

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

SBIR/STTR REAUTHORIZATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 2008

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5819) to amend the Small Business Act to improve the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program and the Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) program, and for other purposes:

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Chairman, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 5819, the Small Business Innovation Research & Technology Transfer Reauthorization Act. This legislation squanders a unique opportunity to provide stimulus to our country's small business community.

Congress created the Small Business Innovation Research program after acknowledging that small businesses could not compete with their larger, better-funded corporate competitors in the federal grantmaking arena. With the enactment of the SBIR program, Congress made the clear statement that the innovation and ingenuity of the entrepreneurial spirit of small businesses must be encouraged.

Title II of H.R. 5819 would relax the venture capital investment standards for SBIR grant eligibility, allowing venture capital firms and venture capital subsidiaries of large businesses to increase their ownership in and financial stake of small businesses applying for these grants. This would cause the research priorities of these small businesses to be driven by the short-term profit motives of the venture capital firms. Moreover, these changes would effectively kill the spirit of the SBIR and STTR grant programs, granting access to corporations and other entities whose disproportionate competitive advantages these programs were designed to mitigate.

The small business community in this country deserves better. For decades, small business has been the spark that lights our economy and the energy that fuels it. Let us not undermine their contributions to our economy by weakening the very programs that drive their success.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO GENE
SEGERBLOM

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2008

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to rise today to honor Gene Segerblom by entering her name in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, the official record of the proceedings and debates of the United States Congress since 1873. I rise today to honor Gene Segerblom, who recently celebrated her 90th birthday on March 15th, 2008.

Gene was born in 1918 in Elko County, Nevada. Gene's grandparents had migrated to Nevada as pioneers. She graduated from high school in Winnemucca, and later graduated from the University of Nevada, Reno. She moved to Southern Nevada in 1940 to teach at Boulder City High School. A year later, she resigned from her position at the high school and married Cliff Segerblom, a known judge and talented artist.

Upon the return from their honeymoon, the newlyweds moved to the Republic of Panama, where Cliff was offered a job to be the photographer on the third set of canal locks. They lived there for 6 years, and returned to Boulder City in 1947 where Gene focused on raising her children Robin, Richard, and Tic. After 21 years, she returned to teaching government classes at Boulder City High School. She later embarked on her political career as a city council woman for Boulder City. She worked tirelessly with the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce as well as the Boulder City Chamber of Commerce to promote Nevada and Boulder City.

In 1991, Gene ran for the Nevada State Assembly and won. She served four terms in the State Assembly and had been the first representative to serve Boulder City in 22 years. Throughout her term, Gene focused on the preservation and restoration of many historical sites, and focused on the development of parks and museums. Gene has dedicated much of her efforts to support the community of Boulder City. She serves on numerous committees including the Boulder City Museum and Historical Association where she serves as the Founding Director and Vice President, the Boulder City Community Club, and the Nevada State Council of Senior Citizens President. Gene was also a champion of the Boulder City Hotel.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Gene Segerblom on this noteworthy occasion for her exemplary life and important contributions to her community. I applaud the way in which she has served Boulder City and congratulate her on this milestone. I wish her a happy birthday and the best of luck in her future endeavors.

REMARKS ON THE ILWU MAY DAY
PROTEST OF THE IRAQ WAR

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2008

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, today many of the 40,000 members of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union—the ILWU—are expressing their outrage at the Administration's war policies and their effect on working families by staging a walkout at ports and other facilities along the West Coast.

I stand in solidarity with these workers whom, like the truckers who mobilized in Washington earlier this week and many other

working and middle-class Americans, have simply had enough of the diet of mistruths and deceptions that our President continues to feed the American public.

Madam Speaker, Americans are saying enough is enough. We spend billions every week in Iraq while the government there banks its oil profits and refuses to pitch in to help fund the necessary projects required to get the Iraqi people back on their feet.

Madam Speaker, my tenure in this house is short, but my interest in the institution has been a life-long pursuit. May I say that you have done more to bring peace to our nation and get our troops back home to their families than any other war-time Speaker in our history. I am proud to stand by you and the ILWU as we all do our part to bring an end to this war.

It is time to bring our men and women home to their families and communities. It is time for all Americans, like the Longshore and Warehouse workers, to stand up and tell the President "Enough is enough. End this war before your term is over. Eight tragic years for our country is bad enough, don't saddle future generations with a prolonged commitment in a country we never should have gone into in the first place."

CELEBRATING THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH BAYTOWN, TEXAS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2008

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, it is with great honor that I congratulate the members of Memorial Baptist Church in Baytown, Texas as they celebrate their 90th anniversary. This is a remarkable milestone for this community church that modestly began in 1918.

During the 1900s, it was common that church services took place in private homes. In 1918, the Alcorn Family invited John W. Anderson to preach at their home in Goose Creek. Later that year, John W. Anderson became the first pastor of First Baptist Church, Goose Creek known today as Memorial Baptist Church.

Blessed with outstanding leadership and unshakable faith, the congregation continues to be a treasure to the city of Baytown. Memorial Baptist Church is a good example of the positive role that churches play in our communities. Through their ministry and outreach efforts, lead by current pastor Brad Hoffman, they are making a difference in the lives of people.

Today, more than ever, our Nation needs the spiritual nourishment and support that our local churches can provide. It is for this reason that I congratulate the members of Memorial Baptist Church for their dedication and faith as they celebrate 90 years of serving our community.

• 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.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2008

Mr. ANDREWS. Madam Speaker, I was not present on April 29, 2008. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on the following rollcall votes: rollcall 224, rollcall 225, and rollcall 226.

CONSOLIDATED NATURAL
RESOURCES ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2008

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of S. 2739, the Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008. This omnibus bill contains many essential elements that reinforce the infrastructure of our Nation's historical and natural treasures. Out of the several important pieces of legislation, I would like to emphasize the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Reauthorization Act of 2007, which my friend Representative CASTLE and I introduced and led to passage in the House last year.

I would like to once again thank Chairman RAHALL and Subcommittee Chairman GRIJALVA for their support of H.R. 1239 when it passed the House and commend them for bringing this omnibus legislation to the floor today. Additionally, I thank Senator BIDEN for his leadership in introducing the companion to H.R. 1239 and the National Parks Conservation Association for their tireless work for the Network to Freedom and other national park initiatives.

Mr. Speaker, the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom is the only national program dedicated to the preservation, interpretation, and dissemination of Underground Railroad history included in this legislation. It appropriately adjusts authorization levels for the Network to Freedom to reflect the growth of interest nationally and the resulting expansion of opportunities.

The Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008 is part of a concerted movement to overcome the funding challenges that threaten all national parks. In doing so, this legislation appropriately empowers the Network to Freedom by moderately expanding their operating funds and establishing appropriate oversight for grant funds.

If not for the plethora of other reasons to support the overarching legislation, I urge my colleagues to vote for S. 2739 because it truly demonstrates that African-American history is synonymous with American history. This legislation preserves the Underground Railroad Network to Freedom so that future generations will have a chance to learn about our history not only in a book, but with their own eyes.

COMMENDING COLE VALLEY
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL SCIENCE
BOWL TEAM**HON. BILL SALI**

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2008

Mr. SALI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize an elite group of students from Cole Valley Christian School in Meridian, Idaho. Christopher Barker, Maxwell Greenlee, Timothy Segert, Adam Tucker and Phillip Grafft will represent Idaho in the 18th annual U.S. Department of Energy National Science Bowl competition in Washington, DC.

The National Science Bowl is an academic challenge involving more than 12,000 high school students across the country. From January through March, regional elimination tournaments were held across the country and the group of four seniors and one junior from Cole Valley Christian prevailed. The 67 winning teams have won the opportunity to compete at the national finals in Washington, DC, May 1–6, 2008.

The mission of the National Science Bowl is to encourage students to excel in science and math, and to pursue careers in those fields. I am proud to congratulate Christopher, Maxwell, Timothy, Adam and Phillip who represent the best of our next generation of scientists, engineers and educators.

The competition is in a fast-paced question and answer format. The students prepared during their lunch break under the guidance of Coach Lola Lynch. Ms. Lynch is described by the students simply as "awesome." I thank her for all the dedication, support, and encouragement she has lent to the students. Though Ms. Lynch is unable to attend the competition in DC, the students will be diligently coached by Tim Berggren.

When asked if they will win, the students said they hope so. But even more, they hope to represent God and Idaho as best as possible.

Christopher, Maxwell, Timothy, Adam, Phillip, Coach Lynch and Coach Berggren: I wish you the best of luck at the Science Bowl. Congratulations on your efforts thus far, you are fine representatives of Idaho.

HONORING JUDITH A. HORN FOR
HER WORK WITH THE KINGS
PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILDREN**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2008

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mrs. Judith A. Horn, Director of the "Hand in Hand" Family Resource Center for her work with the Home Garden and Lakeside communities. Today, thanks to her efforts, these communities not only have many educational programs but a resonating voice in local politics that addresses their needs.

I have had the pleasure of working with Judy Horn on a variety of projects throughout her time with the Family Resource Center. As the founding director of the center, Judy laid a strong foundation for the organization, focusing on activism, youth advocacy and crime

prevention. Her unique ability to work well with a wide variety of individuals has aided the center immeasurably.

The success of the Kings Partnership for Children, which Judy founded in 1991, is evidenced by the presence of a permanent health clinic, a pre-school, an after-school program, a summer program, and a computer lab for youth in the area. These are direct results of the dedication, commitment, and invaluable drive Judy has always exhibited.

It goes without saying that Judy Horn personifies a woman of great principle and integrity. She is a role model for us all, especially our Valley's upcoming generation of activist youth. It is with great pride that I congratulate Judy for all her work with the "Hand in Hand" Family Resource Center and the Kings Partnership for Children, and thank her for all that she does on behalf of Kings County residents.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. ANTHONY
FLOWERS**HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE**

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday May 1, 2008

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize Mr. Anthony Flowers, who was nominated to be the 2008 Delaware Boys & Girls Club Youth of the Year.

The Boys & Girls Clubs of America and the Reader's Digest have nationally sponsored the Youth of the Year program since 1947. The goal of Youth of the Year has been to recognize outstanding members of the Boys & Girls Club and their contributions to their Club, community, school, and family. More than 32,000 youth are served by the Boys & Girls Clubs of Delaware.

Twelve students were nominated for the honor of Youth of the Year through an intensive local and state level selection process, including the nominees' personal contribution to home and family, community, school and their Boys & Girls Club. The nominees had to prepare two essays explaining why post-high school education is important and what the Club means to them. Additionally, students had to prepare a 3–5 minute speech and have an interview session with a panel of judges. The candidates attended the Youth of the Year Summit, where they received professional guidance regarding public speaking, writing, and interviewing skills.

After winning the Local Youth of the Year award, Anthony moved onto the state level competition, where he refined his essay and prepared for the next round of interviews. Anthony was an extremely qualified candidate for the Youth of the Year 2008. Anthony is a Boy Scout and a Keystone Club Member at the Clarence Fraim Boys & Girls Club. Among the candidates for the state Youth of the Year, Anthony won the Highest GPA Award for his 3.63 GPA at Hodgson Vocational Technical High School.

Once again, I would like to commend Anthony Flowers for being nominated as the Boys & Girls Club of Delaware's Youth of the Year.

HONORING SFC RONNIE
THOMPSON, JR.

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2008

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Sergeant First Class Ronnie Thompson, Jr., a remarkable soldier and citizen from Rineyville, Kentucky. SFC Thompson's recovery from a grave injury sustained while serving in Iraq has made him a source of inspiration among his fellow soldiers and throughout the extended Fort Knox community.

SFC Thompson joined the United States Army in 1991 and was assigned to the First Infantry Division. During his early tenure, he completed a deployment to Bosnia and two additional deployments to Kosovo. He was subsequently deployed to Iraq where he served as a Scout Platoon Sergeant with the Air Assault Quick Reaction Force.

On December 11, 2004, SFC Thompson was severely wounded by an improvised explosive device while participating in Coalition efforts in Iraq. He was air evacuated back to the United States and placed in emergency care at the Walter Reed Medical Center in Washington, DC. In the months and years that have followed, SFC Thompson has defied doctor's expectations, emerging from a coma and enduring countless hours of grueling physical therapy.

