

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PAYING TRIBUTE TO GARY SPINKELINK

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2008

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of my good friend Gary Spinkelink, who passed away February 24, 2008.

Mr. Spinkelink was born May 1, 1939, in Orange City, Iowa, and had been a resident of the Boulder City community for over 43 years. He graduated from Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa, and moved to Nevada with his wife Judy of over 47 years, to pursue a career in civil engineering. He retired in 2003 from Pentacore Engineering after being a partner in the firm for 11 years where he was the director of all administrative processes. Gary also had administrative control of all personnel within the corporation. He served for many years as a panel member on the Congressional Academy Selection Committee. Some of Gary's hobbies included off-road quad driving, snowmobiling, and fishing at his Utah cabin. He also spent a majority of his time with his six grandchildren attending their many various functions and sporting events.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor the life and legacy of my friend Gary Spinkelink. His work and dedication to the Boulder City community was commendable and enriched countless lives. Mr. Spinkelink was a great force throughout the community and will be profoundly missed.

HONORING RYAN NEWMAN OF SOUTH BEND, INDIANA, FOR WINNING THE DAYTONA 500

HON. JOE DONNELLY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2008

Mr. DONNELLY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the success and triumph of Ryan Newman, winner of the 2008 Daytona 500. Born and raised in South Bend, Indiana, Ryan serves as a shining example to young men and women who aspire to achieving great successes after long hours of work and sacrifice. His younger years were spent learning about cars at the elbow of his father and developing the team spirit he treasures to this day.

Supported by his family, his community, and a great team, Ryan won the 50th running of the Daytona race in an exciting last-lap finish. In a race with 16 different leaders and 42 lead changes, Ryan started in 7th position and fell as far back as 23rd in the field of 43 drivers. However, he managed to lead eight laps in his first victory since 2005, earning 190 points and collecting over \$1.5 million for Penske Racing.

An honor student at LaSalle High School, Newman graduated from Purdue University in

2001 with a B.S. in vehicle structure engineering. By excelling academically and in racing, Newman exemplifies how youths should always pursue education along with other passions.

Ryan serves as the consummate example of what competitors should be. This is evident from his work, along with his wife, Krissie, with the Newman Foundation. This charity primarily focuses on assuring that adequate care is provided for unwanted dogs and cats in shelters and pounds. He also helped needy animals by supporting construction of the Catawba County, North Carolina Humane Society shelter in the county where he lives. The treatment of animals is just one of Ryan's concerns along with the safety of his fellow racers.

In 2003, Ryan overcame adversity by bouncing back from an accident in which he flipped end over end in Daytona. He suffered only bruises but gained a strengthened resolve. In August of that same year after a practice crash in Watkins Glen, NY, Newman chastised NASCAR for what he perceived as lax safety efforts in fire prevention, soft walls, and race procedure. His professional manner and eloquent words lent credibility to his cause.

Even the victory itself at Daytona is an example of teamwork and sportsmanship. Newman was given extra momentum by a friendly "push" from teammate Kurt Busch who selflessly gave his partner an extra boost rather than seek the prize himself.

It is my pleasure to pay tribute to the many years of hard work and dedication that have paid off for this model citizen. The South Bend and Mishawaka Communities are proud of the success of one of their hardest working sons, a man who serves as a role model for our youth.

HONORING DR. JUDAH SCHORR

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2008

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, Dr. Judah Schorr is not only a distinguished anesthesiologist whose personal charm and sense of humor has helped many of his patients through difficult times but he is also someone who truly knows how important it is to give of yourself. Dr. Schorr took an extra step to help a patient recently when he donated his bone marrow through the Gift of Life Bone Marrow Foundation.

Dr. Schorr is also a philanthropist who gives generously to society as a whole financially as well as to individuals through himself. He is also involved in many other worthy causes.

He and his wife Gail Levey are parents of Nathaniel and Ethan.

For his contributions to his community and society as a whole he is presented with the Andrew Zucker Community Service Award.

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES TO THOSE AFFECTED BY THE DEVASTATING SHOOTING INCIDENT AT NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

SPEECH OF

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2008

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, on February 15, the United States watched in horror and despair as the lives of six innocent and promising students from Northern Illinois University were taken suddenly and cruelly. As we mourn this senseless tragedy, I would like to extend my thoughts and prayers to the victims and their families.

The tragedy at NIU last month is just another painful reminder that the United States must do more to stem the flood of violence and ensure that our campuses are as safe and secure as possible. The incident at Northern Illinois comes only a week after a gunman opened fire on a college campus in Louisiana, and just 10 months after the tragic shooting at Virginia Tech that left 33 people dead.

I believe that in order for this disturbing trend to be curtailed the United States must adopt commonsense reforms that will reduce the number of assault and other high power weapons available to the public while also allowing responsible gun owners that right to bear arms.

I urge my colleagues to work with one another toward a solution that will prevent incidents like this one from taking place in the future.

Again, I want to extend my deepest sympathies to all the students at NIU—not only the victims and their families, but those students who are dealing with the aftermath of this horrific event. I know that the impact of this event will linger forever, but I also know that NIU will continue to be a vibrant center of learning.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2008

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Madam Speaker, on February 27, 2008, I was avoidably detained and missed three votes related to the consideration of the Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation Tax Act.

Had I been present I would have voted "no" on approving the journal, ordering the previous question, and agreeing to the resolution for the Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation Tax Act (vote Nos. 79, 80, 81).

• 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.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF MR. LARRY JUANARENA

HON. WALLY HERGER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2008

Mr. HERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the work and accomplishments of a true American hero and patriot, Larry Juanarena, a constituent of mine from Chico, California. For over five decades, Mr. Juanarena, has helped and inspired the residents of Chico.

Mr. Juanarena's work has touched citizens in many sectors of the community. From the Salvation Army, 4-H, to law enforcement and emergency response, Mr. Juanarena is known for providing assistance to those in need. Mr. Juanarena has touched many lives in his community, and has been highly decorated for his dedication and service to his fellow citizens.

Mr. Juanarena is probably best known for his efforts in supporting our Nation's troops and veterans from all wars and conflicts. Having served in the United States Air Force as a crew chief on a B-36 bomber, Mr. Juanarena continues his fight for freedom by supporting the families of our deployed soldiers and warriors through his work with the National Guard Family Assistance Program. Mr. Juanarena's Annual Red, White and Blue dinner has improved the lives of our guard families by providing financial assistance to those in need as they struggle to meet household obligations while their loved ones fight for our great Nation.

Mr. Juanarena continues to be an extraordinary individual who makes significant and lasting contributions to our community through his civic minded leadership and can-do spirit.

Mr. Juanarena exemplifies the notion of responsible citizenship and through his charitable work has touched the lives of many in our community. Mr. Juanarena's selfless actions have inspired a community and demonstrated that one person can make a difference when acting from the heart.

I am privileged to have a friend in Larry Juanarena, and I am extremely grateful for his service to our troops, veterans, and our community-at-large. It is a great privilege to celebrate and honor the accomplishments of a true American hero and patriot.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF DAVID JOHN DONAFEE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of David Donafee for a life that was dedicated to his family, friends, and public service.

David was a letter carrier for the U.S. Postal Service for 14 years. He was tragically killed while delivering mail on his route in Parma Heights, Ohio. David was a devoted father who actively supported his children's interest in hockey, as well as a devoted husband and son. David is survived by his wife, Sandi; his two children, Derek and Liam; and his mother, Rose.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in remembering David Donafee. May his life be an example of how we should lead our own.

GUEST BOOK FOR JOHN DAVID DONAFEE: [HTTP://WWW.LEGACY.COM/CLEVELAND/GB/GUESTBOOKVIEW.ASPX?PERSONID=103615431](http://www.legacy.com/cleveland/gb/guestbookview.aspx?personid=103615431)

Shellie Rockwell (Broadview Hts., OH)

Sandi, Liam and Derek,

You are in our thoughts and prayers. Just remember that Dave's presence will forever be with everyone that knew him. His love for all three of you, his contagious smile and his easy-going style will be remembered for years to come.

The Rockwell Family

RECOGNIZING APRIL BRANSCOME AS OKALOOSA COUNTY TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2008

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is an honor for me to rise today in recognition of April Branscome, Okaloosa County's Teacher of the Year.

For over two decades, April Branscome has worked at Niceville High School. Employed initially as a secretary, Ms. Branscome now serves as an information technology instructor and is a savant on educational technology. Her teaching skills range from the conventional to the more cutting-edge. She is excellent in the classroom, possessing an incredible ability to inspire her pupils. Not content to rest upon her laurels, Ms. Branscome has expanded upon her talents and has taken her advanced comprehension of technology to the next level of teaching.

Constructed for Okaloosa's CHOICE IT institute, Ms. Branscome fashioned her own web design curriculum, which resulted in a 100 percent passage rate for students seeking their Internet Webmaster certificate. She is currently being courted by schools throughout the State to train their IT teachers.

Ms. Branscome's ascension to Teacher of the Year did not happen quickly. Shortly after her high school graduation, Ms. Branscome took on a secretarial position at Niceville High School. While working, she became enthralled with education, yet lacked the credentials to teach. For 12 years, taking one or two night and weekend classes at a time, Ms. Branscome finally attained a teaching degree.

The title of Teacher of the Year is an immense honor and is evidence of the greatness Ms. Branscome has attained. Beyond the title lies Ms. Branscome's dedication and devotion to not only her students, but to the entire community. Her teaching skills and affable personality have influenced many and have pushed countless students to a higher level of academic achievement. Ms. Branscome's outstanding accomplishments have distinguished her as one of the great teachers in northwest Florida, and the Okaloosa County School District is honored to have her as one of their own. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to recognize April Branscome on this outstanding achievement and her exemplary service in Okaloosa County.

IN HONOR OF THE BRAVE MINNESOTA MEN AND WOMEN IN BLUE

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2008

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, Minnesota has been blessed with 23,000 brave men and women who selflessly police our streets, protect our neighborhoods, and keep our families safe.

These men and women are represented by a truly phenomenal organization. The Minnesota Fraternal Order of Police defends and supports every hero who wears a badge and carries that great and high honor of being called an officer of the law.

No people, no nation, can enjoy the blessings of liberty without the rule of law. Thanks to their tireless dedication and noble sacrifices, the people of our State can live free of fear and safe from harm as they raise their families, live their lives and build their communities.

Our debt to these brave souls can never be paid. But we can start by erecting a wall to honor the inspiring heroes of our State who gave their very lives in their daily battle against every hazard and evil that threatens the peace.

We must never take for granted the sacrifice each and every officer makes, day in and day out, for the people of Minnesota. They have my deepest gratitude and unwavering support.

CONGRATULATING KAREN SKORDINSKI, A RECIPIENT OF THE STATE OF TEXAS EXCELLENCE IN EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AWARD

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2008

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Karen Skordinski of Flower Mound, Texas for her many contributions to the State of Texas and the north Texas region. Ms. Skordinski was recently named one of four recipients of the Emergency Management Award for the State of Texas.

The Excellence in Emergency Management Award is presented annually to State and local emergency management projects, activities and campaigns that advance the goals of saving lives and protecting property by mitigating, preparing for, responding to, or recovering from disasters and emergencies in Texas. Recipients of this award must exemplify model emergency management by developing and implementing an exceptional emergency management project, activity or campaign in Texas during the past year.

Ms. Skordinski is acknowledged for her work developing Flower Mound's Emergency Management Plan and for the Community Emergency Response Team, CERT, Program.

She is the Emergency Management Specialist for Flower Mound and has worked in emergency management for 5 years. Before then, she worked in the town's geographical information systems department, which designs the town's maps.

Prior to her work in north Texas, Ms. Skordinski worked with geographical information systems at Cape Canaveral, Florida, and was a geographical information systems contractor for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, NASA.

Ms. Skordinski started Flower Mound's CERT program after learning about it from a Flower Mound firefighter. She felt that it was important to start this program in order to get the citizens of Flower Mound more involved in the Fire Department. In the years since Ms. Skordinski began the CERT program, numerous residents have received the training required to respond to emergency situations, making the community safer for all.

Madam Speaker, it is an honor today to rise in recognition of Ms. Skordinski's dedication to the safety and well-being of her fellow Flower Mound citizens. She is truly deserving of such an enormous honor. Flower Mound is now a safer city, and all those who recognize the contributions of Ms. Skordinski are truly grateful. She is an inspiration to all Americans devoted to community service.

RECOGNIZING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

SPEECH OF

HON. ADAM H. PUTNAM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 4, 2008

Mr. PUTNAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 845 to bring awareness and recognize the 60th anniversary of our beautiful and unique Everglades National Park.

The Everglades are truly a national treasure, an irreplaceable part of our national landscape with its vast wetland wilderness unlike any other in the world. The Everglades National Park is part of the south Florida ecosystem that includes over 3 million acres with subtropical wetland landscapes that stretch 220 miles from Orlando to Florida Bay. As President Truman noted when he dedicated the park in 1947, "To its natural abundance we owe the spectacular plant and animal life that distinguishes this place from all others in our country."

The Everglades National Parks constitutes the largest subtropical wilderness in the Nation featuring slow-moving waters and provides critical habitat to ecosystems for countless animals including rare and endangered species such as the American crocodile, Florida panther, Western Indian manatee and more than 350 species of birds, including the Great Egret, Wood Stork, Swallow-tailed Kite, Cape Sable seaside sparrow, and Roseate Spoonbill.

For good reason, it has been designated an International Biosphere Reserve, a World Heritage Site, and a Wetland of International Importance—in recognition of its significance to all people of the world.

Many people have had a great impact on the establishment and history of the Ever-

glades, including former Florida Governor Spessard Holland, who incidentally is a Bartow native. His work in the 1940s to secure thousands of acres needed for the creation of the park along with his 25 year Senate career in which he championed and ensured resources were made available for projects was instrumental. He was one of the first great champions of the Everglades and I am so grateful for his work, without which, we might not be here celebrating the Park's 50th anniversary.

Unfortunately, the Everglades have been negatively impacted by encroachment and disruption that has harmed wildlife and destroyed wetlands. I am pleased that Congress and the State of Florida have been working together through to restore and rehabilitate this treasure through the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan, CERP. I join my colleagues in continued support and dedication to these efforts in the years to come to ensure and preserve the Everglades' majesty and beauty for future generations to enjoy.

PAUL WELLSTONE MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION EQUITY ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2008

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to praise the passage of the Paul Wellstone Mental Health and Addiction Equity Act (H.R. 1424)—a bill that will fill the long-standing gaps in mental health care in this Nation and that will end the unfortunate disparate treatment that patients seeking mental health care currently receive.

