February has been the designated time for honoring the Black contribution. It serves as a reminder that we must be ever vigilant of the Black experience in this country, and the African roots of our shared concepts of freedom, hope, and justice. This year's theme for Black History Month is fittingly, ''From Slavery to Freedom: The Story of Africans in the Americas.''

As Chair of the Congressional Ethiopia and Ethiopian American Caucus, I am particularly interested in the history of Africans in this country. My experience with this community has taught me that the history of the Diaspora is as complex and divergent as the communities themselves. Our challenge this month is educate ourselves about the Diaspora and to understand how African Americans embrace and explore their heritage.

This February, let us broaden our understanding of the myriad ways people of African descent arrived here—beyond the slave trade. Let us be honest and open about the impact that slavery has had on African descendant communities today, but let us also celebrate the African contribution to our culture in spite of it. The best way to honor the African American experience is to educate oneself and one's community. I urge you to use this month to expose yourselves to the ways in which the African American experience has already been made a part of your life.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.J. RES. 20, FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS, FISCAL YEAR 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2007

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as we consider this important legislation to highlight several matters of critical importance within the funding allocations for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, NASA.

Over past years several of my colleagues and I have worked hard to ensure that NASA fulfills its commitment to its science mission, as well as its commitment to the excellent men and women who daily carry out NASA's cutting-edge missions. In particular, I want to acknowledge and pay tribute to my constituents at NASA Ames Research Center, one of the world's premier research facilities located in my district in California's Silicon Valley.

As we pass this continuing resolution, which we are forced to do by the inaction of the previous majority leadership, it is important that NASA recognize and adhere to the clear intent expressed by both the House and Senate under H.R. 5672, the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for fiscal year 2007, and the accompanying committee reports—House Report 109–520 and Senate Report 109–280. I would like to highlight some important points from these bills.

Within the House-passed version of H.R. 5672, Congress included the following points:

Recognizing the disproportionate reduction proposed by NASA to its research and analysis budget, a recommended $50 million increase was included.

Following NASA's misguided attempt to discontinue funding the Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy, SOFIA project, the House concluded that should NASA's internal review of the program result in a recommended continuation of the program, NASA should accordingly reallocate funds to SOFIA.

Building on the priorities expressed by the House, the Senate Appropriations Committee subsequently included the following high-priority points:

In addressing NASA's management of the SOFIA project, Senate Appropriators stated:

''The budget request eliminates funding for the SOFIA mission in fiscal year 2007. Since the budget was released, NASA has completed a review of its decision and has concluded that there are no scientific or technical reasons for canceling the mission . . . This calls into question the credibility of the science directorate in making budget decisions and determining scientific priorities.

''The Committee expects NASA to come up with a plan to fund the SOFIA mission in 2007 from within available funds through a reprogramming request subject to section 505 of this act. In determining the funding strategy for this program, the Committee directs NASA to follow the recommendations of the National Academy of Sciences Decadal survey in Astronomy and Astrophysics when setting mission and budget priorities. Missions that are ranked higher in the surveys should be given priority over missions that are ranked lower in priority with launch dates.''

To ensure the protection of NASA's critical workforce, the current moratorium on involuntary reductions in force, RIF, was extended from its current expiration date of March 2007 until the end of fiscal year 2008.

These provisions are unequivocal and must be honored by NASA as such. In particular, given Congress's stated and clear questioning of NASA's guidance of the SOFIA project to date, NASA should refrain from making significant changes to SOFIA without Congress first having the opportunity to review their proposals.

Additionally, it is critical that the existing prohibition on the transfer of funds between major accounts is observed consistent with the NASA Authorization Act of 2005. The reprogramming of funds across accounts has in the past been used to change funding allocations within NASA in ways that counter the legislative intent of Congress.

Mr. Speaker, NASA and its institutional capabilities are a critical component of our Nation's high-technology research and development infrastructure and must be protected for the sake of our future innovative capability. Ensuring these provisions passed by the Congress are honored as part of this fiscal year 2007 funding process will ensure NASA's continued excellence.

MATH AND SCIENCE INCENTIVE ACT OF 2007

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 5, 2007

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, today I introduced with Congressmen EHLERS the Math and Science Incentive Act of 2005. This legislation would pay—over the life of the loan up to $10,000—the interest on the undergraduate student loans of math, science or engineering majors who agree to work 5 years in their respective fields. The idea for this legislation came from the book Winning the Future, by my friend and our former colleague Newt Gingrich. America's dominance in science and innovation is slipping, but this legislation can help combat this trend.

