

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN HONOR OF THE PARISHIONERS OF WESTWOOD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH ON THE OCCASION OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CHURCH

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2008

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of the 100th anniversary of Westwood United Methodist Church and to pay tribute to the legacy of community service that has marked that parish since its inception.

On February 10, 1908, twenty people first organized the parish as the First Methodist Episcopal Church of Westwood. The first services were held almost two weeks later in Odd Fellows Hall in Westwood. As the church grew, a sanctuary and parish building were built. The original sanctuary, which is now a part of the education wing, was built in 1913. The sanctuary now in use was dedicated in 1960.

Community service has always been a cornerstone of Westwood United Methodist Church's mission. Longtime member Ada Hampton helped to organize the Westwood Area Clergy Council and Westwood United Methodist Church has been an active participant since its inception. The parish worked with other community congregations to establish the Westwood House for Senior Citizens. They established the Family Food Cupboard and actively support the Helping Hand Food Pantry in Hillsdale, including through their September Food Drive. The Church regularly opens its doors to area self-help groups, like Alcoholics Anonymous, Gamblers Anonymous, and Alanon. And the Church has offered its facilities to the community as a crisis center in the event of a catastrophic emergency.

The Church has recently opened up a not-for-profit thrift shop to support charitable work. Westwood United Methodist Church has also been a longstanding, strong supporter of scouting, having been home to Troop 47 for over 80 years. The Twin Valleys District of the Northern New Jersey Council often looks to the Church for a meeting and event location. During the holidays, Westwood United Methodist works with the Bergen County Division of Youth and Family Services to brighten Christmas for less fortunate children through Operation Santa Claus. They work with the Inter-Religious Fellowship to provide meals for the homeless as well.

This parish provides a tremendous public service beyond its own church community and I commend them for their good works as they rededicate themselves to another century of service.

IN RECOGNITION OF BROTHER ROBERT E. LAVELLE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Brother Robert E. Lavelle. Born in Cleveland, Brother Robert has a philosophy to preserve the past while being a catalyst for initiating change that is needed for the future. He has one of the longest tenures of any independent school headmaster in this country. In his more than 27 years of dedicated work as Headmaster of Gilmour Academy, student enrollment has increased, the school's endowment has climbed, and the school has completed cutting-edge technologies that have been incorporated into a 21st century curriculum.

Under his skillful guidance, Gilmour Academy has developed a challenging curriculum with classes that are designed to help students learn to think critically and solve problems in a project-oriented world. The school has grown as a result of the brilliant insight of Brother Robert.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognizing Brother Robert E. Levelle for his long tenure of servitude to Gilmour Academy. May his commitment to education serve as an example for us all and inspire future educators.

COMMENDING CIVIC WORKS FOR RECEIVING THE CORPS NETWORK'S EXCELLENCE IN CORPS OPERATIONS STATUS

HON. JOHN P. SARBANES

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2008

Mr. SARBANES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Civic Works' service to Baltimore and to congratulate the organization for earning the Corps Network's Excellence in Corps Operations (ECO) Status.

Civic Works' strong commitment to the local community is defined in its mission to assist Baltimore residents in creating a better future for their city. With the help of approximately 200 AmeriCorps volunteers each year, Civic Works serves Baltimore by performing a variety of tasks such as tutoring and mentoring children, building community parks and gardens, and rehabilitating abandoned houses for low-income families. The volunteers participate in team-based projects and weekly academic enrichment to effect positive change in their lives and their community. Each year, Civic Works also trains and helps 200 Baltimore residents find employment through its Health Care Careers Alliance partnership with five of Baltimore's hospitals and the B'more Green environmental technician training and certifi-

cation program. Since its creation in 1993, Civic Works has trained and assisted more than 2,500 Baltimore area participants.

The ECO Status is bestowed upon various Service and Conservation Corps that make a commitment to high-quality standards and continuous improvements. Each organization's performance is reviewed in several areas through self-assessment and peer reviews. This year's evaluation revealed that Civic Works "exhibits a strong commitment to its local community which can be seen throughout all its programs and projects. Community partners and residents clearly benefit from the work Civic Works completes."

ECO also recognized Civic Works for their "consistently clean financial record and for Board members and staff that are extremely engaged." One reason for such glowing reviews is the leadership of its president and executive director, Delegate Dana Stein. Mr. Stein is one of the original co-founders of Civic Works. He has served as a leader in the Baltimore community in several capacities, most recently being elected to the Maryland House of Delegates from the 11th District. Dana is committed to improving the lives of those who live and work in the Baltimore community and that commitment is replicated by those who have worked with him to help Civic Works achieve this status.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of all those who have benefited directly and indirectly from this commitment, I want to once again congratulate Civic Works on achieving the Excellence in Corps Operations Status.

RUSSELL J. "RUSTY" HAMMER: HONORING A LIFETIME OF SERVING THE COMMUNITY

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2008

Ms. HARMAN. Madam Speaker, my many years of public service have been enhanced by contact with talented community leaders representing numerous organizations and every part of the political spectrum. Among them, Russell J. "Rusty" Hammer—former President and CEO of the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce—stood out.

Rusty died in late January at the young age of 54, succumbing to a rare form of leukemia that he had been fighting with characteristic courage and grace since 2003. He is survived by his wife Pamela and children Gerald and Jennifer.

Rusty Hammer's career was marked by early political success with his election, at age 18, to the Campbell, California City Council—making him the youngest elected official in U.S. history at that time. Three years later, he was selected as mayor, making him one of the youngest American mayors ever. In 1982, he retired from politics, began a distinguished career in the private sector, and never looked back.

• 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.

In 2001, following 7 years as CEO of the Sacramento Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce, Rusty grabbed the reins of the Los Angeles Chamber. Under his skilled leadership, the LA Chamber was transformed into a thriving and profitable organization—the “go-to” group for area entrepreneurs and businesses of all sizes.

Rusty was also a passionate advocate for the least fortunate, and understood that good schools and a healthy environment are fundamental to the Los Angeles area’s appeal.

Rusty’s insatiable spirit was evident during his battle with cancer. He published a book—“When Cancer Calls Say Yes to Life”—which he said he wrote to help others struggling with the disease.

Madam Speaker, Rusty Hammer touched many lives. He will be missed.

HONORING TIAN-LI YUE FOR RECEIVING THE 20TH ANNUAL PHRMA DISCOVERERS’ AWARD

HON. JOE SESTAK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2008

Mr. SESTAK. Madam Speaker, each year, the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA) presents awards to researchers who have made incredible contributions to the development of a revolutionary medicine that helps patients live longer, healthier lives.

Today, Tian-Li Yue received the 20th Annual PhRMA Discoverers Award from PhRMA. The Discoverers Award is PhRMA’s highest honor and is presented to the biopharmaceutical scientists whose research and development of medicines have greatly benefited mankind, and whose dedication and interest in improving the quality of life of patients exemplifies the best in the research.

This year’s award has justly been presented to a cutting-edge researcher, and my constituent, Tian-Li Yue, who works for GlaxoSmithKline located in my home state of Pennsylvania.

Therefore, on behalf of the U.S. Congress I would like to recognize Tian-Li Yue, Ph.D. for developing Coreg(r), which is used as a treatment for congestive heart failure.

His unwavering dedication and life’s work to improve the health and well being of mankind are to be commended. Patients suffering from heart failure and hypertension are forever in his debt.

IN RECOGNITION OF SISTER JOAN GALLAGHER, CSA

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Sister Joan Gallagher, in celebration of her years of kindhearted service to the less fortunate within the Northeast Ohio community.

Sister Joan is credited for her vigorous involvement in major projects that have touched the lives of so many people. Joan has been

credited for converting a former Academy into affordable housing for the less fortunate, developing a portion of a campus for the elderly seeking a God-centered environment and creating Joseph’s Home, a home for homeless men with medical problems.

For many years she has helped guide the Famicos Foundation, a community development corporation that provides housing for low-income families and seniors.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognizing Sister Joan Gallagher. May her years of service to the most vulnerable among us be an inspiration to us all in the world today.

HONORING THE MIAMI NORTHWESTERN SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL VARSITY FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2008

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute and congratulate the Miami Northwestern Senior High School varsity football team on being crowned the 2007 National Champions voted by ESPN’s High School Football Super 25 and winning the 2008 Florida Class 6A State title.

The Bulls have concluded the 2007–2008 season with a 15–0 season record and a second consecutive Florida Class 6A State title. The Bulls won back-to-back State championships for the first time in the School’s 50-year history. They are only the fourth team from Miami-Dade County to achieve the feat since 1963.

Since opening in the fall of 1955, Miami Northwestern Senior High School students and faculty have had a sense of pride unlike any other school in South Florida. The School opened its doors as a learning institution, and nearly 1,050 Black students who attended the School during its opening year were bused daily from Black communities throughout Dade County. Indeed, during this time period segregated schools were still existent and subsisting; thus, Northwestern became the first new high school for Miami African-Americans in a generation.

