

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.

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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.

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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.

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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. Harmarville 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