

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO COUNCILMAN GARY
M. KELLY

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Councilman Gary M. Kelly, an American hero—a soldier, a leader, a father, a husband, and city councilman in the City of Cibolo, who recently passed away on October 15th, 2006. Councilman Kelly was recently named Mayor pro tem by the City of Cibolo before his death in honor of his lifetime commitment to the city and to the community.

Gary M. Kelly was born on October 1st, 1948, in the City of Utica in the State of New York to his parents, Raymond and Arlene Kelly. He graduated from high school in Whitesboro, New York, and then attended the Syracuse University College of Forestry in 1970 with a Bachelor of Science. He earned a Master's degree in Business Administration from the University of Alaska in Fairbanks in 1975. Shortly after graduate school, Gary joined the Squadron Officer School in 1976, thus beginning nearly thirty years of service in the United States Air Force.

Councilman Kelly served his country with great honor in the United States Air Force and received numerous military awards and accolades such as the Legion of Merit, Joint Service Commendation Medal, National Defense Service Medal, to name just a few. He also rose quickly within the military ranks from Second Lieutenant to Colonel. His military career was focused on program management and logistics support of weapon systems for the United States Air Force at Kelly Air Force Base. It was just not his country he served with great passion, it was the City of Cibolo in the State of Texas as City Councilman. He was sworn into office on May 25th, 2005, and made numerous accomplishments such as writing the charter for the City, overseeing the creation of two fiscal budgets, establishing the Streets and Drainage Committee, the Public Safety Committee, and the Business Development Committee. He worked as the liaison to the Capital Improvements Committee, and Planning and Zoning Commission. He also was known for being a great mentor to new members of the City Council and to commission chairs.

He is survived by his wife, Patricia C. Kelly, his two sons, Allen Dearborn and Scott Kelly, his mother, Arlene, his two sisters and their spouses, Cindy and Gregory Hobbs, Karen and Raymond Jankowski, his brother, Chris Kelly and his wife, Kathleen, and numerous aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews, and friends of the family. He truly led by example and inspired his children to be the best they could be in achieving their dreams and goals. He will be missed by us all and especially by the City of Cibolo in the State of Texas.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have had this time to recognize Councilman Gary M. Kelly.

A TRIBUTE TO CARMEN S. COMAS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the jazz musician, Carmen S. Comas, distinguished musician. It behooves us to pay tribute to this outstanding artist and I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing her impressive accomplishments.

With a smile of grace that can light up a room, Carmen S. Comas was born on November 9, 1939 in Mayaguez, Puerto Rico to Arthur Comas and Patricia America Justiniano. At the young age of eighteen, Mrs. Comas was voted "Misses Smile of Mayaguez." This was just a reminder that her smile had an impact on her neighbors and her community.

At the age of twenty-one, Mrs. Comas was married with two daughters, when she decided to move to New York City. Mrs. Comas is a woman of many talents and was unsure which she would use to become the entrepreneur that she was determined to be. While attending secretary school she changed gears to open a clothing factory. She became a mentor to people in the community, showing them that opportunity does exist with guidance and determination.

Mrs. Comas' drive and expectations allowed her to continue to pursue the land of opportunity. After thirty wonderful years of learning and growing, she pursued her second passion—cooking.

After working for Heart Share Human Services of New York for ten years as a resident cook she changed gears to Cypress Hills Child Care Corporation. This experience allowed her to do her best work of nurturing children.

Loved and adored by many, Mrs. Comas acknowledges the support of her growing family. Aside from her four beautiful daughters, she has her life partner Luis who has provided her with support and empowerment throughout their lives together. She has three granddaughters: Christina, Alisson and Javalia and six grandsons: Hector, Nelson, Javier, Thomas, John and Anthony. Mrs. Comas is also a part of the extended family at the Democratic Club of North Brooklyn, the Brooklyn Highland Park Lions club.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that it is incumbent on this body to recognize the accomplishments of Carmen S. Comas. Her willingness to get involved and the smile she brings makes her most worthy of our recognition today.

CELEBRATING NATIONAL
ADOPTION MONTH

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate November as National Adoption Month. Originating in Massachusetts in 1976 as National Adoption Week under Governor Michael Dukakis, the honor was celebrated nationally by President Ford in 1976 and then extended to the month of November in 1990. It is a time during which we celebrate the families who have shown their commitment to children in need by opening their homes and a time to promote awareness of the need to find permanent homes for our most vulnerable children.

Permanency is important in the life of a child; with over 523,000 children in foster care, we must focus our attention on finding permanent, stable, and caring relationships for these children. Approximately 20 percent of the children in foster care have the ultimate end goal of adoption. This equals around 104,600 who are awaiting or working toward adoption. The need for quality, loving and permanent homes for these children is great. Children who age out of the foster care system are more likely to be homeless and more likely to end up in jail than their counterparts.

The issue of safe and permanent homes is of particular concern to my district, the Seventh Congressional District of Illinois. The Seventh District has the highest percentage of kinship care providers in the entire United States. I hope that our efforts in the 110th Congress will promote permanency for these children and support them and their families.

I urge organizations to continue their hard work advocating for adoption and permanency. Organizations such as the National Council for Adoption, Voice for Adoption, the Child Welfare League of America, the Children's Defense Fund, the Congressional Coalition on Adoption, and the North American Council on Adoptable Children, just to name a few. Parents who adopt face many challenges and deserve our recognition and thanks. These families commit themselves to a child, emotionally, financially and mentally. The bonds they form are lifelong, and, most importantly, they positively affect the life of a child.

Mr. Speaker, as John F. Kennedy once said, "Children are the world's most valuable resource and its best hope for the future." We must make sure that all of our Nation's children have hope for their future. To do this, we must ensure them loving, stable, and caring environments. Adoptive parents provide this for thousands of children every year. I thank adoptive parents as well as the numerous organizations dedicated to helping promote permanency for their commitment and sacrifice.

● 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.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF SHILOH BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in tribute to The Shiloh Baptist Church, its many congregants and The Reverend James B. Rodgers. During the month of October, 2006, they are celebrating Shiloh Baptist Church's 150th Anniversary, a truly remarkable achievement. I ask all of my colleagues to join me in celebrating the Shiloh Baptist Church family and Dr. James B. Rodgers, Pastor on this momentous occasion.

The Shiloh Baptist Church is located in Sacramento, California and was first organized in 1856 as the Siloam Baptist Church. Shiloh is the oldest African-American church west of the Mississippi River and the first Baptist Church organized by African-Americans in Sacramento. Its current faithful leader is Dr. James B. Rodgers, but Shiloh has been shepherded by 27 pastoral leaders during its 150 years.

When Shiloh was first conceived it had no facilities in which to hold religious services, so it forged a strong relationship with the Chinese Americans in the area. As a result, an offer was extended to Shiloh to hold religious services at the Chinese Chapel, located at historic Sixth and H Streets in Sacramento.

The Shiloh Baptist Church is no ordinary church. It has overcome many obstacles through faith and determination. It overcame foreclosure in the 1860s; significant reduction in congregant membership because of relocations; destruction of the church facility by fire in 1861 and 1905; and the inability to secure building loans on several occasions. However, today Shiloh stands firm as a testament to the strong faith, perseverance, determination, character and courage of its founders and early congregations.

With the outstanding leadership of Pastor Emeritus Willie P. Cooke, Shiloh has provided dedicated service to the citizens of the Sacramento region through its 26 year history. Shiloh provides numerous services through its many ministries and participates in a multitude of community based programs. In recognition of these services Shiloh has deservedly received numerous Presidential, Congressional, Gubernatorial and State Legislative commendations since its inception.

In honor of its 150th anniversary, Shiloh Baptist Church began a week long celebration on Monday, October 16, 2006, culminating on Sunday, October 22, 2006. The celebration's theme takes inspiration from Ezekiel 34:26, "Shiloh, A Godly Heritage: Blessed Future."

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to thank and congratulate the Shiloh Baptist Church for its 150 years of invaluable service to the greater Sacramento community. I ask all of my colleagues to join with me in wishing the Shiloh Baptist Church and Dr. Rodgers continued success in all their future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF PROFESSORS MARK LEWINE AND ORMOND BRATHWAITE FOR EXCELLENCE IN UNDERGRADUATE TEACHING

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Professors Mark Lewine and Ormond Brathwaite, both of Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C) located in my congressional district, who will be honored on Thursday, November 16, 2006 here in Washington, DC for their excellence in undergraduate teaching as part of the U.S. Professors of the Year awards program.

For more than 20 years Dr. Mark Lewine has remained committed to undergraduate education. During his tenure at Cuyahoga Community College, he has done much to support the teaching and learning environment. He founded and directed the Center for Community Research at the college and was active in promoting the Society for Anthropology in Community Colleges. He is active with the American Anthropological Association, serving on its Advisory Committee. Dr. Lewine regularly gives informative and passionate presentation about undergraduate teaching and the importance of providing opportunities to non-traditional students. For his work, Tri-C has awarded him with the College's Besse Award recognizing the energy, creativity, discipline and high expectations he brings to his teaching.

Dr. Ormond Brathwaite has consistently demonstrated effective teaching both in and out of the classroom. Dr. Brathwaite holds a Ph.D. in Biochemistry from the City University of New York. He began his career at Cuyahoga Community College in 1994 as an assistant professor in chemistry and biology. Dr. Brathwaite is committed to student learning and student success. He serves as a faculty mentor to Bridges to Success in the Sciences students and has been very instrumental in the success of the program. Additionally, Dr. Brathwaite was a recipient of the NISOD Excellence Award in 2004 and received the National Role Model Mentor Award in 2003.

Therefore it is my pleasure, on behalf of the people of the 11th Congressional District to recognize Professors Mark Lewine and Ormond Brathwaite—two gifted educators whose commitment to providing quality education to all is to be commended.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE LEAP ACADEMY LANCER BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the LEAP Academy Lancer Basketball Team on their first South Jersey Group I championship.

The Lancer Basketball team completed their season 18–7–0. The LEAP Academy basketball program, in its second year, is affiliated with Rutgers-Camden University. Much of their

schedule consists of playing teams from the Philadelphia area and Central and North Jersey.

Coach Marco Morcos led his team to a phenomenal season that included a seven game winning streak and defeating teams like Bishop Eustace from the South Jersey region. The team included four seniors, Earl Knight, Nathaniel Cooper, William Mace, and Lance James; four juniors, Crawford John, Michael Craig, Chauncey Gillian, and Jamal Baylor-ali; two sophomores, Gary Lyons and Dylan Talley; and four freshmen, Jeremy Delgado, Orlando Hidalgo, Tyrone Parker, and Eric Johnson. Scoring leaders of the team include William Mace (196), Lance James (191), and Dylan Talley (190). Assists leaders include Lance James (103), Crawford John (42), and Dylan Talley (34). Blocks leaders include William Mace (40), Crawford John (19), and Earl Knight (10). Rebound leaders include William Mace (161), Crawford John (121) and Dylan Talley (89). Steals leaders include Crawford John (54), Lance James (40), and William Mace (26). Three point field goal leaders include Lance James (17), Dylan Talley (17), and Crawford John (12).

Mr. Speaker, I offer my congratulations to the LEAP Academy Basketball Team for an exceptional 2005–2006 season and on their championship. I wish the entire team and school the best of luck in their future athletic, personal, and professional lives.

TRIBUTE TO THE GATEWAY COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER, INC.

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the inauguration of the new Main Facility of the Gateway Community Health Center, Inc., on October 20th, 2006, in the City of Laredo.

The Gateway Community Health Center, Inc., first began as a Migrant Health Clinic administered by the Laredo-Webb County Health Department in 1963, and has rapidly grown to one of the largest community health centers in South Texas in providing a variety of much-needed services to underserved residents of Webb County. Today, the Gateway Community Health Center operates over five sites in Webb County, serving over 18,007 residents of Webb County in 2005 alone. The new facility, which is being inaugurated today, is expected to increase the number of users in late 2006 and 2007.

The continued growth of the population in Webb County present challenges for the Gateway Community Health Center, Inc., but the dedication of its staff, especially that of Mr. Miguel Trevino, the C.E.O., will be able to make sure these challenges are met with the support they have from the community. The new Main Facility will help Gateway in providing more services and expanding its outreach to the residents of Webb County. I am very proud of the staff of Gateway Community Health Center, Inc., and their partners in making this dream possible for Laredo and Webb County.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have had this time to honor the inauguration of the new

Main Facility of the Gateway Community Health Center, Inc., in the City of Laredo in the Great State of Texas.

A TRIBUTE TO BRITTANY
SIMPKINS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Brittany Simpkins, one of Brooklyn's rising stars. It behooves us to pay tribute to this outstanding young woman and I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing her impressive service.

Brittany Simpkins is a very active and gifted young woman with a determination to become all that she can be. The daughter of Nanette Simpkins, Ms. Simpkins is a graduate of Fashion Industries High School and she has a deep passion for the creative arts and fashion design. She is wonderfully gifted in that area and has designed fashionable dresses for young ladies. Ms. Simpkins has participated in various modeling assignments and provided assistance to teachers in her school's annual fashion shows. Recently, she did community work with Artmaker, Inc., painting a mural on the wall of one of Bedford Stuyvesant's edifice at Nostrand and Green Avenues in Brooklyn, portraying famous African American women who contributed tremendously to the African American community.

Ms. Simpkins currently attends Baruch College in New York City where she majors in Business/Marketing. As a dedicated member of Berean Baptist Church since the age of 4, she has been active with the choir, Girl Scouts, and the Ministry of Sacred Dance. Ms. Simpkins was recognized by her pastor, congregation and peers as a "Member of the Week." She enjoys working with children from the community and her church home and was employed by Berean's Summer Day Camp as an assistant teacher. She has also been a strong advocate for the cure for breast cancer and has demonstrated her concern by participating in the annual American Cancer Society Breast Cancer Walk-A-Thon.

Ms. Simpkins has received numerous awards, namely an art award from the United Federation of Teachers, as well as an Incentive Award for her academic studies. In addition, she has won several medals participating on the track team. Ms. Simpkins desires to become one of New York's greatest entrepreneurs in fashion design, and she is currently working on her business logo and developing her clientele.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that it is incumbent on this body to recognize the work of Brittany Simpkins. Her deep commitment to her family and community makes her most worthy of our recognition today.

HONORING THE FIELD MUSEUM OF
NATURAL HISTORY

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Field Museum of

Natural History on its recent award of a \$10,000 grant from the Illinois Humanities Council. This grant helps fund the development of public outreach programming related to the Halls of the Ancient Americas exhibition.

The Field Museum is a world-class institution dedicated to providing outstanding educational experiences to the millions of people who walk through its doors every year. Founded as the Columbian Museum of Chicago in 1893, the Field Museum's original goal was, "accumulation and dissemination of knowledge, and the preservation and exhibition of objects illustrating art, archaeology, science and history." The Field Museum continues the same goals and objectives today, continuing its commitment to preservation and education.

The Field Museum is so much more than a museum, it is a world class education and research facility; the Field Museum also boasts an impressive 250,000 piece natural history collection. In addition, this wonderful institution is committed to giving back to the community through outstanding learning opportunities and important research.

I am proud that the Field Museum calls Chicago home. Its impressive exhibits and collections have the ability to educate the people of both Chicago and the world. With important education programs such as the Halls of the Ancient Americas, the Field Museum has the ability to instruct those who walk through its doors on their heritage, culture and history.

Once again I would like congratulate the Field Museum on receiving the grant from the Illinois Humanities Council. The Field Museum has served and will continue to serve both Chicago and the nation for decades to come.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. CURTIS J.
MITCHELL'S TWENTY YEARS OF
SERVICE

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Curtis J. Mitchell's twenty years of service to the people of Sacramento as pastor of Antioch Progressive Church. Over the weekend of October 7th and 8th Dr. Mitchell's parishioners, family and friends will gather to recognize his good work. I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring one of Sacramento's finest leaders.

For over thirty years Pastor Mitchell has been in the gospel ministry in various locations across our Nation. He has earned a Doctorate of Philosophy and Master of Ministry from Trinity Theological Seminary in Newburg, Indiana, graduating Summa Cum Laude.

His tireless work on behalf of the Sacramento community has been surpassed by few. Since coming to Sacramento, Pastor Mitchell has turned Antioch Progressive Church into a pillar of the community by offering a welcoming spiritual environment and a wide range of needed services to area residents. Since the church was established, the immediate neighborhood has greatly improved its well-being and spirit.

The church's motto, "We Dare to be Different" aptly describes their continued service to our community. Under Pastor Mitchell's guidance, the church has offered job fairs,

after school programs and marriage counseling, just to name a few. Every week the church's parishioners give back to the community by distributing free food to the most needy among us.

Pastor Mitchell has personally shaped our community. He has worked with the Sacramento County Department of Health, the Task Force on AIDS, the Board of Directors of the Goodwill Industries, and with the Sacramento Police Department in an effort to steer kids away from gangs.

With almost a thousand parishioners, a large and beautiful house of worship and acres of land for the community to enjoy, Antioch Progressive Church has become a staple of the Sacramento Community.

Mr. Speaker, as Pastor Curtis Mitchell, his wife Kay, their children and grandchildren gather on this momentous occasion, I am honored to pay tribute to one of Sacramento's most distinguished citizens. His successes have been many, and it is an honor for me to recognize his twenty years of contributions to the people of Sacramento. I ask all my colleagues to join me in wishing Pastor Mitchell continued success at Antioch Progressive Church and in our community.

HONORING RUTGERS-CAMDEN UNIVERSITY ON THE NCAA DIVISION III WOMEN'S SOFTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Rutgers-Camden University Women's Softball Team for winning the NCAA Division III Women's Softball Championship in 2006.

The Scarlet Raptors defeated the defending champion, the University of St. Thomas, in a thrilling 3-2 decision during play at Peace College in North Carolina last spring in May 2006. This is the first national sports title in Rutgers-Camden territory, and also the first NCAA title for a team sport earned on any Rutgers campus.

Mr. Speaker, I celebrate the outstanding season of the Rutgers-Camden Women's Softball Team. I applaud every member of the Scarlet Raptors softball team, as well as Coach Carl Taylor and his staff, for this outstanding accomplishment. I am proud of their skill, determination, and fierce competitiveness, and thank them for the excitement they created for all Rutgers-Camden supporters throughout the season.

IN CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE OF
GERALD LEVERT

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise in celebration of the life of Gerald Levert. On November 10, 2006, beloved entertainer, father, son, brother, and friend Gerald Levert departed this life at the age of 40. Gerald was

one of the greatest entertainers of our time. Known for his silky-smooth vocals and electrifying showmanship, Gerald was adored the world over and will truly be missed. He was a son of the 11th Congressional District of Ohio.

Born in Philadelphia on July 13, 1966 and raised in Cleveland, Gerald is the son of legendary singer Eddie Levert of The O'Jays and Martha Levert. Gerald was exposed to music at an early age, traveling with his father's band regularly. While attending Shaker Heights High School, Gerald formed the group LeVert along with his brother Sean and friend Mark Gordon. The group would go on to record seven albums, four of which were certified platinum. The albums yielded such memorable hits as "Pop, Pop Goes My Mind," "Casanova," and "ABC-123."

In 1991, Gerald launched his solo career with the album *Private Line* which went on to be #1 on the R&B charts. It was during this time that he began writing and producing songs for other artists including Stephanie Mills, James Ingram, Teddy Pendergrass, and even The O'Jays. Gerald earned a Grammy nomination for his work on Barry White's 1995 hit "Practice What You Preach," and helped launch the careers of many Cleveland-area R&B groups including Men At Large and the Rude Boyz.

Some of Gerald's most memorable works were his collaborations with his father Eddie Levert. In 1992 they recorded the #1 R&B single "Baby Hold On To Me" and later in 1995 recorded the album *Father & Son* which topped the R&B charts. Gerald and Eddie allowed the old school generation and the hip-hop generation to have a meeting of the minds that ultimately produced beautiful music for all to enjoy.

Affectionately known as the "teddy bear" of the music industry, Gerald carried himself with a gentle kindness. He always would greet you with a smile and was a friend to all he encountered. News reports of Gerald's death talked about his recent trip to South Africa with his father. They reported that he and his father were well received throughout the country and treated like kings. Gerald was our king and his legacy of love and zest for life will forever live in our hearts.

On behalf of the Congress of the United States and the citizens of the 11th Congressional District of Ohio, I would like to offer my sincerest condolences to the family and friends of Gerald Levert. On a personal note, I cherish the times I was in cities when he was on the road and Gerald recognized me as his Congresswoman and gave me my own teddy bear. I also will never forget the last time we spent together in New York during the induction of The O'Jays into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum.

TRIBUTE TO JUDGE GEORGE P.
KAZEN

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Judge George P. Kazen as a recipient of the 2006 Longhorn Legacy Awards, given to him on October 5th, 2006 by the Laredo Chapter of the University of Texas Ex-Students Association.

Judge Kazen received his law degree with honors from the University of Texas School of Law in 1961, and thus began a long, accomplished career in law. Shortly after graduation, he served a term as a briefing attorney for the Texas Supreme Court, entered the United States Air Force as a JAG officer, and was awarded the Air Force Commendation Medal in 1965. He returned back to the city of Laredo in 1965 where he practiced law until he was appointed by President Jimmy Carter to become United States District Judge in 1979 for the Southern District of Texas. The Southern District of Texas includes divisions in Houston, Galveston, Victoria, Laredo, Corpus Christi, McAllen, and Brownsville. Judge Kazen also is a member of the FISA Court based in Washington, DC.

He has received a number of accolades and awards such as the Dean Leon Green Award from the Texas Law Review Association in 1998, the Samuel Pessarar Award for Outstanding Jurist from the Texas Bar Association in 2004, and the Mr. South Texas Award in 2000. He is extensively involved in several legal and civic organizations such as the Fifth Circuit District Judges' Association, the Laredo Civic Music Association, the Boys and Girls Club of Laredo, and the St. Augustine-Ursuline Board. He served as a member of the Laredo Community College Board of Trustees from 1972 to 1979 and has lectured at various legal and judicial seminars throughout the country.

Judge Kazen has been married to the wonderful Barbara Ann Kazen for 44 years since 1962 and has four children and seven grandchildren. He is a member of the Blessed Sacrament Church, where he is president of the Parish Council and is a lector and eucharistic minister.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have had this time to recognize the dedication of Judge George P. Kazen to the city of Laredo and to promoting the University of Texas at Austin as one of its most accomplished alumni members.

A TRIBUTE TO CARL JAMESON

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Carl Jameson, a distinguished citizen of Brooklyn, NY. It behooves us to pay tribute to this outstanding man and I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing his impressive service.

Mr. Jameson retired after 24 years of service as a police officer with the Metropolitan Transportation Authority. He served in the United States Marine Corps from 1960 to 1970. While serving, Mr. Jameson was called upon to provide instruction and enlist men in the physical therapy programs. Mr. Jameson was also heavily involved with the All-Marine Judo Team. He toured 22 countries as captain of the team and received his second degree black belt in 1969. For the past 18 years, Mr. Jameson has been participating in the New York State Police Olympics. He has won several bronze and silver medals for cycling and track and field. In 1974, Mr. Jameson started the Union United Methodist Self Defense School. By 1985, he had awarded 150 black

belts to students. This community outreach program was started to foster good minds and strong bodies for local youth. Mr. Jameson currently serves as the Imperial director of the Imperial Bicycle Department of the Prince Hall Masonic Temple.

Mr. Jameson is currently employed as a customs enforcement officer with the United States Customs Border Protection. He has also volunteered extensively with the Federal Emergency Management Agency on search and recovery missions. Mr. Jameson has worked in the Disaster Recovery Centers of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.

Born in Brooklyn, NY, Carl Jameson is a product of the New York public school system and he remains a part of the Brooklyn community today. Mr. Jameson received his associate in applied science degree in physical therapy from LaGuardia Community College and his bachelor of arts degree from the College of New Rochelle. He also did post-baccalaureate work at Queens College.

Mr. Jameson is a member of Greater Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church, where he serves as a trustee and member of three choirs. Mr. Jameson has been married to his lovely wife Ella for the past 43 years and is the proud father of four.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that it is incumbent on this body to recognize the work of Carl Jameson. His deep commitment to service and community makes him most worthy of our recognition today.

HONORING THE FRANK LLOYD
WRIGHT PRESERVATION TRUST

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Frank Lloyd Wright Preservation Trust. The American Association of Museums recently conferred accreditation on the Frank Lloyd Wright Preservation Trust. Accreditation is a prestigious honor; it is the highest national recognition of a museum's commitment to professional museum standards, accountability, public service, and excellence in education.

The Frank Lloyd Wright Preservation Trust works tirelessly to preserve both Wright's home and studio as well as the Frederick C. Robie House, arguably one of Wright's most significant architectural works. Frank Lloyd Wright was one of the most influential architects of the 20th century and one of the most prominent American architects of all time. The Frank Lloyd Wright Preservation Trust provides a great service to the people of my congressional district, the Seventh District of Illinois.

Mr. Speaker, I once again would like to extend my sincerest congratulations and thanks to the Frank Lloyd Wright Preservation Trust for all of their hard work and recent accreditation.

IN HONOR OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF LEGAL SERVICES OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an organization with a distinguished history of community service to the Sacramento capital region. Legal Services of Northern California is celebrating 50 years of providing free legal services to the low-income residents of Sacramento County and 22 other counties in Northern California. As the staff and supporters of Legal Services of Northern California gather to celebrate this momentous milestone, I ask all my colleagues to join me in saluting one of Sacramento's most important and respected organizations.

