ordained as a Deacon of the First Baptist Church where he was also treasurer and Sunday school Superintendent.

Bob later moved to Magnolia, Arkansas, where he opened Furniture Land. He was active in the community by serving as president of the Magnolia Columbia Chamber of Commerce, as a member of the Rotary Club and Optimist Club and Deacon at Central Baptist Church.

Bob Lann was an avid bluegrass fan and loved playing the fiddle with his friends.

My deepest condolences go to his wife of fifty-nine years, Bobbie Ruth Coffman Lann; his daughter, Ameta Vines and her husband Johnny; his son Randy Lann and wife Cindy; his two grandchildren Julia Lann and Brad Lann; his step granddaughter, Toni Dickinson and his step great-granddaughter Emilee Dickinson. Bob Lann will be greatly missed in Columbia County and throughout the state of Arkansas.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO ROD A. DAVIS

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my good friend Rod A. Davis for his leadership as CEO of St. Rose Dominican Hospital.

Rod attended college at Idaho State University, majoring in business administration with an emphasis on information systems. Following college, he began installing IBM computer systems in hospitals, where he says he ''started catching the spirit of hospitals really helping people . . . and thinking this would be an excellent career.''

Today, Rod oversees the operation and direction of three St. Rose Dominican Hospitals in Southern Nevada for Catholic Healthcare West, a not-for-profit, religious-based and non-tax-supported hospital system. St. Rose's is a major healthcare employer in Southern Nevada, with a current payroll of more than 2,100 workers. As St. Rose's CEO, Rod has stabilized operations and overseen the creation of the Barbara Greenspun WomensCare Center of Excellence, the launch of Henderson's only open-heart surgical and pediatric intensive care center program, and the development of numerous outreach programs.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor my good friend Rod A. Davis. Under his leadership, St. Rose Dominican Hospitals have expanded tremendously and have greatly enhanced the lives of countless citizens of southern Nevada. I applaud his success and with him the best with his future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF DEANNA ABLESER

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2006

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, very few people in our society possess the power to change a child's life the way a teacher can. The values, ethics, work habits and ambition they instill in our youth serve as life lessons that translate into action for the rest of their lives.

That is why I rise today to honor one of my constituents, Deanna Ableser of Torrance, California, who has been awarded the VSA Arts Playwright Discovery Teacher Award. This award is presented annually to educators who creatively bring disability awareness to the classroom through the art of playwriting.

Deanna Ableser teaches six drama courses at Dana Middle School in Hawthorne, California. A significant portion of her curriculum is dedicated to playwriting. She encourages her students to write about characters with physical or mental disabilities in hopes of expanding empathy, understanding, compassion and tolerance. Her intermediate playwriting course is dedicated exclusively to the VSA Arts Project.

It is testament to Ms. Ableser's effectiveness as a teacher that her students have won numerous awards for their accomplishments in acting, playwriting and technical theatre.

On behalf of my constituents and the students and families at Dana Middle School, I extend our congratulations to a wonderful educator and role model, Deanna Ableser, and best wishes for this school year.

Break a leg!

IN RECOGNITION OF CRANIOFACIAL ACCEPTANCE MONTH

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2006

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to share my support and acknowledgement of September as Craniofacial Acceptance Month.

Each year approximately 100,000 children are born in the United States with some form of facial disfigurement. In many cases, reconstructive surgeons can correct these problems early—often while the children are still infants. In other cases, however, reconstruction is not so easy or even possible. The Children's Craniofacial Association, CCA, is an organization that supports these children and their families. Through CCA's continued dedication and efforts, I am pleased to share my support and thanks for their designation of September as Craniofacial Acceptance Month.

In 2001, my constituent, Wendelyn Osborne, brought the craniofacial disorders issue to my attention. At a young age Wendelyn was diagnosed with craniometaphyseal dysplasia, CMD. CMD is a rare disorder that affects only 200 people worldwide. Specifically, CMD involves an overgrowth of bone which never deteriorates. In Wendelyn's case, this caused an abnormal appearance, bilateral facial paralysis and deafness. Other cases can include those characteristics as well as blindness and joint pain. Wendelyn has had to go through 17 reconstructive surgeries to counteract the medical difficulties that comprise her disorder.