In his long convalescence, SFC Thompson continues to demonstrate the unique courage and keen sense of duty that made him such an exemplary soldier. In addition to the daily rigors of rehabilitation therapy, he has found time to serve his fellow soldiers as a volunteer at the Fort Knox Veteran Service Office. On the battlefield and off, SFC Thompson has answered the call of his country in a profound way, making deep personal sacrifices to serve others and preserve our freedom and way of life.

It is my great privilege to recognize Sergeant First Class Ronnie Thompson, Jr. today on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives for his service to our country, support of our soldiers, and lifelong example of leadership and service. His unique achievements make him an outstanding American worthy of our honor and respect.

INJECTING THE IMPROVEMENT OF
EDUCATION INTO THE POLITICAL
DIALOGUE

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, in the interest of our national security, competitive standing in the world, and criminal justice system—I rise today to rouse dialogue on an issue that implicates all three: education. Recent numbers report that as few as 1 out of every 2 youngsters are not earning high school diplomas in our Nation's biggest cities. For those of us from districts where the need is great, these numbers are far from new, let alone startling. But even as they inspired alarm in

the wake of the report's release, they have failed to ignite a national conversation on an issue that demands action, not just today, but yesterday. That alarm has already, regrettably, been snuffed out. We remain, still, oddly hush-hush and complacent.

Many will make an argument of the heart, that to fail to equip these kids with the skills and knowledge they need to eschew poverty and criminality demonstrates an abominable lack of compassion. This is true. But allow me to also make an argument of the mind. These children cannot afford failure—and neither can we. As a nation, we drastically shrink our talent pool and our ability to compete on the global stage when we trade bodies in our college classrooms for bodies on the streets, in jails, even underground. We give way to the rise in influence of China and India and saddle the next generation with a workforce unfit for competition, perennially unemployed and underemployed. That is an explicit and direct threat to our national security.

A New York Times editorial—written by Bob Herbert, published on April 22, and titled “Clueless in America”—makes the case for an America that rises to this challenge, that takes note of our lack of progress, and moves with purpose and innovation towards correcting it.

CLUELESS IN AMERICA

We don't hear a great deal about education in the presidential campaign. It's much too serious a topic to compete with such fun stuff as Hillary tossing back a shot of whiskey, or Barack rolling a gutter ball.

The nation's future may depend on how well we educate the current and future generations, but (like the renovation of the nation's infrastructure, or a serious search for better sources of energy) that can wait. At the moment, no one seems to have the will to engage any of the most serious challenges facing the U.S.

An American kid drops out of high school every 26 seconds. That's more than a million every year, a sign of big trouble for these largely clueless youngsters in an era in which a college education is crucial to maintaining a middle-class quality of life—and for the country as a whole in a world that is becoming more hotly competitive every day. Ignorance in the United States is not just bliss, it's widespread. A recent survey of teenagers by the education advocacy group Common Core found that a quarter could not identify Adolf Hitler, a third did not know that the Bill of Rights guaranteed freedom of speech and religion, and fewer than half knew that the Civil War took place between 1850 and 1900.

“We have one of the highest dropout rates in the industrialized world,” said Allan Golston, the president of U.S. programs for the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. In a discussion over lunch recently he described the situation as “actually pretty scary, alarming.”

Roughly a third of all American high school students drop out. Another third graduate but are not prepared for the next stage of life—either productive work or some form of post-secondary education.

When two-thirds of all teenagers old enough to graduate from high school are incapable of mastering college-level work, the nation is doing something awfully wrong.

Mr. Golston noted that the performance of American students, when compared with their peers in other countries, tends to grow increasingly dismal as they move through the higher grades:

“In math and science, for example, our fourth graders are among the top students globally. By roughly eighth grade, they're in

the middle of the pack. And by the 12th grade, U.S. students are scoring generally near the bottom of all industrialized countries.”

Many students get a first-rate education in the public schools, but they represent too small a fraction of the whole.

Bill Gates, the founder of Microsoft, offered a brutal critique of the nation's high schools a few years ago, describing them as “obsolete” and saying, “When I compare our high schools with what I see when I'm traveling abroad, I am terrified for our work force of tomorrow.”

Said Mr. Gates: “By obsolete, I don't just mean that they are broken, flawed or underfunded, though a case could be made for every one of those points. By obsolete, I mean our high schools—even when they're working as designed—cannot teach all our students what they need to know today.”

The Educational Testing Service, in a report titled “America's Perfect Storm,” cited three powerful forces that are affecting the quality of life for millions of Americans and already shaping the nation's future. They are:

1. The wide disparity in the literacy and math skills of both the school-age and adult populations. These skills, which play such a tremendous role in the lives of individuals and families, vary widely across racial, ethnic and socioeconomic groups.

2. The “seismic changes” in the U.S. economy that have resulted from globalization, technological advances, shifts in the relationship of labor and capital, and other developments.

3. Sweeping demographic changes. By 2030, the U.S. population is expected to reach 360 million. That population will be older and substantially more diverse, with immigration having a big impact on both the population as a whole and the work force.

These and so many other issues of crucial national importance require an educated populace if they are to be dealt with effectively. At the moment we are not even coming close to equipping the population with the intellectual tools that are needed.

While we're effectively standing in place, other nations are catching up and passing us when it comes to educational achievement. You have to be pretty dopey not to see the implications of that.

But, then, some of us are pretty dopey. In the Common Core survey, nearly 20 percent of respondents did not know who the U.S. fought in World War II. Eleven percent thought that Dwight Eisenhower was the president forced from office by the Watergate scandal. Another 11 percent thought it was Harry Truman.

We've got work to do.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. MINERVA
“MINNIE” RAMIREZ

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2008

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Minerva “Minnie” Ramirez for her induction as a laureate in the 2008 Laredo Business Hall of Fame, and for her incredible dedication to her friends and colleagues in the business community of Laredo, Texas.

Minerva Ramirez was born on September 20, 1931, to a hardworking ranch family. She started her first job at the age of 12 sweeping floors at the local schoolhouse, and she began

her knack for floral arrangements by making flower arrangements with tin cans and tissue paper in the shape of carnations which were sold for the cemetery. Minerva graduated from high school in 1948 in Hebbronville, Texas, and attended Texas A&I Kingsville. She worked her way through 2 years of college by teaching students at La Alejandrena Elementary School in Zapata County. Minerva was transferred to San Ygnacio, where she met her husband, Robert, and married in 1955. They moved to Laredo, and had three children: Carmen, Minita, and Robert Jr. Minerva taught and served as assistant principal at Ochoa Elementary for 17 years and became principal of Zachry Elementary School in 1981.

She started a flower shop, Carmin's, from the carport of her home in 1965, and the business grew so successful that Minerva retired from her teaching profession in 1986. One of her career highlights was being picked as the florist for the visitation of Pope John Paul II in San Antonio, Texas, in 1988 at the San Fernando Cathedral. Minerva has admirably served the community of Laredo, Texas, through her work as an educator to the youth of Laredo, and her contributions to the business community. For her dedication and hard work as a business entrepreneur, Minerva will be honored by the Junior Achievement League through her induction into the 2008 Business Hall of Fame.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to have had this time to recognize the dedication of Mrs. Minerva Ramirez, and I thank you for this time.

SUPPORTING THE MISSION AND GOALS OF WORKERS MEMORIAL DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. PHIL HARE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2008

Mr. HARE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 1154, supporting the mission and goals of Workers Memorial Day, and commend my colleague, Representative EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON for introducing this important resolution.

Just 2 days ago on April 28th we honored the 20th Annual Workers Memorial Day, when people all over the world gathered to remember the workers who have been killed or injured on the job.

April 28th also commemorated the creation of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). Since 1970, OSHA has been a driving force in improving workplace safety and health conditions across the country. However, the Bush administration has sought to stifle that progress by downsizing OSHA, favoring employer voluntary programs over real enforcement.

A weakened OSHA has real life-or-death consequences for American workers. One such worker is Cintas washroom employee Eleazar Torres-Gomez—father of four—who was killed on March 6, 2007 when he was dragged by a conveyor belt into an industrial dryer.

Mr. Torres-Gomez's fate is unfortunately too common—16 workers die every day in our country from work-related injuries. In 2005

alone, over 5,700 workers were killed at work, and the situation is only getting worse. The Bureau of Labor Statistics found that the number of workplace deaths jumped by more than two percent between 2005 and 2006.

Last year, Representative LYNN WOOLSEY and I, along with Senator TED KENNEDY introduced the "Protecting America's Workers Act," which amends OSHA to cover more workers, increases penalties and strengthens protections and accountability. The best way to honor Mr. Torres-Gomez and all the other workers who have been killed at their jobs is to quickly send this bill to the President's desk.

Again, I thank Representative EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON for introducing this resolution to honor our workers.

COMMENDING THE EFFORTS OF THE VILLAGE OF BETHALTO, ILLINOIS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2008

Mr. COSTELLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in commending the efforts of the Village of Bethalto for their service to the community and the environment by developing green spaces and parks around its community.

Recently, the Village of Bethalto christened the Culp Lake Park on the northwest portion of the community. This newly opened public space is an inspiration to other cities hoping to brighten their communities and provide their citizens with opportunities to enjoy the outdoors.

In the early 1960's, the Village of Bethalto developed a 17-acre lagoon site that, after years of disregard, became connected with the Alton Sewer Treatment Plant in 1972. While village officials sought to transform the lagoon for many years, it was not until Mayor Steve Bryant began the final push that ultimately led to the gorgeous green space there today.

In 1997, Mayor Bryant and village officials established a park plan that envisioned not just a green space, but a versatile area with recreational facilities, picnic pavilions, and beautiful landscaping. With urban sprawl on the rise, Mayor Bryant and village officials decided it was time to turn this blighted area of the village into a family friendly environment.

In order to keep costs at a minimum, village officials acquired grant funding from Madison County and the State of Illinois that led to the clean-up and filling in of the lagoon, the formation of a 4 acre fishing lake, and the ultimate creation of the park.

Not only was this effort championed by the Village Board, residents of the village took it upon themselves to contribute. The Bethalto Boys and Girls club, for example, donated and planted trees at the park.

Thanks to this type of effort, the Metro-East, located across the Mississippi River from St. Louis, Missouri, boasts the largest percentage of green spaces among the top 10 metropolitan areas in the State of Illinois.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending the efforts of Mayor Steve

Bryant and the village officials from Bethalto, Illinois for their dedication to environmental conservation.

RECOGNIZING ATTORNEY JOHN TUCKER

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2008

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, today I come to recognize the many achievements of the man known as "the wizard of trial law," John G. Tucker, who passed away at the age of 100 in January 2008. With his signature bow tie and flat top hair cut, Tucker was a fixture of the legal profession in Southeast Texas for over 75 years.

Tucker's father was an Army officer serving in Cuba as part of a peacekeeping force where officers were allowed to have their families live with them. His wife was 8 months pregnant when they found out that if born on Cuban soil, their son could never run for President of the United States. Knowing her son was destined for greatness, Tucker's mother set sail for New York City and eventually landed in Kansas City, Kansas, where John was born.

Though he never ascended to the highest office in the United States, Tucker was rather successful in all of his endeavors. He attended college in Pennsylvania and went on to graduate from Harvard Law School. John moved to Southeast Texas in the middle of the Great Depression of the 1930s, determined to take advantage of the boom created by the oil refineries. He joined the law firm created by William Orgain in 1933. The name was changed to Orgain, Bell, and Tucker in 1945 and continues to set the bar for legal excellence to this very day.

John Tucker tried over 90 cases in state and federal court and has argued cases before the Texas Supreme Court. He was deemed a Southeast Texas Legend by the Beaumont Foundation of America scholarship board in February 2007, becoming only the second person at the time to earn such honor.

On behalf of the Second Congressional District of Texas, I want to honor John G. Tucker for his lifetime of accomplishments. Through his diligent efforts and dedication he has made Southeast Texas a better place to live for generations to come.

