

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN RECOGNITION OF THE HONORABLE JUSTICE KEVIN HAUGH

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2007

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor of Justice Kevin Haugh, a guardian of the people and the Constitution of Ireland.

In 1966, Justice Haugh earned his position as a barrister, and in doing so became part of a 450-year legacy. During his tenure as a barrister, he was involved in a multitude of high-profile criminal cases and developed the experience and legal acumen to serve as both a prosecutor and defense attorney. Due to his exemplary legal knowledge and professional judgment, Justice Haugh was appointed to Senior Counsel in 1983. His experience in the practice of law made Justice Haugh an invaluable member of the counsel, and for thirteen years he served his profession with grace and dignity.

After he was called to the bench in 1996, Justice Haugh was a Circuit Court Judge for nearly a decade and became an active member of the United Nations Administrative Tribunal. His knowledge made him a perfect candidate for this position, and he worked with other international representatives dealing with cases regarding employment and staff members within the United Nations.

In 2005, Justice Haugh was appointed to the High Court Justice. As a servant of the people, Justice Haugh determined the validity of any law in regards to the Irish Constitution, while overseeing all appeals of civil matters from the Circuit Court. A year later, he was appointed to the newly established position of Chairman of the Garda Síochána Ombudsman Commission. As the Chairman of the Garda Síochána, Justice Haugh oversaw Ireland's National Police Force by helping ensure openness, transparency and accountability within the department.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Justice Haugh for his work in preserving the foundation of rights for all.

NATIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR
DAY—SUPPORT

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I wish to express my full support for a National Medal of Honor Day to be reserved every March 25th as called for by H. Con. Res 47.

Reserving March 25th as National Medal of Honor Day, is a significant way to reemphasize the immeasurable sacrifices of veterans who have already been honored by receiving the Congressional Medal of Honor, the highest

military decoration. Too often, especially in times of peace, the sacrifices of veterans are not valued and remembered. It is particularly important to continuously acknowledge the blood, sweat, and tears they shed so that all Americans could live in a section of the world where freedom reigns. It has been quoted, "Freedom is not free." We all know that is true.

This measure would offer a good opportunity to educate young people about the importance to strive for excellence, the value of hard work, and the sacrifices of veterans.

This is dear to me not only because I'm a veteran, but because very soon the Tuskegee Airmen will be presented with the Congressional Medal of Honor. I am extremely proud to say that I sponsored a bill that was passed by this great body and signed by the President to bestow this honor on them. The Tuskegee Airmen will go down in history for being a part of a select and distinguished group of African American veterans to receive this honor. I'm grateful for their service and to this body for acknowledging their bravery and heroism. At this time, I would also like to pay homage to all other veterans who have been in receipt of this highly esteemed award.

While there are men and women on the battlefield as I speak, I urge my colleagues to take this opportunity to join me in supporting a National Medal of Honor Day, which will recognize past, present, and future outstanding veterans in receipt of the Congressional Medal of Honor.

NATION'S LOOMING FINANCIAL
CRISIS NEEDS A BIPARTISAN SOLUTION

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2007

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, as a nation we are moving closer and closer to the edge of the financial cliff. A few steps forward and we will start a free fall into a canyon of debt which will be base for our country. Is that what we want for our children and grandchildren?

Of course not. The baby boomers start retiring at the end of this year. That will bring unprecedented levels of entitlement and other program spending.

If left unchanged, in just a few decades there will be little money for transportation, education, health care, medical research, cancer research, veterans, the environment, and all the programs our constituents depend on us to provide. We cannot continue to keep borrowing and mortgaging our future to countries like China that carry our debt.

Young people should be clamoring for Congress to act. They have the most to lose from inaction. It's their future that is being mortgaged. Everyday we don't act, we increase the debt burden they must repay in future years.

I have a bill which offers an opportunity to change the current course. Senator VOINOVICH and I first introduced the SAFE Commission last summer. And we reintroduced it in January.

Our country is in trouble—and we can't afford to wait much longer to take action.

The bipartisan SAFE Commission will put everything on the table—entitlements, other federal spending, and tax policies—as it comes up with recommendations.

It will hold town hall meetings across the country to explain the financial crisis we face and discuss this issue with the American people.