In 1956, Legal Services of Northern California, then known as the Legal Aid Society of Sacramento County, was born out of the insight of prominent members of the Sacramento Bar Association and a budget of \$12,000. With the assistance of volunteer pro bono attorneys and a staff consisting of one part-time attorney and one social worker, the Legal Aid Society of Sacramento County finished its first year having provided assistance to nearly 2,900 low-income clients.

From these humble beginnings 50 years ago, the Legal Aid Society has grown significantly. In 1967, the organization began to expand its services beyond Sacramento County and opened offices in Yolo County. By the late 1970s, the Legal Aid Society of Sacramento County had acquired a state-wide reputation for resolute and effective advocacy on behalf of the poor and disabled, and had won significant victories on behalf of its clients. To reflect its expanding geographic reach, the organization changed its name in 1979 to Legal Services of Northern California, which today operates offices serving 23 counties, with a budget of over \$7 million and a staff of over 120 employees and 1,000 volunteers.

Legal Services of Northern California has also greatly expanded its scope of services beyond providing traditional legal assistance to low-income individuals. The organization now operates the Senior Legal Hotline, the Health Rights Hotline, Ombudsman Services of Northern California, and the Disability Employment Rights Advocacy Program. As a testament to its far-reaching services, the Senior Legal Hotline fields almost 9,000 calls each year from seniors all over California. Also notable was in early 2006 when Legal Services of Northern California acquired the Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program, an organization that advises thousands of seniors on the different prescription drug plans available to them under Medicare.

Mr. Speaker, for 50 years the good men and women of Legal Services of Northern California have dedicated countless hours to identifying and defeating the causes of poverty and injustice. As the staff and volunteer attorneys gather to reflect upon a half century of exemplary service to the community, I am proud to recognize such a reputable organization. I ask all of my colleagues to join me in congratulating Legal Services of Northern California and wishing them many more years of continued success.

TRIBUTE TO MR. ELMO LOPEZ, SR.

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Elmo Lopez, Sr., as a recipient of the 2006 Longhorn Legacy Awards, given to him on October 5, 2006 by the Laredo Chapter of the University of Texas Ex-Students Association.

Elmo Lopez, Sr. is a native of the city of Rio Grande and now currently resides in the city of Laredo in the State of Texas. He graduated from the University of Texas at Austin with degrees in music, a Bachelor of Arts in 1953 and a Masters in 1957, and thus began a long, accomplished musical career. Shortly after graduation, he worked as Band Director for the Laredo Independent School District, bringing his experience as a band member of the UT Longhorns Band to Lamar Junior High, Martin High School, and Nixon High School from 1953 to 1967. During this time, he served in several posts with the Texas Music Educators Association.

Mr. Lopez's passion for music was recognized by the Texas Legislature for promoting good will between the United States and Mexico through musical exchange programs. He also was honored in 1963 with Laredo Paso Doble, a musical composition written by Professor Clifton Williams at the University of Texas at Austin. In addition to having guest conducted the UT Longhorn Band on numerous occasions, he also conducted the United States Armed Forces band and the Special Presidential Band of Mexico.

In 1987, Mr. Lopez founded the Laredo Chapter of the UT-Exes as a way to keep the connection between the University of Texas at Austin and its alumni in the city of Laredo. He dedicated his time and energy to the University including 12 years of service on the Board of Directors of the UT Dad's Association, and was named Distinguished Alumnus in 1993 and honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Laredo UT-Exes.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have had this time to recognize the dedication of Mr. Elmo Lopez, Sr. to his music and to the community of the city of Laredo.

A TRIBUTE TO ESMERALDA BROWN

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Esmeralda Brown, a distinguished citizen of Brooklyn, New York, and contributor to the world community. It behooves us to pay tribute to this outstanding woman, and I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing her impressive service.

As the Resource Center Specialist for Economic and Environmental Justice at the United Methodist Office for the United Nations, Esmeralda Brown deals with issues of concern to the Women's Division constituency in the area of economics, the environment, and development. Ms. Brown has been involved in

organizing several workshops and meetings in Latin America, the Caribbean, and North America. Issues discussed include racism, militarization, and the situation of women in the Americas.

Ms. Brown is the chairperson of the United Nation's NGO committee on the International Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples. Ms. Brown is also the Southern Co-Chair of the NGO Steering committee to the NGO Commission on Sustainable Development. Ms. Brown holds the chairperson position for the Southern Caucus of NGO's that form part of the Regional and National Networks on Sustainable Development in developing countries of the world. She is also the Economic and Environmental Justice Specialist at the United Methodist Office for the United Nations. Additionally, Ms. Brown is a United Nations representative for the Commission of Human Rights in Central America and the Pan African Movement for the Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED).

In 1992, Ms. Brown was co-founder of the Peoples' Alliance for the Earth Summit. This organization did the preparatory work for the Non-Governmental Organizations invited to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED). Ms. Brown's work has not gone unnoticed. In June 1990, she was honored by the Ecumenical Program for Inter-American Communication and Action (EPICA) in Washington for Outstanding Contributions to the Struggle for Human Rights in Central America.

Esmeralda Brown is a native of Panama, and holds a B.A. in Political Science from Hunter College of the City University of New York.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that it is incumbent on this body to recognize the work of Esmeralda Brown. Her deep commitment to the international community makes her most worthy of our recognition today.

HONORING THE JOHN G. SHEDD AQUARIUM

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the John G. Shedd Aquarium, the 2006 recipient of the National Award for Museum and Library Services. It comes as no surprise to me that this superior institution was selected as the recipient of this award. The Shedd Aquarium has served not only Chicago, but the entire Nation, for well over 75 years. It very much deserves our admiration and respect.

The John G. Shedd Aquarium is a world class institution that enjoys a national reputation for excellence. The Shedd Aquarium is truly the world's aquarium. In addition to being the largest indoor aquarium in the world, the Shedd was one of the first aquariums to offer an education program. Through its unique ability to make education fun, the Shedd has touched the lives of the more than 2 million of people who walk through its doors every year.

The John G. Shedd Aquarium is so much more than a museum; the scientists and staff are leaders throughout the world in research and conservation. The research initiatives that

the Shedd undertakes are vital to understanding and preserving our environment, especially in the Chicago area.

As a Chicagoan, I am proud to have the Shedd Aquarium located in my congressional district. The Shedd's genuine commitment to serving the greater Chicagoland community has for decades made it one of the most distinguished non-profits in our area. In particular, the Shedd demonstrates an exceptional commitment to the community in Chicago through education programs and other service-related initiatives. One of its most important projects is its participation in the Great Lakes Forever initiative. Roughly 37 million people depend on the Great Lakes for drinking water, recreation, and livelihood. The Shedd is committed to ensuring that the Great Lakes are healthy and continue to serve those around them for centuries to come.

Clearly, the Shedd understands its role as a community leader and gives a great deal back to the people of Chicago. Mr. Speaker, as Gifford Pinchot once said of conservation, "Conservation means the wise use of the earth and its resources for the lasting good of men." Conservation is paramount at the Shedd Aquarium, and every operation is carried out to reflect this ideal; it is truly working for the lasting good of man. Chicago and its citizens are privileged to call its city the home of the John G. Shedd Aquarium. The Shedd Aquarium works tirelessly to give back to the community, including both Chicago and the Nation. Again, it is my great honor to announce that the John G. Shedd Aquarium is the 2006 recipient of the National Award for Museum and Library Services.

IN TRIBUTE TO JOURNALIST MIKE
BOYD

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in tribute to Mike Boyd, a legendary television reporter and anchor whose level of career achievement was matched only by his passion for living life to its fullest. Sadly, Mr. Boyd passed away on October 14, 2006 at the age of 74. As his friends and family gather to celebrate Mike's remarkable life, I ask all of my colleagues to join with me in saluting this outstanding citizen and model reporter.

Mike Boyd was born in Maine in 1932, the son and grandson of attorneys. He graduated from the University of Maine and after a number of broadcasting jobs along the East Coast, he joined Sacramento's KCRA Channel 3 News in 1963 where he remained until his retirement in 2001. Mike became an institution in Sacramento as thousands of Sacramento residents tuned into his hard-hitting, exclusive stories throughout his 38-year tenure at KCRA. His memorable, deep, and booming voice made him ideal for a career in broadcast journalism.

His tenacity as an investigative reporter led him to cover some of the past half-century's most unforgettable stories. In 1968, Mike Boyd was at the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles when Robert F. Kennedy was assassinated and his reporting of the tragic event was broadcast across the country. When the ru-

mors began to circulate about Ronald Regan running for President, it was to Mike Boyd that Nancy Reagan admitted that she hoped Ronald would not run.

Perhaps Mike Boyd will be most remembered for his coverage of some of the nation's most notorious crimes. Boyd was always looking for the scoop, and he was often successful. He was the first reporter to interview Charles Manson in prison. Manson went so far as to offer Boyd his steak dinner. Years later, in 1988, he had an exclusive interview with the infamous landlady Dorthea Puente, who was convicted of killing eight of her tenants in downtown Sacramento. His ability to connect with his interview subjects clearly showed through, as evidenced by the retirement gift Puente sent Boyd from prison.

Mr. Speaker, as Mike Boyd's friends and family gather to honor this great American, I am honored to pay tribute to one of Sacramento's most respected citizens. His integrity, morals and enthusiasm for his job were inspirations to young reporters everywhere. He will be deeply missed. I ask all of my colleagues to join me in acknowledging Mike's invaluable contributions to Sacramento and the United States of America.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DENISE
ASHBAUGH

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Denise Ashbaugh in commemoration of the National Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Denise is a 17-year survivor of breast cancer who has dedicated herself to the fight to eradicate breast cancer.

Denise has exhibited unparalleled commitment to the push for breast cancer awareness in Southern Nevada. She has served both as the vice president and president of the Las Vegas, Nevada, Chapter of the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation. She has organized volunteers to conduct fundraising events, educational events, support groups and early detection programs. Denise also participated in establishing the MammoVan, a state-wide program to provide mammography to underserved and uninsured women, and a local news station's buddy check program.

At the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation's National Headquarters, Denise was the National Spokeswoman for the Cure. She also served as Special Program Director of Board Breaks for the Cure, a national fundraising and breast cancer awareness program that she conceived and developed. She represented the Foundation on national talk shows, ad campaigns, speaking engagements, and local news networks. Denise's dedication and commitment to this cause has not only increased awareness in her own community, but nationwide.

Currently, Denise is involved with breast care specialists and other experts in developing a breast prosthetic device that can be worn immediately after mastectomies. She is personally working to provide these devices free to underserved breast cancer patients. As a result of her activism, Denise has been designated as a Lifetime Honorary Mrs. United

States and has received numerous other awards including the Governor's Certificate of Commendation.

Throughout her years of extensive commitment to the fight against breast cancer, Denise has maintained a balanced family life. She is a loving wife and mother of two outstanding children. Through her example, she has instilled in her children the importance of community service, civic involvement and positive activism.

Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to honor Denise Ashbaugh on the floor of the House today. Denise has not only made a difference in our community through her commitment to breast cancer education and fundraising, but she has been a beacon of hope for countless women and families who have confronted the challenges of breast cancer. Her tireless dedication and unwavering optimism, despite her own health challenges, is truly admirable. I commend Denise for her leadership in the fight against breast cancer and I thank her for her incredible commitment to this most important cause.

CONGRATULATING LEONARD
VERRASTRO AS THE LACKA-
WANNA COUNTY COLUMBUS DAY
ASSOCIATION NAMES HIM 2006
MAN OF THE YEAR

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Leonard A. Verrastro, a prominent businessman and community leader in the borough of Dunmore, Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania.

Mr. Verrastro was selected by the Columbus Day Association of Lackawanna County as their 2006 "Man of the Year," an honor he truly deserves.

Born in 1923, Mr. Verrastro was one of eight children of the late Dominic Verrastro and the former Vita Grace Bochicchio. His father was a veteran of World War I and then worked in the anthracite coal mines before starting Leonard's Bar and Grill in Dunmore.

Leonard was the oldest of six boys, five of whom served in World War II. Mr. Verrastro was educated in Dunmore public schools after which he attended the University of Scranton.

Mr. Verrastro founded Best Dry Cleaners and later operated Leonard's Bar and Grill. He also founded the Dunmore Hoagie Shop and later went into the real estate business where he acquired many homes and converted them into remodeled apartments.

He is the last surviving charter member of the Dunmore Lions Club. He is also a member of the Dunmore American Legion, Knights of Columbus, Saint Anthony's Holy Name Society, the Willow Club, the Dunmore Senior Citizens Center, the Lackawanna County Columbus Day Association and the San Cataldo Club.

Mr. Verrastro is also well known for his political activity, having been first elected to the Dunmore Borough Council in 1963 where he has served for 44 years. He also served as Dunmore's representative on the Scranton Sewer Authority and as Lackawanna County

Treasurer for two years. He continues to serve as deputy treasurer.

Mr. Verrastro was married to the former Angelina Mecca, who died in 1996, and the couple had three children: Vita Grace Masucci, Carmel Ann Biko and Dominic Verrastro. He has seven grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mr. Verrastro on being selected as "Man of the Year." His contributions to his community demonstrate his selflessness and commitment to improving the quality of life.

A TRIBUTE TO AFRICAN LODGE 459
NO. 63

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of African Lodge 459 No. 63, ardent supporters of the community. It behooves us to pay tribute to this outstanding organization and I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing their impressive accomplishments.

African Lodge 459 No. 63 was founded in 1921 from a group of Brooklyn's outstanding young men: Bro. Francis F. Giles, Widow Sons' No. 11, Mr. A.P. Portias, J. Francis Mickens, W.R. Lee, William Odell, Cornelius Moore and Samuel W. Green. Due to their success in Masonic circles, African Lodge 459 No. 63 was granted bona fide Lodge status and on November 19, 1921, they became an integral part of the Masonic Fraternity of the State of New York and the nation. The Lodge is appropriately named after African Lodge 459, the original lodge of the illustrious founder of Masonry among men of color in the United States, Prince Hall.

Down through the years, the Lodge has achieved and maintained a very prominent place in the jurisdiction. It has furnished the fraternity with numerous officers and is currently represented in the Grand Cabinet by R.W. Richard A. Grady, Judge Advocate, R.W. Elwood E. Gregory, District Deputy Grand Lecturer.

With 13 living members and 9 honorary members, their mission as Prince Hall Masons is to serve God through selfless service to others. They strive to give our youth a positive direction and high self-esteem; our elderly the love, respect and attention they deserve; and our poor and down trodden brothers and sisters whatever assistance they can provide. Over the past 84 years, they have raised funds for college scholarships, summer camps, reading clinics, community feeding programs, Christmas gifts for needy and/or hospitalized children, and their Knights of Pythagoras youth group.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that it is incumbent on this body to recognize the accomplishments of African Lodge 459 No. 63. This groups' deep commitment to love, support and assist one another makes them most worthy of our recognition today.

TRIBUTE TO DR. HERBERT H.
RICHARDSON

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Herbert H. Richardson for his incredible dedication to the scientific community at Texas A&M University as Director of the Texas Transportation Institute and Associate Vice Chancellor for Engineering.

Dr. Richardson was born in the State of Massachusetts and was educated at Colby College in Maine and at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology where he received a B.S. and M.S. degree with honors in 1955, and the Sc.D. in 1958 from MIT. Shortly after graduation, he served as a faculty member, then as head of the Department of Mechanical Engineering and Association Dean for the Massachusetts Institute of Technology for 27 years. Under his leadership, he conducted and directed a wide-ranging research program, and made numerous publications of his research in mechanical engineering and transportation systems.

He then served as the first Chief Scientist of the U.S. Department of Transportation from 1970 to 1972, and joined the Texas A&M University System in 1984 as Vice Chancellor for Engineering, and Dean of the College of Engineering and Distinguished Professor of Engineering. Dr. Richardson brought together the three engineering research and service agencies—the Texas Engineering Experiment Station, the Texas Engineering Extension Service, and the Texas Transportation Institute—to form an integrated Engineering Program. In 1993, he became Director of the Texas Transportation Institute, the largest university-affiliated transportation research organization, and Associate Vice Chancellor for Engineering. Under his leadership, the Texas Transportation Institute has become home to nine national research centers with expenditures ranging to \$36 million.

Dr. Richardson has also received numerous accolades and awards from his peers for his exemplary academic leadership such as the recently awarded 2006 Roy W. Crum Distinguished Service Award from Transportation Research Board, Rufus Oldenberger Medal, Centennial Medal and the Benjamin Garver Lamme Medal by the American Association for Engineering Education; and in addition to these awards, he was elected to several notable organizations such as the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, American Association for the Advancement of Science, National Associate of the National Academies and the Research Council.

In his 22 years of academic service with the Texas A&M University System, Dr. Richardson has shown exemplary leadership in building strong academic and research programs, thus helping make the College of Engineering and the Texas Transportation Institute one of the unparalleled centers for excellent education in engineering.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have had this time to recognize the strong academic leadership of Dr. Herbert H. Richardson for the Texas A&M University System.

MARCUS HIGH SCHOOL MARCHING
BAND, STATE CHAMPIONS

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the superior performance of the Marcus High School Marching Band of the 26th District of Texas. The band won the State championship at the UIL Class 5A Marching Contest in San Antonio, TX.

The breakdown of a travel bus did not deter the Marcus High School Band from capping off their marching season with excellence. At the rigorous UIL competition, Marcus surpassed 35 elite Texas programs before receiving the top honor of State champions. Marcus competed against all 5A Texas high schools reserve a spot in the State competition.

The band's achievements are the combined efforts of many extremely talented students, dedicated school administrators, and a strong support network of parents and community. The students have cultivated strong leadership skills among their peers, and excelled under the capable direction of Director Amanda Drinkwater.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize the achievements of the Marcus High School Marching Band. I extend my sincere congratulations to these hard-working students, and I look forward to their future successes.

A TRIBUTE TO JAMES J. BINNS

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor James J. Binns for his service to the people of Philadelphia. Jimmy Binns is a Philadelphia attorney specializing in litigation who has always been a friend of labor. His unflinching service to labor is shown by his achievement of 51 consecutive "not guilty" verdicts on behalf of those accused of picket line violence during the Philadelphia Federation of Teachers strike. It is clear his efforts enabled union members to unite to better their lot without fear of intimidation.

Mr. Binns is more than a friend of labor. He is also an important member of the community as seen through his service on numerous boards, including the Boy Scouts of America, Historical Society of Pennsylvania, and St. Luke's Hospital. He also dedicated the James J. Binns Fitness Center at LaSalle University, his alma mater. Mr. Binns founded the Judeo Christian School at Roman Catholic. Additionally, Mr. Binns initiated the current fundraising drive to replace 65 motorcycles for the Philadelphia Police Highway Patrol.

Mr. Binns also chaired the Organized Crime Task Force of the Citizens Crime Commission and served as Pennsylvania's Boxing Commissioner under Governors Dick Thornburgh and Bob Casey. Due to his service he was inducted into the Pennsylvania Boxing Hall of Fame.

It is readily apparent that James J. Binns has played a vital role in the betterment of the community of Philadelphia and Pennsylvania

as a whole. His continued contribution is to be applauded, and I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commending James J. Binns for his immeasurable contribution to the City of Philadelphia.

TRIBUTE TO JAMES LAMAR
SHULER

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK
OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life and to mourn the passing of James Lamar Shuler, a civic leader, successful entrepreneur, talented businessman, community role model, devoted husband, beloved family man and loyal friend.

Mr. Shuler will be remembered as a selfless individual who spearheaded economic development and neighborhood revitalization programs within the community. What Mr. Shuler practiced, he preached; vision was followed by action. I grieve with Mr. Shuler's wife, Barbara Carey-Shuler, a former Miami-Dade Commissioner and political icon in South Florida. During this difficult time, the Carey and Shuler families do not mourn alone: They are joined in prayer by a saddened and indebted community.

James Lamar Shuler was born on August 14, 1953 to Marian Steward Shuler and Cleveland Shuler of Delray Beach, Florida. Mr. Shuler attended S.D. Spady Elementary School and graduated from Atlantic High School in 1971. He then graduated from Miami-Dade Community College in 1976 with a degree in Mortuary Science and became a Licensed Funeral Director in 1977. Mr. Shuler soon purchased the House of Albert Funeral Home on West Atlantic Avenue in Delray Beach, then renovated and dedicated Shuler's Memorial Chapel Inc. on May 26, 1985. An institution that served the community was borne. Mr. Shuler was a professional who provided funeral services to all, irrespective of their economic status.

Mr. Shuler hosted a re-dedication celebration on May 21, 2001 to recognize the renovation and expansion of his funeral home. The ribbon cutting ceremony was attended by approximately 800 well wishers, including government officials and celebrities. Mr. Shuler achieved iconic status within the community.

Personal successes were coupled with community leadership activities. Mr. Shuler served as chairman of the West Atlantic Redevelopment Coalition which supported business and investment activities along the West Atlantic corridor. Mr. Shuler also served actively as chair of the Community Redevelopment Agency, guiding neighborhood renewal projects throughout Delray Beach.

Mr. Shuler was named 1998 Mortician of the Year and served as 1st Vice President of the Florida Mortician Association. He attended Saint Paul AME Church in Delray Beach. He was also a member of the Delray Beach Masonic Lodge #275, the Zeta Iota Sigma Chapter of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, the Alpha Gamma Chapter of Epsilon Nu Delta Mortuary Fraternity, the Vision 2000 Committee for Delray Beach.

Mr. Shuler is survived by his wife, Barbara Carey-Shuler; sons, Victor Shuler and Wesley

Potts; daughter, Jessica Coogle; stepson, Archie Carey; two brothers, Jerry Shuler and Cleveland Shuler; and a sister, Marion Stewart.

When families throughout Delray Beach and South Florida experienced the passing of a loved one, they came to Shuler's Memorial Chapel for funeral arrangements. It was James Lamar Shuler who would comfort the bereaved, in a manner that bespoke his grace, empathy and humanity. We stand united as one community honoring this remarkable man.

RECOGNIZING THE OPENING OF
THE CHEESECAKE FACTORY IN
THE DULLES TOWN CENTER

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the opening of the Cheesecake Factory located in the Dulles Town Center.

The Dulles Town Center is a commercial, retail, and office park located in Loudoun County, VA, which is the second fastest growing county in the nation. This exciting restaurant addition will add to the elegant atmosphere and tasty restaurant choices already provided by the existing 185 surrounding stores and restaurants.

The history of the Cheesecake Factory begins with Oscar and Evelyn Overton in the 1940's. Evelyn created her Original Cheesecake recipe, and it immediately gained praise from family and friends. With the dream of owning a successful family business, Evelyn opened a small cheesecake shop in her hometown Detroit. The business then moved to the Overton family's basement kitchen to continue to provide the local restaurants with her famous cheesecakes.

In 1971, the Overtons decided to move their cheesecake business to Los Angeles. Using their retirement savings, they opened a small bakery selling only Evelyn's Original Cheesecake. They called it "The Cheesecake Factory." In 1978, son David joined the family business and founded The Cheesecake Factory restaurant in Beverly Hills to showcase his parents' delicious, high-quality baked goods. The restaurant became an immediate success, not an easy feat in the culinary business. Today there are more than 100 Cheesecake Factory restaurants nationwide, and the residents of Loudoun, Prince William, and Fairfax counties will surely enjoy the additional restaurant in the Dulles Town Center.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing the opening of the Cheesecake Factory in the Dulles Town Center.

IN RECOGNITION OF AMBASSADOR
EURIPIDES L. EVRIVIADES

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Ambassador Euripides L.

Evrivades, who has served as the Cypriot ambassador to the United States since December 2003.

As a co-founder and co-chair of the Congressional Caucus on Hellenic Issues, I have worked closely with Ambassador Evrivades on several issues of importance to both the United States and Cyprus. He exemplified uncommonly exceptional service in building on the harmonious relations between our countries.

Ambassador Evrivades worked diligently with Congress to ensure that lawmakers understood the importance of ending the division of Cyprus. Over the last three years, he has worked with untiring devotion to create awareness and compassion for finding a peaceful solution for Cyprus. I commend him for his commitment to the reunification of Cyprus.

The people of Cyprus have been fortunate to have such an accomplished individual represent them not only in the United States but in a variety of other diplomatic posts. As a career diplomat, he has held positions at Cypriot embassies in Libya, USSR/Russia, Germany, and served as the Ambassador to Israel and the Netherlands before coming to Washington.

As a testament to his exemplary public service over the years, he was lately honored with the King Legacy Award for International Service in recognition for his distinguished leadership and contributions and for his steadfast dedication to sharing and implementing Dr. King's historical work wherever he has traveled.

While I am sad to see Ambassador Evrivades leave his post in the United States, I am grateful for his three years of stellar service. I am confident that he will bring this same level of passion and integrity to his next endeavor.

NEW BOOK DETAILS ATROCITIES
AGAINST SIKHS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, in the June issue of the International Journal of Sikh Affairs, Dr. Awatar Singh Sekhon reviews a book entitled "Tabai Ros Jagio," which translates into English as "Details of Fundamentalist Hindus' Attacks on the Sikh Faith," by Dr. Sukhpreet Singh Udhoke. The book details how the fundamentalist Hindus who run India have been attacking Sikhism and other faiths since the very earliest days of the Indian republic. Despite the fact that the Brahmin caste is only 3 percent of the population, they run Indian society, according to Dr. Udhoke.

Dr. Udhoke details those Sikhs who have supported the Hindu fundamentalists in their effort to enforce Hinduism on the entire population of India. He details those who connived with India on the attack on the Golden Temple, the seat of the Sikh religion. He recorded the brutality of the Brahmins and the Hindu fundamentalists. He writes about how their umbrella organization, the Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh (RSS), was founded to support the Fascists in Europe. He describes the RSS as a terrorist organization. India claims to be our ally in the War on Terror, but their preeminent ideology is a brand of Fascism that practices violence against minorities and their neighbors.