HONORING MR. MICHAEL J. QUINN

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2008

Mr. ANDREWS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Michael J. Quinn, senior news writer for CBS News Philadelphia, who retired on April 24, 2008. Mr. Quinn began working in TV news in 1961 at Channel 10, a CBS affiliate. During his tenure with Channel 10, Mr. Quinn served as a news writer, newscast producer, reporter and news anchor. In 1984, Mr. Quinn began working at CBS 3 Eyewitness News, serving as a senior news writer and as a producer for the "Newsmakers" program.

Mr. Quinn has covered many major events over the past decades, including numerous presidential elections. In 1988, he was the associate producer for coverage of the presidential caucuses in Iowa. Mr. Quinn was the producer of the 2000 Republican National Convention CBS coverage in Philadelphia. Mr. Quinn also was the producer of the inauguration coverage of President George W. Bush in both 2001 and 2005.

Madam Speaker, Mr. Quinn spent his long career providing the people of Philadelphia with compelling news coverage. Mr. Quinn's hard work and dedication to his chosen field has touched the lives of millions of Americans. I commend Mr. Quinn for his commitment to broadcast journalism and wish him the best for his retirement.

FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
"CHRONICLE OF CURRENT
EVENTS"

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2008

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, this week marks the 40th anniversary of the initial publication of the "Chronicle of Current Events," the "underground newspaper of record," if you will, of the Soviet human rights movement in the years before the collapse of the Soviet Union.

The "Chronicle" was a samizdat, or "self-published," journal created to break through the government's monopoly on the flow of information and report to its readers the truth about human rights in the "workers' paradise." Described recently by the Russian human rights organization "Memorial" as the "fullest and most precise compilation of historical information about dissident activity and political persecutions in the USSR between 1968 and 1982," it was distributed via underground channels to readers in the Soviet Union and to foreign journalists and diplomats. In short time, the "Chronicle" gained a reputation for veracity and straight-forward reporting, and when copies reached the West, the contents were broadcast back to the Soviet Union by international radio stations such as Radio Liberty, BBC, Deutschewelle and others.

Meanwhile, the KGB expended a huge amount of effort and time to expose and apprehend the editors, contributors, and distributors of these two dozen or so typewritten sheets of onionskin paper. Possession, and especially distribution, of the "Chronicle" could result in lengthy labor camp sentences and internal exile. As might be expected, the list of persons involved in producing the "Chronicle" is a "Who's Who" of former Soviet dissidents and political prisoners. Despite the hardships and dangers involved, these brave individuals managed to compile and distribute over 60 issues of the publication.

Besides supplying otherwise unavailable information on human rights issues, the "Chronicle" inspired the establishment of similar publications devoted to specific themes and geographic regions. These would include the fate of the Catholic Church in Lithuania, the abuse of psychiatry for political purposes, and the fate of national minorities, such as the Crimean Tatars, under the Soviet system.

Madam Speaker, I would also mention that through the tireless efforts of Mr. Edward Kline, Professor Peter Reddaway, and exiled Soviet dissidents Valery Chalidze and Pavel Litvinov, an English version of the "Chronicle" became available in the West, allowing many non-specialists to become familiar with the deplorable human rights situation in the Soviet Union.

Eventually, with former KGB head Yuri Andropov in command in the Kremlin, the authorities managed to imprison, exile, or neutralize so many contributors to the "Chronicle" that it ceased publication in 1982. However, the folly of insulating the Soviet system from the free flow of information that was encircling the globe while trying to maintain a decent economy, let alone super-power status, was becoming by this time obvious to the more perceptive apparatchiks in the Kremlin's corridors of power. Three years later, Mr. Mikhail Gorbachev was selected to lead the Communist Party, and 6 years later the hammer and sickle banner of Soviet communism was replaced by the tri-color of the Russian Federation.

Today, Russia and the nations that comprised the Soviet Union are now independent and sovereign states. However, the free flow of information and media pluralism, though in immeasurably better condition than during the Soviet period, is still problematic. As Freedom House points out in its recently issued annual survey of press freedom throughout the world, Russia is among several nations of the former Soviet bloc that have suffered setbacks in the area of press freedom. There seems to be a rush by the government to characterize, with little serious justification, as "extremist" certain books and articles, opposition journalists and newspapers have been harassed, and new legislation recently introduced in the Duma would make it easier for the government to close down media outlets for allegedly publishing libel and slander.

Madam Speaker, let us hope that President-elect Medvedev recognizes that if Russia is to prosper in the global community, the free flow of information must be a vital component of the nation's commercial, social, and political infrastructure, and that if Russian citizens wish to view underground publications such as the "Chronicle of Current Events," they might better find them freely available in museums and libraries.

RECOGNIZING PRUDENTIAL SPIRIT
OF COMMUNITY AWARDS WINNERS

HON. BILL SALI

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2008

Mr. SALI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize three admirable teens from Idaho. Danielle Manning, 15, of Meridian, and Taylor Leavitt, 14 of Melba were recently named the top two youth volunteers in Idaho for 2008 in the 13th annual Prudential Spirit of Community Awards.

The Prudential awards are the country's largest program that recognizes the power of youth volunteerism. Additionally, Katie Williams of Eagle was named a finalist in the program.

Danielle saw a need in her community to help teen mothers. She collected more than

700 packages of diapers and raised almost \$1,300 to stock Marian Pritchett High School in Boise, a public school for teen mothers, with diapers.

Taylor saw a need in his community too. The 8th grader worked on several volunteer projects such as rounding up Boy Scouts to mow the lawn, pick up garbage and clean out the garage of a grieving family. They also spent time with local senior citizens and helped folks moving into the community.

Katie worked with a group of high school girls to collect more than \$70,000, books and school uniforms for a school in the slums of Nairobi, Kenya. Katie will receive an engraved bronze medallion as a finalist.

These three students deserve our appreciation and gratitude. They represent the greatness that our youth have to offer, demonstrating the power each one of us has to contribute to our communities and help our neighbors. And I note they did so without the aid or intervention of a government agency or federal program.

Thank you Danielle, Taylor and Katie for your willingness to dedicate your time to worthy causes. Your work serves as an example for all of us.

A TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF ANNA
M. SANDERS

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2008

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today along with my colleague from California, Congressman DENNIS CARDOZA to pay tribute to the life of Anna M. Sanders of Merced, California, who recently passed away at 88 years of age. Mrs. Sanders was an exceptional lady filled with passion, love and a voracious appetite for knowledge. She leaves behind a loving family including three sons, three grandsons, two granddaughters, and one great granddaughter.

A longtime Democrat, Anna spent nearly 40 years of her life as a teacher with the Atwater Elementary School District. As a zealous educator, she took great pride in the successes of her students. Over the years she was able to encourage and motivate countless young minds.

Anna spent her life in California's Central Valley, where she got both her bachelors and masters degrees. She also tenderly raised her three sons in the area, while maintaining a household which was often described as painstakingly organized.

Anna was the type of woman who took great care in everything she did. Her zest for life included an interest in greeting cards, crossword puzzles, and current politics. It is then to no one's surprise that one of her sons is a teacher, and the other two are actively involved in local and state politics.

A woman described as kindhearted and courageous, Anna worked to advance the causes of groups who were marginalized, oppressed and underserved by volunteering her time with many worthwhile organizations. Anna will be remembered for her formidable spirit and splendid character.

It goes without saying that Mrs. Anna Sanders was a positive influence in the area. Her

commitment to family and community will forever live in the lives of the people she so graciously touched. I am honored and humbled to join her family in celebrating the life of this amazing woman who will never be forgotten.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. CHARLES ROBINSON-SNEAD

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday May 1, 2008

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize Mr. Charles Robinson-Snead, who was nominated to be the 2008 Delaware Boys & Girls Club Youth of the Year.

The Boys & Girls Clubs of America and the Reader's Digest have nationally sponsored the Youth of the Year program since 1947. The goal of Youth of the Year has been to recognize outstanding members of the Boys & Girls Club and their contributions to their Club, community, school, and family. More than 32,000 youth are served by the Boys & Girls Clubs of Delaware.

Twelve students were nominated for the honor of Youth of the Year through an intensive local and State level selection process, including the nominees' personal contribution to home and family, community, school and their Boys & Girls Club. The nominees had to prepare two essays explaining why post-high school education is important and what the Club means to them. Additionally, students had to prepare a 3–5-minute speech and have an interview session with a panel of judges. The candidates attended the Youth of the Year Summit, where they received professional guidance regarding public speaking, writing, and interviewing skills.

After winning the Local Youth of the Year Award, Charles moved on to the State level competition, where he refined his essay and prepared for the next round of interviews. Charles was a highly qualified candidate for the Youth of the Year 2008. At Laurel Boys & Girls Club Charles serves as a tutor and mentor for other club members.

Once again, I would like to commend Charles Robinson-Snead for being nominated as the Boys & Girls Club of Delaware's Youth of the Year.

HONORING BONNIE COX

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2008

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Bonnie Cox, a remarkable employee and public servant at the Department of Disability Determinations in Frankfort, Kentucky. Bonnie is retiring this month, ending her three decade career in Kentucky State government.

Bonnie began her career at the DDS in the operations support branch and advanced through numerous positions to her current executive secretary position in the Commissioner's office. She has spent the last 25 years with the Department of Disability Determinations.

Bonnie has been an invaluable participant in many events outside the realm of her daily job duties. She has been the chairperson for the agency's Kentucky Employees Charitable Campaign and has worked tirelessly in this capacity. Having been touched by the generosity of KECC in her own personal life, Bonnie was the perfect advocate for KECC at the agency and brought a newfound inspiration into the DDS regarding this worthy organization.

In addition to her compassion, dedication, and good works for KECC, Bonnie also organizes appointments for the Red Cross blood drive, is instrumental in preparing information for the PRIDE, People Respectably Influencing Decisional Excellence awards, and organizes retirement receptions and other noteworthy meetings within the DDS. She has received numerous awards and commendations for her dedication and commitment to these endeavors.

Bonnie has touched countless lives through her contacts with congressional inquiry claims. Her caring attitude and compassionate spirit have made her one of the strongest advocates for Kentucky's disabled citizens.

State government will lose a "voice" for the disabled and a friend to all when Bonnie retires. On behalf of the countless men and women who have benefited from her dedicated service, I would like to express my profound appreciation to Bonnie Cox and wish her a very happy and healthy retirement.

THE UNITED STATES NEEDS TO PROVIDE COUNTER-NARCOTICS ASSISTANCE TO CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES TO ERADICATE ILLEGAL DRUG ACTIVITY

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to support H. Res. 865 which urges the United States Government to consider fully and carefully the recommendations in the UNODC and World Bank Report entitled "Crime, Violence, and Development: Trends, Costs, and Policy Options in the Caribbean."

Although using Caribbean nations as major transit points for illegal drugs is not a new problem, it does shed light on a longstanding issue—the U.S. policy on providing assistance to the Caribbean nations in combating illegal drug activity. A major contributing factor to illegal drug activity remains the lack of resources Caribbean nations possess to combat this growing and menacing problem.

This problem will not resolve itself. Some steps the United States should take to assist the member states of CARICOM and the Dominican Republic include, but are not limited to: coordinating policy development and implementation, providing counter-narcotics assistance, and a continuance of policy initiatives that are working, such as the bilateral cooperation between the United States and the Government of Jamaica. Under this initiative, the U.S. provides training and material support to sections of Jamaican law enforcement agencies to strengthen their counter-narcotics capabilities. This is an excellent example that should be modeled throughout the Caribbean.

It is imperative for the United States to work with CARICOM member states and the Do-

minican Republic to establish effective programs to mitigate and ultimately, eradicate illegal drug activity. This will take a coordinated and aggressive collaboration by CARICOM member states, the Dominican Republic and the United States to have an impact on drugs being transported through the Caribbean and into the U.S. Even though this is a very daunting problem, working together and fully and carefully considering the recommendations in the UNODC and World Bank report is certainly a major step in the right direction.