We need to listen to them. I believe that the American people, given the hard facts from a bipartisan panel, will understand that solving this problem will take sacrifice from everyone.

The commission's recommendations would then come to Congress and we would take an up or down vote on the proposals in their entirety, similar to the BRAC process.

Mandating congressional action on the panel's recommendations is what makes this commission unique.

There also is the opportunity for Congress to put forward an alternative proposal to reach the same goal at the same time the SAFE Commission recommendations are voted on.

Holding out some hope that Congress could act on its own, the legislation also has a provision that if Congress were to pass a measure making substantive changes in entitlement spending and taking other action to get our financial house in order before the SAFE Commission acts, then the commission would cease to exist.

But if Congress doesn't act, no later than 17 months from the organization of the commission, it would be required to vote—up or down—on the SAFE Commission's legislative proposal.

I have written a number of Dear Colleagues and personally talked with a number of my House colleagues about joining this effort—more than once.

While 20 Republicans have signed on, including the Minority Leader JOHN BOEHNER, this effort has fallen on deaf ears on the other side of the aisle.

I have sent a personal letter to each of the Blue Dog Coalition members appealing to them to step forward and join me in focusing national attention on this critical issue.

I have also written to the media and public opinion leaders a number of times over the last year. While there have been a few columnists who have written op-eds, overall I have been disappointed that there hasn't been more reporting about the grave consequences of inaction.

I certainly understand how this issue is competing with other national priorities, including the war in Iraq and the larger war on terrorism. But I fear that if we can't get Congress to move this year, there will not be another opportunity for a couple years with the 2008 presidential campaign already heating up.

As the father of five and grandfather of 12, the fiscal challenges facing the nation with the

• 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.

baby boomers' retiring strike me as much more than a routine policy discussion.

Without action, just what kind of future are we leaving to our children and grandchildren?

In a word—bleak.

We owe a debt to previous generations—our parents and grandparents—for the sacrifices they made to make our country what it is today.

Likewise, our generation must find the resolve so that generations to come will have a secure economic future.

America needs our help and I welcome your support.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT OF THE
HOUSE FOR THE GOOD FRIDAY
AGREEMENT

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 13, 2007

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the ideals of the Good Friday Agreement, and to celebrate the efforts of the English and Irish governments to create a more peaceful and prosperous Ireland.

Signed on Good Friday in 1998, the Agreement marked a watershed moment in the history of Eire's glorious but at times tumultuous history, and laid out specific provisions and benchmarks for all involved parties. The Agreement created programs and transgovernmental institutions to engender dialogue across borders and parties; deconstructed obstructionist legislation on both sides of the English Channel; reformed security and law enforcement institutions; and set timetables for disarmament.

More than just an accord between governments, the Agreement signaled a new commitment to the life and liberty of the Irish people. The Agreement established new civil and human rights standards; ensured the dignity of all communities by promising new cultural and economic standards; and aspired to create relationships based on principles of peace and nonviolent conflict resolution.

The electorate, and indeed the world, has responded in kind. The Good Friday Agreement was embraced by citizens in the Republic of Ireland as well as Northern Ireland. National governments around the world have applauded the efforts to create a lasting peace, and local governments throughout the United States have enacted resolutions in support of the Good Friday Agreement. I applaud the City of Cleveland for their support of Peace in Ireland, and I am hopeful that one day we will look back on the Good Friday Agreement, having reached our destination of a peaceful Ireland with a thriving population united in their efforts to cultivate that peace.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring the pursuit of a lasting peace in Ireland. It is my eternal hope we one day may have a response to William Butler Yeats' pained question: "Too long a sacrifice can make a stone of the heart. O when may it suffice?"

DEPOSITORY INSTITUTION COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT INVESTMENTS ENHANCEMENT ACT—SUPPORT

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I wish to express my support for the Depository Institution Community Development Investments Enhancement Act, an act to reinvest in communities across America.

As you may recall, I strongly pushed for the Empowerment Zone legislation that was passed in the 90's. I'm supporting this act not only because it reminds me of the ambitious Empowerment Zone legislation, but because legislation like this sends Americans a message that Congress believes community development is important. In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and other natural disasters in the Gulf Coast, a bill that supports redeveloping those communities impacted and other distressed communities across America is vitally important. People who live in those areas have suffered hardships with the loss and damage to homes, loss of jobs, and shut down of businesses. It is imperative for Congress to let them know that we care about that loss and to show them just that by supporting this act.

