

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

A PROCLAMATION HONORING COACH RYAN TAGGART FOR COACHING THE GARAWAY GOLF TEAM TO WINNING THE DIVISION III STATE GOLF TOURNAMENT

**HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 6, 2007*

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Coach Ryan Taggart showed hard work and dedication to the sport of golf; and

Whereas, Mike Taggart was a leader and mentor for the Garaway Golf Team; and

Whereas, Coach Taggart has been a role model for sportsmanship on and off of the greens; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that along with his friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Coach Ryan Taggart for leading the Garaway Golf Team to winning the Division III State Golf Tournament. We recognize the tremendous hard work and leadership he has demonstrated during the 2007 golf season.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF KBT  
CHANNEL 4—BEAUMONT, TEXAS

**HON. TED POE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 6, 2007*

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, today I am pleased to honor KBT Channel 4 in Beaumont, TX on their 50th year of service to the Southeast Texas Community.

Community involvement is a tradition at KBT 4. Whether it is emceeding a local fundraiser or volunteering on boards and committees, KBT employees are an active part in the community in which they live and serve. They also host the Golden Apple Awards, which honors local teachers for their role in educating and developing the minds of Southeast Texas children.

The importance of passionately and accurately reporting on issues that affect our community cannot be overstated. Over the past 50 years NBC's KBT has earned the reputation of a hard-working diligent news team. A reputation such as this only arises through hard work and commitment to the community that you serve. Hurricanes and floods have not been able to stop KBT 4 from informing the public when it matters most. The Second Congressional District of Texas is extremely fortunate to have a first-class news station such as KBT 4.

And that's just the way it is.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE SISTERS OF SAINT JOSEPH

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 6, 2007*

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Sisters of Saint Joseph, and to celebrate over 110 years of faithful service to Cleveland and Saint Colman Church.

Since the Sisters of Saint Joseph arrived in Cleveland in 1886, they have been tireless ministers to our most vulnerable neighbors. The Sisters founded the East and West Side Catholic Shelters, the West Side Catholic Center, Transitional Housing, and Seeds of Literacy, among others, in order to serve the poor and marginalized, as well as empower people to overcome obstacles.

As stewards of the health and well-being of the whole person, they founded Saint Joseph's Academy to educate Cleveland's young women, as well as River's Edge to nurture our spiritual health.

The Sisters remain committed to peace and justice issues in the community and throughout the world, conducting educational workshops and hosting trips to promote peaceful resolution to conflict, improve ecumenical dialogue, and combat violence and oppression.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring the Sisters of Saint Joseph for over 110 years of service to Cleveland and the pursuit of peace. As we celebrate the feast of Saint Colman of Cloyne, may we all aspire to the dedication and generosity of the Sisters of Saint Joseph.

RECOGNIZING 200 YEARS OF RESEARCH SERVICE, AND STEWARDSHIP BY NOAA AND ITS PREDECESSOR AGENCIES

SPEECH OF

**HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 4, 2007*

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 147, which recognizes the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) 200th anniversary. When President Thomas Jefferson originally established the first Federal science agency, Survey of the Coast, in 1807, its mandate was to create charts for safe navigation. Over the years, bureaus related to the regulation and protection of our fisheries, the study of weather and climate change, and many other important responsibilities were added. Today, this agency, now known as NOAA, has a global reach and a broad range of programs that touch all our lives.

From promoting waterborne commerce and fisheries to predicting weather and global cli-

mate change, NOAA's role is crucial to our Nation. I'm particularly proud of the National Marine Sanctuaries, which were created under NOAA's jurisdiction in 1972. In Northern California, we are privileged to have three such sanctuaries, the Monterey National Marine Sanctuary, the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary, and the Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary. With our oceans and marine life increasingly threatened, these sanctuaries play an invaluable role in enhancement and protection.

The importance of the sanctuaries was recently highlighted when an oil spill polluted the precious waters of the San Francisco Bay with 58,000 gallons of oil. NOAA and marine sanctuary staff stepped in and provided key assistance in the clean-up and oil containment efforts. We were lucky to have them there. It's events like this that really highlight some of the important work done by NOAA and the marine sanctuaries.

This resolution is the product of the Resource Committee's leadership and I appreciate their introducing this resolution to honor NOAA's important work over the last 200 years. I hope that over the next 200 years, we are able to provide NOAA and the marine sanctuaries with the necessary resources and assistance to continue and expand upon the key work that it does.

RECOGNIZING 200 YEARS OF RESEARCH SERVICE, AND STEWARDSHIP BY NOAA AND ITS PREDECESSOR AGENCIES

**HON. RON KLEIN**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 6, 2007*

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to express concern about the lack of progress that the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has made on the issue of hurricane tracking and prediction.

Yesterday, the House passed a resolution honoring the 200th anniversary of NOAA, celebrating NOAA's many accomplishments. I voted for this resolution because the work of the men and women of NOAA has been and continues to be critical to keeping my constituents and the rest of our country safe from the threats of the hurricane season.

However, I continue to be uncomfortable with the management of NOAA's decision to spend \$4 million for a public relations campaign about its anniversary celebration. To spend \$4 million dollars at a time when resources should be applied to assessing and supporting one of the most critical weather tools in hurricane tracking and prediction, the Quick Scatterometer (QuikSCAT) satellite, is completely unacceptable.

● 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.

The detailed daily snapshots provided by QuikSCAT allow climatologists, meteorologists, and oceanographers to better understand global weather abnormalities and to improve weather forecasting. In one day, QuikSCAT collects data covering 90 percent of the Earth's surface. Without the data provided by QuikSCAT, hurricane forecasting would be 16 percent less accurate 72 hours before hurricane landfall and 10 percent less accurate 48 hours before landfall. This decrease in accuracy would lead to larger stretches of coastline under evacuation warnings and more local resources utilized.

That is why I helped author H.R. 2531, which authorizes \$375 million to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for the design and launch of an improved QuikSCAT satellite. The new, next-generation satellite would maintain weather forecasting and warning capabilities and improve data capabilities for future weather-related disasters. The bill also requires that NOAA provide annual reports on the status of the satellite to ensure that Congress has sufficient time for authorizing and funding a replacement when necessary.

As a Member of Congress with over 70 miles of coastline in my district, I feel it is my responsibility to ask NOAA how we got to this point where a valuable satellite is on its last legs, and why our taxpayers are footing the bill for a PR campaign when hurricanes remain a daily threat to Florida and the entire region. I join in the celebration of NOAA's accomplishments for the last 200 years, but I urge them to be responsible with resources so that they can be effective for the next 200 years and beyond.

**WILLIAM WILBERFORCE TRAFFICKING VICTIMS PROTECTION REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2007**

SPEECH OF

**HON. HILDA L. SOLIS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 4, 2007*

Ms. SOLIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support for the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2007 (H.R. 3887). I am proud to be an original cosponsor of H.R. 3887, which will provide new tools to protect against modern slavery, both in the immigrant community and among American citizens.

The Trafficking Victims Protection Act was originally enacted in 2000 to combat trafficking in persons, ensure the prosecution of human traffickers, and protect the victims of trafficking. The 2007 Trafficking in Persons Report released by the U.S. State Department estimated that approximately 15,000 to 20,000 people were trafficked to the United States annually. Victims were trafficked for forced labor and debt bondage in areas such as agriculture, sweatshop manufacturing, and domestic service. This legislation would direct the U.S. State Department to establish an office to monitor and combat human trafficking. It would also authorize the President to support international efforts to combat trafficking and to rescue and care for victims.

In California, Maria Suarez is one of the brave survivors of modern slavery who is

working to protect others from cruel mistreatment. At the age of 16, Maria was sold as a sex slave to a 62-year-old man in California. He was killed by a neighbor and Maria was convicted of murder for her limited role in covering up the killing of her captor. Consequently, Maria served 22 years in jail before being pardoned.

When Maria was released from prison she was detained by the immigration service as a convicted felon. I led efforts in Congress, along with community activists, to provide relief to Maria and release her from immigration detention. In 2004, Maria was granted a T visa, which is a visa for victims of trafficking and provides legal status for them to remain in the U.S. for 3 years. After 3 years, T visa holders can apply for permanent resident status. This legislation would allow for the reunification of victims and their families, and would help Maria Suarez and others like her by making the immigration service recognize that victims should not be held responsible for what they are forced to do while they are enslaved.

I applaud Chairmen LANTOS and CONYERS for their hard work and continued dedication to this issue. Congress must continue fighting on behalf of those who have been forced into servitude and slavery and give these people a voice. I am hopeful that this legislation will give immigrant survivors of domestic violence and trafficking victims, such as Maria Suarez, a genuine opportunity to explain their circumstances before Federal authorities.

**RECOGNIZING BIG WALNUT HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL**

**HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 6, 2007*

Mr. TIBERI. Madam Speaker, it is with pleasure I congratulate the Golden Eagles of Big Walnut High School as the Division III Football State Champions!

Head Coach Scott Wetzel, in his twelfth year leading the Golden Eagles, found his team tied 10-10 in the fourth quarter. With less than 10 minutes to play, Joe Reed scored on a 54-yard interception return which clinched the title for his team in the 17-10 victory over Licking Valley.

This season brought many firsts for this team, high school and county. This was Big Walnut's first-ever championship game appearance, and also the first time a Delaware County high school earned a state title! This 2007 football team advanced further than any other team in school history.

I'm proud to congratulate this team and community and join with them in celebrating the history made with their State Championship title!

**HONORING THE MEMORY OF JANE MAURY DENTON**

**HON. JO BONNER**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 6, 2007*

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, the city of Mobile and indeed the entire Nation recently

lost a special lady, and I rise today to honor Mrs. Jane Maury Denton and pay tribute to her memory.

Born in Mobile, Alabama, on March 22, 1926, Jane Maury was educated at The Convent of Visitation School in Alabama and Mary Washington College in Virginia. She married Mobile native, Jeremiah Denton, on June 6, 1946, the day he graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy.

Mrs. Denton and her husband reared seven children while living in many states and Europe during her husband's distinguished military career; unfortunately, for almost 8 years, she reared their children alone. On July 16, 1965, while serving in the Vietnam War, then-Captain Denton's plane was shot down over the city of Thanh Hoa. He was held as a prisoner-of-war for eight long years in Hanoi, Vietnam.

During her husband's imprisonment, Mrs. Denton helped found the National League of Families of Prisoners of War and Missing in Action. Her tireless work on behalf of all American airmen held prisoner in North Vietnam is credited with obtaining a more humane treatment and ultimate release.

Jerry Denton returned home a true American hero; obviously, he and Jane had so many years of their lives for which to catch up. In 1980, Admiral Denton successfully ran for the U.S. Senate from Alabama. As a senator's wife, Jane became a true champion for the improvement of America's mental health facilities.

In recognition of her life-long support for her husband's naval career in addition to her work as an advocate for POWs, Mrs. Denton was given the honor of sponsoring and christening the USS *Mobile Bay*, a Ticonderoga Class Cruiser in 1985. The day she christened the ship, she said, "The event will be a real highlight of my life. My pleasure at receiving this honor is multiplied by my love for the Navy, my concern for our national defense, and my pride in having a fine ship named for Mobile Bay."

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a dedicated community leader and friend to many throughout Alabama, as well as a wonderful wife and devoted mother. Mrs. Denton will be missed by her family—her husband of 61 years, Senator Jeremiah Denton; their children, Jeremiah Denton III, Donald Denton, James Denton, William Denton, Madeleine Doak, Michael Denton, and Mary E. Denton; her sister, Madeleine McPhillips; her 14 grandchildren; and her three great-grandchildren—as well as the many countless friends she leaves behind. Our thoughts and prayers are with them all during this difficult time.

**A PROCLAMATION HONORING AL DAVIES FOR PLACING SECOND IN THE MANCHESTER UMBRO INTERNATIONAL CUP**

**HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 6, 2007*

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker: Whereas, Al Davies competed in England's largest youth soccer tournament; and Whereas, Al Davies showed hard work and dedication to the sport of soccer; and

Whereas, Al Davies has broadened her abilities and skills in the sport of soccer; and  
Whereas, Al Davies was a supportive team player; and

Whereas, Al Davies always displayed sportsmanship on and off of the field; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that along with his friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Al Davies on placing second in the Manchester Umbro International Cup. We recognize the tremendous hard work and sportsmanship she has demonstrated.

TRIBUTE TO SOUTH FORK VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT OF PENDLETON COUNTY

**HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO**

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 6, 2007*

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor South Fork Volunteer Fire Department of Pendleton County, West Virginia which will be celebrating its 45th anniversary.

South Fork Volunteer Fire Department was incorporated December 6, 1962. Those serving as the first officers were President: Herald Williams, Vice-President: Fred Williams, Secretary: Carl Nesselrodt, and Treasurer: Orville Gum; and the original members also included Marvin Hartman, Albert Joseph, Sheridan Layman, Harold Miller, Harold Wilson, and Mervin Zirk. The formation of the fire department would not be possible without community involvement; the land and materials used for the construction of the original firehouse were all donated, many by the original members and officers.

South Fork Volunteer Fire Department has expanded its facilities, equipment, and operations over its 45 year span. Construction was completed on March 20, 2004 for a new firehouse located on Route 21. South Fork Volunteer Fire Department now boasts 35 volunteer members, 15 auxiliary members, and has a fleet of six vehicles.

I would like to extend my gratitude to the past and current members of South Fork Volunteer Fire Department for providing safety to our citizens in times of emergency and dire need. Our first responders and volunteer fire departments represent the best of our communities.

