

for Blair's commitment and my best wishes for his retirement. I wish him and his family the very best in their new endeavors.

RECOGNIZING ERIC S. GROOMS
FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF
EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Eric S. Grooms, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 180, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Eric has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Eric has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Eric S. Grooms for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

EDS AWARENESS MONTH

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2006

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to raise awareness to and pay tribute to those affected by Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome, EDS.

The problems present in EDS include changes in the physical properties of skin, joints, blood vessels, and other tissues such as ligaments and tendons. EDS is a rare disorder, occurring in approximately 1 in 5,000 people; however, 90 percent of individuals who have EDS remain undiagnosed. The various forms of EDS are characterized by abnormalities in the chemical structure of the body's connective tissues resulting in some degree of joint looseness, fragile small blood vessels, and abnormal scar formation and wound healing. Some forms of EDS can present problems with the spine, including curved spine; the eyes; and weak internal organs, including the uterus, intestines, and large blood vessels.

There is no cure for this condition, although researchers believe that specific research on EDS would not only benefit EDS patients with diagnostic tools and treatment, but would also benefit understanding of other connective tissue related diseases. Scientific researchers have made some significant advances in recent years in trying to understand this condition, but many scientific challenges still remain.

Mr. Speaker, the Ehlers-Danlos National Foundation, a national nonprofit membership organization dedicated to controlling the effects of EDS as well as creating a support system for those diagnosed with this condition and their families, has designated May EDS Awareness Month. The goal of this effort is to educate the public about the nature and effects of EDS.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to become familiar with this disease and join us in recognizing the importance of an accurate diagnosis of EDS to ensure appropriate treatment and educational outreach. EDS Awareness Month gives all of us an opportunity to learn more about the condition. It will help us better understand the impact that EDS can have on people living with the disorder, as well as recognize the importance of early diagnosis and proper treatment. In short, we must enhance public awareness of this very misunderstood and often misdiagnosed disease.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4297,
TAX INCREASE PREVENTION
AND RECONCILIATION ACT OF
2005

SPEECH OF

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 10, 2006

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 4297. This legislation would give big benefits to millionaires, billionaires and giant corporations while the average American suffers under record high energy costs and again gets stuck with the bill.

Mr. Speaker, we should not increase the burden on our children and our grandchildren with this administration's record deficits just to make another 70 billion dollar gift that will line the pockets of the wealthiest few. Let's not extend tax rates that would encourage oil company executives to continue gouging record profits from every hard working American.

Mr. Speaker, we need to rethink our priorities. Instead of another 70 billion dollars for the super rich, why not provide health care for millions of children, provide housing for the neglected victims of Katrina or improve the education of the countless students that this administration has left so far behind? Is this Republican Congress so busy returning profits to the wealthy, that it has forgotten the families who have done all the hard work?

I encourage members to remember the American families that are the back bone of our nation and our economy and vote "no" on this bill.

RECOGNIZING JACOB R. HARRINGTON
FOR ACHIEVING THE
RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jacob R. Harrington, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 180, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Jacob has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Jacob has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Jacob R. Harrington for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING JAN STOHR UPON HER
RETIREMENT

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2006

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute to a distinguished woman who has tirelessly served the Sacramento area for many years. Jan Stohr will soon be retiring from the Nonprofit Resource Center as its Executive Director. As her colleagues, friends and family gather to celebrate her retirement, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in saluting this outstanding citizen of Sacramento.

When she steps down, Jan will leave behind a long list of accomplishments and a career devoted to helping others. She has been the driving force behind the creation of multiple Sacramento based nonprofits that continue to thrive decades after their founding.

In 1976, as a member of the Junior League, she initiated the establishment of the Child Abuse Prevention Council of Sacramento, CAPC, and a few years later was instrumental in the development of the Sacramento Region Community Foundation. Due to the successful efforts and outreach of CAPC, thousands of children have been spared from being victims of abuse; and since its founding, the Sacramento Region Community Foundation has given out 44 million dollars in grants.

