

15, 2006. Josh's legacy and contributions will live on in the hearts and minds of many for generations to come, and we are forever grateful for his service to our country.

Born and raised in Rowland, North Carolina, Josh embodied the true spirit of a dedicated and determined leader. He graduated from South Robeson High School in 1999 and joined the Army shortly after his graduation from the University of North Carolina at Pembroke in 2003. Described as a natural leader by his family, Josh served as a platoon leader in the infantry and had recently become an executive officer of his unit. He had been deployed to Iraq in August after serving in Afghanistan.

As someone who grew up in a military family, Josh always dreamed of serving in the Army as a paratrooper. In addition to his uncle, Dexter Clark, his older sister Ronnean Collins, and his two grandfathers, served in the military.

Josh loved his family and is survived by his parents, Ronnie and Regina Deese; his sisters, Ronnean Collins and Myra Deese; his 2-year-old son Jacob and his girlfriend Andrea Anderson.

President Dwight D. Eisenhower once said, "If we make ourselves worthy of America's ideals, if we do not forget that our nation was founded on the premise that all men are creatures of God's making, the world will come to know that it is free men who carry forward the true promise of human progress and dignity." Indeed, Josh's life was the embodiment of this. He was a man who was known by persons of all races, ages, and religions for both his kind deeds and his loving, unselfish heart.

Mr. Speaker, dedicated service to others combined with dynamic leadership has been the embodiment of Josh's life. May we all use his wisdom, selflessness, and integrity as a beacon of direction and a source of true enlightenment. Indeed, may God bless to all of our memories the tremendous life and legacy of First Lieutenant Joshua Deese.

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT
GENERAL LARRY J. DODGEN

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to LTG Larry J. Dodgen, Commanding General of the United States Army Space and Missile Defense Command/United States Army Forces Strategic Command. General Dodgen is also the Commander of the Joint Functional Component Command—Integrated Missile Defense.

General Dodgen, a native of New Orleans, Louisiana, began his military career after graduating from Louisiana State University in 1972. Over the last 34 years, he has received numerous decorations and awards for his distinguished duty, including the Defense Distinguished Service Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Legion of Merit with two Oak Leaf Clusters, the Meritorious Service Medal with Four Oak Leaf Clusters, the Army Commendation Medal, and the Army Achievement Medal.

Mr. Speaker, I had the opportunity to work with General Dodgen during his 2-year tenure as the Commanding General of the U.S. Army

Aviation and Missile Command, which is located at Redstone Arsenal in North Alabama. He served in that capacity from September 2001 through December 2003. During his tenure in North Alabama, General Dodgen worked to ensure that the entire North Alabama defense community was engaged in efforts to meet the future needs of the Army and the warfighter. Our work together continued after General Dodgen assumed the Command at SMDC. I applaud his commitment to the Army, Redstone, and to our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, after 34 years of honorable service in the U.S. Army, Lieutenant General Dodgen is retiring from active duty. On November 30, 2006, the North Alabama community held a celebration in his honor. I rise today to join them in their tribute and to thank him for his many years of service. I wish General Dodgen the very best for the future.

H.R. 5441, FY2007 HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS CONFERENCE REPORT

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5441, the Homeland Security Appropriations Conference Report.

As a member of the Homeland Security Subcommittee, it has been an honor to work with Chairman HAL ROGERS and with our Ranking Member MARTIN SABO who is retiring from Congress at the end of this session.

Congressman SABO has served our country with honor and distinction throughout his distinguished career in the House of Representatives.

I have had the privilege to serve with him on the Budget Committee and for the past 4 years on the Appropriations Homeland Security Subcommittee.

As the ranking member on the Budget Committee, MARTIN fought hard for fiscally responsible budgets and funding priorities that would enhance the quality of life of all Americans.

As the ranking member on the Homeland Security Subcommittee, he has been a true champion and advocate for real and effective security for our Nation.

He has led the fight, for example, to protect our ports, our aviation system, and our chemical plants.

Mr. Speaker, Congressman MARTIN SABO is a gentleman Congressman and a respected Member of the House. He has been the voice of calm and reason in a process that has had the potential to be partisan and acrimonious.

It has been a genuine privilege to serve with him in the U.S. House of Representatives and particularly on the Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittee.

I will miss him, and this House will miss him. MARTIN, I wish you the best in the future.

Mr. Speaker, the conference report before us makes several improvements to the House-passed bill and is a testament to Congressman SABO's leadership. The increased funding for Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) grant funds is essential to cities like Los Angeles that continue to be potential terrorist targets. UASI grants are badly needed by our local law enforcement officers who are the first line of

defense in a disaster or terrorist attack. These funds are critical to local efforts to prevent, prepare, respond and recover from acts of terrorism or mass disaster. I am happy that the UASI grants are funded in the conference at the House level of \$770 million, \$13 million or 2 percent above 2006.