Mr. Speaker, as a physician who practiced for more than two decades prior to coming to Congress, I have seen what happens to people who are afflicted with mental illnesses like bi-polar disorder, depression, and schizophrenia who do not receive appropriate, consistent care.

Studies confirm that mental health is integral to the holistic health and wellness of all people. Additionally, under-addressed mental health care issues are not just issues that affect the individuals who live with mental disorders; they also affect their friends, families, and communities. And, today, statistics show that 1 in 17 Americans suffer from a serious mental health disorder and that these disorders are the primary cause of disability in the United States among people 15 to 44 years of age—during their most productive life years.

Despite the enormous impact that mental illnesses can and do have on millions of Americans every day, good treatment works. But, of course, the treatment options available to patients comes with a cost and one that up until now has had to be borne largely by the consumer. It is important to recognize though that the cost of mental health problems—when they are un- and under-addressed—becomes staggering.

The good news is not only that over the past eight years, the Federal Employee Health Benefits Program (FEHBP) has made "parity" coverage for mental health care available to

Members of Congress and 8.5 million other Federal employees, but that there has been no significant cost increase to this parity requirement in FEHBP. Based on this and further analysis, the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office has estimated that H.R. 1424 would have a miniscule impact on premiums—just two-tenths of 1 percent.

For the sizeable proportion of Americans that suffer from more than one mental health disorder at a given time, this bill will be critical in improving mental health care access, options, and treatments available to patients seeking services.

Certainly, there is no better time than now to ensure that patients seeking treatment for mental illnesses are able to do so in a system that champions mental health parity, where care is accessible and not subject to reimbursement limitations by insurers or group health plans. This bill is exactly what is needed to finally bring equity and fairness into the mental health care system in this Nation and to finally make the health care that individuals can receive comprehensive.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I also want to add that as the chair of the CBC Health Braintrust, I have long been concerned by the racial and ethnic disparities in mental health and in mental health care that detrimentally affect the millions of innocent, hardworking Americans, and have long championed and supported legislation to reduce such disparities.

The Paul Wellstone Mental Health and Addiction Equity Act is a bill that will help reduce the disproportionate burden of mental health and mental health care disparities on African Americans and other people of color.

Mr. Speaker, the burden of mental illness on the health and productivity in the United States and throughout the world has long been underestimated. This is a situation that demands and needs immediate action, for all children and adults who live with mental illness. Enacting strong mental health parity legislation will improve the health status of individuals who suffer dire health consequences as a result of their mental illness and pushes us one step closer to achieving health equity.

I am pleased that the House passed H.R. 1424. Now we can move forward to eliminate all disparities in health care by passing H.R. 3014, the Healthcare Equity and Accountability Act.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF JUAN ANTONIO "CHI-CHI" RODRIGUEZ IN PROFESSIONAL GOLF AND HIS WORK ON BEHALF OF CHILDREN

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2008

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to announce the introduction of my bill, a Resolution Recognizing the Accomplishments of Juan Antonio "Chi-Chi" Rodriguez in Professional Golf and His Work on Behalf of Children.

The bipartisan resolution I introduce today, congratulates and recognizes Juan Antonio "Chi-Chi" Rodriguez for his continued success on and off of the golf course, for his generosity and devotion to charity, and for his exemplary dedication to the intellectual and

moral growth of thousands of low income and disadvantaged youth in our country.

Madam Speaker, sports figures, through their perseverance, discipline, and good behavior, can serve as examples of excellence, dedication and devotion to our youth.

Chi-Chi Rodriguez was born in Rio Piedras, PR, on October 23, 1935, and rose from the most humble of circumstances as the fifth of six children of an agricultural laborer and a housekeeper. These hardships did not harden him, but motivated him to become a great sportsman, humanitarian and role model.

Chi-Chi joined the ranks of golf professionals at the age of 24, reportedly standing at 5'7" and weighing 117 pounds and has had a stellar career in the sport of golf, earning an impressive record of 38 professional wins, including 8 PGA Tour wins and 22 Senior PGA Tour wins. His Senior PGA Tour records for most consecutive victories, at four, and most consecutive birdies, at eight, still stand.

In 1979, Chi-Chi Rodriguez helped create the Chi-Chi Rodriguez Youth Foundation, and the Chi-Chi Rodriguez Academy in Clearwater, FL, which have collectively raised more than \$4 million to help thousands of low-income and disadvantaged youth reach their life potential through educational opportunities and support programs, including a public partnership school, a community service program, a nine-hole golf course and others, which has been recognized by receiving the 1986 National Golf Foundation Award for best Youth Program in the United States, becoming the 758th President Bush's Point of Light, and receiving the Robie Award for Humanitarianism presented by the Jackie Robinson Foundation, among others.

His devotion to others knows no bounds. In addition to all he already does, he also joined with the FBI Agents Association to lead the Chi-Chi Rodriguez G-Man Desert Shootout Tournament devoted to raising funds for College scholarships for the children of FBI agents killed in the line of duty.

In 1989, the United States Golf Association, founded in 1894, granted Chi-Chi Rodriguez its highest honor, the Bob Jones Award, in recognition for his distinguished sportsmanship in golf and in 1994, Chi-Chi was inducted to the first class of the World Sports Humanitarian Hall of Fame for "world class athletic ability," for being "a role model in his community" and for having "a strong record of humanitarian efforts."

In 1992, Chi-Chi Rodriguez was inducted to the World Golf Hall of Fame, "Golf highest honor" and in 1973, he was a member of the U.S. Team that won the Ryder Cup in Muirfield, Scotland.

Chi-Chi Rodriguez has received countless other distinguished awards and recognitions such as the 1974 Charlie Bartlett Award of the Golf Writers Association, the 1981 Richardson Award of the Golf Writers Association of America, the 1982 Father of the Year Award, the 1986 Card Walker Award (Outstanding Contribution to Junior Golf), the 1986 Salvation Army Gold Crest Award, the 12th Roberto Clemente Cup (1986), the 1986 Byron Nelson Award, the 1986 Hispanic Achievement Recognition Award, the 1987 Byron Nelson Award, the 1987 Senior Tour Arnold Palmer Award, the 1988 Fred Raphael Golf Achievement Award, the 1989 Old Tom Morris Award, the 1990 "Caring for Kids" Award, the 1991 Jackie Robinson Humanitarian Award, the

1993 Civilian Meritorious Service Medal presented by the Department of Defense, the 1997 International Network of Golf Award, the 1998 Ford Achievement Award, and the 2003 Paul Runyan Memorial Recognition Award, among others.

He is also a published author who has authored and co-authored several books and articles about golf, such as Chi Chi's Secrets of Power Golf in 1967, Everybody's Golf Book in 1975, Chi Chi's Power Pack, in 1982, Every Golfer's Guide to Lower Scores by Chi-Chi Rodriguez, in 1990, and Chi Chi's Golf Games You Gotta Play, in 2003, among others.

He is very proud of his philosophy on life, which can be summarized by his personal expressions "For me, satisfaction comes from knowing that I was put on this planet to leave it better" and "A man never stands taller than when he stoops to help a child."

Please join me in recognizing that Chi-Chi Rodriguez embodies the spirit of generosity and humanism of his fellow Puerto Rican, Roberto Clemente and that as a native of Puerto Rico, Chi-Chi has proven to be an important role model and source of pride for all Puerto Ricans, as well as all Latin Americans and all immigrants to the U.S. from across the globe.

My resolution congratulates and commends Chi-Chi Rodriguez: (1) for his successes in golf in the United States and throughout the world; (2) for his exemplary conduct as a private citizen; (3) for a life devoted to service to others, in particular, for his help to low income and underprivileged youth, and to the children of FBI agents killed in the line of duty; and (4) and in gratitude for his service as a role model and an inspiration for our youth, the people of Puerto Rico, and the United States.

Madam Speaker, let me conclude with this. One of the great honors of the Members of this House is to recognize our fellow citizens who stand out as exceptional individuals.

It is my great honor to present this legislation for consideration in the House of Representatives with the hope that the example of Chi-Chi Rodriguez can be known across our Nation and that he may serve as a role model for us all.

RECOGNIZING 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VALERO TEXAS CITY REFINERY

HON. NICK LAMPSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2008

Mr. LAMPSON. Madam Speaker, today we honor the 100th anniversary of the Valero Texas City Refinery. Over the past 100 years, Texas City, Texas, has established itself as a major center for our Nation's energy production. Texas City's history is a testament to hard work and the American Dream, in that such success has grown from the small refinery established by the Texas City Refining Company so long ago.

In 1908, J.C. Black, joined by more than 100 craftsmen, constructed a refinery consisting of just 11 stills, storage tanks, and a boiler house. In the beginning, the refinery had the capacity to process only 1,500 barrels of oil per day. Enduring a depression, technological revolutions, and the hardships all businesses experience, the Valero Texas City re-

finery now produces 243,000 barrels per day of ultra low sulfur gasoline and diesel.

Texas City matured with this refinery. When America entered World War I and then World War II, the refinery increased production to meet the Nation's petroleum demands, fueling America's victory. During this period the population of Texas City tripled as men and women answered the patriotic call to serve in the Nation's war efforts.

Today, the proud, hard working spirit is alive and well as the Valero Texas City refinery continues to play an integral role in the economic well-being of southeast Texas and the United States. I am proud to honor the thousands of men and women who have been working on our behalf throughout the past 100 years. Texas City's first refinery is indeed deserving of recognition from the United States House of Representatives upon its 100th anniversary.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "CREDIT CARD FAIR FEE ACT OF 2008"

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2008

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing the "Credit Card Fair Fee Act of 2008," legislation that would help level the playing field for merchants and retailers negotiating with banks for the cost of certain fees, and ultimately reduce the costs of everyday goods for consumers. I am joined by Representatives CANNON, LOFGREN, SHUSTER, WEINER, DELAHUNT, PLATTS, WELCH, SULLIVAN, WILSON of South Carolina, GOHMERT, HALL of Texas, BOOZMAN, and PETERSON of Pennsylvania.

Every time a consumer uses a payment card—at the mall, at the grocery store, at a gas station, or on the Internet—the merchant is charged a fee. This fee gets divided up three ways—between the merchant's bank, the consumer's bank, and the credit card company. It covers processing fees, fraud protection, billing statements, and other expenses such as system innovations.

Almost 90 percent of this fee comprises a so-called "interchange fee," which is the payment made by the merchant's bank to the consumer's bank. The percentage is set by the credit card companies, generally Visa or MasterCard, and averages 1.75 percent of the total purchase. In 2006, interchange fees totaled approximately \$36 billion, an increase of 117 percent since 2001. In 2007, the fees amounted to \$42 billion, about 17 percent since 2006. These fees are ultimately passed on to all consumers in the form of higher prices for goods and services, whether the consumers purchase these items by credit card, check or cash.

These interchange fees are set by the credit card companies. The two largest, Visa and Mastercard, are associations composed of financial institutions and are owned and controlled by their bank member-owners. Together, Visa and MasterCard control over 73 percent of the volume of transactions on general purpose cards in the United States and approximately 85 percent of the cards issued. Banks that are members of the Visa association are often also members of the MasterCard association.

Merchants are forced to deal within this system because it is simply not an option to refuse to accept Visa or MasterCard from their customers. They are presented with take-it-or-leave-it options and are not part of the process by which the fees are set. Moreover, the card systems operate pursuant to comprehensive operating rules approved by the associations' member-controlled boards, but these operating rules are not accessible by the merchants.

This legislation is intended to give merchants a seat at the table in the determination of these fees. It is not an attempt at regulating the industry and does not mandate any particular outcome. This legislation simply enhances competition by allowing merchants to negotiate with the dominant banks for the terms and rates of the fees.

The bill creates a limited antitrust immunity for negotiating voluntary agreements and, if necessary, participating in the market-based proceedings. These market-based proceedings will determine the exclusive rates and terms merchants must pay for a 3-year term. No other fees, terms or conditions may be imposed on the merchants.

The rates and terms will be determined by Electronic Payment System Judges, who will be appointed by the Department of Justice Antitrust Division and the Federal Trade Commission. The judges will apply a market standard in their determinations designed to replicate the rates and terms of payment that would have been negotiated in a competitive marketplace between a willing buyer and willing seller, both of which have no market power. The judges will have full independence in making all determinations but may consult with the DOJ and FTC on certain matters.

It is time to level the playing field for merchants and consumers. I am hopeful that Congress can move to enact this worthwhile and timely legislation.

IN HONOR OF THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF PHEASANTS FOREVER

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2008

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate more than a quarter century of work by Pheasants Forever volunteers to preserve habitat for pheasants and other wildlife.

Founded in St. Paul, Pheasants Forever has grown to 700 chapters and 110,000 members nationwide. More than 22,500 of those dedicated volunteers are Minnesotans. Pheasants Forever members have completed over 370,000 habitat projects, improving more than 5 million acres since 1982. In Minnesota, that translates into nearly 200,000 acres of preserved habitat.

The volunteers of Pheasants Forever are its lifeblood. It is a truly grassroots organization from its fundraising to its project development. Virtually all of the money raised by a chapter stays with that chapter, making Pheasants Forever one of the most efficient conservation organizations in the Nation.

These outdoor and conservation enthusiasts also spend much of their time and energy preparing the next generation of Pheasants For-

ever volunteers through its education programs. And, the results are outstanding, with youth membership growing nearly four-fold from 4,000 to 15,000 in just 7 years.

This weekend, hundreds to thousands of Pheasants Forever volunteers and supporters will gather for banquets in various locations in my Minnesota district. I commend these fine individuals—and their tireless leader, Howard Vincent of White Bear Lake, who has been an active part of Pheasants Forever for 20 years and president and CEO for the past 8 years—for their commitment to Minnesota's wildlife and natural beauty.

TRIBUTE TO NELDA C. AND H.J. LUTCHER STARK FOUNDATION

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2008

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate the Nelda C. and H.J. Lutchter Stark Foundation on the reopening of Shangri La in Orange, TX.

In the 1930s, Lutchter Stark named his private gardens along Adams Bayou after the mythical mountain utopia in James Hilton's bestselling book, *Lost Horizon*. Hundreds of azalea bushes were planted along with other flowers and the gardens were sometimes open to the public and to birdwatchers. Shangri La drew thousands of visitors during those times.

