a better place to live even as it has been one of the fastest growing areas in the nation. He has helped the county utilize \$188 million in federal grants, and secured \$750 million in tax-exempt affordable housing loans.

I have had the pleasure of working closely with Tom on the county's Neighborhood Initiative Program, designed to improve entire neighborhoods of low-cost housing. Working with the Department of Housing and Urban Development and Fannie Mae, the county took a \$15 million grant and rehabilitated neighborhoods in Redlands, Highland, San Bernardino and adjacent unincorporated areas.

More than 550 homes, many of them shuttered HUD foreclosures, were fixed up and are now owned by proud low- and moderate-income families. The program generated an additional \$12 million, which was reinvested. It has won numerous national awards.

Tom Laurin created the county's first Enterprise Zone, which has helped hundreds of businesses and thousands of employees gain economic success. He created the county's Enterprise Funding Corporation, which after 20 years is still assisting local business. And he oversaw creation of innovative financing and development programs that helped create for-profit businesses to dispose of millions of trees that had been killed by bark beetles in the San Bernardino Mountains.

More than 20 of Tom's projects have received awards from state and national organizations, as well as HUD Best Practices awards. He has served on many state and national boards, and is a sought-after speaker on community development issues. For five years, he has been a CSU San Bernardino professor on urban issues.

Mr. Speaker, after nearly 30 years of top-level public service, Tom Laurin will retire as Community Development Director in April. I ask you and my colleagues to please join me in thanking him for his work on behalf of the people of San Bernardino County, and wishing him well on his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO KORYNE HORBAL, DEE LONG AND VIVIAN JENKINS NELSEN

HON. MARTIN OLAV SABO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2006

Mr. SABO. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to take part in the celebration of National Women's History Month by recognizing accomplished leaders from the State of Minnesota: Koryne Horbal, Dee Long and Vivian Jenkins Nelsen.

Koryne Horbal has blazed a trail for gender equality in Minnesota and much beyond. Her

many leadership posts have included Chairwoman of the Democrat-Farmer-Labor (DFL) party, founder of the DFL Feminist Caucus, Democratic National Committee (DNC) Member representing Minnesota where she started the DNC's Women's Caucus. She also served as the U.S. Representative to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women. She served in the U.N. ambassadorial role for 4 years during the Carter Administration. During that time, she and Gloria Steinem became good friends and have since worked together on many projects.

Ms. Horbal has worked tirelessly on many issues, from women's rights to pay equity, from higher education to health care. She says there was one female Minnesota legislator when she began in politics and 17 when she stepped down as State Chairwoman. She led a study called Present but Powerless that examined the role of women in the DFL party and found women heavily involved but rarely in positions of power. While at the U.N., she was also partly responsible for the only treaty about women, the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women. The U.S. is the only industrialized country to have not signed it, she adds.

Ms. Horbal, now a consultant at the Women's Resource Center at Augsburg College, says she first got involved advancing women's rights when she realized how much women were left out of the process.

"I became a feminist one year when the party was deciding about which potential candidates would run for election," Horbal says. "Women weren't included in this discussion. That's what woke me up."

Dee Long charted new territory when she assumed leadership positions historically held by men. To date, not only was Ms. Long the first female Speaker of the Minnesota House of Representatives, she remains its only. She was also the first woman to chair a tax committee in the Minnesota Legislature, and was the first woman to chair a joint Senate/House committee.

Over the years, Ms. Long has taken the lead on many issues. But the ones that remain closest to her heart include environmental and tax issues. She helped lead the development of Minnesota's version of the Superfund legislation, where the polluter pays for hazardous waste cleanup. She also played a leading role in developing the Minnesota Livable Communities Act, which focuses on smart growth development. Today, Ms. Long works as the Director of the Environmental Tax and Incentive Program at Minnesotans for an Energy Efficient Economy.

As new women politicians entered the Legislature, she advised them to not simply go to committee meetings. Know the issue backwards and forwards, and be a leader, she'd tell them. Being knowledgeable about the issues before you creates respect. She also encouraged women to get involved in issues that weren't historically women's issues, such as taxes, justice, and others.

"If you know the issues, you'll have the respect," she says.

Vivian Jenkins Nelsen also has a long list of firsts among her accomplishments. She is the co-founder of INTER-RACE, a diversity think tank located at Augsburg College. She was a Bush Leadership Fellow at Harvard University, and is a nationally recognized diversity practitioner, trainer and researcher. She was the

first black woman graduate of Dana College in Nebraska. Further, she was the first black woman professor at Augsburg College, and first such administrator at the University of Minnesota. At the University of Minnesota, she served as Director of Human Relations Training as well as Director of Administration at the Hubert Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs.

Ms. Nelsen was always exposed to human and civil rights work growing up, and sees her work as an extension of her parents' efforts. "Then, they were trying to bring black people up. I am trying to help make corporate America and American policy ready and accepting of all people." Her father, a pastor in the Lutheran Church, worked for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and helped to organize the protest march to Selma. Ms. Nelsen recalls meeting with King as one of the critical moments that defined her path in life. She said when she met with a group of people with King, he focused his time and attention on her, because "a kid came before everything else." This is a sentiment to she has taken to heart herself.

Ms. Nelsen has consulted on race and gender issues for the Lutheran Church. She has also served as president of the Minnesota Women Equity Action League, which acted as the legal arm of the gender equality movement. Today at INTER-RACE, she works with Fortune 500 companies, nonprofits, and policy makers at all levels.

"My job is about helping people find their voice about justice," Nelsen says. "It's about being able to look at other people's behavior, but also their own."

Mr. Speaker, these 3 women have impacted their communities and the larger world community with a lot of hard work, determination and grit. They have fought for greater gender equity and provided leadership to make it happen. I commend each of these women for the difference they have made, and continue to make every day.

CELEBRATING 185 YEARS OF GREEK INDEPENDENCE

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2006

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the great nation of Greece and celebrate with its citizens 185 years of independence from the Ottoman Empire.

Any first-year university student knows Greece to be one of the ancient cradles of Western Civilization. In art and literature, history and philosophy, science and mathematics, the contributions of the Greek people to the world as we know it are immeasurable.

And of course, one of Greece's most significant contributions to modern civilization is that of democratic governance. The influences of Socrates, Plato, Pericles, Solon, and many others provided the basis for our founding fathers' essays and treaties on life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

These ancient thinkers planted the seeds of modern democracy, but the people of modern Greece did not reap the benefits until over two thousand years later. In 1821, the Greek people declared independence from the Ottoman Empire, marking the beginning of an eleven-

year struggle for freedom. It is this courageous action that we honor today.

The Greek revolutionaries' valiant efforts inspired the support of a fledgling democracy known as the United States of America. Many Americans left home and volunteered to fight alongside the Greeks, and this Congress also sent money and supplies to assist in Greece's struggle for autonomy. Since that time, the U.S. and Greece have worked side-by-side to oppose tyranny and oppression and advance the cause of democracy worldwide.

But our ties with Greece do not end with this shared commitment to the principles of democracy. Indeed, today more than 1 million people of Greek descent live in the United States. These men and women have made innumerable contributions to our society and way of life, and for this we thank them.

Colleagues, please join me in saluting the people of Greece for their tremendous commitment to democracy and the principles that helped to found our Nation.

TRIBUTE TO DR. ALBERT E.
SMITH: AN EDUCATOR WITH
TRUE VISION

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2006

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to bring to the attention of my colleagues the retirement of Dr. Albert Emanuel Smith, President of Florida Memorial University in Miami Gardens, Florida, a remarkable educator, administrator and leader who has left an indelible mark on our entire South Florida community.

According to Dr. Smith, "The primary mission of any worthy institution of higher education is to produce graduates who understand that education is a lifelong endeavor." Throughout his career, Dr. Smith truly lived that creed. He dedicated his life's work to opening the doors of educational enlightenment and opportunity to thousands.

A native of Sioux Falls, South Dakota Dr. Smith earned a Bachelors of Science degree from North Carolina A&T State University, a Masters of Science degree from George Williams College and his Ph.D., from the University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh in 1971.

Dr. Smith's early professional career included a brief stint as a minor league baseball player for the Saint Louis Cardinals; two years in the United States Army Medical Service Corps where he was a commissioned officer and company commander; and five years as the director of athletics at North Carolina A&T State University.

In 1971, Dr. Smith was appointed executive assistant director of athletics at the University of Pittsburgh. In 1974, he was named director of athletics and associate professor of education at Eastern Michigan University. Dr. Smith served as Vice Chancellor for Development and University Relations, professor of education, and Executive Director of the North Carolina A&T University Foundation in 1976. He served in this capacity until he became the sixth president of South Carolina State University in 1976.

In 1993, Dr. Smith moved on to become the 10th President of Florida Memorial University (then Florida Memorial College). Under his

leadership, FMU has truly experienced a renaissance and metamorphosis. Dr. Smith implemented a major capital improvement program, including the dedication of the Lou Rawls Center for the Performing Arts, and he achieved an important educational milestone in expanding its offering of academic programs and guiding the college to University status.

I know that everyone in our community thanks Dr. Smith for a job well done. We wish him and his wife, Sadie, our very best for continued success and much happiness in the future.

A SALUTE TO THE WILSON CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL GIRL'S BASKETBALL TEAM, TENNESSEE'S 2005—2006 CLASS AAA STATE CHAMPIONS

HON. JIM COOPER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2006

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate an extraordinary group of young women from Wilson Central High School in Lebanon, Tennessee—the 2005–2006 Class AAA Girl's Basketball State Champions.

Of the 5 years Wilson Central High School has been in existence, the Lady Wildcats have been to three State championship tournaments. On March 11, 2006, they brought home the State title after defeating Shelbyville Central High School 44–38. The State championship is the school's first State title in any sport. The team finished a remarkable season with a 32–7 overall record. I am extremely proud of these outstanding young athletes for this great accomplishment.

These student-athletes should be honored not only for the feat of winning the Tennessee State Girl's Basketball Championship, but they should also be recognized for excelling in the classroom and maintaining a team grade point average of 3.61. This is certainly no easy task and I am proud of the way they have represented their school and hometown both on and off the basketball court.

On behalf of the Fifth Congressional District of Tennessee, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the following members of the Wilson Central High School girl's basketball team: freshmen Kelsey McGee, Lauren Wasson, Jasmine Hassell, sophomores Heather Simonis, Kristyn Clark, Sydney Ketcher, Rebecca Stewart, Cameryn Calhoun, Shelley Stewart and Rachel Stewart, juniors Tierney Jenkins, Lauren Farmer, Sara Williams and especially to the graduating seniors Elizabeth Martin, Breonna Brown, and Jenny Hall. I commend Nikki Eversole, Brittany Farmer, Courtney Chapman, Kayla White, Melanie Jones and Audriana Saddler for their hard work and contributions to the team.

I also salute their coaches—Head Coach Bud Brandon, his father and Assistant Coach Campbell Brandon, and Assistant Coaches Jay Holladay and Scott Moore for their commitment, expertise and leadership. Campbell Brandon coached the Lebanon High School Blue Devils to their State championship victory 35 years ago, in 1971. Today, he shares his son's pride for another team of amazing young women—the 2006 Wilson Central Lady Wildcats.

I applaud the tremendous achievements of these exceptional young players and wish them well in their endeavors on the basketball court and beyond.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2006

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Chairman, during the vote on amendments and final passage for H.R. 2829, the Office of National Drug Control Policy Reauthorization Act, I was away from the Capitol on business in my home State of Georgia.