I am pleased that this conference report has increased funding for fire grants to \$662 million; this is above the House-passed level and \$14 million (2 percent) above 2006. Included in the grant money is \$115 million for hiring additional personnel under the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Firefighters Act (SAFER Act). These funds are critical to firefighters such as those in my state of California. The funds will help fire services obtain additional personnel, equipment and training to better protect the American public.

The conference report also increases port security grants to \$210 million. This is \$173.25 million above last year's level. While this is an improvement over previous years' funding, it still is insufficient to meet the needs identified by the Coast Guard to adequately secure our ports. With only 6 percent of containers entering our seaports and fewer than half of our ports having radiation portal monitors, much work remains to be done.

I am pleased also that the conference report includes my report language on unaccompanied alien children, detention standards, alternatives to detention, increasing Customs and Border Protection operations at Ontario International Airport, and bill language that prevents the Department of Homeland Security from moving forward with its potentially dangerous plan to privatize key immigration officer positions at the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services. I am thankful that this inherently governmental work will continue to remain the responsibility of trained and experienced Federal employees directly accountable to the Department and not to the bottom line of a private company. I am also pleased that Senate language limiting the tenure of the university centers of excellence was not included in the conference report.

Nevertheless, Mr. Speaker, I also have a few concerns about this conference report. First, I am disappointed and greatly concerned that this bill's report expresses support for the expansion of the 287(g) program which allows State and local law enforcement officers to perform immigration enforcement functions. Many local law enforcement officers have stated that if they are required to enforce Federal immigration policies it would hamper their ability to successfully fight crime in their respective communities.

Secondly, I am concerned about certain provisions regarding chemical plant security. Preventing the Secretary of Homeland Security to disapprove a security plan based on the presence or absence of a particular security measure, undermines the Secretary's authority to require meaningful and comprehensive security measures.

Furthermore, shielding from public discourse information submitted on security plans, treating the information during court proceedings as if it were classified material, and making scrutiny of the implementation and enforcement of the security requirements the sole purview of the Secretary, prohibits the needed transparency and oversight of a system intended to provide security for all Americans. Finally, I am concerned that allowing the Secretary to approve alternative security programs

established by private sector entities, Federal, State, or local authorities may allow the Secretary to pre-empt State laws that impose more stringent requirements.

Mr. Speaker, in spite of these concerns, I believe the passage of this conference report is important to our efforts to improve the safety of our Nation and the American people. As Chairman ROGERS has said on numerous occasions, those who seek to do us harm only have to do their job right occasionally. We have to do our jobs to protect America 100% of the time. This is a step toward that important goal. I urge my colleagues to support this conference report, and fund these efforts to protect our Nation.

WELCOME TO THE FIRST LADY OF
AZERBAIJAN, DR. MEHRIBAN
ALIYEVA

HON. SHELLEY SEKULA GIBBS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Ms. SEKULA GIBBS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to echo the sentiments of my colleague from Tennessee and also extend the welcome of the House of Representatives to the First Lady of Azerbaijan, Dr. Mehriban Aliyeva, to Washington.

The House of Representatives recognizes the strategic relationship the United States has with Azerbaijan. We know that its troops stand with us in Kosovo, Afghanistan and Iraq, that it supports our efforts toward combating global terrorism, and that it plays a key role in providing a secure and dependable energy supply to the West. The Caspian Sea Republic is rapidly modernizing, in large part due to its offshore sector and the opening earlier this year of the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan gas pipeline and Baku-Erzurum natural gas pipeline. The country experienced 26 percent growth in 2005 and is expected to surpass 30 percent growth this year. This phenomenal growth is allowing Azerbaijan the opportunity to make significant investments in its future, in many respects. Here in the United States, and I might add in my home district, in particular, we are acutely aware of the importance in investing in our own future through efforts to develop new sources of energy for our own use and those of our global friends.

We also recognize Azerbaijan as an emerging democracy that is working hard to improve the social, political and economic opportunities of its predominately Muslim population. As an aspiring NATO and EU member, as well as a member of the Council of Europe, the largest governmental human rights organization calling for its members to harmonize human rights protection laws and regulations and compelling compliance with them, the success of initiatives in these areas is an example for other Caucasus and Central Asian countries.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take the opportunity of the visit of Azerbaijan's First Lady to draw special attention to the strides it is making in areas of particular importance to me as a doctor. Not only is the First Lady of Azerbaijan an elected member of the Azerbaijani Parliament and chair of its Azerbaijan-U.S. Interparliamentary Friendship Working Group, but she is a UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador, President of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation, the

largest regional nonprofit NGO in the Caucasus, and herself a Moscow-trained ophthalmologist.