We should stop aid and trade with India and we should be vocal and active in supporting self-determination for all the people there. That is how we can help bring freedom to all in the subcontinent.

Mr. Speaker, I highly recommend Dr. Sekhon's excellent review of Dr. Udhoke's excellent book to my colleagues, and I would like to place the review in the RECORD now.

[From the International Journal of Sikh, Affairs, June 2006]

BOOK REVIEW

(By Awatar Singh Sekhon)

Title: *Tabai Ros Jagio*, translation in English Details of Fundamentalists Hindus' Attack on the Sikh Faith 2005, by Dr. Sukhpreet Singh Udhoke, is an eye opener, with regard to the premeditated attacks by the fundamentalist Hindus, belonging to the Rashtriya Swamsewak Sangh and the members of the "Sangh Parivar/family", on the followers of the Sikh Faith.

It was a great pride and pleasure for the reviewer, who is the Editor in Chief, The International Journal of Sikh Affairs ISSN 1481-5435, published from Canada, to write a few words on the publication of Dr. Sukhpreet Singh Udhoke. Dr. Udhoke is a medical professional but is devoting most of his precious time in recording the much needed events of the Sikh history of the 20th and 21st centuries. These events pertain to the persecution of the Sikh youth in particular and for the present and coming generations of the Sikh faith, the Guru Khalsa Panth. Dr. Udhoke's first publication, *Tabai Ros Jagio*, published in July 2004, was an excellent treatise relating to the "Attacks on the Sikh faith, Sikh culture, Sikh heritage, Sikh pride, Sikh esteem, Guru Granth Sahib (Holy Scripture of Sikhs), the Sikh identity, and the Sikh nation, Punjab, Khalistan, struggling for its independence by peaceful means." His book clearly reflects the intimidation of the Sikhs of their holy and historic homeland, Punjab, by their traditional and notorious enemy, the fundamentalist Hindu organizations as well as the politicians of the preceding and present administrations of the Indian democracy, its New Delhi administrations of J.L. Nehru to Manmohan Singh, run primarily by the Brahmins (who are only 3 percent of the total population of India of over a billion hungry mouths) and about 15 percent pro-Brahmins. This group has captured more than 80 percent of the total decision-making jobs of the Indian administration. Dr. Sukhpreet Singh Udhoke's task at hand was not an easy one, especially when his, his forefathers, and the Sikhs' holy and historic homeland is under the occupation of the Sikhs' enemy, the Brahmins, "Butchers of our world", according to the founder of the Sikh faith, Guru Nanak Sahib.

The Indian administration and their international news media's term, the "largest democracy of the world", India, made Dr. Udhoke's task highly difficult in describing the reality and tragedy of the Sikh nation, Punjab, and beyond the understanding of an ordinary citizen of the Sikhs' holy and historic homeland.

It is amply clear that the Sikh leaders, of Punjab so to speak, and most commonly known as the Dastaardhari (turbaned) Hindus in the Sikh identity, have failed to respond to the psyche and aspirations of the Sikhs of Punjab, the Sikh Diaspora and the Sikh nation. Rather, these Dastaardhari Hindus in the Sikh Identity have fallen into the trap of the Brahmins and pro-Brahmins. The day in and the day out, the Sikhs' Darbar Sahib Complex (Golden Temple Complex), which includes the Supreme Seat of Sikh Polity, Akal Takht Sahib, Amritsar, and other religious and political places of

the Sikhs, Gurdwaras (Houses of God), are desecrated, to humiliate the Sikh nation. The saddest moment of the Sikh history of post-15th August, 1947, is that a Dastaardhari Hindu in the Sikh Identity, Prakash Singh Badal, his clan and the Badal faction of Akali Dal were the party for the desecration of Darbar Sahib Complex. So much so the custodian, the so-called jathedar, of Akal Takht Sahib, Vedanti Joginder Singh Saran actively watched the ball game of his employer, the executive of the Shiromani Gurdwara Prabhandhak Committee (SGPC), and SGPC's member as well as the president of the Akali Dal-Badal faction, Prakash Singh Badal himself. What an unfortunate part of the Sikh history!

The present and former custodians of the Akal Takht Sahib, Vedanti Joginder Singh Saran, Puran Singh of Luv and Kush, Manjit of Kesgarh, Kirpal Singh, etc. failed to provide any directions to the Sikh Nation, Guru Khalsa Panth or the Sikhs of Punjab. They however, collaborated with the enemy of the Guru Khalsa Panth.

Dr. Sukhpreet Singh Udhoke, a young Sikh full of energies, recorded in his book, the brutality of the Sikhs' traditional enemies, the Brahmins and pro-Brahmins belonging to the Hindumahasabha (mother of all evils) and its offshoots such as Swam Sevak Sangh, Jansangh, Rashtriya Swamsewak Sangh (RSS), a terrorist organization as declared by the United States administration, Rashtriya Sikh Sangat (formed at the directions of A. B. Vajpayee and his clique in 1990s) the "Sangh family", responsible for anti-non-Brahmin and anti-non-Hindu activities, and other such organizations, as well as the activities of the Saffaronized fundamentalist Hindu organizations Vishwa Hindu Parishad, Hanuman Sena, Shiv Sena, Bajrang Dal, to cite a few. The RSS was formed in support of the Fascists of Europe. Dr. Udhoke has exposed Saffaronization of the Sikh history, disrespect and character assassination of the Sikh Gurus, Guru Nanak Sahib to Sahib Guru Gobind Singhji, by these organizations and their supporters. Finally, I wish Dr. Sukhpreet Singh Udhoke, who is a gifted and prolific writer and speaker all the best. May the the Almighty Lord shower. His blessings on him.

RECOGNIZING OREST DEYCHAKIWSKY'S 25 YEARS OF SERVICE ON THE COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to pay tribute to Orest Deychakiwsky for his 25 years of faithful service to the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Helsinki Commission. Orest began his work as a member of the professional staff on November 15, 1981, just six years after the signing of the Helsinki Final Act, a period marked by ruthless Soviet repression and widespread violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Driven by a deep commitment to aid the victims of Communist oppression, Orest devoted himself to documenting the human rights cases, particularly those involving divided families, an especially poignant task given his own family's history under Soviet domination and repression. He was responsible for compiling

and maintaining the lengthy lists of individuals seeking to emigrate from the Soviet Union and Romania. Each spring would bring an opportunity to secure the exit of some of the thousands effectively held hostage in Romania by the Ceausescu regime. Orest was faithful in making representations to the Romanian Embassy on behalf of all those seeking to exercise their right to leave their country. When Moscow began to accept emigration lists from the Commission in the mid-80s, Orest's diligent efforts on behalf of refuseniks began to pay off for families, including some with American spouses, who were finally allowed to leave the Soviet Union after a decade or more of waiting.

With a passion for Ukraine, his familial homeland, Orest helped document modern Soviet repression in that country including imprisonment of human rights activists, suppression of Ukrainian culture and language as well as harsh actions against the Ukrainian Catholic Church. He was at the forefront of efforts in support of the restoration of Ukrainian independence and the consolidation of democracy in that country following the demise of the Soviet empire. Despite setbacks, Orest was optimistic that the people of Ukraine would insist on a democratic future for their country. On a cold November night in 2004, he witnessed firsthand their determination as he stood in Kiev's Independence Square where tens of thousands of Ukrainians gathered to protest fraudulent elections.

Fifteen years earlier he had stood in the main square in Sofia, Bulgaria as peaceful demonstrators stood up to tyranny, ushering in the demise of Eastern Europe's longest standing dictatorship. In recent years, he has been active in confronting the repressive regime of Aleksandr Lukashenka in Belarus, Europe's last dictatorship.

Mr. Speaker, in this year when we observe the thirtieth anniversary of the Helsinki Commission, as a long serving Commissioner and Co-Chairman, I am pleased to recognize and commend Orest Deychakiwsky for his faithful service and tireless defense of human rights and dignity.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL DIABETES MONTH

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize November as National Diabetes Month. Since 1975, November has served as a time of increased public awareness and understanding of diabetes, as well as a time to celebrate the institutions and people that labor year round to improve diabetes care. This November, the American Diabetes Association has placed a specific focus on increasing care for those affected by the disease. As one of the 21 million Americans with diabetes, I truly understand the fundamental importance of diabetes awareness, education, detection, and research.

Diabetes is a disease in which the body fails to produce or properly use insulin, a necessary hormone needed to process the sugar and starches that our bodies use for energy. The disease can lead to a series of complications, including increased risk of heart disease

and stroke. Although research has yet to produce a cure, scientists continue to advance diabetes tests and insulin monitors—improving the quality of life for many affected by the disease. Advanced education, detection, and research are all essential considering that approximately one in three Americans born after 2000 will suffer from diabetes.

Continuing to fight the struggle against diabetes, the American Diabetes Association participated in World Diabetes Day on November 14, 2006. The objective was to provide Americans with information on signs that show an increased risk of having diabetes. Additionally, the worldwide campaign raised awareness in communities around the globe that have difficulty assessing the impact of diabetes in their respective countries.

It is my honor to recognize November as the National Diabetes Month and thank all those working to improve the quality of life for the millions of people affected by the disease. We continually strive to increase diabetes awareness and assist those with the disease not only during the month of November but at every opportunity throughout the year.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO LARRY
"DOC" MOSES

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my good friend Larry "Doc" Moses for his service to his country and his community.

Larry was born and raised in Des Moines, Iowa and is a product of the Des Moines School System. After studying at Tarkio College in Tarkio, Missouri and Drake University in Des Moines, Larry decided to serve his country by enlisting in the United States Marine Corps. Following his tour of duty in the Marine Corps, Larry obtained his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in History and Education from Utah State University in Logan, Utah.

Following the completion of his Master's program, Larry obtained a teaching position in Idaho Falls, Idaho. After one year, Larry moved to Las Vegas where he pursued and earned his Doctorate in Education from UNLV in 1983, and entered educational administration. His first educational administration post was as a principal in Yerington, Nevada, followed by a vice-principalship in Moapa Valley, other assistant principal positions in Las Vegas, and culminating in the principal's position at Moapa Valley High School, where he opened the new school in 1993.

Larry retired in 1997 and immediately became involved in the historical restoration business. His perseverance and determination led to the restoration of the Old Logandale School, the old Overton Gymnasium, and the old Overton Hospital—all of which are now being (re)used as valuable community resources. Larry has also been an active member of Rotary Club and serves on the Overton Power District Board of Trustees and is a perennial part of the annual Clark County Fair operations.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor my good friend Larry "Doc" Moses. His years of service to his nation and community are admirable. I applaud his efforts and with him the best in his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE REDINGTON HOTEL, NOW THE GENETTI HOTEL AND CONFERENCE CENTER

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Mr. Gus Genetti, owner of the Genetti Hotel and Conference Center in Wilkes-Barre Pennsylvania, on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the opening of the Redington Hotel.

Mr. Genetti acquired the Redington Hotel in 1963 and proceeded to renovate and expand that facility into a landmark haven of hospitality in Wilkes-Barre's downtown.

Built by John Redington, the hotel was opened October 11, 1906, at the corner of East Market Street and South Pennsylvania Avenue. The lavish seven story hotel was designed by the prominent architectural firm of McCormick and French. The facility contained many modern conveniences, such as a dining room, telephone exchange, public bath, barber shop, butcher shop and bakery. Many notable visitors stayed at the hotel including comedians Abbott and Costello.

In October, 1922, John Redington retired and leased the hotel to the Keystone State Hotel Association. In 1930, Mr. Redington with his son, John A., Jr., resumed management of the hotel until John Senior's death on January 24, 1941.

In February, 1942, the hotel was purchased from the Redington estate through a sheriff's sale by Conrad F. Goeringer. Goeringer sold the hotel to Morgus Enterprises on May 20, 1960.

With the decline and eventual termination of the Lehigh Valley Rail Service, changing hotel standards and the opening of motels on the outskirts of Wilkes-Barre, the Redington fell on hard times.

The hotel changed hands once again at sheriff's sale, eventually being purchased by Mr. Genetti in July, 1963. The hotel was subsequently upgraded, modernized and reopened in September, 1963, as the Genetti Hotel.

The hotel was again renovated after the Agnes flood of 1972 and has been continually improved and enlarged since then. The hotel's frontage now extends along the entire second block of East Market Street.

Despite the Agnes flood of 1972 and a fire on New Year's Day in 1999, the Genetti Hotel has maintained its position as a premier lodging, dining and meeting destination in Wilkes-Barre.

On a personal note, I have known the Genetti family for more than 50 years and Mr. Genetti's prominence as a hotelier and res-

taurateur parallels that of his father, who was equally well known and respected throughout the region.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mr. Genetti on this milestone occasion. Throughout adversity and success, Mr. Genetti has proven himself to be one of Wilkes-Barre's outstanding businessmen and community leaders. His commitment and dedication to Wilkes-Barre's economic development is exceptional. And, for that, he deserves the gratitude of the entire region.

TRIBUTE TO DR. ROBERT HUNTER

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Robert Hunter, who has served for twenty years in the Texas State House of Representatives, and his dedication to the City of Abilene, Abilene Christian University, and the Independent Colleges and Universities of Texas.

Robert Hunter was born in 1928 in Dodge City in Kansas, as the tenth child of twelve children. He enrolled at Abilene Christian College after graduating from San Mateo High School in California in 1948. Shortly after graduation from college, he married his wife, Shirley Long of Austin, in Thailand, and served in the United States Navy as Security Aide to two admirals in the South Pacific and in Washington, D.C., from 1952 to 1955. Hunter then accepted the invitation of Abilene Christian College President Don H. Morris to become director of special events. There, at his alma mater, he quickly moved up the academic ladder to become the Executive Vice President of the Independent Colleges and Universities of Texas. During his work with the Independent Colleges and Universities of Texas, he coordinated the passage of the Texas Tuition Equalization Grant (TEG) program, which helped Texas students attend private colleges and universities in the State of Texas.

In 1970, Hunter served on the City Council in the City of Abilene, and thus began his passion for civic service in which he ran for the Texas State House of Representatives in 1986, won the seat to this day which he has remained a wonderful voice for his constituents and for the State of Texas. In the Texas House of Representatives, Hunter chaired the House Committee on International and Cultural Relations, and is currently vice-chairman of the Regulated Industries Committee and serves on the Government Reform Committee. He also serves on committees for several national legislative organizations.

In 2006, Hunter will have completed his tenth term as State Representative, with more than \$1 billion appropriated for the Texas Tuition Equalization Grant (TEG) program, and more than fifty years of service with the Abilene Christian University.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have had this time to recognize the passion Dr. Bob Hunter has in serving as State Representative for the State of Texas, and his wonderful commitment to higher education for Texas students.

A TRIBUTE TO TRUDY HAYES-SARGEANT

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Trudy Hayes-Sargeant, a dedicated citizen of New York. It behooves us to pay tribute to this outstanding woman and I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing her impressive service.

A native of the island of Trinidad & Tobago, Trudy Hayes-Sargeant is proud to call New York her home. She serves as a Clinical Technician Assistant with Forest Research Institute and is the CEO/Owner of her own construction firm—Trucomm Construction.

Quoting Maya Angelou, "If you find it in your heart to care for somebody else, you will have succeeded," Mrs. Hayes-Sargeant dedicates her time to several organizations such as the Canarsie Lions, The American Breast Cancer Society, Pleasantville Senior Sec. Old Boyz, East New York Diagnostic & Treatment Center and the East New York Scholarship Fund.

Mrs. Hayes-Sargeant received her Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Washington, D.C. in Computer Information and System Science and holds several Microsoft certifications. She is the loving mother of one son, Jarrell.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that it is incumbent on this body to recognize the work of Trudy Hayes-Sargeant. Her deep commitment to community makes her most worthy of our recognition today.

IN RECOGNITION OF DENTON POLICE DETECTIVE DANNY FLETCHER

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Denton Police Detective Danny Fletcher for his valiant efforts in saving a family trapped in their burning car. He was recently awarded the Meritorious Conduct Bar for his heroism by the Denton City Police Department in the 26th District of Texas.

Detective Fletcher witnessed the family get into the auto accident as he was driving home from work on June 13, 2006. He responded without hesitation and called for the help of emergency services. He then heroically approached the flaming vehicle and pulled out three young children, aged 4, 2, and 2 months, trapped in the backseat of the car. He continued to assist the family to safety, while smoke and fire entered the car, and the vehicle's tires began to explode.

Detective Fletcher was awarded the Meritorious Conduct Bar by the Denton Police Department for his role in saving the lives of the three children. His calm and rational thinking is to be applauded. This award is the second highest honor an individual can receive in the Denton Police Department.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Detective Fletcher for his display of active heroism during the car accident. His service to our community both

on and off duty is inspiring. Detective Danny Fletcher is an asset to the Denton City Police Department and the Denton community, and I am honored to represent him in Washington, DC.

A TRIBUTE TO WADE H. STEVENS, JR.

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor one of Philadelphia's most important leaders, my friend, Wade Stevens. Mr. Stevens is the Business Manager of the Laborer's International Union's District Council of the Metropolitan Area of Philadelphia and Vicinity. In this capacity he has been a tireless contributor to the betterment of Philadelphia's workers.

Mr. Stevens, who has served most of his life as a union activist, is celebrating his 10th year as a Business Manager. He joined Laborer's Local 135 in Norristown, PA in 1971, and served in varying capacities as a Delegate, Sergeant of Arms, and Judge of Elections. He still maintains his membership having transferred to Laborers' Local 332 in Philadelphia.

Mr. Stevens became a part of the Laborers' District Council as a Field Representative in 1989, and as a part of his duties was a Building Trades Committee Representative. In 1996, Mr. Stevens was elected to his current passion as the Business Manager of the Laborers' District Council. He worked in conjunction with local business managers, delegates, and management to create unprecedented services and benefits for Council members. In 2001 Mr. Stevens was appointed to the Tax Review Board of Philadelphia by Mayor John Street.

Mr. Stevens is also active in his community having sat on the Board of the All-Star Labor Classic Committee, raising thousands of dollars for the Cerebral Palsy Foundation. He is a lifetime member of the NAACP and a sponsor of the Norristown Bandits Midget Football Team. Mr. Stevens is proudly married to Cora Stevens and has been blessed with three sons and three grandchildren. I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues rise to congratulate Mr. Wade H. Stevens, Jr. for his 10th year as the Business Manager of the Laborers' International Union North America Laborers' District Council of the Metropolitan Area of Philadelphia and Vicinity.

TRIBUTE TO 93RD STREET COMMUNITY MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to the 93rd Street Community Missionary Baptist Church on the occasion of its 45th church anniversary celebration, from Monday, October 16 until Sunday, October 22, 2006. Pastor Carl Johnson led his congregation in celebrating the milestone in

the history of this beloved church, which has become a citadel of faith in Miami's Miami-Dade County community.

Pastor Larry Lovett II of the Antioch Baptist Church of Brownsville and Pastor Jeffrey Mack of the Second Canaan Baptist Church joined Pastor Johnson on the climax services on October 22 with the theme: "Coming Out of the Comfort Zone." Indeed, it is fitting and proper to give praise to Almighty God for blessing this church with its longevity of service to its members and to all those who seek comfort and solace in its sanctuary.

In 1961, a group of dedicated Christians committed themselves to laying down the foundation of this church. Reverend Alonzo Anderson sought a place of worship that was located on Northwest 22nd Avenue and 76th Street. In 1968, he sought a larger place of worship, which was subsequently named the 93rd Street Community Missionary Baptist Church—a name that has continued on to this day. In March 1971, the church was duly incorporated. The congregation suffered a great loss with the passing of Reverend Anderson on November 22, 1992.

In January 1993, Minister Carl Johnson was appointed pastor of the church. This visionary pastor became God's shepherd par excellence, as he guided and well-served the congregation, which grew from 200 congregants to its current 3,000 members. He has led his church with a good mixture of old-time religion and civic responsibility that continues to strengthen church members and our entire community.

In the year 2000, God led Reverend Johnson into the challenge of the Millennium Revival, to help bring churches together. Through his creative efforts and hard work, the faith-action service that now defines the 93rd Street Community Baptist Church has truly persevered in showing its congregation the truth that emanates from the study of Holy Scripture.

As a servant of God and as a deeply spiritual leader immersed in scriptural commitment, Pastor Carl Johnson has earned our deepest respect and commendation. This is the legacy with which he now guides the church, and we now congratulate his pastoral ministry and extend our heartfelt congratulation on the 45th church anniversary celebration of the 93rd Street Community Missionary Baptist Church.

HONORING NATIONAL FAMILY WEEK, NOVEMBER 19-25, 2006

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to Honor National Family Week. National Family Week takes place November 19th through November 25th. This event is sponsored by the Alliance for Children and Families. The Alliance for Children and Families represents an impressive group of advocates who have a tremendous effect on our children and families. National Family Week reflects a commitment to ensuring healthy, stable communities—communities where families that have the resources, affordable housing and the social networks they need to thrive

and where children have the quality education, child care, and the health care they need to grow into our leaders of tomorrow.

The Alliance for Children and Families represents several vital organizations in Chicago. There are fifteen Alliance members who work in the heart of Chicago. Included in this group of advocates are: Casa Central; Centers for New Horizons, Inc.; Chicago Children's Advocacy Center; Child Care Association of Illinois; Children's Home and Aid Society of Illinois; ChildServ; Generations of Success; Jane Addams Hull House; Jewish Child and Family Services; Kids Hope United; Lawrence Hall Youth Services; Methodist Youth Services, Inc.; Metropolitan Family Services; and Salvation Army Family Services. I am grateful for each of them and all the wonderful work that they do. Specifically I would like to recognize the Jane Addams Hull House, which recently received a \$3 million dollar grant from the Department of Education for its Early Reading First program. This grant illustrates the outstanding work that the three-hundred member organizations of the Alliance for Children and Families do for our citizens. I recognize and understand the importance of groups like the Jane Addams Hull House that provide important services to communities. I also want to recognize the efforts of the numerous other organizations in the Seventh District of Illinois that are not members of the Alliance but who are committed to the betterment of child welfare and well-being. These organizations work hard to teach our children, advocate on behalf of families everywhere, and provide necessary services to help strengthen communities.

As George Bernard Shaw once said, "Perhaps the greatest social service that can be rendered by anybody to this country and to mankind is to bring up a family." The Alliance for Children and Family and their three hundred members help families and communities successfully achieve the greatest social service by providing the tools necessary to ensure healthy and stable communities. It is my great honor to recognize National Family Week, the Alliance for Children and Families, and all that they do to ensure the success of our nation's children and families.

IN RECOGNITION OF AMBASSADOR
JOHN R. MILLER

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the work of one of the leaders of the modern-day abolitionist movement, Ambassador John R. Miller, who has announced he will step down as Director of the U.S. Department of State's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons.

He will be greatly missed.

As Ambassador Miller has often reminded us, trafficking in persons is modern-day slavery. With that conviction, he has led his office, and the whole of U.S. government, on a mission to settle for nothing short of the abolition of this terrible international crime.

Under Ambassador Miller's leadership, the U.S. government has grown in its commitment—both at home and abroad—against modern-day slavery. His work has helped

spotlight the issue of slavery around the world, through the annual Secretary of State's Trafficking in Persons Report, diplomatic engagement, speeches and multiple prosecution, protection, and prevention programs around the world.

Earlier this year, New York Times columnist Nicholas D. Kristof praised the U.S. commitment to abolishing modern-day slavery, noting:

[T]he heaviest lifting has been done by the State Department's tiny office on trafficking—for my money, one of the most effective units in the U.S. government. The office, led by a former Republican congressman, John Miller . . . puts out an annual report that shames and bullies foreign governments into taking action against forced labor of all kinds.

The 2006 Trafficking in Persons Report is the most comprehensive worldwide report on the efforts of governments to combat severe forms of trafficking in persons. Along with previous editions, its findings have raised global awareness and compelled countries to take effective actions to counter human trafficking. Under Ambassador Miller's direction, the Report has steadily increased its country assessment total each year—from 124 governments reviewed in 2003 to 158 countries assessed in the 2006 TIP Report.

During that time, Ambassador Miller also oversaw crucial refinements to the Report, elevating the annual compendium to a level of sophistication rarely enjoyed by a publication of its kind: the Trafficking in Persons Report has become the gold standard on which governments and the media are able to weigh progress on the global effort to fight human trafficking.

Annual release of the report has also generated increasing media coverage, helping raise global consciousness of the existence and widespread problem of modern-day slavery. Release of the 2006 Report, for example, produced widespread coverage by national and international print, broadcast, and Internet media, reaching, for the second year in a row, more than 400 million people across the globe. Media coverage was particularly intense in many of the Tier 3 and Tier 2 Watch List countries, such as Saudi Arabia and India.

Today, the TIP Report is the essential reference for global benchmarks that challenge all governments to join the 21st century abolitionist movement. The annual Trafficking in Persons Report serves as the primary diplomatic tool through which the U.S. Government encourages partnership and increased determination in the fight against forced labor, sexual exploitation, and modern-day slavery.

"In our judgment," declared Dr. Mohamed Mattar, Executive Director of the Protection Project, "this report constitutes the primary reference and main source of information on efforts made by foreign governments to combat trafficking in persons."