I extend congratulations to South Fork Volunteer Fire Department and all of those who have been involved with 45 successful years of serving and protecting the community of Brandywine.

LAMAR UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT RECOGNIZED FOR DOCUMENTARY TEXAS WETLANDS

**HON. TED POE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 6, 2007*

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, today I am pleased to honor the students and faculty of the Lamar University Department of Communication for their work on Texas Wetlands, a

documentary film underlining the importance of Texas Wetlands to our nation's ecosystem. This film was recently awarded first place in the student/amateur category at the North American Association for Environmental Education/Pierce Foundation Environmental Education Film and Video Festival. This prestigious award granted the documentary the opportunity to be premiered last week at the NAAEE's Annual Conference.

Wetlands can be found up and down the 360 miles of Texas' sprawling Gulf Coast. Many of these wildlife sanctuaries are located in or just outside the Second Congressional District. Lamar students and professors along with 42 middle and high school students traveled to wetland areas in the Big Thicket, Shangri La, and the JD Murphee Wild Life Management Area to capture footage for their award winning documentary. Students, with the guidance of their professors in the Communications Department, wrote, edited, did the videography and appeared as reporters in the film.

Lamar University and its students, who I am proud to represent, continue to achieve in all areas of higher learning. Recognizing the importance of Texas' natural resources, Lamar University has taken a proactive approach in preserving these wetlands. Soon our country will need to look to a new generation of leaders to help her face adversity, both foreign and domestic. I am confident that these leaders will emerge from the halls of Lamar University.

And that's just the way it is.

IN RECOGNITION OF CAROL WATKINS

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 6, 2007*

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Carol Watkins for her 46 years of public service to the people of Northeast Ohio.

Carol began her career in 1960 at the Cleveland Downtown Social Security Field Office. She held many positions at the office over the years, including Clerk Stenographer, Executive Secretary, Management Analyst, Administrative Officer and Group Supervisor. In 1984, she accepted the appointment of Hearing Office Director at the Cleveland Office of Disability Adjudication and Review.

During her tenure at the Cleveland ODAR, Carol has worked with over thirty Administrative Law Judges and has been recognized many times for her tireless dedication. Under her leadership, the Cleveland ODAR had received several national and regional awards as well as recognition from the legal and charity communities.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Carol Watkins for her lifetime commitment to serving the Cleveland community through her career with the Social Security Administration. May her dedication to public service serve as an inspiration for us all.

HONORING LARRY DITO

**HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 6, 2007*

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a man who has literally changed the face of one of the largest cities in my district. Larry Dito has for 35 years directed the parks, recreation and community services program for the City of Novato. On a small budget, using good old-fashioned teamwork and cooperation, Larry has enriched the lives of skateboarders, dog owners, seniors and teens by creating new buildings, new parks and new opportunities, as well as renovating older ones and making them usable.

From his first days here, in 1972, Larry gather a small, loosely-banded group of rural folks and formed it into a community.

"He developed the mission of the department to enrich community life," says Jennifer Goldfinger, assistant to the city manager. "And that's really what he's been all about."

Larry accomplished this by convincing people to work together for the greater good. Members of Rotary, Elks, schools and neighborhoods pitched in to realize the vision of a community where all its citizens could enjoy living there.

"He is known for creating partnerships," Goldfinger explains. "He's very good at bringing people together." And those same people extol his virtues. He is universally liked and admired.

"I cannot think of a negative thing about him," notes Nancy Sangster, who, as a former parks and recreation commissioner, worked with Larry for years and still considers him a friend. "Any good word you can find in the dictionary, you can say about him."

High praise, perhaps, but Larry has earned it. Thanks to his work, Novato seniors have the Margaret Todd Senior Center. Because of Larry's ability to build consensus with other organizations, Novato teens have a place to hang out—the Novato Teen Center. With Larry's help and guidance in engineering a joint project, the City's children have the Novato Gymnastics Center, the skate park, the Hill gym, and a full complement of girls' sports programs and after school athletics.

But Larry has not just created new programs and facilities; he has also given new life to the old. He spearheaded the renovation of the Indian Valley College swimming pool, as well as the outdoor ball fields there.

Sangster adds to the list the Hamilton reuse projects at the old Hamilton Air Force Base. Here, Larry had the pool and amphitheater renovated for activities, programs and plays the entire county can participate in.

His tireless efforts have also resulted in a number of small alterations in the city—improvements that most people didn't notice, but that affected the lives of many. For example, it was Larry who convinced concerned homeowners that allowing the upgrade of neighborhood parks to make them ADA accessible would actually benefit them, as well.

"He always found groups to help build, so that much of the labor was donated," Sangster explains. "He knows how to bring out the best in everybody."

And this list doesn't begin to include all Larry's accomplishments.

Across the freeway from the giant Novato shopping center called Vintage Oaks runs a brackish haven for water fowl, lined with cat-tails and, on the weekends, cars of the many visitors. Rescued from developers who would have turned it into condos, this lovely marsh attracts birds, frogs, snakes, people and dogs. For commuters stuck in the nightmare traffic that lines the freeway to the east, Scottsdale Marsh is a reminder of to relax.

It is also, says Sangster, one of the most outstanding such projects in the United States.

How did one man accomplish so much? He works long hours, yes, but even more, he knows how to lead. Larry's sparkling personality brings people together and puts them at ease. They recognize he is genuine. Sangster explains that he is not only a good delegator, but he inspires confidence in others to make decisions—and they are good decisions. He expects the best and people rise to the occasion.

In addition to his dedication to the City of Novato, Larry is a devoted family man who assumed leadership responsibility for his own children's sports groups as they were growing up. And he's the kind of friend who is always there to help out.

"He always puts his friends above his personal plans," Sangster says, recounting how 10 years ago, Larry and his wife gave up travel plans for their anniversary in order to attend her husband's funeral. "Everybody is important to him."

Madam Speaker, every part of the City of Novato bears the stamp of Larry Dito's efforts to improve life for every member of the community—young, old, wealthy, working-class or needy, athlete or amateur. But even more, the residents of Novato carry the legacy of this man's example—that one person can be the catalyst for change to create a community.

And that, Madam Speaker, is why I honor Larry Dito on his retirement, after 35 years in service to a community forever in his debt.

**MILITARY RESERVIST AND VETERAN SMALL BUSINESS REAUTHORIZATION AND OPPORTUNITY ACT OF 2007**

SPEECH OF

**HON. RON KLEIN**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 5, 2007*

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to support the Improve & Expand Small Business Assistance Programs for Veterans Act of 2007. America's veterans have given their best for this country, for the freedoms that we cherish so much, and we must give them our best in return.

This legislation would expand the Small Business Administration's Office of Veterans Business Development in order to facilitate better business outreach to our Nation's veterans. The legislation requires that the SBA open two additional Veterans' Outreach offices in the coming year and expand opportunities for women veterans. It would also allow veterans to obtain reduced fee SBA loans.

Approximately 5 percent of the 80 million small businesses in this country are owned by veterans. Veteran-owned small businesses have a higher success rate than other small

businesses, perhaps because of the strong work ethic and value system that the military imbues in its soldiers. I support this legislation because it will help veterans to enter and compete in today's business world, and I urge my colleagues to support this legislation today.

**RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF DEAN AGUILLEN**

**HON. HILDA L. SOLIS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 6, 2007*

Ms. SOLIS. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize Dean Aguillen, an intelligent individual who has been on Speaker PELOSI's staff since 2002. Originally from San Antonio, Texas, he most recently served as a Senior Adviser and Director of Member Services in the Speaker's office. Dean's hard work, dedication, and skills are the reasons why he was so respected by his colleagues and Members.

I had the pleasure of knowing Dean over the last several years. Dean attended the weekly Congressional Hispanic Caucus, CHC, luncheons to give our caucus a House update and he proved to always be responsive to our needs. He was a valuable player in the Speaker's office and he represented her well before the CHC. He has made a lasting impression on the CHC and I commend Dean for his commitment to this country and to the Latino community.

While I am sad to see Dean leave, I am confident that the future will bring him much success. I wish Dean good health and the best of luck in all of his future endeavors. Buena suerte Dean.

**RECOGNIZING NEWARK CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL**

**HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 6, 2007*

Mr. TIBERI. Madam Speaker, Ohio is known for football. Many players from the State's two NFL teams, and our No. 1 ranked Ohio State Buckeyes have been playing football in Ohio since childhood. The rich football tradition was again highlighted in my district, as I am proud to recognize Newark Catholic High School as Division VI State champions.

Head Coach Bill Franks's team didn't have an easy road to get the championship title, it was a road paved with hard work and determination. This wasn't the first trip to the big game for Newark Catholic, as they have seven State titles under their belt. Even with a strong team, the competition was harder than ever this season. Newark Catholic had gigantic wins over both the second and sixth place teams, which earned them a ticket to the championship game against an unbeaten Bascom Hopewell-Loudon.

I feel honored to represent such a rich history of football at this high school. Newark Catholic won its first title back in 1978 and since then the Green Wave has claimed six championship titles. There is even a book telling the story of the exceptional football program at this high school titled, "Growing Up

Green: Newark Catholic Football and the 1985 State Championship."

After the 28–14 win on December 1, the school can proudly display their eighth title win. With a history like that, I'm sure the future is bright for this football program.

Congratulations to all of the coaches, players, families and community.

**CONGRATULATING NELLE HARPER LEE ON THE OCCASION OF BEING AWARDED THE PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL OF FREEDOM**

**HON. JO BONNER**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 6, 2007*

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, it is with both pride and pleasure that I rise today to honor one of the most beloved residents of Alabama, Miss Nelle Harper Lee, on the occasion of her receiving the Presidential Medal of Freedom for her novel *To Kill a Mockingbird*.

A native of Monroeville, Alabama, Miss Lee began her writing career at the University of Alabama where she wrote for student publications and served for one year as the editor of a campus humor magazine. She moved to New York City in 1950 where she worked as a reservations clerk with Eastern Air Lines and BOAC.

In 1956, Miss Lee found an agent, and soon after, she began the draft of *To Kill a Mockingbird*. The novel was published on July 11, 1960, and became an immediate bestseller. She won the 1961 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction for her novel, and in a 1999, poll run by the *Library Journal*, her novel was voted "Best Novel of the Century."

In 1966, Miss Lee was named to the National Council of Arts by President Johnson, and since that time, she has received many honorary doctorate degrees for her outstanding contributions to literature.

Madam Speaker, Miss Lee's masterpiece *To Kill a Mockingbird* is a model of literary achievement that has become an American classic. Its pages spoke a strong message of honor and tolerance during our Nation's struggle for equality. So, from one native south Alabamian to another, please accept my heartfelt expression of pride—on behalf of all of us who, over the years, have been touched in some way by "*Mockingbird*."

It is only appropriate that I ask my colleagues to join with me in congratulating Miss Nelle Harper Lee on receiving this award. I know her sisters—Louise Lee Conner and Alice Lee—her family and her many friends join with me in praising her significant accomplishments.

Today, Madam Speaker, I rise to ask that President George W. Bush's remarks in honor of Miss Lee made at the ceremony for the 2007 Medal of Freedom recipients be entered into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

PRESIDENT BUSH HONORS MEDAL OF FREEDOM RECIPIENTS, EAST ROOM—NOVEMBER 5, 2007

THE PRESIDENT. Good morning. Laura and I are thrilled to welcome you to the White House. We welcome the members of Congress, the members of the Cabinet, and other distinguished guests. It's an honor to be with the Medal of Freedom recipients, as well as their family members and friends. We're sure glad you're here.

The Medal of Freedom is the highest civil honor that a President can bestow. By an executive order of John F. Kennedy, the medal is designed to recognize great contributions to national security, the cause of peace and freedom, science, the arts, literature, and many other fields. The eight men and women came to this distinction by very different paths. Each of them, by effort and by character, has earned the respect of the American people, and holds a unique place in the story of our time.

The story of an old order, and the glimmers of humanity that would one day overtake it, was unforgettably told in a book by Miss Harper Lee. Soon after its publication a reviewer said this: "A hundred pounds of sermons on tolerance, or an equal measure of invective deploring the lack of it, will weigh far less in the scale of enlightenment than a mere 18 ounces of a new fiction bearing the title *To Kill a Mockingbird*."

Given her legendary stature as a novelist, you may be surprised to learn that Harper Lee, early in her career, was an airline reservation clerk. (Laughter.) Fortunately for all of us, she didn't stick to writing itineraries. (Laughter.) Her beautiful book, with its grateful prose and memorable characters, became one of the biggest-selling novels of the 20th century.

Forty-six years after winning the Pulitzer Prize, *To Kill a Mockingbird* still touches and inspires every reader. We're moved by the story of a man falsely accused—with old prejudice massed against him, and an old sense of honor that rises to his defense. We learn that courage can be a solitary business. As the lawyer Atticus Finch tells his daughter, "before I can live with other folks I've got to live with myself. The one thing that doesn't abide by majority rule is a person's conscience."

Years after *To Kill a Mockingbird* was put to film, the character of Atticus Finch was voted the greatest movie hero of all time. It won Gregory Peck the Oscar. He was said to believe the role "brought him closest to being the kind of man he aspired to be." The great actor counted Harper Lee among his good friends, and we're so pleased that Gregory Peck's wife, Veronique, is with us today. Thank you for coming.