Despite the trials and tribulations the School often fought long and hard to get past, the School won its first State title before integration in 1963. After court ordered desegregation of 1970, Northwestern continued to strive within its football program. In 1995 and 1998 the School won two more State titles.

Northwestern, which has the best record of any Dade team (68–13) since 2001, boasts at least seven major Division I recruits on its roster with several others who could go to mid-major programs. Five of those seven have committed to the University of Miami. Among those is senior quarterback Jacory Harris (6–4, 170). He led an offense that scored no fewer than 28 points during the team’s winning streak. It is a known fact that the State of Florida produces one National Football League player for every three of its high schools. Northwestern has played a major part in this contribution with 20 notable graduates including: OT Vernon Carey (Miami Dolphins), DB Torrie Cox (Tampa Bay Buccaneers), WR Antonio Bryant (San Francisco 49ers), RB

Vernand Morency (Green Bay Packers) and LB Nate Webster (Denver Broncos).

William “Billy” Rolle, teacher and head football coach, graduated from Coral Gables Senior High School and later Florida A&M University. He began his teaching career in 1985 at Miami Edison Senior High School where he also began coaching football. Rolle guided Northwestern to its 1998 State title, and also led Miami Killian Senior High School to a State title in 2004. Rolle is the only coach in Miami-Dade County history to lead two schools to State championships.

Coach Rolle returned to coach the Bulls in 2007 and achieved compiling two of the three State titles the School held. He has been recognized as the 2007 Coach of the Year by American Football Monthly. Rolle is committed to preparing his team for post-secondary educational opportunities, and the world of work. The 2006 State Championship team featured seven stars that could sign with the University of Miami in 2008, as well as infamous star running back Antwan Easterling (Southern Miss).

To this day, there are still just as many devoted fans as there were when the School opened in 1955. Not only has the School’s academic arena earned noteworthy and positive outcomes throughout the past 53 years, but the School’s football program has demonstrated and become the highlight in Miami-Dade County that has continuously produced the best crop of talent in the Nation.

TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL EVANS WILSON

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2008

Mr. BERRY. Madam Speaker, I rise here today to pay tribute to a dear friend, Michael Evans Wilson, who was a longtime advocate for advancement of education and a veteran who honorably served our country. His passion for improving the lives of Arkansans will be missed, as well as his unwavering friendship. He delighted in asking penetrating questions, and his friendship was a treasure.

Mike was a compassionate and caring family man who loved his wife and children more than anything else in the world. He had a never-ending and burning desire to help people, and he made a lasting impression on each and every individual who knew him.

Mike was the son of the late Robert Edward Lee Wilson III and Patte Evans Wilson. He was the great-great-grandson of Robert Edward Lee Wilson, who founded Lee Wilson and Co. of Wilson in 1886.

He attended high school at the Baylor School in Chattanooga, TN, and graduated from The Citadel at Charleston, SC, in 1965. He served in the United States Army in Korea, and he achieved the rank of captain in air defense artillery prior to his honorable discharge in 1967.

Following his tour of duty in the Army, Mike returned to Wilson to work at Lee Wilson and Co. He served as chairman and chief executive officer of Lee Wilson and Co. from 1987 to the present.

Mike loved the State of Arkansas. Throughout his life, he became well known and highly

respected for his philanthropy, his willingness to devote countless hours to charitable endeavors and for his passion for the advancement of education, both on a statewide and national level. Because of his commitment to his community, he was elected mayor of the City of Wilson from 1986 to the present.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Michael Evans Wilson. He was an incredible person who made a difference in the lives of so many Arkansans. He will be remembered as a great friend and will be missed by all who knew him.

IN RECOGNITION OF JOHN T.
KILBANE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of John T. Kilbane. John has transformed his Cleveland union into an educated workforce prepared for the challenges of a global economy.

Since 1974, when he emigrated to the United States, John has put in many years of dedicated work. Whether working the front lines of the Ford plant or managing important projects for a west coast-based company, in his years of hard work, John has held numerous important positions within the Local #310 union.

John was instrumental in introducing apprenticeship programs that teach laborers to do things they never did before. John established the first Construction Craft Laborers Apprenticeship Program in Ohio. He is also responsible for the construction of his Local 310's new Training Center, which welcomed its first class in 2005.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognizing John T. Kilbane, an innovative leader in Cleveland, for his commitment to his brothers and sisters. May future generations of laborers draw inspiration from his efforts.

AMENDMENT TO THE ALASKA NATIVE CLAIMS SETTLEMENT ACT TO PROVIDE LAND RIGHTS FOR THE 13TH REGIONAL CORPORATION

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2008

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Madam Speaker, there have been many items of unfinished business which flowed from the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, ANCSA, which was originally enacted on December 18, 1971. A number of these issues have been resolved over the years. Few of those unfinished items, however, stand out in my mind as much as the need to provide land selection rights to the members of the 13th Regional Corporation, which was formed by ANCSA primarily to represent Alaska Natives residing outside of Alaska at that time. Today, with the 13th Regional Corporation Land Entitlement Act, I address that objective. I am pleased to be joined in this

sponsorship by my friend and colleague from Washington State, Congressman NORM DICKS. For me, both of us, this completes a significant goal of the original Act. Let me give you the background of this issue and the story of the 13th Region.

In 1971, after years of debate, Congress enacted the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971, 43 U.S.C. § 1601 et seq., "the Settlement Act", extinguishing claims by Native Alaskans based on aboriginal land rights. The Act divided the State into 12 geographical Regions which were to be composed as far as practicable of Natives having a common heritage and sharing common interests. In addition, non-resident Natives were given the option either to enroll in one of the 12 Regional Corporations established for each region or to elect, by majority vote, to form a separate 13th Regional Corporation to represent the interests of non-resident Alaskan Natives.

Provision for the 13th was focused upon serving the interests of non-resident Alaska Natives while affording them their fair share of the settlement. Some non-resident Natives had been dislocated during and after World War II, others left their homes to serve in the Armed Forces, many left to attend high schools and colleges in other States, and still others, for economic reasons, migrated south in the hope of attaining employment. Information about the Settlement Act and its implications for non-resident Natives was difficult to obtain, spotty and inconsistent in character, and generally insufficient to enable individual non-resident Natives to make reasoned decisions. In this situation, a majority of non-resident Alaska Natives felt that their interests could best be protected by forming the non-resident 13th to better control and direct their own affairs. Ultimately approximately 4,500 Alaska Natives chose to enroll in the new 13th. Wherever they resided then, or now, however, they were and are Alaska Natives, and we honor them.

In opting to join the 13th, however, these non-resident Natives were deprived of the ability to fully participate in the settlement of their claims as that settlement was generally provided by the Act. Let me be specific. Monetary payments under the Settlement Act were made through the Alaska Native Fund, and distributed among all 13 Regional Corporations on a per capita basis, but land was distributed only among the 12 resident Regional Corporations and the Village Corporations within those regions. No additional money, however, was provided to the 13th to compensate for the absence of land. The Settlement Act also provided that the 12 Regional Corporations would share among themselves some of the revenues from all natural resource development occurring on the lands conveyed to them. The 13th did not receive this right.

In sum, Alaska Natives enrolled in the 13th did not receive any land, and did not receive additional money in lieu of land, and did not get any right to participate in distributions from the pool of natural resource revenue funds in which the other Regional Corporations shared. The 13th, being comprised of non-resident Alaska Natives, was thus denied full participation in the settlement provided by the Settlement Act. While some will claim that this was their choice, it seems clear that it was an inadequately informed choice, and resulted in depriving over 4,500 members of the 13th of two

of the three major benefits of this Act. This bill seeks to resolve at least the absence of an entitlement to land.

Over the years, the effect of this inequity in the Act has been to substantially disadvantage the shareholders of the 13th as they tried to build an economically successful corporation and to deny them the benefits of land ownership in Alaska. As an example, the 13th received its pro rata share of the monetary payments under the Act but was obligated to distribute 50 percent of those proceeds immediately to shareholders as they were received over a number of years. The remaining 50 percent provide the only capitalization for the small corporation with many scattered shareholders. Without a land base or resources to develop, the 13th did not have the economic base, nor the crucial development alternatives afforded other Regional Corporations. The corporation did not receive revenues from the development of resources, such as timber harvest which was accomplished in several regions, or a share of Sec. 7(i) revenues, including petroleum revenues, which were a source of income for the 12 Regional Corporations. The 13th has survived but with some difficulty, and it is time to provide a fairer share of the settlement to them for their future.

To correct the inequity caused by the Settlement Act's failure to equally compensate non-resident Natives for the extinguishment of their aboriginal land claims, the 13th Regional Corporation Land Entitlement Act will place the shareholders of the 13th on a better footing with shareholders of the other Alaska Native Regional Corporations, at least as far as land is concerned.