On the Chabot amendment to H.R. 2829 (Vote #34), I would have voted "yes."

On the Hooley amendment to H.R. 2829 (Vote #35), I would have voted "yes."

On the Paul amendment to H.R. 2829 (Vote #36), I would have voted "yes."

On the Rehberg amendment to H.R. 2829 (Vote #37), I would have voted "yes."

On final passage, I would have voted in favor of H.R. 2829, to reauthorize the Office of National Drug Control Policy Act (Vote #38).

MARCH 30, 2006 INAUGURATION OF PORTIA SIMPSON MILLER PRIME MINISTER OF JAMAICA

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce in to the RECORD my sincerest congratulations and best wishes for Portia Simpson Miller, Jamaica's newly-installed President of the People's National Party and newly-elected Prime Minister, on her imminent Inauguration on March 30, 2006.

Celebrants of Women's History Month in Jamaica and elsewhere had much to rejoice about as Simpson Miller made history on February 25th, when she was elected the first woman president of the 68-year old People's National Party (PNP). With this, the stage was set for more history: she will become the first woman Prime Minister of the great nation of Jamaica.

Simpson Miller knows full well the numerous challenges in store as she embarks on this political journey as Prime Minister. She is no stranger to the political arena—where partisan and national expectations are high—and realizes that there is much to be done to address the many problems of the Jamaican society. The much anticipated question about the direction in which Simpson Miller intends to take the country will begin to unfold in a couple of days when she is sworn in as Prime Minister and appoints her Cabinet to implement her priorities.

Yesterday, in Ocho Rios, St. Ann Jamaica, Simpson Miller shed a single tear as she accepted the People's National Party's symbolic baton of leadership from P.J. Patterson, the outgoing Prime Minister. Simpson Miller stressed the need for unity, and urged the party to have its election machinery oiled and ready by June this year. Simpson Miller

praised Patterson, who has led the party for 14 years, for helping her political career, and she paid tribute to their friendship even when they competed against each other for the presidency fourteen years ago.

In her acceptance speech yesterday before ruling party's National Executive Council (NEC) she calmly stated "I come to you today with no malice, no malice whatsoever, because I come today as your party leader. I am determined to lead a united party. I am determined to build bridges that will lead to unity of purpose and accomplishment of our mission. I am determined to devote my energy and time to the healing process because it is only in unity that we can have strength, and it is only in strength that we can be assured of the success of our programs and victory for the fifth term".

Mr. Speaker, with change come challenges. There are always skeptics and detractors lurking on the horizon waiting to pounce at the first signs of failure. I am confident that Portia Simpson Miller will rise to lead the great Jamaican nation into the future with optimism and hope.

SIKH ORGANIZATIONS UNITE FOR KHALISTAN

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, the Indian newspaper The Telegraph ran a story on March 21 reporting that two Sikh organizations in Punjab, Dal Khalsa, under the leadership of Satnam Singh, and the Shiromani Khalsa Dal under the leadership of Daljit Singh Bittu, are uniting to promote a sovereign, independent Khalistan. As you know, Mr. Speaker, the Sikhs declared Khalistan independent on October 7, 1987. Ever since then, Sikhs have been struggling against a massive Indian force of over 500,000 troops sent to suppress their drive for freedom.

The announcement from Dal Khalsa and the Shiromani Khalsa Dal was met by shouts of "Khalistan Zindabad," meaning "Long live Khalistan." Now the Chief Minister of Punjab has ordered the police to place the leaders of both organizations under watch. Let me make this clear, Mr. Speaker. They are under police watch in "the world's largest democracy" for peaceful political activities designed to achieve freedom for their people.

These arrests come in short order after the recent arrests of Sikh activists Dr. Jagjit Singh Chohan and Kanwarpal Singh Dhani for speeches they made supporting Khalistan. Dr. Chohan committed the additional crime of flying the Khalistani flag from his residence. Groups of Sikhs were arrested last year in January and June for hoisting the Khalistani flag and making speeches in support of sovereignty for Khalistan. Dal Khalsa organized those events. It has organized numerous events in support of a sovereign Khalistan in Punjab, and the support has been shown to be large. I guess this scares the Indian government.

Mr. Speaker, these actions are unacceptable in any country. We use our influence to put pressure on totalitarian regimes for just these kinds of tactics. They are even more unacceptable when the country using them

claims to be democratic. This does not resemble any kind of democracy I know about.

Mr. Speaker, we must take a stand for freedom in South Asia, as we are doing elsewhere in the world. The time has come to cut off our aid and trade with India and until basic human rights for all people are respected there. In addition, we should put the Congress officially on record in support of free and fair plebiscites in Punjab, Khalistan, in Kashmir, in Nagaland, and all the other minority nations seeking their freedom from India. It is time for America to show its active support for freedom, stability, dignity, and human rights.

Mr. Speaker, the Council of Khalistan has published a very good release on the statement by Dal Khalsa and the Shiromani Khalsa Dal. I would like to add it to the RECORD now for the information of my colleagues.

SIKHS ARRESTED IN INDIA FOR SPEAKING FOR KHALISTAN

WASHINGTON, DC, MARCH 15, 2006.—Sardar Kanwarpal Singh Dhani, Chairman of Dal Khalsa, and Dr. Jagjit Singh Chohan were arrested earlier this month for speaking out for an independent Khalistan. They were charged with sedition. These arrests follow the arrests of Sikh leaders last year belonging to Dal Khalsa both in January and June for hoisting the flag of Khalistan. Kanwarpal Singh Dhani was arrested after saying that the Sikh Panth could not live under someone else's rule. He was accused of "... sedition, promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion, race, doing acts prejudicial to maintenance of harmony, imputations, assertions prejudicial to national integration and statements conducing to public mischief." The government charged that he promoted separatist and 'terrorist' movements.

Dal Khalsa has sponsored numerous marches and conferences in Punjab in support of a free Khalistan, the Sikh homeland that declared its independence from India on October 7, 1987. It was the organizer of the two events at which Sikhs were arrested for making speeches and raising the Khalistani flag. It was announced today that they will be joining forces with the Shiromani Khalsa Dal, headed by Sardar Daljit Singh Bittu, in support of a free Khalistan. The Punjab and Haryana High Court ruled that it is legal to ask for freedom for Khalistan, yet the Indian government continues to treat it as a crime. They do not even live by their own law.

Dr. Chohan said on India's Zee TV that Khalistan will be free by 2007. He has also been flying the Khalistani flag and that of his party, the Khalsa Raj Party, outside his office. According to the book Chakravayuh: Web of Indian Secularism (page 183), Dr. Chohan worked with Major General Jaswant Singh Bhullar, Professor Manjit Singh Sidhu, Didar Singh Bains, and others "to stop Sikhs living abroad" from supporting freedom for Khalistan and connived with the Indian government for the June 1984 attack on the Golden Temple.

"It is evident that the Indian government is scared of the increasing amount of peaceful activism in Punjab in support of Khalistan," said Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, which is leading the Sikh struggle for independence. "The time of Khalistan's liberation is near. India will fall apart soon," he said. "We condemn the arrests of Sardar Dhani and Dr. Chohan but remind the Sikh Nation that it must work only with leaders who are honest, sincere, and committed to the liberation of Khalistan." Dr. Aulakh noted that in New York in 2000, former Member of Parliament Simranjit Singh Mann had called for the Council of Khalistan's office to be closed.

"Sikhs must be very careful about the leaders they follow," Dr. Aulakh said. "This office has worked unwaveringly for a sovereign Khalistan for almost 20 years," he noted.

History shows that multinational states such as India are doomed to failure. Countries like Austria-Hungary, India's longtime friend the Soviet Union, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, and others prove this point. India is not one country; it is a polyglot like those countries, thrown together for the convenience of the British colonialists. It is doomed to break up as they did. "We only hope that the breakup will be peaceful," said Dr. Aulakh.

The Indian government has murdered over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984, more than 300,000 Christians in Nagaland, over 90,000 Muslims in Kashmir, tens of thousands of Christians and Muslims throughout the country, and tens of thousands of Tamils, Assamese, Manipuris, and others. The Indian Supreme Court called the Indian government's murders of Sikhs "worse than a genocide."

Indian police arrested human-rights activist Jaswant Singh Khalsa after he exposed their policy of mass cremation of Sikhs, in which over 50,000 Sikhs have been arrested, tortured, and murdered, then their bodies were declared unidentified and secretly cremated. He was murdered in police custody. His body was not given to his family. The police never released the body of former Jathedar of the Akal Takht Gurdev Singh Kaunke after SSP Swaran Singh Ghotna murdered him. No one has been brought to justice for the Khalra kidnapping and murder. Yet according to a report by the Movement Against State Repression (MASR), 52,268 Sikhs are being held as political prisoners in India without charge or trial, some since 1984!

Only in a free Khalistan will the Sikh Nation prosper and get justice," said Dr. Aulakh. "India should act like a democracy and allow a plebiscite on independence for Khalistan and all the nations of South Asia," Dr. Aulakh said. "We must free Khalistan now."

TRIBUTE TO WALTER JEBE

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2006

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Walter G. Jebe, a longtime community leader, businessman and historian, who died of leukemia in the Veterans Hospital in Palo Alto on Feb. 25th at the age of 81. The unofficial mayor of San Francisco's Excelsior district, Mr. Jebe was a champion of small business and for his neighborhood and an outspoken advocate and historian. He has left an indelible mark on our city.

Mr. Jebe was born in 1924, raised in the Excelsior District, graduated from Balboa High School, studied photography at Samuel Gompers trade school and was drafted into the Army. After serving our Nation, Mr. Jebe returned to San Francisco and opened Jebe's Cameras on Mission Street. He was a self-taught businessman, and neighboring businesses took bets on how long he would last. He stayed in business for 45 years.

All politics was local to Mr. Jebe, who was a member of the Excelsior Business Association, the Geneva Excelsior Lions Club, the Boy Scouts, and other organizations he felt would improve the Excelsior. He also served on a

number of San Francisco city commissions, including the Delinquency Prevention Commission, the Library Commission and the Arts Commission. He helped secure a branch of the public library for the Excelsior, and last year wrote a book about the history of the neighborhood.

Walter Jebe was a respected authority on San Francisco history and taught courses throughout San Francisco. He collected vast quantities of photos and memorabilia on the San Francisco Mid Winter Fair of 1894, the Pan Pacific Exhibition of 1915, the 1939 World's Fair and the 1906 Earthquake and Fire.

As a prominent member of the San Francisco History Association, he headed the task force that negotiated a deal for the Federal Government to turn over the Old Mint at Fifth and Mission streets to a nonprofit organization to become a history museum. The Old Mint is a San Francisco architectural gem that survived the 1906 Earthquake and Fire and played a vital role in rebuilding the city. A member of the Old Mint Advisory Council, Mr. Jebe was responsible for overseeing the restoration project.

With great appreciation for his fine work and service to our city, I extend my deepest sympathy to his wife of 53 years, Vivian Jebe, his son Walter and daughter Vivian, and thank them, for sharing their magnificent husband and father with us. He was a true San Francisco treasure and we are diminished by his passing.

PREPARE NOW DON'T WAIT FOR A HURRICANE STRIKE

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call upon the United States Government to assist the islands of the Caribbean with preparation for the impending 2006 hurricane season and to enter in the RECORD an editorial from the New York CaribNews entitled "Prepare Now Don't Wait for a Hurricane Strike" which addresses the need to take timely action now before a natural disaster occurs.

