

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.

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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."

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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.

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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.

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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