The proposal authorizes the 13th to select land from the excess lands previously withdrawn by the Secretary of the Department of the Interior on behalf of other Regional Corporations. The proposed legislation gives absolute priority to land selections by the State of Alaska and other Native Corporations, regional and village, and prohibits the selection of lands from within conservation system units, as defined in the Alaska National Interests Lands Conservation Act. The 13th may not select from the National Petroleum Reserve, the Tongass or Chugach National Forests and other sensitive areas. In other words, the 13th is at the very end of the line for its land selections. This is nonetheless far more equitable for the 13th than the present situation.

In proposing this legislation, the shareholders of the 13th are seeking equity by being placed on a stronger and more equal footing with respect to the Native shareholders of the other 12 Native Regional Corporations. This is supported by the Alaska Native community. This proposal has been endorsed by the Alaska Federation of Natives and by the Association of Regional Corporation Presidents, and it has been thoroughly considered by the Alaska delegation.

My first term in Congress was the one immediately following the enactment of ANCSA in late 1971. I can tell you that neither the Act nor its implementation focused much attention on the 13th. They were not fully represented, so members of the Washington State delegation like the late Congressman Lloyd Meeds and Senator Henry Jackson took their side but were not able to accomplish land rights for the 13th, or a monetary settlement in its stead. Congressman Meeds believed throughout his life that this was a matter that required resolution.

What the 13th will receive under the new bill is, with one major exception, the same per capita land right that all other regional corporations received, no more and no less. The number of acres is arrived at by taking the total number of acres conveyed to the other Regional Corporations pursuant to Section 12(c) of ANSCA, 15,769,600 acres, and after subtracting Sealaska's shareholders, Sealaska received a separate entitlement, and the shareholders of the 13th, which received no land, dividing this 15,769,600 acres by 60,026, the number of original Native shareholders enrolled to the other 11 Native Regional Corporations. On a per capita basis, the shareholders of the other 11 Regional Corporations received approximately 262.7 acres per original shareholder. This per capita number multiplied by the 4,426 original shareholders of the 13th results in the 1,162,710 acres.

The bill gives absolute priority to land selections of other Native Corporations and the State of Alaska. Additionally, the bill prohibits the 13th from making selections within conservation system units, the Tongass and Chugach National Forests, the National Petroleum Reserve—Alaska, and other potentially sensitive public lands.

All other interests, from the State to other Native corporations and the conservation community, were able to make their land selections or designate large areas for protection and special management. All of these groups won congressional approval, and were able to secure their preferences, when the land eligible for selection was prime and high on the list of priorities. The 13th comes behind all other priorities, including State and Native selections, national conservation lands, and others. The intent is that the land of the 13th will be selected in a cooperative process with other land owners and can be complementary to those selections, by other regions or villages, the State or other public purposes. I believe this is not only fair but good policy as Alaska moves forward. It is simply time to resolve this long-standing inequity, and to provide the 13th Native Region with the right to a limited land base just as all other Native regions. I urge my colleagues to join with me in achieving this goal this year.

HONORING THE 99TH
ANNIVERSARY OF THE NAACP

HON. JOE SESTAK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2008

Mr. SESTAK. Madam Speaker, for nearly a century, the National Association of the Advancement of Colored People, NAACP, has been fighting for the civil rights and dignity of people of color. As a result of their efforts, our great nation today can boast of a society more diverse, productive, prosperous and hopeful than any in history.

However, today's hope is a far cry from the violence, segregation and discrimination that inspired Mary White Ovington, William English Walling and Dr. Henry Moskowitz to meet in a little room of a New York apartment and commit the fledgling NAACP to the most important social movement in our national history. Today, the spirit of those brave and patriotic founders' lives on in leaders like Dr. Joan

Duval-Flynn, President of the Media, Pennsylvania NAACP Chapter. I rise today to congratulate Dr. Duval-Flynn for her vision, intelligence and dedication. She leads a chapter of the NAACP borne of a violent act in the early 1920's and committed to making Delaware County, Pennsylvania a 21st century community where people of all colors and creeds live together as neighbors, friends and first class citizens.

In my first year representing the 7th District of Pennsylvania, the NAACP's magazine, *The Crisis*, featured an article titled "Women Warriors, Female Combatants Sacrifice Lives for Country." That article gave me cause to consider all of the extraordinary women and men of color I had the privilege of serving with during more than thirty years in our Armed Forces.

For that privilege and honor, I owe—and our Nation owes—a personal debt of gratitude to Dr. Duval-Flynn, Mary White Ovington and countless other leaders and members of the NAACP. As W.E.B. Du Bois wrote in his first editorial page of *The Crisis*, in 1910, that voice of the NAACP "will stand for the right of men, irrespective of color or race, for the highest ideals of American democracy, and for the reasonable but earnest and persistent attempt to gain these rights and realize these ideals." Dr. Duval-Flynn has continued that tradition. I am proud to know and work with this remarkable leader, Dr. Joan Duval-Flynn, and with the NAACP who gave us leaders such as Dr. Joan Duval-Flynn.

Founded on February 12, 1909, the NAACP is the nation's oldest and largest civil rights organization. It has worked successfully with allies of all races who believe in, and stand for, the principles of civil rights on which the organization was founded.

The NAACP's legacy includes historic events as well as distinguished leaders, such as W.E.B. Dubois and other civil rights luminaries such Rosa Parks, Medgar Evers, and Thurgood Marshall, who served as special counsel for the NAACP when he argued the historic U.S. Supreme Court case of *Brown V. Board of Education*, a landmark victory for equality that outlawed segregation in schools.

Our obligation to African Americans and all Americans is to honor the accomplishments of the past by acting in a substantive manner to improve lives for tomorrow. Thank you, NAACP, and thank you, Dr. Joan Duval-Flynn.

TRIBUTE TO CORPORAL THOMAS
JAMES HERRERA

HON. J. RANDY FORBES

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2008

Mr. FORBES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Cpl. Thomas Herrera, who enlisted in the United States Army on September 12, 2007. Cpl. Herrera's notable career spans 18 years, and his record of achievements during this period reflects greatly upon himself and upon the organizations with which he has served.

A native of Austin, Texas, Cpl. Herrera has followed a diverse career path of increasing responsibility culminating in his enlistment into the U.S. Army. Mr. Herrera is currently serving as Corporal at Fort Lee, Virginia. Previously,

Cpl. Herrera served in the Army National Guard in the States of Massachusetts and Nevada from 2006–2007, when he began active Federal service. From 1987–1990, he served in the U.S. Air Force.

From 1990–1991, Cpl. Herrera worked for the U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census as a Computer Operator. Following this, he took a position as Human Resource Assistant for the Governor of Texas from 1991–1996. Cpl. Herrera left government service in 1996 to begin a near ten-year journey in academia, earning commendable credentials that prepared him for his future military and government service.

In May 2001, Cpl. Herrera graduated from the University of Texas at Dallas with a BA in Government Politics. In May 2002, he graduated from the Southern Methodist University with a MLA in Liberal Arts/History. Finally, in December 2005, Cpl. Herrera concluded his academic journey with an MA in Criminology & Criminal Justice from the University of Texas at Arlington.

Cpl. Herrera has also taken it upon himself to become fluent in Spanish, French, Italian, German, and Russian. Additionally, he has a working knowledge of Mandarin Chinese, Korean, and Japanese.

Cpl. Herrera is married to the former Kasi Ann Roberts of Jacksonville, North Carolina. They were married on March 10, 2006 and have one daughter, Emma Belen Herrera, born on February 2, 2006. Mrs. Herrera's parents reside in Sherman, Texas. Although Cpl. Herrera's parents are deceased, he has close family that reside in Austin and Dallas, Texas.

Throughout his life, Cpl. Herrera has overcome poverty and hardship in an effort to meet incredible personal goals and objectives.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring Corporal Thomas James Herrera, for his commitment to academic and professional success. He is a remarkable public servant who has served our Nation and epitomized the dedication and professionalism that make our military a model all over the world.

IN CELEBRATION OF THE NASA
GLENN RESEARCH CENTER

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in celebration of the NASA Glenn Research Center. The NASA Glenn Research Center will be receiving its one-hundredth R&D 100 Award from *R&D Magazine*. R&D 100 award winners are chosen by the editors of the magazine as well as an external panel of experts in recognition of their contributions in developing the top 100 most technologically significant products of the year.

NASA Glenn Research Center's one-hundredth R&D 100 Award signifies the excellence of the Glenn Center's staff and the Center's significant contributions to NASA's mission. The Glenn Research Center and its staff have been included in these awards for over 41 years. Consisting of almost three-thousand civil service employees, The Glenn team has consistently strived for technical excellence in order to expand the boundaries of space, science and aeronautics technology.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring the NASA Glenn Research Center's team on their significant contributions to the field of aeronautics and to continuing to work for maintaining NASA's global leadership in aeronautics.