TRIBUTE TO MR. FERNANDO "CHITO" SALINAS

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2008

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Fernando "Chito" Salinas for his induction as a laureate in the 2008 Laredo Business Hall of Fame, and for his incredible dedication to the city of Laredo, Texas.

Fernando Salinas is a 1942 graduate of Martin High School, and attended Tulane University in New Orleans after transferring from Texas A&M University in College Station, Texas. After attending Tulane, Fernando returned back to work at his family's department store, Los Dos Laredos, in downtown Laredo. Five years later, he worked as a salesman at the famed Joe Brand store, and used his knowledge of men's retail to launch his own new department store, Don Antonio's in 1952. The business flourished during the 1960s, attracting a steady clientele from both sides of the United States-Mexico border.

After his retirement from the retail business in 2005, Fernando established a charitable trust that has donated \$1.35 million for causes that enrich education, the arts and human services, and pledged nearly \$95,000 in scholarships for college-bound students. The scholarships are given to hard-working students at Laredo Community College and Texas A&M International University. Fernando has admirably served the community of Laredo, Texas, through his philanthropic work at his charitable trust. He has also contributed to the youth of Laredo through his Junior League Achievement sponsorship of Christen Middle School. For his dedication and hard work in making the Laredo business community stronger and better, Fernando will be honored by the Junior Achievement League through his induction into the 2008 Business Hall of Fame.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to have had this time to recognize the bravery and dedication of Mr. Fernando Salinas, and I thank you for this time.

COMBUSTIBLE DUST EXPLOSION AND FIRE PREVENTION ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. PHIL HARE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2008

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under

consideration the bill (H.R. 5522) to require the Secretary of Labor to issue interim and final occupational safety and health standards regarding worker exposure to combustible dust, and for other purposes:

Mr. HARE. Madam Chairman, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 5522, the Combustible Dust Explosion and Fire Prevention Act and commend Chairman GEORGE MILLER for his tireless efforts on behalf of America's workers.

Our Nation was horrified by news of the February 7 explosion at the Imperial Sugar Refinery in Port Wentworth, GA. I think we were even more stunned by the fact that it was caused by "combustible dust." Although, combustible dust explosions are well documented by the Chemical Safety Board, most employers, workers and the general public are not aware that accumulated dust can cause such destruction. Therefore, it comes as no surprise that not enough is being done to keep workplaces clean and safe from this hazard.

During a March 12, 2008, hearing in the Education and Labor Committee, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, OSHA, Assistant Secretary, Edwin Foulke testified that OSHA has established a housekeeping and ventilation standard, as well as developed programs to address combustible dust hazards. While I appreciate these efforts, frankly they are not enough.

For one, the housekeeping standard is too vague to be useful, and secondly, these measures are "voluntary." When regulations are voluntary, people do not follow them. In my experience as the former President of UNITE HERE Local 617, most employers do not address hazards if doing so interferes with their bottom line or costs time and money.

At this same hearing, witnesses also testified that absent a comprehensive OSHA standard for combustible dust, no one can be confident that dust hazards will be cited and corrected prior to the occurrence of additional accidents.

In fact, the Chemical Safety Board ruled that in addition to the Imperial Sugar incident, several other recent refinery explosions in North Carolina, Kentucky and Indiana could have been prevented if the facilities had complied with the safety and engineering practices contained in National Fire Protection Association standard 484 and 654.

I have often said in this House how frustrated I am that we wait for an emergency to occur before reacting, rather than working to prevent it in the first place. We tend to pass laws, establish regulations and mitigate hazards after disasters and fatalities have occurred.

Today, by passing the Combustible Dust Explosion and Fire Prevention Act, we take a proactive step to protect workers rather than waiting for even one more injury.

Specifically, this bill directs OSHA to issue an interim final combustible dust standard within 90 days. The standard would include measures to minimize hazards associated with combustible dust through improved housekeeping, engineering controls, worker training and a written combustible dust safety program. OSHA would then be required to issue a final standard within eighteen months. In addition to items required in the interim standard, the final standard would include requirements

for building design and explosion protection. Finally, OSHA would have to include combustible dusts in the Hazard Communication Standard which requires workers to receive information and training about the hazards they face.

Again, I thank Chairman MILLER and the committee staff for their hard work on this legislation and urge all my colleagues to vote "yes" on final passage.

RECOGNIZING THE HONORABLE
KENNETH GRAY, RETIRED U.S.
CONGRESSMAN FROM ILLINOIS

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2008

Mr. COSTELLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the distinguished career of the Honorable Kenneth Gray and to express appreciation for his years of service to his country and to the residents of southern Illinois.

A native son of West Frankfort, IL, Ken is a man of varied interests and talents. He was both a licensed pilot and auctioneer. From 1942 to 1954, he owned Gray Motors in West Frankfort and also operated an air service in Benton from 1948 to 1954.

In World War II, Ken answered his country's call to service at the age of 18, which took him to North Africa and Italy as well as combat missions over southern France and central Europe. Ken's decorations for his service in World War II included 3 bronze stars.

Upon returning home from the war, Ken became involved in assisting his fellow veterans and it was through these endeavors that he was encouraged to run for the U.S. Congress. Ken won election from the 25th Congressional District of Illinois in 1954 as a freshman member of the 84th Congress and he continued to serve for a total of 10 successive terms. Because of health concerns, Ken did not run for re-election in 1974 but ran again, and won, in 1984 and served another two terms, representing his beloved southern Illinois in the U.S. House of Representatives.

As a U.S. Congressman, Ken was a tireless advocate for the needs of the people of southern Illinois and built a reputation as a member who worked well with his colleagues to get the job done. On a personal note, I have always been grateful to Ken for what he did for me when I was first elected to Congress. I was elected in a special election in August 1988 to complete the term of Mel Price, who passed away that year. Ken resigned his position on the Transportation Committee, which made a seat available for me and gave me seniority over other members who were first elected in 1988 to start the 101st Congress.

Since retiring from Congress in 1988, Ken has continued to work hard for the needs of the people of southern Illinois. He has served on several boards and projects, most notably as a board member of the Rend Lake Conservancy District. He has also worked on a number of initiatives to improve rural health care, especially in Franklin County, IL. Ken is fre-

quently a speaker at local political and charitable events which benefit a number of organizations, such as the Poshard Foundation for Abused Children.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in an expression of appreciation to the Honorable Kenneth Gray for his years of service to this body and to the people of southern Illinois and to wish him and his family the very best in the future.

WOMEN IN THE PETROCHEMICAL
INDUSTRY—LISA VANDER LAAN

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2008

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, today I am proud to pay tribute to Lisa Vander Laan, Plant Manager of ExxonMobil's Chemical Polyethylene Plant, in Beaumont, Texas.

Mrs. Vander Laan earned a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from Louisiana State University, graduating summa cum laude and receiving the University Medal. She joined Exxon Corporation in 1989 as a process engineer in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and spent her first decade in various manufacturing assignments in engineering and supervision before becoming intermediates technical manager.

Vander Laan spent the next 7 years at the corporation's Houston headquarters for chemicals in marketing and business planning, as global basic chemicals financial manager, Americas low density polyethylene product manager; and ExxonMobil Chemicals global manufacturing planning manager. In February 2007, she took over at the polyethylene plant in Beaumont as plant manager.

Mrs. Vander Laan is seeing more women in leadership roles in the petrochemical industry. When she started in engineering, there were very few female supervisors and managers. She now believes there are significantly more women in the petrochemical industry jobs like chemical engineering. She says ExxonMobil encourages girls to get into math and science, and has an "Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day" in the spring.

Chemical Engineering seems to run in the family. Vander Laan's father is a chemical engineer as well as an older and younger sister, in addition, "all the girls married ExxonMobil guys". She is married to Jeffrey Dale Vander Laan and has two children, Cecilia and Abigail. She doesn't know if her daughters will show interest in chemical engineering like she and her sisters, who love math.

Mrs. Vander Laan is on the board of the Beaumont Area United Way and a member of the Southeast Texas Plant Manager's Forum, for which she serves as chairman of the environmental committee.

Madam speaker, Lisa Vander Laan is a success story in the male dominated petrochemical industry, and I am proud to celebrate her accomplishments.

COMMEMORATING WORLD MALARIA DAY AND THE WORK OF JHPIEGO

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize World Malaria Day.

Every 30 seconds, a child dies from malaria. More than 1 million people die of malaria every year, mostly infants, young children and pregnant women and most of them in Africa. Approximately 40 percent of the world's population, mostly those living in the world's poorest countries, is at risk of malaria. Every year, more than 500 million people become severely ill with malaria. Since the 1970s, significant investments have demonstrated that malaria control is working, and given hope for preventing the 1 million deaths caused by malaria each year. With the advent of new tactics, elimination and, ultimately, eradication of malaria may be possible. Because malaria is a massive global scourge and a medically complex disease, the pathway to eradication is a long one. Achieving eradication will depend on carefully coordinated, balanced efforts to build upon malaria control and elimination programs. Building a pathway to eradication will take time, but it is possible if all stakeholders collaborate today to prevent malaria deaths in Africa and elsewhere. Now is the time to begin charting the course.

Organizations like Jhpiego, an affiliate of Johns Hopkins University, reach across borders to fight a disease that has no borders. Jhpiego is working to combat the devastating effects of malaria by bringing innovative approaches and putting research to practice to improve the health of women and families throughout the world. For example, in Nigeria, it is preparing community volunteers in remote areas to extend malaria services to pregnant women who are not in contact with a formal healthcare system. The volunteers are trained to educate pregnant women on the steps necessary to prevent malaria. Additionally, the workers also distribute preventative medicine and insecticide-treated bednets. Once rolled out to full scale, this community based intervention will help break down some of the barriers to high-quality healthcare for the world's most vulnerable populations.

Jhpiego is a leader in developing innovations that break down the barriers and build more sustainable local health care systems globally. Jhpiego works in 12 African countries to support program implementation for malaria in pregnancy (MIP) prevention and case management.

TRIBUTE OF MR. AND MRS SHASHI AND PRIYA VASWANI

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2008

Mr. CUELLAR. Madame Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. and Mrs. Shashi and Priya Vaswani for their induction in the 2008 Laredo Business Hall of Fame, and for their incredible dedication to the youth in the City of Laredo, Texas.

Shashi came to Laredo from Canada with his family in 1981 as a high school sophomore, and married his wife, Priya, in 1987. They lived and worked in the Caribbean and the Rio Grande Valley before moving back to Laredo in the early 1990s. Shashi and Priya opened About Time, a video arcade, in the 1990s. In 2004, they were able to open a La Quinta Inn and Suites, which allowed them to use a part of their profits to fulfill their dream of establishing the Laredo Heat soccer franchise. The Heat Youth association now has 28 teams playing in Laredo, and this interest in soccer as a physical activity would not have happened if not for the Vaswanis.

Shashi and Priya plan to fund improvements to Texas A&M International University's two soccer fields with the goal of making the fields the home base for future Laredo Heat games. They strongly believe in the value of physical activity as a complement to the full education of the youth in Laredo. They have learned the value of hard work and sacrifice and have stressed their belief in the importance of a college degree to young soccer players. This couple has admirably served the community of Laredo, Texas, through their business entrepreneurship and their work with the youth in Laredo. For their dedication and hard work in making Laredo a better place for children in exercising their physical talents, they will be honored by the Junior Achievement League through their induction into the 2008 Business Hall of Fame.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to have had this time to recognize the dedication of Mr. and Mrs. Shashi and Priya Vaswani to the City of Laredo.

CONGRATULATING BEDINGTON RURITAN CLUB'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2008

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a civic organization in my district which will celebrate its 50th anniversary on May 6, 2008.

The Bedington Ruritan Club located in Berkeley County, WV, started on April 16, 1958 under the guidance of the nearby Marlowe Ruritan Club.

For half a century now, the Bedington Ruritan Club has served the citizens of the Bedington area community. The club takes on many civic projects including picking up litter on nearby roadways, sponsoring an essay contest and contributing to Bedington Elementary and Potomack Intermediate Schools, maintaining the "Light Ceremony" in Scrabble, and holding fundraisers for various community projects.