The cornerstone of Jan's work in Sacramento, however, has been her longtime commitment to the Nonprofit Resource Center. The Center began in 1988 with Jan's help and has since blossomed into the place where nonprofits can turn to for assistance in writing grant proposals, securing funds and developing solid management practices. She has served as the Center's Executive Director since its establishment in 1988. Located in downtown Sacramento, the center now assists nonprofits throughout northern California.

Additionally, Jan has given her time by serving on the board of directors for numerous non-profits in the Sacramento area, including the Community Services Planning Council, the United Way, and the Mountain Valley Chapter of the American Leadership Forum. She also seen by many as a leader in the nonprofit field and has been active with the California Association of Non profits' Nonprofit Policy Council, UC Davis's Community Development Graduate Group and the Association of Fundraising Professionals.

Through her work, Jan has been awarded with numerous recognitions, including the Association of Fundraising Professionals' Outstanding Fundraising Executive Award and the United Way's Distinguished Service Award. Many more awards and accolades will certainly follow as she transitions into retirement.

Mr. Speaker, as Jan Stohr enters retirement, I am truly honored to pay tribute to one of my dear friends and one of Sacramento's most honorable citizens. I ask all of my colleagues to join with me in wishing Jan and her husband Phil continued success and happiness in all of their future endeavors.

THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
FOUNDING OF THE MOSCOW HEL-
SINKI GROUP

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2006

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, as Ranking Member of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Helsinki Commission, I note that tomorrow marks one of the major events in the struggle for human rights around the globe. Thirty years ago a courageous band of human rights defenders in the Soviet Union founded the "Moscow Helsinki Group," dedicated to monitoring Soviet compliance with the Helsinki Final Act, an historic agreement containing important provisions on human rights.

When General Secretary Brezhnev signed the Helsinki Final Act, or the Helsinki Accords, on August 1, 1975 on behalf of the USSR, Soviet officials believed that they had gained an important foreign policy victory. Indeed, there were some provisions that Soviet diplomats had sought assiduously during the negotiations among the thirty-five nations of Europe and the United States and Canada. However, the West, for its part, had insisted on certain provisions in the area of human rights and humanitarian affairs, including the right of citizens "to know their rights and to act upon them."

With this commitment in mind, Professor Yuri Orlov, a Soviet physicist who had been involved in the defense of human rights in the Soviet Union previously, called upon several of his similarly-minded colleagues to join together in an organization to press publicly for implementation of the Helsinki Accords in their country.

Eleven brave individuals answered the call, and on May 12, 1976, at a press conference called by famed human rights campaigner and peace activist Dr. Andrei Sakharov, the creation of the "Public Group to Assist in the Implementation of the Helsinki Final Act," or as it became later known, the "Moscow Helsinki Group" was announced.

The Moscow Helsinki Group committed itself to collecting information about implementation of the Helsinki Accords in the Soviet Union and publishing reports on their findings. During the first six years of its activity, they produced almost two hundred specific reports, as well as other announcements and appeals. More activists joined with the passing months. Similar Helsinki monitoring groups were established elsewhere in the USSR, including in Ukraine, Lithuania, Georgia and Armenia. Other groups focused on specific human rights issues such as psychiatric abuse or religious liberty joined the movement. The Moscow Group became an important source of information for individuals and groups seeking assistance in the area of human rights.

Naturally, the Soviet leadership rejected such "assistance" and undertook to suppress the Moscow Helsinki Group. Members were fired from their jobs, "persuaded" to emigrate, castigated in the press, and subjected to KGB searches and interrogations. When such reprisals proved mostly ineffective, members were charged with political crimes and given lengthy sentences in labor camps of the Soviet Gulag, usually with an additional term of

"internal exile," forced resettlement, typically somewhere in Siberia or the Soviet Far East.

Ten years after the founding of the Moscow Helsinki Group, 14 members had been sentenced to a total of 69 years in labor camp or prison, and 50 years internal exile. Anatoly Marchenko, a founding member and veteran dissident, died during a hunger strike at Chistopol Prison in December 1986. By 1982, the Moscow Helsinki Group had been forced to suspend its activities in the face of intense KGB repression.