One reason *To Kill a Mockingbird* succeeded is the wise and kind heart of the author, which comes through on every page. This daughter of Monroeville, Alabama had something to say about honor, and tolerance, and, most of all, love—and it still resonates. Last year Harper Lee received an honorary doctorate at Notre Dame. As the degree was presented, the graduating class rose as one, held up copies of her book, and cheered for the author they love.

*To Kill a Mockingbird* has influenced the character of our country for the better. It's been a gift to the entire world. As a model of good writing and humane sensibility, this book will be read and studied forever. And so all of us are filled with admiration for a great American and a lovely lady named Harper Lee.

Now I call on the military aide to read the citations for the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

MILITARY AIDE. Harper Lee. Harper Lee's beautiful book is a meditation on family, human complexity, and some of the great themes of American life. At a critical moment in our history, *To Kill a Mockingbird* helped focus the nation on the turbulent struggle for equality. The novel became an instant American classic and earned her a Pulitzer Prize. Nearly half a century after its publication, her work continues to captivate new readers who encounter its compelling power for the first time. The United States honors Harper Lee for her out-

standing contribution to the great literary tradition of America.

THE PRESIDENT. Thank you all for coming. Laura and I now invite you to a reception here in the State Dining Room. I hope you've enjoyed this ceremony as much as I have. May God bless you all. Thank you.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING RAYMOND "SKEET" BOTDORF FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE MILITARY AND UNITED STATES VETERANS

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2007

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Raymond "Skeet" Botdorf was a member of the Army Band Corps; and

Whereas, he earned a Bronze Star for capturing a Nazi Prison Officer who tried to escape from a prison camp in Czechoslovakia; and

Whereas, Raymond "Skeet" Botdorf is a member of the VFW Post 63 in Dover, Ohio; and

Whereas, he plays TAPS for an average of 100 funerals a year; and

Whereas, Raymond "Skeet" Botdorf has honored 3,000 veterans by playing TAPS at their funerals; and

Whereas, Raymond "Skeet" Botdorf is saluted for his service and dedication; now, therefore, be it

Resolved that along with his friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I commend and thank Raymond "Skeet" Botdorf for his contributions to his community and country.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM RHODES

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2007

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor William Rhodes of Gandeenville, WV, for attaining the rank of Eagle Scout.

William has been involved as a member of the Boy Scouts for the past 6 years as a member of Troop 434 sponsored by Walton Union Church in Walton, WV. For his Eagle Scout project, William improved the facilities at Bessie Jones Memorial Park. He constructed a handicap accessible bridge, trash can receptacles, three benches, and most notably built a trail at the park complete with signage, so walkers could easily navigate their way.

His accomplishments and hard work demonstrate the high standards held by those who achieve the rank of Eagle Scout. He has been involved with his local 4-H Club and played freshman and junior varsity football for the Roane County Raiders. William is currently a junior at Roane County High School and attends Roane-Jackson Vocational School, where he is studying auto mechanics.

I extend my congratulations to William and look forward to his future accomplishments. Roane County is fortunate to have such a dedicated, patriotic, young man among its citizens.

RECOGNIZING 200 YEARS OF RESEARCH, SERVICE, AND STEWARDSHIP BY NOAA AND ITS PREDECESSOR AGENCIES

SPEECH OF

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Mr. SHULER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). NOAA has been the leader in national research on oceans and the atmosphere, and their effect on the human environment.

NOAA evolved from the Survey of the Coast, established in 1807, to an organization that provides daily forecasts, storm warnings, and climate monitoring to a variety of organizations that support marine commerce. NOAA has a presence in each of the 50 States and countries worldwide. NOAA takes part in the most advanced, cutting-edge research, using new and innovative technologies to ensure this country's economic future.

I am very proud that Western North Carolina is home to the National Climate Data Center, the largest archive of weather and global climate related data, including that data collected by NOAA. The center holds data as old as 150 years old, and as recent as a few hours ago.

NOAA, and NCDC, are integral to our Nation's success as a global economy. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the contributions of NOAA.

IN CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE OF VERICE M. MASON

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2007

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise in celebration of the life of my dear friend Verice M. Mason who passed away December 2, 2007 at the age of 55. A native of Waynesburg, Pennsylvania, Verice resided in Washington, DC prior to moving to Metuchen, New Jersey 30 years ago. A 1970 graduate of Theodore Roosevelt High School in Washington, DC, Verice would go on to obtain her undergraduate degree from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio and later her law degree from Rutgers School of Law in Newark.

Verice had a long and distinguished professional career. She served as Senior Vice President and General Counsel for MDA Advantage Insurance Company, responsible for all legal and regulatory matters for the company. Prior to joining MDA Advantage, Verice was appointed chief of the Authorities unit in the Governor's Counsel Office in 2004 by Governor Richard J. Cody, where she represented the Governor's interests and served as his liaison to over 40 authorities, boards and commissions.

Other positions held by Verice include Senior Vice President and General Counsel for the MIIX Group, Inc., partner in New Jersey's office of Peterson, and assistant commissioner

for the office of Legislative and Regulatory Affairs for the New Jersey Department of Insurance.

Verice was extremely involved in her community. She was previously active in the Metuchen-Edison Branch of the NAACP and received the NAACP Honorable Barbara Jordan Community Activist Award. She served as both treasurer and co-president of the Metuchen Parent-Teacher Council and treasurer of the Citizens for Quality Education. She was a trustee of the Metuchen Education Foundation. She was also a member of the Second Baptist Church of Metuchen.

I first met Verice Mason at Case Western Reserve University in the early 1970's. I was a house mother and she was a student. She had a wonderful zest for life. We were both active in the African American Society and she was very instrumental in helping other black students adjust to life on a predominantly white college campus. She and her college roommate Joan Brooks set a loving example of sisterhood that we all strived to emulate.

On behalf of the Congress of the United States and the people of the 11th Congressional District of Ohio, I would like to offer my sincere condolences to the family and friends of Verice Mason including her husband Mark, two sons Matthew and Mark and her father Matthew. May her legacy of love live on in our hearts.

INCLUDING ALL BANKING AGENCIES WITHIN THE EXISTING REGULATORY AUTHORITY UNDER THE FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION ACT

**HON. JOHN D. DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 6, 2007*

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this legislation, and am proud to join my colleague, the gentleman from Massachusetts and Chairman of the Committee on Financial Services, Rep. FRANK, in sponsoring this bill. It represents an important first step in improving the protection of consumers of depository institutions. H.R. 3526 was referred to both of our Committees (Energy and Commerce has Rule X jurisdiction over consumer protection and consumer affairs) and reported unanimously by both. I urge its adoption by the House.

The Supreme Court's ruling earlier this year in *Watters v. Wachovia Bank N.A.* upheld a regulation by the Department of Treasury's Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC) that permits operating subsidiaries of national banks to violate State laws with impunity. The Court ruled that the bank's operating subsidiary is subject to OCC superintendence, even if there effectively is none, and not the licensing, reporting, and visitorial regimes of the States in which the subsidiary operates. The practical effect of the OCC's far-reaching preemption authority as interpreted and blessed by the courts is that it prevents States from using their historical authority to protect consumers and communities in large parts of the financial services marketplace, a huge consumer protection gap that evildoers have exploited and the Federal banking regulators have not shown an inclination or an ability to fill.

As explained more fully in our respective Committee reports, banks are covered by the Federal Trade Commission Act's prohibition against "unfair or deceptive acts or practices in or affecting commerce," but the rule writer for them is not the Federal Trade Commission, the expert agency who implements and enforces this provision across the vast majority of the U.S. economy, but rather the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve. It has done very little. Given the tide of complaints about abusive practices with respect to loans, credit cards, checking accounts, and other products, this is clearly unacceptable. H.R. 3526 therefore includes all Federal banking regulators, and not just the Federal Reserve, within the existing mandate under Section 18(f) of the FTC Act to adopt rules identifying and prohibiting unfair or deceptive acts or practices by depository institutions.

The Committee on Energy and Commerce was pleased to adopt improvements to this legislation. We amended it to require the banking regulators to consult with the FTC when promulgating any such rules, to allow the FTC to use the notice and comment procedures of the Administrative Procedure Act in concurrent rulemakings with the bank regulators, and to require GAO to report on the status of bank rules under these authorities.

I want to assure Members that the Committee on Energy and Commerce and its Subcommittee on Commerce, Trade, and Consumer Protection intend to engage in vigorous oversight, in consultation with the Committee on Financial Services, to make sure that this authority is aggressively used. The public will greatly benefit from it.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF  
FRANCES MURPHY II

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 6, 2007*

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise to ask the House of Representatives to join the residents of the District of Columbia and thousands of Americans throughout the country in thanksgiving for the life of Frances Murphy II. The influential Publisher Emeritus of the Washington Afro-American newspaper was especially revered in this city and in her hometown of Baltimore, where the Baltimore Afro-American is published, for coverage that African Americans got nowhere else in the press. Frances Murphy's leadership in journalism and publishing and her decades of work as a reporter, columnist, and editor were instrumental in educating and raising the consciousness of African Americans through unflinching investigations and coverage on matters of race that furthered the determination of people of all races to struggle against racial discrimination. As fearless as she was able, Frances Murphy was the scion of the nation's most distinguished African American newspaper family, but she insisted on making it to the top the hard way. Ms. Murphy rose to the pinnacle of running the family business, but only after selling the Afro as a child and submitting pieces for its children's section, educating herself at one of the nation's finest schools of journalism, becoming an entry-level reporter and then learning the business first hand by per-

forming every function until she ran the papers. It would be unusual for a woman to become head of a newspaper empire today, but Frances Murphy's rise as a pre-feminist pioneer was all the more remarkable. Throughout her long and storied career, Ms. Murphy became a life long learner, pursuing additional degrees and always educating herself. In the process, she applied the same standard to the public by insisting on educating all of us. I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the remarkable life of Frances Murphy II.

RECOGNIZING PRINCIPAL DWIGHT  
WAGNER

**HON. TED POE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 6, 2007*

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, today I am pleased to honor Port Arthur elementary school Principal Dwight Wagner, recent recipient of Port Arthur News' Citizen of the Year Award. The award was given to a man that has spent his entire life displaying excellence and commitment to community. For over 30 years, Mr. Wagner has been employed with the Port Arthur Independent School District, serving as a teacher and an administrator.

Principal Wagner is a Port Arthur native who has spent a lifetime giving back to his community. After graduating from Thomas Jefferson High School, he received his bachelor's and master's degrees right down the street at Lamar University.

His honors are numerous, including Wal-Mart Teacher of the Year Award, NAACP Amos Evans Service Award, and the Sertoma Organization's Service to Mankind Award.

Known throughout his community for his musical ability, Principal Wagner composed the official city song of Port Arthur, "City by the Sea." His vocal talents provide entertainment at numerous community events and various local stage performances.

On behalf of the entire Second Congressional District of Texas, I would like to congratulate Principal Wagner on his latest award and thank him for his many years of service to the Port Arthur Community.

And that's just the way it is.

COMMENDING THE CITY OF  
PRICHARD, ALABAMA, AND ITS  
MAYOR RON DAVIS

**HON. JO BONNER**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 6, 2007*

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the city of Prichard, Alabama, its mayor, Ron Davis, and the city council for successfully eliminating the city's debt.

On November 9, 2007, Mayor Davis signed two checks at a ceremony at the A.J. Cooper Municipal Complex, officially paying off the city's creditors a full year ahead of schedule. As Mayor Davis stated while signing these checks, the city of Prichard is now open for business—business that includes the Dale Earnhardt, Jr. Alabama Motorsports Park and theme park, which will feature stock car racing, drag racing, and a road course.

Founded as a settlement in the 1830s, Prichard was incorporated as a city in 1925. During World War II, it became home to many who worked for the shipbuilding companies in Mobile.

The closing of Brookley Air Force Base in the late 1960s, followed by the closings of Scott and International Paper companies in the early 1990s, cost many Prichard residents their jobs and forced them to move away from the city. In 1999, the city filed for Chapter 9 bankruptcy protection in federal court, revealing the city owed \$5.3 million to creditors. Over the last eight years, the city has been paying this debt with quarterly payments—some as much as \$1.5 million.

Madam Speaker, the residents of Prichard, Alabama, have firmly rooted themselves in their proud history, but they also keep an optimistic and careful eye on the road ahead. I have no doubt that the consistent leadership and inspired vision of today's residents will lead to great success in the coming years.

I ask my colleagues to join me in commending the city of Prichard as well as the leadership of Mayor Ron Davis and the city council. It is my hope that Prichard enjoys continued prosperity, and it is my distinct pleasure to represent this community in the United States House of Representatives.

#### A PROCLAMATION HONORING THE 200TH BIRTHDAY OF FREDERICKTOWN

### HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 6, 2007*

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Fredericktown will celebrate the 200th birthday with great joy; and

Whereas, they will reflect on the past 200 years with fondness and celebrate; and

Whereas, Fredericktown will reminisce on a lifetime full of memories and look forward to many more; now, therefore, be it

Resolved that along with his friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I wish Fredericktown a happy 200th birthday.

#### TRIBUTE TO MIKE BUNNER

### HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 6, 2007*

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mike Bunner of Buckhannon, WV, who recently attained the rank of Eagle Scout on November 12, 2007. He is the son of Roy Michael Bunner and Jennifer Lee Bunner.

Mike is a member of Boy Scout Troop 106 and is sponsored by Sand Run Baptist Church in Buckhannon, WV. He has been involved in scouting since August of 2004. During his time in Boy Scouts, he has earned 31 Merit Badges and was awarded the prestigious Order of the Arrow. For his Eagle Scout project, Mike constructed a play area for a local Christian school.