IN HONOR OF ANDERSON HOMES

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2008

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to pay tribute to Steve Anderson and the dedicated employees of Anderson Homes, an independent homebuilder based in Middletown, Delaware. This week Anderson Homes will do what many consider impossible. Together, with ABC's Extreme Makeover: Home Edition design team and hundreds of local sub-contractors and volunteers, they will build two new high quality homes for two Wilmington families in less than a week's time. Mr. Ty Pennington, the host of the show, informed the Latif family and their neighbor Rose Chatman of the wonderful news Tuesday morning in traditional fashion: yelling "Good Morning" via bullhorn.

Anderson Homes has agreed to tackle this unbelievable challenge of building two houses, while waiving all fees and donating all the materials. Anderson Homes was founded in Middletown, Delaware, in 2000 and has 45 full-time employees. In just 7 years, the company has built more than 1,000 quality homes. The company was named the "Fastest Growing Homebuilder in the Nation, 2003" by Builder Magazine and was the recipient of 11 Regal Awards by the Homebuilders Association of Delaware in 2006.

ABC-TV Extreme Makeover: Home Edition is on a quest to build a house in all 50 States. Each family will return from an all expenses paid trip to Disney World to find a brand new home, custom built to meet their special needs. The Extreme Makeover team selected the Latif and Chatman families of Delaware for their most recent home-building project because of their unique and inspiring circumstances.

Ju-Juanna Latif's life story is one of inspiration, a reminder to all of us of what can be accomplished if one perseveres. Ms. Latif became a single mother at the age of 16 and dropped out of high school. In spite of the obstacles, Ms. Latif earned a GED and set her sights on going to college. Unfortunately, life once again challenged Ms. Latif and she found herself living in a homeless shelter with her baby. While living at the shelter, Ms. Latif worked proactively to achieve her goals by taking parenting classes, undergoing job training, and enrolling in college once again.

Upon completion of a work study program, Ms. Latif was able to move out of the shelter into low-income housing. Ms. Latif bought her grandmother's home and, in doing so, also met a wonderful neighbor, Rose Chatman.

Ms. Latif is a proud mother of four children, ages: 19, 13, 12, and 9. James, Ms. Latif's youngest child, has been diagnosed with cerebral palsy and is wheelchair-bound. Ms. Chatman, better known as "Grandma Rose" takes care of James during the day while Ms. Latif goes to work as a welfare fraud analyst.

"Grandma Rose" not only cares for young James, but is also an active member of her church by making the flower arrangements and providing transportation to church members.

With the help of Anderson Homes and ABC-TV Extreme Makeover: Home Edition, the new home will accommodate the special needs of Ms. Latif's son, James, and will make life easier for the entire family, including "Grandma Rose."

Thank you to Steve Anderson, the employees of Anderson Homes, ABC, and all the volunteers who made the dream of a brand new home a reality for these deserving families.

HONORING CECIL SCAIFE

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2008

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the accomplishments of Cecil Scaife and other key individuals who helped transform Nashville, Tennessee, into Music City, USA. Tonight at the historic Ryman Auditorium, Belmont University will present Nashville Celebrates Elvis! to highlight Elvis Presley's important contributions to the recording industry in Nashville. The event will also honor the contributions of Cecil Scaife and benefit the Cecil Scaife Music Business Scholarship Fund. The work done by Cecil, Bob Mulloy, and other industry leaders to found and nurture what would become the Mike Curb College of Entertainment and Music Business at Belmont University built upon the success of Elvis and other early pioneers to cement the place of Nashville in the entertainment landscape of our country.

Beginning in radio in the 1950s and then moving into the recording business, Cecil Scaife eventually became the first promotions manager for the legendary producer Sam Phillips at Sun Records in Memphis. Cecil would play a key role in the early careers of not just Elvis, but also Charlie Rich, Jerry Lee Lewis, Carl Perkins and Johnny Cash. He also worked in the first three-track recording studio in Nashville and the RCA Victor Studio B where Elvis recorded some of his greatest hits.

Not content with enjoying his personal success, Cecil Scaife joined with others in 1971 to lay the groundwork for the music business program at Belmont University. He taught there, established a scholarship to honor his wife, Sherytha, and made sure all of his children were educated there. His work helped ensure that the program would become a model for other music schools around the country. This program ensured that Nashville would never run short on talented, well-prepared, home-grown music business professionals ready to lead Nashville's music industry into the future.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Cecil Scaife, Belmont University, and all those who have worked so hard to make sure Nashville, Tennessee, will always be one of the musical and cultural treasures of our country.

IN RECOGNITION OF JAMES F. RODES, JR.

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor CDR James F. Rodes, Jr., for his exceptional service in the Cleveland police force and the United States Navy Reserve.

James attended Cuyahoga Community College while serving as a patrol officer and detective in the fourth district, graduating in 1986 with a degree in law enforcement and criminal justice. He worked his way through the ranks, starting as a patrol officer and team leader of the Dive Search and Recovery Team, and continuing his career as a detective in the Fugitive Unit, Accident Investigation Unit, Bureau of Special Investigations, and Homicide Unit. He retired on November 1, 2007, after 26 years of service.

James's distinguished career is also defined by his success in the Navy Reserve. He entered active duty on October 12, 1971, and was initiated Gunner's Mate Chief Petty Officer in 1985. He was a salvage diving officer in Cleveland, a company commander in Bosnia and Herzegovina, a commander in Japan and Akron, Ohio, and also served in Iraq from September 2006 to February 2007.

Commander Rodes spent his childhood in the Cleveland area and now resides in Brooklyn, Ohio, with his wife Diane. He is the proud father of two daughters, Lieutenant Stacy R. Meyers and Melissa A. Hazek.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Commander James F. Rodes, Jr., a man whose exemplary service in both the United States Navy and the Cleveland Police Department will serve as an inspiration for generations to come.

HONORING STATE SENATOR ADELINE GEO-KARIS

HON. MELISSA L. BEAN

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2008

Ms. BEAN. Madam Speaker, upon the occasion of her passing, I rise today to celebrate the life and achievements of Illinois State Senator Adeline Geo-Karis, a true political pioneer who dedicated her life to serving the people of Illinois.

She was a woman in leadership when there weren't any others. She broke through all the barriers, as the only woman in her graduating class at DePaul University Law School, as a lieutenant commander in the U.S. Naval Reserve, as the State's first female assistant State's attorney, and the first woman elected to the Illinois General Assembly from Lake County.

Through more than three decades of service in the Illinois General Assembly, Senator Geo-Karis spearheaded successful efforts to cut crime and promote alternative energy use. She was a tireless advocate for senior citizens and a longtime champion of the disabled. She brought constituent service to new heights and set the bar for other elected officials in the State of Illinois.

She served with distinction as the mayor of Zion and as an immigrant from Greece, she was an inspiring example of the American Dream.

Madam Speaker, Senator Geo-Karis has served her district, State, and country with exemplary dedication and commitment. Her 34 years of outstanding public service ensure that her legacy will be remembered.

HONORING WARWICK TOWNSHIP
ON ITS 275TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2008

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 275th anniversary of Warwick Township, Pennsylvania. Warwick has a long and notable history, serving as the location for several crucial events in the birth of our Nation.

Warwick Township was formed by petition on February 13, 1733. Located in central Bucks County, the township served as an important fixture in colonial life in the 18th century. York Road, one of the major roads running throughout the township, served as the major connection between New York and Philadelphia. During the American Revolution, York Road was used as a passage for the American Army during northern campaigns.

Warwick Township was also home to General Washington's headquarters. The township welcomed Marquis de Lafayette and Count Pulaski to join the American Army, where they later became critical to the American victory over the British. The nearby Neshaminy Church was transformed into both a hospital and a location for court-martials throughout the American Revolution.

Today, Warwick Township continues its historic tradition of hospitality and community. The township offers its residents and visitors a variety of public parks, sports fields, pavilions, playgrounds and ponds. Community Park proves the township's residents with a children's summer day camp program, as well as public Sunday evening concerts throughout July and August. Warwick Township also features a public golf course, the Neshaminy Valley Golf Club.

Warwick Township serves both as an outstanding reminder of our Nation's history, as well as an exceptional example of a modern American town. Madam Speaker, I am proud to represent Warwick Township and grateful for the opportunity to recognize their momentous 275th anniversary.

IN CELEBRATION OF SHEILA
MURPHY CRAWFORD

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in celebration of Sheila Murphy Crawford. Thirty years ago, Sheila Murphy Crawford founded the Murphy Irish Arts center, which she established as a non-profit to support Irish cultural activities. She began in

1978 with 35 students. Under her guidance as director of the center, she currently has more than 200 students, ranging in age from 5 to 30.

In 2006, Crawford's spectacular choreography took third place at the 2006 World Championships of Irish Dancing in Belfast. Her dancers have earned very high rankings in many other national and international competitions. Among many of her other honors, she earned the highly desirable position of adjudicator of the world governing organization for Irish Dance, An coimistun le Rinici Gaeltica.