The impact and wreckage still linger in Grenada from 2004 and 2005. In the aftermath of Hurricanes Ivan and Emily we realized that decades of progress was wiped away and insurmountable damage was done to 90 per cent of the country's housing stock and watersheds. Similar devastation exists throughout the islands of the Caribbean who received direct force of the 2004 and 2005 hurricanes. It is crucial that steps be taken to prepare for these tragedies long before they occur. We must have programs in place to respond immediately and not wait until the disaster strikes.

WITH 2006 HURRICANE SEASON AROUND THE CORNER, A LOUD CARIBBEAN APPEAL: PREPARE NOW DON'T WAIT FOR A HURRICANE STRIKE

MARCH 21, 2006.—Among Caribbean leaders, Dr. Keith Mitchell, Grenada's Prime Minister, is undoubtedly the best person, not only to talk about the importance of preparing a country's response system before a natural disaster occurs. He is also well qualified to be the region's spokesman on rebuilding a nation after devastation caused by a hurricane.

That's because of the wreckage Hurricanes Ivan and Emily left behind in 2004 and last year in Grenada. In a matter of hours Ivan wiped out decades of progress in the Eastern Caribbean state, destroyed the productive base of the economy, took at least a dozen lives and damaged 90 per cent of the country's housing stock, forested areas, watershed and mangroves. In less than a year Emily came along and unfortunately piled on damage on top of damage and put a halt to much of the rebuilding effort after Ivan.

That put Dr. Mitchell and his people in the unenviable position of starting from scratch to rebuild a beautiful country.

Small wonder, then, that when the United Nations was about to launch its international Central Emergency Response Fund last week in New York, the Grenada leader was invited to join UN Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, at the head table to speak to delegates from around the world about the value of being well prepared in case of a natural disaster and the need for an effective response by the international community to appeals for help.

A key task was to appeal for financial and technical assistance for victims of natural disasters.

Speaking on behalf of Caricom and addressing the high level meeting as a "survivor of an unprecedented catastrophe" the Prime Minister presented a sensible case for small states. "The Caribbean is among the regions in the world most vulnerable to natural disasters," he said. "The survival of our economies is dependent on the frequency and magnitude of these events."

Afterwards, he told us at Carib News that he was worried and nervous about the upcoming hurricane season, which begins in June. His concern for the Caribbean region as a whole, not simply Grenada, wasn't misplaced.

After all, Ivan left a trail of devastation in Jamaica, Haiti, St. Vincent and other islands. The loss of life in Haiti was mind-boggling and tragic. Other hurricanes also affected the Bahamas and the U.S. Last year, Katrina took its lethal high winds and heavy rains to the Gulf Coast of the United States, especially New Orleans and the pitiful sight of tens of thousands of homeless persons, at least 1,000 killed and the Big Easy brought to its knees wouldn't be erased from the memory banks of Americans for decades to come. Add the inept response of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, FEMA, and the Bush White House to the nightmare and it would become clear why rich and poor countries alike should be petrified about the 2006 hurricane season.

But hurricanes aren't the only cause for despair. Monstrous floods hit Guyana in late 2004 from which it hasn't fully recovered. Some estimates by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, ECLAC, put the damage in Guyana to approximately 60 percent of its gross domestic product. The floods affected almost two-thirds of the 800,000 plus persons who live there.

Clearly, nations and territories in the region should have learned some important lessons from these tragedies. The first was that they should be prepared for the tragedy long before it occurs. Next, they must have programs in place to respond immediately after the all clear has been given. That was why it was so distressing to hear both Dr. Mitchell and Jeremy Collymore, Coordinator of the Caribbean Emergency Response Agency, CEDERA, express regret that some countries seem to be waiting until the next calamity strikes in order to wake up. That would add to the suffering.

In his speech to the diplomats and other representatives in New York, Dr. Mitchell

expressed the Caribbean's disappointment at the "poor response" to the region's appeals for assistance in the wake of the natural disasters.

"In both cases only a small percentage of the pledges were fulfilled," he said. That's an international scandal, a crying shame. Here were countries and institutions making pledges, lifting people's hopes but failing to live up to their word in times of need and suffering.

SIKH ACTIVISTS ARRESTED IN PUNJAB

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, Sikh activists Kanwarpal Singh Dhami and Dr. Jagjit Singh Chohan were recently arrested by the Indian Government on charges of sedition. Their crime was to speak in support of a sovereign Khalistan. Dr. Chohan also flies the Khalistani flag from his residence. When did free speech become a crime in a democracy?

The Sikh homeland of Khalistan declared itself independent from India on October 7, 1987.

These arrests are a follow-up to the arrests of groups of Sikh activists last year on Republic Day in January and again in June on the anniversary of the Golden Temple for making speeches in support of freedom for Khalistan and raising the flag of Khalistan. These events were led by Dal Khalsa. Recently, Dal Khalsa was put under watch by order of the Chief Minister of Punjab after its leader, Satnam Singh, and the leader of the Shiromani Khalsa Dal, Daljit Singh Bittu, announced that they are joining forces to achieve sovereignty for Khalistan.

Mr. Speaker, these are the kinds of tactics that totalitarian governments use, not democratic ones. A real democracy would not arrest people for making speeches. This is underlined by the fact that, according to the Movement Against State Repression, India admitted to holding 52,268 Sikh political prisoners. Tens of thousands of other minorities are also held as political prisoners, according to Amnesty International. How can such things happen in the world's largest democracy?

The time has come to stand up against India's tyranny. We should end our aid to India, especially since India uses 25 percent of its development budget for nuclear development, and we should stop our trade until all people enjoy basic human rights. And we should declare our support for free and fair plebiscites in Kashmir, as India promised in 1948, in Punjab, Khalistan, in Nagaland, and wherever people are seeking freedom. The essence of democracy is the right of self-determination and that basic right is being denied to minorities in India. The best thing we can do to support stability, freedom, and human dignity in the subcontinent is to stop rewarding the tyrants and throw our full support behind those seeking freedom.

Mr. Speaker, the Council of Khalistan has issued a very good release on the arrests of Dr. Chohan and Mr. Dhami. I would like to insert it in the RECORD at this time. Thank you.

DESIRE FOR KHALISTAN ALIVE AND WELL IN PUNJAB

WASHINGTON, D.C., MAR. 21, 2006.—Slogans of "Khalistan Zindabad" filled the air at the

Holla Mohallah festival in Anandpur Sahib, Punjab, led by Dal Khalsa and the Shiromani Khalsa Dal. The two organizations pledged to unite to liberate the Sikh homeland, Khalistan, which declared itself independent from India on October 7, 1987.

Dal Khalsa, led by Satnam Singh, president of Dal Khalsa, and Daljit Singh Bittu, pledged to "provide a fresh platform for the Sikhs who were depressed with the incompetent and incapable leadership of various factions of the Akali Dal," according to The Telegraph, an Indian newspaper. Satnam Singh said the organizations would reach out to people to involve them in "the struggle to uphold our honor and dignity," the newspaper reported. The Punjab government led by Chief Minister Amarinder Singh has directed the police that both groups be put under watch.

Dal Khalsa has sponsored numerous marches in Punjab in support of a free Khalistan, the Sikh homeland that declared its independence from India on October 7, 1987. It was the organizer of the two events at which Sikhs were arrested for making speeches and raising the Khalistani flag.

History shows that multinational states such as India are doomed to failure. Countries like Austria-Hungary, India's longtime friend the Soviet Union, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, and others prove this point. India is not one country; it is a polyglot like those countries. It is doomed to break up as they did.

"The uniting of these two organizations is very good for the Sikh nation and its aspirations," said Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan. "The Indian government continues to persecute and kill our Sikh brethren," he said. "Unity is essential for the liberation of Khalistan," he said. "As Professor Darshan Singh, a former Jathedar, said, 'If a Sikh is not for Khalistan, he is not a Sikh,'" Dr. Aulakh noted: "This shows that the drive for freedom is still alive in Punjab," he said. "What kind of democracy watches people for demanding freedom? Why don't they watch the Black Cats who have killed thousands of Sikhs with the protection of the Indian government?" he asked.

The Indian government has murdered over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984, more than 300,000 Christians since 1948 as well as tens of thousands of Christians throughout the country, over 90,000 Muslims in Kashmir since 1988, 2,000 to 5,000 Muslims in Gujarat, tens of thousands of Muslims elsewhere in India, and tens of thousands of Assamese, Bodos, Dalits, Manipuris, Tamils, and others. An Indian newspaper reported that the police in Gujarat were ordered to stand aside in that massacre and not to get involved, a frightening parallel to the Delhi massacre of Sikhs in 1984. The Indian Supreme Court called the Indian government's murders of Sikhs "worse than a genocide."

Indian police arrested human-rights activist Jaswant Singh Khalra after he exposed their policy of mass cremation of Sikhs, in which over 50,000 Sikhs have been arrested, tortured, and murdered, then their bodies were declared unidentified and secretly cremated. He was murdered in police custody. His body was not given to his family. The police never released the body of former Jathedar of the Akal Takht Gurdev Singh Kaunke after SSP Swaran Singh Ghotna murdered him. No one has been brought to justice for the Khalra kidnapping and murder or for the murder of Jathedar Kaunke. Yet according to a report by the Movement

Against State Repression (MASR), 52,268 Sikhs are being held as political prisoners in India without charge or trial, some since 1984!

Missionary Graham Staines was murdered along with his two sons, ages 8 and 10, by a mob of militant, fundamentalist Hindu nationalists who set fire to the jeep, surrounded it, and chanted "Victory to Hanuman," a Hindu god. None of the people involved has been tried. The persons who have murdered priests, raped nuns, and burned Christian churches have not been charged or tried. The murderers of 2,000 to 5,000 Muslims in Gujarat have never been brought to trial.

"Only in a free Khalistan will the Sikh Nation prosper and get justice," said Dr. Aulakh. "India should act like a democracy and allow a plebiscite on independence for Khalistan and all the nations of South Asia," Dr. Aulakh said. "We must free Khalistan now."

TRIBUTE TO GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2006

Mr. McCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, over the weekend a momentous date passed which merits our observance. Greek Independence Day commemorates and celebrates the 185th anniversary of the Greek people's declaration of independence from the Ottoman Empire on March 25, 1821. From this day, until the Treaty of Constantinople officially recognized Greek independence, the Greek people waged a valiant and victorious struggle for their freedom.

The Ottoman Empire's oppression and occupation of Greece evolved over the course of the 14th and 15th centuries. Yet during these centuries, Greek patriots arose to oppose and overthrow the Ottomans' dominion, and in 1814 emerged the secretly formed Friendly Society, which proved a herald of Hellenic liberty.

Then 7 years later, on March 25, 1821, the Orthodox Metropolitan Germanos of Patras proclaimed a national uprising, and simultaneous uprisings arose throughout Greece. Initially this courageous movement liberated many areas of Greece, but the Ottoman Empire rapidly and ruthlessly responded with innumerable acts of brutality, including the massacre of entire Greek communities.

Such Ottoman barbarism contrasted ill with Greek heroism and inspired many nations and citizens to rally to the Greek cause. Thus, in 1827, the British and French fleets delivered a crushing blow to the Ottoman fleet at Navarino, and in 1828, 10,000 French soldiers landed in the Peloponnese to end the Ottoman scourge of Greece.