Shangri La was closed in 1958 because of a devastating snowstorm that destroyed thousands of azaleas and the gardens remained closed for 40 years. In the book and later in a movie, a bell rings when a visitor enters Shangri La. The bell will once again ring on March 12, 2008 to announce that the 252 acre botanical garden and nature center is again open to the public.

Shangri La is a remarkable achievement and I predict that it will be a magnificent ecotourism attraction. It is divided into two sections—the designed botanical gardens that will have changing flowers with the seasons, and the nature center left in a natural state. Education is one of the main goals with various areas for learning for ages from pre-kindergarten to graduate university degrees.

Shangri La is the first complex in Texas, and only the 50th in the world, to be awarded the rare "platinum" rating by the U.S. Green Building Council. The rating recognizes the most ecologically "green" complexes in the world and is known as "LEED," for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design. The president of the Council has said "Shangri La will be a showcase for high-performance, energy-efficient, healthy design, and an inspiration for others."

Buildings have been constructed using recycled materials, when available, and have been designed to be energy efficient. Thirty-six solar photovoltaic panels create electricity for the complex and its boats and carts. Boardwalks in the swamp are made of "boards" of recycled plastic and wood. A closed loop, geothermal heating and cooling system pumps water from an 800-foot-deep-well, allowing Shangri La to take advantage of the consistent temperatures deep within the earth. The roofing is designed to reflect heat and collect rainwater in large cisterns.

In 2005, Hurricane Rita devastated Shangri La at the beginning of its construction phase. Viewing the situation as an opportunity, the many fallen trees were incorporated into the construction of Shangri La facilities.

Madam Speaker, it is an honor to represent Orange, TX in the U.S. House of Representatives and I urge you to join me in congratulating Shangri La on its grand opening and their commitment to the environment and the community.

HONORING CHESTER ANDREW

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2008

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Chester Andrew, and the entire Andrew family, upon being honored with the "Friend of the Farm Bureau" award at the Third Annual Recognition Dinner to be held on March 6, 2008, at the Madera Municipal Golf Course.

Pete Andrew came to Madera, California, in the early 1900's from Greece. Mr. Andrew worked on a boat that frequently traveled into the San Francisco Bay ports. He decided not to get back on the boat and made his way to the central California town of Madera to begin his farming career. He met Agnes Oyler, they married and began farming beans and custom harvesting. They had two children, George and Lorraine, who helped with the farm and took over running the farm when the elder Mr. Andrew passed away.

George Andrew and his wife, Gladys, carried on the family's farming tradition. They had four children; Karen, Chester, Diane and Janice. Chester followed the path that was laid out for him, farming. Today, Chester and two of his three children still work on the family farm, with his oldest daughter farming in Washington. Andrew Farms currently focuses on almonds, grapes, pistachios and wheat.

For four generations, the Andrew family has been an important part of the Madera community. Three generations have attended the same elementary and high schools. Chester has been an active member of the Madera Farm Bureau Board for over twenty years. He served as president from 1992 to 1994 and continues to be a key member on many committees, including the scholarship committee and the water committee. He understands the importance of higher education for our future, and has even contributed to the scholarship funds with money out of his own pocket. On the water committee, Chester ensures that he is aware of the many different water issues that growers face. The Andrew family has been, and will continue to be, an important part in the Madera farming community and can truly be called a "Friend of the Farm Bureau".

Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Chester Andrew, and the Andrew family, for the positive impact they have had in Madera County and the surrounding areas. I invite my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Andrew family and wish them continued success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2008

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, in order to attend a funeral in my congressional district, I missed 17 votes on March 5 and March 6.

Had I been present I would have voted:

"Yea" on rollcall 91, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, to redesignate Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historic Park in the State of Ohio as "Wright Brothers-Dunbar National Historical Park", and for other purposes;

"Yea" on rollcall 92, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, Supporting Taiwan's fourth direct and democratic presidential elections in March 2008;

"Yea" on rollcall 93, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, Condemning the ongoing Palestinian rocket attacks on Israeli civilians, and for other purposes;

"Yea" on rollcall 94, Will the House Now Consider the Resolution, Providing for the consideration of H.R. 1014, Paul Wellstone Mental Health and Addiction Equity Act;

"Yea" on rollcall 95, On Ordering the Previous Question, Providing for the consideration of H.R. 1014, Paul Wellstone Mental Health and Addiction Equity Act,

"Yea" on rollcall 96, On Agreeing to the Resolution, Providing for the consideration of H.R. 1014, Paul Wellstone Mental Health and Addiction Equity Act;

"Yea" on rollcall 97, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, Cyndi Taylor Krier Post Office Building;

"Yea" on rollcall 98, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree, Expressing the sense of Congress that Earl Lloyd should be recognized and honored for breaking the color barrier and becoming the first African-American to play in the National Basketball Association League 58 years ago;

"Yea" on rollcall 99, On motion to table the motion to appeal the ruling of the chair;

"Nay" on rollcall 100, Motion to Recommit H.R. 1424, Paul Wellstone Mental Health and Addiction Equity Act,

"Yea" on rollcall 101, Final Passage of H.R. 1424—Paul Wellstone Mental Health and Addiction Equity Act of 2007;

"Yea" on rollcall 102, H.R. 5400—To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 160 East Washington Street in Chagrin Falls, Ohio, as the Sgt. Michael M. Kashkoush Post Office Building;

"Yea" on rollcall 103, H. Res 1015—Democratic Motion on Ordering the Previous Question on H.R. 2857—Generations Invigorating Volunteerism and Education (GIVE) Act;

"Yea" on rollcall 104, H. Res 1015—On Agreeing to the Resolution—Generations Invigorating Volunteerism and Education (GIVE) Act;

"Nay" on rollcall 105, on agreeing to the Flake amendment, H.R. 2857, Generations Invigorating Volunteerism and Education (GIVE) Act;

"Yea" on rollcall 106, on agreeing to the Inslee amendment, H.R. 2857, Generations Invigorating Volunteerism and Education (GIVE) Act; and

"Yea" on rollcall 107, Motion to Table the Appeal of the Ruling of the Chair.

IN HONOR OF THE 47TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PEACE CORPS

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2008

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 47th anniversary of the Peace Corps and to commemorate the National Peace Corps Week from February 25–March 3, 2008. During the National Peace Corps week, many celebratory and educational events which acknowledge and honor the Peace Corps will take place across the country.

The Peace Corps is an independent Federal agency that was established by Executive order on March 1, 1961, by President John F. Kennedy. The Peace Corps currently actively deploys 8,079 volunteers at 68 posts serving 74 countries abroad to work with governments, businesses, nonprofit organizations, NGOs, and schools to address issue areas of concern such as education, health, HIV/AIDS, agriculture, and the environment. Since 1961, more than 190,000 Americans have served as Peace Corps volunteers in 139 countries.

The Peace Corps mission seeks to, "Help the people of interested countries in meeting their need for trained men and women." The Peace Corps also, "Helps to promote a better understanding of Americans on the part of the peoples served," and "to promote a better understanding of other peoples on the part of Americans." The mission of the Peace Corps reminds us all as President John F. Kennedy said in his 1961 inaugural address, "Ask not what your country can do for you—ask what you can do for your country."

I would like to personally recognize Kyan Chuong, Austine L. Clark, David E. Horton, III, Alexander M. Kelly, Laszlo L. Liezkovsky, Nora C. Maresh, Sarah J. Mulligan, Allison N. O'Donnell, Randall M. Quinn, and Hana S. Schein all of whom are sworn-in volunteers serving in various countries abroad with the Peace Corps from the 11th Congressional District of Ohio. On behalf of the 11th Congressional District of Ohio, I would like to express gratitude to the 8,079 current Peace Corps volunteers and trainees serving our country and congratulate the Peace Corps on its 47th anniversary.

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL "TO AMEND TITLE 11, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA OFFICIAL CODE, TO IMPLEMENT THE INCREASE PROVIDED UNDER THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2008, IN THE AMOUNT OF FUNDS MADE AVAILABLE FOR THE COMPENSATION OF ATTORNEYS REPRESENTING INDIGENT DEFENDANTS IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COURTS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2008

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, a core element of our unique democracy is the

right and requirement that all citizens, regardless of income or socio-economic class be afforded adequate counsel or representation when confronting judicial proceedings. In fact, one of the most important decisions in this area of law was handed down by the U.S. Supreme Court in 1942 when it held that the sixth amendment required that governments afford indigent defendants with competent counsel.

Throughout America, legal representation for indigent defendants who have been charged in criminal cases and who are unable to pay for an attorney is most commonly provided by public defender attorneys. The State and Federal Government, respectively, pay for the public defender agencies to provide indigent defense. Appointed attorneys are required for anyone accused in a criminal case that may result in the likelihood of imprisonment.

An examination of the public defender services in the DC courts reveals that attorneys who participate in the District's Criminal Justice Act, CJA, and Counsel for Child Abuse and Neglect, CCAN, programs are compensated at an hourly rate of \$65 for representing an indigent client. This rate was established in fiscal year 2002 and financed through an unobligated balance in the Defender Services account. However, attorneys representing indigent defendants in similar matters at the U.S. District Court are paid \$90 an hour. This increasing disparity in compensation makes it increasingly difficult for the DC courts to secure competent representation for the most vulnerable residents. Recent reforms to the CJA and CCAN programs, including revision of the CJA plan and the creation of attorney panels based on a comprehensive review of qualifications and experience, has prompted the DC courts to pursue an increase in compensation for CJA and CCAN attorneys in order to ensure they are attracting the best and the brightest lawyers.

Since the National Capital Revitalization and Self-Government Improvement Act of 1997 grants Congress the authority and oversight over the DC court system and matters pertaining to public defender services, I contend that it is essential that we take the necessary legislative action to ensure that DC CJA attorneys are compensated at a rate equal or close to that of their Federal counterparts. This bill would do just that by amending title 11 of DC Code to increase the hourly rate of pay from \$65 to \$80 for DC CJA attorneys charged with the important democratic duty of representing the indigent.

RECOGNIZING NANCY KANJORSKI AS THE LACKAWANNA COUNTY FEDERATION OF DEMOCRATIC WOMEN WOMAN OF THE YEAR

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2008

Mr. KANJORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to recognize my wife, Nancy Kanjorski, for her dedication and outstanding work with the Lackawanna County Federation of Democratic Women. As her husband, I could not be more proud to

note that her peers recognized her efforts in support of Democratic candidates and policies by naming her the organization's Woman of the Year for 2008.

Nancy was born in Apopka, Florida, to Norman and Margaret Hickerson. She graduated from the University of Florida. We met while I was visiting Florida and we then married in 1962.

Nancy and I moved to Pennsylvania, where she taught school in Carlisle and Wyoming Valley.

Over the course of our time living in Pennsylvania, Nancy has always played an active role in my campaigns and many other Democratic campaigns. She constantly participated behind the scenes in grassroots efforts, from setting up phone banks to organizing literature drops. She has always been willing to help with any aspect of the campaign to make it run more smoothly. It is for her dedication, care, attention to detail, and many other reasons that Nancy will receive the award of Woman of the Year from the Lackawanna County Federation of Democratic Women.

Nancy has also been a member of various community organizations and boards. Among these, she was a particularly active member of the Lawyers' Wives Association, where she chaired multiple committees. Nancy has also been an avid tennis player.

Nancy is an essential part of our family, always willing to assist family members, from aiding those during times of illness to gladly babysitting our nephews and nieces.

We have one daughter, Nancy Kanjorski Bradley, Ph.D., who is married to Chris Bradley, Ph.D. They live in New Mexico.

On March 8, 2008, Nancy will receive the award of Woman of the Year at a brunch hosted by the Lackawanna County Federation of Democratic Women. The members of the organization elect the person to receive this award who they feel has done an outstanding job as a Democratic leader in the community.

On a personal note, I would like to acknowledge that Nancy has continuously given all that she can to help the Democratic Party. She has always been an active, devoted, and vital part of my campaigns, not just an essential component of the team for my staff, but of course for me as well. I am incredibly proud that she will receive this award, as it is very much deserved.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing Nancy Kanjorski for her award of Democratic Woman of the Year from the Lackawanna County Federation of Democratic Women.

TRIBUTE TO HANNELORE BROWN

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2008

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Hannelore Brown, my constituent in the Third Congressional District of Kansas. Hannelore is an active school volunteer whose children attend Leawood Elementary School, Leawood Middle School, and Blue Valley North, in the Blue Valley School District.

About 5 years ago, Hannelore organized a campaign to urge Leawood's elementary

schoolchildren to write Kansas servicemen and women stationed overseas in Iraq and Afghanistan. That campaign has since expanded into the middle school and the high school, and teachers have incorporated the letter writing into their lesson plans. Thousands and thousands of letters have been sent, thanks to her efforts. Artwork, posters, and Girl Scout cookies have also been mailed. Many, many soldiers have written back to the schoolchildren, and have emailed photos of themselves with the items sent by the schools. Other soldiers have visited the school when they returned home, to thank their new pen pals for the mail and caring sent to lonely troops on foreign soil.

Hannelore has also organized an annual patriotic school assembly to honor servicemen and women and veterans. Every year, she gathers uniforms, memorabilia, and other artifacts, to create museum-style exhibits. On Friday, March 28, 2008, the fourth such assembly is set for Leawood Elementary School, to be preceded by a breakfast honoring servicemen, -women, and their families, again organized by Hannelore Brown.

With Hannelore's help, Leawood Middle School has published a book of letters sent to and from the soldiers. It comes as no surprise to learn that Hannelore Brown has also assisted the school in its annual Veterans Day observance every fall.

On behalf of the thousands of lonely troops stationed overseas, I want to thank Hannelore for all she has done to help them. In turn, these personal connections have instilled a true sense of patriotism in all those involved, and have given students, parents, and staff a new appreciation for the service and dedication of these soldiers. One person can make a difference in the lives of many others, and Hannelore Brown is the perfect example.

TRIBUTE TO VETERAN AND LAWMAKER BOBBY G. WOOD

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2008

Mr. BERRY. Madam Speaker, I rise here today to recognize retired Brigadier General and former State Representative Bobby G. Wood. Wood's service to his country may have begun as a Korean war veteran, but his civic contributions continued for decades. His recent death was a great loss to his community, his State and this Nation.

Bobby G. Wood was born March 19, 1931, in Lake City to Gaines E. and Hallie Bob Wood. He was a 1949 graduate of Lake City High School and graduated from Arkansas State University in 1953 with a degree in business administration.