The Bedington Ruritan Club building is located on Route 11 North and once a month on Saturday's you can find the Ruritan members serving some of the best BBQ chicken in Berkeley County!

Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the members of the Bedington Ruritan Club for 50 years of civic engagement and service. It is an honor to represent such a dedicated citizenry in West Virginia's eastern panhandle.

RECOGNITION OF WEST VIRGINIA'S ARMY NATIONAL GUARD AS BEST IN THE NATION

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2008

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize West Virginia's Army National Guard for earning a Special Category "First Place" award in the prestigious Army Communities of Excellence (ACOE) competition.

West Virginia scored highest among 28 states and territories that entered this year's contest. The award recognizes performance excellence in business process improvement, individual and corporate innovation, and dedication to providing support to soldiers and families.

Our heroic men and women in uniform are never far from my thoughts. They are our Nation's consistent example of valor and courage. West Virginia's Army National Guard performance illustrates those qualities in the ACOE competition, during which they were recognized for having a strong strategic planning process, communication that flowed well throughout all levels of the organization, and a customer-driven focus that sought to create value and promote personal learning and social responsibility.

This award reflects the hard work and dedication of the men and women not only of the West Virginia Army National Guard, but also of every family member and friend that stands behind them. It is important to remember that our brave men and women have given so much and have expected so little in return. I am proud to take this moment to recognize the excellence of the West Virginia Army National Guard in all that they do to keep us safe from harm.

Our Armed Forces have paid the debt for the freedom we enjoy today, and I will continue, as I have in the past, to do everything I can to honor their sacrifices and service. Our veterans, just as our soldiers today, remain foremost in the thoughts and minds of Southern West Virginians, and I will continue to devote my all to those who wear or have worn America's uniform.

SBIR/STTR REAUTHORIZATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 2008

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5819) to amend the Small Business Act to improve the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program and the Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) program, and for other purposes:

Mr. WAXMAN. Madam Chairman. It is with some reservation that I rise in favor of H.R. 5819, a bill to reauthorize the SBIR and STTR program.

I strongly support these programs which give seed money to help small businesses advance innovative research ideas. They are engines of job growth and entrepreneurship that have produced dynamic inventions with a

broad array of commercial applications. I am pleased that this measure adds energy, climate change, and rare diseases as eligible topics for projects funded through SBIR awards. These additions demonstrate the broad horizon of challenges that dynamic small businesses around the country can help tackle.

I do have concerns, however, about a change made by this bill to allow small businesses that are majority-owned by venture capital investors to participate in the program. While I recognize the value in expanding the number and quality of applicants to the SBIR and STTR grant programs, I would not want to see these changes have the unintended result of skewing the grant programs toward companies with venture capital support.

There are many companies that do valuable R&D work, but have not been attractive to or interested in venture capitalist investment. In fact, it is often these companies that are a particularly good fit for the SBIR and STTR programs, which provide grants in the early conceptual stages to help small businesses get their products off the ground. Although the increased funding authorized for the programs will hopefully see more projects funded overall, it would be troubling to see favoritism for projects because they have a venture capital "stamp of approval".

It is important that this bill only authorizes the program for 2 years so that Congress will be able to closely examine how these changes are implemented. If necessary, we will have the opportunity to make further adjustments to prevent deserving applicants without venture capital funding from being marginalized in the SBIR and STTR application process.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ARMY
SPECIALIST JACOB J. FAIRBANKS

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2008

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I rise to remember and honor the life and courage of U.S. Army Specialist Jacob J. Fairbanks. This 22-year-old native of St. Paul, Minnesota, died in Baghdad on April 9, 2008.

Specialist Fairbanks joined the Army in 2004 after graduating from Johnson High School, where he was a member of the Junior ROTC. His second deployment to Iraq began last October for a tour of duty as a field artilleryman. He was assigned to B Battery, 1st Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team of the 101st Airborne Division, Fort Campbell, Kentucky.

Fairbanks served his nation and his fellow soldiers with honor and courage. His commitment to this noble service earned him the Army Commendation Medal, the Good Conduct Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Iraqi Campaign Medal, the Army Service Ribbon and the Overseas Service Ribbon. He was a proud member of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe and will be remembered as an outgoing man, dedicated to his family.

Madam Speaker, please join me in paying tribute to Specialist Fairbanks. He is a Minnesotan and American hero. His desire to serve his nation is an inspiration to his com-

munity. Specialist Fairbanks' wife Dwan, daughter Kayla, stepchildren Alexander, Katelin, and David, his mother Janette, father Steve, stepfather Jeff, his many friends, and his comrades in Iraq have my deepest sympathies for their profound loss.

TRIBUTE TO ELKINS HIGH SCHOOL

HON. NICK LAMPSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2008

Mr. LAMPSON. Madam Speaker, on May 3-5, 2008, more than 1,200 students from across the country will visit Washington, D.C. to take part in the national finals of We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution, the most extensive educational program in the country developed to educate young people about the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights. Administered by the Center for Civic Education, the We the People program is funded by the U.S. Department of Education by act of Congress.

I am proud to announce that a class from Elkins High School will represent the State of Texas at this prestigious national event. These outstanding students, through their knowledge of the U.S. Constitution, won their statewide competition and earned the chance to come to our Nation's capital and compete at the national level.

While in Washington, the students will participate in a three-day academic competition that simulates a congressional hearing in which they "testify" before a panel of judges. Students demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of constitutional principles as they evaluate, take, and defend positions on relevant historical and contemporary issues. It is important to note that independent studies of the We the People program indicate that alumni of this nationally acclaimed program display a greater political tolerance and commitment to the principles and values of the Constitution and Bill of Rights than do students using traditional textbooks and approaches.

I am pleased to support such an outstanding program that continues to produce an enlightened and responsible citizenry. Madam Speaker, the names of these outstanding students from Elkins High School are: Krystal Castillo, Andrea Cavazos, Deborah Choate, Andrew Cockroft, Lucy Eiler, Jimmy Guerrero, Josh Hanks, Lara Hogue, Nick Johnson, Tiffany Kell, Curtis Kelso, D.J. Kinneman, Matt Macko, Colton Mendez, Jonny Murthy, Sola Oyewuwo, Tej Pandya, Bryan Philpott, Justina Rodriguez, Deepa Sabu, Nick Shipman, Pia Siatong, Ivette Soto, Achal Upadhyaya, Courtney Williams, Angela Wu, and Arif Yusuf.

I also wish to commend the teacher of the class, Marilyn Ellington, who is responsible for preparing these young constitutional experts for the national finals. Assisting Mrs. Ellington is her colleague Jan Arrington and former students Emily Lee, Kelsey Smith, and Masha Sharf. Also worthy of special recognition is Jan Miller, the State coordinator, who is among those responsible for implementing the We the People program in my State. I congratulate these students on their exceptional achievement at the We the People national finals.

TRIBUTE TO THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CITY OF SOUTHFIELD

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2008

Mr. LEVIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the City of Southfield, Michigan, on the 50th anniversary of its incorporation as a city.

Southfield's city leaders have coined the phrase "center of it all" to describe this diverse community situated in the center of metro-Detroit that has grown to the 13th largest city in the State of Michigan.

The residents of Southfield are what has always made this community strong and independent. For example, 17 days after the area was designated as "Ossewa Township" on July 12, 1830, citizens petitioned the State to change the name to Southfield. And in the 1950s, a group of Southfield Township residents formed the "Save Our Southfield" committee and lent their own money to the group's treasury. This group promoted the incorporation of Southfield and financed the filing for incorporation. Southfield became a city on April 28, 1958.

Southfield has grown from a rural farming community to a premier business and residential address in Michigan. This modern city of beautiful homes and golden skyscrapers has become home to nearly 80,000 residents. Their 26 million square feet of office space brings the city's daytime population to more than 175,000, making Southfield one of the leading business centers in Michigan and the Midwest Region.

Southfield is home to leading manufacturers and other diverse businesses, strong educational institutions, innovative health care institutions, strong community organizations, and a vibrant faith community. It also retracts a feeling of warmth and closeness within its neighborhoods.

I am pleased to have lived in Southfield during a time of transformation of city leadership and institutions which are an increasing representative of the diversity of this wonderful community. I have also been pleased to represent the residents of Southfield since I came to Congress.

As Mayor Brenda Lawrence and other elected officials join the citizens of this exceptional city to celebrate their golden jubilee, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating its residents on its 50th year. Let this be the opportunity to pay tribute to the history of Southfield and re-commit ourselves to a prosperous and progressive future.

HONORING THE SERVICE AND SACRIFICE OF STAFF SERGEANT
KEITH MATTHEW MAUPIN

HON. BRAD ELLSWORTH

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2008

Mr. ELLSWORTH. Madam Speaker, it is with great sadness and deep respect that I

rise today to honor the life of Staff Sergeant Keith Matthew (Matt) Maupin.

Matt Maupin's story has gripped the hearts of thousands of Americans across the country since the 20-year-old Army reservist was captured in Iraq in 2004. Together, we have hoped and prayed for four long years that he would be returned home safely to his family. Sadly, those prayers went unanswered.

Matt Maupin was laid to rest in Cincinnati on Sunday, having given the ultimate sacrifice in service to our country. But the most significant thing about Matt Maupin isn't how he died, it's how he lived.

Matt is a beloved son to Keith and Carolyn and brother to Micah, Stephen, and Lee Ann. A native son of Batavia, Ohio, he understood there is no higher calling than service to others and bravely stepped forward to serve his country in the Army reserve. Matt Maupin is a true American hero.

On behalf of the people of the 8th District of Indiana, I want to extend my deepest condolences to his family and friends who love and miss him today. May God bless Matt, his family, and all of those who continue to sacrifice so much for our country.

HONORING MAURICE PRITCHETT

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2008

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize Mr. Maurice Pritchett, who recently retired after more than forty years in the Delaware public education system. Maurice's service to Delawareans will be honored at a community celebration this Sunday, May 4.

Maurice's ties to the Wilmington public school system stretch back to his childhood. Though he now resides in Newark, Delaware with his wife Juanita, Maurice was born and raised on the East Side of Wilmington, where he attended public schools in the city.

At Howard High School, he proved to be an outstanding basketball player and was offered a full scholarship to attend Delaware State University, majoring in elementary education and continuing to excel in basketball, leading the Hornets as team captain during his junior year. Maurice also holds a master's degree from Villanova University.

Following graduation, he taught fifth grade in Cecil County, Maryland and in Wilmington before moving on to his position as community school coordinator of Wilmington's Bancroft Academy, a school that he himself attended. Over the next thirty-two years, Maurice served as vice-principal and then principal of Bancroft Academy. He later served as director of family and community engagement for the Christina School District.

Maurice's leadership at Bancroft, including the initiation of multicultural programs and a clothes closet, earned him the 1994-95 Delaware State National Distinguished Principal Award. His many other honors include the Christina Cultural Arts Center's lifetime achievement award, the Dr. Al O. Plant Lifetime Achievement Award and being named as one of the "100 African American Men of Distinction in Delaware" by the Afro-American Historical Society.

Remembering the difficult times that he faced while growing up inspires Maurice to continuously contribute to the community. He is a long-time volunteer with the Boys and Girls Club of Newark. In addition, as a member of the Delaware State Basketball Hall of Fame and Delaware Afro-American Sports Hall of Fame, Maurice co-sponsored a youth basketball league that provided extracurricular activity to inner-city Wilmington elementary school students.

Following his retirement in January of this year, Maurice established the Maurice Pritchett Education Foundation in partnership with the Delaware Community Foundation to benefit underprivileged children in New Castle County. While his public works are certainly well-known, those who gather for the celebration honoring his achievements will bring with them countless personal stories of Maurice's compassion, including one person for whose family Maurice bought groceries when they were financially unable. His kindness and dedication have touched the lives of many.

I acknowledge and thank my good friend Maurice Pritchett for his numerous contributions to education and the overall well-being of children and families in the State of Delaware. I am confident that as he enjoys his retirement with his family, he will remain an active and influential member of our community.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE BLACK ACHIEVERS PROGRAM

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to discuss the editorial, "Black Achievers in Industry" which appeared in this week's edition of the New York Carib News.

