

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING ANDREW JAMES MILLER FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Andrew James Miller, 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 395, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Andrew has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. He has served as a quartermaster and assistant senior patrol leader and achieved the rank of Brotherhood in the Order of the Arrow and Firebuilder in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say. Over the many years Andrew has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

For his Eagle Scout Service Project, Andrew installed a fire ring and five benches at the Heartland Presbyterian Youth Camp for the use and enjoyment of all of the visitors.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Andrew James Miller for his accomplishment with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

TRIBUTE TO VINCENT AND MARIA DEJOY

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2006

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Vincent and Maria DeJoy of Jamestown, New York for their years of service to the community through their catering and grocery store business.

As presented in a ceremony to honor Mr. and Mrs. DeJoy:

DEAR MR. AND MRS. DEJOY: Let me extend my warmest wishes on your retirement. It is an honor for me to celebrate this momentous occasion with you. For over 30 years you both have been a staple in the Jamestown community. No matter the occasion, whether it be fundraisers, weddings, baby showers or retirement dinners, your service, presentation and food were first rate.

In this day and age, it is rare to find a business like Hebner Heights Catering. It was certainly the quintessential neighborhood store, complete with a huge fan base of neighborhood children. Vincent and Maria took pride in their catering business and also their corner store. This was a family business in every sense of the word. All five of their children have been employed at one time or another, as well as their grandchildren.

The DeJoy family business went far beyond the boundaries of catering and selling penny candy. Vincent and Maria are two of the most giving people you will ever meet. They have never failed to meet the needs of the community and their loved ones. St. Susan's Soup Kitchen could always depend upon a donation of food and grieving families never went without a gift.

Truly, it is an honor for me that you chose this event to be your last. On behalf of all of the people you served so well, let me offer my sincere thanks and Godspeed.

Vincent and Maria have served this community so well for over 30 years, and that is why Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor them today.

HONORING IRVIN BRAD McDOUGAL

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2006

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay public tribute to a remarkable individual from my congressional district. Brad McDougal, supervisory park ranger at Mammoth Cave National Park, was recently awarded a Citation for Valor from the U.S. Department of Interior recognizing his actions to disarm a man threatening suicide.

On April 19, 2004, park rangers at Mammoth Cave National Park received a report that a suicidal individual was in the park preparing to take his own life. Supervisory Park Ranger Brad McDougal responded solo from his residence and quickly located the subject, parked in his vehicle with a loaded gun in his lap. While other rangers were minutes away, Ranger McDougal decided to take immediate action, approaching the man with a calm and reassuring voice, gaining his confidence and disarming him without violence.

When fellow officers arrived, Ranger McDougal had stabilized the scene, saving the individual's life, and perhaps others, by his quick, calm and decisive action. Handling this volatile situation in any other manner could have easily resulted in tragedy.

I would like to publicly thank Brad McDougal for his professionalism and the strong example he sets for others in performing his job far beyond the call of duty. His actions, on duty and off, demonstrate a genuine concern and personal involvement in protecting safety and improving quality of life in his community.

It is my great honor to recognize Brad McDougal today, before the entire U.S. House of Representatives, for his leadership and service. His unique achievements and dedication to public safety make him an outstanding American worthy of our collective honor and appreciation.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MAJOR MICHAEL R. MARTINEZ

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I have the honor today to recognize the life of Major Michael R. Martinez, who passed away on January 7, 2006 in Iraq while in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. As a husband, father, lawyer, and soldier, Major Martinez will be missed by many.

Major Martinez lived in Platte County, Missouri during a two year posting at Fort Leavenworth. Major Martinez most recently served as a lawyer in the Judge Advocate General Corps. The Major served with the 24th Infantry Division at Fort Riley and the Combined Arms Center at Fort Leavenworth. He was assigned to Fort Carson, Colorado as chief of legal assistance and went to Iraq with the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment.

While in Iraq, Major Martinez served as a legal counsel to the troops. Major Martinez helped soldiers with wills, power of attorney, and provided legal guidance. Major Martinez's expertise gave soldiers a sense of comfort that all of their legal concerns would be addressed and that they had someone to talk to about their legal affairs.

Major Martinez was a good friend to many in the military and in the State of Missouri. He was very knowledgeable on issues pertaining to the law. He was an outstanding leader that will be missed. In 16 years of enlisted service to his country, Major Martinez developed a reputation as being a dedicated soldier that created a strong work environment and was a great person to work with.

I offer my condolences to his wife, Kelly, sons Alexander, Colby, and Benjamin, and step-daughters Kathryn and Samantha, and the rest of the Martinez family. In this time of sorrow, may the thoughts and prayers of friends and family comfort them and may his memory bring them peace.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2006

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I missed a roll-call vote yesterday evening, Tuesday, May 23, 2006.

On roll No. 190 regarding the Flake Amendment No. 1, an amendment to the Agricultural, Rural Development, FDA and related Agencies Appropriations Act, I would have voted "no."

• 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.

HONORING COLONEL RUSSELL D.
GOLD

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2006

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay public tribute to Col. Russell D. Gold, an exemplary soldier and citizen from my congressional district. Colonel Gold recently announced his retirement as Director of Combat Developments at Fort Knox, Kentucky.

A native of West Palm Beach, Florida, Colonel Gold was first commissioned through ROTC as a Distinguished Military Student from The Citadel, beginning his military career as a Tank Platoon Leader, then Executive Officer with the 82d Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. After completion of the Armor Officer Advance Course, he commanded Company B, 2d Battalion, 72d Armor, 2d Infantry Division, at Camp Casey, Korea. Upon completion of command, he served as a Small Group Instructor in the Armor Officer Advance Course, then, Executive Officer of the U.S. Army Armor School at Fort Knox, Kentucky.

From 1993 through 1995, Colonel Gold was assigned to the First Armored Division in Germany, where he served as the Battalion S-3 and Battalion Executive Officer with the 2d Battalion, 67th Armor, then as the Brigade S-3 for the First Brigade, 1st Armor Division. From 1995-1997, Colonel Gold was assigned to the Joint Chiefs of Staff in Washington, DC, where he served in the J-8 as Chief, War-Game Exercise Branch. Colonel Gold then commanded the 1st Battalion, 67th Armor, 4th Infantry Division, at Fort Hood, Texas. Following battalion command, Colonel Gold served as the III Corps Secretary of the General Staff, then after graduating from the Army War College, became the Director of Combat Developments at Fort Knox.

Colonel Gold commanded the 3d Brigade Combat Team, Iraq, 1st Armored Division, of Fort Riley, Kansas, from June 2002 to June 2004 before being assigned as Chief of Staff of the Armor Center on July 30, 2004.

Colonel Gold's awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit award, Bronze Star Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Joint Meritorious Unit Award, Valorous Unit Award, Iraqi Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Korean Defense Service Medal, Army Superior Unit Award, National Defense Service Medal, Combat Action Badge, Master Parachutist Badge, and the Joint Chiefs of Staff Identification Badge.

It is my great privilege to recognize Colonel Gold today, before the entire House of Representatives, for his lifelong example of leadership and service. His unique achievements and dedication to the men and women of the U.S. Army make him an outstanding American worthy of our collective honor and respect.

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. MADELINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2006

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5384) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes:

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the amendment offered by the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALOMAVAEGA) to strengthen the Resident Instruction Grants Program for the land-grant institutions in the U.S. territories. This amendment, which is also supported by the gentleman from Puerto Rico (Mr. FORTUÑO) and the gentlelady from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN), would increase the amount provided under this bill for this important Program by \$200,000 for a total of \$700,000.

This Program is a competitively-awarded grants program administered by the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service, CSREES, of the United States Department of Agriculture. This Program is authorized by Section 7503 of the Farm Security Rural Investment Act of 2002 (P.L. 107-171), and has been funded for the past two consecutive fiscal years.

Resident Instruction Grants promote and develop teaching and education programs within the food and agricultural sciences, and related disciplines, at the landgrant institutions in the U.S. territories. This Program helps these institutions meet unique challenges by strengthening their institutional educational capacities in instruction and curriculum, and by enhancing the quality of teaching and learning. These unique challenges have been documented by CSREES and previously acknowledged by the Committee on Appropriations.

CSREES has awarded two grants this past year with the initial level of funding provided for this program. The land-grant institutions in the territories formed a consortium with the University of Guam as the lead institution for the first year. These eight institutions are working together to increase the quality of their academic programs in the food and agricultural sciences. The consortium is using the first ever awarded Resident Instruction Grant to enhance courses of study and curricula, to explore alternative methods of delivering instruction, and to increase enrollment and retention in their degree programs. Each of these three objectives is being pursued through the development of coordinated and comprehensive five-to-ten year strategic plan. We believe that each member institution will be able to implement this strategic plan with funding awarded through future Resident Instruction Grants.

We also believe that partnerships between faculties at institutions in the territories and on the mainland can be eventually forged as a result of continued and increased funding for this program. Such partnerships will allow for

a more efficient use of existing educational funds by the institutions in the territories.

I thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BONILLA), the Chairman of the Subcommittee, and the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO), for recognizing the unique needs of the land-grant institutions in the U.S. territories and for their support of the Resident Instruction Grants Program. We ask for their support of this amendment and for their support for funding this Program at the highest level possible in conference with the other body.

RECOGNIZING HARRY FULGHUM
FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF
EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Harry Fulghum, 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 155, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Harry has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Harry 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 Harry Fulghum for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

RECOGNIZING KAREN HOGAN

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2006

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a wonderful woman, Ms. Karen Hogan, who has worked tirelessly for the people of the State of Florida for over two decades, and to congratulate her on her retirement.

Karen Hogan has worked in the State of Florida's Washington, D.C. office since 1995. Most recently, Karen served as Senior Management Analyst for the Florida Department of Children and Families. In this capacity, she represented and advised the Governor and the Department Secretary on national issues relevant to the State, such as healthcare, immigration, the elderly and welfare. Karen is truly an expert on Health and Human Services issues, especially the welfare Program.

Before her service in the State of Florida's Washington office, Karen was Chief of Staff for our colleague and friend, the late U.S. Representative Tom Lewis (R-FL), for the 12 years he served in the U.S. House of Representatives. I know Tom's wife Marian Lewis joins me in offering thanks to Karen for her service to the residents of South Florida.

I congratulate Karen on her well deserved retirement. It has been a true joy to work with her over these many years. Karen epitomizes the phrase "consummate professional."

Karen's knowledge on State and Federal policy issues is far reaching. She has always been extremely helpful to everyone in the Florida Congressional delegation and she will be dearly missed by all Members and staff.

Karen is a former resident of Palm Beach County, Florida, and is the mother of five children—Christina Kuminski, Richard Craney, Cathy Schwink, Wendy Daniels and Patrick Hogan—and grandmother of eight grandchildren—Alyssa, Keith and Jonathan Kuminski, Ryan Craney, Taylor, Alex and Spencer Schwink, and Carter Daniels. Karen is active in her church and bible study. I have no doubt that Karen will be looking forward to spending more time gardening, a hobby which she loves dearly. If you ask her, Karen would probably say that she isn't retiring, that she's just moving on to the next phase in her life.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Florida Congressional delegation, I wish Karen Hogan all the best in her next phase of life.

TRIBUTE TO THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SGT. STANLEY F. ROMANOWSKI POST 6896 OF THE VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2006

Mr. McCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor and acknowledge the 60th Anniversary of the Sgt. Stanley F. Romanowski Post 6896 of the Veterans of Foreign Wars in Westland, Michigan.

On May 12, 1946, the founding members instituted this Post in the Gymnasium of Munger Intermediate School and dedicated its mission to serving the citizens of Wayne County, Michigan. Named after Sgt. Stanley F. Romanowski, a decorated soldier of World War II who gave his life for his country, the Romanowski Post 6896 courageously pays tribute to the deceased by helping the living.

Each year, the 6896 members of the Romanowski Post 6896 launch charitable initiatives to assist the needy, aid the ill, support the students, and recognize the educators of our community. Among the many notable programs, these veterans host the Christmas Needy Basket Program, which provides food for underprivileged families; a Muscular Dystrophy Drive; a Diabetes Drive; a Cancer Drive; a \$50,000 scholarship fund for students; and a Teacher of the Year program.

In memory of Sgt. Romanowski's birthday, members hold an annual December memorial service in remembrance of United States fallen veterans. This summer, the Romanowski Post 6896 will also hold the first monthly memorial service at Westland City Hall dedicated to Prisoners of War, Soldiers Missing in Action, Blue Star Mothers, and Gold Star Mothers. These deeds serve as a constant reminder, to ensure that the bravery of our soldiers, the fragility of our needy, and the heroism of our fallen will not be forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, in honor of their exemplary love for the United States and our citizens, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending these veterans for their bravery and in thanking the Romanowski Post 6896 for 60 years of loyal and unrelenting service to our community and our country.

INTRODUCTION OF IRANIAN BAHÁ'Í RESOLUTION

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2006

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing a resolution with Congressman TOM LANTOS (D-CA) condemning the repression of the Iranian Bahá'í community. This concurrent resolution exposes the Iranian Government's persecution of the Bahá'ís and calls on Iran to ensure that all of its religious minorities, including the Bahá'ís, are treated in accordance with the basic human rights to which each person is entitled.

The North American Bahá'í Temple is in my district, and the persecution against the Bahá'ís in Iran has been a longstanding concern of mine. This concurrent resolution brings the House of Representatives' attention to the latest action of the Iranian Government against the 350,000-member Bahá'í community of Iran.

On March 20, 2006, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief revealed the existence of a confidential letter by the Chairman of the Command Headquarters of Iran's Armed Services to Iran's intelligence services, military and police forces. In this letter, the Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Khamenei, instructed the Command Headquarters to identify all Iranian Bahá'ís and collect any and all information about their activities.

The Anti-Defamation League recently compared the secret letter to "the steps taken against Jews in Europe" in the 1930s.

This directive is unacceptable. Yet the secret order did not occur in isolation. Over the past 18 months, Iranian security forces have been imprisoning Bahá'ís without charges and Bahá'í youth in Iran have been denied access to universities. I understand that since October 2005, there has been a campaign of vilification against Bahá'ís in Kayhan, the government-sponsored press.