Armed with the report, Ambassador Miller has engaged with governments from Japan to Jamaica, from Belize to Bangladesh, to bring about improved law enforcement, victim protection, and prevention of this odious crime. Worldwide, Ambassador Miller's diplomatic leadership helped spur new or improved anti-human trafficking legislation in 41 countries in 2005, along with the establishment of dozens of new survivor shelters. That effort paid huge dividends: anti-trafficking convictions worldwide increased from several hundred, before Ambassador Miller arrived at the State Depart-

ment, to over 4,700 in 2005. Last year's figure—an increase from about 3,000 the year before—was especially dramatic among countries in Africa (from 29 TIP convictions in 2004 to 58 in 2005) and East Asia and Pacific nations (from 348 TIP convictions in 2004 to 2,347 in 2005).

Specifically, Ambassador Miller's diplomatic efforts helped persuade Japan to vastly reduce the number of TIP-exploitable "entertainment visas" Japan issued for young women from the Philippines—to fewer than 5,000, from a high of 80,000 a year. In addition, Ambassador Miller has carefully honed the report's system of tier rankings to cultivate global anti-TIP efforts. This year, for example, Malawi rose from Tier 2 to Tier 1 on the TIP Report, while Ecuador rose from Tier 3 to Tier 2.

Over the last 2 years, Ambassador Miller helped enhance the U.S. government's anti-trafficking efforts to include a greater focus against child sex tourism (CST), a crime in which people travel from their own country to developing countries, such as Laos or Cambodia, looking for anonymity and the availability of children in prostitution. Ambassador Miller's leadership against CST has netted success, as Time magazine recently observed:

Those working to protect children in Cambodia agree that the police force has recently shown a far stronger commitment to targeting pedophiles. But it's not just law and order that is doing the trick. A new political will to root them out is the result of diplomatic incentives and pressures, both the carrots of international donors and the stick of the U.S. State Department, say child protection workers. . . . But the stick came in 2005 when the U.S. State Department, fed up with the impunity enjoyed by traffickers here, relegated Cambodia to its lowest tier three rating on its global trafficking report. Cambodia was lumped in with Burma, Cuba and North Korea, and Washington threatened sanctions against Phnom Penh for its inability to comply with 'minimum standards' to combat human trafficking and convict officials involved.

In part because of Ambassador Miller's efforts, since 2003 over 30 American pedophiles have been extradited back to the U.S. and sent to jail.

With Ambassador Miller's prodding, the United States last December became an official party to the U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, also known as the Palermo Protocol. The Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Protocol, which supplements the U.N. Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime, is an important multilateral component of the worldwide effort to combat modern-day slavery. It seeks to prevent trafficking, protect victims, and promote anti-trafficking cooperation among nations.

As chairman of the interagency Senior Policy Operating Group, Ambassador Miller has improved coordination among U.S. agencies, helping to make the panel a decision-making body whose participants have furthered the U.S. effort against trafficking in person both at home and abroad. For example, the Department of Justice (DOJ), in 2005 charged 116 individuals with human trafficking, almost doubling the number charged in FY 2004. Approximately 80 percent of those defendants were charged under the federal Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000. Forty-five traffickers were convicted, of which 35

were implicated in sexual exploitation. As of May 22, 2006, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) had certified 1,000 victims of human trafficking since the TVPA was signed into law in October 2000. In FY 2005, HHS certified 230 foreign victims of human trafficking from a remarkably diverse array of countries.

On a personal note, during his tenure as Director of the State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, Ambassador John R. Miller has been a friend and colleague to those of us in Congress who have taken a leadership role against modern-day slavery. We wish him well in his future work as a Professor of International Studies at George Washington University.

**COUNCIL OF KHALISTAN HAS
SUCCESSFUL CONVENTION**

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, recently, Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh publicly stated that India is the victim of cross-border terror. The Council of Khalistan under the leadership of Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh wrote to Prime Minister Singh and reminded him that India has been sponsoring cross-border terrorism in Sindh, a province of Pakistan, as the Washington Times reported on January 2, 2002 and that it created the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, which our government has identified as a terrorist organization, according to Indian Today, which is the leading news magazine in India.

It has also sponsored domestic terrorism against the minorities within its borders, including murdering a quarter of a million Sikhs and holding another 52,000 as political prisoners; killing Muslims by the tens of thousands in Kashmir, where more than 90,000 have been killed, Gujarat, where between 2,000 and 5,000 died in a massacre preplanned by the government, and elsewhere; killing Christians throughout the country, including over 300,000 just in Nagaland; and mass killing many other minorities. Yet India proclaims itself the victim of terrorism and proclaims itself a democracy. Well, Mr. Speaker, it certainly doesn't act that way.

The repression and terrorism must be stopped. We should end all aid and trade with India until such time as the repression ends and people enjoy the most basic human rights, and we should throw our full support behind self-determination in Punjab, Khalistan, in Kashmir, in Nagaland, and wherever people are trying to be free. In addition, we should designate India a terrorist state and impose the sanctions that that designation brings.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert the Council of Khalistan's open letter into the RECORD. It is a frightening record of Indian terrorism.

COUNCIL OF KHALISTAN,
Washington, DC, October 10, 2006.

OPEN LETTER TO INDIAN PRIME MINISTER
MANMOHAN SINGH: INDIA IS A TERRORIST
STATE, NOT A VICTIM

DEAR PRIME MINISTER SINGH: On October 4, you said that India is a victim of crossborder terrorism. India is a terrorist state itself and should be subject to the penalties that are imposed on terrorist states.

On January 2, 2002, the Washington Times reported that India is supporting cross-border terrorism in Sindh, a province of Pakistan, the very same kind of thing that Prime Minister Singh was claiming is victimizing India. In addition, India's leading newsmagazine, India Today, reported that the Indian government created the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), identified by the U.S. government as a terrorist organization, and its leaders were put up by the Indian government in the finest hotel in Delhi, How can you blame Pakistan when India started cross-border terrorism with its own actions?

The Indian government has committed terrorism against its own minorities. It has murdered over 250,000 Sikh infants, children, youth, men, women, and elderly since 1984, as well as more than 300,000 Christians in Nagaland, over 90,000 Muslims in Kashmir, tens of thousands of Christians and Muslims throughout the country, and tens of thousands of Assamese, Bodos, Dalits, Manipuris, Tamils, and other minorities. A report by the Movement Against State Repression (MASR) states that 52,268 Sikhs are being held as political prisoners in India without charge or trial, mostly under a repressive law known as the "Terrorist and Disruptive Activities Act" (TADA), which expired in 1995. Many have been in illegal custody since 1984! There has been no list published of those who were acquitted under TADA and those who are still rotting in Indian jails. Tens of thousands of other minorities are also being held as political prisoners, according to Amnesty International. Tell the families of these innocent Sikhs and others that there is no terrorism in India.

Indian police arrested human-rights activist Jaswant Singh Khalsa after he exposed their policy of mass cremation of Sikhs, in which over 50,000 Sikhs have been arrested, tortured, and murdered, then their bodies were declared unidentified and secretly cremated. Khalsa was murdered in police custody. His body was not given to his family. No one has been brought to justice for the kidnapping and murder of Jaswant Singh Khalsa. The only witness to the Khalsa kidnapping, Rajiv Singh Randhawa, has been repeatedly harassed by the police, including having been arrested for trying to hand a note to then British Home Secretary Jack Straw. Last year, 35 Sikhs were charged and arrested in Punjab for making speeches in support of Khalistan and raising the Khalistani flag. How can making speeches and raising a flag be considered crimes in a democratic society?

The police never released the body of former Jathedar of the Akal Takht Gurdev Singh Kaunke after SSP Swaran Singh Ghotna murdered him. He has never been tried for the Jathedar Kaunke murder. In 1994, the U.S. State Department reported that the Indian government had paid over 41,000 cash bounties for killing Sikhs. The MASR report quotes the Punjab Civil Magistracy as writing "if we add up the figures of the last few years the number of innocent persons killed would run into lakhs [hundreds of thousands.]" The Indian Supreme Court called the Indian government's murders of Sikhs "worse than a genocide."

Missionary Graham Staines was murdered along with his two sons, ages 8 and 10, by a mob of militant, fundamentalist Hindu nationalists who set fire to the jeep, surrounded it, and chanted "Victory to Hanuman," a Hindu god. Missionary Joseph Cooper was beaten so badly that he had to spend a week in an Indian hospital. Then the Indian government threw him out of the country. None of the people involved has been tried. The persons who have murdered priests, raped nuns, and burned Christian churches have not been charged or tried. Po-

lice broke up a Christian religious festival with gunfire. Recently, militant Hindus from the Bharatiya Janata Yuva (a youth movement affiliated with the BJP and the Fascist RSS) attacked the Convent of Loreto and the school there. A spokesman for the BJP, Mr. H. Dikshit, demanded an investigation of the school!

The murderers of 2,000 to 5,000 Muslims in Gujarat have never been brought to trial. An Indian newspaper reported that the police were ordered not to get involved in that massacre, a frightening parallel to the Delhi massacre of Sikhs in 1984. The most important mosque in India, the Babri Mosque, was destroyed by militant Hindu fundamentalists who have never been held responsible for their actions.

It is good that you have admitted the guilt of the Indian government for the Delhi massacres, in which over 20,000 Sikhs were killed, by apologizing for the massacres, but what good does it do the Sikh Nation? Where are the apologies for the Golden Temple attack, the destruction of the Akal Takht, and the desecration of Darbar Sahib, and the other atrocities? Where is the compensation for the victims' families? That operation was yet another act of Indian domestic terrorism.

The Guru granted sovereignty to the Sikh Nation, saying "In Grieb Sikhin Ko Deon Patshahi." We must remind ourselves of our heritage by raising slogans of "Khalistan Zindabad" and beginning a Shantmai Morcha to liberate our homeland, Khalistan. Whoever is honest and dedicated in leading that Shantmai Morcha deserves our support. Every morning and evening we recite, "Raj Kare Ga Khalsa." Now is the time to act on it. Do we mean what we say every morning and evening?

The flame of freedom continues to burn blightly in the heart of the Sikh Nation. No force can suppress it. Recently, Dal Khalsa and the Shiromani Khalsa Dal announced that they are uniting for sovereignty for Khalistan. This was met with chants of "Khalistan Zindabad." The Punjab Legislative Assembly proclaimed the sovereignty of Punjab when it cancelled the water agreements. Only by liberating Khalistan can we put an end to the repression and terrorism against the Sikh Nation by the Indian regime. Now is the time to rededicate ourselves to the liberation of Khalistan.

Last year, Sikh farmers were expelled from Uttaranchal Pradesh and their land was seized. They were beaten up by the police. Their homes were bulldozed by paratroopers. Their homes in many cases were built using their life savings and by their own hands. We condemn this act of state terrorism by the government of Uttaranchal Pradesh. As you know, Sikhs are prohibited from buying land in Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh. Now Uttaranchal Pradesh joins that list. Yet there are no restrictions on land ownership in Punjab by non-Sikhs. People from anywhere can buy land in Punjab, including people from Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh. India is trying to subvert Khalistan's independence by overrunning Punjab with non-Sikhs while keeping Sikhs from escaping the brutal repression in Punjab. It is incumbent on the Sikh diaspora to free Khalistan. We must redouble our efforts. That is the only way to keep these atrocities from continuing and to protect the Sikh Nation and the Sikh religion.

The Akali Dal conspired with the Indian government in 1984 to invade the Golden Temple to murder Sant Bhindranwale and 20,000 other Sikhs during June 1984 in Punjab. Among those who conspired with the government, according to Chakravayuh: Web of Indian Secularism, were Dr. Chohan, Ganga Singh Dhillon, and Didar Singh Bains

It appears the Indian regime is even willing to arrest its own agents to suppress the movement for Khalistan! Now Badal and Chief Minister Amarinder Singh have been accusing each other of being tied in with "terrorists." These leaders view support for Khalistan as terrorism, as the Indian government does. They have shown where their loyalties lie. How will these so-called Sikh leaders account for themselves? Remember the words of former Jathedar of the Akal Takht Professor Darshan Singh: "If a Sikh is not a Khalistani, he is not a Sikh."

Sikhs will never get any justice from Delhi. Ever since independence, India has mistreated the Sikh Nation, starting with Patel's memo calling Sikhs "a criminal tribe." What a shame for Home Minister Patel and the Indian government to issue this memorandum when the Sikh Nation gave over 80 percent of the sacrifices to free India. There is no place for Sikhs in supposedly secular, supposedly democratic India. Our moment of freedom is closer than ever. Sikhs will continue to work to make certain that we shake ourselves loose from the yoke of Indian oppression and liberate our homeland, Khalistan, so that all Sikhs may live lives of prosperity, freedom, and dignity.

Sincerely,
DR. GURMIT SINGH AULAKH,
PRESIDENT,
Council of Khalistan.

HONORING THE MILLS-PENINSULA
MEDICAL CENTER GROUND
BREAKING

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, on November 1, 2006 is a day that will long be remembered in Burlingame, California, as the ground breaking for the construction of the Mills-Peninsula Medical Center. This medical facility, located in my Congressional District, is a continued example of why the Bay Area continues to be at the forefront of nation's healthcare system.

The New Mills-Peninsula Medical Center, scheduled to open its doors to the public in 2010, will be an extraordinary facility integrating the latest environmentally friendly technology design into a state-of-the-art \$528 million 450,000-square-foot building. This newly constructed modern marvel will boast an emergency room 40 percent larger than that of the existing Mills-Peninsula Hospital, and will also provide 243 patient beds in all-private rooms. This new hospital will also have space designated for accommodations for family members of patients, allowing for those who have traveled great distances the ability to remain close to sick loved ones. The blueprints also include an attached office building that will offer space for physician offices, a new parking garage and gardens for people to get away from the hustle and bustle of the hospital.

Mr. Speaker, the Mills-Peninsula Hospital has been in existence for nearly 100 years and is consistently held up as a beacon of excellence for hospitals in the Bay Area. The hospital has been a recipient of numerous awards and recognitions including, being named the Best Hospital in San Mateo County 14 years running by the readers of the San Mateo County Times as well as being named

the best place to work in the Bay Area for two consecutive years by the Business Journal Publications. Professional recognitions include being designated as one of the top eight hospitals in the State of California for cardiovascular surgery by the California Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development.

Mr. Speaker, the ground-breaking and planned opening of this hospital has come to fruition due to the tireless efforts of the members and board of the Peninsula Health Care District, Mills-Peninsula Health Services, and Sutter Health, as well as the extraordinary support of community leaders and residents. Without their spectacular efforts, this state-of-the-art facility would be nothing more than a dream. I urge all my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Mills-Peninsula Hospital community on the successful ground breaking of their new hospital.

RECOGNIZING JOHN FINERTY'S 25
YEARS OF SERVICE ON THE
COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND
COOPERATION IN EUROPE

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to pay tribute to John Finerty for his 25 years of faithful service to the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Helsinki Commission. John began his work as a member of the professional staff on November 8, 1981, just 6 years after the signing of the Helsinki Final Act, a period marked by ruthless Soviet repression and widespread violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Driven by a passion for upholding the dignity of the downtrodden, John devoted himself to documenting the cases of political prisoners and prisoners of conscience cast into the Soviet gulag or banished because of their beliefs. His career at the Commission began in the aftermath of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, a situation he followed closely. He also focused on the plight of Soviet Jewry, abuse of psychiatry and use of slave labor in the USSR, the persecution of human rights defenders, and repression of religious believers. His determined efforts were undertaken for well-known dissidents and the unknown alike without distinction. The resolution of hundreds of Soviet human rights cases were brought about in no small measure as a result of John's diligence.

The end of the Cold War brought new challenges and opportunities and once again John's talents proved invaluable to me and my fellow Commissioners as freedom began to take root in the former Soviet Union and the subjugation of the Baltic States came to an end. Throughout the turbulent transition, John remained focused on promoting peaceful democratic change while continuing his vigilant defense of human rights. He was part of the first teams to monitor elections in the former USSR. While the conflict in Chechnya has faded from the focus of many, John has not been willing to forget its victims. Similarly, he has helped draw attention to those who have fallen victim to terrorists in places like Beslan.

Mr. Speaker, in this year when we observe the 13th anniversary of the Helsinki Commission, as a long-serving Commissioner and Co-Chairman, I am pleased to recognize and commend John Finerty for his faithful service and tireless defense of human rights and dignity.

HONORING CHIEF TERENCE P. LIPINSKI OF THE BRIDGEVIEW FIRE DEPARTMENT ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Chief Terrence P. Lipinski of the Bridgeview Fire Department, in recognition of his retirement, after 30 years of dedicated service. Chief Lipinski has been an invaluable asset to the fire and emergency management community in the United States and we are forever grateful for his passion, wisdom, and guidance.

Terrence Lipinski began his career with the Bridgeview Fire Department as a firefighter, rising to the ranks of lieutenant and shift commander before becoming chief. He has served as chief for over a decade, while simultaneously taking on other state and national leadership roles.

During his career, Chief Lipinski has been president of the Bridgeview ETSB Board, president and vice president of the MABAS Division 21 Chief's Board, a trustee for the Bridgeview Fireman's Pension Fund, and a member of the Illinois Fire Chiefs Association Executive Board. During times of devastation and disaster, as in the aftermaths of the tornado in Utica, IL and Hurricane Katrina, Chief Lipinski has responded as a member of the first command incident team. He has also assisted in establishing a mutual aid system in Texas and, recently, the State of Illinois appointed him as a lead coordinator for a statewide exercise. Currently, Chief Lipinski is vice president of the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System and serves on the Region 7 EMS Advisory Board, the Christ Advocate EMS Advisory Board, and the Moraine Valley Community College Fire Education Advisory Board.

It is my honor today to recognize Chief Terrence P. Lipinski. After 30 years, the Bridgeview Fire Department is privileged to have had his dedication, determination, and impeccable service. Chief Lipinski's contributions, insights, and hard-work have truly made our great nation a better place to live. I wish him the very best in retirement and congratulate him on his accomplishments.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO PAUL C. FISHER

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of my good friend Paul C. Fisher, who passed away on Friday, October 20, 2006.

Paul was a genius and a dreamer, an advocate of the scientific technique in social sciences and a philosopher. Paul is most well known for his invention of the "space pen", which was first used by NASA on Apollo 7 in 1968. Paul was the recipient of the Governor's Distinguished Nevada Business Award in 1989. As a result of his marketing and manufacturing efforts, Paul was presented with the Governor's Industrial Appreciation Award as Exporter of the Year in 1996 by Nevada's Governor Bob Miller.

Paul was also a public servant. He was an outstanding example of a civic and community minded person that I had the privilege of knowing and interacting with during his many years as a resident of southern Nevada. Throughout the years, Paul demonstrated his passion and pride for both his community and country. Having twice run for the President of the United States, he was a strong advocate of economic and tax reforms to better the lives of our Nation's poor. Paul also ran for U.S. Congress in Nevada in 1986 and in Illinois in 1954.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor the life of my good friend Paul C. Fisher. He dedicated his life to the pursuit of ideas that would help improve conditions for mankind. I applaud all his efforts; he was truly a distinguished humanitarian and will be profoundly missed.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE REDINGTON HOTEL, NOW THE GENETTI HOTEL AND CONFERENCE CENTER

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Mr. Gus Genetti, owner of the Genetti Hotel and Conference Center in Wilkes-Barre Pennsylvania, on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the opening of the Redington Hotel.

Mr. Genetti acquired the Redington Hotel in 1963 and proceeded to renovate and expand that facility into a landmark haven of hospitality in Wilkes-Barre's downtown.

Built by John Redington, the hotel was opened October 11, 1906 at the corner of East Market Street and South Pennsylvania Avenue. The lavish seven-story hotel was designed by the prominent architectural firm of McCormick and French. The facility contained many modern conveniences, such as a dining room, telephone exchange, public bath, barber shop, butcher shop and bakery. Many notable visitors stayed at the hotel including comedians Abbott and Costello.

In October, 1922, John Redington retired and leased the hotel to the Keystone State Hotel Association. In 1930, Mr. Redington with his son, John A. Jr., resumed management of the hotel until John Senior's death on January 24, 1941.

In February, 1942, the hotel was purchased from the Redington estate through a sheriff's sale by Conrad F. Goeringer. Goeringer sold

the hotel to Morgus Enterprises on May 20, 1960.

With the decline and eventual termination of the Lehigh Valley Rail Service, changing hotel standards and the opening of motels on the outskirts of Wilkes-Barre, the Redington fell on hard times.

The hotel changed hands once again at sheriff's sale, eventually being purchased by Mr. Genetti in July, 1963. The hotel was subsequently upgraded, modernized and reopened in September, 1963, as the Genetti Hotel.

The hotel was again renovated after the Agnes flood of 1972 and has been continually improved and enlarged since then. The hotel's frontage now extends along the entire second block of East Market Street.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. ETHEL MINOR

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Ethel Minor, the outgoing President of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), for her 14 years of service to the San Antonio Chapter of the NAACP.

Ms. Minor was born on November 26, 1922 in the City of San Antonio in the State of Texas. She attended Prairie View A&M University and majored in Business Administration at St. Mary's University in San Antonio, Texas. She then began her 35 years of service to Kelly Air Force Base as an Equal Employment Opportunity Specialist in the Black Employment Program, fighting for equal treatment of employees at the Kelly Air Force Base until her retirement in 1980.

Ms. Minor was involved in the civil rights marches and protests throughout Bexar County during the turbulent 1960s, was elected to the San Antonio Branch of the NAACP in 1987, and served for 10 consecutive years from 1987 to 1996, and 4 years from 2003-2006. Under her remarkable leadership, the San Antonio Branch of the NAACP succeeded with the voter registration drives. She also promoted the education of the African-American youth, advocated for the local African-American community, and organized the San Antonio Annual Martin Luther King Day March Celebration, which has become the largest annual civil rights celebration in the entire Nation with over 100,000 attendees.

In addition to her work as the first female President of the San Antonio Branch of the NAACP, Ms. Minor is extensively involved in many community service and educational organizations including the Centennial, Scholarship, and Diversity Committees at St. Philip's College, the National Coalition of 100 Black Women, and the National Council of Negro Women. She was the first black PTA President at Brackenridge High School, a Member of the District Educational Improvement Council (DEIC) in the East Central School District, and the Program and Nominating Chair of the International Training and Communication ITC. She has received numerous honors and

awards such as: the Yellow Rose of Texas which was given to her by then-Governor Mark White, the Key to the City of New Orleans, the Friend of Education Award from American Federation of Teachers, Top Ladies of Distinction Spirit Award, and the Martin Luther King Award. She was also an inductee into the Women's Hall of Fame and has been presented several awards by the local branches and the state chapter of the NAACP as well involved in the religious community at the Antioch Baptist Church where she remains a devoted member.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize the passion Ms. Minor has demonstrated in advancing the civil rights of the African-American community.

TRIBUTE TO RUTH D. HUNT

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Ruth D. Hunt, a distinguished citizen of Brooklyn, NY. It behooves us to pay tribute to this outstanding woman and I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing her impressive service.

Ruth D. Hunt is the director of Marketing and Outreach for the New York City Health and Hospital Corporation North Brooklyn Health Network. She has greatly improved the public image of the network, expanded partnerships and promoted health services. Last year, Ms. Hunt coordinated and provided over 300 community outreach health events in Brooklyn and screened over 15,000 participants.

Ms. Hunt is an accomplished manager and developer. She has an extensive background in special events planning, fundraising and has coordinated major events with the Jackie Robinson Foundation, the Doll League, Inc: Women and AIDS Resource Network, Meharry Alumni Association and the National Association of Health Services Executives. Ms. Hunt has also had an extensive career in fashion. She has modeled professionally for more than 100 New York City fashion designers and manufacturers and has graced countless runways, showrooms and trade-shows. She founded Ruth Hunt Associates in 1988. The mission of the company is to help build self-esteem by teaching clients how to look, act and speak their best to achieve career advancement.

Ms. Hunt is most proud of working with Rachel Robinson during the inception of the Jackie Robinson Foundation. She served as the foundation coordinator and implemented the production of four major Jazz concerts. Under the guidance of her mentor, Mrs. Robinson, Ms. Hunt administered and creatively established the historical collection of Jackie Robinson's life and career. This collection later became a traveling exhibition that was sponsored by the Coca-Cola Company.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that it is incumbent on this body to recognize the work of Ruth D. Hunt. Her deep commitment to her community makes her most worthy of our recognition today.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TEXAS MOTOR SPEEDWAY

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Texas Motor Speedway for celebrating 10 successful years of racing. The facility is located in the heart of North Texas, between Fort Worth and Denton in the 26th District of Texas.

The Texas Motor Speedway has hosted several NASCAR, Indy Racing League, and other prestigious motor sport races since its inaugural year in 1997. Millions of enthusiastic fans have flocked to enjoy the modern racing and entertainment facilities at one of the fastest tracks in the Nation.

The Texas Motor Speedway has a tremendous impact on the North Texas economy by bringing millions of dollars to businesses, hotels, restaurants, and attractions in the area. The Speedway continues to exceed predictions of its regional economic impact each year.

As an avid racing fan, I regularly attend events at the Texas Motor Speedway. I am pleased to have such a fine facility in the North Texas community, and I proudly boast of its accomplishments on my Congressional Web site. In addition to hosting races, the Texas Motor Speedway also supports a number of worthy charities in the North Texas community.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the Texas Motor Speedway for 10 distinguished years of serving the racing and Texas communities. I look forward to many more.

A TRIBUTE TO SENATOR SERGIO DE GREGORIO HONORABLE ROBERT A. BRADY

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor our colleague from the Republic of Italy, the Honorable Sergio De Gregorio.

Senator De Gregorio was elected Senator of the Republic of Italy on April 10th, 2006. As President of the Defense Committee for the Republic of Italy, Senator De Gregorio is one of the most important national security officials in one of our most important allied states.