Further, this act would allow certain financial institutions the opportunity to support community re-development. Support from the financial institutions is a critical element. Financial institutions interested in revitalizing communities should have the tools to do so.

In the district I represent, I have witnessed the benefits of revitalization first hand. As a result of the Empowerment Zone, the Harlem area is thriving. Homes have been renovated and purchased. Businesses have opened and are thriving. Some jobs have been created. All of this brings hope to people. It is particularly important to continuously acknowledge the blood, sweat, and tears they shed so that all Americans could live in a section of the world where freedom reigns. It has been quoted, "Freedom is not free." We all know that is true.

HONORING GEORGE A. ROCHE

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2007

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise before you today to honor the outstanding career of George A. Roche, one of Maryland's most successful business leaders and strongest community advocates.

George Roche retired as Chairman and President of T. Rowe Price Group, Inc. in December of 2006 after nearly 39 years with the firm. After earning his B.A. degree from Georgetown University in 1963 and his MBA from Harvard Business School in 1966, he joined T. Rowe Price Associates in 1968, serving as an analyst primarily covering natural resource industries. He performed much of his work for Mr. Thomas Rowe Price, who

started the New Era Fund in 1969. The New Era Fund was designed to invest in inflation-resistant companies with a natural resource emphasis. Mr. Roche proceeded to serve as President and Portfolio Manager of the New Era Fund from 1979 to 1997. He also served as the Chief Financial Officer of T. Rowe Price Associates from 1984 to 1997 and Chairman and President of T. Rowe Price Group, Inc. from 1997 to 2006.

Mr. Roche currently serves on the Board of Directors of McCormick and Company, Inc. In the past, Mr. Roche served on the Boards of the Greater Baltimore Committee, the Baltimore Downtown Partnership, The Walters Art Museum, the Enoch Pratt Library and the Roland Park Country School. Mr. Roche also was Chairman of the Alexis de Tocqueville Society of the United Way of Central Maryland from 1999 to 2000.

Mr. Roche demonstrated the ideals of corporate leadership, continuing the success of the company with a fervent commitment to ethics and integrity. Under Mr. Roche's leadership, Baltimore-based T. Rowe Price Group grew to a company-record \$244 billion in managed assets in 2005. He was also named the recipient of the Loyola College of Maryland's Selling School of Business and Management Business Leader of the Year Award in 2005.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join with me today in honoring George A. Roche, a man whose deep commitment to the business community, community groups and civic and philanthropic organizations has improved the quality of life for thousands of residents of the State of Maryland.

IN RECOGNITION OF DALE
LYTKOWSKI

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2007

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Dale Lytkowski, to acknowledge his extraordinary accomplishments and unparalleled leadership of the Cleveland Society of Poles. Since 1923, the Cleveland Society of Poles has endeavored to expand awareness of Polish heritage through committed civic, social, and philanthropic participation. Under the leadership of former President Lytkowski, the Society's role in Northeast Ohio has become ever more pertinent to contributing to the region's diverse cultural background.

Throughout his life, Dale Lytkowski has shown tremendous dedication to his wife, Dolores, three daughters, and three granddaughters. He has demonstrated this same dedication to his community. As a certified public accountant, he has been active in guiding numerous professional organizations. He held national leadership positions with CPAmerica and CPA Vision. As a resident of Southeastern Cuyahoga County, Mr. Lytkowski exemplifies civic participation. He has selflessly risen to meet the needs of area citizens through his involvement with the Marymount Hospital's Board of Directors and Community Advisory Council, the City of Independence Planning Commission, the Union Club of Cleveland, and the Northeast Ohio Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society.

Over the past eight years, Dale Lytkowski has served as membership committee chairman, treasurer, and vice president for the Cleveland Society of Poles. In 1998, Mr. Lytkowski served as 48th president during the organization's 75th anniversary. In honor of this momentous occasion, Mr. Lytkowski generated \$5,000 in support of the University of Virginia Kosciuszko Chair of Polish Studies campaign. Currently, this program affords students the opportunity to cultivate a deeper appreciation for Poland's past, present, and future.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Dale Lytkowski, a worthy recipient of the Polish Heritage Good Joe Award. He is an incomparable representative of the achievements of Polonia in Northeast Ohio. Mr. Lytkowski continues to inspire others through a life of integrity, responsibility, and commitment to his heritage.