The Concurrent Resolution I introduce today calls on the Government of Iran to cease its practice of monitoring the Bahá'ís, to allow them to practice their religion and to emancipate fully their religious community. I want to thank my good friend Congressman TOM LANTOS for being the lead co-sponsor of this legislation. I look forward to working with him and my other colleagues on this important human rights initiative.

RECOGNIZING CHARLES ANTHONY CURTIS FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Charles Anthony Curtis, 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 8, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Charles has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the

many years Charles 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 Charles Anthony Curtis for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

THE QUALITY INN HOTEL—A "SALUTE TO HURRICANE VOLUNTEERS"

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2006

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute those individuals and organizations that opened their hearts and dedicated both financial and emotional support to the evacuees of Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita. All of the States along the Gulf Coast have endured terrible hardships during last year's hurricane season, and I know that the generosity of North Texans played a vital role in bringing some peace into their lives.

Today I want to specifically thank three individuals and one company for their contributions. Viral Thakkar, Cara Hensley, and Joe Leising from The Quality Inn Hotel generously provided hotel rooms for some of the first evacuees traveling to Denton, Texas, in my congressional district, after the storms. For weeks after the event, the hotel's more than one-hundred rooms remained at capacity.

In the nine-month duration of the Quality Inn Hotel's efforts, they housed more than 800 evacuees. In addition, the Quality Inn worked with the City of Denton to help transition 27 families staying at the hotel into semi-permanent housing, and hosted a number of community and holiday events for evacuees and families.

I stand here today to sincerely thank Viral Thakkar, Cara Hensley, and Joe Leising from the Quality Inn Hotel for their gracious contributions. I am proud to call these people fellow Texans. Through their contribution, they not only stand as devoted and giving American citizens, but they serve as an inspiration to others.

HONORING PAUL VI CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL'S GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY TEAM'S STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2006

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor the Paul VI Catholic High School's Girls Cross Country Team, who won the 2005 Washington Catholic Athletic Conference (WCAC) Championship, the Virginia State Catholic Championship, and the Virginia Independent Schools (VIS) Cross Country Championship by defeating 40 other schools and their 230 long distance athletes.

The Paul VI Panthers, from Fairfax County, completed the 2005 season with the first triple

crown championship win in 11 years for the school. The Panthers won the WCAC with six of their seven allowed athletes in the top 20, won the Virginia State Catholic Championship with seven athletes in the top 12, and won the VIS with five of 10 allowed runners in the top 22.

Virginia Independent Schools Cross Country Association sponsors the highest level championship among all private schools in the Commonwealth. In the VIS Championship, the Panthers' top five runners completed the 3.2-mile course before 218 of the State's best female long distance runners.

Led by Head Coach Melanie Kiernan and assistants Keith Mitchell, Joe Gesker, and Mike Kiernan, the Panthers trained intensively throughout a dramatic and triumphant season.

I congratulate all the talented members of the Paul VI Girl Cross Country Team: senior Jen Scolese; juniors Kelsey Budd, Nichole Kauffmann, Michelle Kew, Caroline Manning, Rosie Loftus, Tessa Reed, and Lee Shine; sophomores Meg Clark, Mackenzie Singh, and Kate Still; and freshman Natalie Cowden.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to honor their championship, and to wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING ZACHARY LEE WILSON FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Zachary Lee Wilson, a very special young who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 216, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Zachary has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Zachary 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 Zachary Lee Wilson for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TRENT FRANKS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2006

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I regret that I was unable to be present for rollcall votes No. 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, which occurred on May 18, 2006. I was unable to cast votes on these important matters because I was traveling on official business in Arizona.

HONORING PAM KOCHER, RECIPIENT OF THE 2006 CONGRESSMAN JOHN JOSEPH MOAKLEY AWARD FOR EXEMPLARY PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. JEB BRADLEY

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2006

Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Pam Kocher of New Hampshire, the recipient of the 2006 Congressman John Joseph Moakley Award for Exemplary Public Service, which is given each year by the Greater Boston Federal Executive Board and the Moakley Family.

Initiated in 2002, the Moakley Award is given to a staff member of the New England Congressional Delegation who demonstrates strong innovative methods of thinking and effectively works on behalf of their constituents.

Anyone who knows Pam knows she is a perfect choice for this honor. Pam's public service extends over three decades and includes serving in elected office at the local level and working for Former Senator Warren Rudman, Former Congressman Bill Zelliff, and currently as State Director for Senator JOHN SUNUNU. She has worked on a number of projects important to our State for each of her bosses, including the redevelopment of the Pease Air Force Base and acting as an intermediary for small businesses during the bank failure of the early nineties. Her many years of service on the Federal level, coupled with her strong working relationships, came in very handy last summer when the Maine and New Hampshire Congressional Delegations were faced with the daunting task of convincing the BRAC Commission to keep the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard open. Pam's leadership in bringing together a broad community-based coalition was one of the driving factors in our success.

Pam credits her driving force as wanting to make government work for people. She stands for hard work, is a problem solver, and knows how to bring people together to work toward a common goal.

Pam exemplifies what good citizenship and leadership is all about. Her efforts to make New Hampshire a better place have made a lasting impact on the people that know her and know of her. I congratulate and thank Pam on her years of hard work and dedication to New Hampshire; New England, and our great Nation.

RECOGNIZING HUNTER C. GOULD FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Hunter C. Gould, 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 288, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Hunter has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the

many years Hunter 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 Hunter C. Gould for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

COMMEMORATING THE 65TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF CRETE

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2006

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 65th anniversary of the Battle of Crete.

This historic battle contributed to the Allies' victory of World War II. On May 20, 1941, thousands of German paratroopers and gliders began landing on Crete. Both the Allies and Nazis wanted Crete because of its strategic location as part of the lifeline to India and its proximity to both Palestine and Egypt. At that time the British controlled the island.

The Nazi invasion force included the elite German paratroopers and glider troops. Hitler felt this was to be easy victory, yet he is quoted to have said shortly after the invasion, "France fell in 8 days. Why is Crete free?"

During the 11-day Invasion of Crete, more than 6,000 German troops were listed as killed, wounded, or missing in action. The losses to the elite 7th parachute division marked the end of the German Military's large-scale airborne operations.

This valiant fight by the Cretan people began in the first hour of the Nazi airborne invasion while other underground movements did not begin until a year or more after being invaded.

Young boys, old men, and women displayed breath taking bravery in defending Crete. Because German soldiers were not accustomed to facing women in battle, they would tear the dress from the shoulders of suspected Cretan women to find bruises from the recoil of the rifle. The penalty was death. On July 28, 1941, The Times (London) reported that "five hundred Cretan women have been deported to Germany for taking part in the defense of their native island."

Another surprise for the German soldiers who invaded Crete was the heroic resistance of the clergy. A priest leading his parishioners into battle was not what the Germans anticipated. At Paleochora, Father Stylianos Frantzeskis, hearing of the German airborne invasion, rushed to his church, sounded the bell, took his rifle and marched his volunteers toward Maleme.

This struggle became an example for all Europe to follow in defying German occupation and aggression.

The Cretans paid a steep price for their valiant resistance to Nazi forces with thousands of civilians executed, starved, or imprisoned. The Germans burned and destroyed entire communities as a reprisal for the Cretan resistance movement. Yet this resistance lasted for 4 years.

The Battle of Crete changed history by delaying Hitler's plan to invade Russia. The invasion was delayed from April to June of 1941.

The 2-month delay in the invasion made Hitler's forces face the Russian winter.

The Russian snowstorms and the sub zero temperatures eventually stalled the Nazi invasion before they could take Moscow or Leningrad. This was the beginning of the downfall of the Nazi reign of terror.

We must always remember and honor this significant battle and the heroic drive of the Cretan people. Democracy came from Greece, and the Cretan heroes exemplified the courage it takes to preserve it.

To honor these heroes, I have introduced H. Res. 290, which recognizes and appreciates the historical significance and the heroic human endeavor and sacrifice of the people of Crete during World War II and commends the PanCretan Association of America.

Today, the courage and fortitude of the Cretan people are seen in the members of the United Cretan Associations of New York which are located in Astoria, Queens.

I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring the Cretans in the United States, Greece, and the diaspora.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF
RICHARD SHOEMAKER

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2006

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to my dear friend Richard "Dick" Shoemaker on the occasion of his retirement as the vice-president of the United Auto Workers after 49 distinguished and exemplary years of service.

Born in St. Clair Shores, Michigan, Dick joined UAW Local 865 in 1957 at the age of 18. By the time he was 27, he was elected the youngest president of that local in its history. This rapid ascent in leadership would continue throughout his life. In 1969 he was appointed as an International Representative and in 1982 he was named as the Administrative Assistant to the Vice President of the UAW. Through a course of many other prestigious promotions, Dick eventually rose to become a Vice President himself.

A constant champion of working America for nearly half a century, Dick's successful negotiations with companies including Ford, DaimlerChrysler, General Motors, Mazda, Toyota and Mitsubishi created opportunities and advancements for tens of thousands of workers. His inspiring work shows remarkable results such as record raises in wages, job security, and a measure which ensures that employment at GM and its suppliers remains at healthy levels. The members of the UAW and their families, are fortunate to have prospered under his strong and courageous leadership.

In addition to tirelessly advancing the rights of the working-class, Dick is also a member of the Michigan Democratic Party, the ACLU, and a lifetime member of the NAACP. His activity in the community and state extends even further as he serves on the boards of the Metropolitan Detroit AFL-CIO and Blue Cross-Blue Shield of Michigan.

Dick once said that those in the labor movement "have [their] walking shoes on every day." Mr. Speaker, I would ask you to join me and all of my colleagues as we congratulate

Dick Shoemaker on phenomenal career and wish him a happy retirement with his children, grandchildren, and his wife Mary. Even in retirement, I know that Dick will never take off his well-worn walking shoes.

RECOGNIZING ANDREW J. GREEN
FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF
EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Andrew J. Green, 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 288, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Andrew has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Andrew 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 Andrew J. Green for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING THE 31ST ANNUAL
CAPITAL PRIDE FESTIVAL

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2006

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the 31st Annual Capital Pride Festival, a celebration of the National Capital Area's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender, (GLBT) communities, their families and friends. The Capital Pride Festival has grown from a small block party in 1975 to the current week-long celebration. This year, Capital Pride culminates with the Pride Parade on June 10th and "The Main Event," a street fair on Pennsylvania Avenue in the shadow of the Capitol, June 11th.

I have marched in the Pride parades since coming to Congress to emphasize the universality of human rights and the importance of enacting Federal legislation to secure those rights for the GLBT community. This year's theme, "Many Communities, All Proud," holds special meaning for the citizens of the District of Columbia and its GLBT community in particular. Washingtonians live in distinct, diverse neighborhoods such as Colonial Village to the North; Fort Drum to the South, Northeast Boundary to the East, and Spring Valley to the West. Yet, we unite in our quest for all the rights guaranteed U.S. citizens by the Constitution.

In 1994, the District of Columbia lost the first vote it ever won on the floor of the House of Representatives, the delegate vote in the Committee of the Whole. The Republicans retracted the District's vote when they assumed control of the House. Our city of 550,000 residents, 10 percent more residents than the en-

tire State of Wyoming, who pay more taxes per capita than 49 of the 50 states, remains the only jurisdiction in the United States subject to Taxation Without Representation. Our Nation's Capital is entitled full voting rights in the House and the Senate. On May 18, 2006, the House Committee on Government Reform reported out the District of Columbia Fair and Equal House Voting Rights Act of 2006. This is the first milepost on DC's road to full and equal representation.

This one success is a reminder of the pending legislation that the 109th Congress must pass. The Clarification of Federal Employment Protections Act, The Domestic Partner Health Benefits Equity Act. The Domestic Partnership Benefits & Obligations Act, The Early Treatment for HIV Act, The Employment Non-Discrimination Act, The Family & Medical Leave Inclusion Act, The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act, The Military Readiness Enhancement Act, The Responsible Education About Life Act, The Tax Equity for Health Plan Beneficiaries Act, and The Uniting American Families Act.

I ask the House to join me in welcoming the celebrants attending the 31st Annual Capital Pride Festival in Washington, DC, and I take this opportunity to remind the celebrants that United States Citizens who reside in Washington, DC are taxed without full voting representation in Congress.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS
ACT, 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 18, 2006

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5386) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes:

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in reluctant support of H.R. 5386, the bill making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, Environment, and related agencies for fiscal year 2007. I support this bill because so many people and places in northern New Mexico rely on the funding that is controlled by this bill. But my reluctance rests in that very same reason.

Many people, such as the Native Americans I represent, the Forest Service employees who care for the watersheds that are vital to everyone in my State, and the Federal land managers who make sure we are extracting carefully the oil and gas that is becoming more expensive every day, look to Congress year after year for wise guidance to help them care for their people and do their jobs. In my opinion, this bill we are debating today could do much better.

We are cutting the funding States and communities need to protect their clean water, precious lands and dwindling wildlife. For example, the Clean Water State Revolving Fund, which provides low-interest loans to upgrade sewage treatment plants and improve water

quality, was cut by \$241 million. While I would like to commend the Committee for increasing the overall amount provided for clean water over that requested by the President, it is still far, far below what the EPA itself has projected is needed to insure clean water for all Americans.

Again this year, the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund is being severely reduced. Since its enactment in 1965, the Land and Water Conservation Fund has been instrumental in creating and maintaining State, local and national parks—from local recreational field to our National Parks. The stateside program, which provides matching grants for local and State park land acquisition, recreation facility development, and open space conservation, has been entirely zeroed out. These relatively small amounts of funding have had an incalculably positive impact on the lives of all of our constituents, and it is short-sighted and bad budgeting that we are letting these funds founder.