As a doctor myself, I am particularly aware of the opportunities and responsibilities that we have as physician leaders to take medical knowledge and apply it in ways that benefit the greater good. I applaud the way Dr. Aliyeva has used her training and respected position for philanthropic and charitable works through the Heydar Aliyev Foundation in the areas of education, health care, science, humanitarian aid, international relations and culture. I am aware that the Foundation has been intimately involved in the construction and refurbishment of Azerbaijani hospitals and the international exchange of new medical technologies and commend those efforts.

I've also learned that Houston, too, has played a direct role in advancing medical technology in Azerbaijan and the region through various programs over the years with Texas Medical Center institutions. In 1998, Baylor College of Medicine's world-renowned heart surgeon Dr. Michael DeBakey traveled to Baku to assess the country's cardiovascular needs and the state of its health care. I understand that Dr. DeBakey met with President Aliyev in Baku after having previously met him in Houston, and I would imagine that Mrs. Aliyeva personally appreciates the importance of sharing medical technologies across borders as her husband is a heart attack survivor himself.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to welcome First Lady Mehriban Aliyeva to Washington on behalf of the House of Representatives. I commend a fellow doctor, parliamentarian, wife and mother on her personal commitment to advancing health care and women's initiatives in her country and the Caspian Region. Welcome to Washington, Dr. Aliyeva.

TAIWAN INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON DEMOCRACY AND CONGRESS

HON. DIANE E. WATSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, an international symposium on democracy and congress will be held in Taipei, Taiwan from December 8 through December 10. The symposium is sponsored by Democratic Pacific Union (DPU). DPU is a Taipei-based non-governmental organization founded in 2005. Its goal is to enhance dialogues and exchanges among members of parliaments from countries around the Pacific Rim.

This year's symposium will include participants from Chile, Republic of the Philippines, El Salvador, Honduras, Tuvalu, Canada, New Zealand, Australia, Malaysia, the United States, and Republic of China. The symposium's agenda will include panel discussions on the legislative process, presidential systems, congressional elections, and other parliamentary issues.

Mr. Speaker, the symposium will also enable U.S. participants to learn more about Taiwan, our unique bilateral relationship, and regional issues of common interest. I strongly urge my colleagues to support the symposium and to attend the symposium, if at all possible.

I offer my best wishes and congratulations to Taiwan Vice President Annette Lu who has been the driving force behind this international symposium on democracy and congress.

IN HONOR OF SALLY LILIENTHAL

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, with deep admiration and affection I pay my final respects to a great San Franciscan and global citizen, Sally Lilienthal, who died on Oct. 24 at the age of 87. I join my constituents in honoring her vision, her courage, her leadership and her immense contributions to building a safer and more peaceful world. A magnificent role model, she lived her conscience and practiced her ideals each and every day.

In 1981, at the height of the Cold War—as superpowers stockpiled nuclear weapons, the international arms trade boomed and intercontinental ballistic missiles grew more lethal—Sally Lilienthal founded the Ploughshares Fund. Based in her living room with few resources and her determination to inform the public about the issues and the danger, it became an enormously influential foundation dedicated to the prevention of nuclear, biological and chemical weapons of war.

She supported researchers, policy activists, and scientists in the United States and overseas who were trying to change government policies and was a vital figure in shaping the anti-proliferation agenda during the Cold War. As of now, the fund has given away more than \$50 million, mostly for startup research and is the largest grant-making foundation in the United States focused exclusively on peace and security issues.

Sally Ann Lowengart was 12 when her family moved to San Francisco. She graduated from Sarah Lawrence College and returned to San Francisco in 1940. During the 1950s, she studied sculpture at the San Francisco Art Institute. Elegant and artistic, she could have spent her life comfortably moving in San Francisco's art and social circles. Instead, she turned her attention and her might to the issues of war, peace, and social justice.

Together with her husband Philip Lilienthal she founded the Northern California Committee of the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund in 1970. She served on the regional ACLU board. She cofounded Amnesty International Western Region and was an early supporter of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines that, while she was vice chair, resulted in a global treaty and a Nobel Peace Prize in 1977. In 1990, the United Nations Association bestowed to her its Eleanor Roosevelt Humanitarian Award.

In addition to her work for peace, for social justice, and the arts, Sally Lilienthal was an active member of our community supporting progressive policies and politicians. For 30 years I was blessed with her support, her advice, and her friendship.

I extend my deepest sympathy to her children; Laurie Cohen, Liza Pike, Thomas Cohen, Matthew Royce, Sukey Lilienthal, Andrea Lilienthal, and her 11 grandchildren. I hope it is a comfort to her family that so many people mourn her passing and will hold Sally in their hearts forever.