As a teenager, Crawford maintained the Irish Cultural Garden in Rockefeller Park. She later went on to become the director of the organization that oversees the verdant spot in 1995. For the past 8 years, she has also served as vice president of the Cultural Garden Federation of Cleveland. Currently, Crawford is heading a project to refurbish the Irish Garden.

Crawford's outstanding commitment to sharing Ireland's rich cultural traditions and values goes far beyond Irish dancing. She has been a five time president of a religious and cultural organization that raises funds for charity, the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians. In 1993, she was named Hibernian of the Year.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognizing Sheila Murphy Crawford's significant contributions to preserving and sharing Irish culture with the community.

RECOGNIZING MRS. IMOGENE
COTTER

HON. DENNIS R. REHBERG

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2008

Mr. REHBERG. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the oldest registered Republican residing in Phillips County, Montana, Mrs. Imogene Cotter. On February 10, Mrs. Cotter celebrated her 100th birthday. Arriving in Montana on an immigrant train from Missouri when she was a young child, Imogene homesteaded with her family and her husband William until the ranch sold in 1970. Whether it was serving as an election clerk for Phillips County for over 30 years, working as a State officer for several different years in the Cattle Women's organization "Cow Belles", or being heavily involved in her husband's career as a county commissioner and school board president, Imogene's contributions to the Republican Party, Phillips County, and the State of Montana are endless.

Reaching this significant milestone is something that should not go unnoticed or unappreciated. Please accept my wishes for a very happy birthday—and my sincere congratulations for the good life you are living.

It is the compassion, dedication, courage, and commitment of people such as you that is truly the Spirit of America. Your experiences of the past 100 years qualify you to educate and pass your wisdom on to those of younger generations. I hope you will tell your stories—and I hope they will listen.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2008

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, I regret that due to inclement winter weather, I missed recorded votes on February 6, 2008, and February 7, 2008.

Had I been present on those days, I would have voted in support of H. Res. 867, H. Res. 942, H. Res. 943, H. Res. 956, H. Con. Res. 283, and H.R. 4848.

IN CELEBRATION OF REGINA
BRETT

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in celebration of Regina Brett. Regina Brett reaches over half a million readers a week as a thrice-weekly metro columnist for the Cleveland Plain Dealer, which she joined in 2000 after 7 years as a reporter and columnist for the Akron Beacon Journal. Brett also hosts a weekly radio program on Cleveland's National Public Radio Station, WCPN, 90.3 FM. With the capacity to reach out to so many people through her column and radio show, she has been able to highlight issues and generate debate concerning topics that are of great importance to the Greater Cleveland community.

Regina Brett earned her B.A. from Kent State University and her M.A. from John Carroll University. She later went on to serve as president of the National Society of Newspaper Columnists. Among many of her honors and awards, in 1999, she was the recipient of the yearly awarded Batten Medal; established in memory of the late CEO and chairman of the Knight Ridder newspaper chain, which recognizes one journalist nationwide whose writing displays "compassion, fairness, courage, and a deep concern for the underdog."

Through her body of work, she has continued, fearlessly and relentlessly, to illuminate the challenges, victories, people and communities that make up and affect the Greater Cleveland area.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognizing Regina Brett's outstanding contributions to journalism and to the Greater Cleveland Community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2008

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Speaker, on January 22, 2008, I failed to vote on rollcall Nos. 19 and 20 because my flight was unexpectedly delayed. Had I voted, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall No. 19 and "aye" on rollcall No. 20.

Madam Speaker, on December 13, 2007, I inadvertently failed to vote on rollcall No. 1156. Had I voted, I would have voted "aye."

Madam Speaker, on December 5, 2007, I inadvertently failed to vote on rollcall No. 1130. Had I voted, I would have voted "aye."

Madam Speaker, on November 14, 2007, I inadvertently failed to vote on rollcall No. 1103. Had I voted, I would have voted "aye."

Madam Speaker, on October 31, 2007, I inadvertently failed to vote on rollcall No. 1023. Had I voted, I would have voted "aye."

Madam Speaker, on October 22, 2007, I inadvertently failed to vote on rollcall Nos. 983–985. Had I voted, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall No. 983; "aye" on rollcall No. 984; and "aye" on rollcall No. 985.

Madam Speaker, on June 13, 2007, I inadvertently failed to vote on rollcall No. 465. Had I voted, I would have voted "aye."

Madam Speaker, on March 9, 2007, I inadvertently failed to vote on rollcall No. 133. Had I voted, I would have voted "no."

Madam Speaker, on February 12, 2007, I inadvertently failed to vote on rollcall Nos. 93–94. Had I voted, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall No. 93; and "aye" on rollcall No. 94.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2008

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I was absent from the House on Thursday, February 7, 2008, attending a funeral in Las Vegas. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following way:

On rollcall vote #42, H.R. 5140, the Economic Stimulus bill. "yea."

On rollcall vote #41. H. Res. 947, Congratulating Lee Myung-Bak on his election, "yea."

On rollcall vote #40, H.R. 4137 the College Opportunity and Affordability Act, "yea."

On rollcall vote #39, H.R. 4137 On Motion to Recommit, "yea."

On rollcall vote #38, H.R. 4137 On Mr. Davis of Illinois Amendment, "nay."

On rollcall vote #37, H.R. 4137 On Mr. Petri of Wisconsin Amendment #5, "yea."

On rollcall vote #36, H.R. 4137 On Mr. Petri of Wisconsin Amendment #4, "yea."

On rollcall vote #35, H.R. 4848 On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended P To extend for one year parity in the application of certain limits to mental health benefits, and for other purposes, "yea."

On rollcall vote #34, H. Con. Res. 283 On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree, as Amended P Calling for a peaceful resolution to the current electoral crisis in Kenya, "yea."

On rollcall vote #33, H. Res. 956 On Agreeing to the Resolution P Providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4137) to amend and extend the Higher Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes, "nay."

On rollcall vote #32. H. Res. 956 On Ordering the Previous Question P Providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4137) to amend and extend the Higher Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes, "nay."

H.R. 5264 EXTENDS SUCCESSFUL PREFERENCE PROGRAMS WITH ANDEAN, CARIBBEAN, AND GSP NATIONS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I would like to offer a few words on H.R. 5264, a bill that I introduced to provide a long-term extension of three trade preference programs scheduled to expire this year. This bill would extend until September 30, 2010 the Andean trade preferences (ATPA) that are due to expire on February 29, preferences for the Caribbean Basin (CBI) countries—which expire on September 30—and the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP), which expires on December 31. H.R. 5264 also addresses a number of problems with the textile provisions of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) and the competitive need limitation (CNL) waiver provisions of GSP.

These preference programs have been a centerpiece of U.S. efforts to spread the benefits of globalization to the world's poor and developing countries. They have created tens of thousands of jobs—jobs that are likely to be lost to countries like China if the programs are not renewed—and have created critical economic opportunities for workers and businesses in the United States. These programs have also fostered key U.S. foreign policy goals, including U.S. counternarcotic efforts, and empowered the agents of democracy and reform abroad.

Extension beyond 2010 would have been ideal to provide the necessary predictability and stability for the Andean, Caribbean, and GSP programs. However, I have included the shorter extension in this bill to accommodate the range of opinions on the issue of renewal. In the coming days, I will work with my colleagues to harness the strong bipartisan support that I believe exists to extend and improve these critical trade preference programs.

Finally, a 2-year renewal of these programs at this time should send a clear signal to negotiators in the World Trade Organization Doha Round negotiations that the U.S. commitment to trade and development remains unwavering and substantial. This element of the Round is fundamental, even as the United States presses for key goals in agriculture, far reaching commitments on tariff and non-tariff barriers with respect to manufactured goods, services and strong outcomes in other areas, including the so-called Rules negotiations.

IN HONOR OF DAN COLEGROVE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Cleveland police Sergeant Dan Colegrove for more than 28 years of exemplary service in the Cleveland Police Department.

Dan served in a number of capacities during his time with the police. He began his career on October 29, 1979, in the fourth district, and

then spent time on the Strike Force and the Detective Bureau from 1984 to 1989. He was then assigned to the Cleveland Police Mounted Unit until 1999, when he moved to the Fugitive Unit. In June 2000, he was promoted to sergeant and served his remaining time with a stint in the fifth district and the Detective Bureau until his retirement on December 7, 2007.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Dan Colegrove for his dedication to his community of West Cleveland.

COLLEGE OPPORTUNITY AND AFFORDABILITY ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2008

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4137) to amend and extend the Higher Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes:

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the College Opportunity and Affordability Act (H.R. 4137), a bill to reauthorize the Higher Education Act's programs.

I thank Chairman MILLER, Representative MCKEON and their staff for their hard work on this reauthorization bill. I am very pleased that the Education and Labor Committee voted unanimously to favorably refer this bill to the full House for consideration. It is a testament to the fact that bipartisan work, though difficult, pays off with a better final product. This bill makes substantive changes that help future college students and our Nation's economy.