Mike is truly a representative of the Scout Oath, "to do duty to God and country." He has

been involved with the 4-H Club for six years where he has excelled in leadership and community service activities. He is also a member of his church's youth group.

His many accomplishments demonstrate the high standards held by those who achieve Eagle Scout. I extend my congratulations to Mike and look forward to his future accomplishments.

#### TRIBUTE TO A. JAMES CLARK ON THE OCCASION OF HIS 80TH BIRTHDAY

### HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 6, 2007*

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an extraordinary individual, who celebrated, on December 2, 2007, one of society's milestones, his 80th birthday. From a humble beginning as a student on a state scholarship at the University of Maryland, Jim rose to head one of the leading construction companies in the United States. Professionally, his lifetime has been filled with magnificent buildings and public spaces; his less-public achievements have been equally successful. Jim Clark is an individual of great kindness and generosity, exemplified by his philanthropic efforts. He has given generously and without reservation to his alma mater, his community and his country. By brilliant example, Jim Clark's flames of achievement have built a better world, and in so doing, have lighted the way for all of us. Jim also has been blessed with his wife Alice, his 3 children and 10 grandchildren. We wish this truly remarkable man all the love and happiness he deserves on this special occasion.

#### THE ECONOMIC COSTS OF AN UNHEALTHY AMERICA

### HON. DAN BOREN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 6, 2007*

Mr. BOREN. Madam Speaker, recently, the Milken Institute released what I believe to be a landmark study on the cost to the United States from the startling growth of chronic disease in this nation. Its findings are eye-opening:

More than half of all Americans suffer from one of more of the following diseases—cancer, diabetes, hypertension, stroke, heart disease, pulmonary conditions or mental disorders.

Over the past 20 years we have spent trillions of dollars in research and treatment on these diseases, improving both treatment and mortality outcomes but the rates of chronic disease continue to climb.

If no changes are instituted, within 16 years, 2023, there will be a 42 percent increase in the number of cases.

The cost to the American economy will be \$4.2 trillion in treatment costs and lost productivity, with lost productivity accounting for 81 percent of all costs.

Improving Americans' health behaviors through anti-obesity and anti-smoking efforts

can save the U.S. \$1.6 trillion in treatment and lost productivity, decrease the number of cases by 40 million and improve gross domestic product by \$254 billion.

Let me put these numbers into some kind of perspective. The \$4.2 trillion cost to the economy if nothing changes is greater than the current gross domestic product of France, the United Kingdom and Spain combined. That amount is greater than the current GDPs of either Africa or Latin America and not much lower than the GDPs of the two continents combined.

The recommendations of the Milken Institute, which describes itself as an independent economic think tank, center on ensuring that incentives in the health care system focus on prevention and early disease intervention and that we commit as a nation to achieving a "healthy body weight."

Madam Speaker, all of us bear some responsibility in combating these diseases—individuals, non-governmental organizations, governments, corporations, the medical community and the insurance industry. But we here in Congress also bear a special responsibility to remove any federal disincentives to promoting good physical well-being. We set policy; we set the tone for the Nation on any issue. Pending before this body are two pieces of legislation to promote physical fitness, a key component of prevention and a central means of achieving a healthy body weight, the Workforce Health Improvement Program Act (H.R. 1748). If enacted, this legislation would remove federal barriers to the promotion of physical activity and move our health care system ever more to one that emphasizes prevention over disease treatment.

As the Milken Institute's study so strongly shows, there are great costs ahead if we do nothing, but great savings to be gained if we act. Passage of this legislation would help us achieve a healthier America. I urge enactment this legislation.

#### CONGRESS MUST RESPOND TO THE NEEDS OF THE LONG-TERM UNEMPLOYED

### HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 6, 2007*

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to address a problem of growing importance: the problem of long-term unemployment.

I recently received a letter from a constituent, who urged me to speak out on behalf of workers unable to find appropriate jobs at living wages, who are being excluded from productive participation in the workforce. She called for Congressional action.

Jean SmilingCoyote of Chicago wrote, "When unemployed Americans run out of unemployment compensation, they are counted neither as unemployed nor as part of the labor force. . . . We need to take pro-active steps to end long-term unemployment of Americans. The first step is to have these people identify themselves and what they can contribute economically. We have to persuade employers to hire them for appropriate jobs at living wages, starting with people who've gotten a good education and stayed out of trouble."

We need to adopt measurements that accurately count the number of unemployed and policies that help create good jobs in the private and public sectors. I hope that we will make this a priority in the 110th Congress.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ADRIAN SMITH**

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 6, 2007*

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, on Thursday, November 29, my uncle, Giles Smith, died at the age of 64.

My Uncle Giles was a man who cared about his community and actively made it a better place. He meant a lot to me, and was an inspiration to many. We will miss him.

Due to family matters, I was delayed in returning to Washington DC until today, causing me to, regretfully, miss several votes.

For the record, I would have voted "no" on rollcall 1123, "yes" on rollcall 1124, "yes" on rollcall 1125, "yes" on rollcall 1126, "yes" on rollcall 1127, "yes" on rollcall 1128, "yes" on rollcall 1129, "no" on rollcall 1130, "yes" on rollcall 1131, "yes" on rollcall 1132, and "yes" on rollcall 1133.

FINANCIAL CONSUMER HOTLINE  
ACT OF 2007

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 6, 2007*

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, this bill, the "Financial Consumer Hotline Act of 2007," would establish a single, toll-free telephone number consumers can call if they have a question for or problem with their bank and want to speak to the bank's federal or state regulator. A number of different governing bodies currently regulate banks, which can make it difficult for consumers to figure out who they should contact with concerns and complaints. The bill would also establish a corresponding informational website.

3,000 LAWYERS GO TO JAIL

**HON. TED POE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 6, 2007*

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, on November 3, Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf suspended the national constitution, fired appellate judges, detained 8 members of the Supreme Court, and arrested hundreds of lawyers. In the weeks that followed, nearly 3,000 lawyers were arrested. Musharraf's explanation was that martial law was necessary because of terrorism threats. This is a poor excuse.

Musharraf fired or arrested members of the legal community for protesting Musharraf's abuse of power and for defending the rule of law. These men and women are courageous. They've faced beatings, threats, tear gas, and arrests for promoting democracy.

A nation cannot succeed without impartial application of law. A nation cannot succeed when a President suspends a cornerstone of government for his own political convenience.

Although Musharraf eventually released many, he also cracked down on the Pakistani press. On November 20, approximately 100 journalists were arrested at a protest.

A nation without courts promotes tyranny. A nation without a free press promotes uninformed citizens and unaccountable politicians. The rule of law and democracy are indebted to lawyers and judges, who ensure that rights are protected and laws are obeyed.

And that's just the way it is.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING  
CHELSEA STEEN FOR PLACING  
SECOND IN THE MANCHESTER  
UMBRO INTERNATIONAL CUP

**HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 6, 2007*

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker: Whereas, Chelsea Steen competed in England's largest youth soccer tournament; and Whereas, Chelsea Steen showed hard work and dedication to the sport of soccer; and Whereas, Chelsea Steen has broadened her abilities and skills in the sport of soccer; and

Whereas, Chelsea Steen was a supportive team player; and

Whereas, Chelsea Steen always displayed sportsmanship on and off of the field; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that along with her friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Chelsea Steen on placing second in the Manchester Umbro International Cup. We recognize the tremendous hard work and sportsmanship she has demonstrated.

TRIBUTE TO GRAYSON LEE  
SHREVE

**HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO**

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 6, 2007*

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Grayson Lee Shreve of Buckhannon, WV, who recently attained the rank of Eagle Scout on October 23, 2007.

Grayson is a member of Boy Scout Troop 106 and is sponsored by Sand Run Baptist Church in Buckhannon, WV. During his years in scouting, he has received 43 Merit Badges and achieved the rank of Life Scout. He was awarded the prestigious Order of the Arrow and the Arrow of Light. For his service project to obtain Eagle Scout, Grayson restored and constructed a screened picnic shelter for a local church.

His many accomplishments demonstrate the high standards held by those who achieve Eagle Scout. Grayson has been a consistent Honor Roll student and has been a member of the Gifted Program since elementary school. He currently attends Buckhannon-Upshur High School where he is involved in BUMS, the school news channel.

Grayson is truly representative of the Scout Oath, "to do duty to God and country." I extend my congratulations to Grayson and his parents, Leslie Shreve II and Norma Hinkle. Upshur County is fortunate to have such an accomplished young leader.

HONORING RON KIRKLAND AS  
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF  
DIRECTORS OF THE AMERICAN  
MEDICAL GROUP ASSOCIATION

**HON. JOHN S. TANNER**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 6, 2007*

Mr. TANNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the recent professional honor bestowed on my former high school classmate and good friend, Dr. Ronald H. Kirkland.

A practicing otolaryngologist for nearly a quarter of a century, Ron was elected as the 2008 Chairman of the Board of Directors of the American Medical Group Association, AMGA, located in Alexandria, Virginia.

AMGA represents more than 300 medical groups, including some of the Nation's largest, most prestigious integrated healthcare delivery systems. AMGA members deliver health care to more than 50 million patients in 42 States, including 15 million lives.

Dr. Kirkland is the past Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Jackson Clinic Professional Association in Jackson, Tennessee, a multi-specialty group practice of more than 130 physicians in 25 specialties and sub-specialties in 14 West Tennessee locations.

In addition to his medical career, in which he was twice selected by his peers as among the "Best Doctors in America" and once as one of "America's Top Physicians," Ron has held leadership responsibilities in a variety of educational, medical, religious, business and political organizations.

Ron received his medical degree from the University of Tennessee Health Science Center and completed residencies both there and at the Carraway Methodist Medical Center in Birmingham, Alabama. He is a member of the American Medical Association and the Tennessee Medical Association, and is certified by the American Board of Otolaryngology. Ron also served his country in the U.S. Army as a counter-intelligence officer in Vietnam.

Madam Speaker, Dr. Kirkland and his colleagues bring a unique perspective on coordinated care for chronically ill patients, health information technology, and quality care to our continuing debate on health policy. I look forward to working with my friend Ron Kirkland during his tenure as Chairman of the Board of Directors at AMGA.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. LAMAR  
DENKINS

**HON. MIKE ROGERS**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 6, 2007*

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a distinguished public servant of Alabama's Third Congressional District and our Nation, Mr. Lamar Denkins.

Mr. Denkins has worked for the people of Alabama in various capacities for most of his life. Over his career, he has served in the United States Army Reserves; has been the Minister of First Baptist Church of Williams in Jacksonville, Alabama; has worked as a therapist for the Calhoun-Cleburne County Mental Health Board; and worked as a Human Resource Specialist for the Westinghouse Anniston Chemical-Demilitarization Project.

Prior to joining my office in 2003, Mr. Denkins also served as an Executive Assistant for former Third District Congressman Glen Browder. From 2003 to 2007, he has served as Field Representative, Deputy District Director, and District Director and has been a dedicated and non-partisan public servant.

Lamar has done an incredible job for the people of the Third District and he will certainly be missed here in this office, and across East Alabama.

Lamar, on behalf of the citizens of Alabama's Third Congressional District, thank you for your service to our State. We wish you all the best in your retirement.

TRIBUTE TO HIDALGO EARLY  
COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL

**HON. HENRY CUELLAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 6, 2007*

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Hidalgo Early College High School, in Hidalgo, TX, for achieving the highest ranking in the State of Texas among the Best High Schools In America by U.S. News and World Report.

Hidalgo Early College High School has consistently worked to provide crucial tools for educational success for its 810 students, more than half of whom come from families that have never finished high school, and these students have overcome tremendous barriers thanks to the leadership of their school, their parents, and teachers. One of the many tools for success the school offers is the chance to earn up to 60 college hours at no cost by the time the students reach their senior year, which gives them the opportunity to obtain both a high school diploma and associates degree upon graduation. This was made possible by a grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

It is also due to the strong leadership displayed by Eduardo Cancino, superintendent of Hidalgo ISD, and by Edward Blaha, principal of Hidalgo Early College High School, that the school has outperformed its peers at the local, state, and national level. I am also proud of the support for the community that the local school board and the administrators and teachers have shown for Hidalgo Early College High School. It is because of their collective effort in providing the best education possible for the students, that Hidalgo

Early College High School has rightfully earned its rank as one of the best high schools in America.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to recognize Hidalgo Early College High School for achieving the highest ranking in the State of Texas among the Best High Schools In America by U.S. News and World Report, and I thank you for this time.

MARKING HUMAN RIGHTS DAY:  
THE PLIGHT OF AYMAN NOUR

**HON. BOB FILNER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 6, 2007*

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, on Monday, December 10, the United States joins the world in celebration of Human Rights Day, remembering the historic occasion when the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted and proclaimed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This document affirms the elementary rights that belong to all humankind.

Nearly six decades after the adoption of this critical Declaration, and 46 years after I joined the first Freedom Rides to uphold civil and human rights for all citizens of the United States, there are still many people around the globe struggling to gain the rights that we as Americans hold dear.

The plight of one man, Ayman Nour, is emblematic of the myriad injustices that continue to afflict our fellow citizens of the world today. Nour, a parliamentarian and a leading voice for democracy in Egypt, was arrested and jailed in 2005 after his candidacy in the country's first open presidential election. He was charged with forgery, but his imprisonment is widely understood as a political move by the Egyptian government to crack down on the opposition. The illegitimate nature of the charges against him, along with Nour's serious health concerns, including heart problems and diabetes, are grounds for his immediate release. This week, however, Nour enters the third year of his 5-year sentence with little reason for optimism. His latest appeal was rejected earlier this year after the state-sponsored Egyptian media launched a smear campaign against him.