Upon graduation from ASU, Wood was awarded an Army ROTC commission as a 2nd lieutenant in the corps of artillery. During his 33-year tenure in the Army National Guard, he served on active duty in the Korean war, attained the rank of brigadier general, served as the commander of the 875th Engineer Battalion, and was the Arkansas Assistant State Adjutant General.

In addition to his outstanding military career, Wood represented Craighead County for 20 years in the Arkansas State House of Rep-

resentatives. Wood was a charter member of the Northeast Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America, serving as president for 2 years. He was inducted into the ASU ROTC Hall of Heroes and was honored as a Distinguished Alumnus by the ASU Alumnus Association in 2007. He was an active member of the First Baptist Church of Jonesboro and served as a church deacon.

Woods was business manager and part owner of Delta Gas & Oil and Delta Farms, Inc. of Lake City.

On behalf of Congress, I extend my deepest sympathies to Mr. Wood's family and gratitude for the countless hours he spent serving others. He leaves behind a legacy of accomplishment, but it was his dedication to give back to the community that deserves recognition. Wood was a devout family man and a distinguished Arkansan, and I am honored to recognize him today in the United States Congress. His friendship will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ALBIO SIRES

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2008

Mr. SIRES. Madam Speaker, on March 5, 2008, I missed rollcall vote No. 98. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall 98.

THIRD ANNUAL "ARNIE DWORKIS MEMORIAL" DIALYSIS AWARE- NESS WALK

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2008

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the Annual Arnie Dworkis Memorial Dialysis Awareness Walk, taking place this Sunday, March 9, 2008. The Sunset Kiwanis Club of Fountain Hills has organized this wonderful and exciting event for the third year running.

I would particularly like to honor Edward Stizza and Susan Obst-Dworkis for coordinating this annual event, and for their efforts and activities to educate the community about chronic kidney disease and end stage renal disease. The proceeds from the Arnie Dworkis Memorial Dialysis Awareness Walk will benefit the Dialysis Patient Citizens Group, which was founded by Mr. Stizza and his friend and fellow dialysis patient, Arnie Dworkis. After Arnie passed away in 2005, Mr. Stizza established the walk to honor the life of his friend. I am glad to say that by making this tribute, Mr. Stizza and Ms. Susan Obst Dworkis have educated thousands of people about this disease.

Currently, one in nine American adults will be affected by chronic kidney disease. More than 20 million Americans are personally suffering from the disease, which, if left untreated, can lead to end stage renal disease. With the assistance of Mr. Stizza and Ms. Obst-Dworkis, we can raise the public awareness of this debilitating disease, and the plight of the more than 400,000 Americans who are on kidney dialysis today.

I am hopeful that this event will educate the public on what can be done to prevent and treat kidney disease. It will undoubtedly contribute to support and funding to those whose lives are intimately touched by the chronic kidney disease.

SUNSET MEMORIAL

HON. TRENT FRANKS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2008

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

It is March 6, 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 were lost on September 11; only it happens every day.

It has now been exactly 12,827 days since the travesty 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.

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 a blind, 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."

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." 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 bedrock foundation of this Republic is that clarion 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 foundational 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 today without the protection we should have been giving them.

But perhaps tonight, Madam Speaker, maybe someone new who hears this sunset memorial will finally realize that abortion really does kill little babies, that it hurts mothers in ways that we can never express, and that 12,827 days spent killing nearly 50 million unborn children in America is enough; and that the America that rejected human slavery and marched into Europe to arrest the Nazi Holocaust, is still courageous and compassionate enough to find a better way for mothers and their babies than abortion on demand.

So tonight, Madam Speaker, may we each remind ourselves that our own days in this sunshine of life are also 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 finally hear the cries of the innocent unborn. 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 March 6, 2008—12,827 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.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO D.L. "DUSTY" DICKENS

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2008

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor my friend, D.L. "Dusty" Dickens, for her years of dedicated service to the Clark County School District.

Dusty, who is originally from Santa Monica, California, attended Stevens-Henager College in Salt Lake City, Utah and later received an AMA certificate in Management from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Dusty was also licensed as a realtor in the State of Nevada in 1978 after attending the Education Dynamics Institute of Real Estate.

Over the past three decades, Dusty has served the Southern Nevada community, spending much of her time in the Facilities Division as the Director of the Demographics, Zoning and Realty Department. During her tenure in the Facilities Division, Dusty was responsible for a number of sizable land acquisition programs and was instrumental in recommending site locations for 200 schools. Dusty was also the co-author of the "Open Schools/Open Doors and Educational Access Agreements" which allows governmental entities and the state university system reciprocal use of public/school facilities. She also had a prominent role in the development of the

school siting methodology for data driven decisions to site new schools.

Given the exponential growth in Clark County in recent years, Dusty has been instrumental in ensuring that our educational services have kept pace with demand. In addition to her distinguished performance in the Demographics, Zoning and Realty Department, Dusty has served as facilitator for the school district's Investment in Excellence Program and as liaison for the School Name Committee. She has also had the opportunity to represent the school district on committees for the City of Las Vegas, City of North Las Vegas, City of Henderson, and Clark County for land use and master plan developments.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to pay tribute to D.L. "Dusty" Dickens. Her service to Clark County has been instrumental and is to be commended. I would like to congratulate Dusty and her family including her husband, Lester and their four children on this honor by the school district. I applaud Dusty for her leadership and congratulate her on this much deserved recognition of having a school named in her honor.

CONGRATULATING THE INDIANA GIRLS BASKETBALL STATE CHAMPIONS AT PLYMOUTH HIGH SCHOOL

HON. JOE DONNELLY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2008

Mr. DONNELLY. Madam Speaker, today I rise before you to extend congratulations to the Plymouth High School Lady Pilgrims girls basketball team. The Lady Pilgrims succeeded in clinching the 3A state championship on March 1, 2008 at Consecro Fieldhouse in Indianapolis with a thrilling 47-46 victory over Indianapolis Chatard.

The Lady Pilgrims worked tirelessly this season to win their second Semi-State title in Plymouth High School history. This significant victory led to their first State title ever for the girls' basketball team.

The Plymouth team consisted of thirteen outstanding young women, including: Seniors Leslie Swihart, Laura Garrity, Jessica McMillen, Jessica Centa and Brittany Payne; Juniors Alex Starr, Brittany Davis, Danielle Hayden, Lyzz Smith and Erin McNeil; Sophomore Chelsea Bengé; and Freshmen Marisa Green and Meagan Barron.

Also, we should not fail to acknowledge the support structure around the team. Head Coach Dave Cox with assistants Lindsay Houin, Dave Duncan and Russ Teall guided the Pilgrims to victory. The team received tremendous community support as evidenced by the busloads of fans that traveled to Indianapolis for the game and the thunderous applause of supporters who gathered to welcome the team home after their victory.

I offer my congratulations to the members of the girls' basketball team of Plymouth High School, the coaching staff, the school administration and community, and the surrounding Plymouth community for their accomplishments this season on the road to the 3A State Championship.

HONORING JAMES LAPIN

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2008

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, James Lapin, an active member of the Hebrew Institute of Riverdale, is truly a giving person. Mr. Lapin really understands the importance of doing and not just talking about giving. This is something he demonstrated by donating a kidney to a woman through a match made by the Halachic Organ Donor Society.

At the Hebrew Institute of Riverdale he is a frequent participant in many of the Bayrit's programs and has been instrumental in continuing Abraham and Sarah's Tent, the innovative program at HIR that provides free Shabbat dinner every Friday. He also shows his concern for our youth by being a big brother in the Big Sibling program of the Jewish Youth Encounter Program.

James and his wife Ann are parents of Gavriella and Sarit and have lived in Riverdale since their marriage in 2001. He is a graduate of the BA/MBA program of the University of Judaism and now works for Columbia University.

For his true selflessness and good works, he is presented with the Andrew Zucker Community Service Award.

PROVIDING FOR APPOINTMENT OF JOHN W. McCARTER AS A CITIZEN REGENT OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

SPEECH OF

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2008

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the appointment of John McCarter to serve on the Smithsonian Institution's Board of Regents.

The Board of Regents is responsible for a variety of issues related to the Smithsonian Institution, including budgets, planning documents, proposed programs and construction, appointments to Smithsonian advisory boards, and legislative initiatives. Given the variety and importance of the Board's responsibilities in managing the public's most cherished cultural institutions, and given the recent controversies regarding Smithsonian leadership, we must support the appointment of members to the Board of Regents who will ensure that the Smithsonian Institution will fulfill its critical mission in perpetuity. That is why I am pleased to support John McCarter's appointment.

John McCarter has an accomplished history of service in both the public and private sector. Currently, he serves as President and Chief Executive Officer of The Field Museum, a jewel in the crown of cultural attractions in Chicago, and one of the greatest natural history museums in the world. The Field Museum attracts over 1 million visitors each year; its collection includes over 23 million specimens, a number which continues to grow due to its ongoing expeditions and research in 94 coun-

tries around the world; and its staff includes 72 Ph.D.s.

Under John's leadership, the Field Museum has undertaken a series of projects to rebuild and restore the museum. During his tenure the Museum has created several new permanent and traveling exhibits, including the "Tutankhamen and the Golden Age of the Pharaohs" exhibit in 2006, which has toured to Philadelphia, London, and soon Dallas, to sold out crowds. The museum has also expanded its educational role in the community, establishing partnerships with science teachers in the community and organizing activities for inner-city schools.

A native Chicagoan, John previously was Senior Vice President of Booz Allen & Hamilton, Inc. Earlier in his career, he served as President of DeKalb Corporation, and was Budget Director of the State of Illinois under Governor Richard B. Ogilvie. John was also a White House Fellow during the administration of Lyndon B. Johnson, and is currently a trustee of the University of Chicago and a board member and former Chairman of Chicago's Public Television Station Channel 11. McCarter is a graduate of Princeton University and Harvard Business School, and also attended the London School of Economics.

It is my honor to support the appointment of John McCarter to the Smithsonian Institution's Board of Regents. John's service to the Field Museum, to the City of Chicago, to Illinois, and to the country, will make him an invaluable addition to the Board.

ST. MARY MEDICAL CENTER PROVIDES EXCEPTIONAL HEALTH CARE

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2008

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate St. Mary Medical Center for recently being named among the top 1 percent of hospitals in the Nation. St. Mary is one of only 49 hospitals in the Nation to be recognized with the Premier-Care Science Select Practice National Quality Award. The award is given to those facilities with the best patient outcomes and operating efficiency.

St. Mary Medical Center, located in Walla Walla, WA, was founded in 1880 by the Sisters of Providence. At the time, it was the first non-military hospital in Washington State east of the Cascades. Today, the hospital continues its 120 year commitment to providing excellent acute care, attracting patients from throughout the region.

This is not the first time St. Mary Medical Center has been recognized as a top performer. In 2007, the hospital was named among the top 100 hospitals in the Nation by 2 independent research companies. The national attention St. Mary Medical Center has received is a testament to the exceptional attention and care they give to each patient.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend St. Mary Medical Center for setting the standard for clinical excellence, and for providing excellent health care to the Walla Walla community. I invite my colleagues to join me in congratulating the doctors and employees of

St. Mary Medical Center on this great achievement.

PAUL WELLSTONE MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION EQUITY ACT OF 2007

HON. WALLY HERGER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2008

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to correct the record with respect to Mr. STARK's comments about Shasta Regional Medical Center. First, the hospital did not close. Second, the malpractice to which he refers occurred under the previous ownership of the hospital, then known as Redding Medical Center. The hospital did not have physician investment at that time. The individuals who were found guilty of fraud and malpractice were punished appropriately and are no longer affiliated with Shasta Regional Medical Center. The new ownership of that facility has performed an invaluable service to the local community by taking over a failing hospital and working to rebuild its reputation, and they deserve the thanks of every member of Congress for that service.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF DEREK OWENS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Derek Owens, a veteran Cleveland Police Officer who will be remembered for his unshakable commitment to the Cleveland community.

Derek Owens was born in Cleveland and remained in the area for most of his life. He graduated from the University of Toledo and later returned to Cleveland to earn his social Work degree from Cleveland State University in 1995. Owens was well known and will be fondly remembered in the neighborhoods in which he served for 10 years as a police officer. He often volunteered for neighborhood block watches and was recognized for his approachability, sense of humor and dedication to helping the community, even during his time off-duty.

Owens is survived by his wife, Erika, daughter Sydni and son, Chandler.

Madam Speaker and colleagues please join me in honoring Derek Owens, a vital member of the Cleveland community and dedicated Police Officer. May his commitment to the community serve as an example to all of us.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2008

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I would like to offer a personal explanation of the reason I missed rollcall vote Nos. 88

through 90 on March 4, 2008. My plane was delayed due to bad weather in Atlanta.

I would have voted:

Rollcall vote No. 88, H.R. 1143—To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to lease certain lands in Virgin Islands National Park and for other purposes “aye”;

Rollcall vote No. 89, H.R. 1311—To direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey the Alta-Hualapai Site to the city of Las Vegas, Nevada, for the development of a cancer treatment facility, “aye”; and

Rollcall vote No. 90, H.R. 816—To provide for the release of certain land from the Sunrise Mountain Instant Study Area in the State of Nevada and to grant a right-of-way across the released land for the construction and maintenance of a flood control project, “aye”.

IN HONOR OF SIXTY-THREE YEARS
OF EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE
AT TORAH ACADEMY OF MIN-
NEAPOLIS

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2008

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the teachers, parents, and community of the Torah Academy in St. Louis Park, Minnesota. This weekend, at its annual banquet celebration, the Torah Academy will celebrate 63 years of educational excellence and service to children from pre-school through the eighth grade.

Founded in 1945, the Torah Academy provides a well-rounded and highly regarded education in the basics of reading, writing, and arithmetic, as well as Judaic studies. The teachers and staff there are committed to providing a nurturing environment and to instilling in students a lifelong love of learning.

Torah Academy depends upon the dedicated service of so many fine individual volunteers and corporate citizens to ensure that it meets its mission of educational excellence. At their banquet this weekend, the community will honor two in particular: Rabbi Joshua Borenstein, the Academy's outstanding Executive Director, and King Solutions, Inc.

King, founded by Meyer Bolnick and Mike Patterson, will be honored as the Business of Distinction as “a business built on strong values, and a role model of responsibility and commitment to the community.” Community service is an integral part of the work that King does in the Twin Cities area.

In addition to Rabbi Borenstein, who has served the Torah Academy community for a full decade, the Academy depends on many fine staff, including Rabbi Binyomin Ginsberg, Dean, and Mrs. Ginger Vance, Principal. I join the Minneapolis-area community this weekend in commending these outstanding educators and active citizens for their commitment to the core values and mission of Torah Academy.