The editorial praised the Harlem YMCA's 38th National Salute to Black Achievers in Industry (BAI) Awards dinner. The Black Achievers in Industry Awards dinner serves as the organization's premier fundraiser to raise the money necessary to fund countless youth programs. The Black Achievers in Industry Awards serves a vital purpose in the community, as the cooperative has partnered with more than 100 corporations to provide much needed scholarships to New York City high school seniors and college students. The Black Achievers Program recognizes the importance of education and its ability to give children a future filled with possibilities.

It is my sincere hope that other corporations across the Nation will join the Black Achievers Program in providing disadvantaged students from lower- and middle-income families with the financial means required to attend a college or university.

HONORING SUE SAWYER

HON. TIM MAHONEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2008

Mr. MAHONEY of Florida. Madam Speaker, today I stand before you to talk about a moth-

er, a soldier's mother. This week, Sue Sawyer made the ultimate sacrifice for our United States of America. She lost her son to war.

Sue's son, Marcus Mathes was killed in a mortar attack as he stood on duty, next to his truck, just north of Baghdad. Two fellow crew members were killed with him. Their death was instantaneous.

Marcus Mathes had just turned 25.

On behalf of the entire Congress of the United States, I want to thank Sue Sawyer. By raising your son to value the ideals of the United States of America, you have helped to improve the security of our country and our future.

Sue Sawyer has given an extraordinary gift to our country, for which we should be profoundly grateful. She has reason to be proud of her son's accomplishments and duty. Today, we must remember the accomplishments of the mother who selflessly raised Marcus and influenced him to give.

Representing our country in combat was a gift to all of us from Marcus Mathes and Sue Sawyer.

Thank you, Sue. God bless you.

IN TRIBUTE OF YOM HASHOAH, HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2008

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues and my constituents in solemn recognition of Yom Hashoah, or Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day; a special day where we mourn the millions of Jews who perished at the hands of the Nazis.

This day has special significance for Jews, the main target of Nazi atrocities. I represent many constituents who are Holocaust survivors and many more that lost friends, relatives and loved ones. We mourn their loss; honor their memory; and unite in opposition to acts of bigotry and intolerance.

We in South Florida are united in outrage that two synagogues in our community have been vandalized in recent weeks. These offensive, hate-inspired acts have no place in our society that values tolerance and diversity. We stand united with the congregants, friends and supporters of The Chabad Shul in Miami Beach and the Chabad of Parkland in North Bonnard. These houses of worship and centers of learning will rise again with a renewed sense of spirit and purpose of mission.

I once again honor South Florida's Holocaust Documentation and Education Center, its founders and museum curators for their fine work in educating and reminding the public about the Holocaust and remembering and honoring its victims. The Center is located in my Congressional District at 2031 Harrison Street in Hollywood, Florida.

To the residents of South Florida, the students enrolled in area schools, and to the millions of visitors to the region, I encourage you to visit the Holocaust Documentation and Education Center to study, understand and contemplate the consequences of man's inhumanity to man which occurred in Europe prior to and during World War II.

May the memory of the six million Jews who perished in the Holocaust be blessed for all eternity.

INTRODUCTION OF THE U.S. RE-COMMITMENT TO INTERNATIONAL HUMAN AND CIVIL RIGHTS RESOLUTION

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2008

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the attached resolution that calls for the United States to ratify and implement certain fundamental international conventions.

Today, May 1st is the 201st anniversary of the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade. On this day, we must rededicate ourselves to the human and civil rights movement to provide freedom and equality to all people.

This resolution is very simple; it is very clear; it is very basic. Our country was founded on the principles of civil and human rights. Many, many people—men, women, and even children—have sacrificed their lives for the freedoms we enjoy today. Countless others work tirelessly to protect these rights. On this historic day, it is important to reiterate our commitment to combat slavery, torture, racism, discrimination, and xenophobia in all forms.

It takes more than words; this effort needs action. Sixty years ago, the United Nations used our Bill of Rights as a reference in drafting the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Eleanor Roosevelt, wife of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, led the United States delegation and the United Nations (U.N.) in helping to draft the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Since that time, we've seen so many changes—a global movement towards civil and human rights. In our own country, people have sacrificed everything for key civil rights legislation like the passage of the Voting Rights Act, the Equal Pay Act, and the Americans with Disabilities Act.

But Madam Speaker, somehow along the way, we've pulled away from a global movement that requires constant work, constant attention, and constant action. The U.S. must catch up with so many of our global partners.

How can we combat genocide in Darfur, if we ourselves have not ratified the U.N. Conventions that address the rights of women, children, and forced disappearance? How can we ask for our global trading partners to respect international labor standards, when we ourselves have not ratified ILO standards on the right to organize and bargain collectively, or forced child labor, or age discrimination? It is important to not only speak as global leader, but act as a global leader on key human and civil rights issues.

On this little piece of real estate that we call Earth, we all have our duty to make this world a little cleaner, a little better, and a little safer. This resolution, Madam Speaker, is about common sense, and I hope all of my colleagues will join me as cosponsors.

RECOGNIZING AMERICA'S TEACHERS

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2008

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express support for the passage of House Resolution 1130, which recognizes the roles and contributions of America's teachers to building and enhancing our Nation's civic, cultural and economic well-being. I want to thank the gentleman from Missouri, Mr. GRAVES, for offering this important resolution.

Our teachers play an instrumental role in guiding children throughout their adolescence and into adulthood. More than just instructors, teachers are mentors and friends who encourage students to reach their potential. They also serve as the eyes and ears for parents during the school day, playing a vital role in helping a child's personal growth and development.

As our Nation continues to expand rapidly, we must also continue to encourage people to enter the teaching profession so we will continue to have great teachers to meet our growing needs. Since entering Congress in 2003, I have been proud to support initiatives to recruit high school and college students to enter teaching and work in communities with the greatest needs. This year, I was also pleased to join as a co-sponsor of a resolution establishing National Teacher Day during National Teacher Appreciation Week, offered by the gentleman from Florida, Mr. KLEIN. Going forward, I will continue to support increased funding for NCLB and IDEA so that teachers have the resources they need to be most successful. Our teachers deserve nothing less.

Next week, as we celebrate National Teacher Appreciation Week, I encourage my constituents and all Americans to take a moment to reflect upon special moments they have shared with their teachers. I also encourage parents and students to take a moment, whether with a shiny apple or a simple thank you, to show teachers that they appreciate their service to our schools.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Mr. GRAVES once again for offering this timely resolution and I want to thank each of my teachers for all they did to help me reach my potential.

PAUL SOREFF AND AILA

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2008

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate Paul Soreff on receiving the "Most Significant Work or Work Having the Greatest Impact" award from the Washington State Chapter of American Immigration Lawyers Association, AILA.

Prospective citizens have to jump through many hoops during their journey to becoming a citizen. I am often contacted by hard-working men and women who want nothing more than to be an American. Their courage, tenacity and new found patriotism is inspiring, much like the help Paul provides so many of them.

As the driving force behind AILA's Citizenship Day, Paul's dedication in helping legal permanent residents apply for naturalization is a wonderful, patriotic thing to do. The work Paul invested in Washington State's newest citizens is now being emulated nationwide. The participation level at Citizenship Day is outstanding and it is no doubt a reflection of Paul's leadership and selfless nature. He also serves as a professor of law at Seattle University and his students are very fortunate to have such an advocate as a teacher.

While navigating the immigration system is not easy, the guidance and service Paul provides alleviates stress and anxiety for many. His selfless work is an example for not only immigration attorneys and professors but also for each of us.

PUBLIC SERVICE RECOGNITION WEEK

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN P. SARBANES

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2008

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, during public service recognition week, in honor of Maryland's Federal workers.

The work of our Federal employees often goes unnoticed in our daily lives. Without these men and women, though, we would not have made enormous progress in areas such as medical research and the protection of clean water and clean air. We would not have a mail system that our communities, families and businesses can rely on—rain or shine. The list goes on and on.

This year, the Baltimore Federal Executive Board will give gold, silver and bronze awards for excellence in job performance to 217 Maryland Federal employees and military servicemembers in nineteen different job excellence categories. These awards are one effort to showcase the remarkable work that is going on in our Federal sector and I congratulate this year's outstanding class of awardees.

RECOGNIZING CAROLYN KULIG

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2008

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Carolyn Kulig on achieving the Girl Scout Gold Award. Receiving the Gold Award is a testament to Miss Kulig's leadership, citizenship, and service to her community.

For her Gold Award project, Carolyn Kulig decorated the library at the Easter Seals facility in Carrollton, Texas. Miss Kulig painted book shelves in lively colors and added color to the walls. She also collected books and videos through donations that will be given to low-income families that have children being treated at the facility. Her efforts will live the spirit of all that use the library at Easter Seals.

The Girl Scouts of America promotes a positive influence for young women of today. I am honored to represent Carolyn Kulig in earning the highest award bestowed in Girl

Scouts. I commend her commitment and dedication for the betterment of her life, her community, and her country.

CRYSTAL BELL AWARD
RECIPIENTS

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2008

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is my distinct honor to commend seven exceptional teachers from Northwest Indiana who have been recognized as outstanding educators by their peers for the 2007–2008 school year. These individuals are: Sheri L. Doffin, Tracy Kohler, Kathleen R. Krum, Karen A. Semancik, Nancy J. Smith, Thomas R. Sufana, and Vicki Weber. For their outstanding efforts, these honorees will be presented with the Crystal Bell Award at a reception sponsored by the Indiana State Teachers Association. This prestigious event will take place at the Andorra Restaurant and Banquets in Schererville, Indiana, on Wednesday, May 7, 2008.

Sheri Doffin, a first grade teacher at Lake Village Elementary School, has been in the teaching profession for an astonishing 31 years, 30 of which have been with the North Newton School Corporation. Throughout her tenure, Sheri has always made a point of bringing innovative ideas to her classroom to make sure her students remain interested and actively involved in their studies. Involved in many committees and programs at Lake Village, including the PTO and PL221 team, which is geared toward the improvement of the school, Sheri's dedication is matched only by her constant concern for her students.

Tracy Kohler, from the Crown Point School Corporation, has been a role model and a true inspiration to her students since arriving in Northwest Indiana in 2004. Currently an eighth grade honors algebra and pre-algebra teacher at Colonel John Wheeler Middle School, Tracy is well known for her creativity in the classroom, regularly bringing real-life situations into her lessons. Also recognized for her skills with teaching struggling learners, Tracy was selected to teach a pilot program aimed at improving math scores on the ISTEP exam. Tracy has also shown her unwavering commitment to her students through her service as the sponsor of the Academic Bowl Team and as a volunteer at athletic and after-school events.

Kathleen Krum, this year's recipient from the Hanover Community School Corporation, has been a teacher for an astounding 38 years. A fourth and fifth grade teacher at Hanover, Kathy has received many awards and honors throughout her lifetime of service. Involved in numerous extracurricular activities and special programs with her fourth graders, Kathy has always taught with the goal of making learning fun. With this goal in mind, one of Kathy's greatest sources of pride was the construction of an outdoor learning lab at Lincoln Elementary School, which has helped many young students gain first-hand experience with nature.

Karen Semancik, this year's recipient from the Lake Central School Corporation, has had an outstanding teaching career, which has

spanned 29 years. Karen is currently a fifth grade social studies teacher at Clark Middle School, where she is widely known for the unique and interesting activities she brings to her classroom. One example of such an activity is that she provided her students with the opportunity to contact the International Space Station. Additionally, Karen's peers and students have always been impressed with her patience and her ability to adapt her lessons to the individual needs of her students.

This year's recipient of the Crystal Bell Award from the School Town of Munster is Nancy Smith. Nancy, of Wilbur Wright Middle School, has been a seventh grade language arts teacher in Munster for the past 35 years. The passion Nancy has for teaching and for her students goes far beyond the classroom. Through her efforts on the Broad Based Planning Committee, the language arts gifted and talented program has made great strides, allowing these exceptional students the opportunity to enhance their student careers. Furthermore, Nancy has been a true role model to teachers new to the classroom, allowing them to learn from her vast experience and to share her passion for educating young people.