Nour is not the only victim of this crack-down. Judges, journalists, ethnic and religious minorities, civil society and human rights activists, and everyday citizens have all been targeted. Nour and countless others fighting for their fundamental freedoms continue to look to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as an ideal, not as a reality. For the millions who have suffered greatly, Nour's release would symbolize a recommitment to the inherent dignity and the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family as cited in the Declaration's Preamble.

On this Human Rights Day, in the spirit of cooperation between nations, I urge the Egyptian government to release Ayman Nour, and to uphold its stated commitment to civil and human rights.

A TRIBUTE TO JOHN SKIEF

**HON. ROBERT A. BRADY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 6, 2007*

Mr. BRADY. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor one of Philadelphia's great educators, my fellow West Philadelphian, John Skief. We lost John this past Saturday and he is deeply missed.

John Skief was a true Renaissance man. In his youth, he was a member of the All City

Dance Ensemble. He was also a gymnast, a cross-country runner, and a soccer player. He set city and state high jump records in high school and college. A born activist, Skief joined the NAACP youth council at age 14 and participated in many civil rights demonstrations under the leadership of his mentor, Cecil B. Moore.

Skief has been a constant advocate of African-American history and community control of education. After receiving his degree in education from Cheyney State College in 1971, Skief began his teaching career in the Philadelphia Public School System. He was a leader in the High School restructuring program. At West Philadelphia High School, Mr. Skief was the founder and coordinator of the Community Development Charter. He taught a 3-credit in-service course for the Philadelphia School District, entitled "African and African American Contributions to Science and Technology." He was also the Founder and Chief Administrative Officer of Harambee Institute of Science and Technology Charter School in West Philadelphia and was the founding President of the Pennsylvania Alliance of Charter Schools.

Mr. Skief was a noted filmmaker, providing video footage of his travels throughout the Caribbean and Africa for use in classes and on television. He has written articles on education in numerous publications and continues to educate and culturally enrich African Americans. He produced community Kwanzaa Celebrations annually since 1974 and produced lectures with noted Black authors and historians. John Skief produced the African American Festival for the Robin Hood Dell East concerts and served as production manager for the Philadelphia Kwanzaa Expo and African American Parade and Festival. In 1985 he organized the Respect Yourself Youth Self-Esteem Program in Philadelphia.

Madam Speaker, John Skief is survived by his wife, Tonya, and four children, Masai, Terrell, Kimberly, and Kalima and was predeceased by another child. We will all miss him very much. I ask that all my colleagues join me in honoring him today.

THE PATRIOT GUARD RIDERS

**HON. TED POE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 6, 2007*

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, Theodore Roosevelt said: "No man is worth his salt who is not ready at all times to risk his well-being, to risk his body, to risk his life, in a great cause." The Patriot Guard Riders are a group of motorcyclists who pay tribute to those who have died serving our country. Their mission is to attend the funeral services of fallen soldiers upholding President Roosevelt's belief that brave soldiers who gave the utmost sacrifice for their country deserve respect and reverence during their final tribute.

Each mission has two objectives, to show sincere respect for America's fallen heroes, their families, and their communities; and to shield the mourning family and their friends from interruptions created by any protestor or group of protestors. In 2 short years, the Patriot Guard Riders has become a 501(c)(3) charity, comprised of more than 140,000 volunteers across the country that take off from

work and use their own funds for gas and whatever else is needed to attend missions.

The Guard is activated each time the military reports the death of a soldier in Iraq. This nationwide organization of volunteers is very efficient. State Captains send out e-mails to members in the city where the soldier will be buried, and everyone jumps into action. They ensure that streets along the funeral procession are lined with American flags. Each mission is accomplished through legal and non-violent means. If protestors are present and become loud, the Patriot Guard Riders form a flag line, turn their backs on protesters, and will even drown the sound of the protestors by singing and reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

One involved Patriot biker, Rich "Boomer" Ford, a former Navy SEAL who served in Vietnam is the State Captain for the Texas Patriot Guard Riders. He is the man in charge of the "missions". If you ask Boomer why he rides, he will tell you that he remembers the lack of respect received when returning home from Vietnam. He wants to make sure that doesn't happen to these brave men and women. Boomer feels that each "mission" recognizes and honors the hard work our soldiers are doing for us overseas. These men and women like Boomer, who volunteer their time to help guard our nation's heroes should be forever remembered for their honor and dignity.

I commend the Patriot Guard Riders for riding for our soldiers whose lives were given in pursuit of a great cause, American freedom. I am proud to recognize these angels on bikes with hearts bigger than Texas. They show their respect for our troops, their families, and our community in an honorable way, one funeral at a time. They make a difference and represent all that is right and good in America. And that's just the way it is.

**A PROCLAMATION HONORING  
DONNY BEACHY FOR WINNING  
THE DIVISION III STATE GOLF  
TOURNAMENT**

**HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 6, 2007*

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Donny Beachy showed hard work and dedication to the sport of golf; and

Whereas, Donny Beachy was a supportive team player; and

Whereas, Donny Beachy always displayed sportsmanship on and off of the green; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that along with his friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Donny Beachy on winning the Division III State Golf Tournament. We recognize the tremendous hard work and sportsmanship he has demonstrated during the 2007 golf season.

**TRIBUTE TO TONY HESS**

**HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO**

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 6, 2007*

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the bravery and heroism of Tony

Hess. A 23-year-old volunteer firefighter from Kanawha County West Virginia, Hess raced into a burning house last month to save the life of two year old Alyssa Abner.

Hess didn't plan on being a hero on November 23. A business major at West Virginia State University, he was just answering an early morning emergency call; but when he arrived first on the scene he headed directly to a second story bedroom. The smoke was so dense that he had to break a window in order to find Alyssa trapped inside.

After rescuing her from the fire, Tony rode with her all the way to the hospital. I am happy to report that little Alyssa is in an improving condition at a Cincinnati hospital.

Madam Speaker, I join the chorus of West Virginians thankful for Tony's courage and service. Volunteer firefighters are true heroes who sacrifice for the right reasons. In Tony's own words, "I'm not doing it for the publicity or lights or sirens," he said. "I just want to be a fireman."

**RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT  
OF DAVID J. WILLIAMS AS  
CHAIRMAN AND PRESIDENT OF  
SANOFI PASTEUR AND HIS CON-  
TRIBUTIONS TO THE VACCINE  
INDUSTRY**

**HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 6, 2007*

Mr. KANJORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to recognize David J. Williams of Scranton, PA, for his lifetime accomplishments and his extraordinary contributions to the vaccine industry in the United States.

On January 16, 2008, after 30 years of service, David J. Williams will retire as the chairman, president and chief executive officer of Sanofi Pasteur.

Mr. Williams, born in Scranton, PA, received his accounting degree from the University of Scranton in 1973 and joined Connaught Laboratories in 1978 as the manager of financial services.

As a member of the executive team, Mr. Williams distinguished himself as a leader willing to make courageous decisions to build the vaccine industry, and he was named chief operating officer of Connaught Laboratories in 1989.

Mr. Williams successfully steered the company through several mergers and acquisitions. As an organization that began with just 100 employees and sales of just over \$5 million in 1978, Connaught eventually merged with today's sanofi pasteur, the world's largest vaccine manufacturer with 11,000 employees and more than \$4 billion in sales in 2007.

Under Mr. Williams' guidance, more than a billion doses of Sanofi Pasteur's lifesaving vaccines were administered to more than 500 million people around the world each year, representing more than 25% of the global vaccine market.

Mr. Williams encouraged innovation and he has been at the forefront of the development of many of the world's vaccines, including the

world's first licensed conjugate and combination vaccines, vaccines to protect against meningitis and Haemophilus influenza type B, and most recently, a vaccine to combat avian influenza.

Mr. Williams recognized his company's ability to address current and future public health needs by investing in a robust research and development program and an ambitious production plan for pandemic preparedness in the event that a public health emergency strikes the United States.

Mr. Williams has been a visionary in the vaccine industry, building the domestic infrastructure necessary to protect millions of Americans from deadly diseases and showing a commitment to vaccines that goes beyond his own company to the broader industry and to public health around the world.

Mr. Williams, in his dedication to the larger immunization community, created the Vaccine Policy Committee of the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America and is a founding member of the Partnership for Prevention, a leading organization of public and private sector representatives who focus on preventative health care policies.

Mr. Williams served as the first liaison member of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which sets immunization policy in the United States.

Mr. Williams also served on the board of directors of the Biotechnology Industry Organization, Blue Cross of Northeastern Pennsylvania, and on the Board of Regents of the University of Scranton. He is also one of the founding Board Members of the Medical Education Development Consortium.

Mr. Williams cultivated a culture of community involvement at sanofi pasteur and demonstrated a commitment to philanthropy through the company's contributions to United Way and donations of vaccines through UNICEF, the Global Alliance for Vaccines Immunization, GAVI, the World Health Organization's Global Polio Eradication Initiative and various humanitarian relief efforts.

Mr. Williams has been committed to the economic growth and development of Northeastern Pennsylvania and to expanding the campus in Swiftwater to maintain a domestic manufacturing base for many vaccines, including influenza. Under his guidance, sanofi pasteur grew to become the largest private employer in Monroe County and a purchaser of over \$145 million in goods and services from Pennsylvania-based vendors.

It has been a pleasure working with Dave over the years as his company expanded not only in Monroe County, but also in Scranton, his hometown. He has made an enormous contribution to his community, and on behalf of all my constituents, I would like to express my gratitude.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing Mr. Williams for his distinguished career and extraordinary leadership as chairman, president and chief executive officer of sanofi pasteur and for his tireless efforts toward the advancement of immunizations and the eradication of vaccine preventable diseases.

WILLIAM WILBERFORCE TRAFFICKING VICTIMS PROTECTION REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

**HON. TOM LANTOS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 4, 2007*

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the exchange of letters between Chairman CONYERS and myself be made part of the RECORD.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY,  
Washington, DC, November 15, 2007.

Hon. TOM LANTOS,  
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN LANTOS: In recognition of the desire to expedite consideration of H.R. 3887, the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Reauthorization Act of 2007, the Committee on the Judiciary agrees to waive formal consideration of the bill as to provisions that fall within the rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on the Judiciary.

The Committee takes this action with the understanding that by foregoing consideration of H.R. 3887 at this time, the Committee on the Judiciary does not waive any jurisdiction over subject matter contained in this or similar legislation. The Committee also reserves the right to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this important anti-slavery legislation, and requests your support if such a request is made.

I would appreciate your including this letter in the Congressional Record during consideration of the bill on the House floor.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

JOHN CONYERS, JR.,  
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,  
Washington, DC, November 15, 2007.

Hon. JOHN CONYERS, JR.,  
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary,  
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 3887, the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Reauthorization Act of 2007.

I appreciate your willingness to work cooperatively on this legislation. I recognize that the bill contains provisions that fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on the Judiciary. I acknowledge that the Committee will not formally consider the bill and agree that the inaction of your Committee with respect to the bill does not waive any jurisdiction of the Judiciary Committee over subject matter contained in this bill or similar legislation.

Further, as to any House-Senate conference on the bill, I understand that your committee reserves the right to seek the appointment of conferees for consideration of portions of the bill that are within the Committee's jurisdiction.

I will ensure that our exchange of letters is included in the Congressional Record during the consideration of House debate on H.R. 3887, and I look forward to working with you on this important legislation. If you wish to

discuss this matter further, please contact me or have your staff contact my staff.

Cordially,

TOM LANTOS,  
Chairman.

MOMENT OF SILENCE IN MEMORY OF FORMER REPRESENTATIVE HENRY HYDE OF ILLINOIS

SPEECH OF

**HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 4, 2007*

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my sadness over the passing of our former colleague and friend, Henry Hyde, and my respect for his decades of public service on behalf of the people of Illinois.

Representative Hyde was known throughout the country as a man of strong beliefs, a public servant who fought hard for his convictions with eloquence and passion. Those of us in the House of Representatives—especially those of us served with him in the Illinois delegation—also knew him as a gentleman. Disagreements on some issues never prevented him from working with a colleague on other matters.

I was one who often disagreed with Congressman Hyde, but we were always able to talk about our differences and work together on bipartisan issues, such as investigating the causes of oil and gasoline price increases in the Chicago market, ending the genocide in Sudan and the AIDS epidemic in Africa, fighting global poverty and the proliferation of destabilizing nuclear weapons, and addressing gun violence. I always felt that I could reach out to Congressman Hyde and have an open and beneficial discussion, even on the most controversial issues. He was the only person who ever called me "Janny," a private nickname I enjoyed.

Congressman Hyde was born in Rogers Park, Chicago and went to St. George High School in Evanston. He was first elected to Congress in 1974, after already having had a distinguished career as a lawyer, World War II veteran, and member of the Illinois General Assembly. He served the 6th District of Illinois for 32 years, never forgetting his roots, his responsibilities or his values. He will be missed.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JERRY WELLER**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 6, 2007*

Mr. WELLER of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to enter into the RECORD votes I would have cast had I been present for rollcall votes 1086 through 1126. I was absent on November 14th, November 15th, and December 4th, due to a death in the family.