HONORING THE LIFE AND WORK
OF ADRIENNE SWENSON

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2008

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to recognize the passing of a good friend, who was one of Sonoma County's notable environmental activists and a conscience for social justice, Adrienne Swenson. Adrienne was 81 when she died in January of pulmonary disease. Adrienne touched the lives of thousands through her successful environmental conservation efforts, her commitment to social justice, and her work for the Democratic Party.

I knew Adrienne through all of these arenas and agree with her friends and colleagues, who are universal in their praise.

“She was a remarkable woman. She was a person committed to the idea that society could be improved,” said David Thatcher, who along with others, helped Adrienne found the Peace and Justice Center of Sonoma County. “She was a tower of strength in so many ways.”

But what was so remarkable about Adrienne was that in all her interests she always had a wider context in mind. Her work with the local United Nations community, her commitment to the peace process, her participation on the county planning commission—she integrated them all in the interest of trying to make a better society.

Born in San Francisco, Adrienne spent her life in California, except for 2 years in Spain when she and her husband, Len, and their three children lived what she once called “the good life,” traveling about Europe, studying art and learning Spanish.

A trip to Yosemite later introduced her to what became her favorite activities—family camping, backpacking, and birding. This led to her lifelong devotion to environmental issues, which interest she shared with her husband, a longtime Sierra Club leader.

Later, Adrienne served on the Manhattan Beach City Council while living in southern California, and on the Sonoma County Planning Commission after moving back to northern California. “She really set a standard,” said Bill Kortum, a member of the board of supervisors, which appointed her. “She was always very well informed.”

Politically, Adrienne was active in the Santa Rosa Democratic Club and served on the Democratic Central Committee for nearly 20 years.

But where Adrienne really left her legacy was the Peace and Justice Center of Sonoma County.

“She had an incredible sense of justice in the face of overwhelming injustice,” says Elizabeth Stinson, the center's director. “She worked tirelessly for more than 30 years in every capacity you can think of.”

She was vehemently anti-war and opposed the occupation of Iraq. Standing on the corner at Mendocino and College avenues almost every week with a group of women, all dressed in black, she protested until she could no longer stand.

Madam Speaker, Adrienne Swenson would want us to carry on her work here in Congress, to be inspired by her tenacity and will-

ingness to confront difficult subjects, knowing the world is better for her contributions to it.

IN SUPPORT OF THE GOALS OF A
NATIONAL SIBLINGS DAY

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2008

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to show my support for the goals of a National Siblings Day for all Americans, a day to honor our sisters and brothers for the many ways in which they enrich our lives. This occasion would give us the opportunity to show appreciation for our siblings, much the same way that Mother's Day and Father's Day are celebrated, and completes the celebration of the whole family. One of my Manhattan constituents, Claudia Evert, has worked tirelessly to encourage everyone to honor their siblings on April 10th each year.

April 10th marks the birthday of Claudia's sister Lisette, who died tragically in 1972 at age 19 in a car accident that also killed their father. An additional tragedy struck in 1987, when Ms. Evert's older brother, Alan, died in an accident in his home. He was 36 years old.

Siblings make an important contribution to who we are. Often, when our parents are gone, our siblings are our only remaining family. And, sometimes, as in the case of my constituent Claudia Evert, Siblings Day will help us remember siblings whom we have lost at an early age.

I applaud these past 12 years of hard work by Claudia Evert who has created a loving tribute to her deceased siblings with her work to establish a National Siblings Day. Her inspired work should serve as a lesson to us all. Since 1998, 31 governors have issued gubernatorial proclamations in their states for Siblings Day: AL, AR, AZ, CO, CT, FL, IL, IA, KS, KY, LA, ME, MD, MA, MI, MS, MO, NE, NH, NJ, NM, NY, PA, RI, SC, VT, VA, WV, WA, WI and WY. Therefore, I now call on the Congress to recognize the importance of contributions of all family members, including our siblings, by supporting the goals of a National Siblings Day for all Americans.

PAUL WELLSTONE MENTAL
HEALTH AND ADDICTION EQUITY
ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2008

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I am delighted that yesterday Congress was able to pass the long overdue Paul Wellstone Mental Health and Addiction Equity Act, finally vowing to end the discrepancy of health care and treatment available to patients with mental illness and addiction disorders. I commend Mr. KENNEDY and Mr. RAMSTAD for their steadfast and courageous efforts to bring this bill, and even more so, this issue, to the forefront of this Congress. This bill seeks to establish parity in coverage between mental health care and other forms of health care, ensuring greater access to treatment.

There are countless stories of Americans, including my own constituents in Ohio's 9th District, who are struggling not only with their mental illness, but with the costs of trying to treat it. Our local jails are jammed with inmates who present with serious mental illness as our sheriffs become innkeepers for the untreated mentally ill. Mental illness affects the majority of homeless in our Nation. Treating those who suffer from these cruel illnesses is long overdue. Following are accounts that show a striking difference among my constituents (whose names have been changed for privacy reasons) who have the necessary health coverage to help manage their illness, with those who do not.

Carol is a young woman not yet 30 years old, who had managed to hide her paranoid schizophrenia for several years with treatment until a recent breakdown exposed it in a very public way. She'd lost her job—and thus her health insurance—and was struggling. She had no way to afford COBRA payments, and without health insurance, had to stop treatment. The voices in her head told her to eat bananas and drink beer, and then to drive. After following these instructions, she was picked up by the local police for driving under the influence. It was then that her parents became aware of her true condition. Because she had no health insurance, they could not find a place which would admit her for proper treatment. Her court case for the DUI was placed on suspension because, in her state of psychotic crisis, she could not participate in her own defense. Her parents finally found a counselor through the community mental health system, but her medical bills continue to mount.

Mary's situation is similarly devastating. A single mother raising four children, Mary works in a job which does not offer health insurance. Although she has purchased a private policy, it is very limited and has additional restrictions on mental health care. Mary's teenage son began to experience severe mental health problems and was diagnosed with schizophrenia. She found care in a private facility, but reached her insurance limit quickly. Now without the ability to pay for his care, she has found it very difficult to successfully continue his treatment. He has since encountered legal difficulty, and has been placed in a juvenile justice center.

With comprehensive health coverage, Bob's situation is much more fortunate, and a model for how things should be. Bob is a professional with a well-paying job and a young family. However, a crisis sent him into a downward spiral ending in depression. His full insurance coverage afforded him the ability to "shop around" as they struggled to find him proper treatment. Bob eventually sought help through a private inpatient treatment facility. Following his stay, he and his family have continued the intensive therapy he was prescribed, which has enabled him to return to a life of productivity and has restored a sense of normalcy in his family.

The Paul Wellstone Mental Health and Addiction Equity Act will go a long way in ensuring that there are more success stories like Bob's, and fewer situations like that of Carol and Mary. And, by breaking down the barriers to treatment, this bill will also help erase the unfortunate stigma that prevents those in need

of mental health and addiction treatment from seeking the care they need.

The Wellstone bill moves America forward and brings hope to millions who know the scourge of mental illness.

HONORING DETECTIVE LUIS
RODRIGUEZ

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2008

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, the contribution of law enforcement to the community goes well beyond arrests and convictions, and if you are lucky, on occasion you come across someone with that extra sense of commitment to the motto "protect and serve". Detective Luis Rodriguez, a 20-year veteran of the New York City Police Department, is the Community Affairs Officer for the 50th Precinct, the liaison to schools, civic groups, tenant associations and houses of worship and Detective Rodriguez is one such officer who is always ready to go above and beyond and to offer a helping hand those in need.

Detective Rodriguez defines his job in terms of what he can do for the community by bringing human warmth to people who are facing stressful situations. Whenever anything occurs in the community whether a serious issue or a simple question, everyone knows that they can call Luis. We don't even need to use a title or last name, he is known simply as Luis. We know that we can count on him for guidance or to be there when needed.

He has had many awards for his work and credits his parents for raising him with a lot of trust. He is passing on this trust to two of his favorite people in the world, his children, Caitlin and Steven.

For his good work with the community, the Riverdale Jewish Community Council is awarding him the Martin Rollins Interfaith Brotherhood Award. I understand that Detective Rodriguez is retiring this summer and I want him to know that the community will miss him and that he can always count on us for a helping hand if ever he needs one.

THE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION
ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL
YEAR 2009

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2008

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Speaker, I am extremely pleased that the fiscal year (FY) 2009 Budget Resolution, approved by the Committee on the Budget, recognizes the critical importance of meeting our Nation's infrastructure investment needs, even while achieving a balanced budget by 2012. The Budget Resolution vigorously rejects the short-sighted policies of the President's budget, which cuts virtually every infrastructure investment program within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, including

highways, public transit, airports, Amtrak, wastewater treatment, and water resources development.

In contrast to the harmful cuts proposed by the administration, the resolution fully funds highway, transit, and highway safety programs at the levels originally authorized in the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU). The resolution rejects both the negative \$1 billion adjustment for Revenue Aligned Budget Authority, and the administration's proposal to cut highway and transit funding by an additional \$1 billion below the authorized levels, which would be detrimental to short-term economic stimulus efforts, as well as long-term economic growth.

For the Airport Improvement Program, AIP, the resolution rejects the \$765 million cut proposed by the administration, and instead provides the full amounts authorized in the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2007 (H.R. 2881), as approved by the House last year. Specifically, the proposed budget provides \$3.9 billion for AIP in FY 2009, increasing to \$4.1 billion by FY 2011. This funding will allow the AIP program to keep pace with inflationary cost increases, and begin to address the investment gap in airport safety and capacity needs.

For Amtrak, the resolution rejects the \$525 million cut proposed by the administration, which would essentially shut down our national passenger rail system, and instead increases funding to meet the costs of Amtrak's new labor agreement, pursuant to Presidential Emergency Board 242.

For environmental infrastructure, the resolution rejects the administration's proposed cut to the Clean Water State Revolving Fund, CWSRF, program, the primary Federal program for funding wastewater infrastructure projects throughout the Nation. A year ago, the President requested \$687.5 million in capitalization grants for CWSRFs for FY 2008. At that time, it was the lowest level requested by any administration since the creation of the program. For FY 2009, the administration requests a pitiful \$555 million, a 20 percent cut from last year's appropriation of \$689 million. The administration's proposal puts at risk the water quality gains achieved in recent decades, and the resolution correctly rejects this cut.

Finally, the resolution rejects the administration's proposal to cut funding for the Army Corps of Engineers by \$845 million in FY 2009, and instead provides increased funding to begin to address the growing backlog of water resources development projects, including those authorized by the Water Resources Development Act of 2007.

The Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure firmly believes that infrastructure investment is fundamental to stimulating and sustaining long-term economic growth. Therefore, I am pleased that the budget resolution includes an Infrastructure Investment Reserve Fund, which will accommodate legislation to "Rebuild America" in FY 2009.

I look forward to working with Chairman SPRATT on continued improvements to our Nation's infrastructure, and I urge my colleagues to support the resolution.

PAUL WELLSTONE MENTAL
HEALTH AND ADDICTION EQUITY
ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2008

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Paul Wellstone Mental Health and Addiction Equity Act of 2007.

Eleven years ago, the Congress came together to approve legislation that put the country on the road to mental health parity. But along that road, too many potholes remain unfilled. A letter I received last week from a Michigan psychologist reads, "Every day I see families with 'good health coverage' discover that their loved ones cannot get the mental health care they need because their employer-sponsored health insurance sets arbitrary, one-size-fits-all limits on mental health treatment that it does not impose on other medical or surgical benefits."

When the National Institute for Mental Health reports that 1 in 4 adults have a diagnosable mental disorder in any given year, and 1 in every 17 Americans suffers from a more serious mental condition, we know that it is time to take action. Whether it's a friend with signs of clinical depression, a son or daughter with a drug addiction or a parent with schizophrenia, too many people are not receiving the treatment that they need. In fact, a study conducted by the NIMH found that only 18 percent of Americans requiring mental health services received minimally adequate care.

We are all too familiar with the burden that inadequate access to mental health care can cause. People experiencing severe mental illnesses routinely exceed the number of allowable visits to a health care provider, leading to financial hardship or insufficient levels of care. Under the current system, a person seeking mental health services may have to wait months to get an appointment with a practitioner in his or her insurance plan's network, or have to pay a fortune out-of-pocket for mental health care.

The legislation before us ensures that Americans will have access to the mental health care they need by removing these barriers. Specifically, the bill requires health insurance companies that offer mental health benefits to offer them in a way that beneficiaries pay no more out of pocket than they would pay for physical and surgical health benefits. The bill also requires insurance companies that cover mental health benefits to cover the entire spectrum of them so that treatment for conditions like substance abuse and eating disorders will be covered.

All of us should join in supporting this important legislation to continue moving America along the road to parity, and the eventual elimination of discrimination, financial hardship and insufficient levels of care in our health care system.

PAUL WELLSTONE MENTAL
HEALTH AND ADDICTION EQUITY
ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2008

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise in reluctant opposition to H.R. 1424, the Paul Wellstone Mental Health and Addiction Equity Act. To be clear, I support mental health parity and I commend my colleagues for coming together to ensure Americans can receive the care that is necessary; however, I have serious concerns about extraneous provisions that were added to the bill at the last minute.

This legislation, while seeking to increase access to mental health treatment, simultaneously raises the cost of doing business for companies who choose to provide low cost medication to the Medicaid program. In addition, the bill stifles the growth of certain specialty hospitals in an effort to bring more business to public hospitals. In a time when we should be encouraging the expansion of all types of medical care, we should not be punishing one part of the industry in order to pay for the expansion of another.

Providing access to quality mental health care is an important goal. Yet, I believe this goal can be achieved without harming unrelated aspects of the medical field, which is why I oppose H.R. 1424 and I support S. 558. If the House had brought up S. 558, which does include any of these problematic provisions, we could well be on our way to expanding mental health parity. I encourage the House to move forward with the Senate version so we can send this bill to the President as soon as possible.

HONORING CENTRALIA ORPHANS
BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2008

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the Centralia Orphans basketball team, which on Friday, February 15, 2008, became the first high school boys' basketball program in the State of Illinois—and just the second in the nation—to record its 2,000th victory.

The visiting Orphans defeated the arch-rival Mt. Vernon High School Rams 45–43 to reach the milestone.