It was then, and after the horror of war had ebbed and ended, the Convention of May 11, 1832, recognized Greece as a sovereign state, and, again, the Treaty of Constantinople recognized Greek independence from Ottoman rule in July of 1832.

Thus, Mr. Speaker, it is both fitting and fair for we Americans as a free people to commemorate and celebrate the date of March 25, the date Greece, the Cradle of Democracy, was once again made free.

So, too, Mr. Speaker, let us reflect upon the reality that no treaty, no mere scrap of paper,

could ever accomplish more than to simply state the obviousness of Greek freedom, which has always endured for time immemorial, despite whatever oppression encountered.

Indeed, did not the pen of the British poet and doomed martyr to the cause of Greek independence and freedom, Lord Byron, write a testament to the Greek people's inherent love of liberty when he wrote:

The Sword, the Banner, and the Field, Glory and Greece, around me see! The Spartan, borne upon his shield, Was never more free.

And may Greece, Mr. Speaker, ever be free.

CHALLENGES FACING CARIBBEAN REGION AS IT FACES INTEGRATION

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to enter into the RECORD the first part of an eloquent speech made by the Prime Minister of Jamaica, the Honorable P.J. Patterson, March 9 to the Protocolary Session of the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States on the theme of "Caribbean Integration In Emerging Hemispheric Relations".

The Caribbean region is a breathtaking area. The rich people, culture and natural resources make it a jewel of the global community. But as Mr. Patterson outlines in his remarks, more must be done to promote the countries' political and social prosperity. He warns, "Unless we focus in a meaningful way on the intrinsic link between democracy, good governance and international security on the one hand, and development on the other, our goals for peace, stability and political and economic security will always remain elusive." Patterson continues, "We must therefore address the development agenda with the same energy and commitment as we have sought to strengthen the democratic agenda, giving each equal dedication, in order that the benefits of democracy can be widely felt to improve the quality of life for our peoples."

One key to further development, according to Patterson, is integration. "Smaller units operating on their own can no longer be viable counterweights in this rapidly changing world," maintains Patterson. The plight of the people of the Caribbean can only be enhanced through greater national and international commitment in addition to empowerment among national leaders. Not only must Caribbean leaders, "broaden the boundaries of our collaboration beyond the OAS and the United Nations," and look towards the World Trade Organization, as Patterson recommends, but a greater commitment must be made to principles such as education, justice and the rule of law, inclusion, and integrity in order to make the region stronger.

Mr. Speaker, I rise again to strongly support the words spoken by Mr. Patterson in an effort to bring to light challenges facing the region and his proposals for what actions need to take place to secure a brighter future for the Caribbean nations.

CARIBBEAN INTEGRATION IN EMERGING HEMISPHERIC RELATIONS

INTRODUCTION

It was indeed with great pleasure that I accepted the invitation extended by the distin-

guished Secretary General to address this august body. I consider it a distinct honour to be doing so in this prestigious Hall of the Americas. Most importantly, the opportunity afforded me at this time, takes on added significance as it comes at the juncture when I am about to take formal leave from the "field" of active politics. In a few weeks, my involvement in regional and hemispheric developments henceforth will be from the vantage point of the spectator's stands.

As one who has participated in these two processes from very early in my political career, I have been asked to share a few thoughts on my vision for the Caribbean and the Americas, bearing in mind the current global realities and our shared commitment towards advancing the political, economic and social development of this hemisphere.

As such, I propose to focus on the nexus between developments in the regional integration process, particularly within CARICOM, and developments taking place at the hemispheric level. How do I see these two processes coalescing to bring about a partnership that will meet the needs of every member state, regardless of their size or wealth and one that will improve the quality of life for our peoples, our most important assets?

THE INTERNATIONAL SCENARIO

In order to fully appreciate where our countries are going, we must first understand the milieu in which they are operating. This will affect the vision we all have for a hemisphere in which we can enjoy peace, stability and prosperity on a sustained basis.

Some sixty years ago when the OAS was created, no one would have thought that we would have experienced such rapid and radical shifts in the international environment, propelled by marked transformations in the global economy. These, together with the emergence of new threats to international peace and security, now challenge the very survival of many of our countries.

As the twin forces of globalisation and liberalization have become more pronounced, new demands were thrust upon the countries of the hemisphere forcing, in varying degrees, modifications to our national objectives and priorities. Increased vulnerabilities to the vagaries of these two phenomena have led to the abandonment of traditional economic policies and the adoption of new models of economic development as we seek to secure a greater space in the world economy and a more participatory role in international economic relations.

There is no doubt that both globalisation and liberalization, especially in the last decade, have been the driving force behind the integration of the global economy. Despite the potential benefits of this process, we have to acknowledge that the long-term survival of many of our countries continues to require adjustment to the new realities of an international environment which has become increasingly hostile and unpredictable.

Notwithstanding improvements in global economic prospects and the potential benefits to be derived there from, we have to admit that inequities still remain, putting a number of countries at economic risk, including those in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The quest for sustainable growth, particularly for small economies, has become even more elusive as traditional support mechanisms are gradually eroded. There continues to be increased pressure to move more rapidly to reciprocal trade rules as we bear the brunt of rising energy prices and the weakness in non-oil commodity prices.

All of these are occurring simultaneously, as investors become increasingly risk averse

and restrict capital flows, and as the fiscal positions of our economies weaken and debt increases.

While we welcome international commitments to the Global Partnership for Development as outlined in the Millennium Declaration, Monterrey Consensus, and Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, we are discouraged by the limited progress to date. This means that priority projects which form the core of our development agenda such as poverty eradication and improvements in health and education will continue to lag in implementation. We remain hopeful but by no means certain, that the UN General Assembly's Outcome Document of last September will spur renewed action with a greater degree of political will.

If this scenario were not daunting enough, emerging security concerns have brought added uncertainties resulting in new changes in objectives and priorities, causing even further delays in implementing national agendas, as we seek to be "reliable partners" in implementing international security objectives.

Against this backdrop, the current international situation poses a number of challenges to regional integration, notwithstanding the fact that the popularity of regionalism evolved from this very same process in the early 1970s as an effective response to the onset of globalisation.

THE HEMISPHERE'S CHALLENGE

In this present scenario, how do we reduce our vulnerability to external shocks, achieve sustainable development, strengthen governance, promote democracy and at the same time, comply with our international, regional and hemispheric obligations?

Jamaica and indeed CARICOM, has always maintained that there is an urgent need to make this process of global economic governance and integration more inclusive and more beneficial to the interests of developing countries.

By so doing, there would be greater prospects for tangible signs of development and strengthening democracy in our countries and societies around the world.

We are reminded everyday of the sense of unease and restlessness which emerges when the people we lead are not given meaningful opportunities for self-expression and self-actualisation. We regard these as fundamental elements of democracy and civil society. In order to meet the challenges which militate against peace and stability, we must provide a truly enabling environment.

THE HEMISPHERIC AGENDA

It is not surprising, therefore, that we in this hemisphere share a wide range of similar problems and concerns. Our regional and hemispheric agendas are inextricably linked and have therefore become inseparable. This is reflected in both our interdependence and the elements of globalisation that today characterizes international relations and which ultimately leads to a myriad of interlocking issues. Within this context, both the OAS and our respective regional integration movements have a salient role to play.

From its creation in 1948, the OAS was envisaged as the primary political forum in the hemisphere to maintain peace and security, to promote and consolidate democracy and advance cooperation for integral development. The OAS has undoubtedly played a pivotal role in the settlement of disputes and in bringing solutions to various political crises within the hemisphere as we have seen through the important role it has played in dealing with the political situation in Haiti. We welcome and applaud the return of President René Préval as the duly elected Leader of Haiti.

Today, we are confronted by new threats and challenges which our Governments are

simultaneously obliged to address and surmount. The hemispheric agenda has expanded significantly over the years to address issues such as corruption, the fight against drug abuse and drug trafficking, transnational organized crime, terrorism, money laundering, children's issues, women's affairs and the protection of human rights.

The pursuit of these programmes at the level of the OAS, complements the important initiatives on which we have all embarked at the national and multilateral level, as we seek not only to come to grips with, but also to overcome these problems. The multidimensional nature of many of these issues requires a comprehensive, cooperative approach.

Today, the OAS has also assumed additional responsibilities for the implementation of the mandates of the Summit of the Americas, aimed at creating prosperity through economic integration and trade, eradicating poverty and discrimination and protecting the natural environment. Moreover, within this process, we have adopted a shared vision to consolidate democracy and security in the hemisphere, and to create conditions to advance prosperity, a multitude of items for an ever-increasing agenda.

The adoption of other mechanisms and instruments, including the Inter-American Democratic Charter, have served to concretize our adherence to the tenets and principles of the democratic agenda. These commitments have brought tremendous impetus to what we are doing at the regional level. Our citizens at all levels have become involved in every aspect of governance; more women are running for political office and being appointed to high positions and I can certainly attest to that! An increasing number of civic organizations are actively monitoring transparency and accountability; the exercise of the undeniable freedom of expression and of the press is widely enjoyed; and access to information legislation has been passed in many countries, including my own.

While the foregoing is laudable, however, are we satisfied that in this dynamic process of globalization, the OAS is fulfilling the economic development aspect of its mandate?

TRIBUTE TO JUDGE J. WILLIAM BEARD

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2006

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, today I acknowledge a great friend of the legal community, Judge J. William Beard, who passed away last month at the age of 85.

Born March 20, 1920 in Chicago, Judge Beard moved with his family to the San Fernando Valley in 1925. He attended the University of Redlands before enlisting in the Army Air Forces during World War II.

Leaving the military as a lieutenant, Judge Beard married Ann Dodgen in October 1945 and returned to his Los Angeles-area roots. As an aspiring lawyer, he opened a legal messenger service and attended Southwestern University School of Law.

In 1951, two years after graduating and passing the State Bar, Judge Beard joined the District Attorney's Office in El Centro, which is located in my district in Imperial County, California. Several months later, he opened a pri-

vate practice. One of his subsequent law partners, Cruz Reynoso, became the first Latino appointed to the California Supreme Court in 1982.

When future U.S. Sen. Alan Cranston and other Democratic leaders formed the California Democratic Council in 1952, Judge Beard became a charter member. He interrupted his legal career to serve as an Imperial County-based state senator from 1957 to 1961 (District 39), and was appointed to the El Cajon Municipal Court bench in 1980.

As a recovering alcoholic, Judge Beard was active in the state Bar Association's committee on Alcohol Abuse. He started a support group for alcoholic legal professionals and doctors in the 1970s. Judge Beard believed that his background with alcoholism provided him with insights into the human psyche that were invaluable in the courtroom.

Later, while serving on the Municipal Court bench in El Cajon, he handled small claims court cases in Ramona. The informal, rural setting provided an intimacy that he found lacking in a larger venue.

By the time he retired a decade later, he had also established an alcohol counseling program for drunken drivers at the El Cajon court—one of the first of its kind in the county. In retirement, Judge Beard served on the state Medical Assurance Board and spoke at 12-step recovery meetings.

Judge Beard's passing will not only be felt in the legal community but society as a whole, as Judge Beard was a humanitarian who truly cared for his fellow human beings.

CONGRATULATING "TEACHER OF THE YEAR" MARTHA PAGE

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2006

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Martha Page, a distinguished citizen from my congressional district who was recently awarded the Excellence in the Classroom and Educational Leadership (ExCEL) "Teacher of the Year" Award for her exceptional service at the Hodgenville Elementary School in Hodgenville, KY.

