

Doug Murdock, Ronald Piester, and James Ryan; ICC Government Relations Advisory Committee members Rebecca Baker, James Martin, Betts Nixon, Emory Rodgers, and George Wiggins; ICC Chapter Leaders Paul Aston, Roger Axel, Kurt Kasson, Sheila Lee, and Tina Rakes. Members of ICC's professional staff included its CEO Rick Weiland as well as Dominic Sims, David deCourcy, Sara Yerkes, James Tidwell, Mark Dinneen, Richard Kuchnicki, Laura Scott, Peter Feldman, and International Accreditation Services President Charles Ramani.

ED MATTAS: "AN INSPIRATION TO ALL OF SAN DIEGO"

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2007

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Ed Mattas, who is being honored with the "Community Service Award" by The San Diego-Imperial Counties Labor Council of the AFL-CIO.

After graduating from Kearney High School in San Diego, California, Ed started his Union career with Hazard Products in 1981. When Hazard closed their manufacturing plant in 1985, he moved on to RCP Block and Brick. While at RCP Block and Brick, Ed served as the Shop Steward.

Ed was then elected as Trustee to Teamsters Local 36 in 2001 and was appointed Vice President in 2006. He was hired as the Training Director for the San Diego County Construction Teamsters in 2002. Along with the job came a tractor trailer that is funded by Teamsters Locals 36, 481, 542, and 683. These Locals have made it easy for him to make the Teamster truck available for volunteer projects whenever possible.

Ed and his students have helped in many events in San Diego and Southern California. These events include the Postal Food Drive, the Christmas food and toy distribution, providing the hauling for the Trail of Hope Charity to the Apache Indians, many projects in assisting the Pacific Southwest Railway Museum in Campo, and helping to transfer food from the San Diego Food Bank to many needy organizations.

Ed Mattas truly has been an inspiration to all of San Diego.

HONORING CHRISTINE WARD-DIAZ,
WINNER OF A PRESIDENTIAL
AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN
MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE
TEACHING

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2007

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Christine Ward-Diaz, a science and math teacher at East Brook Middle School in Paramus, New Jersey, and winner of a Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching this year.

As the Paramus Superintendent Janice Dime has noted, Ms. Ward-Diaz "makes

science learning come alive in her classroom." I had the pleasure of visiting with Ms. Ward-Diaz last year with the EPA Administrator, Stephen Johnson, to discuss energy conservation. Her teaching style clearly invigorates her classroom and challenges her students. The children were well-informed and excited to absorb as much knowledge as they could from their teacher.

Christine Ward-Diaz holds a bachelor's degree in elementary education from the University of Scranton and a masters in environmental studies from my alma mater, Montclair State University. Her superior teaching methods have long been recognized by her peers, earning her East Brook's Teacher of the Year in 2004-05. The Presidential Award is the federal government's highest honor for teaching excellence.

This statement in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD will ensure her well-deserved place in official history. But, more importantly, the generations of students she inspires are a legacy in which we will all always share. I commend Christine Ward-Diaz for her dedication to her students and her community.

TRIBUTE TO MIKE GARRETT

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2007

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mike Garrett, who will receive the 2007 Leadership Award presented by the Sigma Pi Phi Gamma Zeta Boule Foundation at their Annual Scholarship Luncheon in Pasadena, California on June 10, 2007. Each year, this award is given to a community leader who demonstrates extraordinary commitment and dedication to education and the community.

Raised in Los Angeles, California, Mike Garrett attended the University of Southern California, where he excelled as a football player and set numerous records. As an exemplary student athlete, Garrett was named an All-American twice, awarded the prestigious Heisman Trophy in 1965, and was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame in 1985.

Garrett went on to become a star in the American Football League playing for the Kansas City Chiefs and the San Diego Chargers. He was a two time AFL All-Star, and led the Chiefs to a Super Bowl Victory in 1969. Throughout his entire professional career, Garrett gained a total of 8,049 yards and scored 49 touchdowns.

After his professional football career, Garrett attended the College of Law at Western State University, where he earned his Juris Doctor in 1986. Garrett also held numerous professional positions, which included Director of Business Development at the Great Western Forum, working at the District Attorney's Office in San Diego, and doing color commentary for USC football telecasts. In January of 1993, Garrett returned to USC as the Athletic Director where he has helped the football program regain its status as a dominant football power.

For his success and commitment to promoting education and athletics, I ask all Members of Congress to join me in congratulating Mike Garrett upon receiving the Sigma Pi Phi Gamma Zeta Boule's 2007 Leadership Award.

U.S. TROOP READINESS, VETERANS' CARE, KATRINA RECOVERY, AND IRAQ ACCOUNTABILITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, despite my opposition to the war in Iraq, I supported the passage of the U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans' Health, and Iraq Accountability Act of 2007, H.R. 1591, when it came before the House in March. It was a difficult decision but I had to vote my conscience.

For the first time we were requiring accountability standards by establishing benchmarks and a timeframe for redeployment. Another persuasive factor in supporting H.R. 1591 was the funding for body armor, Mine Resistant Ambush Protection vehicles, MRAP, traumatic brain injury, TBI, and post-traumatic stress disorder, PTSD, and veterans health care. Finally, I was encouraged by the fact that we were taking proper care of our soldiers by ensuring that they were properly rested, trained, and equipped. Unfortunately, President Bush vetoed this bill that could not be overturned by the House.

A few weeks ago on May 10, Congress considered and passed version two of the Iraq Supplemental, H.R. 2206. This bill would have provided \$42.8 billion for the Iraq War. Funding would have supported the immediate needs of the U.S. military through July. However, shortly before the August recess Congress would have to decide whether to release an additional \$52.8 billion of war spending that would last until September.

This measure would have placed needed limitations on access to funding based upon the progress reports provided to Congress by the President thereby, bringing the President and his administration back to reality by enforcing accountability standards. However, in an effort to avoid another veto by President Bush, H.R. 2206 has been butchered into a bill hallow and reintroduced without needed provisions that would safeguard this country from continuing a seemingly endless military operations in Iraq. Therefore, I voted in favor of Amendment 1 to H.R. 2206 and voted against Amendment 2.

One of my primary concerns has been to ensure that the troops receive the equipment, rest and training they require and surely deserve. In keeping in line with these key concerns, I voted in support of Amendment 1 to H.R. 2206, which provides support for defense and the global war on terror totaling over \$14.489 billion in funding namely, \$617 million in state and foreign operations, \$3.137 billion for BRAC (fully-funded), \$1.789 billion in Veterans Medical Care (including funding for Walter Reed Medical Center), and \$1.050 billion for Homeland Security.

Moreover, Amendment 1 supports our troops by appropriating \$343 million for our military personnel in the U.S. Army, \$408 million for our service members in the U.S. Navy, about \$108.9 million for our troops in the Marine Corps, \$139.3 million for those in the U.S. Air Force and marked increases in funding for our reserve personnel. Furthermore, it protects