Several provisions that I authored were included in the College Opportunity and Affordability Act. For example, the bill includes provisions of the Higher Education Sustainability Act, a bill that I introduced with Rep. BLUMENAUER to establish a competitive grant program to encourage colleges and universities to develop, implement and evaluate their sustainability practices and academic programs. I appreciate the efforts of Representatives INSLEE and BLUMENAUER to improve upon the bill's provisions by requiring that the Secretary of Education consult with the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency when awarding sustainability grants. This provision was included in the Manager's Amendment.

In addition, the bill includes the Robert C. Byrd American Competitiveness program, which has provisions that Representatives WOLF, HOLT and I developed in the 109th Congress. For example, it awards scholarships to students who are enrolled in studies in physical, life, or computer sciences, mathematics, or engineering. Also, through the Math and Science Incentive program, the Secretary may waive the interest on Federal student loans for students pursuing STEM teaching or professional careers. In conference, I certainly hope Senator BYRD is amenable to making these important updates to the Byrd Scholarship program.

Finally, the bill includes my Independent Study of Distance Education Act, which requires the National Academy of Sciences to conduct a study of distance education, as compared to traditional, campus-based education.

I have a few concerns about the bill. First, I am concerned that the bill will require colleges and universities to comply with additional federal "red tape." I understand that Representative McKEON plans to offer an amendment to study the regulatory burden on colleges and universities and ways to reduce it.

Also, I have concerns about the college cost provisions. While the provisions have certainly improved over the past several years, I question whether the federal government should intervene in the way colleges and universities set their tuition, particularly at relatively low-cost community colleges. For example, it is my understanding that Grand Rapids Community College, located in my congressional district, may be subjected to the bill's requirements of the Quality Efficiency Task Force. Unfortunately, the bill fails to take into account state and local factors, such as last year's failed millage attempts, which, in turn, necessitated the tuition increases at this community college. It is situations like this that should be considered when reviewing attempts to control rising college costs.

Finally, I have concerns with the bill's maintenance of effort requirements for state funding. I appreciate Representative KILDEE and WALBERG's efforts to include a waiver for States facing difficult economic times, such as Michigan.

On balance, the College Opportunity and Affordability Act is a good bill, and I urge Members to support it.

PROTECT AMERICA ACT OF 2007
EXTENSION

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 29, 2008

Mr. POMEROY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to say that I will be voting for H.R. 5104. However, I believe that passing a long-term extension of the Protect America Act is not the answer. Instead, we must update the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act in a way that will enhance our national security while at the same time protecting the privacy of United States citizens. As such, it is my hope that this extension will give us time to responsibly modernize the FISA law, and I look forward to working with my colleagues in ensuring that these dual aims are accomplished.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF ANTONIO
DIMORA

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Antonio Dimora, a beloved father and doting grandfather, and to honor his commitment to his Northeast Ohio community.

Antonio was born in Sicily in 1932 and immigrated to the United States in 1950, settling in a succession of Cleveland area communities. He was an avid outdoorsman, worked

for Republic Steel and Buckeye Forge, and served as the Union Steward in the United Steelworkers of America. Later in life, Antonio devoted his time to volunteer work with the American Association of Retired Persons and Church of the Holy Angels in Bainbridge, Ohio.

Antonio's greatest joy in life was spending time with his wife, Mary Elizabeth; his four children, James, Ann Marie Miker, Theresa Agostino, and Diane Pieronek; and his nine grandchildren. He never forgot Italy, and enjoyed every opportunity to celebrate his Italian heritage.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in remembering Antonio Dimora, whose tireless work for the labor cause and deep affection for his family and community will be remembered by all who knew him. My thoughts and prayers go out to the Dimora family during this difficult time.

CONGRATULATING PARADISE VALLEY
POLICE CHIEF JOHN
WINTERSTEEN

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2008

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge Paradise Valley Police Chief John Wintersteen for the many years he has given to his community and to our country. Chief Wintersteen is retiring after thirteen years at the helm of his department, a span that has encompassed tremendous growth and innovation in the town's public safety programs. His tenure in Paradise Valley has earned him the respect and love of that community.

Chief Wintersteen's distinguished service began long before he joined the Paradise Valley Police Department. He served honorably for nearly 29 years in the United States Marine Corps, overseeing police and security operations at Marine Corps headquarters in Washington, DC, and at the military prison at Fort Leavenworth, KS.

During his tenure with the department, Chief Wintersteen was instrumental in overseeing the town's fire and emergency medical service transition from the private Rural/Metro Fire Department to Phoenix Fire Department. He was also involved in the expansion of the Police Department's photo-enforcement program—which was the first in the Nation—and the introduction of public-awareness programs.

Chief Wintersteen is just as dedicated to the community in his private life as he was while wearing a badge. He volunteers with the Boy Scouts of America, Girl Scouts of America, Sierra Club, American Red Cross and Special Olympics, among others.

I would like to wish Chief Wintersteen all the best as he embarks on a new chapter in his life. I am confident that Paradise Valley will continue to benefit from his knowledge, leadership and dedication to the community he calls home. I say congratulations on a job well done.

SUNSET MEMORIAL

HON. TRENT FRANKS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2008

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Madam Speaker, I stand once again before this body with another Sunset Memorial.

It is February 12, 2008, in the land of the free and the home of the brave, and before the sun set today in America, almost 4,000 more defenseless unborn children were killed by abortion on demand—just today. That is more than the number of innocent American lives that we lost on September 11, only it happens every day.

It has now been exactly 12,804 days since the tragic judicial fiat called Roe v. Wade was handed down. Since then, the very foundation of this Nation has been stained by the blood of almost 50 million of our own children.

Some of them, Madam Speaker, cried and screamed as they died, but because it was amniotic fluid passing over their vocal cords instead of air, we couldn't hear them. And all of them had at least four things in common.

They were each just little babies who had done nothing wrong to anyone. Each one of them died a nameless and lonely death. And each of their mothers, whether she realizes it immediately or not, will never be the same. And all the gifts that these children might have brought to humanity are now lost forever.

Yet even in the full glare of such tragedy, this generation clings to blindness and invincible ignorance while history repeats itself and our own silent genocide mercilessly annihilates the most helpless of all victims to date, those yet unborn.

Madam Speaker, perhaps it is important for those of us in this Chamber to remind ourselves again of why we are really all here.

Thomas Jefferson said, "The care of human life and its happiness and not its destruction is the chief and only object of good government."

Madam Speaker, protecting the lives of our innocent citizens and their constitutional rights is why we are all here. It is our sworn oath. The phrase in the 14th amendment capsulizes our entire Constitution. It says: "No state shall deprive any person of life, liberty or property without due process of law."

The bedrock foundation of this Republic is the Declaration, not the casual notion, but the Declaration of the self-evident truth that all human beings are created equal and endowed by their creator with the unalienable rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Every conflict and battle our Nation has ever faced can be traced to our commitment to this core self-evident truth. It has made us the beacon of hope for the entire world. It is who we are.

And yet Madam Speaker, another day has passed, and we in this body have failed again to honor that commitment. We failed our sworn oath and our God-given responsibility as we broke faith with nearly 4,000 more innocent American babies who died without the protection we should have been given them.

But perhaps tonight, Madam Speaker, maybe someone new who heard this sunset memorial will finally realize that abortion really does kill a baby, that it hurts mothers in ways that we can never express, and that 12,804

days spent killing nearly 50 million unborn children in America is enough; and that this nation is great enough to find a better way than abortion on demand.

So tonight, Madam Speaker, may we each remind ourselves that our own days in this sunshine of life are numbered and that all too soon each of us will walk from these Chambers for the very last time.

And if it should be that this Congress is allowed to convene on yet another day to come, may that be the day when we hear the cries of the unborn at last. May that be the day we find the humanity, the courage, and the will to embrace together our human and our constitutional duty to protect the least of these, our tiny American brothers and sisters, from this murderous scourge upon our Nation called abortion on demand.

It is February 12, 2008—12,804 days since *Roe v. Wade* first stained the foundation of this nation with the blood of its own children—this, in the land of the free and the home of the brave.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION
AUTHORIZING THE SECRETARY
OF COMMERCE TO SELL OR EX-
CHANGE NATIONAL OCEANIC
AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION
PROPERTY LOCATED IN
NORFOLK, VA

HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2008

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation that would authorize the Secretary of Commerce to sell or exchange National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration property to/with the city of Norfolk, Virginia.

Over the last decade, the city of Norfolk has experienced tremendous economic growth. Downtown Norfolk has reemerged as the urban center of the Hampton Roads region through revitalization and new commercial and residential development. For several decades, NOAA has been an important Federal partner in downtown Norfolk's development. NOAA's Atlantic Marine Operations Center and NOAA's Chesapeake Bay office are both located in downtown Norfolk.