A kindergarten teacher for more than thirty years, Ms. Page maintains a unique passion for teaching that focuses not only on the academic progress of her students, but also on their emotional, social and cognitive growth. Year after year, her innovative approach to teaching is driven by a genuine care for the happiness and success of young people. Through her own example, Ms. Page consistently demonstrates to her students the importance of character: honesty, goodness, and making life count.

Martha Page's dedication to students often transcends the classroom, leading her to play an active role in after school programs and frequent parent-teacher interface. In addition to her work in the classroom, she serves as a mentor to student teachers and is a valuable resource to her colleagues. Ms. Page is also a longtime member of the LaRue County Board of Education and remains actively involved in numerous state and local professional associations.

I applaud Martha Page's accomplishments in public education, an occupation of great responsibility and even greater reward. On behalf of so many in the Hodgenville area, I would like to express my profound appreciation for her service and inspiration as she motivates young people to recognize and develop their talents and abilities.

It is my great privilege to recognize Martha Page today, before the entire U.S. House of Representatives, for her achievements as an educator. Her unique dedication to the development and well-being of young people and the communities they will someday serve make her an outstanding citizen worthy of our collective honor and respect.

INTRODUCTION OF THE AMERICAN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AND MARINE-LIFE ENHANCEMENT ACT

HON. RICHARD W. POMBO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2006

Mr. POMBO. Mr. Speaker, today my Colleagues, BARNEY FRANK and DON YOUNG, and I are introducing the American Fisheries Management and Marine-Life Enhancement Act. This legislation will reauthorize the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act—the Nation's premier fishery conservation statute.

This legislation continues to build on the tradition of allowing for regional solutions to regional fishery management problems by using a system of Regional Fishery Management Councils. These Councils offer a transparent process where those with a stake in the resource can be heard and can see how decisions on the management of the resource are made.

This legislation keeps in mind a number of important principles which have kept the Magnuson-Stevens Act as relevant and dynamic as it is. We have tried to maintain a number of these key themes including: management must be science-based (with peer review that includes the public); there must be an open and transparent decision-making process with stakeholder involvement; there must be flexibility which recognizes that there is a need for regional solutions to regional problems; there is a need to minimize potential for lawsuits—fisheries management decisions should be made by the professionals not by the courts; there needs to be a balance between conservation and economic considerations; and finally, the Act needs to consider the impacts of management decisions on those communities which are dependent on the resource to remain viable communities.

The management of our Nation's fisheries has always been a matter of balance. It is important to continue the balance between the health of the resource and the interests of the fishing industry to provide a healthy, sustainable protein source for the world. Without a sustainable, healthy resource, the fishermen would be out of business and without a fishing industry, the Nation would not have seafood to consume. This legislation maintains this balance and makes sure that the management decisions to maintain the balance are based on science. These decisions need to be made

with adequate peer review and with the input of the affected and interested participants and this bill continues those ideals.

Ten years ago, Congress passed the Sustainable Fisheries Act (SFA). That legislation was the first major reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Act and made major changes to the statute. The SFA amended or added 15 definitions, added three new National Standards (and amended one existing National Standard), added 8 new provisions which the Councils were required to comply with in drafting new fishery management plans (and required that all existing plans be amended to comply with the new provisions), included 5 new discretionary provisions for Councils to consider when developing fishery management plans, required thirteen new reports, and for the first time, included disclosure standards, conflict of interest standards, and recusal standards for members of the Regional Fishery Management Councils.

The SFA focused on three major themes—the identification of overfishing and a requirement for rebuilding overfished fisheries, the identification and conservation of essential fish habitat, and the reduction, to the extent practicable, of bycatch in our Nation's fisheries. All three of these themes were important to making sure that fisheries were sustainable.

The Sustainable Fisheries Act required major changes to the way the Nation's fisheries were managed—changes for the better. While the SFA was not perfect, it pushed the Councils and the Secretary to address some key issues to make our fisheries more sustainable. Since 1996—only ten years ago—we have seen tremendous progress in all three of these areas and the Nation's fisheries are in much better shape than they were less than a decade ago. But we can still do better. The American Fisheries Management and Marine-Life Enhancement Act will allow the Councils to gather better data, provide for the use of new technologies, provides new funding for "clean gear" technologies and does so without creating new areas for litigation.

Congress has continued to discuss ideas which would make our fisheries more sustainable since the SFA was enacted. Members of Congress have participated in two major fisheries conferences here in Washington, D.C. that focused on how well or how poorly fisheries were being managed in the U.S. While the overall picture was getting better, these conferences sparked debate on the new steps that could be taken to make our fisheries better. This legislation builds on the recommendations of those conferences.

The American Fisheries Management and Marine-Life Enhancement Act builds on the progress made by the Sustainable Fisheries Act, from the recommendations of the national fisheries conferences, from ideas floated at meetings with interested user groups, and from the report of the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy.

The Senate Commerce Committee, led by Co-Chairmen STEVENS and INOUE, has passed reauthorization legislation that is clearly headed in the right direction and I compliment their leadership on this issue. I hope that the American Fisheries Management and Marine-Life Enhancement Act will be as well received as theirs was and I look forward to resolving the few differences we have before the end of the year.

The American Fisheries Management and Marine-Life Enhancement Act takes a number

of provisions from Senators STEVENS' and INOUE's legislation, a number of provisions from the administration's proposed legislation, a number of recommendations from the Regional Fishery Management Councils, and recommendations from hearings both in Washington and in fishery-dependent communities.

This bill addresses or touches on 11 of the 16 recommendations of the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy which suggest changes to the Magnuson-Stevens Act and 6 of the remaining 11 recommendations that suggest changes to agencies' activities related to fishery conservation or management.

While this legislation may not be perfect, I believe it will move fisheries management in the right direction. I look forward to working with my House Colleagues and my Senate Colleagues to develop consensus legislation to reauthorize this important act before the end of the year.

CALL FOR ROADMAP FOR LEGALIZATION OF UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to echo what the vast majority of Members of Congress believe: Our country is in need of a solution to address the influx of undocumented immigrants into the United States. I would also like to enter into the RECORD a Wall Street Journal editorial advocating for amnesty, a letter signed by esteemed Members of Congress calling for orderly, legal venues for new immigrants and earned legalization for those in the United States and an opinion piece by Cardinal Archbishop Roger Mahoney of Los Angeles explaining his archdiocese's stand against proposed legislation that would penalize social and religious organizations that help undocumented immigrants.

This Nation was founded by immigrants fleeing religious persecution. Ironically, today this country has evolved to one that persecutes undocumented immigrants who, like our forefathers, came here searching for a better quality of life. Upon arrival, if undocumented immigrants are so lucky to cross the border alive and evade exploitation by drug smugglers and coyotes, they are forced to live in the shadows without access to health care or employment benefits at a job that pays little salary. In fear of detection by law enforcement, they cannot live normal lives.

This is an unjust burden imposed to persons who are welcomed with open arms into this country by U.S. employers to perform unskilled labor. As George Melloan states in his opinion piece, "The U.S. needs labor; immigrants supply labor. So the solution is to find ways to bring the two together in some legal, orderly way." While it is true that this country is suffering from astronomically high deficits, the American entrepreneurial spirit drives an economy that embraces cheap labor. There is no reason to believe that the labor demand will subside and as a result immigrants will continue to be attracted to employment opportunities here. We in turn will continue to depend on immigrant labor to harvest our crops, tend to our gardens, clean our homes and offices and even take care of our children.

We cannot deny that immigrant labor is vital to our economy. As leaders of this Nation, we also have a moral obligation to those within our borders. Undocumented immigrants have suffered sufficient hardship to arrive here and are forced to lead secret lives to put food on the tables. This cannot continue. As Cardinal Archbishop Mahoney eloquently states in his piece, providing humanitarian assistance to those most in need, such as undocumented immigrants should not be a crime, as is stipulated in H.R. 4437. This bill so vaguely proposes punishing those who offer aid to undocumented immigrants, that it would penalize acts of mercy such as offering a meal or administering first aid. I admire Cardinal Archbishop Mahoney's stand for instructing priests not to follow the proposed law. I can only hope similar conviction will be found in Members of Congress as they oppose such legislation.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in agreeing that the only way to right the wrong endured by undocumented immigrants is to take them out of the shadows and offer them a way to achieve citizenship. As Melloan states, this is the "only practical solution."

[From the Wall Street Journal, Mar. 21, 2006]

EXAM WEEK FOR THE GOP CONGRESS

(By George Melloan)

Immigration reform is on the Senate agenda this week. The issue has been festering for years and probably will still be when Congress takes its Easter break, once again demonstrating the weakness of Republican congressional leadership.

It hardly needs saying the U.S. immigration policy is a mess. An estimated 11 million undocumented immigrants are among the 300 million souls who inhabit the Nation. Most fill jobs U.S. citizens disdain. It would be hard to run U.S. hotels and restaurants without the maids and busboys who have made their way from places like Quito and San Salvador.

Yet their presence annoys what Weekly Standard editor Fred Barnes aptly calls "paleocons," conservatives of the Pat Buchanan stripe who go hysterical over these brown-skinned, Spanish-speaking toilers. Vigilantism has broken out on the Mexican border, with macho guys packing six-guns searching for wetbacks. More seriously, the hysteria has infected Congress, resulting in House passage in December of a bill that would, along with other drastic measures, authorize the construction of a 700-mile Berlin Wall on the Mexican border.

One guy who really loves that wall is a Yankee-baiting Mexican leftist named Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador. The highly visible testimony to gringo abhorrence of Mexicans is feeding his campaign for the July 2 Mexican presidential election. If he makes it, the U.S. will have only a few friends left in Latin American capitals. The aging, tottering Fidel Castro will have finally achieved his life's ambition of turning the Spanish-speaking world against America.

Illegal immigrants are indeed a problem, although also the principal victims of their illegal status. Because they don't have documents they can be easily exploited in ways offensive to the American sense of justice and fair play. The industry that has developed for sneaking them into the country is used for other purposes, such as smuggling drugs. A few, partly because of attachments to the smugglers, turn to crime in places like Los Angeles and Albuquerque.

The inability of the U.S. to devise a sensible set of immigration policies has broader repercussions beyond Latin America.

Microsoft's Bill Gates complains that the U.S. is shutting out foreigners with needed skills. Colleges and universities say that Immigration and Naturalization Service bureaucracy complicates the admission of students, limiting the ability of the U.S. to earn foreign currency and international goodwill by offering the world's youth first-class educational opportunities. Employers protest at criminal penalties if they fail to detect document forgeries and thus don't fulfill their "duties" as surrogate law enforcers.

If Congress had been living up to its responsibilities, these problems would have been addressed long ago. The first requirement is for members to accept the fact that unfilled jobs in a booming economy are going to attract individuals seeking better lives. That's a normal and powerful drive in homo sapiens. Spending taxpayer billions on a hideous wall and more cops might reduce the flow, but it won't stop it or deal with the issue of what to do about those already in the country.

Lawmakers of course have a natural predilection toward exercising police power. Large construction projects appeal as well, especially in a Congress that seems mainly focused on finding ways to pass out federal dollars to key constituencies. But it should be evident by now that those kinds of approaches are limited in coping with honest human instincts.