We are facing today a critical shortage of science and engineering students in the United States. Unfortunately, there is little public awareness of this trend or its implications for jobs, industry or national security in America's future. We need to make sure we have people who can fill these science and engineering positions. In an era in which students are graduating college with record levels of debt, I am hopeful that this incentive will be a significant motivator in attracting or retaining math, science and engineering students.

How do we know that our Nation is slipping in the areas of math, science, engineering and technology? Americans, for decades, led the world in patents. But we can no longer claim that lead. The percentage of U.S. patents has been steadily declining as foreigners, especially Asians, have become more active and in some fields have seized the innovation lead. The United States share of its own industrial patents now stands at only 52 percent. Foreign advances in basic science now often rival or even exceed America's. Published research by Americans is lagging.

Physical Review, a series of top physics journals, last year tracked a reversal in which American scientific papers, in two decades, dropped from the most published to minority status. In 2003—the most recent year statistics are available—the total number of American papers published was just 29 percent, down from 61 percent in 1983.

Another measuring stick: Nobel prizes. From the 1960s through the 1990s, American scientists dominated. Now the rest of the world has caught up. Our scientists win now about half of the Nobel prizes, the rest go to Britain, Japan, Russia, Germany, Sweden, Switzerland and New Zealand. According to the National Science Foundation, the United States has a smaller share of the worldwide total of science and engineering doctoral degrees awarded than both Asia and Europe.

This is a real problem. In 2000, Asian universities accounted for almost 1.2 million of the world's science and engineering degrees. European universities—including Russia and eastern Europe accounted for 850,000.

North American universities accounted for only about 500,000. Since 1980, science and engineering positions in the U.S. have grown at five times the rate of positions in the civilian workforce as a whole.

The Math and Science Incentive Act augments the recently approved National Science and Mathematics Access to Retain Talent grants—National SMART grants. National SMART grants provide grants of up to $4,000 to Pell Grant-eligible students in their third and fourth academic year of undergraduate education at a 4-year, degree-granting institution of higher education. The student must be pursuing a major in the physical, life, or computer sciences, math, technology, or engineering or a foreign language. The student must also have a grade-point average of at least 3.0.

SMART grants are an important tool for attracting and retaining lower-income students in

the critical areas of math, science and engineering. The Math and Science Incentive Act will build on the SMART grants by providing a direct incentive to middle class students who may not meet Pell grant eligibility. We critically need to attract and retain the best and brightest to study these challenging fields and this loan forgiveness may just make the difference for some.

I urge my colleagues to join me in cosponsoring this legislation to help America continue to be the innovation leader of the world.

RECOGNIZING THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF BOY SCOUT TROOP 10

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 5, 2007

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is an honor for me to rise today to recognize the 80th Anniversary of Boy Scout Troop 10.

In 1927, Boy Scout Troop 10 was founded and chartered to First Baptist Church Pensacola in Pensacola, Florida. Today, eighty years later, it is recognized as the oldest active Boy Scout troop in the Boy Scout Gulf Coast Council, which serves the Florida panhandle and lower Alabama.

Over the course of its history, thousands of young men have made the trek with Troop 10 under the leadership of twenty-nine Scoutmasters, and eighty-six have achieved the Eagle Scout rank, The Boy Scouts of America's highest honor.

As trustworthy, loyal, courteous, brave, and reverent young men, Troop 10 exemplifies everything which scouts stand for, and the very ideals that all Americans should strive to attain as our duty to God and this great Nation. From the beginning, Troop 10 has won the hearts and high respect of the communities of Northwest Florida and their presence will continue to do so.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to recognize the 80th Anniversary of Boy Scout Troop 10 and its service to God and Country.

HONORING THE LIFE OF PERCY LAVON JULIAN

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 34, to honor Percy Julian, an American research chemist of international renown, and a pioneer in the chemical synthesis of medicinal drugs. During his lifetime, Percy Julian received more than 100 chemical patents.

Percy Julian attended elementary school in Birmingham and later moved to Montgomery, Alabama where he attended high school. After high school, Julian applied to and was accepted into DePauw University in Greencastle, Indiana. At DePauw, he began as a probationary student, having to take higher level high school classes along with his freshman and sophomore course load. He was named a member of the Sigma Xi honorary society as well as a Phi Beta Kappa member.