LAUNCH OF THE CAMPAIGN FOR A
VIOLENCE FREE, STRESS-FREE
AMERICA, AND THE UNVEILING
OF THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION
OF HUMAN VALUES

HON. ALBERT RUSSELL WYNN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2007

Mr. WYNN. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to bring to your attention the launch of the Campaign for a Violence Free, Stress-Free America, and the unveiling of the Universal Declaration of Human Values on March 28, 2007 at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, in Washington, D.C. The evening will include comments and peace meditation by the Art of Living founder, His Holiness Sri Ravi Shankar, cultural musical performances, and a keynote and statement by distinguished leaders.

As you may know, the effect of stress and violence can cause serious problems for one's health and life. The Mayo Clinic says stress can cause headaches, chest pain, heart problems, high blood pressure, as well as anxiety and depression.

The effects of violence are equally serious. According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, children who are victims of violence show behavioral problems such as aggression towards others, depression, sleeplessness, lowered self-esteem, poor school performance and even suicidal tendencies.

The Art of Living Foundation works with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, participating in a variety of committees and activities relating to health and conflict resolution. The organization also conducts a number of educational programs, and with the International Association for Human Values, carries out various humanitarian service projects.

I would like to encourage all members to support this worthwhile event.

RECOGNIZING RETIRING EL
CERRITO SERGEANT WAYNE D.
MANN

HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2007

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Sergeant Wayne D. Mann of the El Cerrito Police Department who after 28 years of service will retire and close his career with the department.

Sergeant Wayne D. Mann has unselfishly served his community with great dedication and pride, and will leave the department with special recognition and with the highest commendation. Sergeant Mann was born in Detroit, Michigan on May 6, 1957, and was raised in Martinez, California, where he later received an Associate of Arts Degree from Diablo Valley College.

He began his career in law enforcement with the Martinez Police Department, as a Police Cadet, in 1976. Among his positions in the department, he was a Police Dispatcher, and a Volunteer Reserve Police Officer. He entered the Police Academy at Los Medonos College in 1979, entering the El Cerrito Police Department the same year.

Sergeant Mann has held many assignments within the department, such as Bicycle/Junior Traffic Officer, Crisis Negotiation Team, Assistant Range Master, Detective, Sergeant and Detective Sergeant, among others.

Sergeant Mann has performed his duties with great technical competence, efficiency, and distinction, earning him the Albany-El Cerrito Exchange Club "Officer of the Year" award in 1991. Along with his commitment to department, he has continued his professional growth by attending numerous classes and courses to include the Sherman Block Supervisory Leadership Institute.

Sergeant Mann has served the citizens of Contra Costa County and the City of El Cerrito with great distinction, and in retiring from his position as a Police Sergeant, brings to close a career with the El Cerrito Police Department.

As Sergeant Wayne D. Mann retires from the El Cerrito Police Department, I would like to thank him, and his wife Tina and two children, Travis and Bryan, for his record of service and concern for the protection of life and property in the local community, and extend to him sincere best wishes for continued success in his future endeavors.

MARKING COMMUNIST CHINA'S
ANTI-SECESSION LEGISLATION

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2007

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, on the second anniversary of the enactment of Communist China's anti-secession legislation aimed at Taiwan, I wish to alert my colleagues of the tense military situation in the Taiwan Strait.

Communist China at present has nearly a thousand guided missiles deployed along its southeastern coast, threatening the 23 million

people living on Taiwan. Madam Speaker, as the world's leading democracy, the United States must make clear to Communist China that its ever expanding military buildup will only intensify the arms race in the Asia Pacific region and derail future cooperation.

In addition to Communist China's military intimidation of Taiwan, its strategy to isolate Taiwan can be seen by its actions around the world, including encouraging other nations to de-recognize Taiwan, and doing everything possible to prevent Taiwan from participating in international organizations. Congress must encourage our Administration to carry out policies to help Taiwan participate in international organizations such as the World Health Organization, the Community for Democracy and others.