The equation is simple: The U.S. needs labor; immigrants supply labor. So the solution is to find ways to bring the two together in some legal, orderly way. President Bush understands this, which is why he has proposed the restoration of a guest-worker program. But for some reason—perhaps because the president's staff is not sufficiently skillful or vigorous enough in pressing his case—the Republican leaders in Congress seem deaf to the wishes of their own president.

The second part of the equation, what to do about existing illegals, is a bit more difficult, politically at least. The first bit of advice worth taking: Stop treating it as a police problem. Nearly all of the illegals sneaked into the U.S. for nothing more heinous than to offer their honest labor. They violated U.S. immigration laws but they aren't criminals in the sense of posing a threat to persons and property. If approached seriously and with sufficient goodwill, it should not be beyond the mind of man to find ways to make them legal.

In other words, they need to be given amnesty. The paleocons immediately object that doing so would reward them for breaking the law. How about changing the phrasing a little bit? Let's say they are to get amnesty in recognition of the fact that they already have suffered sufficient hardship in getting into the U.S. and living secret lives. Various other schemes that have been mentioned, such as sending them home to wait in a queue, have one fatal defect: They won't convince illegals that it is safe to come out of hiding.

Offering to give illegals green cards and wipe the slate clean is the only practical solution. If they come forward, they can stay on their jobs and travel back and forth to their homes legally. Some who have been trapped in the U.S. by their inability to travel freely will choose to go home permanently. There will be less incentive to sneak in family members, since it will be possible to visit relatives or send remittances. Restoring something like the old bracero program for temporary farm workers would further regularize the flow of labor.

Let's admit that Beltway politics has gone crazy. Aside from the paleocons, there are the labor unions and their "liberal" friends. Most unions long ago gave up representing working people in favor of representing

themselves, which is no doubt why they are losing membership. It is hard to think of a class of workers more in need of union support than poor Latinos with no legal rights. But politics are what Congress is paid to manage. It's too bad this Congress is making such a hash of it.

THE CRIMES OF BUREAUCRATIC ETHNIC CLEANSING

HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2006

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, on April 1, 2006 there will be a march with world significance in the battered city of New Orleans. Thousands of marchers from all over the Nation will assemble to force a laser beam of conscience to focus on the horror of ethnic cleansing now underway in that region. While it is true that Hurricane Katrina was an act of God and the collapse of the levees was an accident resulting from years of Federal underfunding, incompetence and local corruption, some have charged, and I agree, that the present blunders and stagnation in the recovery and rebuilding operation is the result of an "ethnic cleansing mindset." The plot you will find nowhere on paper or in any set of email messages; however, there is an understanding within a powerful "government-real estate complex" that African Americans who have been displaced by the ravages of Katrina should not be encouraged to return. This unwritten plot begins in the White House where chief political strategists have pinpointed the obvious fact that without the Black voters of New Orleans, Louisiana will become a permanent Republican "red" state.

The April 1st march is designed to confront this bold ethnic cleansing by planned neglect and abandonment. The march will also dramatically highlight the overarching racist mindset that nurtures the ethnic cleansing process. On several different occasions, during the early flooding in New Orleans armed law enforcement officers blocked the paths of fleeing Black evacuees and forced them back toward the murderous flood waters.

Waving and firing their shotguns uniformed officers of the law blocked evacuees attempting to escape the floods by crossing the Crescent City Connection Bridge. High-level elected officials later condoned this behavior by their police. These inhumane, unspeakable actions combined with the present planned ineptitude related to the rebuilding of the 9th ward and the refusal of support for evacuees who wish to return, have generated numerous angry voices, especially among the youth, in New Orleans and across the Nation. In the language of RAP poems, I have tried to translate and convey the message of three of these angry voices:

ANGRY VOICE ONE: NAZIS ON THE BRIDGES

Armed Nazis
On steel bridges
Blocked paths to
The highest driest ridges.
Each uniformed gangster
Had an official gun
Black fathers forced
To watch their
Flood soaked children run.
They drew a hard line
Between Black and White blood—

They drove the mothers
Back into the flood.
Nazi viruses
Never die
They don't even fade away,
When times are dry
They hide in bunkers
Hunkered down for a stormy day.
On the bridges
Satan in command
Devils rules the land
On the bridges
Judgment day
Blacks get back
Stay out of the way
Die out of sight
The waters will cover you
In the endless wet night.
Run to requisition
The tightest Nuremberg nopeses
These Katrina crimes
Are war criminal abuses.

ANGRY VOICE TWO: THEY ARE COMING FOR
OUR HOMES

Wake up Black people
They're coming for our homes!
Monster Katrina
Has many national clones.
Wake up Black people
With confusion and neglect
They now wash us away
They hijack our property
For a tourist development day,
Donald Trump and Disney Ducks
Will have their powerful say;
People chocolate people
Your're not welcomed to stay
Our schools churches graveyards
Have all been hauled away.
Wake up Black people
They're coming for our homes!
Monster Katrina
Has many national clones.
Urban blight declassified
Diversity agenda mystified
Inner cities reoccupied
Suburban flight
Has suddenly died
City planners cried
Eminent domain
Brings savage pain
Ethnic cleansing
Income rinsing
Brokers bulldoze us out
Urban surfs
Have no financial clout
Wake up Black people!
Weak tribes will rot
Extinct among the stones
Monster Katrina
Has many national clones.
Wake up Black people!
They're coming for our homes.

ANGRY VOICE THREE: BLACKS NEED MORE
GUNS

Now hear this!
Soldiers in Iraq
Come home now
To kill racist snakes
Crawling on our backs
More guns are needed by Blacks.
To fight our way
Across blocked bridges
Blacks need more guns!
Never again
Will they drive us
Weeping back into the flood,
Next time before we drown
We'll spill lots of blood.
Blacks need more guns!
They halted all Blacks
Who came their way
They hoarded the flood
For their next rainy day.
To get gestapos off our back
Black soldiers in Iraq
Come home now

Blacks need more guns!
Soldiers come home
Storm the bridges
Nazis fire down
From high dry ridges.
No well regulated
Militias from the slums
Are here to march against
Official heartless bums.
Desperate Blacks are mandated
Now to bear arms
Shed the luxury
Of non-violent charms.
The NRA
Can save our day
The second amendment
Is the great American way.
Blacks need more guns!
It's us oh Lord
Black victims
Standing in the need of prayer.
If not the NRA Lord
Tell us who else is there?
The NRA
Is our salvation
Whom shall we fear?
When the next flood rises
On television
You will not be entertained
by even one tiny tear.
The second amendment
Is our road to rescue
Whom shall we fear?
Blacks need more guns!

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JEFF FORTENBERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2006

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Mr. Chairman, on Thursday, March 16, 2006, I was inadvertently detained and thus missed rollcall vote No. 46. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2006

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 185th anniversary of Greek independence and to pay tribute to the contributions of Greek Americans to the American melting pot.

In 1821, an underground rebellion began by Greeks who had been living for generations under occupied rule by the Ottoman Turks for over 400 years. The War for Independence ended roughly 7 years later, when Greece achieved its liberation with the Treaty of Andrianople. Only then, were Greek citizens able to fully celebrate their culture, their religion, and their democratic heritage.

And, it was that rich philosophical history on which our Founding Fathers drew inspiration. When drafting our Constitution over 200 years ago, many ideas came from the world's first democracy in Ancient Greece.

Greece has long been one of the United States' closest allies. Fighting alongside America in every war of the 20th Century, Greece continues to offer strong support with the current War on Terrorism.

With over 3 million Greek Americans living in the U.S. today, Greek culture still plays an

important role in communities all across the Nation. Public service organizations, like AHEPA's Chapter 453 in Wyckoff, New Jersey, are committed to being positive participants in our society. And, it has been an honor to work with them over the past several months.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all Americans to recognize Greek Independence Day and the valuable contributions that so many Greeks and Greek Americans have made to our country.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF REP. SHERWOOD L. BOEHLERT

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the contributions of my friend and colleague, Congressman SHERWOOD (SHERRY) BOEHLERT. After 24 years in Congress, Congressman BOEHLERT who has served this House with dignity and a great deal of integrity has decided that "it's time."

First elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1982, Congressman BOEHLERT represents the 24th District of New York, and he does so with steadfast leadership, commitment, and simply put, a love for the job.

As he rose in seniority and became chairman of the House Science Committee in 2001, BOEHLERT worked to further economic development for his district and the State of New York, as well as to push for an environmental agenda that would benefit not only his constituents, but the nation as a whole.

While we are losing one of the most dynamic and passionate Members of this great body, the good people of central New York, are losing a man who fought and worked tirelessly on their behalf. From his efforts to secure money for transportation projects to supporting the agenda of the National Science Foundation, SHERRY BOEHLERT was going to do what it took and what was best for those who elected him into office.

It has been a privilege to serve with my friend in the House and to work side by side with him on matters concerning the New York State Congressional Delegation.

Mr. Speaker, I submit to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, an article by E.J. Dionne, Jr. which speaks to the retirement of our much-respected and admired Member, SHERRY BOEHLERT.

[From the Washington Post, Mar. 21, 2006]

THE GOP'S SHRINKING MIDDLE

(By E. J. Dionne Jr.)

Members of Congress retire all the time, but some retirements are leading indicators of the direction of our politics. Rep. Sherwood Boehlert's announcement last week to call it quits matters, and in a depressing way.

The affable 69-year-old New York Republican is one of the last of a breed: a liberal Republican, though he calls himself a "moderate" and has the record to prove it. Boehlert's departure does not leave the House bereft of liberal Republicans—Rep. Jim Leach of Iowa is more liberal than Boehlert. But Leach, alas, is an outlier. The spotted owl is in good shape compared with liberal Republicans.

Boehlert chose to retire in the year when National Journal, the political world's answer to Sports Illustrated, featured him as the ultimate "Down the Middle" guy. In its Feb. 25 issue, the magazine published its annual ratings, which showed that Boehlert's votes were more liberal than those of 52.2 percent of House members and more conservative than 47.8 percent. Boehlert's district includes the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, and it's hard to move the ball more to the middle of the plate than he does.

It's been downhill for his brand of Republicanism from the moment he set foot in Washington as a congressional staffer in 1964. That's the year Barry Goldwater won the Republican presidential nomination and the great flight of the Republican liberals began.

After Goldwater's landslide defeat, two Republican progressives who later became conservatives, George Gilder and Bruce Chapman, wrote a brilliant book called "The Party That Lost Its Head," detailing how and why the party's liberal wing responded so anemically to the conservative challenge. But it was too late. The party of Abraham Lincoln and Theodore Roosevelt was destined to become an annex of the conservative movement.

Boehlert has always been unabashed in embracing his liberal roots. Over breakfast on a sunny summer morning in Cooperstown five years ago, Boehlert embraced two of the most progressive politicians of his lifetime. "People say to me: 'Why are you the kind of Republican you are?' Because in my formative political years, when I was coming up in New York, my governor was Nelson A. Rockefeller and my senator was Jacob K. Javits."

Why does the decline and fall of liberal Republicanism matter? After all, rationalizing the political system into a more conservative GOP and a more-or-less liberal Democratic Party makes the alternatives clearer to voters, who are offered, in Goldwater's famous phrase, "a choice, not an echo."

But it turns out that a Republican Party dominated by conservatives is no more coherent than the party that left room for progressives. The huge budget deficit is conservatism's Waterloo, testimony to its political failure. The conservatives love to cut taxes but can't square their lust for tax reduction with plausible spending cuts. Oh, yes, a group of House conservatives has a paper plan involving deep program cuts, but other conservatives know that these cuts will not pass, and shouldn't.