Current members of the Orphans include Evan Burmester, Adrian Dabney, Ben Kracht, Stile Smith, Carlton Westbrook, Keith Johnson, Justin Keef, Devan Wells, Brandon Buchanan, Myron Cunningham, R.J. Kwiatkowski, and Mark McConaughy. Their head coach is Lee Bennett, who is assisted by Brad Goewey, Ryan Blaha, and Doug Jack.

Since its beginning in 1906, the Centralia boys' basketball team has featured such standout players as future Olympic track star Dwight "Dike" Eddleman, future Harlem Globetrotter Bobby Joe Mason, and future Los Angeles Laker Dickie Garrett. The Orphans

have won three Illinois State championships, all under legendary High School Hall of Fame Coach Arthur L. Trout.

I send congratulations to the players, coaches, students, alumni, and fans of Centralia High School on a remarkable achievement.

PAUL WELLSTONE MENTAL
HEALTH AND ADDICTION EQUITY
ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2008

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of a teenager from Bensalem, Pennsylvania for whom mental health care came too late. I rise in favor of a health care system that works for those in need.

This legislation not only promotes fairness for those with mental illness, it also will not pre-empt stronger State laws. Laws, such as Pennsylvania's Act 106, which has saved countless lives.

I stand with a Republican State representative from my district—Gene DiGirolamo—as we fight to preserve these critical laws in conference. Mr. DiGirolamo of Bensalem is a leading advocate for mental health parity and has worked tirelessly for health care laws that are fair and just.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is bipartisan and long overdue. I urge my colleagues to join me in voting for it.

The Paul Wellstone Mental Health and Addiction Equity Act is designed to end discrimination against those seeking treatment for mental illness.

This discrimination is real, and it affects the lives of millions of people every day.

We have all heard the stories of the negative stigma surrounding post traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury from veterans returning from battle, and each of us has a family member or friend who has struggled at one time or another with mental illness.

Reauthorizing this important measure has waited for more than a decade—that is too long.

I am proud to be supporting it today and proud to have fought to include provisions that will keep this bill from pre-empting stronger State laws.

Act 106 is an example of a life-saving, crime-reducing law in Pennsylvania that will be preserved because of this important bill.

Act 106 not only helps addicts regain control of their lives, but also makes our State a safer and more pleasant place to live.

This protection is just one of many important items included in this bill, and Act 106 is just one of many State laws that we should preserve.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is critically important and while I am proud to support it, I must register some reservations about how we go about paying for it.

As a fiscally conservative Blue Dog Democrat, upholding the PAYGO rules are important, but the offsets chosen for this legislation are ones that have been used for another piece of legislation.

We are a Nation at war and a Nation in debt. Each person in this country owes more than \$30,000 in debt because of the reckless spending habits of the past.

We need to make sure we pay for the bills we pass, but I have some serious concerns about passing two bills—two Democratic priorities—that are paid for with the same money.

I urge our leadership, that as we go to conference on both of these pieces of legislation we ensure that we have a fiscally responsible approach that is also equitable for all those involved.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is a great step forward, and it has the support of doctors, nurses, and families across the country.

I am proud to cast my vote in favor of the Paul Wellstone Mental Health and Addiction Equity Act.

CONDEMNING THE ONGOING PALESTINIAN ROCKET ATTACKS ON ISRAELI CIVILIANS

SPEECH OF

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2008

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H. Res. 951, a resolution to condemn Palestinian rocket attacks on Israeli civilians. As one who is consistently against war and violence, I obviously do not support the firing of rockets indiscriminately into civilian populations. I believe it is appalling that Palestinians are firing rockets that harm innocent Israelis, just as I believe it is appalling that Israel fires missiles into Palestinian areas where children and other non-combatants are killed and injured.

Unfortunately, legislation such as this is more likely to perpetuate violence in the Middle East than contribute to its abatement. It is our continued involvement and intervention—particularly when it appears to be one-sided—that reduces the incentive for opposing sides to reach a lasting peace agreement.

Additionally, this bill will continue the march toward war with Iran and Syria, as it contains provocative language targeting these countries. The legislation oversimplifies the Israel/Palestine conflict and the larger unrest in the Middle East by simply pointing the finger at Iran and Syria. This is another piece in a steady series of legislation passed in the House that intensifies enmity between the United States and Iran and Syria. My colleagues will recall that we saw a similar steady stream of provocative legislation against Iraq in the years before the U.S. attack on that country.

I strongly believe that we must cease making proclamations involving conflicts that have nothing to do with the United States. We incur the wrath of those who feel slighted while doing very little to slow or stop the violence.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RIC KELLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2008

Mr. KELLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I have remained in Orlando, Florida with my

wife and our new daughter who was born on Monday, March 3rd. If I had been present yesterday, I would have voted in the following manner: Rollcall 91: "yea"; Rollcall 92: "yea"; Rollcall 93: "yea"; Rollcall 94: "nay"; Rollcall 95: "nay"; Rollcall 96: "nay"; Rollcall 97: "yea"; Rollcall 98: "yea"; Rollcall 99: "nay"; Rollcall 100: "yea"; Rollcall 101: "yea"; Rollcall 102: "yea".

HONORING NELLIE RUTH RILEY LEWIS

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2008

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise with a great sense of loss as I pay tribute to Nellie Ruth Riley Lewis, an educator, prominent Dallas community leader, and my friend who left us on March 1, 2008, at the age of 70. Throughout her life, Nellie Lewis was a well-known, respected figure in Dallas who leaves behind a legacy of accomplishments that will be remembered for years to come.

A native of North Carolina, Mrs. Lewis received her bachelor's degree from Howard University and her master's degree in education from George Washington University. For the first 17 years of her career, she taught in the public schools of Washington, DC, where she became the supervising director of reading for the District.

Mrs. Lewis moved to Dallas in 1977 with her late husband Dr. Lewis, where they were both employed with the Dallas Independent School District. During her 20 years with DISD, Mrs. Lewis' duties included serving as an instructional specialist, a curriculum coordinator, and an area director. She also served as director of learning services, the administrative assistant to four superintendents, and supervisor to a group of 10 elementary school principals.

She continued her lifelong devotion to education, even after her retirement from DISD, serving on several committees and as the president of the Dallas region of the National Alliance of Black School Educators.

In 1997, Mrs. Lewis received the Charles D. Moody Founder's Award, presented by the National Alliance of Black School Educators.

As our Nation experiences great technological innovation and success in the global market, the value of an education takes on even greater importance. Mrs. Lewis has exhibited the characteristics we seek in our educators, school administrators, and community activists.

Mrs. Lewis was married to Napoleon B. Lewis, who preceded her in death. In addition to her son, Mrs. Lewis is survived by three sisters: Inez Riley McClain of Fayetteville, NC; Carolyn Riley Payne and Deborah Riley, both of Seattle, WA; and three grandchildren.

On this day, Madam Speaker, I join her family, her friends, and all of Dallas and the Nation, in mourning the loss of a dear and special friend. She will be greatly missed.

CONGRESSIONAL CLUB CENTENNIAL

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2008

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today, along with Representatives TODD TIAHRT, JEFF MILLER, DORIS MATSUI, JO-ANN EMERSON, and JOHN TANNER, to introduce a resolution to commemorate the Congressional Club on its 100th anniversary.

The Congressional Club was established in 1908 "to promote sociability among its members, create a common meeting place, and further a personal acquaintance among the women of the Congressional circle." In the early 20th century, Members of Congress actually had little time for making friends outside of Congress or Government. It largely fell upon the wives to forge acquaintances in the Nation's Capital, since many of them led solitary lives while away from their home States.

In 1914, the club moved into a Beaux Arts-style mansion on the corner of New Hampshire Avenue and U Street, Northwest, in Washington, DC, where it continues to be the meeting place to this day. It has maintained its mission of serving as a place for spouses of Members of both the House and Senate to develop non-partisan friendships. In addition, its membership has been broadened to include both female and male spouses as more women have been elected to Congress over the last century.

The club also counts among its members spouses of Supreme Court Justices and the President's Cabinet, as well as former First Ladies. It has been a center for service since its founding—providing aid to our Nation's soldiers; supporting local police and fire departments; and hosting receptions for senior citizens, the disadvantaged, and spouses of Ambassadors. It is entirely self-supporting from membership dues and the sale of the Congressional club cookbook, which includes recipes and signatures of Members of Congress, First Ladies, Ambassadors, and members of the club.

It is interesting to note that 100 years ago this May, it took the charm of a determined wife of a Member of Congress to get the Federal legislation incorporating the club approved by the House of Representatives. The House Minority Leader, John Sharp Williams of Mississippi, had opposed the bill and was using parliamentary procedures to defeat the bill.

History has it that when Mrs. Williams, who favored the club, heard about her husband's opposition, she invited him to lunch the day the measure was on the House floor. After lunch, he withdrew his opposition and his request for a recorded vote, saying that "it is the opinion of the gentleman from Mississippi that . . . there will not be a roll call because it would cause a great deal of unhappiness in Washington."

As the proud spouse of the current president of the Congressional Club, Vivian Creighton Bishop, it likely would cause a great deal of happiness in my household and the households of many other Members if this resolution is voted upon in the near future. I am pleased to be the sponsor of this resolution commemorating the club on reaching this important milestone and I urge its quick adoption.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2008

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, on March 5, 2008, I was unavoidably detained and was not able to record my votes for Rollcall No. 91–102.

Had I been present I would have voted:

Rollcall No. 91—“Yes”—To redesignate Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historic Park in the State of Ohio as “Wright Brothers-Dunbar National Historical Park”, and for other purposes.

Rollcall No. 92—“Yes”—Supporting Taiwan’s fourth direct and democratic presidential elections in March 2008.

Rollcall No. 93—“Yes”—Condemning the ongoing Palestinian rocket attacks on Israeli civilians, and for other purposes.

Rollcall No. 94—“Yes”—Providing for the consideration of H.R. 1014, Paul Wellstone Mental Health and Addiction Equity Act.

Rollcall No. 95—“Yes”—Providing for the consideration of H.R. 1014, Paul Wellstone Mental Health and Addiction Equity Act.

Rollcall No. 96—“Yes”—Providing for the consideration of H.R. 1014, Paul Wellstone Mental Health and Addiction Equity Act.

Rollcall No. 97—“Yes”—Cyndi Taylor Krier Post Office Building.

Rollcall No. 98—“Yes”—Expressing the sense of Congress that Earl Lloyd should be recognized and honored for breaking the color barrier and becoming the first African-American to play in the National Basketball Association League 58 years ago.

Rollcall No. 99—“Yes”—Paul Wellstone Mental Health and Addiction Equity Act.

Rollcall No. 100—“No”—Paul Wellstone Mental Health and Addiction Equity Act.

Rollcall No. 101—“Yes”—Paul Wellstone Mental Health and Addiction Equity Act.

Rollcall No. 102—“Yes”—Sgt. Michael M. Kashkoush Post Office Building.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2008

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, on March 5, I was delayed in making my way to the floor of the House for rollcall 99. I missed the vote, but had I been present I would have voted nay.

A BILL TO INCREASE THE MAXIMUM AGE TO QUALIFY FOR COVERAGE AS A CHILD UNDER THE HEALTH BENEFITS PROGRAM FOR FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2008

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, young adults are the fastest-growing age

group among the uninsured. Almost 400,000 young adults (younger than 24) who graduate from college will be cut off from health insurance under their parents’ plan or from their universities. A report by the Commonwealth Fund, a private foundation that aims to promote a high performing health care system in the United States, showed that 2 out of 5 college graduates are uninsured after they leave school.

Nationwide, 30.6 percent of 18- to 24-year olds are uninsured, making them the largest population without coverage in 2005. The numbers reflect an increase from 2004, when an estimated 13.7 million people age 19 to 29 had no coverage. As recently as 2000, just 2.5 million were without health insurance, according to a 2005 survey by the Commonwealth Fund.

Young adults enrolled as dependents in Federal Employee Health Benefits Plan (FEHBP) and their parents, will not have to worry about being uninsured if this legislation is enacted. This bill would raise the age young adults would qualify for health insurance under FEHBP from 22 to 25 years of age.

The federal government should not be contributing to the number of Americans that are uninsured. This bill would ensure that at least the dependents of federal employees between the age of 22 and 25 get the health care and coverage they need.

HONORING DR. GARLAND FORBES

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2008

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Garland Forbes. A graduate of the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, with an Endodontic Certificate from the Graduate Dental School of Ohio State University, Dr. Forbes has been providing quality care and comfort to patients in Pasco, Pinellas, and Hernando Counties with exemplary endodontic services.

However, his devotion to his community does not rest solely within his trained profession. He also organizes and executes his annual Plant 1,000 Trees Before You Die observance. In December of 2005, Dr. Forbes, with the help of Big Brothers and Big Sisters of America, distributed 1,000 trees to area dental office personnel and their staff.

In 2006, the event doubled with the distribution of 2,000 as Dr. Forbes partnered with the United Way and a local bank. The event reached further into the community as the public was invited to pick up trees to plant.

In 2007, Dr. Forbes again decided to increase the number of trees by one hundred percent, distributing 4,000 trees. Because of Dr. Forbes’s efforts, more than 7,000 trees have now been planted in the Florida counties of Pasco, Pinellas, Hillsborough, Hernando, and Polk.

Madam Speaker, Dr. Forbes is a terrific example of how just one person can make a difference both locally and environmentally. His service to the community, through his endodontic services as well as his Plant 1,000 Trees Before You Die initiative truly serve as an inspiration to others. I am delighted today to acknowledge such an influential member of

my community, and I hope that the example by which Dr. Forbes leads will serve as an incentive for others to contemplate how they too can serve their communities.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF INDIAN ROCKS HONORS ITS PASTOR CHARLIE MARTIN

HON. C. W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2008

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise in celebration of one of the most dynamic and inspirational pastors my community in Pinellas County has known. Reverend Charles William Martin retires Sunday after 37 years as Pastor of the First Baptist Church of Indian Rocks in Largo, Florida.

This is my hometown church and Charlie has been my pastor, but more importantly he has been my friend. Charlie was born and raised in Arkansas and first felt the call to preach as a young man in 1960. He pursued this calling by completing work on his Bachelors of Arts in Religious Education at Trinity College in 1967 and his Doctor of Divinity at Trinity in 1986.

He found his true calling in 1971 when he accepted the charge to serve as pastor of the First Baptist Church of Indian Rocks, where he and his wife Stephanie have invested their heart and soul ever since. This is an amazing church of 5,300 members and a full-time staff of 18 pastors and associate staff. Under Charlie’s leadership, First Baptist spreads the word of God in all forms, from its stirring music, emphasis on the scriptures, and his from the heart sermons. They have a wide variety of ministries, in all parts of our State, our Nation, and the world.