Madam Speaker, it must be made clear to Communist China that it is in its interest to act responsibly in the international arena. Communist China must not be allowed to be a military threat to its neighbors. Communist China's anti-secession law against Taiwan has severely hurt the stability of the Taiwanese people and should be rescinded at once. In addition, it is imperative that Communist China fully consult the United States and the international community as it develops its space program, especially space surveillance and the military use of space.

RECOGNIZING THE DEDICATION OF
BRUCE MORGAN

HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2007

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Bruce Morgan, a man with immense scientific contributions and over 40 years of service to our nation at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory.

Mr. Morgan graduated with an A.S. Degree in Gunsmithing from Trinidad State Jr. College in Trinidad, Colorado in May 1967. Mr. Morgan was then hired by Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, where he was assigned to support the Linear Accelerator.

Mr. Morgan has made his presence in the workplace known. He has worked with nuclear reactors, designed and constructed experiments, and advanced previous findings in the field.

Mr. Morgan built the first 9-inch Rotating Neutron Source, which was a major accomplishment for his employer, the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, at the time. This invention allowed the study of neutron flux in nuclear weapons.

Mr. Morgan has also designed, fabricated, and developed many innovations in ballistic technology such as ballistic range hardware and gunload development, high-speed camera and flash x-ray systems to perform ballistics diagnostics, experiments in light armor using Cermet materials, experiments with explosive active and reactive armor, experiments resulting in the ultimate development of an up-graded armor package for the M1-M2 Abrams Tank, and development of light armor for the AC-130 Gunship for use by our military ground-support aircraft.

Mr. Morgan was also temporarily deployed to work on upgrading armor packages for the

Humvee and armored gun-truck in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

As Mr. Morgan retires from the work he has been involved in for over 40 years, I would like to thank him for his great contributions and advancements in the field, and acknowledge the loyal service he has given to his employers and country. I wish him the best in all his future endeavors.

SUPPORT FOR THE WATER
QUALITY FINANCING ACT OF 2007

HON. DAN BOREN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2007

Mr. BOREN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the inclusion of Davis-Bacon in H.R. 720, the Water Quality Financing Act of 2007. I was absent for the vote taken on this legislation on March 9, 2007, because I was leading a House Armed Services Committee delegation to Iraq. I wish to state for the record that, had I been present for this vote, I would have supported the inclusion of Davis-Bacon language in H.R. 720. The Davis-Bacon Act, which dates back to 1931, requires every construction contract in excess of two thousand dollars to which the federal government is a party to pay all laborers and mechanics not less than the locally prevailing wage. I believe it is important for Oklahomans that federal contracts are not awarded to firms that seek to undercut the prevailing wages paid in our region. Government contracts should not be won by sacrificing fair wage rates for Oklahoma workers. For these reasons, I have supported the passage of Davis-Bacon in the past and would have also supported it on March 9th as part of the Water Quality Financing Act.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JULIA CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2007

Ms. CARSON. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained due to air traffic delays. I was unable to record rollcall votes No. 157, No. 158, and No. 159. Had I been present I would have voted "yea" on all three.

HONORING RUTH CAMPBELL

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2007

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Ruth Kueffer Campbell who turned 80 years of age on March 9, 2007.

Ruth was born in Milwaukee, WI, to Ernest and Alma Kueffer. Her father was an immigrant from Switzerland and her mother was from Davenport, IA. Completing the family was Ruth's brother, Carl, 8 years her senior.

Ruth was a good student in high school and was selected for the National Honor Society.

Upon graduation, she entered cadet nurses training at the Misericordia Catholic Hospital in Milwaukee. She always wanted to be a nurse and also wanted to serve in the military.

With her RN degree in hand, Ruth enlisted in the Air Force. She did her basic training at Chanute AFB in Illinois and then was off to flight school at Maxwell AFB in Alabama. From there she was assigned to France, where, on her very first night she and the other new nurses were invited to have dinner with the officer who headed the Office of Special Investigations. That officer eventually became her husband, John Campbell. But that took some time and off-duty travel with close friends to Spain and other neighboring countries.