Additionally, this bill zeroes funding for the United Tribes Technical College (UTTC) and Crownpoint Institute of Technology (CIT). However, I would like to thank Chairman TAYLOR and Ranking Member DICKS for their pledge to work to provide funding in conference for UTTC and CIT. These two institutions provide a strong educational foundation for students. I also appreciate the statement in the House report accompanying today's appropriations bill, which urges OMB, "to give these colleges full consideration in future budget requests and to work with these institutions to resolve concerns and disparities over funding formulas prior to submission of the fiscal year 2008 budget request." I look forward to working with Chairman TAYLOR and Ranking Member DICKS in conference to assure funding for these very important schools.

Although I raise these concerns, I again reiterate the importance of the funding in this bill to my district. That is why I will reluctantly support its passage. I do so with the hope that it is improved in conference and that next year we are able to revisit these national and regional priorities and do well by our constituents.

RECOGNIZING SHAWN GROVES FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Shawn Groves, 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 288, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Shawn has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Shawn 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 Shawn Groves for his accomplishment with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

A TRIBUTE TO KATHERINE DUNHAM, WORLD-RENOWNED DANCER, PIONEER, CHOREOG- RAPHER, SOCIAL ACTIVIST, AN- THROPOLOGIST, AND MUSEUM FOUNDER

HON. WM. LACY CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2006

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great American—world-renowned dancer, choreographer, anthropologist, social activist, and museum founder, Katherine Mary Dunham. Called "Miss Dunham" by many, she dedicated her life to celebrating the vibrant African-Caribbean roots and influences on dance and helped shine the light of the world on the unique dance forms and rituals of the African Diaspora. A pioneer and founder of the anthropological dance movement, Miss Dunham created the Dunham Technique and showed the world that African American heritage is rich and beautiful.

Upon her death on Sunday, May 21, 2006, Miss Dunham had lived a vibrant, creative, and revolutionary 96 years. While she may have died in her New York City apartment, her heart longed for a return to the Midwest where she had established the Katherine Dunham Museum and Children's School in East St. Louis, IL, and where she cultivated generations of dancers, musicians and other artists throughout the region.

Her ties to St. Louis, MO, and East St. Louis, IL, began in earnest in 1967 when she joined the faculty of Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. Thus began a legacy that continues to this day; which includes the Katherine Dunham Center, the Katherine Dunham Dynamic Museum and creation of a dance anthropology program. Later, the college would rename its East St. Louis Center the Katherine Dunham Centers for Arts and Humanities and name its communications arts building after Miss Dunham.

Born in Chicago, IL in 1909, Miss Dunham studied dance in her early teens and would later become one of the first African Americans to attend the University of Chicago where she earned her bachelor, masters and doctoral degrees in social anthropology. Using a Rosenwald Fellowship, she traveled and completed groundbreaking work on Caribbean and Brazilian dance anthropology as a new academic discipline. Later, she was hired as dance director for Chicago's Federal Theatre Project. In 1931 Miss Dunham established her first dance school in Chicago, called the Negro Dance Group. By 1934 her dance career included both American and European theater in musicals, operas and cabarets throughout the world.

She danced on Broadway and with Les Ballet Negre, the first black ballet company in the United States. Her film career included "Stormy Weather" and "Cabin in the Sky," which she co-choreographed with George Balanchine. In New York she founded the Katherine Dunham School of Arts and Research dance school and a touring company—The Katherine Dunham Troupe. From the late 1930s through the 1940s the dance troupe won critical acclaim while performing in more than 100 original works choreographed by Miss Dunham. Her specific style for teaching dance is still used throughout the world.

Miss Dunham bravely used her fame to call public attention to social injustices both at home and abroad. During World War II, she successfully filed lawsuits against hotels that practiced racial discrimination. In her later years, a 47-day hunger strike by the 82-year-old Miss Dunham in 1993 helped focus attention on the plight of Haiti.

Miss Dunham's intellectual, artistic and humanitarian contributions have earned her at least 10 honorary doctorate degrees, along with many coveted awards, including the Presidential Medal of Arts, the Kennedy Center Honors, French Legion of Honor, Southern Cross of Brazil, Grand Cross of Haiti, NAACP Lifetime Achievement Award, Lincoln Academy Laureate, the Urban Leagues' Lifetime Achievement Award, the Women's International Center's Living Legacy Award and the St. Louis Walk of Fame.

Miss Dunham recounted her life and artistic experiences in eight books, including her autobiography "A Touch of Innocence." Her ground-breaking work in every aspect of dance, theater, music and education has been immortalized in the Library of Congress, where a collection of at least 1,694 items in a variety of video/motion picture formats has been preserved as part of the Katherine Dunham Collection.

Mr. Speaker, I urge members of Congress to join me in honoring the life of Katherine Dunham. Through dance, science and artistic expression, Miss Dunham worked tirelessly, encouraging all humanity to abandon the depths of despair in their lives and to drink robustly from the well of hope—through art.

CELEBRATING THE REVEREND JOHN A. CHERRY'S 25 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2006

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise today to commemorate the 25th anniversary of From the Heart Church Ministries. Since its beginnings in 1981 with only 24 members, From the Heart Church Ministries has provided spiritual guidance to the Prince George's County community through worship services and television and radio broadcasts.

Founder and Pastor Reverend John A. Cherry is a nationally acclaimed minister whose message of hope and committed spiritual teaching have changed the lives of many. Under his steady leadership, From the Heart Church Ministries has grown from its modest beginnings as a storefront church to one of the largest churches in Prince George's County, providing services to over 27,000 members. Reverend Cherry's spiritual message is also broadcast Sundays and during the week, providing religious guidance and teaching to thousands more.

Reverend Cherry's 25 years of service have established a foundation of strong biblical teaching rooted in faith and love—a foundation that his son, John A. Cherry II, will build upon. Reverend John A. Cherry, II will officially be installed as pastor during the anniversary celebration.

I urge my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me today in recognizing From the Heart Church Ministries' 25th

Anniversary and applauding the accomplishments of Reverend John A. Cherry. His legacy of spiritual leadership will allow his son to continue his work and influence the hearts and minds of a faithful community for years to come.

RECOGNIZING NOLAN R. JUSTUS
FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF
EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Nolan R. Justus, 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 288, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Nolan has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Nolan 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 Nolan R. Justus for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN SULLIVAN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2006

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. Speaker, I intended to vote "nay" on rollcall vote 167 to H.R. 5386 taken on May 18, 2006.

TRIBUTE TO ONCOLOGY NURSES

HON. CHRISTOPHER SHAYS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2006

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, I want to call attention to the important and essential role that oncology nurses play in providing quality cancer care. These nurses are principally involved in the administration and monitoring of chemotherapy and the associated side-effects patients experience. As anyone ever treated for cancer will tell you, oncology nurses are intelligent, well-trained, highly skilled, kind-hearted angels who provide quality clinical, psychosocial and supportive care to patients, and their families. In short, they are integral to our Nation's cancer care delivery system.

On behalf of the people with cancer and their families in Connecticut's Fourth Congressional District, I would like to specifically acknowledge Karen Stanley from Greenwich, Connecticut, for her service on the Oncology Nursing Society Board of Directors and her role as president of the Oncology Nursing Society. Through her steadfast leadership and commitment to the Oncology Nursing Society,

Karen has advanced policies and programs that reduce and prevent suffering from cancer.

I am proud that the Oncology Nursing Society has two chapters in my home State of Connecticut. Located in Berlin and Brookfield, these chapters serve the oncology nurses in the State and support them in the effort to provide high quality cancer care to patients and their families.

Since 1975, the Oncology Nursing Society has been dedicated to excellence in patient care, teaching, research, administration, and education in the field of oncology. The Oncology Nursing Society is the largest organization of oncology health professionals the world with more than 33,000 registered nurses and other health care professionals. The Society's mission is to promote excellence in oncology nursing and quality cancer care. I commend Karen and her organization for all that they do in the field of oncology.

Cancer is a complex multifaceted and chronic disease, and people with cancer are best served by a multidisciplinary health care team specialized in oncology care, including nurses who are certified in that specialty. According to the American Cancer Society, one in three women and one in two men will receive a diagnosis of cancer at some point in their lives, and one out of every four deaths in the United States results from cancer. This year approximately 17,320 people in Connecticut will be diagnosed with cancer and another 6,990 will lose their battles with this terrible disease. Every day, oncology nurses see the pain and suffering caused by cancer and understand the physical, emotional, and financial challenges that people with cancer face throughout their diagnosis and treatment.

Today, more than two-thirds of cancer cases strike people over the age of 65, and the number of cancer cases diagnosed among senior citizens is projected to double by 2030. At the same time, many of the community-based cancer centers are facing significant barriers in hiring the specialized oncology nurses they need to treat cancer patients. We are on the verge of a major national nursing shortage, and it is estimated there will soon be a shortage of 1.1 million nurses.

I would like to once again acknowledge and thank Karen Stanley for her hard work and leadership as president of ONS. As a nurse and leader in the field, Karen has made it her life's mission to help others and she should be applauded for all she has done.

A TRIBUTE TO PORTER'S DAY
CARE & EDUCATIONAL CENTER

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2006

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Porter's Day Care & Educational Center on the occasion of its 25th Anniversary.

Porter's Day Care & Educational Center is dedicated to provide quality day care to infants, toddlers, pre-school children of low-income working families, in Philadelphia.

In 1981, Deborah Porter-Greasham's shared her dream of opening a daycare with her family. With their support and help of family members, Evelyn & Sultan Porter, Sr. (parents),

Sultan Porter, Jr., Tyrone Porter & Darlene Porter Davis, Brenda Robinson Porter & Edward Porter, Deborah's dream became a reality with the opening of Porter's Day Care and Educational Center.

Since the opening of Porter's Day Care & Educational Center major expansions over the last 25 years have taken place with the opening of the Broad Street Academy; a private school which emphasizes "back to basic" accelerated academic programs, which enhances values and socialization skills while providing an environment that stimulates each child to reach his/her potential, was one of numerous programs created to further help children. Following the opening of the Broad Street Academy, Porter's Youth development Program, Educational Child Care Center, the Latchkey Program, and a Summer Camp Program were implemented to better the lives of needy children.

Porter's Day Care & Educational Center mission for improving the quality of life and education has continued with the opening of the "Journey Through Literacy" library, housed within the 25 room campus with full-size playground during this year.

I ask that you and my distinguished colleagues join me in congratulation Porter's Day Care & Educational Center, for the past 25 years of service and dedicated commitment to the community.

HONORING JOHN "J.J." BOUMA
FOR HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO
RAISING AWARENESS OF ALS

HON. PETER HOEKSTRA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2006

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor John "J.J." Bouma for his efforts to raise support and awareness for Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis or ALS.

From May 18–24, 2006, John "J.J." Bouma drove, along with 13 other people, from Grand Rapids, Michigan to the Santa Monica pier in California on Route 66 to raise awareness about ALS. While the initial hope was to raise \$66,000, Mr. Bouma's efforts have already raised more than \$265,000. A photographer accompanied the trip to document it for a book and a traveling photo exhibit, which will be used to further raise awareness of the realities of ALS.

ALS, more commonly known as "Lou Gehrig's Disease," is a neurodegenerative disease that attacks nerve cells and pathways connected to the brain and spinal cord. Many patients progress to a point where they become physically paralyzed, but remain cognitively aware. John Bouma's awareness and passion for ALS arose when he was diagnosed with ALS in September of 2005.

Approximately 15 people are diagnosed daily with ALS, most of whom have an average life expectancy of 2 to 5 years. Only about 20 percent of those affected will live an additional 5 years.

John Bouma's efforts to raise money and awareness about this degenerative disease are to be commended. There have been significant advancements in increasing the independence of those afflicted with the disease although there is still no cure.

Mr. Speaker, please let it be known that on this 24th day of May in 2006, that the U.S. House of Representatives acknowledges the contributions and achievements of John "J.J." Bouma and his 13 friends to raise awareness about ALS and wishes them well with their continued efforts.

RECOGNIZING MICHAEL KUBA FOR
ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE
SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Michael Kuba, 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 288, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Michael has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Michael 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 Michael Kuba for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

RECOGNIZING STAFF DEDICATION
TO FREEDOM

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2006

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to thank a very special group of dedicated Americans who have spent considerable energy assisting me in authoring this year's Republican Study Committee—RSC—budget: the Contract with America Renewed.

Russell Vought, the policy director at the RSC, and Stephen Sepp, my legislative director, dedicated themselves this spring to helping me compile a budget that reflected the spirit of the first budget that the new Republican majority passed in 1995. I am very proud of the work that Russ and Stephen produced, and they deserve special recognition for their dedication to the advancement of freedom.

Additionally, I would like to thank the valuable members of my Washington, DC, staff who assisted with this effort: Mike Walz, Leigh Carter, Jennifer Daniels, Jamie Notman, Kyle Jackson, John Martin and Melanie Davis. Each individual provided legislative and administrative support for me during this extremely demanding project, and I am grateful for their service.

I would also like to thank my staff located in the Fifth District of Texas. Each and every one of them contributed to this budget, and I would like to publicly recognize Richard Sanders, Rebekah Kay, Margaret Smith, Barbara Luce, Beth Peters and Amanda Hodges. I am personally indebted to them for their service and sacrifice to the cause of freedom.

TRIBUTE TO KIPP UJIMA VILLAGE
ACADEMY EIGHTH GRADERS

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2006

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the eighth graders at KIPP Ujima Village Academy, a top performing middle school in northwest Baltimore. KIPP is an acronym for Knowledge is Power Program and is part of a network of free college-preparatory public schools in under-resourced communities throughout the United States. Established in the summer of 2002 in Baltimore, these eighth graders at KIPP are recognized as the first graduating class at this outstanding school.

These students have spent the past 4 years completing a rigorous program. The school day begins at 7:30 a.m. and ends at 5:30 p.m. They also participate in a mandatory 3-week summer program and attend educational activities on Saturdays throughout the school year.

Mr. Speaker, there is no doubt that these students and their families face challenges, with more than 87 percent qualifying for free or reduced-price lunches. Yet, there are no entrance requirements or selection criteria. The students are chosen through a lottery of all students who live in the zone and want to attend the school.