Unfortunately, the majority of reconstructive surgeries, such as these that Wendelyn has undergone, are not covered by insurance companies. Rather, many of them are treated as strictly cosmetic. As a result, individuals are forced to fight their insurance companies just to receive the life-saving surgeries they need. The fact that these surgeries have been grouped in the same ''cosmetic'' category as surgeries that simply make people look better or younger is a tragedy.

Wendelyn's story inspired me to introduce legislation that would assist these thousands of individuals who are affected by a craniofacial disorder. My legislation, the Reconstructive Surgery Act, would ensure nationwide insurance coverage for medically necessary reconstructive surgeries.

It is my hope that further education and understanding of craniofacial disorders will allow our nation to move forward and update existing laws to better meet the medical needs of those needing reconstructive, not cosmetic, surgery. I urge my colleagues to join in this effort and help recognize these conditions through Craniofacial Acceptance Month so that all Americans can access the care they need.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO WALTER M. HIGGINS III

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my good friend Walter M. Higgins III for his leadership as CEO of Sierra Pacific Resources, the parent company to both Nevada Power Company and Sierra Pacific Power Company.

Walter's first career was as a U.S. naval officer. After obtaining a nuclear science degree from the U.S. Academy, he served as a nuclear submarine officer. After ending his active military service, Walter remained a naval reservist, ultimately retiring as a captain after a total of 29 years of service.

The transition from military service to a civilian career was relatively easy for Walter, who obtained a position with Bechtel Corp., which was designing and constructing nuclear power plants, From there, he worked at the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission, Portland General Electric and Louisville Gas & Electric. He expected to remain in Louisville as the CEO for Louisville Gas & Electric throughout the remainder of his career, but was surprised when utility companies began recruiting him. He subsequently accepted a job with Sierra Pacific Power Co. in 1993. He then moved to Atlanta to head a natural gas company, only to return to Reno in 2000 as CEO of Sierra Pacific Resources.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor my good friend Walter M. Higgins III. I applaud his professional success and efforts on behalf of the community; he has greatly enriched countless lives with his activism. I wish him the best in his future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF RUDY F. DELEON

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2006

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Rudy F. de Leon, whom I have

known since he was a wet-behind-the-ears staff assistant on Capitol Hill. I have enjoyed watching Rudy serve our country in jobs ranging from staff assistant, senior staff, Undersecretary of Defense, Deputy Secretary of Defense, and senior corporate officer for one of America's most important corporations.

Rudy's service to the United States Government has spanned over a quarter century. At 54 years, I would submit that we have not seen the last of him. Allow me to just cover some of what he has done for his country.

After graduating in 1974 from Loyola University—now Loyola Marymount—in Los Angeles, Rudy came to Capitol Hill. I can still remember the day when that young, red-headed, fresh-faced, full-of-enthusiasm staffer started as a staff assistant on the Senate side, working for a California Senator, John Tunney, whom I also served. Who would have guessed that he would go on to the lofty positions he attained?

Rudy has accomplished a great deal, whether it was working on the Goldwater-Nichols legislation or legislation for the authorization for the use of force during the Persian Gulf war in 1991, or strategies for saving the C–17 Globemaster, or ways to help the families of POWs and MIAs.

Rudy approached his position at Boeing with the same enthusiasm I saw when he showed up on the Capitol grounds. On one cold winter night while holding a meeting with his department heads, Rudy summoned them to come outside in front of Boeing's building. After a short while, and once everyone was sufficiently cold—they didn't take coats because they did not think they would be there long—he told them the Space Station was about to pass overhead. Sure enough, the Space Station did pass overhead, just as he promised it would. That bonding experience made the team grow tighter.

Boeing, the Department of Defense, and Capitol Hill all had an opportunity to size up Rudy. All respect him and feel affection for him. I do not know what his next move will be, but hopefully his wife Anne, his daughters Elizabeth and Kerry, his father, Big Rudy, and brother and family in my congressional district will see more of him. Rudy and his family always have a home back in Torrance, CA, and on Capitol Hill, where it all started.

IN HONOR AND APPRECIATION OF HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2006

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor America's Historically Black Colleges and Universities. Historically Black Colleges and Universities were not officially recognized by the government until 1964, but these valuable institutions have had a lasting impact on our nation for more than a century.