When Ruth was honorably discharged from the Air Force in 1954, she planned to move to the state of Washington where she had relatives. She wrote to her AF buddy, John who was stationed at Lowry, to tell him about her move. John encouraged Ruth to stop in Denver on her way to Washington. Needless to say, she never made it to Washington. Instead, she continued her nursing career at the VA Hospital in Denver.

Ruth and John were married in the Chapel at Lowry AFB in 1955. Within the next 2 years, their daughters Pat and Terry were born at Fitzsimons. Soon after Terry's arrival, John was transferred to an OSI unit in Okinawa, and the family went along. Son, Mike, was born there in 1960. The following year, John was reassigned to Lowry and the Campbells bought a home near Geneva Street and Montview Boulevard in Aurora. Ruth quickly settled into her new community and soon was volunteering with the PTA at Crawford Elementary School, teaching Sunday school at the Fitzsimons Catholic Parish, starting a girls' softball league and serving as a scout leader—she was the Girl Scout Cookie chair for all of Aurora for five years.

In 1964, John retired from the Air Force and joined the Adams County Sheriff's Department, specializing in investigations, handwriting analysis and polygraphs. Four years later, John ran for the State House. While he didn't win that election, Ruth was hooked and became very involved in Democratic Party politics—first as a precinct committee person and then as a captain. Nearly a decade after Ruth caught the political bug, John was appointed to fill a vacancy as an Adams County Commissioner. Two years later, he successfully ran for that office. In 1979, Ruth's beloved husband of 24 years passed away at the age of 59 at Fitzsimons Army Medical Center.

Ruth continued her political involvement and became a mentor for a host of candidates from City Council to County Commission and the State House and everything in between. Among the Democratic office holders who benefited from Ruth's knowledge and experience are Don Armstrong, Guillermo deHerrerra, Bob Grant, Mary Hodges, Molly Markert, Bill Shear, Stephanie Takis, Frank Weddig and Leo Younger. Ruth has always been strongly committed to political activism and was a founding member of the Aurora Democratic Club more than two decades ago.

Ruth's political savvy wasn't limited to candidates. She also became involved in several important ballot measures, the 1986 Adams County mill levy for mental health services and most recently the Aurora Sports Park near Colfax and Tower.

If it wasn't a political campaign, Ruth found many other places where her energy, common sense and organizational skills were more than welcome. She served on the Board of Directors of the Aurora Mental Health Center for 6 years, has been an active member of the Northwest Aurora Neighborhood Organization, NANO, since its inception in 1975, was a 23 year member of the City of Aurora Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, is an active member of the Society of Military Widows, and serves on the Accountability Committee at Fletcher School. Ruth also records textbooks for sight-impaired students at the Community College of Aurora.

Ruth's good works have not gone unnoticed. She has received a number of honors, including the 1980 Liberty Bell Award as "Outstanding Citizen of Adams County." She has been honored with a Circle of Life Award in recognition for her many contributions to the north Aurora community. In 2002, Ruth was named a "Woman Sculptor of the Community," an honor for which she was nominated by the Aurora Democratic Club.

As Ruth celebrates her 80th birthday and a lifetime of civic and political involvement, I know Republicans and Democrats alike wish her the very best.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2007

Mrs. LOWEY. Madam Speaker, I regrettably missed rollcall votes 157 through 159. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" for each measure.

IN MEMORY OF EAST BAY
DENTIST DR. THOMAS CURTIS

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2007

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, I would like to make a few remarks in memory of Dr. Thomas Curtis DDS who passed away on February 17, 2007. Dr. Curtis was a World War II veteran who led a life of service to both his country and the bay area community in which he lived. During the war, Dr. Curtis served in the Army's 10th Mountain Division and fought in the Italian theatre. He was awarded two Purple hearts, the Bronze Star, and the Silver Star for his heroic actions.

After the war, Dr. Curtis enrolled at UC Berkeley and eventually graduated from UC San Francisco's dentistry school. He joined his father's dental practice and was a professor at UCSF until he retired in 1991. As an expert in maxillofacial prosthodontics, the reconstruction of the upper jaw, Dr. Curtis worked with surgeons to design replacements for trauma and cancer patients, allowing them to eat and speak again. Dr. Curtis had a passion for helping those in need and never turned away a patient that was referred to him even when some of those patients could not pay for his services. During the Vietnam War, Dr. Curtis volunteered regularly at the Letterman Army

Hospital treating injured soldiers. He also served on the board of directors of the Bay Area Tumor Institute. As chairman of a voluntary organization that helped East Bay cancer patients consult with specialists prior to surgery to develop strategies for reconstruction before their tumors were removed.