Prior to his election to the Senate, Mr. De Gregorio served as a pioneering journalist who produced many important reports on organized crime, various wars and conflicts in almost every corner of the world. He further established his international credentials during his tenure as Assistant to European Parliament, a position he held until 2004.

Mr. Speaker, the City of Philadelphia is proud to host Senator De Gregorio and 15 distinguished Italian delegates, including four members of his committee: Hon. Paolo Guzzanti; Hon. Filippo Berselli; Hon. Calogero Mannino; and Hon. Gianni Nieddu, as well as Princess Josephine Pritchard Borghese and Hon. Salvatore Ferrigno, to Philadelphia for a

four-day tour of the city and its various Italian American businesses, factories and importers. Their visit will also include three events to raise funds for the construction of an Italian American Cultural Center to be located in Northeast Philadelphia.

The Republic of Italy has long been a critically important ally in the fight against terrorism and against organized crime. As a member of the House Armed Services Committee, I am pleased that this important delegation will be touring defense facilities in my District. And, as a son of Italy, I am equally proud that they will be doing so much to help us create the Italian American Cultural Center. I know that all of my colleagues will join me in welcoming them to the United States.

TRIBUTE TO BISHOP-ELECT
RANDALL E. HOLTS

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to Bishop-Elect Randall E. Holts on the occasion of his recent election and appointment as Bishop last Sunday, November 12, 2006. He is currently serving as the senior Pastor of the New Hope Missionary Baptist Church of Miami.

Deeply devoted to his vocation, Bishop Holts has spearheaded many spiritual revival symposia that have enlightened the community through his insightful theological teachings and preaching of God's Word. Guided by the motto, "Building Strong Families for the 21st Century," he has admirably paved the way for a clearer understanding and deeper commitment on the part of his Congregation toward the Sacred Scriptures.

In 1997, he formed a leadership team that focused on the emergence of the "New Hope Development Center, Inc.," a 501c3 non-profit corporation, to ensure self-sufficiency of families through economic empowerment to enhance the quality of life of both Church members and other people from surrounding neighborhoods. Indeed, it is fitting and proper to give praise to Almighty God for blessing this Church with the longevity of Bishop-Elect Holt's service to his Congregation, and to all those who seek comfort and solace in its Church Sanctuary.

A native of Miami, Florida, Bishop-Elect Holts obtained his early education from the Miami-Dade County Public Schools and went on to get his Bachelor's degree in 1976 from the University of Florida's School of Business majoring in Banking and Finance. He worked in the banking profession for the next 20 years, for which he obtained praise and tribute from his colleagues. As he retired from his professional banking ventures, he committed his full-time service as Pastor of the New Hope Missionary Baptist Church. He now also serves on the Board of Directors for North Shore Medical Center, as well as on the Collective Banking Group of Miami-Dade & Vicinity, and other community-based organizations.

He is married to Prophetess Sharlene Denise Holts and has been blessed in this Holy Matrimony for over 30 years. Three children were born out of this happy union—Shontel, Ericka and Randall II—along with two

grandsons, Jaelyn and Justin. He has led his Church with a good mixture of old-time religion and civic responsibility that continues to strengthen the members, not only to become spiritual and moral leaders, but also responsible and conscientious guardians of good government and civic pride.

Indeed, his inspiring leadership is genuinely admirable. As a servant of God and as a spiritual leader he has earned the community's deepest respect. This is the legacy with which he now guides his Church, and I extend to him my heartfelt congratulations.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO E. STEVEN
SMITH

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of E. Steven Smith, who passed away on Monday, October 16, 2006.

Dr. Smith, a leader in forensic dentistry, was the founding dean of the UNLV School of Dental Medicine, the first dental school in the State of Nevada. He oversaw the school's founding from 1999 until 2002, when the first students entered the school.

When he moved to Las Vegas to lead the dental school, Dr. Smith began volunteering his time and expertise with the Clark County coroner's office in examining dental records. His efforts often provided closure for family members who may otherwise not have known the fate of a missing loved one.

Dr. Smith was also the founder of the Crackdown on Cancer Initiative. This body would travel to schools throughout Nevada to warn students about the effects of tobacco on the mouth, providing an invaluable public service.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor the life of E. Steven Smith. Under his leadership, Nevada now has a world class institution for Dental Medicine education. His amalgamation of professional success and community activism is exemplary. He will be greatly missed.

CONGRATULATING MAYOR WALTER CONWAY UPON BEING NAMED "CITIZEN OF THE YEAR" BY THE DELAWARE WATER GAP CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Mr. Walter Conway, mayor of Delaware Water Gap, Monroe County, Pennsylvania.

Mayor Conway has been named "Citizen of the Year" by the Delaware Water Gap Chamber of Commerce and will be honored at an award dinner Tuesday, Oct. 17, at the Water Gap Country Club.

A graduate of St. Joseph's University in Philadelphia, Mayor Conway and his wife, Cathy, have two children, Cathleen Conway and Mrs. Wendy Scott.

Mayor Conway is a veteran of the United States Army, having served in Vietnam where he distinguished himself and was the recipient of numerous medals and commendations.

Mayor Conway began his community involvement in Delaware Water Gap in 1997 as a member of the Planning Commission. He has been chairman of the Planning Commission since June, 2004. During this time, he has been instrumental in revising numerous zoning ordinances.

Mayor Conway is active in the Delaware Water Gap Chamber of Commerce and is the backbone of the current annual golf tournament. He also sponsors a Mayor's Cup Golf Tournament.

Mayor Conway has obtained over \$485,000 in grant money for the borough and other related organizations, such as the Antoine Dutot Museum, the police department and the fire department.

And even though he resides in the borough's flood zone, he is well known for helping his neighbors even before he works on his own home. He also coordinates all flood recovery efforts.

He was a past member and president of the Kittatiny Lions Club. He is currently a veteran member of the Kiwanis Club. He served as Lt. Governor for Division 17 in 1993 for the Pennsylvania District of Kiwanis International. He was also a recipient of the Pennsylvania Kiwanis International Keystone Award.

For the past 15 years, he has been involved with golf tournament fund raising for the Geisinger Children's Heart Program. He is also active with the Children's Miracle Network.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mayor Conway on this happy occasion. His commitment and service to the Borough of Delaware Water Gap has greatly enriched the quality of life in that community.

TRIBUTE TO THE VAQUEROS

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, whereas, the Vaqueros are the true original cowboys of South Texas, and they were an essential part of the early ranching industry in Jim Hogg County.

Whereas, Vaqueros were renowned for their exemplary ranching and stock-handling skills, which were needed for the development of ranches and without them, the ranching industry would not have developed to the State it is today.

Whereas, the skills and the ranching practices shown by the vaqueros have left a lasting impact on modern ranching. The equipment of the vaquero—saddle, chaps, bandana, lasso, and spurs—has become the standard gear of all Texas cowboys.

Whereas, the first ranches founded in the area with the help of the vaqueros were Randado, Las Noriacitas, Las Animas, San Antonio Viejo, Las Emamadas, Las Viboritas, El Baluarte, and San Javier. Some of these ranches are still held by descendants of the original owners such as Randado, which was visited by General Robert E. Lee during the Civil War.

Whereas, ranching remains one of the vital elements of the economy in Jim Hogg County, and the City of Hebbronville is located on the land that once was a part of the Las Noriacitas Ranch. W.R. Hebbron, the town's namesake, established the city along the route of the Texas Mexican Railway in 1883.

Be it hereby resolved, That Congressman HENRY CUELLAR, in representing the 28th Congressional District of the State of Texas, commends the City of Hebbronville on its celebration of the history of the vaquero on November 4, 2006.

TRIBUTE TO PATRICIA WILLIAMS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Patricia Williams, a community leader and entrepreneur. It behooves us to pay tribute to this outstanding woman and I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing her impressive service.

Born to the Honorable Kathryn Williams and the late James Williams, Patricia Williams credits living and growing up in evolving neighborhoods like Harlem, Bedford Stuyvesant and East New York as an inspiration to work for social and economical change.

Ms. Williams knows hard work is an investment. She currently is the President/CEO of Ecotech Enterprises, Inc., a firm she established to provide consultant services to government agencies, private sector corporations, and small, minority-owned business enterprises. In the past, Ms. Williams provided community outreach and event planning for the Brooklyn Museum of Art Construction Project. She has delivered bottom line services such as marketing and sales to well known small businesses and she provides fundraising and workshop development assistance to several non-profits. Ms. Williams has been called upon as a panelist and guest speaker on numerous occasions and is considered an authority on business development.

Prior to starting her own consulting firm, Ms. Williams was executive Director of the Minority Business Opportunity Center under the U.S. Department of Commerce, Minority Business Development Agency where she provided business services to more than 70,000 minority/women-owned and small businesses. As senior Administrator of Equal Employment Opportunity and Diversity for Morse Diesel International, she successfully implemented policies to ensure 100 million dollars of contracting opportunities for minority-owned and small businesses where she exceeded labor force and contracting goals set for women and minority skilled workers at JFK Airport's Terminal 4 construction project. She was Senior Employment Specialist and Career Development Instructor for Non-Traditional Community College, Operations Manager for Madison Avenue firm Durham Temporaries Inc., and has several years of experience at the U.S. Small Business Administration, Finance Division.

Ms. Williams attended John Jay College where she majored in Criminal Justice and Labor Law. Her work has not gone unnoticed. Ms. Williams has been recognized by several government agencies and community organi-

zations. She is also the recipient of the Columbia University Non-Profit Executive Management Scholarship. Ms. Williams is the proud mother of two, Leah and John.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that it is incumbent on this body to recognize the work of Patricia Williams. Her deep commitment to her community makes her most worthy of our recognition today.

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS WITH THE EVERMAN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Everman Independent School District as they celebrate their 100th anniversary of providing quality education for its students. The Everman School District has been a fixture in southwest Fort Worth since 1906.

The School district was first established in 1906 when the Enon School and the Antioch School consolidated to make the Everman School. After the merger the School district prospered, experiencing massive growth in the community as well as the student body population.

During its 100-year history, Everman ISD has earned state and national recognition in academics, athletics, fine arts, leadership, and service disciplines.

The mission of Everman Independent School District is to provide all students with an educational program which allows them to develop their full potential intellectually, physically, and socially in order to be responsible citizens and contributing members of society. With a century of success behind them, I am more than confident that Everman ISD will continue to educate and inspire the young adults that walk the halls of their schools.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I stand here today and honor the 100th anniversary of the Everman Independent School District for their dedication and continuing commitment to education in Everman, Texas.

TRIBUTE TO KENNETH J. FLEISHER, ESQ.

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a man who personifies the finest traditions of the legal profession. Kenneth J. Fleisher is a Philadelphia native. He is a magna cum laude graduate of Yale University and a cum laude graduate of Harvard Law School.

For more than a decade he has been a member of the prestigious law firm Zarwin, Baum, DeVito, Kaplan, Schaer, Toddy, P.C. in Philadelphia.

He also serves as the chair of the Philadelphia Bar Association's Real Property Section.

In spite of his impeccable legal credentials I did not meet Mr. Fleischer in a board room, at a big ticket gala or as the attorney of record

representing a powerful client. I came to know him because of the countless hours that he and an amazing group of attorneys have put into representing, on a pro bono basis, my constituents who were forced from their homes because their properties were literally sinking on a street in my district.

Mr. Speaker, putting aside any question of profit, Ken and his fellow volunteers at the Philadelphia Volunteers for the Indigent Program have worked tirelessly to ensure that these constituents who found themselves in the middle of a bureaucratic nightmare had the best legal representation possible. No words can express the gratitude I have for their diligence and commitment to work through the legal maze these homeowners faced.

But, Mr. Fleisher's efforts would come as no surprise to anyone who knows the culture of the Zarwin firm. It has been home to many people I have been honored to work with and call my friends over the years. It is a firm that inspires leadership and dedication in its attorneys. Two of my good friends, the late Rotan Lee, a former Philadelphia School District president, and Seth Williams, Philadelphia's Inspector General, both were a part of the firm.

Mr. Speaker, as the Philadelphia legal community today honors Mr. Fleisher for his highly successful tenure as chair of the Philadelphia Bar Association's Real Property Section, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking him for his service and wish him well in the future.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MELANIE
TEEMANT

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Melanie Teemant for her outstanding achievements as a seventh-grade teacher.

On October 18, 2006, Melanie was named 2007 Nevada Teacher of the Year for hard work and dedication to her young students at Bob Miller Middle School in Henderson, Nevada. The award was presented by the Department of Education and it is also part of a nationwide program from the Council of Chief State School Officers.

As part of the award, Melanie was given a key to the city of Henderson and she is entered in the nationwide competition for teacher of the year. She is given a trip to the Nation's capital in April, during which she'll have the opportunity to meet President Bush. Melanie was also awarded a trip to Huntsville, Alabama, this summer where she will be visiting a NASA space program.

Once a year, Melanie holds a performance entitled Dancing Through the Decades, where she gives her students a chance to share some of what they learned in her reading class. She heads the school's teacher mentor program, which is designed to help new teachers acclimate to the school as well as helps them develop lesson plans and reviews classroom management skills. Melanie is active in afterschool activities, such as student council, guitar club, and the scrapbook club.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Ms. Melanie Teemant for her commendable devo-

tion to improving the lives of her students. Her perseverance and dedication is an admirable trait. I applaud her efforts and I wish her luck in all her future endeavors.

CONGRATULATING DON COOPER
UPON THE OCCASION OF HIS RE-
TIREMENT FROM THE WYOMING
VALLEY JEWISH COMMUNITY
CENTER AND THE JEWISH FED-
ERATION IN WILKES-BARRE,
PENNSYLVANIA

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Mr. Don Cooper, retiring executive director of the Wyoming Valley Jewish Community Center and the Jewish Federation in Wilkes-Barre, Luzerne County, PA.

During his tenure, Mr. Cooper developed an active and involved membership that included commitment and participation from all elements of the community. He also enhanced JCC programming in all areas by developing and encouraging an outstanding, competent, productive and loyal staff.

Mr. Cooper made exceptional contributions in the areas of day care, elder programming and leadership development. He has protected, improved and expanded the JCC facility in downtown Wilkes-Barre and its day camp facility nearby.

He has overseen successful fundraising and grant writing applications that have assisted in securing the financial future of the JCC.

Mr. Cooper received a BA in sociology and economics from the University of Cincinnati and a MSW; ACWS in community organization from Western Reserve University.

During the course of his career, Mr. Cooper served as a field worker in the Greater Cleveland Neighborhood Centers Association; assistant executive director for the Lenox Hill Neighborhood Association in New York; assistant executive director for the Jewish Federation and Council of Greater Kansas City; executive director for the Tampa Jewish Federation/Jewish Community Center; and as executive director for the Jewish Federation of Greater Hartford.

Mr. Cooper is affiliated with the Academy of Certified Social Workers, National Association of Social Workers, National Association of Jewish Community Organization Personnel, CJF and UJA regional and national planning committees; professional advisory board of Joint Distribution Committee; University of Pennsylvania School of Social Work Board of Visitors; and the Beth Israel Zion Synagogue in Philadelphia.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mr. Cooper on the occasion of a well deserved retirement. The contributions he made to the Jewish community as well as the community at large have been responsible for improving the quality of life for so many people, a fact for which Mr. Cooper should be justifiably proud.

TRIBUTE TO THE 150TH ANNIVER-
SARY OF THE SEBASTOPOL
HOUSE STATE HISTORIC SITE

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 150th anniversary of the Sebastopol House State Historic Site in the City of Seguin, located in the 28th District of Texas.

This 3,000 square foot home was built in 1856 and is constructed mainly of limecrete, an early form of concrete, a material rarely used in the area. Joshua Young, who lost his son in the Civil War, built the Sebastopol House and later sold the house to his sister, who then sold it to Joseph and Nettie Zorn. Joseph Zorn served as Alderman, Postmaster, and Mayor of Seguin for twenty years, was instrumental in the growth and the modernization of the city, and left a remarkable legacy in the creation of the trustee-managed, free public school system in 1891. The house remained with the Zorn family until the death of Calvert Zorn, when the house was rented out to families, including that of Robert and Mary Ybarra, who lived in the house for many years.

The Sebastopol House faced the threat of demolition in the early 1960s, but was saved by the Seguin Conservation Society to serve as a historic house museum until 1976, and was restored to its original condition in the 1980s by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to preserve this important piece of Texas architectural history. As we look back on the past 150 years of this house and its inhabitants with pride, we also look forward to an enduring future for the Sebastopol House State Historic Site.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have had this time to honor the 150th anniversary of the Sebastopol House State Historic Site.

IN RECOGNITION OF ASSISTANT
CHIEF OF POLICE JOHN DAVID
LYNN

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Assistant Chief of Police John David Lynn as he retires from 34 years of service in the North Richland Hills Police Department.

Assistant Chief Lynn began his career in 1973 as a patrolman. He was assigned to the Criminal Investigations division, and by 1975 he had been promoted to Sergeant. Throughout Mr. Lynn's career, he has served as a patrol supervisor, been promoted to the rank of Captain, and served as the Investigative Services Division Commander for 11 years. During his service as Captain, Mr. Lynn attended the 139th Session of the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Virginia.

In May of 1993, Mr. Lynn was promoted to his current rank of Assistant Chief of Police. As commander of the Management Services Bureau, Assistant Chief Lynn was awarded his second Meritorious Service Award. He also

served as Interim Chief of Police for several months in both 1998 and 2005 for the Police Department.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I recognize Assistant Chief of Police John David Lynn's 34 years of dedicated service to the North Richland Hills Police Department and Community. I am proud to serve as his representative in Washington, D.C.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JOHN B.
BRIGHT

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor John B. Bright for his service to our Nation's veterans.

John was appointed by the Veterans Health Administration as the Director of Veterans Affairs of the Southern Nevada Healthcare System in Las Vegas, Nevada on May 1, 2006. He was previously the Associate Director since May 6, 2005.

Prior to his appointment in Las Vegas, John was the Chief Financial Officer at the VA Facilities at Big Spring and Amarillo, Texas since 1998. He has also been the Chief Financial Officer at Phoenix, AZ and Reno, NV. He began his career in 1985 at the VA in Seattle, WA and served in management positions at VA Hospitals in Durham, NC, Prescott, AZ, Battle Creek, MI and San Antonio, TX. John is a Veteran who served in the United States Army from 1972 through 1975.

As Director of the Southern Nevada Healthcare System, John has continually advocated for the construction of the new Las Vegas Veterans Hospital Complex. John is devoted to our veterans in Southern Nevada and goes above and beyond to ensure that veterans receive care. He has always been a remarkable resource to the Congressional Delegation and their staff. Dedicated public servants like John understand the contributions that our Nation's veterans have made and are an indispensable component of the veterans' healthcare system.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor John B. Bright. His long and distinguished career in service to our Nation's veterans is commendable. I applaud him for all his hard work and success.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JOHN L.
CHURNETSKI, WILLARD G.
KRESGE, AND LEE W. ECKERT,
FOUNDERS OF QUAD THREE
GROUP INC. IN WILKES-BARRE,
PENNSYLVANIA

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to John L. Churnetski, Willard G. Kresge and Lee W. Eckert, founders of Quad Three Group, Inc. in Wilkes-Barre, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania.

Quad Three Group is a full service architectural, engineering and environmental science firm that has grown from a single proprietorship in 1967 to a firm employing 70 people today in Wilkes-Barre, Scranton and Pittsburgh, PA.

From 1967 through 1987, the company was a multidiscipline professional engineering firm known as Utility Engineers which served a large number of architectural firms, commercial and industrial clients and municipalities. A large part of the firm's growth came from contracts with the U.S. Department of Defense.

In 1987, Utility Engineers, which had employed 35 people, merged with the largest architectural design firm in the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton area, Pyros and Sanderson, which employed 15 people, to form Quad Three Group, Inc.

Noteworthy regional projects they completed included Blue Cross Blue Shield of Northeastern Pennsylvania headquarters, Luzerne County Community College Technology Building, Penn State University Wilkes-Barre and Hazleton campuses, Martz Trailways Office Building, InterMetro Industries Corporate Headquarters Building, the environmental impact study for the Francis E. Walter Dam Hydroelectric Project, Newport, Rhode Island and Lakehurst, New Jersey Naval Base Utility System Upgrade and the \$85 million Steamtown Mall project in downtown Scranton.

They also completed the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard Base Re-Alignment and Closure project, ten major K-12 and higher education projects, the \$45 million Wachovia Arena at Casey Plaza and the \$30 million Mount Laurel Center for the Performing Arts.

Mr. Churnetski received his bachelor of science in mechanical engineering from Notre Dame University. Mr. Kresge received his bachelor of electrical engineering from Penn State University and Mr. Eckert received his bachelor of science in civil engineering from Penn State University. Between the three founders, they have 127 years of combined engineering experience.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating these three talented men who have distinguished themselves in the engineering world as well as in their northeastern Pennsylvania community. Their commitment to excellence and professionalism has benefited everyone associated with Quad Three Group and has contributed to improving the quality of life in the entire region.

TRIBUTE TO FIREFIGHTER PHIL
PFISTER

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and honor one of my constituents, Charleston firefighter Phil Pfister on becoming the World's Strongest Man.

This award was bestowed after a long and arduous competition amongst 25 athletes from around the world. The ten day contest in Sanya, China included events such as bus pulls, car pushes, stone lifts, and tire turns.

Mr. Pfister, is the first American to win this competition in 24 years. After trailing in the early events, Mr. Pfister focused his strength,

discipline, and determination to win the final five events leading him to the title. His hard work and dedication during training certainly paid off.

Nonetheless, after all his glory of winning this prestigious competition, Mr. Pfister returned to West Virginia a few days later and promptly resumed his daily work of protecting our wonderful city of Charleston as a firefighter.

I am proud to honor Mr. Pfister for his accomplishments in the World's Strongest Man competition and his dedication to the Charleston community through his service as a fireman. West Virginia is truly fortunate to have him as a Mountaineer.

CONGRATULATING KEN SMITH ON
HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE
SANTA ROSA COUNTY SCHOOL
BOARD

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and pay tribute to Ken Smith, who is retiring from the Santa Rosa County School Board after 28 years of service. Mr. Smith's dedication to his community and the education of its children is profound and commendable.

Mr. Smith was born in Bagdad, Florida. He first got active in the school system in Santa Rosa County when he volunteered at his children's schools as a PTA member. After serving as PTA President at Oakhurst Elementary, he was elected to his first term on the Santa Rosa County School Board in 1978. He is currently the second longest serving School Board member in the State of Florida, having served with 17 Board Members and 3 Superintendents. He has held the positions of Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Board 7 times each.

Through the years, Mr. Smith has served on several Board committees, most notably the Vocational Committee, working with the State to acquire the Locklin Technical Center, the first and only vocational center located in Santa Rosa County. He has also been active in the Lions Club, Optimist Club, and the Ferris Hill Baptist Church.

Mr. Smith's effort to better Santa Rosa County schools is admirable. His devotion to the education of the children of his community is inspirational. I congratulate him on his accomplishments and his retirement.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO PRIVATE
FIRST CLASS PHILLIP B. WIL-
LIAMS

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of United States Army Private First Class Phillip B. Williams who was killed on October 9, 2006, in Baghdad, Iraq, while serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Private First Class Williams was assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company,

4th Brigade Troops Battalion, 101st Airborne Infantry Division, Fort Campbell, Kentucky. During his service, Private First Class was decorated with the National Defense Service Medal, the Iraq Campaign Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and the Army Service Ribbon. For his bravery on October 9th, Private First Class Williams was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart, the Army Good Conduct Medal, the Overseas Service Ribbon, and the Combat Action Badge.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor the life of United States Army Private First Class Phillip B. Williams. Private First Class Williams made the ultimate sacrifice for his country while defending democracy and freedom. He was a true patriot who served the United States of America with valor and courage. I am saddened by his loss and I extend my deepest sympathies to his family.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF COLLEGE OF THE OZARKS

HON. ROY BLUNT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay honor to an institution celebrating its centennial milestone this month. College of the Ozarks is an institution of higher learning that for many years was known as "The School that Runs on Faith." This small Christian college, located in the hills near Branson and Hollister, Missouri, has seen its share of struggle and triumphs. But central to the College is its mission of providing a Christian education to young people from the Ozarks who are deserving, yet financially unable to procure such training.

Originally, the purpose of The School of the Ozarks, also known by its students and graduates as "Hardwork U," was to provide an opportunity for a high school education. This mission was pursued without significant change until 1956, when The School of the Ozarks added 2 years of junior college to the 4-year high school program. This format continued until 1964 when the Board of Trustees and the faculty voted to expand the 2-year program into a 4-year liberal arts program. The 4-year college program of The School of the Ozarks began classes for juniors in September 1965. In 1990, the Board of Trustees approved changing the operating name of The School of the Ozarks to "College of the Ozarks."

The distinctive tradition of the work program and the College's commitment to its five-fold mission of academic, spiritual, cultural, vocational, and patriotic growth in its students has attracted and continues to attract famous guests, including U.S. Presidents and First Ladies, U.S. Commanding Generals, Prime Ministers, and other dignitaries who recognize its uniqueness. Today, the College offers degrees in 34 academic areas, and student enrollment is approximately 1,400.

More than ever, our country needs young men and women with these values to serve as leaders. Dr. R. M. Good, who led the school during the Depression years once said, "Investments in humanity bring substantial and

sure dividends." This is why the College has a renewed commitment this centennial year to continue its worthy, distinct mission—a tradition that works. It is these things—a respect for and appreciation of our roots and work tradition, as well as the prospect of a promising future—that College of the Ozarks will celebrate throughout its centennial year.