The results, though, are remarkable: Students excel academically, develop confidence and leadership skills, and experience the world through local and out-of-State field lessons. And after 4 years at KIPP, many of these students have earned acceptance to competitive college preparatory high schools throughout Maryland. In fact, KIPP Ujima Village Academy has one of only two Baltimore City public middle schools that achieved Adequate Yearly Progress in 2005.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me in recognizing the KIPP Ujima Village Academy eighth graders on their graduation and in wishing them the best of luck in the future.

H.R. 5122, NATIONAL DEFENSE AU-
THORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL
YEAR 2007

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2006

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the FY 2007 Department of Defense Authorization bill. This legislation includes many necessary provisions to improve the quality of life for our military and their families. I strongly support the 2.7 percent pay raise for active duty members and the funding increases for equipment and body armor.

The legislation also includes an important provision requiring the Secretary of Defense to provide Congress with a report on the Department's 10-year strategy for addressing threats related to Iran, Iraq and the Middle East. It is critical that our country deals with these complicated issues in a thoughtful and deliberate

way with a clear plan for a successful outcome.

However, I do have some very real and serious concerns about the bill. First, this legislation increases co-pays for military families that purchase their prescription drugs from a pharmacy. While I am pleased that the committee rejected the President's proposal for Tricare premium increases, it is unfair to add to the out of pocket health care costs of our military men and women that serve our country.

This Congress has the responsibility to have a real discussion about the future costs to the American taxpayer of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Instead, H.R. 5122 includes authorization for a \$50 billion bridge fund for the costs of the wars once again through supplemental funding. We are entering our fifth year in Afghanistan and our fourth year in Iraq. It is time for this Administration and Republican House leadership to be honest about providing for the costs of these conflicts and account for these dollars in the regular budgeting process rather than passing the entire cost on to our children and grandchildren.

I am also extremely disappointed that the Majority would not accept an amendment offered by Mr. ISRAEL regarding military chaplains. Mr. Chair, this amendment simply would have added language requiring that chaplains show "sensitivity, respect, and tolerance" for members of the military of all faiths. It continues to guarantee that military chaplains pray in accordance with their own faith but would have realigned the language with current military guidelines.

However, overall this bill makes important changes that will increase the safety and quality of life of our military and their families. I am proud to support our troops serving around the world and at home and to vote in favor of this bill today.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JACK
PORRINO

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jack Porrino for his years of dedicated military service and for his commitment to serving the community.

Jack was born in Italy and came to the United States when he was 8-years-old. At age 18, he became a United States Citizen. Jack enlisted in the United States Air Force in 1969, and began what was to become a distinguished career in the service of this country. He served in the Air Force from September 1969 to May 1972. He then joined the Air National Guard, where he served until October 1989. After 20 years of service, Jack retired from the Armed Services with the rank of Master Sergeant.

In 1993, Jack started working as a groundskeeper at the Southern Nevada Veterans' Memorial Cemetery in Boulder City, Nevada. Within a year, he was promoted to Superintendent of the Cemetery and maintains that position to this day. As Superintendent, Jack has had an overwhelming influence on the improvement of the Cemetery. He established an aggressive fundraising effort by instituting several programs to promote donations

and recruit volunteers. As a result of the programs, countless individuals have donated time and funds that enabled the Cemetery to purchase trees, benches, pavers, floral vases and other items that have improved the aesthetic value and made it easier for individuals to pay their respects to the veterans who are interred at the Cemetery. During Jack's tenure as Superintendent, the Southern Nevada Veterans' Memorial Cemetery has undergone many expansions and has become the second busiest cemetery in the Nation. As part of the expansion and improvement efforts, Jack redesigned the monument section, converted several areas to water efficient desert landscaping, and assisted in the building of the Cemetery Chapel. As the final resting place for over 20,000 of our Nation's military heroes, the Southern Nevada Veterans' Memorial Cemetery has truly become a beautiful place to honor those veterans. This is due, in no small part, to Jack Porrino's dedication to making the Cemetery the best it can be.

In addition to his dedication to the Veterans' Cemetery, Jack is committed to strong family values and community involvement. He and his wife Kathleen have been married for 36 years. Together, they have three children and one grandchild. Jack coaches Little League Sports and serves on the Board of Directors in his Home Owners Association. He also teaches Bible study classes at his church for children and adults and regularly speaks to Veterans' and civilian organizations.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Jack Porrino. He has dedicated his life to serving his country and honoring America's Veterans. As a result of his leadership and advocacy, the Southern Nevada Veterans' Memorial Cemetery has become a place of dignity, honor and beauty.

TRIBUTE TO MR. JOSE OLLERVIDES

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2006

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Jose Ollervides, a highly regarded anchor with KLDO TV News, a subdivision of Univision. He was recently honored by the Texas State Teachers Association with the prestigious Texas School Bell Award for his excellent coverage on educational issues that affects teachers and students in the State of Texas.

Mr. Ollervides is a highly intelligent, driven professional who is well-regarded in his community and among his peers in the broadcasting industry. He graduated from Universidad Del Noreste, in Tampico, Tamaulipas, Mexico with a Licenciado in Ciencias De La Comunicacion, which is similar to a Bachelor of Arts in Communications.

Within ten years of his graduation from Universidad del Noreste in Tampico, Tamaulipas, Mexico, he attained the prestigious position of being a television reporter for the KLDO TV Station, an affiliate of Univision in Laredo, Texas. The station was rated by Nielsen as #1 for the last five years, where due to his strong work ethic, he was instrumental in reporting important news and events for the community of Laredo, Texas,

and other affiliates such as KWEX TV Station in San Antonio, Texas.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have had this time to recognize the great honor bestowed upon Mr. Jose Ollervides by the Texas State Teachers Association.

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

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2006

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to the Republican's tax reconciliation bill. This legislation is a cynical tax giveaway for the wealthy paid for by slashing services critical to families and heaping debt on future generations.

H.R. 4297 includes \$70 billion in tax breaks—primarily an extension of capital gains and dividend tax cuts. Almost half of that \$70 billion will benefit those making over \$1 million a year. In Minnesota, 68 percent of the benefit of this bill will go to only 2 percent of taxpayers. Those making \$200,000 or more will see an average benefit of over \$6,000, while those making under \$75,000 will see a return of only \$55 on average.

The Majority party has focused tax relief on a chosen few rather than providing tax relief for everyone. Even though tax cuts passed in 2001 and 2003 have already provided millionaires with an average tax cut of \$109,000, Republicans have again chosen to prioritize further gains to those who need it the least at the expense of middle-class families. The alternative minimum tax, which is a critical problem facing middle-class families, is shortchanged by this proposal. This bill provides only a one-year extension instead of honestly dealing with this issue. In addition, because these tax cuts are partially paid for by cuts to student loans and health care, working men and women are paying twice in this Republican plan.

This bill also fails to address critical issues such as extending the research and development tax credit, the tax deduction for student loans, and the deduction of state and local taxes—provisions that make an enormous difference in the lives of families across the country. For example, the student loan tax deduction provides opportunities for more families to access higher education, resulting in better paying jobs, which fuels our economy.

Our national debt is nearly \$9 trillion. In the last 5 years, President Bush has borrowed more than \$1 trillion from foreign governments and financial institutions. It is clearly not the time to add billions of dollars to the debt in order to provide more wealth for those most fortunate. This is a fiscally and morally irresponsible plan and should be rejected.

Mr. Speaker, this bill does not reflect the priorities of Minnesota or American families. With our country facing a growing deficit, a stagnant job economy, and spiking gas prices, it is not the time for reckless spending through tax cuts. Democrats have offered an alternative that targets relief for families without adding to the debt burden facing our children and grandchildren.

I urge my colleagues to oppose this reckless bill and support economic policies that

benefit families, increase our competitiveness, and reduce our national debt.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE NEVADA NATIONAL GUARD

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions of the Nevada National Guard, and I honor them today for their service to the State of Nevada and our Nation.

The Nevada National Guard is comprised of 2,072 soldiers and 994 airman totaling 3,066 members. The Nevada National Guard has participated in Operations Iraqi Freedom, Enduring Freedom, and Noble Eagle. According to the Army National Guard's Bureau of Statistics, Nevada's contributions in support of these missions ranked among the top in the nation in overall percentages during 2003 and 2004. The following seven Units of the Nevada National Guard and Air National Guard have participated in the global war on terror: 1864th Transportation Company, Kuwait/Iraq; 1/221st Cavalry, Ft. Irwin, CA; D Company, 113th Aviation, Afghanistan; Detachment 45, OSA, Kuwait; 593 Transportation Company, Iraq; 152nd Airlift Wing & 152nd Intelligence Sqdn, Iraq; 192nd Airlift Sqdn & 152nd Maintenance Sqdn, Puerto Rico.

In addition to their national mission, the Nevada National Guard serves the State through a number of regional missions which include firefighting, security assistance, and natural disaster response. In August of 2005 the National Guard responded to Louisiana's call for help in the wake of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita by providing emergency management assistance, security, and evacuation assistance to the gulf coast region.

The Nevada National Guard is a key player in Nevada's drug control and prevention efforts. By partnering with Federal, State, and local officials and providing intelligence gathering expertise, the Guard is helping Nevada communities win the war on drugs. Nevada's Guard continues to serve our Nation throughout the world in the global war on terror and is ready to respond at a moment's notice whenever needed.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and heartfelt gratitude that I salute the members of Nevada's National Guard and their families, and I honor them today for their service and dedication to our great Nation.

TRIBUTE TO MR. JOHN W. MONTOYA

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2006

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. John W. Montoya, chief patrol agent for the Laredo Sector of the U.S. Border Patrol, for his incredible dedication to the city of Laredo, TX. He will retire from his long and distinguished 29 years of service in the Border Patrol on Friday, May 26, 2006.

Mr. Montoya was born in Albuquerque, NM, where he spent his youth, and later attended

El Paso Community College where he earned an associate in business administration. He also attended the University of New Mexico and the University of Texas at El Paso. He and his wife, Silvia, have six children.

Mr. Montoya first joined the Border Patrol in 1976 as an agent in the El Paso Sector. In 1982, he was promoted to supervisory Border Patrol agent, a position he held until 1987, when he was promoted to deputy regional chief of the Border Patrol for the INS Regional Office in Dallas, TX. In 1990, he left the regional office for an appointment as assistant chief patrol agent for the Del Rio Sector, and after another tour in the Dallas Regional Office as assistant regional director for Border Patrol, he returned to Del Rio for the position of deputy chief patrol agent. In 2004, he was appointed and selected for the Senior Executive Service, SES, which is made up of leaders with proven executive skills, who have a strong commitment to government and to public service.

As chief patrol agent for the Laredo Sector of the U.S. Border Patrol, he was responsible for an area of 110,000 square miles and 172 river miles of border, with a large staff of 987 agents on board and 126 support personnel. The Laredo Sector extends as far north as the Oklahoma border and includes the cities of Dallas, San Antonio, Austin, and Houston. His service in law enforcement and protecting our border is truly commendable. It is always sad to lose such a valued member of the law enforcement community in South Texas, and I wish him and his family the best in their future endeavors.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have had this time to recognize the bravery and dedication of John W. Montoya.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON
THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR
2007

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2006

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 376) establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2007 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2008 through 2011:

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong opposition to the reckless budget proposed by President Bush and House Republicans.

H. Con. Res. 376 is a \$2.7 trillion budget that will add \$1.1 trillion to our debt over the next 5 years. If this becomes the law of the land, our budget deficit will hit near record levels in 2006 and 2007. But that's only part of the story. The budget provides for no funding for Iraq and Afghanistan past 2007, although we have heard from President Bush that this war will last at least until 2009. Nor does it address tax issues facing middle class families—such as the alternative minimum tax. In addition, this bill includes a provision to raise the debt limit for the fifth year in a row—resulting in a \$3.7 trillion increase since 2001.

This budget imposes painful cuts on children and families while allowing our national deficit to continue to spiral out of control. Cuts to health care, education, veterans' services, and the environment are all made in order to pay for tax cuts for the wealthy. But because even these devastating cuts do not equal the level of tax giveaways proposed, this budget forces future generations to pay for the mistakes of today.

Mr. Speaker, this budget does not reflect American values. It cuts education—from early education through higher education—when we need to reinvest in American global competitiveness. It cuts funding for public health and health research—shortchanging potential life-saving research and health care providers struggling to serve current populations and to prepare for a possible pandemic. It cuts homeland security funding by \$6 billion—as our Nation is involved in conflicts around the world and American good will is waning. Most outrageously, this budget cuts funding for veterans' health care by \$8.6 billion over 5 years. At a time when we're asking more of our service men and women and their families, this type of across-the-board disinvestment is short-sighted and negligent and should be rejected.

Congress can and should pass a budget that is fiscally responsible and protects the priorities of the American people. Democrats offered an alternative plan investing in education, health research and veterans' benefits while balancing the budget by 2012. This plan, offered by Mr. SPRATT, would keep America competitive by making needed investments and reduce the burden of staggering Federal debt on future generations.

I urge my colleagues to support the Spratt substitute and reject the dangerous owe-as-you-go policies put forward by the Bush Administration and the Republican Majority in Congress.

PALESTINIAN ANTI-TERRORISM
ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 22, 2006

Mr. WAXMAN. Madam Speaker, Hamas is first and foremost a terrorist organization. Ideologically, its charter is clarion call for the destruction of Israel. In practice, the group has dedicated itself to murder and violence against innocent Israeli civilians. No election, no matter how democratic it is viewed by procedural standards, can wash its hands of the blood of its victims.

That is why H.R. 4681, the Palestinian Anti-Terrorism Act, is an essential piece of legislation. The bill would prohibit all direct aid to the Palestinian Authority as long as it is led by Hamas or any other group that refuses to renounce terrorism, recognize Israel's right to exist, and accept previous agreements.

There is no room for ambiguity. Last month, Hamas praised a terror attack in Tel Aviv as a legitimate act of self-defense. Just the other week, Jordanian authorities arrested 20 Hamas terrorists who were smuggling Iranian-made Katyusha rockets and tank missiles. Weapons are being smuggled across the Egyptian border as well. It cannot be tolerated.