Dr. Thomas Curtis was a healer and a teacher. He defended his country in battle, helped heal those in need in his community, and passed down his knowledge and experience to his students at the University of California, San Francisco. His passing shall be mourned and his exemplary service to our country and community remembered.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "NATIONAL LEVEE SAFETY PROGRAM ACT OF 2007"

HON. JEAN SCHMIDT

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2007

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to rise today to introduce the "National Levee Safety Program Act of 2007".

We know, following the terrible devastation of Hurricane Katrina, how important reliable hurricane and flood protection infrastructure is.

Congress has taken steps in the past to ensure that the nation's flood damage reduction infrastructure is properly inventoried, inspected, and assessed. In 1986, Congress authorized "the National Dam Safety Program Act" to conduct an inventory and assessment of all dams nationwide. "The National Levee Safety Program Act" is modeled after this successful program and law.

Thanks to the Dam Safety Program Act, we know a great deal more about our nation's dams. When it comes to our nation's levees, however, we know very little. We do not know where they are all located and we often do not know their condition. We do not even know how many levees there are in the United States, how old they are, and, in many cases, who constructed them or who is responsible for their operation and maintenance. Much of this is due to the fact that levees have been built for decades by different entities, at different times, and to different standards.

There has never been a national inventory of levees. I am introducing the "National Levee Safety Program Act" so we can develop such an inventory and work with the states to encourage them to develop their own levee safety programs.

This legislation authorizes the Army Corps of Engineers to conduct an inventory, inspections, and assessments of all levees nationwide. The legislation establishes an Interagency Committee on Levee Safety to create standards for federal levees, and creates a National Levee Safety Advisory Board made up of state, local, and private officials to advise the Committee on Levee Safety on the safety of levees in the United States, the implementation of this Act by state levee safety agencies, and policy relating to national levee safety. The bill also provides incentives for states and localities to participate in the program.

The National Levee Safety Program Act builds on my efforts in the last Congress encouraging states and local jurisdictions to work

together to establish modern, statewide building codes which help mitigate costly future natural disasters, improving public safety and hopefully saving lives as well as taxpayer dollars. Similarly, creating an inventory of our levees is a valuable way for us to reduce the likelihood of costly, unforeseen future disasters.

I am aware of at least three important levees built by the Corps of Engineers in Southern Ohio providing flood protection to Cincinnati, Portsmouth, and New Boston. This legislation would ensure the Corps maintains an up-to-date assessment of these levees while it also builds a broader inventory of levees throughout Ohio and our nation that were built by non-federal stakeholders.

This legislation is fiscally responsible. In order to make the best investment of taxpayer dollars, we need to do an inventory, an inspection, and an assessment of levees across the United States. We need to know what they are protecting and what level of risk is associated with them. This should help us prioritize future spending on flood protection so we can spend taxpayer dollars more wisely.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

HONORING DEBORAH COHN AND THE USPTO

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2007

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, it is an honor for me to recognize Deborah Cohn, Deputy Commissioner for Trademark Operations at the United States Patent and Trademark Office, USPTO, for her leadership in promoting government telework. Telework offers a great opportunity for the Federal Government to help solve environmental, traffic, and possibly continuity-of-operations issues, especially on the busy highways of Northern Virginia. It is well known that the Federal Government lags behind the private sector in providing telework options for its workforce. Yet, USPTO has set itself apart with its telework program.

With her foresight, creativity, and perseverance, Deborah Cohn pioneered the development of USPTO's first telework program at a time when telework was far from the norm. Ms. Cohn not only convinced reluctant agency executives, she forged coalitions with managers, IT personnel, and the employee union to create an innovative, award-winning telework program at the USPTO.

This month, the Trademark Work at Home, TWAH, program celebrates its 10th anniversary. TWAH, which began as a feasibility pilot of 18 teleworkers, today stands as the most innovative and progressive program in the Federal Government. It involves more than 220 employees, or 85 percent of eligible examining attorneys, who spend the vast majority of their workweek at home.