I want to wish College of the Ozarks another 100 years of service to the region, educating and inspiring students with a curriculum that emphasizes character, faith and excellence.

FARM RESERVOIR ACT

HON. TERRY EVERETT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. EVERETT. Mr. Speaker, I am introducing legislation today, along with my colleagues Reps. JO BONNER and MIKE ROGERS, to assist American farmers in dealing with drought conditions and enable them to increase their farm productivity. The need for on-the-farm drought management has become increasingly evident as farmers and the government struggle to keep ahead of the effects of Mother Nature. In recent years, droughts have had a costly impact on agricultural producers throughout the country, and the current drought conditions for the 2005 and 2006 crop years dramatically underscore the devastating toll these natural disasters have on our Nation's farmers and ranchers. Ad hoc government disaster assistance is often slow and inadequate, and frankly, a better use of tax dollars would be to help farmers take steps to minimize the impact of drought on their crop before the disaster strikes.

The Farm Reservoir Act would provide cost-share assistance to agriculture producers for the construction of reservoirs on their farms. For many farmers, pumping water from streams, lakes and wells during the growing season is not an option. However, by collecting and storing surface water in reservoirs during the off-season, when rainfall and stream levels are typically high, farmers can attain an effective source of irrigation. As population growth places more demand on water resources, we will need new sources of irrigation water. On-farm irrigation storage, which is made possible by my legislation, has the potential to greatly expand agricultural irrigation capacity and make farming more productive. Under the Farm Reservoir Act, cost share assistance would be provided through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) to assist farmers with the construction of reservoirs. The maximum amount of cost share assistance is 50 percent of the cost of the reservoir. In order to qualify, a project must meet EQIP eligibility requirements and be deemed eligible based on its cost-effectiveness. The producer must maintain agricultural production on the land for at least 5 years.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO TONI CLARK-FINUF

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Toni Clark-Finuf for her dedication to the community of Las Vegas.

Toni, known throughout town as "The First Lady of Las Vegas," helped her late husband, Wilbur Clark, establish the prominent Desert Inn Hotel and Casino. The fifth resort on a 2-lane highway, now the Las Vegas Strip, with 300 rooms and a 3-story tower opened on April 24, 1950. On October 23, 2001, Toni watched as her late husband's hotel was reduced to rubble in order for the now-popular Wynn Hotel and Casino to be erected.

In 1958, the Fashion Foundation of America named Toni to its 10 Best Dressed Women in America. She was among a small group who helped high-fashion designs from Paris and New York become stock in the forum shops of Las Vegas.

Toni was also a civic leader who spent seven decades sponsoring and promoting cultural arts as well as other philanthropic work in Las Vegas. Her and her husband donated land to the Catholic Church, now the location of the Guardian Angel Cathedral. Toni and Wilbur traveled throughout the world as goodwill ambassadors, praising the virtues of Las Vegas to various presidents and kings as well as Pope Pius XII. In January 2000, Governor Kenny Guinn presented the honor Nevada Ballet Theatre's Women of the Year to Toni during the Black and White Ball.

Seven years ago, Toni was diagnosed with progressive super nuclear palsy, a rare neurological disease. Sadly, on October 4, 2006, Toni passed away. She was 91.

Toni contributed a great deal to her community. She will truly be missed by everyone she touched. Her service and care helped shape Las Vegas into the thriving metropolitan city known today and we thank her for all her service.

RECOGNIZING THE PHILANTHROPIC WORK PERFORMED BY MEMBERS OF THE MILLENNIUM CIRCLE FUND OF THE LUZERNE FOUNDATION IN WILKES-BARRE, PENNSYLVANIA

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to the Millennium Circle Fund of the Luzerne Foundation in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, the members of which perform philanthropic work that benefits the community in many ways.

The Millennium Circle Fund is a special group of donors whose gifts of \$2,000 play a pivotal role in helping identifying significant unmet community needs.

October 2006 has been designated as Millennium Circle Month in Luzerne County, Pennsylvania. Members of the Millennium Circle Advisory Committee have held a series of

events in recent months to help spread the word about the good works of the organization and to introduce the concept of perpetual giving.

Since 2001, the Millennium Circle Fund has granted \$65,000 to non-profit organizations throughout Luzerne County.

In 2001, a \$10,000 grant was used to present 28 "Follow Your Dreams" motivational presentations to local high school students.

In 2002, a \$10,000 grant was presented to the Diamond City Partnership for downtown Wilkes-Barre revitalization.

In 2003, a \$10,000 grant was presented to Candy's Place, a community support center for cancer patients and their loved ones.

In 2004, a \$15,000 grant was presented to Friday's Child, a Jewish Community Center of Wilkes-Barre program for autistic children in the region.

In 2005, a \$20,000 grant was presented to the McGlynn Center to support educational programs for at-risk children in the city of Wilkes-Barre.

Members of the Millennium Circle Fund are urged to recommend needy causes for grants and then the members vote in order to choose grant recipients.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating members of the Millennium Circle Fund for their unyielding devotion and commitment to the community in which they live.

Members of the Millennium Circle exemplify their motto, "Local People . . . Identifying Local Needs . . . Providing Local Solutions." Clearly, this organization has contributed toward improving the quality of life in north-eastern Pennsylvania and, for that, the entire community is grateful.

CONGRATULATING ANTHONY J.
ZAGAMI ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. I rise today to honor to Mr. Anthony J. "Tony" Zagami on the occasion of his retirement after 40 years of dedicated public service to the legislative branch and to our Nation.

I first met Tony in the mid-1960s, when we both served as pages in the United States Senate and attended the Capitol Page School. Tony continued his service to Congress while working his way through college and law school. He received a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Maryland School of Business and Public Administration, and a Juris Doctor from the George Mason University School of Law. He served in a variety of positions before leaving Capitol Hill in 1990 to become general counsel to the Government Printing Office, the agency responsible for producing the Congressional Record. He worked tirelessly to improve and modernize the organization.

Tony has been active in many professional, civic and social organizations, including the American and Federal Bar Associations, the U.S. Capitol Historical Society, the National Italian American Foundation, the Make-A-Wish Children's Foundation of Greater Washington, and the U.S. Senate Staff Club, of which he served as a board member and counsel. He is

an elected official and former chairman of the U.S. Senate Federal Credit Union Board of Directors, as well as the past president of the Capitol Hill Chapter of the Federal Bar Association.

Throughout his many years on Capitol Hill and at GPO, Tony was known for his dedication and commitment to public service. He has been the recipient of numerous awards and recognitions, among them being listed in *Who's Who in Washington* and *Who's Who in American Law*. His vast experience and knowledge will be greatly missed.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Anthony J. "Tony" Zagami and wishing him the best of luck in all future endeavors.

IN HONOR OF WILLIAM WHALEN

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay my final respects to William J. Whalen III, a great San Franciscan and a great American who died on September 28, 2006. Bill Whalen gave a lifetime of service to our National Parks and our Golden Gate National Recreation Area, GGNRA. Together with Congressman Phillip Burton and environmentalist Edgar Waybum, he preserved and enhanced an area of unsurpassed beauty, ecological benefit and recreation for present and future generations. The GGNRA is a monument to the tenacity of a handful of leaders and interested citizens who struggled to realize their dream.

Bill Whalen's career began as a youth counselor in the Great Smoky Mountain National Park. He moved on to serve as deputy superintendent of Yosemite National Park where he implemented a pioneering mass transit program to reduce traffic congestion.

In 1972, only 32 years old, Bill Whalen became the first superintendent of Golden Gate National Recreation Area, where he embraced the daunting challenge of developing and expanding the GGNRA. He masterminded the immense task before him with extraordinary ability and innovative planning. He invited politicians, environmentalists and residents to collaborate in creating this world-class people's park. Bill created a Citizens Advisory Commission to encourage citizen participation and public-private partnerships, resulting in unprecedented public support and involvement. He transformed Fort Mason Center and launched the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy that raised over \$100 million to implement the GGNRA's plans.

His great success led to an appointment by President Jimmy Carter in 1977 as the youngest director of the National Park Service. He believed that the American people should have a greater role and voice in managing our Nation's parks and directed emphasis on urban parks that had previously been ignored. Bill implemented the Alaska Native Lands Claims Settlement Act that created 44 national parks and doubled the size of national park lands nationwide.

God blessed San Francisco with a handful of extraordinary leaders and a troop of citizens whose teamwork produced the Golden Gate National Recreation Area. Rarely do individ-

uals of such caliber, intellect and determination converge in one place at one time. With the consummate political acumen of Congressman Phillip Burton, the vision of environmentalist Edgar Waybum, the executive genius of Bill Whalen, and the voice, vigilance and support of citizens led by Amy Meyer, the GGNRA flourished and today is the most visited National Park in America.

I offer my deepest sympathy to Mary, Bill Whalen's beloved wife of 47 years, his sons, William IV, Dennis, Timothy and Michael, and his five grandchildren as well as our deepest appreciation for sharing their magnificent husband, father and grandfather with us. As they have lost a loved one, so the San Francisco Bay Area has lost one of its distinguished sons. We will never forget the beauty and riches he brought to our lives as well as to future generations.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO TROOPERS
EDDIE DUTCHOVER, ROSELL
OWENS, AND SHAWN MARTIN

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Troopers Eddie Dutchover, Rosell Owens, and Shawn Martin for their roll in the apprehension of Warren Jeffs, one of the most wanted men in America.

On Monday August 28, 2006, Trooper Eddie Dutchover pulled over a maroon Cadillac Escalade along the northbound lanes of Interstate 15 for a routine traffic stop. Upon questioning the passengers of the vehicle Dutchover noticed discrepancies in the accounts given by driver Isaac Jeffs and his passenger—fugitive prophet Warren Jeffs, leader of the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. Isaac Jeffs had just consented to a search of the Escalade when two other troopers, Rosell Owens and Shawn Martin, arrived.

The three troopers conducted a comprehensive search of the vehicle and discovered: \$67,500 in \$100 bills; at least 14 cell phones; a radar detector; two global positioning system units; laptop computers; half a dozen pairs of sunglasses and three wigs—one blond, one black and one brunette.

Warren Jeffs, formerly of Colorado City, Ariz., was wanted on sexual abuse charges stemming from marriages that authorities say he arranged among minors and was one of the FBI's 10-most wanted. Due to the diligence and investigative prowess of these Nevada State Troopers one of the most dangerous men in America is now in custody and will be held accountable for his actions.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Troopers Eddie Dutchover, Russell Owens, and Shawn Martin. Their actions on the evening of August 28, 2006 relieved the American people of one of its most wanted criminals. These three individuals are excellent examples of the service that America's first responders provide for this country. I applaud their actions and wish them the best in their future endeavors.

CONGRATULATING DR. C. RICHARD HARTMAN AS HE RETIRES AS PRESIDENT AND CEO OF SCRANTON PENNSYLVANIA COMMUNITY MEDICAL CENTER

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Dr. C. Richard Hartman, who is retiring as president and chief executive officer for the Scranton Pennsylvania Community Medical Center.

Dr. Hartman has served at the helm of Scranton CMC since January 17, 1996.

During his tenure, Dr. Hartman made many improvements to CMC including a fully accredited Regional Level II Trauma Center.

He also introduced a comprehensive vascular service line that includes open heart surgery and interventional cardiology.

He established a partnership with Maternal and Family Health Services for women's and children's services. He also established a partnership with the Children's Advocacy Center and he was responsible for a newly expanded emergency department.

Dr. Hartman has kept CMC at the forefront of the many changes and challenges facing health care today. Mr. William E. Aubrey II, chairman of the board of CMC Healthcare Systems, noted that in addition to his responsibilities as President and CEO, Dr. Hartman served on many boards and displayed a dedication to the entire community. He also noted that Dr. Hartman was part of the effort to reform medical malpractice liability, Medicare reimbursement and, most recently, was part of the effort aimed at developing a new medical college in northeastern Pennsylvania.

Prior to serving at CMC, Dr. Hartman was vice president of medicine and academic affairs at St. Vincent Medical Center in Toledo, Ohio; vice president of medical affairs for the Washington DC Hospital Center; professor of Medicine for George Washington University and several posts at the University of Kansas Medical Center including chief of staff; Vice Chancellor of Clinical Affairs and Emergency Services Director.

Dr. Hartman is a fellow of the American College of Physicians. He is board certified in internal medicine and endocrinology and he completed his medical education, residency in internal medicine and fellowship in endocrinology through the University of Kansas Medical Center.

Dr. Hartman's memberships include diplomat status in the American College of Healthcare Executives; president and board member of the American Heart Association, Lackawanna Division and board member of the United Way, the Scranton Everhart Museum and the Hospital Association of Pennsylvania. He is a member of the Pennsylvania Association of Non Profit Organizations, Lackawanna Industrial Fund Enterprises through the Scranton Chamber of Commerce; Keystone College President's Advisory Council; the Lackawanna County Medical Society and the Pennsylvania Medical Society.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Dr. Hartman on the occasion of his retirement. His tireless efforts to improve med-

ical care and treatment has enhanced the quality of life for thousands of people in north-eastern Pennsylvania and, for that, we are all grateful.

RECOGNIZING BERNIE HANSEN'S SERVICE ON BEHALF OF THE GREAT LAKES

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, as co-chair of the House Great Lakes Task Force, I rise today to honor former Chicago Alderman Bernie Hansen for his outstanding service as a member of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission. As a member of this prestigious, binational commission, Alderman Hansen worked tirelessly to support measures that protect the Great Lakes fishery and helped to improve the regional economy and environment. He held several positions on the commission including Chair, Vice-Chair, U.S. Section Chair, and Chair of the Finance and Administration Committee. He retired from the commission earlier this year after 12 years of dedicated service.

The Great Lakes Fishery Commission was established by the 1954 Convention on Great Lakes Fisheries, a treaty between the United States and Canada. The commission is responsible for conducting fisheries research, making recommendations to the government about how to improve fish stocks of common concern, and, most notably, controlling the destructive, invasive sea lamprey. U.S. commissioners are appointed by the President of the United States and serve because they are honored to do so, without compensation.

Alderman Hansen excelled at his job as commissioner. As a sitting Chicago Alderman, his knowledge of the Great Lakes' political landscape was a great benefit to the commission, particularly during the work of the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration, convened under President's Bush's Executive Order for the Great Lakes. He vastly improved communications between the commission and elected officials, he consistently brought new and relevant issues to the commission's attention, and he helped the commission better manage and evaluate its programs. He left a lasting mark on many commission products and programs including the Strategic Vision for the First Decade of the New Millennium and the communications program.

Alderman Hansen is a life-long resident of Chicago and served as Alderman for 20 years, retiring in 2002. He is particularly proud of his role on the City Council for environmental and recycling legislation, which gave Chicago one of the most aggressive and workable recycling programs in the country.

Alderman Hansen is a true asset to Chicago and to the Great Lakes region. Because of his work on the commission, the fishery is stronger, the environment is healthier, the people of the region are better off, and the commission itself is a better institution. I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking him for his remarkable service to the Great Lakes.

INTRODUCTION OF THE TROOPS TO TEACHERS IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2006

HON. THOMAS E. PETRI

OF WISCONSIN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing the Troops to Teachers Improvement Act of 2006, along with Congresswoman Doris Matsui, to improve opportunities for veterans to transition into second careers in teaching. I have been a supporter of the Troops to Teachers program since its authorization and I am proud of its success over the last decade. Since 1994, this program has placed nearly 10,000 veterans in our nation's classrooms.

Troops to Teachers is a unique program that provides veterans with a \$5,000 stipend to help cover the costs of teaching certification in exchange for three years service in a high-need school, which until recently was defined as receiving grants under part A of Title I. To further encourage participants to teach in schools with the greatest need, a \$10,000 bonus is offered to those who agree to teach for three years in a school with 50 percent of students below the poverty level.

This structure has proven very effective in transitioning qualified retiring military personnel into second careers in teaching. Indeed, Troops participants fill several critical needs among educators: eighty-two percent are male, over one-third ethnic minorities, and a majority bring an expertise in science and math to the classroom. In an increasingly globalized economy, these valuable characteristics provide a vital resource for schools across the country.

However, this success is now in jeopardy due to a drafting error in the 2001 No Child Left Behind Act which has inadvertently restricted the number of schools in which participants may fulfill their service. The applicable definition for "high-need local education agencies" for Troops to Teachers was inadvertently changed as it was included in the section of the legislation regarding other alternative programs that had a different definition. This stricter definition requires a higher threshold for "high-need" requiring the school to have either 10,000 students or 20 percent of students from families below the poverty level. However, the original Title I definition of high-need was also retained in the law in the section specifically detailing the Troops program. Essentially, Congress accidentally created two conflicting definitions of "high-need" with regard to this program.

Early on, the Department and the Troops to Teachers program recognized this unintended, change in law and worked together to address it. From 2003–2005, while discussions were being held on how to reconcile this discrepancy, the program continued to operate under the original and intended definition. However, after the completion of a negotiated rule-making process in September 2005, the Department issued a regulation stating that the new, stricter definition was not an error but congressional intent. As one of the leading supporters of this program during the drafting of No Child Left Behind, I can assure my colleagues that this was clearly not the intent of the supporters of the program.

Mr. Speaker, the unfortunate result of this, aside from limiting the number of schools in which veterans may teach and honor their obligation of three-years service in this program, is that it has disproportionately impacted western and rural states. In my home state of Wisconsin, the number of eligible school districts has been reduced from approximately 400 to 11. Not surprisingly, participation in the programs has fallen significantly since the implementation of the new definition last year. This decision, although understandable given the conflicting definitions contained in the law, is a disservice both to veterans wishing to continue their service to our nation as educators as well as children who stand to benefit from their unique expertise.

The bottom line is that we are losing out on great teachers because they cannot accept the certification stipend due to a lack of schools meeting the higher needs threshold in their community. The more we restrict opportunities for participation, the fewer teachers we will be able to bring into public education, and the fewer teachers we will eventually be able to attract to the schools with the greatest need. Further, given the President's recent focus on the need for more math and science teachers, as well as their support for adjunct and alternative routes to teaching programs, we should be removing, not creating, restrictions that prevent qualified teachers in these areas from teaching in our nations classrooms.

Mr. Speaker, with Troops to Teachers, the Department already has an established program that is well-funded and successful. Rather than restricting it, we should be maximizing this program's potential. The bill we introduce today simply clears the confusion surrounding the conflicting definitions of "high-need" and represents a compromise between the two. Specifically, it allows for participants to teach in high-need schools, as defined by having received grants under part A of Title I, if no other school, for which the member is qualified to teach, under the new definition exists within a 50 mile radius of the participant's residence.

This is a pragmatic solution that is perfectly in-line with the spirit of No Child Left Behind while also supporting our veterans and students by maximizing opportunities for participation. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this successful program and restoring the opportunity to "serve again" to our nation's veterans.

TRIBUTE TO MR. TYRUS "T.P."
TURNNEY

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to pay tribute to the late Mr. Tyrus "T.P." Turney and to recognize his many accomplishments. He was truly a man who embodies the American principles of hard work, dedication to one's family and service to one's community. T.P. Turney was born December 17, 1935 in Morgan County, Alabama to Alonzo Fletcher Turney and Alice Pauline Sharp Turney and raised in Northern Alabama. Mr. Turney served 18 months in the United States Army in Germany and worked for 43 years

and three months at a chemical lab in Monsanto, Alabama. In 1976, Mr. Turney was appointed to serve on the Morgan County Board of Education and was re-elected the four following terms. He was a member of the Brewer Lions Club for 17 years and served as an officer for the Morgan County Cattleman's Association. He was a member at the First Christian Church in Hartselle, Alabama where he also served as a Deacon, an Elder and as Chairman of the Board. T.P. Turney was an avid supporter of Gospel music. He had a great love for new book "convention" singing and was, at the time of his death, President of the Morgan County Singing Convention. He was a devoted family man with great respect for his father and mother and the values that they instilled in him at an early age. Mr. Turney loved his country and was proud he had an opportunity to serve in the U.S. Army. T.P. Turney passed away at his home in Valhermoso Springs, Alabama on Sunday, July 23, 2006. He is survived by his wife, Sandra; two sons, Steven Turney of Trinity, Alabama and Irby Gray of Orlando, Florida; three daughters, R. Jeannine McCormick of Gardendale, Alabama, Teresa Burton of Saraland, Alabama, and Tammy Cowan of Okeechobee, Florida; two brothers, Gerald Turney of Valhermoso Springs, Alabama and Carleton Turney of Somerville, Alabama and seven grandchildren. T.P. Turney was an inspiring role model for all of us and I join his family and friends in remembering him today.

FREEDOM FOR LEONICO
RODRÍGUEZ PONCE

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about Leoncio Rodriguez Ponce, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Rodriguez Ponce is a member of the Pedro Luis Boitel Association of Political Prisoners and an opponent of the dictatorship of the Castro brothers. He has committed himself to doing everything possible to bringing an end to the dictatorship and to restoring democracy to that enslaved island. Because of his steadfast belief in freedom, democracy and the rule of law, Mr. Rodriguez Ponce has constantly been targeted by the dictatorship.

According to Prima News, Mr. Rodriguez Ponce was severely beaten in the gulag and confined to a punishment cell in 2002. According to Directorio, he has undertaken numerous hunger strikes while in the gulag to call attention to the gross human rights abuses in Cuba and in July of this year he courageously signed the following statement:

The Pedro Luis Boitel Association of Political Prisoners would like to express, once again, its complete and unconditional support for the measures presented by the commission for a Free Cuba, and we urge the President of the United States of America, George W. Bush, to implement them immediately.

Cuban political prisoners, conscious of the intolerance and lack of political will of the Havana regime, support all measures which pressure the dictatorship to concede to openings with the objective of restoring a demo-

cratic system in Cuba with the rule of law where each Cuban can exercise the inalienable prerogatives and freedoms which they possess by the single fact that they are human beings.

We also support any initiative to offer support and help to the democratic forces that are struggling and resisting from inside Cuba in an unequal and titanic battle against the totalitarian hoards of hate and oppression. In the same way, we are sincerely encouraged by the great effort shown so that Cubans on the island may receive with greater reach and clarity truthful and objective information through Radio and Television Marti.

With the clear conviction and certainty of the importance of depriving the regime of its repressive organs and resources which uphold it and consequently are used to harass citizens, we look with enthusiasm on any action to put an end to such a terrible situation.

We Cubans long for and need democracy, and in order to obtain it we are willing to endure the greatest sacrifices. The government in Havana and its lackeys in the media are determined to distort the content and purpose of the aforementioned Commission. They try to make one think that it is a military threat from our neighbor to the north or an interventionist policy. On the contrary, the measures presented to the President of the United States by the Commission for Assistance to a Free Cuba only seek to accelerate the nonviolent transition to democracy in Cuba, which will have as its protagonists Cubans both in and out of the island.

For all of them, we urge all Cubans who long for the reestablishment of democracy and an open and pluralist society where the execution wall, exit permits, and exile cease to be paths for those who dissent from government policies, to support this initiative which together with others will contribute decisively to bringing down this unjust and undemocratic system which has lasted nearly half a century.

And to the frontmen of Castro's government-run press, it is time to stop manipulating information. Far from attacking and cowardly disqualifying their adversaries, they should have the dignity of providing the people with transparent information in its whole and unadulterated state so that after knowing it, the people may come to their own conclusions, without Machiavellian interference and deliberate gaps. The contrary is deceit and political cowardice.

Mr. Speaker, it takes extraordinary, truly admirable courage to sign a document that demands freedom when the signer knows the Castro brothers' machinery of repression will be unleashed on him and his family. Mr. Rodriguez Ponce is representative of the fighting spirit of the Cuban people: of their rejection of the brutality, discrimination, depravity, and oppression of the totalitarian tyranny. Mr. Rodriguez does not waiver in his conviction that freedom and democracy are the inalienable right of the Cuban people. It is a crime against humanity that Castro's totalitarian gulags are full of men and women, like Mr. Rodriguez, who represent the best of the Cuban nation.

Let me be very clear, Mr. Rodríguez Ponce is imprisoned because he refuses to accept the Castro brothers' dictatorship in Cuba today. Mr. Speaker, we must speak out and act against the abominable violations of human rights, human dignity, and human

freedom just 90 miles from our shore. My colleagues, we must demand the immediate and unconditional release of a Leoncio Rodríguez Ponce and every political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN SILHAVY

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor and pleasure that I stand before you today to recognize the many accomplishments of Mr. John Silhavy. I have known John for many years, and he is one of the most involved citizens I have ever known, especially when it comes to his service to the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM & AW). John has been a member of the IAM & AW for an astounding 45 years, and his contributions to the organization are immeasurable. Though John has been a constant fixture within the organization, he will be retiring from the IAM & AW at year's end. For his efforts and many contributions to the union, John will be honored at a retirement celebration on Saturday, December 9, 2006, at the IAM & AW Local Lodge 1227 in Valparaiso, Indiana.

John Silhavy was born in Valparaiso, Indiana in 1943 and grew up on a farm with his two brothers and two sisters. After graduating from the Valparaiso School System in 1961, he joined the IAM while working for McGill Manufacturing. John's service as an elected member of the union began in 1965, when he was elected Union Steward in the external grinding department. From there, John's dedication to the union and its members continued as he was elected Vice President of Local Lodge 1227 in 1969. With John's commitment to serve, it is only fitting that in 1971, John was elected President of Local Lodge 1227, a position he would hold for an astonishing 23 years. Equally impressive, John also served as a member of the Bargaining Committee from 1970 to 1994.