Paradoxically, because the liberal Republicans didn't pretend to hate government, they were better at fiscal responsibility. They were willing to match their desired spending levels with the taxes to pay for them. It didn't make for exciting, to-the-barricades politics. It merely produced good government.

Boehlert, being an optimist by nature, was always ready to declare that the "moderates' moment" had finally arrived. Last November, after I had written a column taking some moderate Republicans to task for backing the outrageous budget bill that passed under the cover of darkness at 1:30 a.m., there was Boehlert on the phone insisting that he and fellow moderate Mike Castle (R-Del.) had wrung some important concessions out of the House leadership. Maybe so, I replied, but I had a higher opinion of moderate Republicans and expected more of them than that lousy budget bill.

The problem may be that Boehlert and Castle did get as much as they could, given the numerical weakness of their variety of Republicanism, but that's not good enough. I suspect Boehlert knows this. Absent a robust progressive wing, congressional Republicans

will continue to produce fiscally incoherent government. Democrats now have the task of representing their own brand of politics, and that of progressive Republicans, too.

I'll miss Boehlert and his optimistic moderation. Our politics worked better when a sufficiently large band of Republican moderates and liberals could take the edge off polarization and orient government toward problem-solving. But the liberal Republicans are gone. We have to deal with the GOP we have, not the GOP we wish still existed.

TRIBUTE TO GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2006

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 185th anniversary of Greek independence and to celebrate the long friendship shared between the people of Greece and the United States of America.

Greece and the United States are forever linked by common values and political philosophy. In the formative years of our Republic, the founding fathers looked to the shining example set by ancient Greece whose political institutions and democratic ideals were the foundation upon which were based many of the political freedoms and traditions Americans enjoy today.

In 1821, as our American experiment with democracy blossomed, we proudly stood in support of the new Greek republic emerging from the ashes of the Ottoman Empire. Petros Mavromichalis, a founder of the modern Greek state, said to the citizens of the United States in 1821, "it is in your land that liberty has fixed her abode and . . . in imitating you, we shall imitate our ancestors and be thought worthy of them if we succeed in resembling you." As the Greek state took shape, Presidents Adams, Madison and Jefferson joined a nation of grateful Americans in an expression of encouragement and good wishes. Ever since, Greece and the United States have enjoyed a strong cultural, commercial and strategic partnership.

The Greek people have stood with us during every major American military action. The citizens of the United States will never forget how during World War II, Greece in the historic Battle of Crete, presented the Axis powers with their first major setback, setting in motion a chain of events that would significantly affect the outcome of World War II.

And today the Greek people are standing beside us still, this time in Afghanistan where they have not only dedicated financial and logistical support to the NATO effort there, they are also playing an important role in helping to physically secure the country.

Thomas Jefferson referred to ancient Greece as the light which led ourselves out of Gothic darkness. On the occasion of the 185th anniversary of Greek independence, I join all Americans in wishing the people of Greece congratulations and best wishes. We will remain eternally grateful to the Greek people and the legacy of ancient Greece for the shining example it set for democracies the world over.

TRIBUTE TO GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2006

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am honored today to rise in commemoration of the 186th anniversary of Greece's independence from the Ottoman Empire in 1829 and to pay tribute to its long and sometimes difficult journey back to democracy, freedom, stability, and prosperity.

Nestled in Southern Europe, and bordering the Aegean Sea, Ionian Sea, and the Mediterranean Sea, between Albania and Turkey, Greece is the epitome of picturesque.

Greece is rich with history traceable to Stone Age hunters, compounded with agricultural and complex civilizations of Minoan and Mycenaean kings and followed by the Dark Ages, marking a period of wars and invasions.

During the second half of the 19th century and first half of the 20th century, Greece strengthened its landmass by adding neighboring islands and territories.

After being invaded by Italy in 1940, Greece became occupied by Germany from 1941 to 1944. After enduring many years of civil war, Greece defeated the communist rebels in 1949 and subsequently joined NATO in 1952.

In 1972, Greece held its first democratic elections and created a parliamentary republic, abolishing the monarchy, and later joined the European Community in 1982.

Today, Greece is part of the international coalition committed to the war on terror. By making airspace and airbases available to the U.S., Greece is an important player in the war against terrorism.

I join my colleagues in commemoration of Greece Independence Day and gladly pay tribute to the many cultural contributions paid by Greek Americans in Dallas, as well as, in our Nation.

CELEBRATING THE 185TH ANNI- VERSARY OF GREEK INDEPEND- ENCE ON MARCH 25, 2006

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2006

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 185th anniversary of Greek independence, which took place on March 25, 2006.

Thousands of years ago the spirit of democracy was born in Greece. In 1821, this democracy flourished when the Greeks successfully declared their independence from the Ottoman Empire. Their struggle and success reinforced their belief in freedom and democracy. This belief holds strong and true today, as Greeks continue to fight side-by-side in defense of democracy and freedom, and in opposition to terrorism.

Today we celebrate Greece and the Greek people everywhere for their continued contribution to democracy and freedom. As nations around the world struggle with tyranny and injustice, may they look to the victories of the Greeks for hope that democracy can flourish.

LIBERIA IS IN NEED OF U.S.
ASSISTANCE

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to continue my supplication for increased U.S. support for the people of Liberia and to enter into the RECORD a Washington Post editorial dated March 20 which outlines why the United States should lend itself to providing assistance to the poverty-stricken West African country.

When the country of Liberia was founded by freed American slaves in 1847, it held a world of promise. Today, however it is suffering from profound poverty—a product of a civil war that has driven more than 3 million Liberians from their homeland. More than 8 in 10 Liberians cannot find work. Underdevelopment plagues the country—a country with no running water and no electricity. Founded by the dream of freedom, it now suffers from a distinct deprivation that the United States can now address through their support of the newly elected president of Liberia Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf and her goals for her countrymen and women.

This month, President Johnson-Sirleaf addressed a special joint-session of Congress and met with President Bush. She outlined the many things that are needed to be done in order to ensure her country thrives. “We must revive educational facilities, including our few universities. We must provide essential agricultural extension services to help us feed ourselves again, developing the science and technology skills to insure that we prosper in a modern global economy,” she told Members of Congress. President Johnson-Sirleaf has expressed the urgency of resettling displaced Liberians, the rehabilitation of the core of an electricity grid to high-priority areas and institutions, in addition to the demobilization of former combatants and restructuring of their army, police and security services. President Johnson-Sirleaf, as Mr. Fred Hiatt mentions in his editorial, is one reason why President Bush should help Liberia. A Harvard-trained economist, and former World Bank and United Nations official, she is committed to uplifting her country. A second reason, according to Hiatt, is the fact that if nothing is done at the present time, the cost of repair in Liberia will be “far more difficult and expensive” later on.

Mr. Speaker, all these are pressing reasons to assist Liberia and I am certain that with President Johnson-Sirleaf's commitment and U.S. aid, the economy and social conditions of Liberia can be revived.

[From the Washingtonpost.com, Mar. 20, 2006]

THE CASE FOR CARING NOW

(By Fred Hiatt)

On one of her visits to her native Liberia, Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf told a joint session of Congress last week, she was placed in a jail cell with 15 men. “All of them were executed a few hours later,” she said. “Only the intervention of a single soldier spared me from rape.”

Now Johnson-Sirleaf, 67, is the newly elected president of her unhappy African country, and if you think she was trying to seize Congress's attention with that anecdote of 20 years past, you are no doubt correct.

After all, the world is full of unhappy countries that have won sympathy here, and then been rapidly discarded. Think Haiti, for example, or Afghanistan, which was of interest to Ronald Reagan, forgotten by George H.W. Bush, neglected by Bill Clinton and then (not coincidentally) a crisis again.

Now Johnson-Sirleaf, Africa's first female elected leader, is enjoying her moment of fame and good feeling. Laura Bush and Condoleezza Rice attended her inauguration in January. Congress greeted her as a hero last week. President Bush will receive her tomorrow. After a quarter-century of coups, dictators and civil wars in Liberia, this is a moment of restored democracy and hope.

Do not assume, however, that Johnson-Sirleaf therefore will stoop to unseemly flattery or diplomatic spin. After all her years of exile, harassment, surveillance and prison with all the misery waiting for her back home, she seems to have no time for that.

As in: When she is asked during a visit to The Post how she will plead her case for aid to Bush, given draining U.S. commitments to Iraq and Afghanistan, she replies, “For the reason you said—he needs a success. Billions are being spent on Iraq, billions are being spent on Afghanistan—and it will take a fraction of those billions to make Liberia a success story.

“I think he needs one, and we're going to give him an opportunity to have one.”

It's not that Johnson-Sirleaf, stately in traditional dress, comes across as ungrateful. In her address to Congress, she thanked the United States for its help in brokering an end to Liberia's vicious civil war and for sending money to get the country going again.

But, she says, “we still have problems. I can't tell you we're out of the woods.”

Any Western leader might regard that as an astonishing understatement. Johnson-Sirleaf works out of a dilapidated palace that, like the rest of her country, depends on generators for electricity.

“We have a city that's dark,” she says. “We have a city where many young children don't know that water comes out of a tap.” At night, children gather on street corners to do their homework by the spillover from private floodlights, since they have no light at home. Many others do no homework because they can't afford pencils, or can't attend school at all.

Civil war drove most of the country's 3.5 million people from their homes. Some 45 percent of the population is 14 or younger; many of those children were press-ganged into armies and know no other life. Life expectancy is 42.5 years. Unemployment is 80 to 85 percent. Of every 1,000 children born, 132 die in infancy.

Why should the United States care? The standard answer of traditional historical ties, based on the freed American slaves who founded Liberia, may have worn thin after all these years. But there are two others.

One is that helping is cheaper in the long run than the alternative. When conditions in a country become too atrocious to bear—when drug-addled marauders take to chopping off the hands of children who get in their way, as in Liberia's neighbor Sierra Leone—public opinion may (at least some of the time) force the United States, Britain or the United Nations to intervene. By the time that demand comes, the destruction is so complete—in Liberia, roads, hospitals, water pipes, everything has crumbled—that repair is far more difficult and expensive.

The second is Johnson-Sirleaf herself: Harvard-trained economist, former World Bank and U.N. official, democrat. She espouses an anti-corruption, socially inclusive vision that aid officials can only dream of finding in most poor countries. Courageously, for he

still has many followers, she has asked that former dictator Charles Taylor, now in Nigeria, stand trial for his crimes.

When her hour at The Post is over, she waves off the usual pleasantries and asks: What will emerge from this interview? What will Liberia get out of it? And suddenly “grandmotherly,” the adjective you often hear applied to her, reminds you less of the woman who sneaked you an extra cookie when your mother wasn't looking and more of having your hands checked for cleanliness before being seated at the Sunday dinner table.

Well, Madam President, I'm afraid this column is the best I can do. I hope you get more out of President Bush tomorrow.

COMMEMORATING THE 185TH ANNIVERSARY OF GREEK INDEPENDENCE

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2006

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in proud recognition of the 185th anniversary of Greek independence. This special day for Greece commemorates the strength and determination of its people to restore their democratic roots and identity.

The political philosophies of both the United States and Greece have been challenged by oppressive powers, and both nations have proudly defended their right to self-government and individual freedoms. After showing a desire to be free from the Ottoman Empire in 1821, Greece endured eleven long years of war to succeed in gaining independence. American and Hellenic cultures greatly respect their tradition of independence and recognize the importance of democratic principles.