The USPTO program has received awards from the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, the Telework Exchange, the Mid-Atlantic Telework Advisory Council, and the International Telework Association and Council. Just last month, USPTO received the 2007 Work-Life Innovative Excellence Award

from the Alliance for Work-Life Progress for the Trademark Work at Home Program.

The TWAH program now serves as a prototype of an innovative telework program, combining management-by-objective with hoteling, resulting in documented savings of space and cost savings for the agency. The ability to manage employees remotely using clear, measurable performance goals, regardless of where they work, models an extremely successful telecommuting program for government agencies. The TWAH program also demonstrates that flexibility of time and location enables employees to maximize efficiency, which is reflected by production gains of teleworkers. The phenomenally low attrition rate among TWAH participants should encourage agencies that face recruitment and retention problems to consider such programs.

It is essential that federal agencies maintain procedures for continuing government operations in the midst of, and following, a national emergency caused by terrorism or natural causes. Effective telework plans and procedures help ensure critical agency operations continue uninterrupted. Federal agencies with telecommuting programs receive significant benefits, including a more productive workforce, increased employee morale and quality of life, and the ability to better accommodate employees with health problems or child- or elder-care responsibilities. Teleworking eliminates a significant number of vehicle trips during peak hours, which aids the environment. The Federal Government should be a telecommuting leader, yet many federal agencies have been reluctant to embrace the concept. That is why I am delighted to congratulate Ms. Cohn on her outstanding leadership on telework issues.

Ms. Cohn began her career at USPTO in 1983 as a trademark examining attorney. In 2001, she joined the Senior Executive Service as a Trademark Group Director. She became Deputy Commissioner for Trademark Operations in 2005 and currently oversees the examination and processing of applications throughout the trademark operation.

Throughout her legal career at USPTO, Ms. Cohn has been involved in work-life improvement initiatives. She is a former Council of Excellence in Government Fellow, where she first developed the seeds of the trademark work-at-home program. Ms. Cohn is a graduate of The American University and George Mason University School of Law. Ms. Cohn is a sought-after resource and speaker as an expert on the development and management of telework programs.

I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing Ms. Cohn's efforts in making USPTO's telework program the most successful operation of its kind within the federal government. Additionally, I call upon my colleagues to join me in celebrating the 10th anniversary of the Trademark Office's award-winning telework program.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2007

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, unfortunately yesterday, March 19, 2007, I

was unable to cast my votes on H. Res. 138, H.R. 658, and H.R. 839.

Had I been present for rollcall No. 157 on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H. Res. 138, Recognizing the importance of Hot Springs National Park on its 175th anniversary, I would have voted yea.

Had I been present for rollcall No. 158 on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 658, the Natural Resource Protection Cooperative Agreement Act, I would have voted yea.

Had I been present for rollcall No. 159 on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 839, the Arthur V. Watkins Dam Enlargement Act, I would have voted yea.

HONORING SHEILA D. SMALLING

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2007

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ms. Sheila D. Smalling, an exemplary citizen from my Congressional District who was recently named Kentucky Middle School Music Teacher of the Year by the Kentucky Music Educators Association.

Ms. Smalling has been teaching music in the Warren County School District since 1985, spending the last 19 years at Drakes Creek Middle School. Her skill in the classroom has helped make Drakes Creek rank fourth in the Commonwealth in Arts and Humanities scoring.

Ms. Smalling's influence reaches well beyond the classroom. As band director, she leads almost a quarter of the entire student

body, organizing public performances to showcase their talents including two formal hour-long concerts each school year.

Many of Ms. Smalling's former students have benefited from her passion, building an appreciation for music that continues with them after they leave Drakes Creek Middle School. In fact, several of her students have gone on to become music teachers. Several others have pursued college degrees in instrumental performance. One former student is now a member of "Pershing's Own" ceremonial military band here in Washington, DC.

It is my great privilege to honor Ms. Sheila D. Smalling today before the entire U.S. House of Representatives for her excellent work in public education. Her dedication and love of music continues to influence the lives of students and the communities they will someday serve. Ms. Smalling has set a fine example for the people of Kentucky's Second Congressional District. She is an outstanding citizen worthy of our collective honor and appreciation.