One of those ministries was the establishment of the Indian Rocks Christian School in 1984 with an enrollment of 42 students. Today more than 1,000 students attend the school which has earned a reputation of one of our county’s best.

Perhaps the greatest testimony to Charlie’s service to his congregation is the pride his church members have in being a part of his church community. There isn’t a day that goes by that I don’t see someone back home, here in our Nation’s Capital, or even around the world that comes up to me and says, “I’m a member of Charlie’s church.”

First Baptist will hold an honor and praise weekend this Friday through Sunday to celebrate the service of Pastor Martin and Stephanie. All of us who know Charlie are confident that this will not be the beginning of his retirement as he will always remain active in the church and his ministries. In fact, he and Stephanie are moving up to North Carolina where they are starting a church there.

Madam Speaker, Pastor Charlie Martin is a friend to many and has shared God’s word and God’s grace with countless thousands of people throughout his life. He is a friend of Members of this House as he was our guest chaplain in April 1999. And he is a special friend of this Congressman and of my wife Beverly and our family. He has been there for us many, many times—in times of celebration and in times of grief. Please join me in saying thank you to Charlie and Stephanie and in offering our best wishes as they open a new

chapter in their lives. It is my hope that God gives them many joyous years together with each other and with their five children and nine grandchildren.

God bless you and keep you, Charlie Martin.

TRIBUTE TO THE SAN ANTONIO CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN RED CROSS

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2008

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Madam Speaker, today I am greatly honored to recognize the San Antonio Area Chapter of the American Red Cross. As you launch your 2008 Heroes for the American Red Cross Campaign, I wish to commend the many important contributions made to our communities by this admirable organization over the years.

Every day, they serve over 2.4 million people living in the 23 counties across South Central Texas with invaluable support for natural disaster and preventative services. Since the chapter's founding in 1916, your volunteers have been at the forefront when emergencies and disasters have impacted our communities. Across the nation, the American Red Cross's noble work has come to represent hope and relief for people when unpredictable and difficult problems arise.

The San Antonio Area Chapter of the Red Cross has provided disaster relief services to 491 families, or more than 1,600 people. As many in my community can recall, the Red Cross helped over 1,100 people, supplied shelter for over 800 persons, and provided much needed financial help to many families in Eagle Pass who were devastated by the 2007 tornado. 465 of their volunteers worked selflessly in response to this disaster, and I am truly grateful for their service.

In addition to responding to emergencies such as these, they help members of the community prepare themselves for these types of disasters. In teaching 21,405 people in our region how to save lives with first aid and offering CPR courses, they empower the entire area. Moreover, they help our members of the armed services and their families by operating a 24-hour emergency call center. They also serve as a valuable connection to other social service agencies as is evident by the 5,300 referrals made last year which enabled people to get more help when they needed it most.

As one of the largest chapters in the country with roughly 1,500 volunteers and 55 paid staff members, their dedication and devotion to the Red Cross' humanitarian mission has left an indelible mark in South Central Texas. I am very proud and deeply honored to represent this district knowing such people are working unselfishly to make our cities and towns stronger and safer. I would like to thank them for all they have given to the region, and I wish them continued success in their mission.

HONORING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF GUNDLACH BUNDSCHU WINERY OF SONOMA COUNTY, CA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2008

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Gundlach Bundschu Winery in Sonoma County, California on the 150th anniversary of its founding.

In the 150 years since the winery was established on March 12, 1858, California's wine industry has become the fourth largest wine producing region in the world and Gundlach Bundschu has played an integral part in that growth. It is the oldest family owned winery in the state and the sixth generation of the founding family continues to live, farm and pioneer the production of fine wines on the same vineyard land that was originally purchased by their great-grandfather's grandfather.

Each generation has weathered unique challenges that defined them and the California wine industry and has met those challenges with ingenuity and resolve. Company offices and wine vaults were destroyed in the 1906 San Francisco earthquake, severely curtailing what had been a thriving business. The family was able to continue with limited production until the passage of prohibition in 1919, which forced the winery to close. After the repeal of prohibition, Gundlach Bundschu wine grapes were once again in demand, but the family winery wasn't restored until 1973. Today, the modern winery is dedicated to sustainable farming at its best.

The family has always been an integral part of the community and a leader in civic affairs. They were instrumental in initiating the first Vintage Festival in Sonoma, a celebration of the annual grape harvest that has been held continuously for 110 years. Now, in celebration of its Sesquicentennial, Gundlach Bundschu has commissioned a theatrical presentation that will tour nine cities throughout the United States in the spring and fall of 2008.

Madam Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we acknowledge Gundlach Bundschu on the 150th anniversary of its founding. As California's oldest family owned winery, Gundlach Bundschu is truly a testament to the enduring quality and character of California wine, and to its place among the nation's finest wineries.

HONORING DAVID L. HYMAN OF PHILADELPHIA

HON. CHAKA FATTAH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2008

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to salute today a great and valued citizen of Philadelphia who is receiving one of our city's truly prestigious awards for members of the legal community.

David L. Hyman, Esquire earns his living as Managing Partner and partner for Business Development at Kleinbard, Bell & Brecker LLP, one of Philadelphia's outstanding law firms, where he leads the government relations practice. But that barely begins to describe the depth and breadth of his commitment to the city he loves.

David is a soft-spoken man with a ready and infectious smile who travels the fast lane of Philadelphia governance, religious, philanthropic and civic life, skilled at winning confidence and making things happen.

I have known David for more than two decades, since our days of pickup basketball at the Bright Hope Baptist Church in North Philadelphia. We have spent our declining jump-shot years on many of the same critical issues and causes, improving the lives and life chances for our young and underserved citizens.

David settled in Philadelphia to launch a legal career after graduating cum laude from the University of Pennsylvania in 1975 and from the University of California, Davis, School of Law in 1980. He served as Law Clerk for United States District Court Judge Peter B. Scuderi.

David is former Co-President and current advisory board member of Operation Understanding, a unique Philadelphia program that brings together African American and Jewish teenagers and trains them for cooperative leadership roles. He has been a bridge builder and passionate advocate for these two communities. —

More recently, David L. Hyman served for eight years as Chairman of the Philadelphia Facilities Management Corporation, which oversees the Philadelphia Gas Works. He continues as Vice Chairman of the Greater Philadelphia Tourism Marketing Corporation, which spreads the good word about our city, and serves on the board of the Building Industry Association of Philadelphia among numerous other private, public and nonprofit appointments. He has also been a champion for development, community improvement and empowerment in Mount Airy and across Northwest Philadelphia, along with his wife Farah Jimenez, the executive director of Mount Airy USA.

David L. Hyman has served the American Jewish Committee and its Philadelphia/Southern New Jersey chapter as President and Board Chairman. Now the organization he has led so ably and selflessly is returning the favor.

On Wednesday March 12, 2008, at the Rittenhouse Hotel, David L. Hyman, Esquire will receive the 2008 Judge Learned Hand Award of the AJC.

The significance of this award can be judged by the man for whom it is named. Judge Learned Hand, according to the AJC citation, served as senior judge of the United States Circuit Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit from 1924 to 1951. Widely admired as a dean of American jurists, Judge Hand was renowned for his extensive range of decisions which he rendered in more than two thousand cases.

David L. Hyman fittingly receives an award presented each year to a member of the Philadelphia legal community whose social conscience and devotion to philanthropy mirrors the century-old values of the American Jewish Committee. He is the 28th recipient of Philadelphia's Learned Hand Award. —The American Jewish Committee proudly proclaimed that, for more than 100 years, it has "worked to safeguard minorities, fight terrorism, anti-Semitism, hatred and bigotry, pursue social justice, advance human dignity,

support Israel's right to exist in peace and security, defend religious freedom and provide humanitarian relief to those in need."

By choosing David L. Hyman for this recognition, the American Jewish Committee brings honor to the award itself and to the legal profession of Philadelphia. I extend my own best wishes to this richly deserving super citizen in our midst, and I say: Mazel Tov, Counselor.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JEFF FORTENBERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2008

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, March 4, 2008, I was inadvertently detained and thus I missed rollcall votes Nos. 88, 89, and 90. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on all three votes.

IN HONOR OF ANDY WILLNER

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2008

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Andy Willner's lasting contributions and dedication while serving as NY/NJ Baykeeper Executive Director. Mr. Willner's commitment to safeguarding the Hudson-Raritan Estuary helped eliminate pollution and restored efficiency in the estuary's streams and shores for almost twenty years.

In March Mr. Willner will retire after eighteen years of service as Baykeeper. On March 7, 2008, at the Liberty House Restaurant in Liberty State Park, the Baykeeper's Founders Fete will honor Mr. Willner for all he has done in keeping New Jersey and New York waterways safe.

Mr. Willner began his distinguished career as a sailing vessel captain, city planner and boat builder. He has always concerned himself with environmental issues and has thus participated in numerous conferences concerning shore protection and keeping our harbors safe.

Later, he served as member on the Dredge Materials Management Work Group and the Hackensack Meadowlands Special Area Management Plan among the various environmental organizations he was a part of. Mr. Willner has received many renowned awards for his work including the "Hero of the Harbor" Award as well as the Stewardship Recognition Award from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

Mr. Willner began his work with the NY/NJ Baykeeper in 1989 and has served as Executive Director for eighteen years. His work with the Baykeeper included bringing attention to coastal issues, protecting our shores, and eliminating pollution in our waters. With the momentous efforts of Andy Willner, the Hudson-Raritan Estuary has been kept safe and protected for nearly twenty years.

Madam Speaker, I sincerely hope that my colleagues will join me in celebrating the work of Andy Willner. His continual efforts to keep our waters protected will continue to benefit and inspire the people of New Jersey.

PASS FREE TRADE AGREEMENTS

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2008

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, While I am pleased that the House has once again renewed Andean trade preferences, I think this bill highlights more than ever the need to pass pending free trade agreements that have languished for far too long without consideration. We must continue to open markets to encourage American companies to innovate and compete with their global counterparts. This grows our economy and creates jobs.

I am proud to represent a district in Washington State that integrates our nation's leading technology innovators with a vibrant and highly productive small business community. Opening new global markets gives them incentives to improve their products, produce more goods, and employ more American workers. I have seen these job-creating effects first-hand, with trade accounting for 1 out of every 3 jobs in my state.

In this time of economic uncertainty, Congress must act now to advance America's broader trade agenda. We cannot allow important agreements with Panama and Korea to remain on hold while Europe and China continue to knock down trade barriers and improve their competitiveness in the global economy. And surely recent provocative comments by the leader of Venezuela helps put into perspective the urgent need to use the power of trade in Colombia. I urge my colleagues in the Majority to stop the delays and pass these free trade agreements. Let's advance the trade measures needed to grow our economy, create jobs, and not only improve our relations with global partners, but also to foster global peace and freedom.

CONGRATULATING THE INDIANA GIRLS BASKETBALL STATE RUNNERS-UP OF WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL IN SOUTH BEND, INDIANA

HON. JOE DONNELLY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2008

Mr. DONNELLY. Madam Speaker, today I congratulate the South Bend Washington High School Lady Panthers, the 2008 State Runners-Up in the 4A girls basketball division.

In their quest towards this title, the Lady Panthers compiled a 23-2 record on the road to their third consecutive trip to Consecro Fieldhouse in Indianapolis. Unfortunately the team faced a disappointing loss there, but they can still be proud of their reign as South Bend's premier girls basketball team.

The South Bend Washington team consisted of 12 outstanding young women: Seniors Emily Phillips, Vanessa Wiley, Meagan Phillips and Shalana Murray; Juniors Skylar Diggins, Karis Phillips, Alandrea Pfeifer-Nailon, Takoia Larry and Rakeesha Lane; Sophomore Avante Newsome-Gunn; Freshmen Terran Scott and Alexis Macon.

Head Coach Marilyn Coddens was assisted by Don Coddens. Officials such as Mayor

Steve Luecke, School Superintendent Robert Zimmerman, Washington Principal George McCullough Jr., and Athletic Director Patrick Mackowiak lent support and encouragement throughout the season.

The city of South Bend and the surrounding area rallied behind the Lady Panthers. In what has become a winter tradition on the West Side of South Bend, thousands of fans gathered to send off the team and to travel south for the big game where they made the event at the Fieldhouse feel like a home game.

Again, I offer my congratulations to the members of the girls basketball team of South Bend Washington High School on their Semi-State title and their fearless, spirited play at the Championship game.

HONORING MAXINE HALPERN

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2008

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, Maxine Halpern has involved herself deeply in Jewish affairs internationally, nationally, and locally. She is a born and bred Bronxite who graduated from City University of New York.

Maxine is the daughter of two World War II veterans, the U.S. Army and the Royal Air Force. Traveling to England to visit family began at an early age and touring foreign lands became a lifelong interest, having traveled to over 40 countries on 5 continents as well as throughout much of the United States.

She is a supporter of over 50 philanthropies both secular and religious. Maxine has been awarded the Nahum Goldman Leadership Award, and is a member of the Simon Wiesenthal Center's international Leadership Council, among other equally prestigious organizations.

She is also active in local Jewish communal life as a member of the board of trustees, as vice president, and as president of the Riverdale Temple. She was appointed founding president of the Congregation Shaarei Shalom. For all of her outstanding contributions to community life, the Riverdale Jewish Community Council presents her with the Michael Schreck Community Builder Award.

RECOGNIZING MICHAEL K. (MICK-EY) ENGLETT FOR EXCELLENCE

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2008

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the U.S. Congress, it is an honor for me to rise today in recognition of Michael K. Englett and his induction into the Florida Community College Activities Association Women's Basketball Hall of Fame.

For the past 18 years, Okaloosa County and the surrounding community have benefited significantly from the service of Mr. Michael Englett, dean of student services and director of athletics for Okaloosa-Walton College. Mr. Englett's vision of a comprehensive athletic program transformed Okaloosa-Walton College and propelled the school beyond the

standard of excellence. Under Mr. Englett's direction, sports complexes were constructed, a strength center was erected, the gymnasium was renovated, and intercollegiate athletics were reinstated, after nearly 12 years of their absence.

In addition to his outstanding modifications to student life, Mr. Englett developed the Raider Club to supplement institutional scholarship assistance. In just 13 years, the Raider Club has raised over \$1 million in fundraising and has substantially increased scholarship aid.