If I were present I would have voted "nay" on rollcall vote 1086, "yea" on rollcall vote 1087, "yea" on rollcall vote 1088, "yea" on roll call vote 1089, "yea" on rollcall vote 1090, "yea" on rollcall vote 1091, "yea" on rollcall

vote 1092, "nay" on rollcall vote 1093, "nay" on rollcall vote 1094, "yea" on rollcall vote 1095, "nay" on roll call vote 1096, "nay" on rollcall vote 1097, "nay" on rollcall vote 1098, "nay" on rollcall vote 1099, "yea" on rollcall vote 1100, "yea" on rollcall vote 1101, "yea" on rollcall vote 1102, "nay" on roll call vote 1103, "nay" on rollcall vote 1104, "yea" on rollcall vote 1105, "yea" on rollcall vote 1106, "yea" on rollcall vote 1107, "nay" on rollcall vote 1108, "nay" on rollcall vote 1109, "nay" on roll call vote 1110, "nay" on rollcall vote 1111, "nay" on rollcall vote 1112, "nay" on rollcall vote 1113, "yea" on rollcall vote 1114, "yea" on rollcall vote 1115, "yea" on rollcall vote 1116, "yea" on roll call vote 1117, "yea" on rollcall vote 1118, "yea" on rollcall vote 1119, "nay" on rollcall vote 1120, "yea" on rollcall vote 1121, "nay" on rollcall vote 1122, "yea" on rollcall vote 1123, "yea" on roll call vote 1124, "yea" on rollcall vote 1125, and "yea" on rollcall vote 1126.

RECOGNIZING OFFICER ROY DAVID GILBERT, III

**HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 6, 2007*

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Madam Speaker, I want to recognize and congratulate Officer Roy David Gilbert, III for being named the 2007 Police Officer of the Year by Parade magazine and the International Association of Chiefs of Police.

A resident of Waterford, MI, Officer Gilbert has described the day he was sworn in as an officer of the Detroit Police Department seven years ago as one of the happiest of his life. Last year, however, Officer Gilbert was faced with one of the darkest. On December 30, 2006, while patrolling Detroit's Western District, Officer Gilbert and his partner Officer John McKee spotted a vehicle that had been carjacked earlier that evening. While in pursuit, Officer McKee was shot and wounded in the face and abdomen.

Officer Gilbert courageously moved between his partner and the suspect, and even after being knocked down by a bullet, he returned fire and took down the assailant. As a result of Officer Gilbert's actions, Officer McKee's life was saved, and in October of this year he was able to return to the police force. Officer Gilbert was awarded the Medal of Valor, the Detroit Police Department's highest honor for bravery and was recognized by Parade magazine and the International Association of Chiefs of Police as the Officer of the Year.

For over 40 years, Parade magazine and the International Association of Chiefs of Police have recognized the law enforcement officer whose deeds embody the intrepid spirit and altruism that Officer Gilbert has displayed. Even today as he is honored by Waterford Township, Officer Gilbert still says he was just "doing what partners are supposed to do."

Madam Speaker, Officer Gilbert epitomizes the bravery and selflessness that we see in our law enforcement officers everyday. His heroic actions saved the life of a fellow officer and made our streets safer. I commend him for his achievements and wish him continued success in his service.

IN HONOR OF THE DEDICATION OF  
THE NEW CAMPUS OF THE  
FRISCH SCHOOL

**HON. SCOTT GARRETT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 6, 2007*

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to join the faculty, parents, and students at the Frisch School in Paramus New Jersey in celebrating the dedication of their new campus. The new 14-acre property will help this yeshiva continue to practice educational excellence and instill hundreds of young people each year with sustenance for their minds, bodies, and souls.

Since its founding in 1972 by Rabbi Menachem Meier and Alfred Frisch, the school has grown from a student body of a mere dozen to more than 620. The Frisch School curriculum is rigorous—offering a steady course of core subjects as well as a wide variety of advanced placement classes. Students leave Frisch well versed in history, liberal arts, science and math, and the cultural arts. But, they also leave well versed in Judaic heritage and values. As a college preparatory school, students often go on to higher education, well-prepared by their Frisch experience. And, each year, a good portion of the student body goes to Israel to spend a year in study as well.

The new Henry & Esther Swieca Family Campus, Mordecai & Monique Katz Academic Building, and Zayat Athletic Center are the result of hard work by a dedicated community of parents, faculty, and students. The extraordinary generosity of dozens of families has enabled the School to literally double its size and provide even more educational opportunities to its students.

The Frisch School counts among its notable alumni Elie Katz, Mayor of Teaneck; Arthur Lenk, Israeli Ambassador to Azerbaijan; and Rabbi Daniel Nevins, Dean of the Rabbinical School of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America. Under the guidance of its President, David Rauch; its Principal, Dr. Kalman Stein; and its Executive Director, Elaine Weitzman, I am certain that still more leaders will emerge from the Frisch School ranks, and I look forward to seeing the wonderful contributions they make to our community and our society.

AMERICA'S HISTORICAL AND  
NATURAL LEGACY STUDY ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 4, 2007*

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3998, "America's Historical and Natural Legacy Study Act." At the outset, I want to thank Chairman RAHALL and Chairman GRIJALVA for bringing this bill to the floor and for their work in crafting a broad package of studies that will help us to preserve our natural and historical heritage.

In particular, I am pleased that the Chairmen included a study of the Rim of the Valley Corridor in southern California. This bill is an important milestone in my 7-year effort to di-

rect the Department of the Interior to study alternatives for protecting the mountains and canyons in southern California that are part of the Rim of the Valley Corridor, as designated by the State of California.

This environmentally sensitive area is located in one of the most densely populated areas in the United States. The greater southern California metropolitan region has the Nation's second-largest urban concentration; about 1 in every 10 Americans lives in this region. At the same time, this area has one of the lowest ratios of park-and-recreation-lands per thousand-population of any area in the country. So this rapidly growing urban region is extremely underserved in terms of open space needs. Unless action is taken soon, this situation will only worsen as the region continues to grow.

The Rim of the Valley Corridor is an ecologically significant, contiguous region that consists of parts of the Santa Monica Mountains, Santa Susanna Mountains, San Gabriel Mountains, Verdugo Mountains, San Rafael Hills, and adjacent connector areas to the Los Padres and San Bernadino National Forests. This corridor system is an example of the world's most endangered habitat area, the Mediterranean chaparral ecosystem.

Parts of the Rim of the Valley Corridor are already managed within the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area and the Angeles National Forest. Yet, with increasing development and population pressures, the future of the Corridor is threatened. It is in danger of becoming reduced to isolated pockets of open space, irreversibly destroying its connectivity. The contiguous nature of these open spaces is potentially critical to help preserve the integrity of its ecosystems.

The State of California has adopted the Rim of the Valley Master Plan, and local governments within the Rim of the Valley Corridor have made significant progress toward protecting the unique natural and recreational resources of the area. However, these efforts have been hampered by a lack of financial resources, technical assistance, and resource management expertise that can only be provided by the Federal Government.

Since Congress set aside the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Areas in 1978, federal, state and local authorities have worked in remarkable cooperation to manage what is the world's largest urban park. Now, nearly three decades later and in the face of tremendous projected population growth and development pressures, Congress, by passing this bill, again will have the opportunity to study ways to help safeguard and supplement the existing state and local parks, open space and recreational opportunities in southern California.

I hope that the Congress will seize the opportunity to order the Department of Interior to study of alternatives for protecting some of the most beautiful land in southern California for future generations of Americans to enjoy. The Rim of the Valley is a special place and we owe it to our children to develop a long-range plan that will balance preservation, recreation, and the needs and rights of those living in and around the area to be studied.

Again, Chairman RAHALL and Chairman GRIJALVA, thank you for your support for the Rim of the Valley Corridor study and for all of your work to preserve America's natural splendor.

RECOGNIZING WORK OF CONGRES-  
SIONAL MEN'S HEALTH CAUCUS

**HON. VITO FOSSELLA**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 6, 2007*

Mr. FOSSELLA. Madam Speaker, as a founding member of the Congressional Men's Health Caucus I am very pleased to report a groundswell of activity occurring as I speak today across the country related to men's health education, outreach, awareness, and screening. This focus and attention is long overdue. New data provide alarming statistics about a gradual decline in men's health. In fact, men are living on average about 5 years less than their female counterparts, men are leading in 9 out of 10 top causes of death, 1 in 2 men in their lifetime will be diagnosed with cancer compared to 1 in 3 women, and as women enter retirement (65–69 years of age) approximately 15 percent are widows due to the premature death/disability of men.

I am proud to work with the Men's Health Network, MHN, to raise awareness of men's health; they, for over 15 years, have taken the lead nationally in setting best practices, creating grassroots networks and activism, and providing health services to men and their families where they live, work, play, and pray.

Under their leadership we are seeing symposia, screening events, and campaigns launched all across the country aimed at reversing the negative trends in men's health. In November and December of 2007 alone, they have led community/neighborhood development efforts resulting in a Massachusetts Symposium on Men's Health, Louisiana Symposium on Men's Health, Florida Smoking Policy Symposium, "Healthy Sunday" church screening at Bethel A.M.E. Church in Baton Rouge, LA, and will launch a Women Against Prostate Cancer organization in conjunction with the Dean and Betty Gallo Prostate Cancer Center. Each of these programs and initiatives makes it a priority to empower men, women, and their families to live healthier lifestyles. These efforts are engineered to reach underserved populations who don't have access to health services or health education materials.

Women Against Prostate Cancer is a new organization, founded by Men's Health Network in conjunction with the Dean and Betty Gallo Prostate Cancer Center, that is developing a grassroots network of women volunteers who have been adversely affected by prostate cancer. The National Cancer Institute estimates 219,000 men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer, resulting in more than 27,000 deaths this year. Meanwhile, the state symposia create opportunities for networking for men's health and community outreach organizations throughout the State(s), as well as encourage preventative health measures and physician and patient dialogue.

Actions like these can save lives and, more importantly, American families. I along with my colleagues belonging to the Congressional Men's Health Caucus am proud to support these continued efforts while continually stressing the need to establish an Office of Men's Health within the Department of Health and Human Services.

TRIBUTE TO THE FLOYD COUNTY  
EMERGENCY AND RESCUE  
SQUAD, INC.

**HON. HAROLD ROGERS**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 6, 2007*

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I want to bring notice to the House of an all-volunteer rescue squad in eastern Kentucky which was founded nearly 50 years ago in the aftermath of tragedy and will be nationally recognized this month for their citizen preparedness efforts.

The Floyd County Emergency and Rescue Squad, Inc. was formed in 1958 after a school bus went off the road and crashed into the Levisa Fork of the Big Sandy River. Back then, there were no responders close enough, and 27 people perished in that accident. We have a rich tradition in eastern Kentucky of fixing our own problems when solutions seem too difficult, or even impossible. Two of the founding members of the rescue squad lost their children in the accident. They vowed that something like this should never happen again, so a small group of people got together and volunteered their time to be on call so that others might be saved. Because of their efforts, people traveling on rural, mountainous roads in Floyd County can know that help is on the way should they need it.

With 32 members, Floyd County's rescue squad is going strong. They work in coal mines, at the local retail store or as police officers. They have an operating budget of less than a typical Kentucky household, yet keep their well-worn trucks in good running order and are ready to respond whenever needed. More people understand what citizen preparedness means after 9/11 and Katrina. But it also means being prepared for any catastrophe where seconds count and trained personnel are needed when the injured are trapped. Citizen preparedness is nothing more than a concept without committed people who make it happen. These people don't get paid but choose instead to answer to a higher calling—helping their fellow citizens in times of need.

The National Congress on Secure Communities in Washington, DC, will be recognizing the Floyd County Emergency and Rescue Squad, Inc. on December 17 for their efforts to keep people safe. It is national recognition for our local heroes.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to recognize the Floyd County Emergency and Rescue Squad, Inc.—the people who provide public safety in parts of our country where it would otherwise not exist.

SUPPORT FOR H.R. 2634

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 6, 2007*

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my full support for H.R. 2634, a bill that would provide for greater responsibility in lending and expanded cancellation of debts owed to the United States and the international financial institutions by low-income countries, and for other purposes.

The Biblical scripture love thy neighbor, does not just call for the expression of care and concern for neighbors who live in close proximity. It also calls for reaching out to neighbors world wide. I believe it is especially important to be concerned about and help our neighbors who live in countries that are challenged daily with enormous issues involving poverty, hunger, homelessness, high unemployment, crime, illiteracy, and HIV/AIDS. Some of these countries include Angola, Haiti, Liberia, and Kenya just to name a few.

I support this bill because it could help our neighbors who are struggling everyday to live with and combat very difficult social and economic problems. I suspect that if economically disadvantaged countries were in a position to resolve their problems without assistance, they would. Helping to resolve these issues would lead to improvements in the quality of life for our neighbors, global economic stability, and world peace.

Jubilee USA Network, one grassroots organization that consists of churches and community organizations, has been dedicated to educating members of Congress and the public since the late 1990s on this issue. Their hard work, along with other organizations has created a movement that has made a difference. Some 30 nations have benefited from different types of debt relief estimating approximately \$80,000,000,000.

Other notable progress has been made with this issue. Agreements made with the African Development Bank, the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, and the International Monetary Fund have eliminated debts by some poor countries.

To observe the success thus far, Jubilee USA Network held a prayer breakfast on October 16, 2007, in the Rayburn House Office Building. From the overseas community, the prayer breakfast was attended by the Honorable Ombeni Sefue, Tanzanian Ambassador to the United States, the Honorable Given Lubinda, Member of Zambia Parliament, and Rt. Rev. Jean Zachè, Episcopal Bishop of Haiti. It is important for the U.S. to gain support for the debt relief of poor countries as a part of its foreign policy and I thank Jubilee USA Network for continuing to raise awareness of this issue.