For the most part, the Quartet has stood firm in isolating Hamas. The United States, the European Union, Canada and other nations have blocked the direct transfer of funds to the new Palestinian Authority and prohibited political contact with Hamas officials. The legislation before us codifies this approach.

H.R. 4681 also advances creative solutions to meet the humanitarian needs of the Palestinian people without empowering or enriching a terrorist regime. The legislation is carefully crafted to maintain assistance to the Palestinian people, while giving confidence to American taxpayers that aid will not be used to prop up Hamas leaders.

Direct U.S. assistance to the Palestinian people has always been primarily administered through non-governmental organizations via the USAID West Bank and Gaza aid program. H.R. 4681 makes this program, which accounts for the largest per capita U.S. aid contribution in the world, more central than ever. While some have expressed concern that requiring advanced notification and justification to Congress for non-humanitarian aid will delay or impede support for such programs, these concerns are misplaced. The modest conditions will only bring greater transparency and improve the quality and focus of the programs funded. Pre-certification is not necessary for the distribution of humanitarian aid.

In addition, the bill provides substantial flexibility to continue U.S. support for the independent Palestinian election commission and assistance to the office of President Mahmoud Abbas to support the peace process. Considering the hopes and expectations that the Hamas government will collapse, such support is imperative to build a viable political alternative that is moderate and free from the rampant corruption of Fatah candidates that alienated Palestinian voters.

United States foreign policy in the Middle East is full of nuance, but when it comes to Hamas our message must be black and white: we will not reward terrorists or terrorism.

H.R. 4681 conveys this timely and important message and it is worth our strong support.

HONORING THE LIFE AND WORK
OF MR. JETTIE PURNELL

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2006

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, today I rise and ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in honoring and celebrating the life and work of Mr. Jettie Purnell. One of Halifax County's most notable citizens, Mr. Purnell's work in civil rights and labor rights has changed forever the lives of the people of the First Congressional District and those of people far outside its limits.

As a young man, Mr. Purnell was thrust into service during World War II as a soldier in the U.S. Army. He continued his patriotic service by fighting racism at home and playing a key role in the civil rights movement. His work continued as he moved aggressively and persistently to unionize local textile mills. Mr. Purnell led the fight for justice and equal rights, and also led a successful effort to designate a section of U.S. Highway 158 as George Thomas Young Drive.

Mr. Purnell is indeed a pillar of his community. He was a plaintiff in the historic voting rights lawsuit in Halifax County that resulted in the creation of a district method of election for the Board of County Commissioners.

Mr. Purnell's friends and family say that dispensing advice is his second profession. He has often been the chief advisor on matters of local importance. His daughter Sonya is insistent that "when my daddy spoke, people listened." Mr. Speaker, that is why this past week, Mr. Purnell was finally recognized for his tremendous work as a local leader. The longtime community activist was honored at a ceremony for the new apartment complex recently completed in the Roanoke Rapids area of my district. At the dedication ceremony the Olde Town Village Apartment Complex Activity Center was named in Mr. Purnell's honor.

Mr. Speaker, I could not imagine a more fitting facility to bear the name of Mr. Purnell than a community activity center in an area where he has been so adamantly committed to raising the quality of life.

I rise both to honor the life and service of Mr. Jettie Purnell and to thank him for his many years of service. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a man that has given to his community without ever asking to be recognized. This brief mention is the very least that we can do.

HONORING WILLIAM HARTWIG ON
THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2006

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a dedicated public servant, William "Bill" Hartwig, on the occasion of his retirement from the United States Department of Interior. For the past few years Bill has been serving as Chief of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

I first met Bill in 2000 when he was working as the Regional Director for the Midwest Region. Together we embarked on a project unprecedented in America's history: an international sanctuary for birds, plants, and animals of all kinds. Today, Detroit is blessed with the serene beauty of the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge. This 2,100-acre refuge provides Southeast Michigan citizens with a previously unimaginable opportunity to experience the magnificence of a lush habitat for hundreds of protected species close to home. To Bill's eternal credit, this remarkable project would never have been possible without his vision and powerful determination.

Long before becoming one of the Nation's great conservationists, Bill was born in Riverside, CA. Recognizing his life's path early, he graduated from West Virginia University with a bachelor's degree in outdoor recreation. Between WVU and receiving his master's degree in administration from George Washington University in 1976, Bill served in Vietnam where he received Army Commendation Medals and the Bronze Star.

Bill began his work in the Department of the Interior in 1977. Through the course of his illustrious career there, his care for the environment and all its inhabitants touched an incredible variety of issues ranging from land man-

agement to migratory bird conservation. In 1988 he received the Department's Meritorious Service Award and in 1990 was named an "Unusually Outstanding Employee."

Bill Hartwig is a great conservationist and his impact on this country is impressive and profound. I personally thank Bill for his invaluable help in creating the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge, and I invite you Mr. Speaker, and all my colleagues, to join me in recognizing Bill for his dedication to the out-of-doors, to conservation, and for his long and distinguished career with the Department of the Interior.

PALESTINIAN ANTI-TERRORISM
ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 22, 2006

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, tonight we should be working to ensure security and peace for Israel and more hope, opportunity and peace for the Palestinian people. Among our colleagues in the U.S. House, there is unanimous intolerance and condemnation for the current Hamas-led government of the Palestinian Authority. The refusal of the political leadership of Hamas to recognize the State of Israel, renounce violence and terrorism, and agree to previous agreements and obligations of the Palestinian Authority is unacceptable and therefore they must continue to be isolated by the international community.

Congress should be here tonight unanimously passing a bill that supports Secretary of State Rice as she leads the international community to keep firm pressure on Hamas until they agree to an internationally recognized civilized standard of conduct. At the same time, Congress should be working to support the Bush administration and the international community to avoid a serious humanitarian crisis among the Palestinian people.

On May 9, 2006, Secretary Rice said as she announced \$10 million of medical assistance to the Palestinian people, "We will continue to look for ways to assist the Palestinian people and will encourage other countries to join us in this effort. We will not, however, provide support to a Hamas-led government that refuses to accept the calls of the Quartet and the broader international community to renounce terror and become a partner for peace."

I strongly support her efforts and it is unfortunate that a bill could not be drafted to come to the floor this evening that was supported by the State Department. The State Department's comment regarding H.R. 4681 is "this bill is unnecessary."

Unfortunately, instead of advancing the U.S. interests, H.R. 4681 does not recognize the three criteria set forth by President Bush—demanded by President Bush and the international community—for Hamas to commence any form of engagement with the U.S. and the international community.

H.R. 4681 sets an elevated threshold which will make U.S. leadership for peace in the Middle East nearly impossible even if Hamas does agree to recognize Israel, does renounce

terrorism and does agree to abide by all previous agreements. The outcome of this bill, if it were to become law, would be to isolate Palestinian leaders who have been committed to advancing the peace process, isolate leaders who have denounced terrorism, and isolate leaders who are working with Israel for peace and a permanent two-state solution.

How does this bill advance U.S. goals in the region? It doesn't.

This bill's real result will be to isolate the U.S. among members of the international community that are working for a peaceful and just solution between Israel and the Palestinians.

One of our partners in isolating Hamas and delivering humanitarian assistance to the Palestinian people is the United Nations. A section of this bill calls for withholding a portion of U.S. contribution to the United Nation as if this valuable partner were the enemy. For this bill to target the United Nations—a member of the Quartet—in such a fashion is a clear sign that this bill is intended to undermine the Bush administration's multilateral leadership.

This bill places extreme constraints on the delivery of humanitarian assistance by non-governmental organizations to the Palestinian people. This bill's unnecessary obstacles have the potential for very negative human consequences and would exacerbate a humanitarian crisis. Palestinian families and children must not be targeted for deprivation of their basic human needs by this Congress. Instead let this House ensure that Palestinian families and children will be treated in a fashion that reflects our values and the belief that their lives are valued.

NGOs with significant experience delivering humanitarian assistance have expressed serious concerns that the lack of flexibility in H.R. 4681.

An April 6, 2006 letter from United States Conference on Catholic Bishops to Chairman Hyde expressing concerns regarding the substitute amendment to H.R. 4681 states, "the legislation should provide for the urgent needs of the Palestinian people. A further deterioration of the humanitarian and economic situation of the Palestinian people compromises human dignity and serves the long term interests neither of Palestinians nor of Israelis who long for a just peace."

In its present form, this bill will not allow NGOs to properly carry out the very assistance determined to be necessary by Secretary Rice—ensuring suffering and misery among the Palestinian people.

Finally, my opposition to H.R. 4681 is based on policy grounds that reflect my support for a Middle East peace process which will ultimately yield security and freedom from terrorism for the State of Israel and the Israeli people, as well as a democratic, secure and peaceful state for the Palestinian people.

H.R. 4681, will result in no greater security or opportunities for peace than exist today with current law and the administration's present policy course. But this bill may in fact have the result of fueling a humanitarian crisis. Passing this bill undermines U.S. interests and has potential long-term negative consequences for the Israeli people and the Palestinians.

Later this week, in this chamber, we will be honored by the presence of Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert. In an interview last week, Primer Minister Olmert said the Palestinians

"are the victims of their own extremist, fundamentalist, religious, inflexible and unyielding leadership, and we will do everything in our power to help these innocent people . . . We will pay if necessary out of our own pockets. We wouldn't allow one baby to suffer one night because of a lack of dialysis. We care," Olmert said. "We want to save their lives."

I wish to strongly associate myself with the honest and courageous comments of the Prime Minister and his desire for security, peace and the value of human life.

I oppose H.R. 4681 because this is a missed opportunity to keep the pressure on Hamas, ease the suffering among the Palestinian people and ensure that Israel is secure and without a humanitarian crisis on its doorstep. Current U.S. law already prohibits funds from going to Hamas because it is a foreign terrorist organization. As the State Department says, "this bill is unnecessary."

I urge my colleagues to oppose this bill. Let us send a message to the people of Israel and the Palestinian people that the U.S. Congress has not given up working for security, peace, and a better future in the Middle East.

Let us oppose and isolate Hamas—and let us also work for peace and a generation of Israeli and Palestinian children who know no violence, only hope.

I urge my colleagues to oppose H.R. 4681.

TRIBUTE TO PASTOR ARTHUR JACKSON, III CELEBRATING HIS 15TH PASTORAL ANNIVERSARY

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2006

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to one of Miami's great spiritual leaders, Pastor Arthur Jackson, III, of Antioch Missionary Baptist Church of Carol City, which is located in my Congressional District.

Pastor Jackson came to his calling through the love and influence of both his father, the late Rev. Arthur Jackson, Jr., and his mother, Mrs. Arthur Jackson. Spiritually, God has lifted and anointed him to preach the gospel to the wounded, lost, and broken. Ask any of Pastor Jackson's thousands of congregants what they most like about him, and you are likely to hear, "He is real!" He relates to his flock in an honest and genuine way that brings out the best in people. During the hurricane season, for example, Pastor Jackson sent his deacons out to check on the elderly, to make sure that their houses were properly boarded up before the storm and afterwards, to make sure they had food and water and any other help they may have needed.

During Pastor Jackson's tenure at Antioch, the church has gone through a complete spiritual, financial, and structural metamorphosis. In December of 1996, the Congregation purchased surrounding lots and broke ground for a new structure—a \$2 million building that was consecrated in August 1998. After only seven years, the congregation had already paid off their multi-million dollar mortgage.

A man of character, integrity and wisdom, Pastor Jackson's consistent obedience to God has taken the Antioch congregation from the "Faithful Fifty" members, to a blossoming min-

istry of nearly 6,000 members. Pastor Jackson serves God and his community through the ministries he has nurtured. I congratulate Reverend Jackson on his Pastoral Anniversary and extend best wishes to him, his wife, Jacquaneise, and their daughter, Jaden.

IN HONOR OF JUDGE DELBERT EARL WONG MAY 17, 1920–MARCH 10, 2006

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2006

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a loving family man and eminent jurist who worked tirelessly to protect the rights of ordinary Americans throughout our country, Judge Delbert Earl Wong, who passed away Friday, March 10, 2006.

Delbert Wong rose from humble means, and it was this experience that led him to dedicate his considerable talents to serving the public. Born May 17, 1920, in Hanford, CA, to a Chinese-American mother and Chinese immigrant father, Delbert encountered great adversity and discrimination early in his life. His mother, born in Weaverville, CA, lost her American citizenship for the simple act of marrying Delbert's father in 1919. Unable to own land and forced to apply for citizenship due to the Chinese Exclusion Act, his parents' experiences would embolden Delbert and instill in him a commitment to justice and equality.

Raised in Bakersfield, CA, Delbert attended Bakersfield College where he received an associate of arts degree. After transferring to the University of California at Berkeley, he graduated with a bachelor's degree and also met his future wife, Dolores Wing. Upon graduating from U.C. Berkeley, Delbert heeded the call to serve his country and enlisted in the Army Air Corps during World War II, serving as a navigator on a B-17 Flying Fortress. Completing 30 missions over Europe, he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross.

In 1945 following the end of the war, Delbert enrolled in Stanford Law School, breaking barriers of discrimination as the school's only student of color. After being admitted to the State Bar of California in 1948, Judge Wong began his career working for the Office of the Legislative Counsel in Sacramento. He later transferred to the Office of the Legislative Counsel in Los Angeles, where he was one of two Chinese-American lawyers in all of Southern California. In 1951 he joined the Office of the California State Attorney General. There, he served as the first Chinese-American deputy attorney general under then Attorney General Pat Brown. When Pat Brown was elected governor, he appointed Delbert to the bench in 1959, making him the first Chinese-American judge in the United States.

Delbert Wong became a judge because of his deep commitment to justice, equality, and civil rights; ideas that he fought for throughout his entire life. He served on the bench during the tumultuous decades of the 1960s and 1970s when these issues dominated public debate with the social upheaval surrounding both the Vietnam war and the civil rights movement. Hearing cases involving free speech and assembly, employment discrimination, and school desegregation, Judge Wong

was at the forefront of some of the most important court decisions of that era.