During his tenure at Okaloosa-Walton, Mr. Englett expanded college athletics to encompass much more than sports. He devised a plan for gender equity, increased graduation rates, and because of his efforts, saw his team win 14 Panhandle Conference Championships. His fusion of athletics into college life elevated the school from academic excellence to overall distinction.

Northwest Florida is greatly indebted to Mr. Englett's foresight and ingenuity. His immense dedication to the community has led to an increased enrollment at Okaloosa-Walton College and a greater academic environment.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the U.S. Congress, I am proud to recognize Michael K. Englett on his outstanding achievements and exemplary service in Okaloosa County and northwest Florida.

TRIBUTE TO LANCE CORPORAL
GENTIAN MARKU

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2008

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Madam Speaker, I want to pay tribute to a hero, LCpl Gentian Marku of Warren, Michigan. Today, I ask that the House of Representatives honor and remember this exceptional young man who died serving his country.

Gentian Marko immigrated with his family to the United States in 1997, at the height of civil unrest in Albania. Once arriving in the United States, Gentian left behind his troubled childhood, and became the intelligent, diligent, and responsible young man that we know. After graduating from Warren Woods Tower High School in 2001, Gentian had hoped to become a police officer. At the recommendation of his father, a former first captain in the Albanian military police, Gentian joined the Marine Corps to help his chances at acceptance to the police academy.

After enlisting in the Marines in August 2002, Gentian was assigned to the First Battalion, Marine Expeditionary Force. In 2003, Gentian returned to Albania during a 2-week exercise with the Marines and served as a translator during meetings with the Albanian military and civilian leaders. Gentian had said it was one of his proudest moments being able to do something for both of his countries.

On November 25, 2004, Lance Corporal Marku was killed in action in Fallujah, Iraq, in the Anbar province. At the time, the Marines had awarded him medals for good conduct, humanitarian service, combat action and other activities.

My thoughts, prayers, and deepest gratitude for their sacrifice go to Gentian's family. There are no words that can relieve their pain and I

can only offer to convey my deep respect and highest appreciation.

Madam Speaker, Lance Corporal Marku gave the ultimate sacrifice not only for the freedom and security of his family and our country, but for the people of Iraq. I wish to remember his bravery, conviction, and selflessness as he is honored today.

CONGRATULATING WILLIAM P.
BURKE, THE RECIPIENT OF THE
GREATER PITTSSTON FRIENDLY
SONS OF ST. PATRICK 2008
ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2008

Mr. KANJORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to William P. Burke, of West Pittston, Pennsylvania, who is the 2008 recipient of the Greater Pittston Friendly Sons of St. Patrick Achievement Award.

He graduated in 1956 from St. John's High School in Pittston and later from the Wilkes-Barre Business College where he majored in finance and accounting.

Mr. Burke served in the U.S. Army, First Armored Division, Fort Hood, Texas, from 1961 to 1963. Mr. Burke has been an active member of the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick for 52 years.

President Harry S. Truman was guest speaker at the first Friendly Sons banquet. Mr. Burke attended. Mr. Burke is a sustaining member and past president of the organization. He was the recipient of the Man of the Year Award in 1991.

Mr. Burke is a charter member of the Wolfe Tone Luzerne County Division I Ancient Order of Hibernians and is presently chairman of the standing committee. He is a member of the President John F. Kennedy Council 372 Knights of Columbus and its Fourth Degree, serving as comptroller for the past 40 years. He is also a member of the Knights of Columbus Choir.

Mr. Burke is a member of St. Casimir, St. John the Baptist, St. John the Evangelist, and St. Joseph Parish, Pittston, where he serves as an usher and a senior altar server. He is also a member of the parish finance council.

Mr. Burke has been a baseball coach in the West Pittston Little League and a basketball coach for the Wyoming Area Catholic High School.

He has served as chairman of the West Pittston Democrat Organization and he is a former member of the Luzerne County Democrat Executive Committee. He also served as parade chairman for the Pittston Tomato Festival.

Mr. Burke is a member of Fox Hill Country Club and the West Side Social Club, Avoca. After 37 years of employment with Pope and Talbot Company, he served for several years as director of purchasing for Luzerne County, a post from which he retired in 2006.

Mr. Burke and his wife, Nora, are the parents of three children. They also have nine grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mr. Burke on the occasion of this

special honor. Mr. Burke's dedication to family and community has improved the quality of life and highlighted the value of service above self.

HONOR THE LIFE OF LIEUTENANT
RAFAEL VAZQUEZ

HON. RON KLEIN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2008

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Lieutenant Rafael Vazquez of the Palm Beach Fire Rescue. Known as "Ray," this brave firefighter died tragically on Monday, March 3, as a result of a random shooting in West Palm Beach, Florida.

The details of Lt. Vazquez's death are heartbreaking. The 42-year-old lieutenant had just finished eating lunch with his wife, Michele, and their 4-year-old son when, ever the caring parent, Ray decided to go back inside the restaurant to exchange a toy that had come with his child's meal.

It was a fateful decision. Once inside, Ray was met by a deranged gunman, Alburn Edward Blake, who opened fire. When it was over, Lt. Vazquez lay dead and four others were injured. Then Alburn Edward Blake turned the gun on himself.

Ray's life was one of tireless dedication toward protecting his fellow citizens. Formerly a firefighter with the town of Lake Park, he was hired by the Palm Beach Fire Rescue in February 2001 and was promoted to Rescue Lieutenant in January 2007. He had been assigned to Rescue 28 in Royal Palm Beach, Florida. Lt. Vazquez is survived by his wife Michele, an officer with Palm Springs Public Safety, and their 5 children, ages 4–21.

In closing, I think the best way to honor Ray's life in Congress is to let his wife Michele speak for him in her own words. She says, "I don't understand why these horrible things happen. But no horrible thing can take away our memories. My husband was an outstanding father and the most giving husband. He was my best friend; I'm going to miss him so much."

A dedicated firefighter, father, and human being, Lt. Ray Vazquez deserves all the honor and praise this distinguished body can bestow upon him.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FEDERAL
LAND ASSISTANCE, MANAGE-
MENT, AND ENHANCEMENT ACT
(FLAME ACT)

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2008

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing the Federal Land Assistance, Management and Enhancement Act, or the FLAME Act.

Last year, our country saw the devastating effects of catastrophic, emergency wildland fires in southern California. For the past several years, we have witnessed tragic fire seasons that have put American lives and our

treasured public lands in harm's way. Fire seasons are getting longer and more intense due to climate change, drought, and other factors.

As a result, Federal fire suppression spending has increased substantially over the past 10 years and projections appear to indicate that this trend will continue into the foreseeable future.

The dramatic rise in these costs is eroding other nonfire programs and impacting the core mission of the Federal land management agencies. In the case of the Forest Service, for example, wildland fire suppression activities now account for approximately 48 percent of its budget. This year's alarming and irresponsible budget request from the Forest Service, which cuts over half of the funding for State and private forestry, continues the sad trend: our Forest Service is turning into the fire service.

Furthermore, both the Forest Service and the Department of the Interior have had to "Rob Peter to Pay Paul" by borrowing funds from other agency accounts to cover the escalating costs of wildland fire suppression. Last year, for example, the Forest Service spent \$741 million more than was budgeted for wildland fire suppression, and the Department of the Interior spent \$249 million more than was budgeted for wildland fire suppression. And in the case of the Forest Service, the costs of catastrophic, emergency wildland fire suppression activities account for the vast majority of suppression expenditures, as 2 percent of fires account for 80 percent of costs.

Madam Speaker, it is clear that something needs to be done to resolve this problem. That is why today I am introducing the FLAME Act.

The FLAME Act establishes a Federal FLAME fund for catastrophic, emergency wildland fire suppression activities. The FLAME fund would be separate from the budgeted and appropriated agency wildland fire suppression funding and is to be used only for catastrophic, emergency wildland fires. The Federal land management agencies will continue to fund anticipated and predicted wildland fire suppression activities within their annual budgets.

The Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior may declare catastrophic, emergency wildland fire suppression activities eligible for the FLAME fund by issuing a Suppression Emergency Declaration. The declaration will evaluate the size, severity, and threat of the individual wildland fire incident.

The FLAME Act continues our stewardship of all lands by making funds available for catastrophic, emergency wildland fire suppression activities on State and private land consistent with existing agreements. Funds will also be available for catastrophic, emergency wildland fire suppression on Indian lands.

The FLAME Act also requires that the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior submit a long-overdue report to Congress containing a cohesive wildland fire management strategy. This report will improve efforts to prevent fires on our public lands. This report will address critical fire prevention issues such as identifying a system for assessing the level of fire risk to communities, and indentifying a system to ensure that the highest priority fuels reduction projects are being funded first.

Madam Speaker, catastrophic, emergency wildland fires can cause tragic loss of life. and

property. I am proud to be joined in introducing the FLAME Act today by my colleagues Mr. NORM DICKS and Mr. RAÚL GRIJALVA. I look forward to working together to ensure that our country has the necessary tools to combat catastrophic, emergency wildland fires.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2008

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, on March 4, 2008, I was unavoidably detained and was not able to record my votes for rollcall Nos. 88–90.

Had I been present I would have voted:

Rollcall No. 88—"yes"—To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to lease certain lands in Virgin Islands National Park, and for other purposes.

Rollcall No. 89—"yes"—To direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey the Alta-Hualapai Site to the city of Las Vegas, Nevada, for the development of a cancer treatment facility.

Rollcall No. 90—"yes"—To provide for the release of certain land from the Sunrise Mountain Instant Study Area in the State of Nevada and to grant a right-of-way across the released land for the construction and maintenance of a flood control project.

IN RECOGNITION OF MRS. CORA SAXON

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2008

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I would like to request the House's attention today to pay recognition to a special day in the life of a constituent of mine, Mrs. Cora Saxon.

On March 17th, Mrs. Saxon will celebrate her 100th birthday. To help commemorate this special occasion, her friends and family are surprising her with a luncheon in Anniston, Alabama on March 8th.

Mrs. Saxon was born in Clay County, Alabama and was the first daughter born into the family. She was named after each of her aunts, taking her full birth name as Susie Cora Cordia Betty Jo Marie. She later married Henry Elbert Saxon with whom she had one daughter, two grandchildren, and four great grandchildren. She is expecting great great grandchildren to be born in April.

In 1941, Mrs. Saxon and her husband bought a farm on which she later began making candies for a living. Over the years, her small enterprise grew and thrived and was later named Saxon Distributors and Candy Kitchen, Inc. From their humble beginnings, her company grew to 14 stores across Alabama, Georgia and Tennessee.

I would like to congratulate Mrs. Saxon on reaching this important milestone in her life. I wish her a happy birthday and the best in the future, and of course, thank her for so many sweet memories.

ON THE LOSS OF EVE CARSON

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2008

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I received news today of a horrific event that has shocked and deeply saddened the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill community, which I represent.

The Chapel Hill police informed us today that UNC's student body president, Eve Carson, had been shot to death a short distance from campus yesterday morning. This senseless act of violence ended the life of a promising young leader and left a community of family, friends and admirers mourning in disbelief. The police department is sparing no effort to find the people who committed this heinous act and to bring them to justice.

Eve was originally from Athens, Georgia. Since the time she arrived in Chapel Hill in 2004, she excelled in her college career. In addition to being elected student body president, she was a Morehead Scholar, a North Carolina Fellow, a member of the Phi Beta Kappa honor society, and was double majoring in political science and biology.

Eve put a high priority on service to her community. During her college career, she mentored middle school students, taught science to elementary school students, and served as a running coach for young girls.

To Eve, service knew no borders. She spent her summers volunteering in Ecuador, Egypt and Ghana, and she co-chaired a student organization devoted to alleviating hunger around the world.

I recently met Eve at a reception hosted by UNC's Chancellor James Moeser. My wife and I were impressed with this lovely young woman who—it was clear to see—had so much potential to make a difference in the world. She expressed to me her interest in working abroad after graduating in May, perhaps in Africa. At the time of her death, my office was working to help her find a way to realize her goal.

Unfortunately, Eve will not be able to realize that goal.

Our community is deeply sad at the loss of this special person. We also regret the loss for all those who would have been touched by Eve's big heart in the future. This is truly a loss for us all.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Eve's family and friends and with the UNC community as they gather on Polk Place this afternoon to remember Eve and to grieve together.

Madam Speaker, I ask permission to include a brief biography of Eve Marie Carson at this point in the RECORD.

BIOGRAPHY OF EVE MARIE CARSON

Eve Marie Carson, 22, was elected student body president at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in February 2007. Her term would have ended in April.

A native of Athens, GA, Eve was born Nov. 19, 1985. She came to Carolina in the fall of 2004 as the recipient of a prestigious Morehead Scholarship. A member of the Phi Beta Kappa honor society, she was a pre-medicine student majoring in both political science and biology. As a North Carolina Fellow, she was part of a four-year leadership development program for undergraduates.

While at UNC-Chapel Hill, she was extremely active in both leadership and service

roles. As student body president, she was also a member of the UNC-Chapel Hill Board of Trustees. She served as co-president of the Honors Program Student Executive Board and as a member of the Committee on Scholarships Awards and Student Aid; the Academic Advising Program, and the Chancellor's committee for University Teaching Awards.

Teaching and working with children were key service interests for Eve. In 2006, she taught science at Frank Porter Graham Elementary School in Chapel Hill as part of UNC's INSPIRE program, whose mission is to encourage young students to pursue science as an interest. In her junior year,

Carson was a tutor at Githens Middle School in Durham. She was also an assistant coach in the Girls on the Run of the Triangle, a character development program for girls ages 8–12 that uses running to teach values and a sense of self.

Eve's service extended well beyond the Triangle, however. In the spring of her sophomore year, she participated in a study abroad in Havana, Cuba, and she spent her summers working and volunteering in Ecuador, Egypt and Ghana as part of the Morehead Summer Enrichment program. "I credit my prior experiences, especially my past two Morehead summers, for preparing me to get along with pretty much whatever comes my

way," she wrote in an e-mail posted on the Morehead Web site. On campus, she became involved in Nourish International, an organization started by UNC students in 2002 for hunger relief. Eve served as freshman volunteer coordinator (2004) and co-chair (2005) for the group.

The daughter of Bob Carson and Teresa Bethke, Eve was also the student body president of her high school, Clarke Central, in Athens, GA. When she ran for the same office at Carolina, she was elected with 55 percent of the vote in a runoff with a bigger turnout than the previous year's general election.