As the United States Representative for Arkansas's Fourth Congressional District, I have the distinct honor to represent my state's largest and only four-year public Historically Black University, the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff. UAPB was founded in 1890 and now provides more than 3,600 students with a quality, affordable education.

The University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff is an anchor for the town of more than 55,000 people as it provides jobs, resources, opportunities and education to the entire region. Growing up in rural Arkansas, I had the unfortunate opportunity to see how segregation affected Southern towns. The division that was placed on different cultures was stretched far and wide. Prior to 1964, it was almost impossible for an African American student to enroll in a public institution of higher education. Thankfully, these students had the opportunity to continue learning and pursuing their dream because of Historically Black Colleges and Universities. When doors were shut to African American students, those students refused to take no for an answer and created institutions of higher education where education was the focus, not a distraction.

Historically Black Colleges and Universities are vital to the education of our nation's youth. They enroll 14 percent of all African American students in higher education, yet the 102 recognized Historically Black Colleges and Universities only constitute three percent of America's 4,084 institutions of higher education. Twenty-four percent of all baccalaureate degrees earned by African Americans nationwide are earned in our Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

I wish that those brave Americans who formed the first black college could be here today to see the lasting impact they have had on the thousands of Americans who have benefited from an education at such an institution. Just think, without these colleges, we might have never known or heard from American icons such as Martin Luther King, Langston Hughes, Thurgood Marshall, Walter Payton or Oprah Winfrey. There is no doubt in my mind or my heart, that these great people were the product of an invaluable institution which motivated them to be leaders they became.

I am proud to have joined with my friend and colleague Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON in passing legislation honoring our nation's Historically Black Colleges and Universities and I will fight to ensure their continued excellence in education will live on.

I am so pleased to have the opportunity to properly recognize our nation's Historically Black Colleges and Universities before the United States Congress for their outstanding contributions to the communities and lives they have educated and will continue to impact. Please join me in applauding the amazing work these institutions have done over the course of history.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JUDY TUDOR

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Judy Tudor for her outstanding service as a social worker, helping the abused and neglected children in her community.

Judy understands the fear and turmoil associated with being removed from her parents' home and placed into foster care. When she was 15 years old, Judy was placed in Las Vegas' residential facility for abused and neglected children, Child Haven. Judy thanks the State's social welfare system for their intervention and maintains that their actions directly contributed to her personal and professional development. Her experiences within the social welfare system propelled her into a life of community service and inspired her to pursue a career as a social worker.

In addition to being a former ward of the state, she is also physically handicapped. Shortly after entering Child Haven, Judy suddenly lost all feeling from the chest down. She was diagnosed with a type of transverse myelitis, a neurological syndrome caused by inflammation of the spinal cord.

Judy has served the state of Nevada in a number of different capacities as a social worker; having served as a foster care case manager for the state and a supervisor for child protective services in Clark County. Most recently, Judy was promoted to assistant manager of the Clark County Department of Family Services, where she supervises the investigations of child abuse and neglect of 130 case workers.

Because of her personal hardships, Judy holds a genuine belief that the best measure to take is the one that is best for the child. She also believes that the system can always improve in order to put those in need first. Judy feels empathetic to the children in her cases, with each case helping her to feel as if she has achieved her ultimate goal of giving back to her community.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Ms. Judy Tudor. I commend her for her exceptional service to Clark County and the entire state of Nevada. Her dedication has enriched countless lives of children across the state. I applaud her efforts and wish her the best in her future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO LA CLINICA DE LA RAZA

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2006

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my esteemed colleague, BARBARA LEE, to pay tribute to La Clinica de La Raza on its 35th anniversary of providing exemplary health care to the East Bay communities of Alameda, Contra Costa and Solano counties in Northern California.

The mission of La Clinica de La Raza is to improve the quality of life of the diverse communities they serve by providing culturally appropriate, high quality, accessible health care for all.

Before La Clinica de La Raza was established, low-income residents in the East Bay of Northern California had few options available to them for affordable health care. As a result, many were forced to go to hospital emergency rooms for problems that could have been avoided with preventive care. In response to this need for primary care services, a group of concerned health practitioners, community activists and students came together in 1971 to establish a multiservice clinic, in Oakland, California, based on the expressed needs of the community.

La Clinica offers low cost quality health care services for multilingual and multicultural populations at 22 locations in three counties in Northern California. The majority of La