The bill that I am introducing today, along with my colleague Congresswoman THELMA DRAKE, would authorize the Secretary of Commerce to sell or exchange a small piece of underutilized NOAA property located at 538 Front Street in Norfolk, consisting of 3.78 acres, to the city of Norfolk. This land sale would allow Norfolk to continue its tremendous economic growth by developing the land for commercial and residential purposes. At the same time, the bill clearly states that NOAA may only sell or exchange the property if the Secretary of Commerce determines that the conveyance would be in the best interest of the Federal government. The bill does not delineate or support any particular agreement or contract; the details of any future agreement between NOAA and the city of Norfolk would have to be worked out. This legislation would simply permit that process to get started. In addition, any sale or exchange would have to have little to no impact on Federal revenue or

the deficit. The bill requires that the property be sold at a value that is not less than the fair market value as determined by the Federal government. Furthermore, it authorizes NOAA to retain any proceeds from the sale or exchange.

Madam Speaker, I hope that this bill will be considered by the full House of Representatives soon. I believe this bipartisan, non-controversial legislation protects both the interests of the Federal government and the citizens of Norfolk. I urge my colleagues to support this measure when it comes before the full House.

TRIBUTE TO VADA SHEID

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2008

Mr. BERRY. Madam Speaker, I rise here today to pay tribute to an outstanding citizen and dear friend. I am proud to recognize one of Arkansas greatest public servants Vada Sheid. Her recent death was a great loss for our community and our Nation.

Vada Sheid was the first woman to be elected to both the Arkansas House of Representatives and the Arkansas State Senate. Her career in public service, which also included positions in numerous county offices, boards, commissions and committees, spanned across five decades. Mrs. Sheid was instrumental in securing significant road improvements for north central Arkansas as well as the creation of Arkansas State University-Mountain Home.

Vada Webb was born on August 19, 1916, in Izard County. She grew up in Calico Rock and entered public service working at the Izard County welfare office when she was 19. Shortly after she married Carl Sheid in 1941 the couple moved to El Dorado and eventually settled in Mountain Home.

In 1958, Mrs. Sheid ran for Baxter County treasurer and lost. In 1960, she ran again, won, and served as treasurer through 1965. In 1966, she was elected to the State house of representatives and served four terms. She was only one of four women who served during the 1967–1968 term. In 1976, Mrs. Sheid was elected to the State senate and became the only woman to serve in both houses in Arkansas.

In 1987, Governor Bill Clinton appointed her to the State Police Commission. In 1992, after a resignation of the local State representative, Mrs. Sheid ran for office again and won, serving in the house again until 1995.

Her work to improve education and ASU Mountain Home earned her an honorary doctor of law degree from the college in 1998. Her dedication to serving the community is remembered by the Mountain Home Area Chamber of Commerce's Vada Sheid Lifetime Achievement Award, which is given to an individual who has made a significant contribution to the community.

On behalf of Congress, I extend my deepest sympathies to Mrs. Sheid's family and gratitude for the countless hours she spent serving others. She leaves a legacy of accomplishment in Arkansas as well as inspiring memories for all who knew her.

IN HONOR OF THE UNI-CAPITOL
WASHINGTON INTERNSHIP PRO-
GRAM

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2008

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Program. This program is a wonderful educational experience for both the intern who works in a congressional office, and for the office who receives an intern from the program. The program annually delivers some of Australia's best and brightest university students who have a passion for and commitment to civic engagement and public service to congressional offices for 2-month internships.

The Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Program began in 2000 and since its inception, I have been a proud participant. This year I welcomed a wonderful student-ambassador to my office, Stephanie Lyons, who has shared with us her experiences as a newcomer to Washington from the perspective of an Australian. Stephanie, who visits us from the University of Canberra, is a great example of the high quality students who are involved in this program. With a bachelor's degree in communication, specializing in public relations and political communication, Stephanie will this year commence her honors degree, drawing upon her experiences here in Washington as a research stimulus. Throughout her time in this office, she has had the chance to pursue her interests in the media and a range of issues, from foreign affairs, human rights, and diplomacy to science and the environment.

Over the past month, she has been an invaluable asset to this office. She has attended committee briefings, drafted constituent correspondence, and assisted my staff with research. Her Australian accent has garnered the attention of many of my constituents on tours and over the phone. She is often asked to share her experiences in Washington, DC.

Stephanie is one of several outstanding Australian interns. This year, a record 13 students from across Australia were matched with congressional offices. They were drawn from seven Australian universities in four different states and the Australian Capital Territory. The Uni-Capitol program gives its students practical experience and allows them to gain knowledge and understanding of the internal workings of the United States Government.

Including this current group, 81 Australian students will have interned in Washington since the program's inception 9 years ago. For creating the Uni-Washington program, credit must be given to its founder, Eric Federer. Eric is a former senior House and Senate congressional staffer who has worked to foster the exchange of ideas and knowledge between the U.S. and Australia through his efforts with the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Program.

Madam Speaker, I strongly encourage my colleagues to seek international connections by participating in this rewarding program. It is truly heartening to see how much this program has grown over the years, and I look forward to its continued success. I ask my colleagues to join with me in recognizing the contributions of the Uni-Capitol Internship Program and,

again, thank Stephanie Lyons for her participation and hard work.

HONORING PRESIDENT JOLENE
KOESTER

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2008

Mr. SHERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an extraordinary public servant dedicated to promoting the intellectual, economic and cultural contributions of the San Fernando Valley, California State University, Northridge President Jolene Koester. This year, the Encino-Tarzana Hospital Charitable Foundation is honoring Dr. Koester with the Tree of Life Award for her educational and civic contributions.

As a visionary leader in the San Fernando Valley, Dr. Koester has transformed California State University, Northridge into one of the State's premier higher education institutions. CSUN is a vibrant, diverse and accessible university community of nearly 34,000 students and more than 4,000 faculty and staff. This year, CSUN will celebrate its 50th anniversary as the only public university located in Los Angeles' San Fernando Valley—home to about 1.8 million residents.

Dr. Koester began her appointment as the fourth president of California State University, Northridge on July 1, 2000. Prior to her appointment, Dr. Koester served as provost and vice president for Academic Affairs at California State University, Sacramento. She earned a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Minnesota, a Master of Arts in communication arts from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and a Ph.D. in speech communication from Minnesota.

An active member of the community, Dr. Koester has served on the boards of directors for the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce, the Economic Alliance of the San Fernando Valley, the Valley Industry & Commerce Association, the Southern California Biomedical Council, and the Los Angeles Economy & Jobs Committee. Dr. Koester is a recognized leader in higher education in the State of California, and has received numerous civic and business awards for her commitment to furthering the excellence of California State University, Northridge.

Dr. Koester was recently appointed as Chair-Elect of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities. As Chair-Elect of one of the country's most prestigious higher education advocacy organizations, she will have the unique opportunity to represent over three million students at 430 public colleges and universities. Moreover, she will advocate on behalf of the association in support of public policies extending higher education to underrepresented and first-generation college students throughout the country.

Madam Speaker, I wish to extend my heartfelt congratulations to Dr. Jolene Koester for receiving the Tree of Life Award from the Encino-Tarzana Hospital Charitable Foundation. Dr. Koester has exhibited strong leadership skills and a commitment to education that will benefit California State University, Northridge, the San Fernando Valley and the Los Angeles region for years to come.

HONORING SHANNON HARPS—ENVIRONMENTAL AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZER

HON. JAY INSLEE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2008

Mr. INSLEE. Madam Speaker, my colleague NORM DICKS and I would like to pay tribute in remembrance of Shannon Harps, one of Washington's finest young environmental advocates. She was killed on December 31, 2007 by an unknown assailant as she was returning to her Capitol Hill apartment in Seattle from the grocery store. Shannon's death is a tremendous loss to our community and the many issues to which she devoted her life. We join with Shannon's family, friends, and colleagues in the Sierra Club in mourning the loss of this wonderful person and fine community organizer. Though her life was cut short, she was able to make a large impact on the quality of the Northwest environment.

Shannon came from her home State of Ohio to Seattle, Washington in February 2004 to join the staff of the Northwest Office of the Sierra Club. This move joined two of Shannon's strongest desires—to work to protect our environment and to live in the Northwest where she could more vigorously pursue her strong love for the outdoors.

Shannon had a wonderful sense of humor and a style of working with people that immediately put them at ease and made it easy for them to join her in protecting our environment and quality of life. Shannon particularly enjoyed working with high school and college students to help them develop their interests and talents in working to create a better world. While Shannon's work was directly focused on protecting our environment, from wilderness to global warming, her values were deeply embedded in a strong sense of fairness and justice for all people.