Aside from his service to the local lodge, John also held many posts with District Lodge 72, a further demonstration of his commitment to the union and its membership. From 1976 to 1994, John served as a Delegate of the Lodge. The respect and trust the union's members have for John has never been questioned, and evidence of this can clearly be seen in the fact that John also was elected to serve as Trustee, Vice-President, and of course, President of District Lodge 72. John held this distinguished position until 1994, when he was elected to the position of Business Representative for District Lodge 90. Since then, John's service has continued, and in 1999, he was elected to his current position, Directing Business Representative for District Lodge 90, a post he will vacate through his retirement on December 31, 2006. Also important to note, in 1996, John served on the IAM Blue Ribbon Commission, which was established with the goal of finding ways to improve the IAM on a national level. John's knowledge of the union and his field, along with his willingness to serve, has made him one of the most well-respected individuals the union has ever seen. His daily presence will surely be missed.

When not engaged within the union, John spends his spare time with those closest to him, his family. A loving husband, father, and grandfather, John's commitment to the union and its members is surpassed only by his dedication to his family. John and his wife, Carolyn, have shared many wonderful years together. They have been blessed with two daughters, Tina and Tammy, and John's stepsons, Robert and James. John and Carolyn are also the proud grandparents of James, Jason, Joel, and Jordan.

Mr. Speaker, John Silhavy has given his time and efforts selflessly to the members of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers for the past 45 years. At this time, I ask that you and all of my distinguished colleagues join me in commending him for his lifetime of service and dedication.

FACTOLA RESERVOIR REALLOCATION AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. STEPHANIE HERSETH

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Ms. HERSETH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 819, the Pactola Reservoir Reallocation Authorization Act, and its House companion H.R. 3967. As has been noted during numerous legislative hearings, markups, and previous Floor proceedings, this legislation is critical to meet the changing water needs of one of South Dakota's largest and fastest growing communities—Rapid City.

Part of this legislative process has included additional consultation with the Bureau of Reclamation, which administers the Pactola Dam and Reservoir, and the Ellsworth Air Force Base, one of the most important entities to rely on the reservoir's water. Accordingly, I would like to submit the following comments to clarify the intent of this legislation.

The Pactola Dam and Reservoir is currently authorized for both irrigation and municipal and industrial use with its costs allocated to reflect those uses. Over time, municipal and industrial uses have increased while irrigation uses have decreased, creating a need to reallocate costs better reflecting current usage. When the Secretary of the Interior needs to reallocate costs from an existing allocation where there are multiple uses to a new allocation with multiple uses in different amounts, Congressional approval is required under the McGovern Amendment.

The current language in the Bill under section 3 could be read to imply that the Pactola Dam and Reservoir is a single purpose, irrigation only project. This interpretation is incorrect as the Pactola Dam and Reservoir remain multipurpose projects. Both S. 819 and H.R. 3967 simply reallocate costs from an older multi-purpose allocation to a new multi-purpose allocation. This is consistent with the McGovern Amendment.

Some additional clarification is also warranted with respect to the needs of the Ellsworth Air Force Base. As already stated, this legislation allocates additional costs to the municipal and industrial component of the Pactola Reservoir effectively making available additional water for municipal and industrial use. It

is anticipated that Rapid City, South Dakota will contract for much of this allocation. Nothing in the legislation should be construed to change in any way the Bureau of Reclamation's and Rapid City's existing obligations to the Ellsworth Air Force Base.

The definite plan report for this project prepared by the Bureau of Reclamation dated June 1952 makes it clear that the Air Force would contribute its share of the capital cost of the project in advance. The Air Force Appropriation for the year 1954 included funds to cover the Air Force share of the project. Accordingly, the Air Force has fully paid its capital contribution and remains entitled to its share of the water without paying additional capital cost. Ellsworth Air Force Base currently has an allocation of 1810 acre-feet per year of water from the project. The Air Force is required to pay only the reasonable cost of transporting, and if appropriate, treating the water it uses. Nothing in this legislation is intended to affect the Bureau of Reclamation's obligation to make that water available to Ellsworth, and nothing is intended to suggest in any way that the Air Force Base should pay more than the reasonable cost of treating and transporting the water.

In entering revised contracts with Rapid City, the Bureau of Reclamation is expected to ensure that Rapid City provides the delivery of water to the Air Force Base at no more than the reasonable cost of treating and transporting the water.

This legislation is not intended to limit in any way the Air Force's ability to make an arrangement with a party other than Rapid City for the delivery of its allocation of water from Pactola Reservoir. There may be private parties or others who are able to build a pipeline for water delivery at lower cost than using Rapid City's distribution system. Making such arrangements is not inconsistent with this legislation or the definite plan report.

Although Rapid City's increased demand for water is a key consideration supporting this legislation, Ellsworth Air Force Base may also be obtaining an additional allocation of water in the event that the Air Force directs new mission to Ellsworth or reconfigures Ellsworth's existing mission in such a way that it needs additional water beyond the amount it has already been allotted. It is Congress' intent that water from Pactola Reservoir is provided at no more than the reasonable cost of treating and transporting the water without regard to the number of missions at Ellsworth Air Force Base.

With these clarifications in mind, I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation. I have appreciated the opportunity to advance this legislation on the House Resources Committee and would like to thank the Chairman and Ranking Member for their support.

TRIBUTE TO MATTHEW VERNON PURBAUGH

HON. HENRY J. HYDE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a young friend of mine, Matthew

Vernon Purbaugh. While Matthew does not reside in my district, he and I share a great love of the English language and a great respect of words in general.

Matthew Purbaugh is an amateur published poet; his poem "Noon" appeared in the International Society of Poets' 2006 edition. He was awarded "Outstanding Achievement in Poetry" and Best Amateur Poet. Matthew was recently invited to submit a new work for "Who's Who in American Poetry."

I share his poem "Words" with you today.

WORDS

What is it in a word

That

Can Stir the heart of men
To bring them to do great and
Courageous deeds?

What is it about words.

That,

Let them have the power
To topple empires of stone and steel?

What is it about words,

That,

Let them have the power
To topple empires of stone and steel?

What is it about words,

That

Let them go deeper than the strongest bul-
let?

What is it about words,

That

Let them hold sway over men
More than their fate
More than the point of a gun?

What is in words?

That

Lets something we have created
Hold sway over us, more than,
Our deepest fears?

And our greatest, Driving Desires?

HONORING DR. MUHAMMAD YUNUS
NOBEL PEACE PRIZE WINNER 2006

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Muhammad Yunus of Bangladesh, winner of the 2006 Nobel Peace Prize.

Dr. Yunus is a visionary in the effort to improve the economies of the developing world. He first began his revolutionary work in 1974 during a widespread famine in his native Bangladesh. Then an economics professor at Chittagong University, Dr. Yunus began experimenting with different ways to help the poor. He struck upon the concept of microcredit, the provision of very small loans to poor individuals to start or improve basic businesses.

Although desperately poor, those to whom Dr. Yunus lent money proved to be dependable clients and could be relied upon to repay their debts. When local banks declined to make small loans of this sort, Dr. Yunus founded the Grameen Bank in order to do it himself. To date, the Grameen Bank has disbursed more than \$5.3 billion to nearly seven million borrowers, most of whom have no collateral.

Dr. Yunus' objective is to rid the world of poverty, and his microcredit concept has indeed showed promising results. Roughly half of Dr. Yunus' clients have achieved basic eco-

nomics objectives: a home with a metal roof; clean drinking water; a sanitary latrine; warm clothes for winter and mosquito netting for summer; about seventy-five dollars in a savings account; and schooling for the children. Upon this foundation, one can envision a world in which the scourge of poverty is banished.

Dr. Yunus' achievements have long been praised; it is fitting that he has finally received the high honor of the Nobel Prize. I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating Dr. Yunus on this occasion.

DIVESTMENT FROM SUDAN

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I want to share with our colleagues my statement from a press conference I hosted with Congressman DONALD PAYNE, and the Genocide Intervention Network today calling on all state Governors to divest from companies doing business in Sudan. Local students from Langley High School and Westfield High School also participated, and I would like to commend them for being so active on this issue.

Thank you all for coming. Today I join my good friend and congressional colleague Donald Payne in calling on all states to divest from companies doing business in Sudan. I want to especially thank the Sudan Divestment Taskforce and the Genocide Intervention Network for working so hard on this issue. This movement started at UCLA and Swarthmore College and has gained recognition over the last 2 years. I also would like to thank all of the students in attendance. So many young people are embracing this issue. I commend them and urge them to remain vigilant.

For over 20 years the government of Sudan engaged in a brutal civil war with the people of southern Sudan. This conflict took the lives of over 2 million people. During this time slavery flourished and terrorism took root in Sudan. In 2003 a conflict in Sudan's Darfur region broke out. The government reacted by unleashing a war on innocent people and began the genocide. That was 3 years ago. Over 400,000 people have died since and over 2 million continue to be at risk.

I led the first congressional delegation to Darfur. I witnessed the horror these people live with day to day and the impact of decades of war. Just last week the United Nations reported fresh ongoing attacks. There is no question that the government of Sudan orchestrated and continues to direct the genocide in Darfur. In one village, 27 of the people that were killed were children under the age of 12. The United Nations is working to try to get desperately needed U.N. troops on the ground but the government of Sudan continues to reject this deployment.

Targeted divestment from companies doing business in Sudan is an action that can make a difference. The genocide in Sudan can be stopped. Every American can do his or her part. The United States Congress and the president have called it genocide. It is now up to the states to apply economic pressure on the government of Sudan and divest from companies doing business in Sudan. We have seen in the past that the government in Khartoum responds to economic pressure.

Last month I called on my home state of Virginia to divest and a state senator will be

putting forth legislation when the General Assembly returns in January. I hope every state will follow the lead of California, Connecticut, Illinois, Maine, New Jersey and Oregon which have already moved to divest from companies doing business with Sudan. Today we call on the remaining 44 states to do the same.

We encourage all governors to review their state's pension funds and identify companies which are doing the type of business in Sudan that is aiding the government and fulfilling this genocide, not helping the people. We ask that they work with their state legislators to enact legislation to divest from those companies.

California just passed a law last month and its model of targeted divestment limits the scope of companies and investments, providing a good plan for action. We need to send a signal to the government in Khartoum that America and the West will not stand silent in the face of genocide—that the women and children in those camps matter as much to us as our own families.

History will judge our willingness to act.

OCTOBER IS NATIONAL SPINA
BIFIDA AWARENESS MONTH

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the more than 70,000 people in the United States currently living with Spina Bifida, the most common permanently disabling birth defect. Each October we recognize these Americans during National Spina Bifida Awareness Month and recognize the importance to work year round to advance research, programs, and policies to meet the needs of this important community.

National Spina Bifida Awareness Month is sponsored by the Spina Bifida Association (SBA), which for more than 30 years has helped those living with and affected by this debilitating birth defect. As co-chair of the Congressional Spina Bifida Caucus, I've had the honor to work with my co-chair, Representative CHRIS SMITH, and SBA to advance Spina Bifida awareness, research, and public health efforts in Congress. Founded in 1973, SBA is the Nation's only organization solely dedicated to advocating on behalf of the Spina Bifida community. Through its nearly 60 chapters in more than 125 communities, the SBA brings expectant parents together with those who have a child with Spina Bifida. This interaction helps to answer questions and concerns, but most importantly it lends much needed support and provides hope and inspiration.

Mr. Speaker, Spina Bifida is a birth defect that can happen to anyone. It is a neural tube defect that occurs in the first month of pregnancy when the spinal column does not close completely. Everyday, an average of eight babies are affected by Spina Bifida and approximately 3,000 pregnancies are affected by this birth defect each year. We do not know the exact cause of it, but research found that if a woman takes 400 mcg of folic acid every day before she becomes pregnant, she reduces her risk of having a baby with Spina Bifida or another neural tube defect by as much as 70 percent.

No two cases of Spina Bifida are ever the same. While Spina Bifida typically causes a

host of physical, psychosocial, educational, and vocational challenges, approximately 90 percent of all babies diagnosed with Spina Bifida live into adulthood, approximately 80 percent have normal IQ's, and approximately 75 percent participate in sports and other recreational activities. With access to appropriate and comprehensive care, people with Spina Bifida can live productive and fulfilling lives. The National Spina Bifida Program—which I helped to create with Representative CHRIS SMITH—plays a critical role in improving the quality of life for people with Spina Bifida. I am hopeful that the House allocation of \$6 million for the program in FY 2007 will be maintained in the final FY 2007 Labor-Health and Human Services-Education bill and thank my colleagues in advance for helping to ensure this important funding is provided.

I thank the SBA for its partnership and its commitment to ensuring that we are doing all that we can to reduce and prevent suffering from Spina Bifida and I congratulate the SBA on the occasion of its 18th annual Roast that took place on October 3rd. I would also like to take this opportunity to commend the SBA of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan for working tirelessly to help the families of those living with Spina Bifida meet the challenges and enjoy the rewards of raising their children.

REMEMBERING THE TRAGEDY OF
FLIGHT 587 ON THE FIFTH ANNI-
VERSARY OF THE FATAL CRASH

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the lives of the 265 people who lost their lives on November 12, 2001 when American Airlines Flight 587 crashed into Belle Harbor in Queens, NY.

November 12 will always be a solemn day in hearts of many, including my own. On that fateful day, when the American Airlines Flight 587 crashed into Belle Harbor Queens and killed 260 passengers and 5 residents, it changed the lives of not just their families, but also multiple communities here and in the Dominican Republic.

There is no rhyme or reason to such events. No amount of time or information will ever answer why it happened. Just two months after the tragedy of Sept. 11, the crash reminded us all of how fragile our lives are and how precious are the moments we share daily with our loved ones.

Leaders and government officials on every level of government have tried to do their best to ease the grief of the families and bring some sense of closure to this tragedy. We have organized economic and social resources for relatives, pressed the NTSB to conduct a thorough investigation, and urged American Airlines to do what is right when settling with families.

There are, of course, still some outstanding issues. Yet today, after a lot of hard work, we will see the unveiling of a memorial that is more than a reminder of an unexplained tragedy, but a beautiful testament to how they lived.

They were like millions of dreamers who come to this land, strapped with hopes for a better life for themselves and their children. These immigrants bring a dynamic energy to this land, achievements that can be seen in every part of society. Yet no matter how successful they are here, no matter how grateful they are to their American opportunities, part of their soul still remain in their homelands.

For thousands of Dominicans, that first flight of the morning—or any flight back to the Dominican—is what they dream about when they are pulling the long hours, working multiple jobs and stretching their paychecks to survive in this city. It is more than their reward for a job well done. It is their chance to enjoy a home cooked meal by midday with those they hadn't seen for months or years. It is their chance to feel complete again—if only for just a couple of days.

It is not easy, but it is a sacrifice that many do daily.

And so, while there is much to be sad about today, we can all take comfort that this memorial will always serve as a reminder of the beauty and strength of the Dominican people. A reminder that the families of Flight 587 have not been crushed by the weight of this devastating tragedy or the adversity that has followed.

A reminder that the spirit of a community did not die that day, but instead, continues to grow and inspire others.

TROOPS TO TEACHERS
IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2006

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, today, my colleague, Mr. PETRI, and I introduced the Troops to Teachers Improvement Act of 2006. I am proud to bring this bipartisan effort before the House. I first learned about the Troops to Teachers program at a California Purple Heart Veterans Day event in my district. Two different veterans who are participating in the Troops to Teachers program spoke with me about the program and how it had offered them the chance to continue to contribute to our country. After serving their country in the Armed Forces, they were now able to teach in high-need school districts.

With a slogan like, "Proud To Serve Again," Troops to Teachers is a unique program that provides stipends to military retirees to obtain the necessary certification for a second career in teaching. Equally important, the program places much needed math, science and special education teachers in the classroom. In fact, over 46 percent of Troops to Teachers participants teach science, a significant improvement over the national average of 18 percent. Additionally, veterans who participate in the Troops to Teachers program fill another void for male and ethnic minority teachers. Right now, our country is seeing 7 percent of the Nation's teaching force leave every year, and we have a need for highly qualified science and math teachers. Simply put, the Troops to Teachers program has never been more important.

First authorized in 1993, the program was designed to help members of the military obtain teaching credentials to teach in large districts with low-income schools. A variety of retired, separated, active duty and transitioning military members and veterans—including disabled veterans—are eligible to participate. Those who are interested are required to have a bachelor's or advanced degree, or if applying for a vocational or technical teaching position, are required to have at least 6 years of experience in the field. The program has successfully recruited and placed almost 10,000 veterans in school districts since then. In my home State of California, 571 veterans are currently participating in the program.

Unfortunately, a small change under the No Child Left Behind Act, NCLB, of 2001 greatly affected where veterans could teach to fulfill their stipend. In some areas of the country, retiring military and veterans interested in the program now have to drive 50 to 100 miles to find an eligible school. This has resulted in a 20–30 percent drop-off in veteran participation, which has seriously hindered this productive and necessary program.

The bill that my esteemed colleague Mr. PETRI and I are introducing today would fix this error. The bill would allow participants to fulfill their teaching obligation at any school that receives title I funding, and is therefore, considered a high-need school. Prior to the NCLB change, participants were able to fulfill their teaching obligation in any school within my district in Sacramento, as they all receive title I funding. However, under the more restrictive rule, only 211 of the 350 schools in my district are eligible. Currently, 61 percent of the high schools in my district are not eligible.

I believe in this program and want to see disabled and retiring military have a second chance at serving our country. Recently, the Disabled American Veterans magazine published a story about William Mimigia, a retired Marine Corps major who proudly served in our military for 31 years. Now a middle school special education teacher, Mr. Mimigia was recently named the 2006 Middle School Teacher of the Year by the California Troops to Teachers program. In the article, he is quoted as saying, "I served with good people who sacrificed so much for our country. I promised myself I would find a way to help them some day. What better way than to help their kids and the kids some of them would never have a chance to have? Teaching lets me do that."

Mr. Mimigia's dedication to serving our country and contributing to future generations is honorable. This program offers our returning veterans an opportunity for them to feel the same sense of fulfillment that Mr. Mimigia expressed. Troops to Teachers brings important math, science, and foreign language expertise to our classroom and fills a critical need among our educators. These characteristics make Troops to Teachers an excellent source of highly qualified educators and my colleague and I bring this bill before the House today to ensure that others can continue to serve our country—whether in the military or in the classroom. I hope that we can work swiftly on this bipartisan bill to do just that, and will continue to support the ideals behind the Troops to Teachers program in the 110th Congress.

TRIBUTE TO LINDA MILLS

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the memory of Linda Mills of Champaign, Illinois who passed away on Thursday, September 14, 2006. A great community leader and active businesswoman, Linda Mills has left a footprint in Central Illinois that will always be remembered.

Linda Mills was dedicated to improving the lives of those in the Champaign-Urbana community for many years. As President of Busey Travel and director of Busey Bank, Mrs. Mills volunteered at the Don Moyer Boys & Girls Club where she served as president for many years. The executive director of this club remembers Linda Mills as an extremely compassionate lady, she was very interested in the education of our kids. Along with the Boys & Girls Club, Mrs. Mills also volunteered her time at the Cunningham Children's Home where the President and CEO of the Home always remembers Linda Mills' heart for the community, helping to meet the needs of children and adults who needed help overcoming the odds. She did so many great things in an unassuming fashion. She was someone who wasn't flashy. So much she did, no one would ever know about.

One longtime friend, Carol Scharlau, has said that Linda Mills had a commitment to building a better community and in such a sincere and caring way. Some people volunteer for different reasons. But with Linda, compassion for others came through in everything she did.

In 2005, Linda Mills and her husband Doug pledged \$10 million to establish the Mills Breast Cancer Institute at Carle Clinic in Urbana. As one who had suffered from breast cancer herself, Mrs. Mills felt very strongly about the research and the help this organization could give to serve others who suffer from breast cancer.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring the memory of Mrs. Linda Mills.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MARILYN MENNELLO

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to Marilyn Mennello of Winter Park, Florida, a wonderful friend, tireless advocate for the arts and community leader in Central Florida. She was a philanthropist who rose to national prominence as an arts patron who inspired all whom she met.

From humble beginnings in Pasadena, California, Marilyn moved to the Orlando area in 1962. Raising two daughters, she was a successful business woman and community activist.

She devoted her time and energy to charity work, especially in the arts. In 1964, she was appointed to the Cultural Affairs Committee and later founded a volunteer group of 101

women to raise funding for the Loch Haven Arts Center, now the Orlando Museum of Art. This group became one of the most successful fundraising organizations in Central Florida benefiting the Orlando Science Center, the Orlando Museum of Art, the American Heart Association of Central Florida and the Florida Hospital. In 1998 she and her husband, Michael Mennello cofounded the Orlando Mennello Museum.

She is credited for discovering the work of Earl Cunningham, a self-taught artist and shop owner from Maine. He displayed his paintings in his St. Augustine shop that included an array of vivid harbor scenes and Americana. Over 15 years, the Mennellos worked to promote him as an important folk artist. The Mennellos presented one of his pieces to President George W. Bush for the White House Collection. Cunningham's art now hangs proudly in the Mennello Museum. An exhibition featuring Cunningham's work will open in the Smithsonian in Washington, DC next year.

Not only was Marilyn Mennello special to art appreciation in America, she was a patriot who dearly loved our country. She was also a loving mother and grandmother to her daughters, Lynda and Sylvia, and her grandsons, Alec and Andrew.

To her devoted husband, Michael, we extend our deepest sympathy.

To Marilyn's entire family, we extend our condolences.

Mr. Speaker, because of Marilyn Mennello's dedication to our Nation and to art in America, I ask all Members of the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in recognizing and remembering her life.

RETIREMENT OF PEARL MOORE

HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. DOYLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my constituent and Oncology Nursing Society Chief Executive Officer Pearl Moore, for her life-long commitment to advancing oncology nursing and helping people with cancer. In January, Pearl will be retiring from her position as the CEO of the Oncology Nursing Society.

Ms. Moore has lived and worked in Pittsburgh all of her life, and we are proud to have her as a member of our community. Ms. Moore received both her Bachelor of Science of Nursing and Master of Nursing degrees from the University of Pittsburgh and has been an adjunct assistant professor at the University's School of Nursing since 1983.

As a pioneer practitioner, Pearl served at Montefiore Hospital in Pittsburgh as one of the nation's first oncology clinical nurse specialists in the nation. Thirty years ago, Ms. Moore and other oncology nurses founded the Oncology Nursing Society and in 1983 she became its CEO. During her tenure, the Oncology Nursing Society has grown to the largest organization of oncology health professionals in 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. The Oncology Nursing Society honors and maintains

nursing's historical and essential commitment to the public good by providing nurses and healthcare professionals with access to the highest quality educational programs, cancer-care resources, research opportunities, and networks for peer support. I commend the Oncology Nursing Society's staff and members, especially Ms. Moore, for all that they do and have done to improve the quality of care for people with cancer.

Ms. Moore's strong leadership and experience in quality cancer care has been recognized by many organizations. In 1996, the International Society of Nurses in Cancer Care presented her with its Distinguished Merit Award in recognition of steadfast and prolific contributions to the art and science of cancer care worldwide. In 2004, Ms. Moore was named a University of Pittsburgh Legacy Laureate, which honors alumni who have been recognized for their outstanding personal and professional achievements. Additionally, Ms. Moore serves as a member of the School of Nursing's Board of Visitors at the University of Pittsburgh, as well as the Advisory Board for People to People, and the Johnson & Johnson Advisory Board for the Campaign for Nursing's Future. All of these honors are extremely well-deserved. I understand that despite all of her professional achievements, she is most proud of her role as beloved grandmother of her two grandsons, Niko and Tony. Niko and Tony are lucky young men to have such an accomplished and dedicated grandmother.

On behalf of the people of Pennsylvania's 14th Congressional District and all people who have or may be touched by cancer, I would like to thank Ms. Moore for her outstanding and innumerable contributions to oncology nursing. As a nurse and leader in the field for almost 50 years, Ms. Moore has made it her life's mission to help others, and she should be applauded for all she has accomplished. Cancer patients and their families have benefited immensely from Ms. Moore's involvement and leadership in cancer care.

I am most grateful to Pearl Moore for her ongoing commitment to assuring access to quality cancer care for all cancer patients and their families, and I wish her all the best on the occasion of her retirement.

TRIBUTE TO NATIONAL ADOPTION DAY

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Saturday, November 18th as National Adoption Day and to celebrate all adoptive families.

On the Saturday before Thanksgiving, courtrooms across the country will come together to dedicate the resources of our judicial system to finalize adoptions of kids currently in the foster care system.

In the five years since National Adoption Day was established, it has truly grown into a national celebration. Last year, 3,300 adoptions were finalized as part of 227 nationwide events.

Unfortunately, despite the declining number of children waiting in foster care, there are still 118,000 children seeking adoption.

This is simply unacceptable. It is our duty as a prosperous nation to unite and ensure these children find safe, loving homes.

Six years ago, my wife and I decided to expand our family and open our home to two foster care children.

Like many adoptive families, we faced many challenges during this process. But these experiences have only made our family stronger.

The adoption process is often complicated and riddled with paperwork, meetings, and home studies—important factors when accessing the ability of a family to care for a new child—but they can also discourage qualified parents from embarking on the adoption process.

The foster care community has been working with Congress and state governments across the country to streamline the adoption process and focus on limited resources, such as requiring frequent home visits and experienced caseworkers.

As Members of Congress, it is our job to be the voice for foster children and make sure their dreams are recognized. We owe it to them to streamline the adoption process to ensure positive outcomes for these kids.

It is important that we continue to make this process more accessible to families so that these children can be welcomed into loving homes.

Despite the obstacles that we still need to overcome, this is a time to celebrate those families that have decided to make a difference in the life of a child.

I commend these families and hope that children across the nation will find a place to call home this Saturday as part of National Adoption Day.