Judge Wong's professional achievements were extraordinary, as was his love for family and community. Together, Dolores and Delbert raised four children: Kent, Shelley, Duane and Marshall. Though Judge Wong retired from the bench in 1982 after 23 years of service, his role in public service continued as a private arbitrator and community leader, roles he would hold until the end of his life. He was appointed by Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley to a panel that authored the city of Los Angeles's first ethics code, and also led an investigation into charges of racial discrimination in employment at the Los Angeles International Airport Police Bureau. Delbert was a key supporter of the Asian-Pacific American Legal Center and the Chinatown Service Center. He is fondly remembered by his family for making breakfast for his children each morning and serving as a Boy Scout leader. Judge Wong overcame great odds to serve his country, opening doors for countless others; but even more importantly, he did so while maintaining a sincere commitment to loving and supporting his family.

Mr. Speaker, it is with immense sorrow, yet great admiration and appreciation that I ask my colleagues to join me today in saluting Judge Delbert Earl Wong, a devoted husband, father, public servant and community leader. May his passionate dedication to opening doors for others and service to this country be remembered and give birth to the next generation of champions for justice.

TRIBUTE TO RICHARD HELLMAN, M.D.

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2006

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of this recent election of Kansas City metro area resident Richard Hellman, MD, FACP, FACE, as President-Elect of the Board of Directors of the American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists, at its Fifteenth Annual Meeting and Clinical Congress in Chicago on April 29, 2006. Since 1999, he had served on the AACE Board of Directors.

Dr. Hellman has been privately practicing with a focus on diabetes mellitus and endocrinology in Kansas City, Missouri, since 1981; he is board certified in internal medicine and endocrinology. He is a clinical professor of medicine at the University of Missouri, Kansas City, School of Medicine and is the past president of the Metropolitan Medical Society of Greater Kansas City, a current member of the Health Commission of Kansas City and chair of their Patient Safety Task Force.

He graduated from the Chicago Medical School and completed all of his post-graduate training at the University of Kansas Medical Center. Dr. Hellman is a member of Alpha Omega Alpha, the national medical honor society. He is also the medical director of the Heart of America Diabetes Foundation.

A methodology and data expert for the Physician Consortium for Performance Improvement, Dr. Hellman is also a member of their executive committee and co-chairs their implementation work group. The Consortium is convened by the American Medical Association

and includes representatives from more than 70 national medical specialty and state medical societies. The Consortium seeks to provide physician performance measures for both the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services and for specialty boards. He was the first to show how an electronic health record can be used to improve adherence to the Consortium's physician performance measures. Dr. Hellman is the AMA representative for the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations Advisory Group for Disease-Specific Care Certification and serves on the National Diabetes Quality Improvement Alliance's Technical Expert Panel. He is also currently on the AMA expert panel on medication reconciliation.

In short, Mr. Speaker, Dr. Richard Hellman is a dedicated community leader in the medical field who is extremely well qualified to assume a leadership position with the 5,300 member-American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists. I am pleased to have this opportunity to bring his accomplishments to the attention of the House and to pay tribute to him as he assumes this new position of trust and achievement.

TRIBUTE TO THE BASILICA OF
THE ASSUMPTION

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2006

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleagues from Maryland: ROSCOE BARTLETT, ELIJAH CUMMINGS, WAYNE GILCREST, STENY HOYER, C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER, CHRIS VAN HOLLEN and ALBERT WYNN to pay special tribute to America's first Catholic Cathedral, the Basilica of the Assumption in Baltimore, which has undergone a two-year restoration in preparation for its bicentennial celebration on November 4, 2006.

The Basilica was the first great metropolitan Cathedral in America and the first major religious building to be constructed following the adoption of the U.S. Constitution. The construction of the Basilica reflected a fundamental shift in how government viewed religious freedom—a shift from worship in an established church to worship that was based on the individual's choice and conscience. It stands as a reminder of America's openness to people of all faiths.

Designed by Benjamin Henry Latrobe, architect of the U.S. Capitol, the Basilica is considered an architectural masterpiece and one of the finest 19th Century buildings in the world. The Basilica in Baltimore, home to the country's first Catholic Archdiocese, is designated as a National Historic Landmark and National Shrine.

We commend the Archdiocese for undertaking a major restoration of this extraordinary religious and civic landmark. After decades of slow deterioration, the Basilica is finally being restored to its original grandeur. In the future, Americans of all faiths will be able to visit this historic treasure and reflect on its history and its place in our Nation's struggle for religious freedom.

We hope our colleagues in the House will join the Maryland Delegation in honoring the

Basilica during its bicentennial year of celebration and in expressing our sense of pride that the Basilica is part of our Nation's history.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. MARLYS SMITH

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2006

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Marlys Smith, a teacher at Matthews Elementary School in Sikeston, Missouri. Marlys is retiring after 31 years of service in Missouri's Public Schools.

Marlys was born on November 18th, 1952, on the Marine Base at Quantico, Virginia, to Monda and Jim Davis. The oldest of six children, she spent her early years in Mississippi County, Missouri, and graduated from East Prairie High School. She went on to receive her undergraduate degree in Elementary Education from Southeast Missouri State University in 1975. Later, she obtained her Masters Degree from William Woods University in Fulton, Missouri.

As a young girl of 10, Marlys contracted a disabling bone disease that caused her to be hospitalized for nearly three months. Because of the radical surgery she needed, she lost the ability to use her right hip, until extensive corrective surgery in the last year. Rather than allow this physical impairment to hinder her in any way, she turned her energy from outdoor activities to music. The young girl from Mississippi County who became a teacher and taught everything from high school special education to first, third and sixth grades also had time to develop her voice. She sang with "Young Americans in Concert" in New York at Carnegie Hall, in Europe, and also for President Nixon in the White House in the summer of 1971. And then in 1993, my late husband, Congressman Bill Emerson, invited this beautiful, young lady to sing "Amazing Grace" to 4000 participants at the National Prayer Breakfast in Washington DC. She again shared her voice in a rendition of "Amazing Grace" in 1996 at Bill's funeral in Missouri and in Statuary Hall in the U.S. Capitol.

Marlys Smith, the school teacher, has been a Girl Scout Leader, Sunday School teacher and a mentor to thousands of girls and boys in Southern Missouri and a friend to all who have known her. And I count myself as one of those friends. Marlys and her husband, Lloyd, who is my Chief of Staff, are family. We have shared many wonderful and tearful times over the last 25 years.

Although Marlys has been a leader in her field and a dedicated volunteer in a host of groups, her most special role has been that of a wife to Lloyd and mother to their three children, Trista, Sam and Tiffany. A working mom who, because of her husband's travels, was many times the only one at home to go to scouts, ball games and church events or to help with homework. She never complained and always has a smile on her face. Indeed the young girl who nearly died at age 10 turned into a beautiful woman who has shown a zest for life and shared her love with all those who have known her.

I congratulate Marlys on her retirement and wish her the best in all of her future endeavors.

From the Emerson Family to Marlys Smith, we say thank you, and we pray you continue to spread your wonderful gifts for years and years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CLIFF STEARNS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2006

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I missed the following vote due to a personal reason.

On rollcall vote No. 162 to H. Res. 795, Condemning in the strongest terms the terrorist attacks in Dahab and Northern Sinai, Egypt, on April 24 and 26, 2006, had I been present I would have voted "yes."

HONORING LTC JOHNNY M.
SUMMERS

HON. JIM GIBBONS

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2006

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Lieutenant Colonel (LTC) Johnny M. Summers, Outgoing Commander, Hawthorne Army Depot located in Hawthorne, Nevada. LTC Summers took command of the Depot in June of 2004. On May 13, 2005, the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Commission recommended closing the Depot. Soon afterward, Hawthorne realized an "Army of One" is all you really need.

From the onset, LTC Summers realized the selection criteria used for recommendation to close Hawthorne had significant flaws. He maintained that it would be a strategic mistake to close the depot due to its significant storage capability, highly skilled workforce, combat terrain training opportunities, and modern reprocessing facilities.

LTC Summers ensured that BRAC Commissioners were provided with the correct data, which countered the recommendation to close the Depot. Thanks in large part to the accurate information provided by LTC Summers, the Commissioners and their colleagues understood the mistakes and the true value the Depot provides the United States Department of Defense.

Thanks to LTC Summers' tireless efforts, the BRAC Commission agreed the evidence presented showed the Hawthorne Army Depot has great economic and strategic significance that justify keeping it open. His efforts were certainly instrumental in our success.

I commend this great commander upon his retirement from the United States Army on September 30, 2006, for his exceptional, dedicated service to the Hawthorne Army Depot, the great State of Nevada and our country. I extend to him my best wishes for continued excellence in his future endeavors.

Thank you, Lieutenant Colonel Summers, for your time and service.

HAITI'S FUTURE: THE TASK OF
REBUILDING A SHATTERED NA-
TION

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge that many challenges lie ahead for President Rene Preval as he embarks on the task of rebuilding and developing the country of Haiti. I am in full support of Rene Preval and I wish him well as he strives to reconcile his countrymen through better communications and commitments for peace and progress.

Haiti is a country plagued with trouble and instability. Preval's successors, the interim administration, were not able to unite the country. A rebellion that led to the ouster of the former president, Jean Bertrand Aristide, also set the country on a path of violence, crime and bloodshed from which it may take years to recover. Rene Preval's election is clearly the best thing that could have happened to the country as it has served to give hope to its population of eight million-plus people.

While President Preval pledges to lead the country in unity he continues to cite that the solution to Haiti's problems is in the hands of the Haitians. Needless to say, the country could benefit greatly with assistance from the United States, Canada and France.

I strongly urge my colleagues to be generous with U.S. assistance to Haiti at this time when they need it most. None of us want to see Haiti revert to its previous political and security conditions. Contributions of aid and finances must be followed through and the Caribbean region must also re-engage with Haiti to help them on the course to peace and development.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD an editorial by Tony Best from the May 23, 2006 edition of the New York *CaribNews* entitled *Haiti's Future—The Task of Rebuilding a Shattered Nation*. This article sheds light on Haiti's plight.

HAITI'S FUTURE, THE TASK OF REBUILDING A
SHATTERED NATION
(Editorial by Tony Best)

"If we don't talk, then we will only fight." Rene Preval, Haiti's newly installed President, struck an important and positive note for reconciliation, peace and development in his nation as he began the second, but not successive, term as his country's leader.

His return to the Presidential palace in Port au Prince is being widely hailed as an opportunity step forward if the country is follow a growth path, recognizing that his is an unenviable task. Preval needs the co-operation and active involvement of Haitians of all stripes and social class, whether at home or abroad if their shattered country is to serve its eight million-plus people. It goes without saying that the international community, especially the United States, Canada and France must help lead the way towards reconstruction and unity.

Caribbean nations too, especially those in Caricom must also do their part. But as Preval himself said on Sunday as he took the oath of office, "the solution to our problems is in our hands." Outside economic and political forces can help drive the engines of progress but in the end, Haitians must be responsible for their future.

When Preval ran the country for the first time between 1996–2001, he sought to unite

the fractured society. But with Haiti polarized between his mentor and predecessor in office, Jean Bertrand Aristide, and those who opposed Lavalas and the former Roman Catholic priest Preval's record fell far short of the high expectations. Now he has a chance to redeem himself.

Fortunately, he was not viewed as a corrupt politician, interested only in himself and the interest of his cronies. Preval has succeed an interim administration that lost its way from the get-go and was never able to unite the country as Haiti had to grapple with more than its share of trouble, insurrection and instability.

A rebellion set in motion by the machinations of people in Washington and carried out by Haitians in the Dominican Republic and elsewhere, not only led to the ouster or abduction of President Aristide but set the country on a path of violence, crime and bloodshed from which it may take years to recover. The recent presidential election, which Preval won fair and square, was perhaps the best thing that could have happened to the country.

The Republications in Washington, who played a key role in Aristide's ouster and in the instability that followed, must see itself as a part of the solution, having helped to create some of the problems.

Preval, a former ally of the ousted former President who is cooling his heels in South Africa, must battle some formidable obstacles and challenges that run the gamut from weak judicial institutions, an inept and corrupt bureaucracy and a devastated economy to rising crime and lawlessness, not to mention the lack of a democratic tradition needed to prevent political forces from turning on each other and prolonging the agony.

As if to send a strong message to the new head of state about the enormity of the task ahead of him, inmates of the national penitentiary went on a rampage, demanding their freedom and calling for better treatment. Shots were fired and when the inmates appeared on the roof they help up two bodies, apparently those of inmates, according to a news agency account, Haitian police and United Nations armed personnel were quickly able to restore order.

If Preval and his administration needed a reminder of the troubles ahead that brief incident showed them that whether on the streets of the urban centers or behind bars, chaos could erupt at any time.

It also underscored the need to address the ills facing the awful justice system and the inhumane conditions in prison, something the U.N. Envoy in Haiti, Juan Gabriel Valdes, urged Preval to do something about. After all, hundreds of prisons have been languishing in prison for extended period of time under the most wretched of conditions.

Preval must break with the past, especially the past two years during which the interim Prime Minister, Gerard LaTortue and his ministers ignored human rights issues and the need for the prompt delivery of justice. Instead, they preferred to spend much of their time attacking Aristide's supporters.

It also failed miserably to come to grips with the day-to-day economic and social difficulties that plague the average Haitian. And as the poorest people in the Western Hemisphere, Haitians who suffered the most numbered in the millions.

That hard fact of life may explain why the UN envoy urged President Preval to show Haitians that he means business.

"It is critical for him to be able in the first year . . . to show Haitians that he can produce some change in their lives," Valdes told the Associated Press. "It would be frankly intolerable to see that for lack of international assistance at this point in time

the country goes back to previous political and security conditions."

The depth of the financial and development crunch is there for all to see. So far, the rich nations have pledged \$1.2 billion in aid but only \$200 million of that amount has been invested in development projects.

The World Bank, International Monetary Fund and others can and must do better, much better than that.

Clearly, much of the trouble isn't at Haiti's doorsteps. Its roots are in the complicated and unfathomable rules imposed by the international financial institutions on how the money must be spent.

We agree with Valdes when he said, "A country in this situation cannot be forced to follow rules that will bring it political catastrophe."