Further, I thank my colleagues MAXINE WALTERS, SPENCER BACHUS, CAROLYN MALONEY, DONALD PAYNE, EMMANUEL CLEAVER, BARBARA LEE, and LUIS GUTIERREZ for introducing this bill. I urge my colleagues to support this bill, which is a bill to support humanity.

PROMOTE AND PROTECT OUR  
STRONG ECONOMY

**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 6, 2007*

Mr. WILSON. Madam Speaker, our third quarter GDP grew at an impressive 4.9 percent. That means we have had 24 straight months of economic growth coupled with 50 straight months of job growth creating 8.3 million additional jobs. In the district I represent, the Nation's fourth largest cabinet company, the Elkay Cabinet Division, has recently decided to open a new manufacturing plant in Barnwell which will create hundreds of jobs.

This job success is the product of the pro-growth tax policies that President Bush signed into law 4 years ago.

There remains much more that we must do in order to promote strong economic growth. We need energy legislation that actually helps create new energy, health care reform that values individual choice over government mandate, and sensible tax reform. We must enact legislation—including a repeal of the Alternative Minimum Tax—that doesn't raise taxes on the backs of middle class Americans and small businesses.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11th.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING  
COACH MIKE FELTON FOR  
COACHING THE GARAWAY GOLF  
TEAM TO WINNING THE DIVISION  
III STATE GOLF TOURNAMENT

**HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 6, 2007*

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker: Whereas, Coach Mike Felton showed hard work and dedication to the sport of golf; and Whereas, Mike Felton was a leader and mentor for the Garaway Golf Team; and

Whereas, Coach Felton has been a role model for sportsmanship on and off of the greens: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, that along with his friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Coach Mike Felton for leading the Garaway Golf Team to winning the Division III State Golf Tournament. We recognize the tremendous hard work and leadership he has demonstrated during the 2007 golf season.

HONORING THE ADAMS  
VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

**HON. BART GORDON**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 6, 2007*

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the members of the Adams Volunteer Fire Department for their selfless dedication and bravery in protecting our families, day and night.

The Adams Volunteer Fire Department was established February 3, 1971 and has 18 firefighters. Out of these firefighters, two are EMTs and four are First Responders.

Without volunteer fire halls like Adams, many places in the Sixth District would lack effective fire protection. In the State of Tennessee, over 70 percent of fire service is provided by volunteers. Among these volunteers, almost 75 percent work other daily jobs.

Ensuring our families' safety is not without risk. Sadly, an average of two firefighters die each year in Tennessee in the line of duty. In 2005, the Tennessee Fire Services and Code Academy dedicated a memorial on their main campus in Bell Buckle to honor those Tennessee firefighters who have died in the line of duty.

For their willingness to serve, the following members of the Adams Volunteer Fire Department deserve recognition: Chief Ray Brown,

Asst. Chief John Roland, Wayne Evans, Allen Douglas, Donovan Tucker, Phillip Brown, David Dowlen, Carolyn Brown, Douglas Caroland, Will Goodman, Troy Head, Paul Crumley, Harold Jacobs, Matt Vogle, William Bryant, Kim Dowlen, Jeffery Lux, Michael Jones, William McKinney, and Joshua Love.

**MORTGAGE REFORM AND ANTI-PREDATORY LENDING ACT OF 2007**

SPEECH OF

**HON. BETTY McCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 15, 2007*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3915) to amend the Truth in Lending Act to reform consumer mortgage practices and provide accountability for such practices, to establish licensing and registration requirements for residential mortgage originators, to provide certain minimum standards for consumer mortgage loans, and for other purposes:

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in strong support of the Mortgage Reform and Anti-Predatory Lending Act and applaud Chairman BARNEY FRANK for his work to end predatory lending and strengthen consumer protections.

The United States is currently facing a subprime mortgage crisis. Right now, nearly 1,200 homes are vacant in Saint Paul due to foreclosures. These foreclosures harm the vitality of our neighborhoods. Further, foreclosures mean a loss of property tax revenue, placing a burden on local and State governments. The social and financial costs of this serious problem affect everyone.

H.R. 3915 is an important step to protect American families from predatory lenders by requiring lenders to ensure that borrowers have a reasonable ability to repay and establishing a licensing system for mortgage brokers and bank loan officers. This legislation requires lenders to disclose more about loans such as, the maximum amount a consumer could pay on a variable rate mortgage and the amount of charges included in the mortgage. It also bans financial incentives for subprime loans and holds lenders in the secondary mortgage market accountable for home loans by allowing consumers to seek redress directly from the firms that "securitize" mortgages.

The pre-loan counseling in this bill will protect families from predatory lending in the future. This legislation also establishes an Office of Housing Counseling, which will certify computer programs so consumers can evaluate home mortgage loan proposals, and it will also provide technical and financial support for States and local governments educating consumers about buying a home.

Predatory lending harms our families, our neighborhoods, and our communities. We must do more to ensure that all individuals and families have safe and stable housing. I urge my colleagues to join me in voting for the Mortgage Reform and Anti-Predatory Lending Act.

**CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY**

**HON. TOM LANTOS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 6, 2007*

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, the decorations are up, the parties are planned, and the nation's capital had its first snow fall—the holiday season is officially upon us.

Along with the joy and reflection this time of year brings, children are waiting hopefully for that one gift that will make their holiday complete. As the dutiful, doting parents that we are, we are more than happy to oblige.

But we may be giving our children more than they bargained for; recent studies have found more than one in three of the season's most popular toys have tested positive for traces of lead.

While I may not know Dora the Explorer from Hannah Montana, I do know my grandchildren and great-grandchildren deserve toys that won't make them sick.

This year has seen too many recalls, too many toys slipping through the cracks of the watchdogs at the Consumer Product Safety Commission, and too many shelves still stocked with toys that pose a risk to our kids. This is wholly unacceptable!

Back in the Bay Area, the San Francisco Department of the Environment has taken matters into its own hands, testing children's toys for lead, cadmium and other dangerous chemicals. With an instant-read testing device parents will know whether the toys on their list put their kids at risk.

It is inconceivable that the agency put in charge of consumer protection for all Americans has so completely ignored its responsibility. It is an embarrassment that local government must rectify the ineptitude of the CPSC, though I congratulate San Francisco for its forethought and ingenuity.

Madam Speaker, this is a dereliction of duty by the CPSC that I am not prepared to accept. I have cosponsored a resolution introduced by my friend from Connecticut, Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro, calling for the resignation of Nancy Nord, the current head of the Commission.

Government watchdogs, retail outlets and the manufacturers themselves must take responsibility for the toys that end up on our shelves, and I will continue to demand that this holistic approach to keeping children safe is not ignored.

Parents take their children's safety most seriously, and the resources that exist online and through numerous publications are a gift themselves. I hope all my constituents, and gift-givers across the country, will take advantage of the information available to them.

I wish everyone a happy and healthy new year, and I hope everyone gets what they want for the holidays—without the lead.

**HONORING THE DIXBORO FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR SESQUICENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY**

**HON. JOHN D. DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 6, 2007*

Mr. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Dixboro First United Methodist Church, located in Superior Township, MI. This year marks the 150th anniversary of this proud institution. The Dixboro United Methodist Church has a long and honorable history of service to its community, one which has both strengthened the faith of its members and solidified the church's place as an integral part of the Dixboro area.

The earliest known religious service in the recently-formed Village of Dixboro took place in 1828 and subsequent services throughout the next three decades were led by Methodist Circuit riders. Traveling a 40-mile route stretching from Nankin (Canton) to Ann Arbor, these preachers on horseback would arrive every 3 to 4 weeks, lead worship in a private home or 1-room schoolhouse, then move on to the next point on the circuit.

The dedication of these traveling preachers inspired those they served and in 1857 a group of local citizens met and formed a board of trustees to authorize the building of the church. Dixboro United Methodist was then built the following year, in 1858. The original building is now listed in the National Registry of Historical Buildings and Places and it is still utilized as the sanctuary for services.

Dixboro United Methodist has historically had a strong rural congregation, made up largely of local farmers. The rural character of Dixboro began changing with the advent of the building boom of the 1950s. New subdivisions and residential developments have brought fresh perspectives into the community and growth to the congregation. The present Dixboro United Methodist congregation is a diverse mix of young and old, traditional and contemporary; many are descendants of the original congregation.

The people of Dixboro United Methodist put their motto, "People Helping People" to work. A strong commitment to mission and community outreach is a hallmark of this congregation. Throughout a century and a half of growth, change and development, Dixboro United Methodist Church has remained a warm and welcoming member of its community. With such a rich history, one full of service, compassion and fellowship, I am proud to recognize Dixboro First United Methodist Church as it celebrates its first 150 years.

**HONORING THE DEFEATED CREEK VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT**

**HON. BART GORDON**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 6, 2007*

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the members of the Defeated Creek Volunteer Fire Department for their selfless dedication and bravery in protecting our families, day and night.

The Defeated Creek Volunteer Fire Department was established in 1986. The department is made up of 12 members and three fire trucks.

Without volunteer fire halls like Defeated Creek, many places in the Sixth District would lack effective fire protection. In the State of Tennessee, over 70 percent of fire service is provided by volunteers. Among these volunteers, almost 75 percent work other daily jobs.

Ensuring our families' safety is not without risk. Sadly, an average of two firefighters die each year in Tennessee in the line of duty. In 2005, the Tennessee Fire Services and Code Academy dedicated a memorial on their main campus in Bell Buckle to honor those Tennessee firefighters who have died in the line of duty.

For their willingness to serve, the following members of the Defeated Creek Volunteer Fire Department deserve recognition: Chief Brandon Powell, Hughie Gregory, Donny Martin, Benton Dyer, Rusty Williams, Steve Bennett, Jason Powell, Kerby Comstock, Randy Martin, Scott Edens, Dustin Dillehay, and Chris Fields.

IN HONOR OF CONGRESSMAN  
HENRY HYDE

**HON. BETTY McCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 6, 2007*

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the late Congressman Henry Hyde who passed away on November 29, 2007.

Representative Hyde was a man of great honor and a dedicated public servant. He served for 32 years in the U.S. House of Representatives, representing the Chicago suburbs. During that time he served as Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee from 1995 to 2001 and as Chairman of the House International Affairs Committee from 2001 to 2007.

I had the honor of serving with Mr. Hyde as a member of the House International Affairs Committee during his time as Chair. He was a thoughtful and insightful Committee Chair who was willing to mentor a new member of the other party. I will always remember Mr. Hyde's help in including three important provisions in the original President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR). These provisions on drug resistance, orphans and vulnerable children, and tracking the sale of drugs on the black market were ensured a place in the legislation largely because of Mr. Hyde's support. I will also never forget the opportunity to travel with Mr. Hyde to Mexico, where it was evident that he was well-respected by world leaders.

One of the things I recall most clearly about Representative Hyde was his command of the English language and his oratorical skills. When Secretary Rice appeared before the International Affairs Committee, he so eloquently expressed his disappointment that the Bush Administration had failed to live up to its obligation to ensure security in Iraq.

In addition to his many years as an elected leader, Mr. Hyde was a celebrated athlete in college, a veteran, and a lawyer. In recognition of his accomplishments, in October of this year, Congressman Hyde was awarded the

Presidential Medal of Freedom, our country's highest civilian honor.

On behalf of the families of Minnesota's Fourth Congressional District, we extend our prayers and sincerest condolences to his wife, children and all of the family and friends of Representative Hyde. He will be remembered in the highest regard, and I will miss him.

Madam Speaker, please join me in paying special tribute to the life and service of Congressman Henry Hyde.

KAZAKHSTAN AND THE OSCE

**HON. DARRELL E. ISSA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 6, 2007*

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, this past week, the Organization for Security and Cooperation (OSCE) convened in Madrid, Spain to choose the countries that will chair the organization for the next three years. The 56 member nations of the OSCE voted to give the chairmanship to Greece in 2009, Kazakhstan in 2010, and Lithuania for 2011.

All of these countries should be congratulated for being awarded this important duty. The selection of Kazakhstan as chair for 2010 is especially significant for several important reasons.

First, Kazakhstan will be the first ex-Soviet republic to assume the chairmanship of the OSCE, which is quite timely given that many of the countries in region are continuing to struggle with the transition from communism to full democracy. Kazakhstan, as the largest country in the region, may be in the best position to promote the OSCE's principal mandates of respect for human rights and advancing democracy.

Conversely, while OSCE ministers were meeting, Russia conducted parliamentary elections in open contempt of OSCE's election monitoring program. Reacting to a series of obstructions and delays clearly intended to frustrate their work, the OSCE finally concluded that Russian authorities had made it impossible for monitoring activities to occur before or during the December 2 election.

By contrast, Kazakhstan fully cooperated with OSCE's monitoring and reporting during its August 18 parliamentary election. It allowed 1,200 election observers to cover 1,743 polling stations, whereas Russia set a limit of 450 international observers for its 95,000 polling stations.

Prior to its election, Kazakhstan adopted reforms to increase the transparency and integrity of its elections and ensure public access to election information and the media. The same reforms are being rolled back in Russia.

Kazakhstan may well be that alternative. At the meeting in Madrid, Kazakhstan's foreign minister, Marat Tazhin, stated that "Kazakhstan accepts with a strong sense of duty and firm commitment the role of Chairman-in-Office of OSCE for 2010" and pledged to uphold and protect OSCE's election-monitoring activities.