Upon graduation from DePauw in 1920, he was selected as the class valedictorian. Julian was awarded the Austin Fellowship in Chemistry and moved to the distinguished Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts, where he achieved straight A's, finished at the top of his class and received a Masters Degree in 1923.

Percy Julian proved himself to be a brilliant chemist. Among his many patents, most notable are—a foam fire retardant, a treatment for glaucoma and a low-cost process to produce cortisone. His innovative approach to chemistry helped to make important medicines more accessible to millions.

Please join me in supporting H. Con. Res. 34, honoring the life of Percy Lavon Julian, a pioneer in the field of organic chemistry research and development and the first and only African American chemist to be inducted into the National Academy of Sciences.

IN MEMORY OF DR. DAVID RAY REDDEN

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 5, 2007

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. David Ray Redden who passed away at 85 years of age on Sunday, January 21, 2007.

Dr. David Ray Redden lived a long, beautiful life. He was born on December 22, 1921 in McKinney, Texas. He served in World War II from 1944–1946 as a Technical Sergeant (4th Corps-5th Army), and earned the Bronze Star for his bravery while serving as a Forward Sound Ranging Observer in Italy's Po Valley Campaign. Once the war ended, Mr. Redden completed his Bachelor of Science degree in Biology at the University of North Texas, which is where he met his wife, Ruth Hillin, who attended Texas Women's University at the time. The couple was married three months after their first date, and they were married for 58 years.

Mr. David Redden obtained his M.S. degree from the University of North Texas, and then received a Ph.D. from Baylor University Medical School and Graduate Research Institute. Due to his passion for research and teaching, Dr. Redden joined the UNT faculty after teaching Physiology at Baylor University College of Dentistry, where he remained for 30 years. As the Chair of the Pre-Professional Advisory Committee, he was involved in the placement of students into medical, dental, and veterinary schools. He was also a member of the adjunct faculty at the UNT Health Science Center in Fort Worth, Texas. Dr. Redden achieved many honors while at UNT, which include: Outstanding Professor, Outstanding Service Award, Distinguished Teaching Award, Outstanding Educator, and Outstanding Alumni for Excellence in Biological Sciences. After his retirement, he was named Professor Emeritus.

Not only was Dr. Redden an intelligent and meritorious professor, but he was also a talented duck carver, skilled hunter, and loyal church member. Most importantly, however, was his love and devotion to his wife, children, and grandchildren.

Dr. David Redden is survived by his wife, Ruth Hillin Redden; five children: Pam Drenner, Mike Redden, Ken Redden, Ron Redden, Chris Redden; eleven grandchildren: Bryan and Matt Drenner, Corbett Redden, Collin, Sean, Jennifer, Matthew Ryan, Tracy, Shannon, Kevin and Derek Redden; and two great-grandchildren Riley and Price Webb.

As a professor of mine, Dr. Redden was not only a mentor, but also an inspiration to me, and I was honored to represent him in Congress. I extend my sincerest sympathies to his family and friends; he will truly be missed by all.

COMMENDING THE CHAMBER OF SOUTHWEST LOUISIANA AND MEMBERS OF THE ZETA PSI LAMBDA CHAPTER OF ALPHA PHI ALPHA FRATERNITY

HON. CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR.

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 5, 2007

Mr. BOUSTANY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend some of my constituents in Lake Charles, Louisiana for their efforts to help complete the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Memorial. As a result of the hard work of the Chamber of Southwest Louisiana and members of the Zeta Psi Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, a model of the historic Martin Luther King, Jr. National Memorial will make Lake Charles its first stop on a national tour. The goal of the tour is to raise additional funding for the memorial, which is set to be erected on the National Mall in Washington, DC in 2008.

Because of Dr. King's courage, words, and actions, America is stronger and stands as a beacon of hope for people around the world. The monuments on our National Mall tell the story of our achievements as a country, but they also tell the story of our struggles. It is only fitting that Dr. King be honored with a memorial to provide a living history of his role in the civil rights movement.

Dr. King did not just talk about character, he lived it everyday. His leadership changed American life, and his legacy will continue to endure. Today, I commend the leadership of the Chamber of Southwest Louisiana and members of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity for doing their part to ensure that Dr. King's legacy endures.

IN HONOR OF LITTLETON AND JANE MITCHELL

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 5, 2007

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of Littleton P. Mitchell and Jane E. Mitchell, two of the leading civil rights advocates from my home state of Delaware. On February 6th, Howard High School of Technology will kick off a fundraising drive to establish a chair in honor of the Mitchells at the University of Delaware. I cannot think of two more worthy recipients.