For its part, the Caribbean region, which largely stood on the sidelines during the chaos of the past two years, must become re-engaged with Haiti again. It must welcome the country and its president back into the regional fold and while it may not have the financial resources to help get the job done, it certainly possesses the human capital and the experience to set the French-speaking nation on the right course to peace and development.

In his inaugural address President Preval stressed the value of better communications, telling Haitians, "we need to make peace through dialogue and talking to each other so we can decide where we want to go together. If we don't talk, then we will only fight and there will be no peace." Well said.

PRAISE FOR U.S. COAST GUARD IN
TEXAS

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2006

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to place in the RECORD, the following report submitted by Anthony Marcos, Command Senior Chief, Air Station Houston, Texas in recognition of the men and women of the United States Coast Guard in Texas who performed with great courage and made 723 rescues under very adverse circumstances during hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005.

On the morning of 29 August, two HH65B helicopters from Air Station Houston arrived at Air Station New Orleans for post Hurricane Katrina operations. The arrival of these crews marked the beginning of an unprecedented period of search and rescue operations, and aviation engineering and logistical support by Air Station Houston.

For nearly two weeks, Air Station Houston provided a continuous complement of three HH65B's affording uninterrupted support of Katrina's rescue/response operations. This support culminated in more than 164 flight hours, 106 sorties, and most importantly, 691 saved lives by Air Station Houston-based aircraft and crews.

Recognizing a critical need by rescue personnel for water, energy drinks, MRE's and comfort items, Air Station Houston collected and shipped over 170,000 pounds of donated items on Coast Guard and DOD logistics flights for response personnel and the victims of Katrina.

Air Station Houston utilized valuable Coast Guard Auxiliary and other volunteer personnel in a vital information gathering effort by serving as a conduit between the Red Cross and Search and Rescue controllers for the forwarding of time-critical information on missing or evacuated Katrina victims and refugees stranded or relocated

somewhere in the New Orleans area or out of state.

In addition to its legacy area of responsibility (AOR) Air Station Houston instituted a plan to relieve Air Station New Orleans of its non-Katrina SAR responsibilities west of the Mississippi River throughout the Katrina response effort, thereby increasing Houston's AOR by more than 18,000 square miles. With two aircraft and crews deployed to New Orleans, Air Station Houston crews responded to a report on 6 September of a civilian helicopter missing 20 miles south of Sabine, Texas. Although already engaged in nearly around-the-clock operations in New Orleans, Air Station Houston's outstanding readiness posture permitted two unit helicopters, manned by crews recently returned from Hurricane Katrina, to be launched in a search for the 12 persons reported aboard the overdue helicopter. All 12 persons were quickly located and then successfully recovered during this multi-unit case by the two Air Station Houston helicopters in a daring nighttime offshore rescue.

The possibility of a category five hurricane hitting the Houston-Galveston metropolitan area set in motion a massive response effort from the Coast Guard Area Commanders. Within 48 hours of Rita's early morning landfall on 24 September, over 125 contingency aircrew personnel along with 15 additional Coast Guard aircraft arrived at Air Station Houston to commence operations.

During the Houston-based response operation for Hurricane Rita, the Air Station coordinated over 61 missions and 123 sorties resulting in 205 mishap-free flight hours and the saving of 32 lives in a one week period. During this time, Air Station Houston also provided invaluable support to Gulf Coast based cutters including CGC Cypress, which allowed them to quickly fix the position of displaced waterway buoys, enabling the reopening of vital waterways and the free-flow of commerce in and out of the Gulf.

**SAN CARLOS PTA CELEBRATES
THE 34TH BIENNIAL CHICKENS'
BALL 2006**

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2006

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to honor the Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) of the San Carlos School District, located in my Congressional District, as well as the 34th Anniversary of its historic and infamous Chickens' Ball. This biennial event has helped to raise money for San Carlos' public schools as well as create ties within the community for the past 66 years.

This creative means of raising funds was first proposed by middle school teacher and PTA member, Howard J. Demeke, in 1939. Mr. Demeke himself was a regular patron of the historic San Francisco Barbary Coast Chickens' Ball, a live-entertainment show performed by women of a certain reputation in various saloons. This philanthropy-oriented event had been around since the early 1900s and included a contest of various colorful and riotous acts. The winner of the best act was awarded amounts of gold to then be donated to a designated charity.

Under Mr. Demeke's request to the San Carlos PTA, the Chickens' Ball left the swanky scene of the saloon and was reborn in San

Carlos for the purpose of raising money for the school district's milk funds. Members of the PTA, local clubs and members of the community joined together to plan comedy and entertainment skits, each competing for a large sum of donated money. The ball was an enormous success and has continued to be for the past six decades with all proceeds directly benefiting the schools of San Carlos.

I personally had the pleasure of attending the 34th Biennial San Carlos Chickens' Ball this year, with my lovely wife Annette. As we discovered, the Chickens' Ball requires the attention and participation of the audience, making each second at the show memorable. I congratulate each act unequivocally for the brave hilarity exhibited on stage by each performer.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in saluting and congratulating the outstanding Parent-Teacher Association of the San Carlos School District, for their dedication to our community and the quality of education for our children, through the most creative Chickens' Ball.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CATHY McMORRIS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2006

Miss McMORRIS. Mr. Speaker, during the second series of votes on amendments to H.R. 5384 the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2007, I was avoidably detained and missed two votes on amendments by Representative JEFF FLAKE.

Had I been present I would have voted in favor of H. Amdt. 904 to prohibit any of the funds made available in the Act from being used to fund dairy education in Iowa and H. Amdt. 909 to prohibit use of funds in the bill for the Hydroponic Tomato Production, Ohio grant.

**IN RECOGNITION OF KEN
STEWART**

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2006

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ken Stewart, recipient of the 2005 National Language Teacher of the Year Award, which is given by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL). Ken is the very first teacher ever to receive this award.

Señor Stewart, as he is known by his students, has taught Spanish at Chapel Hill High School for nearly 20 years. A National Board Certified Spanish teacher, he has been successful in sharing his passion for language learning in the classroom because of his foreign language teaching philosophy, education, and extensive travel experience.

As the ACTFL National Language Teacher of the Year, Señor Stewart competed for this award with five other regional winners from across the country. His award dossier included video segments demonstrating his skill as a classroom teacher and documentation of his

teaching practices, as well as testimonials from his students, their parents, and his school administrators. This award, sponsored by ACTFL and publisher McDougal Littell, was created to recognize foreign language teachers at the K-12 level who exhibit excellence in classroom language teaching. As part of this honor, Señor Stewart is now involved in serving as a spokesperson for language educators and making appearances and giving presentations that promote language education through the "Discover Languages" national public awareness campaign.

The shortage of qualified language professionals across the United States underscores the importance of Señor Stewart's work: only 9 percent of students enrolled in college study a foreign language. We need to introduce language study at an earlier age and do more to encourage pursuing real proficiency.

Foreign language needs have significantly increased due to the presence of a wider range of security threats, the emergence of new nation states, and the globalization of the United States economy. Outstanding teachers who instill critical skills of language competence and cultural understanding in our students are indeed worthy of recognition and gratitude.

I call on my colleagues to seek out the 2006 Language Teacher of the Year in their own states and to encourage that teacher as he or she competes this year at the regional and national levels. It is important that we support these educators who do so much to provide our students with the foreign language skills and cultural understanding that are essential to a world class education and that will prepare them for living and working in the 21st century.

I ask my colleagues to join me in commending Señor Stewart for his years of dedicated service and his commitment to foreign language instruction.

**TRIBUTE TO CHAIRMAN HENRY
HYDE**

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2006

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I have had the honor of serving under Chairman HYDE on the House International Relations Committee since I came to Congress in 2001. From my very first day on the Committee I have witnessed firsthand the wit, humor and brilliance that are trademarks of my party's elder statesman.

Henry has succeeded in bringing sensibility and strength to one of the House's most important and internationally scrutinized committees in the wake of September 11. While my colleagues on both sides of the aisle have occasionally attempted to use the International Relations Committee as a venue to push forward partisan ideology; Chairman HYDE and his fine staff have worked hard to ensure that resolutions that leave his committee are based on fairness, the promotion of our democratic ideals, the protection of human rights, and American interests throughout the world.

I appreciate the guidance and mentorship that HENRY provided to me when I first came to Congress. As a freshman member I had

many legislative and policy ideas that I wanted to pursue. HENRY taught me to cool my heels and recognize the nature of the process in accomplishing my legislative goals. The advice that he gave me back then was certainly the right advice, and it still resonates with me today.

I admire the strength that Chairman HYDE continues to show. At 82 years of age and limited in his personal mobility he is still very much a workhorse in the House. We continue to maintain a busy schedule in the International Relations committee and HENRY travels around the world meeting with foreign dignitaries and protecting American foreign policy at an amazing pace. I only hope that when I reach HENRY's age that my mind will still be as sharp as his.

I continue to be amazed at the many things that HENRY has accomplished during his 30 years in this body. I'm also amazed by the fact that he has survived in this body for more than 30 years. That is no small feat by any means.

It has been an honor and pleasure to serve with Chairman HYDE in the House and under him on the International Relations Committee. I thank him for his leadership and guidance. I look forward to working with him through the remainder of this Congress and I wish him the best in his endeavors thereafter.

TRIBUTE TO WQBA—AM

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2006

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I rise today in recognition of WQBA—AM, a landmark radio station in Miami, FL, for its upcoming 40th anniversary.

Since its inception on May 31, 1966, WQBA has been a pillar of Miami's airwaves for politics and local issues. It provides members of the community the opportunity to hear from newsmakers and public officials. WQBA is also the official Spanish station of the Florida Marlins and the Miami Heat. It has been known as Radio Continental, Radio Cuba, La Cubanísima and La Voz de Miami.

WQBA has always strived to provide accurate information while also reflecting the diversity of its audience and South Florida. It is home to numerous prestigious journalists, including the only Spanish-language sports commentator belonging to the National Baseball Hall of Fame. Considered one of Miami's historic stations, WQBA has witnessed and broadcasted significant historical moments during its 40 years. In 1992 when Hurricane Andrew hit South Florida, WQBA was an essential source for news as it was the only Spanish radio station that withstood the storm.

Loyal to Hispanic traditions, WQBA began the annual Reyes Magos Parade 36 years ago and it is now co-sponsored by three sister stations and considered one of the five most important Hispanic cultural events in the country.

WQBA is one of the true voices of Miami and has always been active in its commitment to promoting education and the arts throughout the years. The station's trademark jingle "Yo soy de Cuba la voz," ("I am Cuba's voice") is played daily at the Celia Cruz exhibit at the Smithsonian Museum.

Mr. Speaker, as we recognize WQBA's long legacy and the excellent service it has provided Miami during the past four decades, I ask that you join me in expressing our appreciation for its first 40 years and best wishes for its next.

RECOGNIZING THE HILL-SMITH
FAMILY REUNION

HON. DAVID SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2006

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Hill-Smith family reunion and I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring this wonderful occasion. This reunion affirms the importance of family gatherings, drawing together relatives from Atlanta and as far away as Boston, Massachusetts and Hartford, Connecticut.

The Smith and Hill families celebrate the union of Thomas Landrum Smith and Armentis Hill which joined the two families in 1919. Eight children resulted from this matrimony, and from those eight children, 85 direct descendants and hundreds of other relatives who bear the surnames Smith and Hill.

The Smith and Hill families organized their first reunion in Roanoke, VA in July of 1986. Over the next 20 years reunions were held every two years in New York, NY, Boston, MA, Jonesville, SC, Atlanta, GA, Pacolet SC, and Rocky Mount, NC. This year the Hill and Smith families will reunite in Stockbridge, GA for their tenth bi-annual reunion. Hundreds of relatives coming from every corner of the United States will reunite for a week of activities to reconnect and celebrate the meaning of family. Youth filled with zeal and exuberance along with elders seasoned by the wisdom of years will unite because of this occasion. The Hill-Smith family will welcome Marjorie S. Kirk of New York, NY with a special degree of warmth. At 83, Ms. Kirk will be the oldest family member attending this year's reunion. The youngest and most recent addition to the family is Maleek Thompson, born April 19, 2006. While only a few months old, Maleek will join his family traveling from Maryland to participate in his first reunion.

The governor of the state of Georgia, Sonny Purdew, recognized this momentous gathering with a welcome letter and the host city of Stockbridge, GA issued a proclamation to honor the Hill-Smith reunion. I ask that this great legislative body stand with me and add to these acknowledgements by honoring the Smith and Hill families. I am proud to represent the Hill-Smith family members who call the 13th Congressional district of Georgia home.

IN TRIBUTE TO THE WORK OF
SECRETARY LLOYD BENTSEN

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in tribute to Secretary Lloyd Bentsen, an American patriot and champion of democratic values. I sa-

lute his life achievements that have furthered the cause of American liberty and freedom at home and abroad. His life is a reflection of commitment and dedication to the vibrancy of the American economy. The brilliance that personified his life in public services has guided America to a "more perfect Union."

Lloyd Millard Bentsen, Jr. was born Feb. 11, 1921, in Mission, TX, in a small frame house; from this humble beginning, Lloyd Bentsen rose to prominence in American politics. He received a law degree from the University of Texas at Austin in 1942 and served as Army Air Corps combat pilot in World War II with the 449th bomb squadron. At the early age of 23, he was given command of a squadron of 600 men. For his bravery and leadership, he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and four awards of the Air Medal.

Upon his return to his native Rio Grande Valley he was elected Hidalgo County Judge. In 1948, Lloyd ran for Congress and won easily. At 27, he had the admirable designation as the youngest Member of the House. Representative Bentsen gained respect from his colleagues by his leadership skills and political acumen. He was a strong advocate for a number of policy issues which include the deregulation of natural gas, State control of offshore oil and notably the repeal of the poll tax. He was only one of two Southern Congressmen to challenge this device that impeded voting of African-Americans in the South.