The other Commonwealth-of-Independent States in the former Soviet union are surely observing these developments as they approach their own political crossroads. One path is the Russian way of "managed democracy," currently being exemplified by President

Vladimir Putin, which includes consolidation of power within his inner circle, the removal of human rights and press freedoms, and a worrying shift towards more authoritarian rule. The other path is the Kazakh way, which includes improving freedoms for the press and human rights groups, greater confidence in the rule of law, and a strengthening of democratic values. It is my sincere hope that the other CIS countries will take the latter path.

Madam Speaker, the Bush administration has rightly put democratization in the forefront of its foreign policy, but it does not come quickly or easily to countries that have only known authoritarian rule.

Kazakhstan is such a country and while it is not yet a full-fledged democracy, it is definitely moving in the right direction and is deserving of our support to head the OSCE in 2010.

HONORING LARRY HENDRICK

**HON. RON LEWIS**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 6, 2007*

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Larry Hendrick, a resident of Hardin County, Kentucky. On December 12, 2007, Mr. Hendrick will receive the National Association of Agricultural Educators (NAAE) Teacher of the Year award for a region that includes Kentucky, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Missouri, and Ohio.

Mr. Hendrick was raised on a farm in Breckenridge County, Kentucky. He began his teaching career in 1978 at East Hardin High School. His first job included instructing Vietnam veterans as part of a co-op farming program. In 1990, Hendrick began his tenure at Central Hardin High School, where he continues to work today.

The NAAE Teacher of the Year award is given to an agricultural educator who has demonstrated the ability to involve students in work-based learning projects and a willingness to promote local agriculture programs. Mr. Hendrick is a Future Farmers of America advisor at Central Hardin High School. He was previously recognized in 1995 as the National Young Farmer Advisor of the Year.

It is my great pleasure to honor Larry Hendrick, before the United States House of Representatives on his selection as the National Association of Agricultural Educators Teacher of the Year. I congratulate him on this achievement and thank him for his commitment to educating Kentucky's students.

HONORING THE SHORT MOUNTAIN  
VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

**HON. BART GORDON**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 6, 2007*

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the members of the Short Mountain Volunteer Fire Department for their selfless dedication and bravery in protecting our families, day and night.

The Short Mountain Volunteer Fire Department was established with the donation of land and community support. There are 14 active members and eight honorary members.

The department most recently purchased a 750-gallon pump.

Without volunteer fire halls like Short Mountain, many places in the Sixth District would lack effective fire protection. In the State of Tennessee, over 70 percent of fire service is provided by volunteers. Among these volunteers, almost 75 percent work other daily jobs.

Ensuring our families' safety is not without risk. Sadly, an average of two firefighters die each year in Tennessee in the line of duty. In 2005, the Tennessee Fire Services and Code Academy dedicated a memorial on their main campus in Bell Buckle to honor those Tennessee firefighters who have died in the line of duty.

For their willingness to serve, the following members of the Short Mountain Volunteer Fire Department deserve recognition: Chief Michael Underhill, Asst. Chief Albert Summers, Secretary, Equipment Manager Carol Zellman, Brad Odom, Cory Reed, Jordan McGee, Tony Neal, Jonathan Scurlock, Cyndi Hill, Jamie Campbell, Chip Avera, David Smith, Anthony Prater, Leeroy Jones, Honorary Members: Larie Zellman, Billy Youngblood, Connie Cantrell, Cindy Underhill, Tracy Neal, and Sue Youngblood.

CONGRATULATING THE MINNESOTA STATE ARTS BOARD, RECIPIENT OF THE 2007 NATIONAL ACCESSIBILITY LEADERSHIP AWARD

**HON. BETTY McCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 6, 2007*

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the Minnesota State Arts Board as the recipient of the 2007 National Accessibility Leadership Award.

On behalf of the Twin Cities and the citizens of Minnesota, I wish to congratulate the Minnesota State Arts Board for receiving this special award sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies. The National Accessibility Leadership Award recognizes the Minnesota State Arts Board's exceptional leadership and highly effective work to make the arts fully inclusive throughout their organization, programming and State.

Board Chair, Andrew Berryhill, the board members, and Executive Director, Thomas Proehl, are to be commended for their invaluable leadership that has made the Minnesota State Arts Board a model of accessibility. The Board has built accessibility into every aspect of what it does: its office space, programming, requirements for grantees, and its efforts to reach and serve artists with disabilities.

In March 2002, the Minnesota State Arts Board joined with VSA arts of Minnesota to present the first-ever statewide forum entitled "The Art of Employment: Careers in the Arts for People with Disabilities". As a result, the Artists With Disabilities Alliance was formed in the Twin-cities area, bringing artists with disabilities together to work on projects to advance arts training and career opportunities. Subsequently, the Arts Board, in partnership with its regional arts councils, organized and created six regional artists' networks throughout Minnesota. The Minnesota State Arts

Board continues to provide support to the regional groups for a wide variety of activities, such as exhibits, performances, workshops, marketing, and access accommodations. In fact, this highly successful regional model is presently being replicated by the Texas Commission on the Arts.

In August 2007, the Minnesota State Arts Board took a major step to expand its technical assistance work on a national level by co-hosting the "Leadership Exchange in Arts and Disability" conference with the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. The meeting brought together 180 artists, arts administrators, educators, and accessibility consultants from around the country to further advance their skills in making the arts fully accessible. This gathering highlighted the board's work to ensure access to Minnesota's art and programming.

Madam Speaker, in honor of the Minnesota State Arts Board, its staff, board members, and advisors, I am pleased to submit this statement for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD in recognition of their hard work and dedication to increasing access to the arts.

APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES ON H.R. 1585, NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008

SPEECH OF

**HON. CAROL SHEA-PORTER**

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 5, 2007*

Ms. SHEA-PORTER. Madam Speaker, the motion to instruct conferees included language from the Senate stating that "the Senate should not pass legislation that will undermine our military's ability to prevent a failed state in Iraq." I voted for the motion because the brave men and women of our military have done an outstanding job. They have served our country extremely well under difficult circumstances, and they have done everything that we have asked of them.

Preventing Iraq from becoming a failed state is not the job of the United States military; it is the job of the Iraqi Government and people. The Bush Administration assures us that Iraq is not a failed state, so our troops should be allowed to leave. We need to set a firm timeline for withdrawing from Iraq, so that Iraq's political leaders know that they will need to take responsibility for their own future.

RECOGNIZING MR. DANIEL UYECHI

**HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 6, 2007*

Mr. TANCREDO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate an outstanding steward and teacher in my district, Mr. Daniel Uyechi of Sierra Middle School in Parker. This year, Mr. Uyechi has been awarded the title and honor of a Milken National Educator for his efforts to expand the knowledge and livelihoods of his students. His efforts have undoubtedly made positive impacts among his students, helping them lay the foundations for a successful and rewarding future.

The Milken National Educator Awards are annual monetary gifts given to individual educators nationwide for their remarkable achievements both in and outside of the classroom. Chosen by an independent commission appointed by each State's department of education, these awards highlight and celebrate the successes of a handful of America's most distinguished and prominent educators. I am honored that I have the opportunity to represent one of these fine citizens.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mr. Uyechi and wishing him the best in his future endeavors.

HONORING THE COTTONTOWN VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

**HON. BART GORDON**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 6, 2007*

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the members of the Cottontown Volunteer Fire Department for their selfless dedication and bravery in protecting our families, day and night.

The Cottontown Volunteer Fire Department was established in 1999. The department covers approximately 90 square miles and protects 1,100 households. In 2006, the department responded to 151 calls.

Without volunteer fire halls, like Cottontown, many places in the Sixth District would lack effective fire protection. In the state of Tennessee, over 70 percent of fire service is provided by volunteers. Among these volunteers, almost 75 percent work other daily jobs.

Ensuring our families' safety is not without risk. Sadly, an average of two firefighters die each year in Tennessee in the line of duty. In 2005, the Tennessee Fire Services and Code Academy dedicated a memorial on their main campus in Bell Buckle to honor those Tennessee firefighters who have died in the line of duty.

For their willingness to serve, the following members of the Cottontown Volunteer Fire Department deserve recognition: Chief Joe McLaughlin, Asst. Chief Mike Owens, Lt. Patrick McLaughlin, Lt. Bill Kelly, Glenn Schirg, Shannon Baker, Tommy Casteel, Lydia Casteel, Chris Casteel, President Laura Owens, Treasurer Marilyn McLaughlin.

HONORING THE RUTHERFORD COUNTY VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

**HON. BART GORDON**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 6, 2007*

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the members of the Rutherford County Volunteer Fire Department for their selfless dedication and bravery in protecting our families, day and night.

The Rutherford County Volunteer Fire Department was established in June 1998 to protect the citizens in District 11 of Rutherford County. District 11 has a population of 7,340. Currently, the fire department has 30 volunteers, 7 officers, and 5 members serving on the board of directors.

Without volunteer fire halls, like Rutherford County, many places in the Sixth District would lack effective fire protection. In the State of Tennessee, over 70 percent of fire service is provided by volunteers. Among these volunteers, almost 75 percent work other daily jobs.

Ensuring our families' safety is not without risk. Sadly, an average of two firefighters die each year in Tennessee in the line of duty. In 2005, the Tennessee Fire Services and Code Academy dedicated a memorial on their main campus in Bell Buckle to honor those Tennessee firefighters who have died in the line of duty.

For their willingness to serve, the following members of the Rutherford County Volunteer Fire Department deserve recognition: Chief Craig McBride, Deputy Chief Terry Smith, Asst. Chief Dwajuan Howse, Capt. Lance Sutton, Lt. Tim Forsthoff, Lt. Joel Patnode, Brian Morrow, Kenny McFarland, Gary Hutchinson, Jeff Irvin, Joshua Parsons, Brad Callison, Bobby Canterbury, Markland Holland, Shawn McGoldrick, Sandy Smith, Jonathan Parsons, Micheal Bartlett, Jeff Sawyers, Randy Shaw, Richard Foran, Stephen Windham, Jared Rigsby, Chris Reid, Eddie Welsh, Hunter Fite, Tim Alexander, Chris Sobol, Bob Decker, Jayson Kotter, Justin Parker, Kevin Bennison, Daniel George, Justice DeAndrade, Benjamin Honeycutt, Justin McCraven, James Storey, Jarrett England, Christopher Hayes and Jeffery Turgeon. Board of Directors: Bill Ketron, Tim Burns, Dale Maynard, Helen Brown and Janice Howse.

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HONORING THE CARTHAGE FIRE  
DEPARTMENT

**HON. BART GORDON**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 6, 2007*

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the members of

the Carthage Fire Department for their selfless dedication and bravery in protecting our families, day and night.

The Carthage Fire Department was established in 1901. Today, the department has 22 volunteers on its roster. The Carthage Fire Department works not only in the suppression and prevention of fires, but also specializes in public education.

Without volunteer fire halls, like Carthage, many places in the Sixth District would lack effective fire protection. In the State of Tennessee, over 70 percent of fire service is provided by volunteers. Among these volunteers, almost 75 percent work other daily jobs.

Ensuring our families' safety is not without risk. Sadly, an average of two firefighters die each year in Tennessee in the line of duty. In 2005, the Tennessee Fire Services and Code Academy dedicated a memorial on their main campus in Bell Buckle to honor those Tennessee firefighters who have died in the line of duty.

For their willingness to serve, the following members of the Carthage Fire Department deserve recognition: Chief Joe Hiatt, Asst. Chief Joe B. Oldham, Capt. Randy Dennis, Capt. Nicky Stallings, Randy Carter, Tracy Fields, L.C. Grisham, Alicia Fields, Edward Lankford, Jacky Carver, Sr., Kerry Dugan, John Hiatt, Phillip Upchurch, Matt Watts, Glenn Pettross, David Dillehay, Billy Dennis, Chris Dennis, Derrick Brooks, David Brown, Sottie Grisham and Jeff Crockett. Also listed on the training roster is Chief Edward Stallings, Gone But Not Forgotten.

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HONORING THE HIGHLAND  
VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

**HON. BART GORDON**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 6, 2007*

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the members of

the Highland Volunteer Fire Department for their selfless dedication and bravery in protecting our families, day and night.

The Highland Volunteer Fire Department was established in 2000 and covers 64 square miles around the city limits of Portland. The department responds to fire and storm-related calls, vehicle accidents, fuel spills and medical First Responder calls. Currently, the fire department has 17 volunteers on its roster.

Without volunteer fire halls, like Highland, many places in the Sixth District would lack effective fire protection. In the state of Tennessee, over 70 percent of fire service is provided by volunteers. Among these volunteers, almost 75 percent work other daily jobs.

Ensuring our families' safety is not without risk. Sadly, an average of two firefighters die each year in Tennessee in the line of duty. In 2005, the Tennessee Fire Services and Code Academy dedicated a memorial on their main campus in Bell Buckle to honor those Tennessee firefighters who have died in the line of duty.

For their willingness to serve, the following members of the Highland Volunteer Fire Department deserve recognition: Chief and First Responder Kenny Crowson, Asst. Chief George Knuckols, Capt. Richard Lanius, Lt. and First Responder Jessica Knuckols, Lt. Bobby Wilson, Josh Covington, Tav Matthews, Arthur Benjamin, Samantha Roberson, Lindi Costner, William Keen and Auxillary Firefighter Russ Caudill. Firefighter and First Responder David Roberson; Firefighters and EMTs Jim Youngblood and Brent Dyer; Firefighters and Paramedics Scott Meece and Tony Greene.