This year's recipient of the Crystal Bell Award from the Tri-Creek School Corporation is Thomas R. Sufana. Tom has been nurturing young minds for an astonishing 32 years and currently serves as the art teacher at Lowell Senior High School. In addition, Tom has served as the Assistant Drama Director for the past 14 years. Throughout his illustrious career, Tom has not only received recognition as a great teacher, but his work has been seen in many public events, both locally and nationally. Because of his love for art, Tom is responsible for bringing many beautiful pieces to Northwest Indiana, many of which are proudly displayed in the halls of Lowell High School today.

Vicki Weber, this year's recipient from the School Town of Highland, is known for her ability to challenge her students in a way few other teachers can. Vicki, currently a third grade teacher at Warren Elementary School, also serves in many other capacities, including: Spellbowl coach, intramural volleyball coach, mentor, mentor faculty facilitator, and as a member of the building school improvement plan steering committee. A testament to Vicki's ability to connect with her students, she has coached two Spellbowl teams that have advanced to higher level competitions.

Madam Speaker, I ask you and my distinguished colleagues to join me in commending these outstanding educators on their receipt of the 2008 Crystal Bell Award. Their years of hard work have played a major role in shaping the minds and futures of Northwest Indiana's young people, and each recipient is truly an inspiration to us all.

SAFE AND COMPLETE STREETS
ACT

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2008

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Safe and Complete Streets Act of 2008.

This needed legislation is based on the principle that our Nation's transportation system

should be safe and accessible to all people. Motorists, bicyclists, transit users, pedestrians, the disabled, and the elderly all use our country's transportation network each and every day. The Safe and Complete Streets Act of 2008 will ensure that the needs of all of these users are accommodated during the transportation planning process.

Complete streets are an essential part of well-designed communities that are livable for children, families, the elderly, and people of all ages and abilities. By providing our constituents with sidewalks on which to walk, well-lit transit stations in which to wait for the bus or light rail, clear lanes in which to drive, and bike lanes in which to ride, we can encourage them to utilize alternative modes of transportation. This can make our transportation system most effective and useful.

Madam Speaker, our constituents are struggling to deal with the skyrocketing cost of gas. As their pocketbooks are hit increasingly hard at the pump, many Americans are turning to alternative methods of transportation. In my hometown of Sacramento, where gasoline is nearly four dollars per gallon, my local newspaper recently reported on the growing number of my constituents who are riding their bicycles to work because of the prohibitive price of filling a car up with fuel.

For these reasons, Americans around the country are eager for transportation alternatives. The Safe and Complete Streets Act of 2008 is a strong step toward a future where travelers are presented with a range of transportation options. By requiring States and metropolitan planning organizations to accommodate the needs of all users of the transportation system in their planning processes, this legislation will broaden access to the streets that tie our communities—and our Nation—together.

Incorporating these kinds of complete streets principles will help us move away from the kinds of transportation planning that causes seniors to avoid walking to the store because of the lack of sidewalks. It will help usher in a day when commuters feel safe riding to work on their bicycles because the streets now accommodate bikes. It will ease the fears of parents across our country who hesitate to allow their children to walk to school because of the danger posed by so many cars driving near sidewalks. It will reduce the risk posed to disabled Americans who are forced to deal with a transportation system short on painted crosswalks and audible walking signals. And it will encourage people to take public transit because they will no longer have to wait for the bus at a stop that is nothing more than a pole in the ground.

Complete streets also have a number of non-transportation-related benefits. In a country where nearly one-third of adults are obese and the number of overweight children has tripled since 1980, giving people options to walk or take public transit can play a major role in reducing these disturbing trends. In terms of fighting global warming, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change recommends as a key climate change mitigation strategy the shifting of travel modes from driving to walking, taking transit, and bicycling. There is ample room for complete streets to help bring about this needed paradigm shift in the way we travel—65 percent of trips in the United States under one mile are now made by automobile. In one Colorado city, local efforts to

take transit, use bicycles, and carpool have helped reduce carbon dioxide by half a million pounds. If one city can achieve such success in reducing emissions by changing transportation patterns, the possible emissions reductions through implementing a nationwide complete streets policy are staggering.

Madam Speaker, we live in a time when local governments are strapped for cash. In such a fiscal climate, we should make investments today that will pay out over the long term, and that will help us avoid the need to make costly adjustments to our current transportation system down the line. Incorporating complete streets principles today will help communities save precious dollars in the future by eliminating the need for costly retrofits.

I know this to be true because of the experience of my own congressional district, where the City of Sacramento is preparing to spend \$12 million to update a bridge that was built in the 1930s without adequate sidewalks. Another example of the power of complete streets to save money is from Illinois. There, the legislature passed a complete streets law last year after the state was forced to spend nearly a million dollars adding a foot and bike path to a bridge where several pedestrians and bicyclists were hit and killed by motorists.

But the bottom line, Madam Speaker, is that the Safe and Complete Streets Act of 2008 is good policy because of what it can help us do for our communities, not for the costs it can help us avoid. Encouraging people to use all the various modes of transportation available to them will strengthen public health, reduce congestion, improve air quality, and increase the interconnectedness of our communities. It will help create a national transportation network that works for all Americans regardless of their age, income, or preferred mode of getting around town.

The time has come for this Congress to start thinking about what we want the legacy of American transportation to be. I know I speak for many of my colleagues when I say that we want this to be one where all users of our streets feel safe and accommodated. The Safe and Complete Streets Act of 2008 is a first step toward creating this kind of practical, efficient, and inclusive transportation system, and I am proud to introduce it here today.

HONORING DEBORAH MURDOCK

HON. DARLENE HOOLEY

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2008

Ms. HOOLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a long-time education advocate and friend, Deborah Murdock. As Special Assistant to the President at Portland State University, Debbie helped make PSU the top-tier university in Oregon that it currently is. We lost our friend Debbie on August 14, 2007, far too soon. I honor her today because on Sunday, May 4, 2008, Portland State University will dedicate the Debbie Murdock Memorial Clock Tower on their campus.

My first day in Washington, DC, as a new Member of Congress, Debbie was a friendly face who knew more about working in Congress than I did. Her experience with Congressman Les AuCoin was a great benefit for both of us. She knew what I needed to do to

successfully represent my constituents and specifically a certain university in the state's urban hub.

Debbie came to work for PSU in 1993 and almost immediately set goals for the university that may have seemed overly-optimistic and unattainable. She wanted to help the university provide the programs, research and student experience that the other Oregon institutions of higher learning were offering.

During her tenure, Debbie played a significant role in the building and establishment of the Native American Center, the Urban Center, the engineering building and others. She also was involved in the downtown revitalization and "greening" of the campus.

But Debbie's list of accomplishments doesn't end with facilities and structures. Debbie managed to affect almost every person she came into contact with by encouraging their professional or academic development and personal growth. She wanted everyone to be the best they could be and felt like she could help make that happen by being a friend, a mentor or a resource.

I am delighted that Portland State University is naming the new clock tower in honor of Debbie. The tower will be a part of PSU's vitality, energy and life for years to come, as will Debbie Murdock's memory.

EXPRESSING APPRECIATION FOR H. MARTIN LANCASTER'S SERVICE AND FRIENDSHIP

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2008

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the dedicated service of our former colleague, Martin Lancaster, to North Carolina and the Nation.

Martin retires today as President of the North Carolina Community College System, which he has led since 1997. The system enrolls more than 800,000 students in 58 comprehensive community colleges across the State. Internationally recognized for the scope and quality of its programs, the system is one of the largest in the county and North Carolina's primary provider of workforce preparation and adult education.

Martin has worked to increase State and private funding for facilities, equipment, faculty salaries, and instruction and to strengthen the system's essential role in workforce and economic development. He led community college participation in the successful State Higher Education Bond Referendum of 2000, which included \$600 million for community college construction, repair and renovation. He has worked successfully with successive presidents of the University of North Carolina system to ensure a seamless transition for students between community colleges and 4-year state institutions.

In his years as president, Martin and I have collaborated on a number of projects. We've worked hard on the Partnership Fellows Program to help address the serious teacher shortage by providing scholarships for individuals transitioning from associate degree programs in education to bachelor-degree granting institutions. He's helped ensure that future

Federal scholarships for prospective teachers will be available to community college students.

We also continue to promote funding from the National Science Foundation for the Advanced Technological Education, ATE, program to underwrite innovation and excellence in curriculum development, teaching methods, and public-private partnerships. The North Carolina system and individual campuses compete very successfully for this support.

Most recently, we have secured Department of Education funding for an innovative partnership among the North Carolina Symphony, the community college system, and local public school systems. Soloists and small ensembles from the Symphony will visit far-flung communities and, based in their community colleges, offer performances and classes for aspiring young musicians.

Prior to his work with the North Carolina Community College System, Martin served as assistant secretary of the Army for Civil Works from January 1996 until June 1997. Before that, he served as special advisor to President Bill Clinton on chemical weapons. Many Members of this body will remember his 8 years of distinguished service, representing his home town of Goldsboro and the rest of the Third Congressional District.

With the experience of being on active duty in the Navy during the Vietnam war and continuing to serve as an active Reservist until his retirement as a Navy Captain in November 1993, Martin was an effective member of the Armed Services Committee. During his tenure, he fought to obtain benefits increases for disabled veterans and sponsored Agent Orange compensation measures. He also took a special interest in procurement and other small business issues as a member of the Small Business Committee.

Our friendship stretches across decades, including our years in the House, which we began together in the Class of 1986. Martin's commitment and leadership in his law practice, the North Carolina General Assembly, the U.S. Congress, on many boards and commissions, and especially in our community colleges, have improved the quality of life for people of all ages. We have known each other long enough to watch our grandchildren's generation benefit from his talent and dedication.

It is with the greatest respect and my deepest appreciation that I rise today to honor Martin Lancaster and thank him for his many invaluable contributions to our State and Nation. On behalf of all who have also been fortunate to work with him, I wish him, his wife Alice, and their two daughters, Mary Martin and Ashley Elizabeth and their growing families, the best in all of their future endeavors.

IN HONOR OF BRIAN PERRY

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2008

Mr. PICKERING. Madam Speaker, today I would like to honor a member of my staff, Brian Perry, as he leaves to join Mississippians for Economic Progress as executive director. Brian has served as my communications director for the past 5 years and has done an outstanding job handling the press inquiries my office has received from the national, State, and local level. He has served in

a composed, calm, and patient manner; which is to be admired in a position so demanding.

Brian grew up in the Nashville, Tennessee area and then moved to Mississippi where he attended Northwest Rankin High School. Once in Mississippi, he settled there and graduated from Belhaven College in 1997 with a bachelor of arts in philosophy and then obtained a masters in communication from Mississippi College. Before starting in my office, Brian was a reporter for the Madison County Journal, creator and editor of the Magnolia Report, and campaign director for Judge Keith Starrett's successful run for election. His personal experience as a journalist helped make him a very effective communications director for me.

In addition to serving as my communications director, Brian also focused on education, human rights, and religious freedom issues. In 2006, Brian moved back to Mississippi to work in my district office in Pearl. We have missed having Brian in the DC office.

Since moving back to Mississippi, Brian has been extremely involved in neighborhood and community activities. He is a loyal alumnus of Belhaven, living just one block from the school. Canoeing, fishing, and camping are among his favorite outdoor activities. He also enjoys listening to bluegrass, grilling with friends, and attending the Neshoba County Fair. Over the past 2 years, the district office has come to really know Brian and will remember him as an ardent 1st amendment defender, Christian advocate, political junkie, and the world's fastest eater. But most significantly, he will be remembered as a dedicated and conscientious member of my staff, a good listener, and a loyal friend to his fellow co-workers.

As a tribute to Brian for his exemplary work, I would like to share some words from people he has worked closely with throughout his career.