In the four years that Shannon lived in Washington State she helped to protect some of our finest lands. Shannon worked with several groups in a local coalition effort with Congressman NORM DICKS to add key lands in the Carbon River drainage to Mt. Rainier National Park. She worked with Sierra Club volunteers and staff from the many groups to help move the Wild Sky Wilderness proposal through the various steps of its arduous journey through the congressional process. She was a leader in the State of Washington, and worked with colleagues around the country, to help thwart the various ill-considered efforts to open up America's Arctic Coastal Plain to oil and gas drilling. She was a lead organizer in the successful effort in 2006 to pass the Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard for Washington State assuring that Washington will be a leader in developing a clean energy future and creating good jobs. And, in the recent two years, much of her work focused on building relationships with local officials and creating public support so they too would endorse the Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement making sure we are stepping up to the challenge of global warming.

In her all-too-short life, she made contributions that benefited our community, State, and world. She lived her life as an example of living lightly on the planet, and engaged the people and world around her with grace, humor,

kindness, and respect. Everyone who worked with her admired her style, tenacity, and sense of purpose, along with her sparkling smile and laugh.

Shannon loved living and working in the Northwest. She reveled in the outdoors and nothing made her happier than to participate in a competitive run or to hike the Northwest's high mountain trails. Her death is a loss for us all but her spirit still resides with all of those with whom she worked and walked the trails. We will remember her as we continue the struggle to protect our lands and environment and to create a more just and fair world for us all.

TRIBUTE TO CHIEF JOHN SMOOT

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA—

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2008

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Chief John Smoot who dedicated his life to serving and saving others. He died on January 20, 2008 after a long illness in Kanawha County, WV where he was a lifelong resident.

John served in the U.S. Army during World War II and continued his military service for 32 years in the Army Reserves and in the West Virginia National Guard. He also worked for DuPont Chemical and retired after 37 years of employment.

He is most remembered for his extraordinary service to the citizens of Kanawha County, through his 57 years of involvement with first responder services and 50 years as chief of the Cedar Grove Fire Department.

He was a champion of emergency services in Kanawha County and in the State of West Virginia. He created the Cedar Grove Ambulance Service and helped establish county wide ambulance services. He is also the original founder of the Kanawha County Fireman's Mutual Aid Association.

He is survived by his wife, Lois Robinson Smoot; his son, John R. Smoot; his grandsons, Jonathan and Cody, and his brother; George Smoot. Area fireman paid tribute to Chief Smoot by including trucks from all Kanawha County Fire Departments in the funeral procession.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in honoring the life of John R. Smoot, whose dedication and service is truly admirable. He will be sadly missed.

RECOGNITION OF MERCER AND MONROE COUNTIES AS BEST COMMUNITIES FOR YOUTH

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2008

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of two counties in my district, Mercer and Monroe, which have again received the honor as two of the Nation's "100 Best Communities for Youth 2008" by the Alliance for Youth. This is the third such award for Mercer County and the second award for Monroe County, both of whom were also honored last year.

These counties competed against 750 participants from more than 300 communities in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, who were all vying for this unique distinction.

This award is well-deserved, as these communities have dedicated themselves to fostering a healthy, safe, and caring environment for our young people. I share this vision and am deeply honored to once again have the only two localities in West Virginia recognized located in my district.

I pledge to continue my work to make the communities in the Third District a healthy and nurturing environment for our children, by supporting legislation and programs that will keep our children safe. Last year, I supported full funding of both the Drug Free Communities grant program and the Safe and Drug Free Schools Program against the budget cuts recommended by the administration. These programs make a visible difference in our communities and are invaluable when it comes to preventing and reducing substance abuse, particularly with our teenagers and young adults.

While these programs are effective, it is by far not the end of our work. As the folks of Mercer and Monroe counties can attest, we must not waver from our commitment to our youth. As much as we accomplish, we must strive to do better.

West Virginia native and renowned author Pearl S. Buck once said, "If our American way of life fails the child, it fails us all."

These are words to live by, words that Mercer and Monroe counties have once again proven they are living by everyday. I again commend the entire community—the teachers, the civic leaders, the parents, and the children as well, who are all so very bright—for the hard work they have done and continue to do.

I encourage other communities in the Third District and across West Virginia and our Nation to follow the fine example set by Mercer and Monroe Counties in showing what it means to keep America's promise to our young people. As the Alliance for Youth said, "It is our hope that these 100 Best inspire communities across the country to create environments where children and families have boundless opportunities."

PROTECT AMERICA ACT OF 2007
EXTENSION

SPEECH OF

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 29, 2008

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 5104, the Protect America Act Extension, which will extend the authorization for the administration's warrantless wiretapping program for another 15 days. I voted against the Protect America

Act when it passed in August 2007 because I believe it violates the Constitution and undermines Americans' fundamental civil liberties. Today, I cannot support extending this unconstitutional program for another 15 days.

The Protect America Act (PAA) abandoned the protections of Americans' rights and freedoms that were the hallmark of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA), which became law in 1978. FISA was established in response to past abuses of electronic surveillance by Administrations who justified wiretaps under national security concerns. Surveillance was to be subjected to court oversight, where warrants would be required if an Administration sought surveillance of Americans.

We live in a dangerous world and we must protect our country from terrorist attacks. However, commitment to the rule of law, consumer privacy, freedom from unwarranted government intrusion, and our system of checks and balances should never be sacrificed to accommodate an Administration determined to expand its own powers. Instead of extending the PAA for another 15 days, we should be modernizing FISA to accommodate new technologies while requiring that surveillance of American citizens is always subject to court oversight and in compliance with the 4th Amendment. This is the only way to protect America and American freedoms.

SEMPER FI!

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2008

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, it's no big surprise to me that the peaceniks out in Berkeley, California don't know the first thing about peace, but their latest attack on the real proprietors of peace has stirred up a firestorm. Just in case you haven't heard, the city of Berkeley passed a resolution telling the local U.S. Marine Corps recruiting station that is was "not welcome in the city and if recruiters choose to stay, they do so as uninvited and unwelcome intruders." Mayor Tom Bates said, "The Marines don't belong here, they shouldn't have come here and they should leave." The city of Berkeley has even issued a permit for the radical anti-military group "Code Pink" to use the parking spot once reserved for the Marine Recruiting Station. Code Pink has parked a panel truck displaying "peace at any price" type statements in front of the recruiting office.

Well, let me remind Mr. Bates that he enjoys the rights and freedoms known only to Americans because the Marines are here. And as for me and the rest of the freedom loving Americans, we hope they never leave. These defenders of democracy deserve better than Berkeley's arrogant disapproval. Berkeley's deplorable anti-Marine city leaders must still have a 60's peacenik hippie mentality that

world peace can occur by sitting around smoking dope and banging on the tambourine.

Life in la-la land is all daisy chains and braids, but it's just not reality. Reality is that freedom doesn't come free. Twenty-four of America's finest from my 2nd Congressional District area in Texas have given their lives defending freedom in Iraq and Afghanistan. Seven of them were Marines. Their bravery, dedication, and patriotism will not be tarnished by the foolish words of a few. Their sacrifice will never be forgotten by their friends, their family and freedom-loving peoples throughout the world.

Berkeley's latest onslaught of the Marines is just another attack in a long history on our country. It is against Federal law to willfully obstruct the recruiting or enlistment service of the United States. American taxpayer money should not be used to support those cities that break our laws. Berkeley should lose all Federal funding for their smug denouncement of the Marine Corps. Patriotic Americans should not subsidize cities that tell the Marines to "get out of town."

Now, I am a fierce proponent of the First Amendment protecting freedom of speech. The city of Berkeley can bash the Marines in their resolutions, but freedom of speech is not free of consequences. And the consequences should be loss of Federal funds appropriated to the city.

I believe that we must respect those that afforded us those rights and hold them in the highest esteem for their sacrifices. And like it or not, it is the U.S. military that has always been on the front lines to defend the liberties of all Americans, even the hippies in Berkeley.

February 19th marks the 63rd anniversary of the Battle of Iwo Jima. The month long battle against Imperial Japan resulted in 26,000 U.S. casualties, mostly young Marines. The quiet riverbank of the Potomac is home to the Iwo Jima Memorial. It is a solemn reminder that the Marines are "always faithful" to the United States of America. Joe Rosenthal took his famous photograph of five Marines and a Navy Corpsman hosting Old Glory above Mount Suribachi. Of the six flag-raisers in the Memorial, three were killed after the stars and stripes were raised above the volcano. One was Harlan Block from South Texas.

The Marines go where others fear to tread, and the timid are not found. They fight for all American values, including the rights of people in Berkeley to say what they want. But the few—the noble few—the proud—the Marines deserve the honor, respect, and thanks of a grateful Nation.

Ronald Reagan best summed it up when he said, "Some people spend an entire lifetime wondering if they made a difference. The Marines don't have that problem." And as for the unwelcome Marines out in Berkeley: send 'em all to Texas! We'll have a parade, fly the flag and the high school band will play the Marine Hymn. Oooh Rah! Semper Fi!

And that's just the way it is.