HONORING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF VFW METZGER-CROOK POST 6504

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join in honoring the 60th anniversary of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Metzger-Crook Post 6504 in Waterloo, Illinois.

In 1946, as many of our nation's veterans were returning from serving their country in World War II, a small group of veterans in Monroe County, Illinois began discussions about forming a local VFW post. With assistance from the Adjutant of the neighboring post in Belleville, and after the original group solicited additional veterans for membership, the Metzger-Crook Post was formed and received its charter on April 27, 1946. The name, Metzger-Crook, was selected in honor of the first two Monroe County residents to give their lives in World War II, Monroe Metzger and William Crook.

With 108 names on the original charter, John Mitchell was elected as the first president. Meetings in the early days were held in a variety of locations as the fledgling organization grew in size of membership and array of activities. The first fish fry and picnic was held on July 4, 1946 and was such an instant success that it developed into an annual event.

Post 6504 has provided support for countless individuals and organizations in Monroe

County throughout their sixty years of service. Scholarship recipients, Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts, Operation Uplink and Adopt a Unit are just a few examples of the beneficiaries of Post 6504's support. The post also provides the use of assistance equipment such as canes, walkers and wheelchairs to anyone who asks.

The Metzger-Crook Post 6504 Auxiliary is also celebrating their 60th anniversary this year. In addition to their duties at the post, the Auxiliary has provided support for numerous organizations and individuals. Annual trips to visit nursing home residents, support of cancer research, local veterans hospitals and the children of veterans are just some of the ways that the Auxiliary has contributed to its community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the members of VFW Metzger-Crook Post 6504 both past and present on sixty years of serving veterans and the people of southwestern Illinois.

CONGRATULATING FOCUS: HOPE ON RECEIVING THE 2006 EXEMPLARY INTEREST CONTRIBUTION AWARD

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Focus: HOPE and its wonderful team for being selected to receive the 2006 Exemplary Public Interest Contribution Award (EPIC). Focus: HOPE co-founder Eleanor Josaitis is one of my dear friends and one of the most admirable and inspiring women I know. She has put together an outstanding team of motivated, energetic individuals such as Keith Cooley, who recently became Chief Executive Officer.

The EPIC Award is one of the most prestigious honors recognized by the United States government through the Department of Labor, honoring public interest organizations that support equal employment opportunities and have worked with federal contractors to make these opportunities available for minorities, women, individuals with disabilities, and veterans.

For nearly four decades, Focus: HOPE has been a leading voice for eliminating discrimination and injustice, starting in Southeast Michigan. Following the deadly and violent 1967 Detroit riots, Father William Cunningham and Eleanor Josaitis founded Focus: HOPE, a metropolitan civil and human rights organization committed to "intelligent and practical action to overcome racism, poverty and injustice." The belief is that this goal can be accomplished if the playing field is level and the economic mainstream is accessible to everyone.

Focus: HOPE programs assist individuals from all walks of life in many different ways. Their food distribution program is one of the largest in the nation, serving 43,000 children, mothers and seniors every month. Focus: HOPE career development programs are targeted towards preparing participants for employment in high-demand fields such as engineering and information technology. Since its inception, Focus: HOPE has literally helped thousands of individuals—particularly women and minorities—to become financially independent.

Focus: HOPE is one of the most successful organizations of its kind in this country, and this award is well-deserved. I ask that all of my colleagues join me in congratulating Focus: HOPE on another momentous achievement and in sending the Focus: HOPE team our best wishes for another successful year.

TRIBUTE TO DEAN LENABURG

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to reflect upon the life of a strong and good man, Dean Lenaburg from Valley City, North Dakota.

Dean was my mentor and my friend. Without his role in my life, I would never have been a Member of Congress. Dean passed away earlier this year after a long battle with kidney and liver disease, but his memory will continue to guide and inspire his family and friends in the years ahead.

Dean was easy to look up to—he towered over most of us with a height of 6' 4" and the athletic build of someone who excelled in sports. He easily transitioned from the small town competition of Portland, North Dakota to stand-out on the University of North Dakota football team.

Dean's parents obviously instilled in him an intellectual curiosity and love of learning—that would be an important feature of his character throughout his life.

Dean quickly completed his university years earning his undergraduate and law degrees in just 5 years. He married Mary Trom from Lisbon, North Dakota, and upon graduation they began the adventure of Dean's service in the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Dean would have been the very picture of an FBI agent in those days—tall, strong, smart, and absolutely committed to advancing justice and public safety. Dean was never one to talk about himself, so most of his experiences as an FBI agent were never shared—even with those closest to him. I know, however, he served with honor and that the FBI has never had an agent more trustworthy than Dean Lenaburg.

After several years Dean, Mary and their four young daughters, Kristin, Kathryn, Andrea, and Susan, came back to North Dakota where Dean began his career as a practicing attorney—briefly in Oakes and later in Valley City where he was a fixture in the area's legal community for more than 30 years.

In the course of these years, Dean made many positive contributions to his community, his clients and friends. He profoundly influenced my own life during this time, as revealed in three examples.

In 1971, my father died unexpectedly at the age of 57. Dean handled the estate. To this day, I vividly remember the competent and sensitive representation he provided to our grief stricken family. His example of service furthered my own thinking with regards to pursuit of a law career.

In 1974, Dean supported my application for the Rotary Foundation Award. With his help, I won the scholarship and was able to pursue graduate studies in England.

Finally, Dean and his law partner R. Jon Fitzner allowed me to fulfill my first career

goal—joining them in the practice of law back in my hometown.

Fortunately for me, both Dean and R. Jon had a broad and selfless view of my participation in the law firm. When I became interested in pursuing elected office—first for the legislature and then as a statewide candidate—they were completely supportive.

I believe the value of junior members in many law firms is found solely in the billable hours they generate for the benefit of the firm. Dean Lenaburg and R. Jon Fitzner thought I had something to offer in the area of public leadership. Without their understanding and support, I would never have been able to participate in the political process.

I only hope Dean knew the dimensions of gratitude I will always have for his allowing me to take my shot at elective office. As long as I may remain in public service, I hope and pray my efforts are worthy of the trusting support he provided.

One final aspect of Dean needs noting. He had a first rate intellect and insatiable appetite for learning. He was a lifelong student of history and read extensively. He would positively delight in uncovering a new insight or perspective on the historical development of our State and Nation.

His interest in scholarship led him to extended service on the Valley City Library Building. Our beautiful Andrew Carnegie building and its contents reflect his conscientious contribution to the preservation and enhancement of our community library.

Dean's spirit—including his active mind, his concern for others, and his good humor—lives on in his daughters and grandchildren.

Dean Lenaburg had a life well lived. All of us whose lives he touched feel grateful for having known him and will carry him in our thoughts and memories always.

IN MEMORY OF JON CORBIN, RECOGNIZING HIS SERVICE TO THE HOUSE

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, on November 6, 2006 the U.S. House of Representatives lost an institution in the Members' Dining Room when Jon Corbin, maitre d' until January 2006, passed on.

Jon started his lifelong career working for Congress in 1954 working for Representative Sam Rayburn and the Texas Delegation giving tours of the U.S. Capitol. He also took a second job at the U.S. Senate Post Office from which he retired in 2005. Jon became very popular working with the Texas Delegation and was assigned the position of personal server for Rep. Rayburn in his private dining room until Rep. Rayburn's death in 1961. Jon went on to become the maitre d' of the Main Dining Room, now the Members' Dining Room, in 1968.

Jon loved his job, working with the Members of the House. He was an astute listener and would gather all the facts before answering most questions asked of him, giving well thought out, honest answers and his views on many subjects. He was a huge sports fan and did his research on most scores and the who,

what and when of big weekend games that Members would discuss with him. Jon was extremely knowledgeable about the U.S. Capitol and was considered the dining room staff information source on most questions concerning the Capitol. He was well liked and respected by his fellow workers and by Members of Congress. Jon had a great memory and knew most of the Members, past and present, by name on sight.

All who had the honor to meet and work with Jon Corbin will truly miss him. On behalf of the former and current Members Jon served over more than 50 years, and the entire House community, we celebrate Jon's contributions to this institution and extend condolences to his family and friends on his passing.

GYNECOLOGIC CANCER EDUCATION AND AWARENESS ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2006

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, earlier this week the House of Representatives passed H.R. 1245, known as "Johanna's Law," which will increase the awareness and knowledge of gynecologic cancers. This legislation authorizes a national campaign to increase awareness of gynecologic cancers—including the creation of written information to distribute to the public.

This legislation was named after a constituent of mine, Johanna, who was diagnosed with ovarian cancer in 1997. Johanna was a healthy and active 54-year-old woman who had retired from teaching from Southfield Lathrup High School when she was diagnosed. It was a shock to Johanna and her family when they received the devastating news. Sadly, the cancer was not caught in time and she passed away on August 29, 2000.

Each year, more than 80,000 women are diagnosed with a gynecologic cancer. One-third—or 28,000—of these women will die from the disease. Survival rates drop 50 percent or less if the cancer is not diagnosed early.

Early detection is critical to successfully treat gynecologic cancers. Many symptoms of this type of cancer often resemble non-threatening illnesses. Furthermore, many gynecologic cancers do not have a reliable screening test for the general public to utilize.

It is important that we educate the American public on early detection and prevention of gynecologic cancers. Public awareness is crucial to curbing this deadly disease, and Johanna's Law will help spread knowledge that can save the lives of women that may die needlessly each year. I thank my colleagues for supporting the passage of "Johanna's Law."

HONORING JEROLD L. HARRIS OF WICHITA, KANSAS

HON. JERRY MORAN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jerold L. Harris of Wichita, Kansas. Jerold has served rural America for 43 years in his role with the Farm Credit System. American agriculture will miss this good friend come January when he plans to retire.

Jerold grew up on a farm near Denby, South Dakota, and later attended high school in Gordon, Nebraska. After receiving a Bachelor's Degree in Agricultural Business from Colorado State University in 1963, he went to work for the Farm Credit System, where his positive leadership helped people work together. Jerold embodies a statement he often quotes "There is no limit to progress when people work together."

During Jerold's 43 years of service, one accomplishment truly stands out. The Western Farm Credit Bank in Sacramento, California entered into a joint management agreement with the Farm Credit Bank of Wichita in January 2002. The Board of Directors named Jerold as President and Chief Executive Officer. Under this agreement, Jerold combined the operations of these two banks while developing and implementing a strategy to merge the two banks and form a new bank, U.S. AgBank, FCB, which would be headquartered in Wichita, Kansas.

The 1980s were a difficult decade for American agriculture. During part of this time Jerold was the Chief Executive Officer of the jointly managed Ninth District Federal Land Bank Association and the Ninth District Production Credit Association that served four states. Even in those difficult times, Jerold was able to bring people together, under a common objective, to produce results.

During his long and distinguished career, Jerold held numerous leadership positions within the Farm Credit System. He has served as a loan officer, an appraiser, a supervisor and a manager, a follower and a leader, but always with the same dedication and achievement.

Jerold has also provided distinguished service at the national level, serving 15 years as a member of the Farm Credit System Presidents Planning Committee, during three of which he served as Chairman. Jerold also served 11 years on the Board of Directors of the Federal Farm Credit Banks Funding Corporation, with three of those years as Chairman. He also serves on the Board of Directors of the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives (NCFC) and is a member of the NCFC Executive Council.

Jerold is also a familiar face here in Washington, DC. He has represented the Farm Credit System by testifying before both the House and Senate Agriculture Committees on numerous occasions, and always demonstrated a deep understanding of the issues and provided excellent input on the decisions facing congressional committees.

Jerold's honesty and integrity, keen intelligence, and an understanding of people has won him respect from his peers, workers, and the farmers and ranchers he has represented and served. His accomplishments speak volumes about his dedication to agriculture. He

has worked tirelessly to improve agriculture and rural America, and his leadership will be truly missed.

It is a great pleasure for me to share his impressive record of service with my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BEN CHANDLER

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. CHANDLER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to explain my absence from the House of Representatives on November 13 and 14th.

During that time, I was in Quebec City attending the NATO Parliamentary Assembly annual meeting. In the beginning of the 109th Congress, I was honored to receive your appointment to serve as a member of the assembly.

The NATO Parliamentary Assembly is vital in fostering an open dialogue on security issues between member nations. A main responsibility of the assembly is to serve as Congress's check and oversight of NATO executive policy decisions. Our delegation was able to meet with representatives from other NATO countries to further our diplomatic relationships. As you know, our security, both economic and military, is increasingly dependent upon building these relationships. For this reason, I consider it prudent to participate as much as possible in NATO Parliamentary Assembly meetings.

Please let the RECORD show that had I been present I would have voted in the following ways: rollcall vote 517, "yes"; rollcall vote 518, "yes"; rollcall vote 519, "no"; rollcall vote 520, "yes"; rollcall vote 521, "yes"; rollcall vote 522, "yes"; rollcall vote 523, "yes."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall vote 511, which was on the question of passage of H.R. 4772, the Private Property Rights Implementation Act, I inadvertently voted "no". This bill was considered on September 29, 2006, and approved by the House on a vote of 231 to 181.

My intent was to vote aye on rollcall vote 511, and I wish the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD to indicate my support for this legislation.

TRIBUTE TO CORAN JAMES AS A
POINT OF LIGHT

HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, Whereas, I have worked with Coran James in various activities for more than 10 years in education, political and social projects. In addition to her role as

a community activist, she is a dedicated mother of a daughter who graduated from Spelman College. As an educator she recently retired from service as the principal of Freedom Academy High School in Brooklyn. Coran James went to Brazil in the Summer of 2005 as the recipient of the Fulbright Award Winning Principals Exchange Program. She was the host for the Brazilian principals in New York. Several of her students were also sponsored on an exchange program to Jordan in the Middle East after winning an award for technology.

Whereas, Coran James, the community leader, is a member of the National Alliance of Black School Educators, NABSE; Association of Black School Educators of New York, ABENY; New York Urban League; NAACP; Net Generation of Youth-New York Metro Coordinator; YWCA; Central Brooklyn Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission and the 100 Women for Congressman Major R. Owens.

Whereas, Coran James is a mentor for the Youth Congressional Award Program in Brooklyn. The Congress of the United States, through The Congressional Award Program, recognizes the initiative, achievement, and excellence of young persons who accomplish high goals in voluntary public service with the presentation of a Congressional Award by a member of Congress. Coran is a wonderful helper assisting Brooklyn youth to achieve personal goals in order to earn the Youth Congressional Award. Coran received the Congressman MAJOR R. OWENS' "Youth Service Award for Outstanding Efforts in Developing Youth Leaders for the 21st Century," in September 2005.

Whereas, Coran James has been a supporter of numerous education and civic organizations over the years and is a leader in the community. She exhibits a superior level of personal integrity, motivation, intelligence and emotional control. She works extremely well as a productive leader and team member, has excellent problem solving abilities and can relate to others in an effective manner. On the occasion of her retirement Tribute on Friday, November 17, 2006, I am pleased, on behalf of the constituents of the 11th Congressional District to salute Coran James as a Point of Light for all Americans.

TRIBUTE TO REAR ADMIRAL
WILLIAM G. TIMME

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Rear Admiral William G. Timme on the occasion of his retirement from the United States Navy on November 30, 2006, a service he entered as a Midshipman at the Naval Academy in 1974.

Over the past four years, Admiral Timme has performed superbly as the Naval Sea Systems Command's Deputy Commander for Undersea Warfare. His energy, drive, leadership, keen understanding of national goals, objectives, and priorities, and ability to develop innovative approaches has left an exceptionally positive impact across the Undersea Warfare enterprise.

Admiral Timme's personal efforts have successfully steered the Undersea Warfare direc-

torate through trying workforce downsizing initiatives, delivered significant cost savings, and improved submarine maintenance planning. Most importantly, he directly supported key Team Submarine strategic goals in maximizing operational days for submarines and deep submergence vehicles, improvement of modernization fits, optimization of submarine fleet engagements, and preparation of personnel to meet future technical and management challenges.

Admiral Timme has worked closely with senior shipyard personnel to develop process changes that have resulted in reduced costs and increased efficiency at our nation's public and private shipyards. These include major initiatives in coordinating work across the Naval Shipyards and strengthening vital areas such as the innovative One Shipyard concept.

After the USS *San Francisco* grounding incident in January 2005, Admiral Timme developed the repair and transit procedures that directly help save this high value, and operationally critical platform for the Navy. Additionally, in his role as submarine safety certifying official, he has presided over the certification process for sea trials and unrestricted operations of over 47 submarines and manned submersibles.

The son of a career military officer, Admiral Timme attended Rutgers University for one year prior to entering the Naval Academy in 1974, graduating with distinction in 1978 with a degree in mechanical engineering. Following commissioning and completion of nuclear power school and basic submarine training, Admiral Timme reported to USS *Archerfish*. He served as Reactor Controls Assistant and Weapons Officer, completing three deployments. In March 1983, Admiral Timme was assigned to the Personnel Exchange Program with the Royal Navy in the United Kingdom. He served on the staff of Flag Officer Submarines at the Commander-in-Chief Fleet Headquarters in Northwood, England. Admiral Timme completed Submarine Officers Advanced Course in October 1985, earning the L. Y. Spear Award as class honorman. He then reported as new construction Engineer Officer on the PCU *Tennessee*, where the ship earned the Navy Unit Commendation during the shipyard construction period.

Later, Admiral Timme served at the Bureau of Naval Personnel in Washington, D.C., as the submarine department head detailee. During this tour he earned a masters degree in Engineering Management from The Catholic University. He relieved as Executive Officer of USS *Chicago* in April 1991, earning the Battle Efficiency "E" award. Subsequently, he served as Flag Secretary and Senior Aide to Commander Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet.

In March 1995, Admiral Timme relieved as Commanding Officer, USS *Helena* and conducted two western Pacific deployments, which included numerous exercises and operations, including supporting the USS *Constellation* Battle Group. Subsequently, USS *Helena* conducted an interfleet transfer and began a Depot Modernization Period at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. In May 1998, he reported to the New Attack Submarine Program as the Warfare Requirements and Fleet Liaison Officer. In June 2000, Admiral Timme relieved as the Program Manager for Undersea Weapons, responsible for all of the Navy's torpedo programs.

Admiral Timme's awards include the Legion of Merit Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Navy Commendation Medal, Navy Achievement Medal and several unit and service awards.

The Department of the Navy, the Congress, and the American people have been well served by this dedicated naval officer. Admiral Timme's professionalism, superior technical and managerial expertise and determination to support the Fleet are unrivaled. He has been instrumental in ensuring that the U.S. Submarine force is, and will remain, the world's most preeminent in the 21st century. He leaves an enduring legacy.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise today to express appreciation to Admiral Timme for his outstanding service to the nation. I also want to recognize and thank his wife Suzette and his daughters Savannah and Morgan for their loyalty and support. No one in our armed services can do their job without the love and understanding of their loved ones. They have shared equally in all of Admiral Timme's success. On behalf of the citizens of Virginia's 8th district, I would like to thank Admiral Timme for his steadfast service to his country over his illustrious 28-year career and wish him and his family fair winds and following seas in his retirement.

GERALD W. HEANEY FEDERAL
BUILDING AND UNITED STATES
COURTHOUSE AND CUSTOM-
HOUSE

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of a bill to name the Federal building and United States Courthouse and Customhouse in Duluth, Minnesota, in honor of Judge Gerald W. Heaney. Judge Heaney was appointed Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the 8th Circuit on November 3, 1966. After 40 years of distinguished judicial service, Judge Heaney retired on August 31, 2006.

Judge Heaney was born on January 29, 1918, in Goodhue, a rural community in the southeastern part of Minnesota. As a child growing up in a farming community, Judge Heaney learned the value of a close family, honesty, and hard work. These qualities have marked not only his personal life but also his life as a public servant. He was educated at the College of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minnesota, and received his law degree from the University of Minnesota in 1941.

Gerry Heaney is a decorated World War II veteran. He was a member of the distinguished Army Ranger Battalion and participated in the historic D-Day landing at Normandy. He was awarded the Silver Star for extraordinary bravery in the battle of La Pointe du Hoc in Normandy, France. He also received a Bronze Star and five battle stars.

At the end of the war, Judge Heaney returned home and entered private practice in Duluth. During that time he was instrumental in improving the state education system, and served on the Board of Regents of the University of Minnesota. He was instrumental in helping the Duluth school system develop a

payroll system that equalized the pay for both men and women.

In 1966, President Johnson appointed Judge Heaney to the 8th Circuit Court of Appeals. In that capacity, Judge Heaney has been a champion of protecting the rights of the disadvantaged. He is devoted to making sure that every person has an equal opportunity for an education, a job, and a home. He firmly believes the poor, the less educated, and less advantaged deserve the protections provided by the United States Constitution.

As a hard working, well-prepared, and fair-minded jurist, Judge Heaney left his legal imprimatur on school desegregation cases, bankruptcy law, prisoner treatment, and social security law.

His public service is discerned by industry, brilliance, and scholarly excellence. His compassion and dedication to our most disadvantaged are unparalleled.

It is fitting and proper for Congress to designate the Duluth, Minnesota Federal Building and United States Courthouse and Customhouse in honor of Judge Gerald W. Heaney.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill.

DUTCH AMERICAN HERITAGE DAY

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, today, on Dutch American Heritage Day, I rise to recognize the history of warm relations the Dutch and American people have shared for over 400 years and also to celebrate the many contributions of Dutch Americans to U.S. history. Americans of Dutch descent include Theodore, Franklin, and Eleanor Roosevelt, whose courage and strength helped lead the American people through difficult times in our Nation's past. Their ranks also include President Martin Van Buren, Walt Whitman, and Thomas Edison—and Senator Arthur Vandenberg who helped shape U.S. foreign policy after World War II.

The Dutch were deeply involved in the exploration of the New World and the settlement of the early colonies. In 1609, while searching for an easy route to Asia, Captain Henry Hudson discovered the river that bears his name. Soon after, Dutch settlements began springing up throughout and beyond modern-day New York State into what is now Connecticut, New Jersey, Rhode Island, Delaware, and Pennsylvania. Today, Americans of Dutch descent live in concentrations in Michigan, California, Florida, Iowa, Pennsylvania, Washington, Texas, Ohio, and Illinois.

The ties between the United States and the Netherlands date back to the earliest days of the Republic. It was the Dutch who first recognized the United States of America and The Hague was home to the first American embassy in the world. The American people will not soon forget how on November 16, 1776, as the American warship, Andrew Doria, entered the harbor of the Dutch island of St. Eustatius in the West Indies, the fort fired a salute, recognizing the flag of the United States of America—the first of such acts by any country. This salute heralded the begin-

ning of a relationship that would persist, unbroken, for three centuries.

Today we also celebrate the people of the Netherlands who have stood beside us in good and bad times since the War of Independence. The Dutch granted the U.S. Congress its first loan, helping to sustain a struggling Nation at one of its lowest points; in the wake of Pearl Harbor, the Dutch were among the first nations to align themselves with the U.S. and they fought proudly with the 82nd and 101st Airborne Divisions in the occupied Netherlands during the Second World War. Today, the Dutch stand by us still in the ranks of NATO and among our troops in the ongoing efforts to combat terrorism in Afghanistan.

Dutch American Heritage Day is a special day not only because it celebrates the heritage and contribution of Americans of Dutch descent but because the day is also a celebration of a friendship that has helped shape and sustain our Nation from the days of its infancy. We are thankful to the people of the Netherlands and we look forward to continued strong ties and goodwill for years to come.

HONORING EMILY J.T. PEREZ

HON. ALBERT RUSSELL WYNN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. WYNN. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, September 23, I attended the funeral services for Army Second Lieutenant Emily J.T. Perez, an outstanding young officer who gave her life in service to her country while patrolling near Najaf, in southern Iraq, on September 12th of this year.

Emily J.T. Perez was a 23-year-old woman of great determination and distinction from Prince George's County, Maryland, who rose to the top of her class at Oxon Hill High School. Seeing her tremendous potential, I had the honor of nominating her for an appointment to the United States Military Academy at West Point. Emily rose to the top of her class to become the first minority female Command Sergeant in West Point's history.

With sadness I acknowledge her for another distinction; she is the first female graduate of West Point to die in Iraq. Lt. Perez, a platoon leader assigned to the 20th Support Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, perished when an improvised roadside device exploded underneath her Humvee.

Emily Perez was a young woman of many talents, with a passion to serve others. Born in Heidelberg, Germany to a military family, she decided early on that she wanted to be a soldier. Her family moved to Fort Washington, Maryland, and Emily enrolled at Oxon Hill High School and became Wing Commander of the Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps. At Peace Baptist Church in the District of Columbia, she started an HIV-AIDS ministry to educate young people on the dangers of the life-threatening disease. She also volunteered with the Red Cross at an HIV-AIDS peer education center where she shared stories of those living with depression and the stigma of AIDS.

Emily was a sprinter. She ran the third leg for the Army's 400-meter relay team and "She

was the cream of the crop," according to her former high school track coach Nathaniel Laney. Emily had a wonderful voice and performed in the Military Academy's gospel choir, acting again as a shining example to her fellow women cadets.

"She was resilient. Her spirit was calm. She was resolute. She believed . . . the real tragedy is not to live while you are alive," said her godfather, Reverend Michael Bell, pastor of the Peace Baptist Church.

Mr. Speaker, today I honor the spirit of an outstanding young American patriot taken from us much too soon, United States Army Second Lieutenant Emily J.T. Perez.

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, November 16, 2006 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

DECEMBER 6

2:30 p.m.

Judiciary

Administrative Oversight and the Courts Subcommittee

To hold oversight hearings to examine implementation of the Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act (Public Law 109-8).

SD-226