But while Moscow had rid itself of some troublesome dissidents, the spirit of Helsinki was not so easily quashed. Ludmilla Alekseyeva, an exiled member of the group, testified in the U.S. Congress in October 1985 that "for victims of human rights abuses in the Eastern bloc, Helsinki remains the main source of hope . . . and a rallying point in their struggle for freedom and peace." Just a little over 4 years after she spoke those words, the Berlin Wall fell.

The Moscow Helsinki Group was re-established in 1989. Reinvigorated through the work of new and veteran members, it is one of the most respected human rights organizations in the Russian Federation today. Alexeyeva, who returned to Russia in the early 1990s, following the demise of the Soviet Union, serves as chair of the group.

Mr. Speaker, we would do well to heed the wise words of Andrei Sakharov when he noted, "The whole point of the Helsinki Accords is mutual monitoring, not mutual evasion of difficult problems." A key to the ultimate success of the Helsinki Process has been the involvement of civil society—courageous human rights defenders like those who established the Moscow Group—willing to speak out on behalf of others. I remain deeply concerned over human rights trends in Russia, especially the adoption of regressive laws affecting fundamental human rights and freedoms.

I join my colleagues on the Helsinki Commission in congratulating the Moscow Helsinki Group on the occasion of its 30th anniversary of dedicated service in the defense of fundamental freedoms and liberty.

RECOGNIZING NICHOLAS J. PARK
FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF
EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Nicholas J. Park, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 180, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Nicholas has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Nicholas has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Nicholas J. Park for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE CALI-
FORNIA STATE SENATOR ED
DAVIS

HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2006

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in sadness today to honor the memory of Ed Davis, a former California State Senator and Los Angeles Chief of Police. He was a remarkable man who was a monumental presence on the Los Angeles and California political scene. Senator Davis passed away on April 22, 2006 in San Luis Obispo, CA at the age of 89.

Born Edward Michael Davis on November 15, 1916 in Los Angeles, he graduated from John C. Fremont High School and enlisted in the United States Navy where he became a decorated officer. He later received his Masters in Public Administration from USC. Always a proud alumnus, he often sported a maroon blazer and gold pants, USC's famous colors, on the State Senate floor.

Joining the Los Angeles Police Department in 1940, Ed first walked a beat in downtown Los Angeles with the late Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley. Rising up through the ranks, he was a director of the police and fire union and later a trusted top aide to legendary Chief William Parker. Ed served as Los Angeles Chief of Police from 1969 until 1978 where he was known as a popular firebrand who pushed law and order during times of turbulence.

Chief Davis proved popular with not only with the people of Los Angeles, but also with weary Americans who were looking for tough leadership during uncertain times. During the same period, his officers' morale was at an all-time high. He became a national figure as a tough law and order proponent quelling student protests during the Vietnam War, opposing the Black Panthers, and taking a strident stance against the epidemic of hijacking in the early 1970's.

In 1974, the entire nation watched as the Chief's force had a climatic shootout with the Symbionese Liberation Army who had kidnapped heiress Patty Hearst. Several leaders of the gang died in a fiery blaze at the conclusion of the confrontation.

Chief Davis implemented historic reforms at the LAPD and left a legacy of influence in law enforcement. His innovations include creating the Neighborhood Watch concept to bring residents together, and instituting community policing. While crime rose by 55 percent across the Nation during his tenure as Chief, crime actually decreased by 1 percent in Los Angeles. His influence still exists in the LAPD, and programs that the Chief invented are at the heart of every police organization worldwide. The City of Los Angeles honored him by naming the newest and most elaborate of the three LAPD training centers "The Ed Davis Emergency Vehicle Operations Center & Tactics/Firearms Training Center" in 1998.

A respected member of the academic community, Chief Davis lecturing at USC and Cal State Los Angeles as an adjunct professor of police administration and management for 18 years. He was the author of Staff One, a leading police management textbook.

Prior to his appointment as Chief, he served for many years as a law enforcement advocate working with the California Legislature in