The United States and Greece have always enjoyed a friendship and alliance in international and cultural endeavors. I am pleased that the Greek Foreign Minister Dora Bakoyannis and other dignitaries paid a visit last week to Washington, D.C., to celebrate this anniversary since Hellenic principles resonate in our culture and politics. The United States was founded on the principles of democracy developed thousands of years ago in the city-states of ancient Greece. The beauty of Greek architecture can even be found while taking a walk through our beloved Capitol building. Likewise, our country's influence on Greece can be seen in their first Constitution, which was based on our Declaration of Independence and the principles behind the American Revolution.

On a cultural level, since Greece resurrected the Olympics in 1896, they have symbolized peace and excellence for people around the world. The Olympics show that great athletic skill and spirited competition can bring nations together despite their differences. We saw at the 2006 Winter Olympics in Torino, Italy, how Hellenic ideals such as equality and friendship have stood the test of time and continue to flourish at a global level. Hellenic culture, whether through its development of democratic government or its espousal of friendly competition, encourages people to come together amicably even during the most difficult of times.

Mr. Speaker, it would be hard to imagine a United States of America, or even the world,

without the great contributions from Greece. I will continue to work in Congress to support Hellenic causes and our strong and important alliance. I would like to join my colleagues in congratulating Greece on the anniversary of its independence.

TRIBUTE TO WEST VIRGINIA
UNIVERSITY BASKETBALL

HON. NICK J. RAHALL, II

OF WEST VIRGINIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, March 28, 2006

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, a collective groan could be heard across the state of West Virginia in the waning hours of Thursday, March 23, 2006, as a last-second shot by the Texas Longhorns closed the doors on West Virginia University's impressive NCAA tournament run.

But while our Mountaineers might have lost the game, it remains a "sweet ending" for our heroes of the hard-court who, for the second year in a row, have our state swelling with pride.

It is the first time West Virginia has won two games in consecutive NAAs since superstar Jerry West, whose silhouette graces the NBA's logo, led it to the title game in 1959 and a regional semifinal the next year.

Forward Mike Gansey, one of five seniors on the team, said about the distinction, "I just hope we end up being one of the great and most popular teams in West Virginia history like they were."

I think it's pretty safe to say Mr. Gansey and the rest of the team's departing stars will get their wish.

It will be a long time before any of us forget the hustle and heart of Gansey, the improbable three-point stroke of Martinsburg native Kevin Pittsnogle, the leadership and selfless play of J.D. Collins, the accomplishments on and off the court of Academic All-American Joe Herber, the sweet shot of Patrick Beilein.

And we will always remember how all of these young men came together to achieve more than anyone expected, and how through sheer determination, teamwork and a ton of heart they became role models not just for a state, but for an entire nation.

We will miss these five fine men on the basketball court, but will continue to follow the accomplishments of these unofficial West Virginia ambassadors as they are certain to go on to great things.

Behind them, they leave big shoes to fill, but they also leave their legacy, a legacy that will be carried on by their teammates and by many in the years to come.

HONORING EDWARD AND MERLE
FORD

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, March 28, 2006

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Edward and Merle Ford on their 50th wedding anniversary. Edward and Merle celebrated this wonderful milestone on February 28, 2006 after having spent half a century in

love and with the shared experiences of family life.

Edward Lee Ford was born on July 31, 1929 in Hemingway, South Carolina. He relocated to Pennsylvania to attend Pine Forge Academy. Prior to graduating from Pine Forge, Edward and his twin brother, Jesse, were drafted into the Army where they served as medics. During his time at Pine Forge and while in Germany, Edward diligently wrote to Merle Elizabeth Cheatham. Merle was born on January 1, 1934 in Baltimore, Maryland, and like Edward, attended Pine Forge Academy. During the early days of their romance, letter-writing kept their love alive.

On October 23, 1955, Merle Elizabeth Cheatham and Edward Lee Ford were wed at the chapel on the grounds of Pine Forge Academy. The Fords have four children; Rhonda, Terry, Dwayne, and Lisa; three grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren. Merle and Edward have likewise kept their connection to Pine Forge Academy strong. Merle worked as the Registrar, Secretary to the Principal, and Typing Teacher at the Academy, while Edward designed and built Kimbrough Hall, several of the log cabins, and renovated North Hall into the Music Conservatory. Edward even served as the first president of the Pine Forge National Alumni Association. In 1995, Edward, along with his brother Jesse, received the honor of being alumni of the year. In addition to their dedication to each other and the Academy, the Fords are pillars in their church where they serve as Head Deacon/Deaconess at the Walnut Street Community Seventh-day Adventist Church in Pottstown, Pennsylvania.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in honoring Edward and Merle Ford on their fifty golden years of love and dedication to each other. I hope they will continue to live in the house Edward built for Merle and that they are blessed with continued joy, health, and love.

TEN CONSTITUENTS KILLED IN AN
ACCIDENT

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, March 28, 2006

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great sadness in my heart. On Wednesday, March 22, 2006, ten of my constituents were killed in an accident that has left a tight knit community in New Jersey full of grief, and reflecting on fond memories of those who have departed.

Today my prayers are with those our community has lost: Marvin Bier and Shirley Bier, Hans Wilhelm O. Eggers and Maria Eggers, Arthur Kovar and Frieda Kovar, Robert Rubin and Barbara Rubin, Marion Diamond, and Carole E. Ruchelman. Each of these people embraced life and we will miss them greatly.

In the wonderful years of retirement, these residents of the Ponds, in Monroe Township, New Jersey, sought out new parts of the world. Last week, they were on a cruise that took them to Chile, where they opted to take a bus to explore an enticing part of that country. In a horrible accident, the bus rolled off an embankment.

In addition to those killed, we must also pray for Bernard Diamond and Harold

Ruchelman, who survived the terrible crash that took the lives of their wives. These two men will need the support of our community. We must give them our love and help them deal with the seemingly insurmountable sorrow they must feel.

My prayers are also with the family members, relatives, and neighbors of those affected by this accident. This week has reminded us of the preciousness of each moment, and how many of the unexpected events that change our lives remain out of our control. It reinforces the need to remain humble in the eyes of God and to take each day and live it as if a gift from God. This was the spirit in which each of these ten New Jersey residents traveled with B'nai B'rith on their South American cruise. They left the safety and comfort of the Ponds to explore a new part of the world. They are now on their final journey and safe in God's hands.

Today is a day for reflection and for contemplation. While we have pain and grief today, tomorrow we must work to find internal peace with the events of last week. As Psalm 23 reminds us, "surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever." It is not easy today, and it will not be easy tomorrow, but we need to embrace the grace that exists and make the most of our lives, building upon the memory of those we have lost. As Moses reminds us in Deuteronomy, "be strong and of good courage. Fear not, for God will go with you. He will not fail you. He will not forsake you."

ON THE OCCASION OF THE DEDICATION OF THE KAVLI INSTITUTE FOR PARTICLE ASTROPHYSICS AND COSMOLOGY AT THE STANFORD LINEAR ACCELERATOR CENTER

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, March 28, 2006

Mrs. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Stanford University and Stanford Linear Accelerator on the dedication of the Kavli Institute for Particle Astrophysics and Cosmology on March 17, 2006. The institute is dedicated to advancing the understanding of the cosmos in its search for "dark matter" and "dark energy," which compose an estimated 96 percent of the universe.

This was all made possible by Fred Kavli, a world renowned physicist, through his extraordinary generosity and vision.

The following are his inspirational remarks at the dedication of the institute which bears his name.

It is a special pleasure to be here today for the dedication of this beautiful building in the service of science.

First I want to remember and pay tribute to Leland Stanford and his wife, Jane, who laid the physical and spiritual foundation for this great university, and who in their foresight provided the ample land on which this building stands today.

We owe our gratitude to the many people who have been instrumental in making the Kavli Institute for Astrophysics and Cosmology and the building come about, and give special recognition to President Hennessy, Provost Etchemendy, and the Department of Energy, represented by Robin

Staffin. We appreciate the capable work of Roger Blandford, Jonathan Dorfan, and Steven Kahn, who are the prime engines in this effort, and we recognize Steven Chu for his contribution in starting the Institute.

We truly have a great building on a wonderful site, and I want to recognize the architectural firm of EHHD for a beautiful and functional design.

The building will be an important focal point for the activity of the Kavli Institute for Particle Astrophysics and Cosmology. It is especially important since the Institute is a joint effort of Stanford and SLAC, and the new building will help to integrate the scientific effort of the two institutions, and will be a common meeting ground for participants from each as well as for visitors from many other institutions.

The prominent location is symbolic of the central role it will play in this function.

But the building cannot fulfill its function without content, and we are especially thankful to Pierre Schwob who donated the computer center, and Pehong Chen who donated the Chair for the director of the Kavli Institute.

The Kavli Foundation supports basic science because we believe in its long-range benefit to humanity. We are looking for benefits which may lie far into the future, benefits that may be hard to predict, but as we look at the past, the benefits of science have been proven over time. The fruits of research are not always immediate and are often not predictable. Often the benefits are the result of unpredictable outcomes of an exploration that was initially motivated purely by intellectual curiosity.

Heisenberg, Schrodinger, and Dirac were not motivated by practical applications

when they and their colleagues developed the quantum theory of matter, and yet, their research led to, among other results, an understanding of electronic conduction in solid state materials, which led to the invention of the transistor, which made possible the development of integrated circuits, computers, the internet, and the IT world in which we live today.

I believe there is a strong relationship between the level of a nation's science and its technological and industrial leadership in today's high-tech world.

For many years, Bell Laboratories was the strongest and best scientific research institution in the world. The research from Bell Labs was freely publicized throughout the world, but who was to take primary advantage of it to build a high technology industry? It was the home country, the United States of America. It is not just a matter of knowing the theory, it is the foundation that is built step by step by scientists, the engineers, the technicians, the suppliers, the scientific infrastructure, and it is the whole underlying knowledge base that transfers pure science into industrial benefits. I believe that without the Bell Labs, the U.S. would not be the strong world leader we are today in high technology.

Similarly, the Silicon Valley would not be among the very top world technological centers without Stanford and SLAC.

It is well known and widely accepted that investments in research yield enormous benefits to society through improved standard of living, better health, and stronger national security.

I believe that basic science is the primary driver for human progress and increased

knowledge about the human being, nature, and the universe.

It is for these reasons that we must be willing to make investments with a long horizon, and it is important that our leaders in government duly recognize the importance of our scientific standing in providing a superior standard of living. Sacrifices that we make today will build our future of tomorrow.

The benefits of basic science can be hard to predict, but based upon the past, the future will be more spectacular than we can ever imagine.

And to the scientists I want to say, I envy you out there looking back to the beginning of time, playing among the galaxies. You guys are really good packing 100 billion galaxies with a hundred billion stars each in the space of a subatomic particle, but when you tell me there are 11 dimensions, I like to remind you of Paul Dirac's statement that said "physical laws should have mathematical beauty and simplicity."

Today we are grateful to have this beautiful facility with an outstanding team of scientists backed up by two great institutions. I am confident that you will make new discoveries and advance our understanding of the cosmos.

Let us dedicate this house of science to take us on a ride among the stars to answer some of our most fundamental questions.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to a remarkable scientific endeavor, the Kavli Institute for Particle Astrophysics and Cosmology at SLAC, and to extend to its creator, Fred Kavli, our gratitude for his leadership, his vision and his generosity.