In 1955, Lloyd left Congress after he experienced difficulty raising a family in Washington on a meager congressional salary of \$12,500. Subsequently, he began a business career in Houston and he eventually became president of Lincoln Consolidated, an insurance and financial holding. However, in 1970 he sold his business in a lucrative deal, and declared his candidacy for the U.S. Senate. He won the democratic nomination and then defeated George H.W. Bush, 53 to 47 percent. He was immediately tagged as a coalition builder among liberals and conservatives, putting aside differences and arriving at consensus regarding numerous policy issues. This was evident in his ability to advocate for both minorities in the South and wealthy conservatives linked to Texas oil money. Lloyd has said that his proudest accomplishment in the Senate was pension reform. Also as a member of the Finance Committee and joint Economic Committee, he also contended that the tax code should provide incentives for a myriad of activities that include national saving, production of oil and college loans.

Lloyd worked closely with President Reagan and President Carter on numerous issues. In 1977, he ran for the White House, but his campaign was unsuccessful. However, in 1986 he took the place of retired Democratic leader Senator Russell B. Long as chairman of the finance committee. He also served as chairman of the Joint Committee on Taxation and the Joint Economic Committee and was a member of the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation committee. As a Democrat, Lloyd garnered respect from his colleges across the aisle. He was known to be well versed in tax law and was always known as the consummate insider. He commanded the respect and ear of Wall Street and was a man of integrity and character.

In 1988, Dukakis tapped Lloyd as his vice-presidential running mate and instantaneously he was again catapulted to the national stage.

Though the Dukakis ticket did not win the White House, he won the hearts of Americans. He famously reminded Dan Quayle that he was no Jack Kennedy in a televised vice-presidential debate.

Bentsen retired from the Senate in January 1993 to serve as the 69th Secretary of the Treasury under Clinton from 1993 to 1994. He played an intricate role in several of Clinton's achievements. The \$500 billion deficit reduction measure was crucial and drove the deficit down, which later turned into a government surplus. Additionally, he assisted in passing NAFTA, the North American Free Trade Agreement, which dramatically changed American trade policy with Mexico.

Lloyd retired in 1994 and said, "I couldn't leave with the economic flag flying any higher." His stellar public service career was solidified in 1999 when President Clinton presented him with the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the Nation's highest civilian honor.

FREEDOM FOR EGBERTO ANGEL
ESCOBEDO MORALES

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2006

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about Egberto Angel Escobedo Morales, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Escobedo Morales is a member of the National Council for Democratic Transition. He has dedicated his life to opposing the tyrant who enslaves the people of Cuba. He was arrested in 1995 and in sham "trial" was sentenced to 20 years in the totalitarian gulag. According to the U.S. Department of State, in July 2000, Mr. Escobedo Morales was tried again for "obstruction of police" and "disrespect of government officials."

He has been incarcerated for over 10 years in the most inhuman conditions imaginable. Despite incessant repression, harassment, and abuse, Mr. Escobedo Morales remains committed to the conviction that democracy and individual liberty are the birthright of the Cuban people.

In February 2006, Mr. Escobedo Morales, along with four other political prisoners, courageously signed a letter containing the truth about Cuba under Castro. The letter was printed on Cubanet, "Cuba has become an island prison. All Cubans in the street just have conditional freedom and those of us in prison are in solitary confinement cells."

The solitary confinement cells that Mr. Escobedo Morales mentions in his letter are described in the U.S. Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices—2005 as, "Prison conditions which continued to be harsh and life threatening. Prisoners sometimes were held in "punishment cells," which usually were located in the basement of a prison, with continuous semi-dark conditions, no available water, and only a hole for a toilet."

Mr. Escobedo Morales is representative of the fighting spirit of the Cuban people: of their rejection of the brutality, discrimination, depravity, and oppression of the totalitarian tyranny. Thousands languish in the gulag because, like Mr. Escobedo Morales, they refuse

to accept the tyrannical dictatorship in Cuba today. Mr. Escobedo Morales is also representative of the best of the Cuban people, of the dignity of the Cuban people.

Mr. Speaker, it is unconscionable that, in the 21st century, brave men and women are chained to filth because of their belief in democracy, freedom, and the sanctity of human rights for every person. My Colleagues, we must never forget those who are locked in gulags because of their desire for freedom. My Colleagues, we must demand the immediate and unconditional release of Egberto Angel Escobedo Morales and every political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL
VISITORS' CENTER

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2006

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, since 2001, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, under the leadership of Jan Scruggs, has been working towards the dedication of an underground visitors' center on the Memorial grounds. The proposal for the center was carefully planned to assure that America's youth learn the values of citizenship and duty to their nation. This process has been long and arduous for the Fund, but throughout it all their efforts have been supported by various legislative and public initiatives. Their efforts were officially validated when Congress passed a bill that authorized the construction of the site in November of 2003. The language of the legislation stated that the "final approval shall not be withheld."

Nevertheless, the progress and completion of the site continues to be held up, awaiting the pending approval of the National Capitol Planning Commission (NCPC). While the NCPC oversees planning and construction of any new structure within the Washington, D.C. city limits, in this case it appears to be impeding the construction of a facility authorized and sanctioned by Congress and under the law.

In December, the NCPC stalled the progress of the site by removing the Visitors Center from its December 1 monthly meeting agenda. Additionally, advocates for the Center, who were supposed to testify to the NCPC in July 2005, were told that they would have to wait to make their presentation until August 2006. Over and over again, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, under the leadership of Jan Scruggs, has complied with all the deadlines and requests of the NCPC and other governing organizations throughout the approval process. Yet, for some reason ground has yet to be broken on the construction of the site.

While the approval of the site awaits action from the NCPC, a series of actions have been taken on the proposal's behalf. In December 2005 the Resources Committee and National Parks Subcommittee began an inquiry of the actions of the National Capitol Planning Commission due to delays engineered on an effort approved by Congress in 2003. In February Congressman POMBO, chairman of the Resources Committee, requested that all internal documents from the NCPC, including emails and attorney client materials for review. After

a careful review of the facts, Congressman POMBO informed the NCPC Chairman on March 2, 2006 that the NCPC appeared to be intentionally ignoring the will of the Congress with unnecessary internal delays. In response, Congressmen POMBO and RAHALL, introduced H.R. 4882 to end the delays on this important project. I cosponsored the bill, which came out of committee with great support and was brought to the House floor. On March 28, 2006 the House overwhelmingly passed H.R. 4882. A companion bill, S. 2419 was later introduced in the Senate by Senators KERRY, STEVENS and HAGEL, and is currently awaiting legislative action.

I urge the NCPC to proceed expeditiously in accordance with the express wishes of Congress so that America's youth will soon have the opportunity to learn about citizenship and duty to our country at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Visitors' Center.

TRIBUTE TO DR. FRANK LYON
ROMMEL

HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2006

Mr. DOYLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of a Western Pennsylvania native and pioneer in the field of Physical Medicine, Dr. Frank Lyon Rommel, who passed away on April 28, 2006, at the Moravian Manor in Lititz, PA.

Dr. Rommel, a Board Certified specialist in Physical Medicine was the founder of the Physical Medicine Rehabilitation Department at the McKeesport Hospital, and is credited with rehabilitating hundreds of injured veterans at the V.A. Harnarville Rehabilitation Center in suburban Pittsburgh as well as countless patients in hospitals throughout Western Pennsylvania between 1961 and 1988.

He was born in Glassport, PA on May 5, 1925, was a graduate of Glassport High School, St. Vincent College and the Stritch School of Medicine, Loyola University, Chicago. He served overseas during World War II as a cryptographer in the Army Air Corps.

Dr. Rommel was married for 51 years to Barbara Bonde Rommel who survives him along with five children, their spouses, 10 grandchildren, two sisters, and is the uncle of our colleague, Congressman Bill Shuster. Internment will be at the Shuster Family Cemetery near Everett, PA.

WELL WISHES TO BARRY BONDS
IN HIS BID FOR THE HOME RUN
RECORD

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of one of baseball's most successful stars, Barry L. Bonds. An all-star outfielder for the San Francisco Giants, Bonds has had a stellar career. Since entering the major league in 1986, Bonds has created quite a name for himself.

As a young man growing up in California during the 60s, Bonds discovered his talent for

sports. Not only did Bonds play baseball, but he played football as well. With a former all-star player as a father, Bobby Bonds, Barry was destined for athletic greatness.

Considered as one of the greatest baseball players of all time, Bonds has both created records and broken them alike. Bonds has won 8 Gold Glove Awards for his defensive might in left field, and he is a 13 time All-Star. He is the only player in baseball history to have hit at least 500 home runs and stolen at least 500 bases, no other player has reached even 400–400. This is all a mark of Bonds' true athletic dominance,

He is now only trailing the great Hank Aaron's 755 home run record, while currently tied with Babe Ruth's 714. Even though Bonds' record has been questioned due to alleged steroid use, it seems to not have affected such a trailblazer.

I want to wish Barry Bonds all the best in his pursuit of the home run record, for it is only in arms reach. He needs to know that he should keep pushing on and playing the game that he loves so much and the game we love to watch him play.

We must be careful to not let the racial prejudice and bias of others take away from the phenomenal achievements of such a remarkable athlete. Bonds has achieved all his accomplishments because of his work ethic and extraordinary performance. Please let us acknowledge the good that Bonds has done and to not let the bad overshadow the good. None of us are saints in this world, but we do our best to put the best foot forward.

Please allow me to enter into the RECORD this song of praise for one of the best athletes this generation has ever seen. Bonds has forever solidified his name and place in the history books and he belongs there. He belongs there for not only his love of the game, but for

the fact that his commitment is unmatched by so many.

[From the Witness for Justice No. 268, May 15, 2006]

RACE MATTERS

(By Wallace Ryan Kuroiwa)

Okay, I'll admit it: I am a San Francisco Giants baseball fan. Always have been, always will be. Maybe it's because living in Hawaii, I used to get the Giants games on the radio. Or maybe it's because in my first year of seminary in the Bay Area, I watched Juan Marichal pitch and the two Willies, Mays and McCovey, homer—my first live Major League game! So I will admit to a bias in my following rumination.

I have watched with some dismay as slugger Barry Bonds has been vilified in the media and by fans as he nears the home run milestone of 714 home runs, the record the immortal Babe Ruth held until Hank Aaron eclipsed it. Most of the discussion has centered on the purported use of steroids by Bonds. Although there has not been any substantiation of steroid use in the legal arena, Bonds has been tried and convicted in the media. Television commentary will show pictures of Bonds as a younger player and then pictures of him in his present manifestation, and then conclude: now who can say he hasn't used steroids? Huh? What would happen if we put pictures of all of us in our twenties and then put them side-by-side with our pictures in our forties and jump to the same conclusion?

I believe Minnesota Twins outfielder Tori Hunter hit on a reality when he observed: "They can say what they want, but there's no way they would launch an investigation if Barry Bonds was not about to break Babe Ruth's record. It is so obvious what's going on. He has never failed a drug test and said he never took steroids, but everybody keeps trying to disgrace him. How come nobody even talks about Mark McGwire anymore? Or (Rafael) Palmeiro (who tested positive for

steroids in 2005?) Whenever I go home I hear people say all of the time, 'Baseball just doesn't like black people. Here's the greatest hitter in the game, and they're scrutinizing him like crazy.' It's killing me because it's about race."

It may not be all about race, but race certainly is a rain cloud over the whole issue. Race has been a specter over sports for as long as I have been alive, and much longer. Remember Jesse Owens in Germany? Jack Johnson? Jackie Robinson? Even Hank Aaron received death threats as he approached the beloved Babe's record.

Those who would claim that sports is a level playing field, that anyone with talent can make it in sports, need to take their heads out of the sand. Race matters, as Cornel West simply put it.

Globally speaking, sports serves as a microcosm of American society. The insidious reach of racism is always near the surface of the dynamics of human interaction, if it is not overtly present. Whether it is in the New Orleans debacle, or the immigration debate, economic globalization, or whatever, you don't have to look far to find race lurking. We will never make progress toward a more just society until we own up to that, and move forward.

So my defense of Barry is more than just about being a Giants fan, much more. It's about needing to name the sin. When we do that, we can start to do better. And we do need to do better as a society, much better.

The United Church of Christ has more than 5,700 churches throughout the United States and Puerto Rico, Rooted in the Christian traditions of congregational governance and covenantal relationships, each UCC setting speaks only for itself and not on behalf of every UCC congregation. UCC members and churches are free to differ on important social issues, even as the UCC remains principally committed to unity in the midst of our diversity.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, May 25, 2006 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

JUNE 6

10 a.m.
Commerce, Science, and Transportation Consumer Affairs and Product Safety Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine compliance with All-Terrain Vehicle Standards.
SD-562

JUNE 7

10 a.m.
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
To hold oversight hearings to examine agricultural conservation programs.
SR-328A
2:30 p.m.
Commerce, Science, and Transportation Science and Space Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine outside perspectives relating to NASA budget and programs.
SD-562

JUNE 8

10 a.m.
Commerce, Science, and Transportation National Ocean Policy Study Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine challenges of fish farming in Federal waters relating to offshore aquaculture.
SD-562
Veterans' Affairs
To hold hearings to examine pending benefits related legislation.
SR-418

JUNE 13

10 a.m.
Commerce, Science, and Transportation
To resume hearings to examine S. 2686, to amend the Communications Act of 1934 and for other purposes.
Room to be announced

2:30 p.m.
Armed Services Readiness and Management Support Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine business systems modernization and financial management in review of the defense authorization request for fiscal year 2007.
SR-222

JUNE 14

10 a.m.
Commerce, Science, and Transportation Technology, Innovation, and Competitiveness Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine alternative energy technologies.
Room to be announced
2:30 p.m.
Commerce, Science, and Transportation National Ocean Policy Study Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine state of the oceans in 2006.
SD-562

JUNE 15

10:30 a.m.
Commerce, Science, and Transportation Fisheries and Coast Guard Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine the Coast Guard budget.
SD-562

JUNE 20

10 a.m.
Commerce, Science, and Transportation Business meeting to markup S. 2686, to amend the Communications Act of 1934 and for other purposes.
Room to be announced

JUNE 21

2:30 p.m.
Commerce, Science, and Transportation Technology, Innovation, and Competitiveness Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine accelerating the adoption of health information technology.
SD-562