"Brian Perry's five year tenure in Congressman Pickering's office is noteworthy, as his record of public service is marked by a strong commitment to excellence and professionalism. Personally, I am grateful for Brian's willingness to serve as the spokesman for my 2007 re-election campaign; his vision, maturity, and experience were nothing short of exceptional. I commend Brian for his outstanding career and look forward to his continued contributions to government and politics."—Governor Haley Barbour

"Brian Perry has served Congressman Pickering and the Third District with distinction. He is a man of unwavering conviction and his integrity is above reproach. That's why it is my distinct privilege to count Brian among my closest and most trusted friends, a relationship that has developed as I have worked with him professionally. He's always been willing and able to meet the request of our newspapers—and then some. He has always proven to be of the strongest character when dealing with members of the press."—James E. Prince III, president, Prince Newspapers

"Brian Perry has been one of my closest and most trusted friends for well over a decade. We both met as activists in the Mississippi Republican Party. He has served as a loyal member of Congressman Chip Pickering's staff where he facilitated and communicated the various initiatives Congressman Pickering spearheaded in the interest of Mississippi's Third Congressional District. While serving as Republican Chairman of the Third District, and now as MRP Executive Director, Brian has proven himself

over and over again to be a man of character whose integrity and professionalism are above reproach. Brian's mark of service to the Republican Party, Congressman Pickering, and Mississippi and even the nation will be long lasting."—Brad White, executive director, Mississippi Republican Party

"Brian Perry worked very hard ensuring that the needs of rural areas were addressed along with the many other demands placed on Congress. He took a personal interest in the progress of Noxubee County and assisted us whenever possible. Brian's attention to detail and pride in his work was evident whether at his desk in the Cannon Building or during a much-deserved weekend break to fish the Shenandoah River. Brian Perry's presence on the Hill will be greatly missed by many Mississippians."—Brian Wilson, executive director, Noxubee Economic and Community Development Alliance

"It has truly been a pleasure to get to know Brian Perry during his tenure with Chip. He and I have developed a special friendship. I appreciate his intellect and character. He is an excellent writer and conscientious in his work. His public service has made a difference to our nation, our great state, and to Chip and our family. I will always be grateful."—Judge Charles W. Pickering, Sr.

Madam Speaker, Brian has provided wise counsel, effective communication and a passion for service to Mississippi. He served with poise throughout the aftermath of Katrina and in congressional and confirmation battles. I treasure his faith, reason and friendship. He has my deep respect and appreciation for all the contributions he has made and the work he has done. I wish him the very best and know he has a bright future communicating and fighting for good causes.

CONGRATULATING ISRAEL ON ITS 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE

HON. JOHN M. MCHUGH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2008

Mr. MCHUGH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and commend the State of Israel on the 60th anniversary of its independence. On May 14, 1948, Israel declared its independence. Within 11 minutes, the United States became the first nation to give de facto recognition to the State of Israel. America's friendship with Israel continues to this day. Having visited Israel several times, I know well that Israelis and Americans share the common values of peace, freedom and democracy.

The modern state of Israel is a safe haven for Jews from all corners of the world. Since its founding, Israel has been a home to Holocaust survivors and their descendants, as well as Jews fleeing oppression. While strides have been made to combat global anti-Semitism, I am disappointed that recent reports indicate a rise in anti-Semitism worldwide.

A strong and secure Israel is vital to America's national interest. Israelis know all too well the terror of indiscriminate homicide attacks by radical terrorists. The enemies of Israel have also targeted their attacks against Americans. The terrorist group Hamas is responsible for the deaths of at least 26 Americans, including teenagers and young children. In 1983 Hezbollah bombed the U.S. embassy in Bei-

rut. Hezbollah was also involved in the bombing of the United States Marine barracks, in an attack that claimed the lives of 241 American servicemen. These groups operate with support and funding from Iran, a country whose president has called for Israel to be "wiped off the map." Hamas continues to launch rockets into Israel, terrorizing innocent civilians living near the Gaza border. However, Israelis have shown tremendous courage in the face of these hostilities. Despite the constant threat of annihilation, Israelis have made the desert bloom. They have created a flourishing culture and society. Israel has also developed a thriving economy and is the world's leader in the development of many cutting edge industries. Israeli technology has even been used to help keep our troops safe in battle in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Madam Speaker, I join my colleagues in congratulating the State of Israel on its 60th anniversary, and express my sincere hope that the next 60 years come with peace and security for our close friend and ally.

CALLING ON CONGRESS TO REPEAL THE GOVERNMENT PENSION OFFSET AND WINDFALL ELIMINATION PROVISION

HON. WILLIAM D. DELAHUNT

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2008

Mr. DELAHUNT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak about an extremely important issue facing many retirees in Massachusetts. Throughout my career in the Congress, I have heard from thousands of my constituents who have been penalized by the Government Pension Offset (GPO) and Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP).

Both of these laws currently require that a modified formula be used to calculate the amount of Social Security benefits a retired or disabled worker and/or the worker's family will receive if the worker also receives a pension from local, State or Federal employment not covered by Social Security. This has resulted in some unintended and unfair consequences.

Millions of public service workers in 15 States are allowed to opt out of the Social Security system and my home State of Massachusetts is one of them. Most of these workers are teachers, town and State employees, nurses, police officers and firefighters who are not required or allowed to pay into the Social Security program. Therefore, they do not collect Social Security benefits upon retirement.

However, the GPO and WEP also prevent public servants from receiving Social Security benefits that they earned through other, non-public service employment. Under these provisions, a widow or widower is denied a spousal benefit because their husband or wife was a public service employee. This is unfair and unacceptable.

Every year those who unselfishly give of themselves by serving others in their communities, find their retirement savings slashed by the GPO and WEP, simply because they left the private sector to serve the public. In Massachusetts alone, nearly 18,700 retirees are affected by the GPO, with more than a third of them being widows or widowers. As many as 32,000 individuals are affected by the WEP.

These provisions are unfairly penalizing the men and women who contribute the vital services that sustain and improve our communities.

With the retirement population continuing to grow, this issue is of increasing importance to millions of Americans and is not going to go away. I have been contacted by thousands, representing every segment of our community, and I am continually saddened and angered by the stories that I hear. Those who are affected by the GPO and WEP are hardworking Americans that do not deserve to be denied the benefits of a Social Security system that they have already contributed to.

A widow relayed the story of how she and her husband planned their retirement believing that each would be able to take care of their bills should one of them pass. She was stunned to find out when she became widowed that she would not be allowed to collect her husband's full survivor benefits because she collects a small pension from her job as an elementary school teacher in Marshfield. Sadly, she was forced to sell the home where she had raised her family because she could no longer afford it.

A single mother of three on Cape Cod with two full-time jobs as a nurse and teacher wrote me of her dilemma. She has made many sacrifices to independently support her children. She consistently paid into her teacher's retirement fund and Social Security for decades hoping to be able to eventually retire without worry in her later years. She recently found out she will not be allowed to collect both of the full retirement benefits she earned and was counting on.

I have heard from a 63-year-old widow who works for the City of Quincy. She would like to retire before her 70th birthday but cannot afford to do so. Because of her participation in the City retirement program, her Social Security benefits will be immediately and drastically reduced.

A municipal retiree in Plymouth wrote me about his concerns with the rising price of gas and medical expenses. He supports a repeal of the GPO and WEP so that he may supplement his already meager retirement income with his Social Security benefits.

I have heard from police officers and firefighters from all over my district who put their lives on the line each and every day. These brave men and women will not be allowed to collect their full Social Security benefits upon retirement.

These stories are very real, and are just a small sample of the thousands of letters that I have received on this issue.

This is not just about senior citizens who worked all their lives believing they were responsibly planning ahead for retirement. This is not just about retirees finding themselves unable to make ends meet, concerned that they may not be able to afford to heat their homes this winter or buy the medications they need.

It's about retired and widowed public servants, who are denied access to their deceased spouse's Social Security benefits because they chose public service as a career.

It's about penalizing honest, hard-working people who dedicated their careers to public service. At a time when our Nation is searching for talented and dedicated teachers, nurses and other public servants—this penalty discourages the best and the brightest from

serving in our community. Madam Speaker, the time is long overdue for Congress to resolve this issue.

I want to urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 82, the Social Security Fairness Act which would repeal both the GPO and WEP. In addition, I'd like to urge you to support H.R. 2772, the Public Servant Retirement Protection Act, which would eliminate the WEP and establish a more equitable formula for calculating Social Security benefits.

Support for these two pieces of legislation has grown significantly each year and it is imperative that they see long-awaited debate in committee and on the floor of Congress.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF CONGRESSWOMAN MAXINE WATERS TO SOUTH AFRICA

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Congresswoman MAXINE WATERS on receiving the Order of the Companions of OR Tambo Silver Award.

Since 1980, Congresswoman WATERS has worked tirelessly to improve the situation of the South African people. During the long reign of the apartheid regime, Representative WATERS organized marches, participated in rallies and welcomed countless antiapartheid leaders to the United States. Spearheading the national divestment movement, Congresswoman WATERS persuaded countless American corporations to withhold investing money in South Africa until apartheid ceased to exist. When South Africa held its first free elections 1994, Representative WATERS was asked to be a member of the official U.S. delegation that attended the inauguration of the country's first black president, Nelson Mandela. Clearly, Congresswoman MAXINE WATERS played a vital role in ending apartheid.

In my opinion, there is no one more deserving of one of South Africa's most prestigious awards. Congresswoman MAXINE WATERS devoted her career to ensuring that all people no matter their origin, race or culture, have the chance to experience freedom.

IN HONOR OF GABRIELLE THOMPSON OF BUFFALO, MINNESOTA: RECIPIENT OF THE PRUDENTIAL SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY AWARD

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2008

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend seventh grader Gabrielle Thompson of Buffalo Community Middle School for her extraordinary commitment to her community and her compassion for young cancer patients. This week, Gabrielle will be one of only 102 state honorees from across the Nation honored with the Prudential Spirit of Community Award.

Gabrielle has turned a difficult personal story into a story of healing and hope for chil-

dren facing a life with cancer. When she was only 4 years old, doctors removed a malignant tumor from Gabrielle's abdomen. Now, with that successful surgery not long behind her, Gabrielle has committed to helping others who find themselves in similar situations.

In addition to raising \$5,000 for cancer research selling luminaries and to drawing public attention to Buffalo's Relay for Life, Gabrielle has written a book to help children cope with cancer, "The ABCs of Childhood Cancer." Her book relates to children as only a young one can and relates to cancer patients as only one who has walked in their shoes can. But, in so many ways, her book demonstrates a young lady of startling maturity, grace, and poise.

The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards were started in 1995 as a partnership between Prudential Financial and the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP). It is the Nation's largest youth recognition program based solely on volunteerism. Two high school and middle school students from each state and the District of Columbia are honored each year, with an additional 234 distinguished finalists also receiving recognition for their public service.

This year, in addition to Gabrielle, Shanna Decker, a senior at Plainview-Elgin-Millville High School, will represent the great state of Minnesota as recipients of the award for 2008. Shanna has also had a personal experience with cancer as a young child and has also turned her difficult life lesson into a powerful example of hope and courage for other young people in this situation, spending more than 300 hours a year visiting young cancer patients in the hospital.

An additional six outstanding Minnesota teens will be honored as Distinguished Finalists: Daniel Chahla of St. Paul, Carly Fischbeck of Inver Grove Heights, Joshua Hiben of Bloomington, Carissa Loehr of Eagan, Laura Maciosek of Minneapolis, and Aisha Moghul of Fridley. It is a true privilege to join Prudential, the NASSP, and their communities in honoring these outstanding examples of compassion and service. With all the regrettable news stories about the wayward path of today's youth, these young men and women renew our faith and refresh our hope.

HONORING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF MR. THOMAS J. COOPER, SR.

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2008

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a dedicated community volunteer from Chester County, Pennsylvania, who recently passed away, but whose service is still lauded and remembered.

Each year, the Downingtown Area Chamber of Commerce recognizes an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to the community. This year, the Citizen of the Year Award will be presented posthumously to Thomas J. Cooper, Sr.

Mr. Cooper made substantial contributions to several community organizations throughout our region. He was very active with the Boy Scouts of America, serving as a Cubmaster and Den Leader for Hopewell Pack 8 for a

number of years. He also served as the Scoutmaster for Hopewell Troop 8, as well as a Vigil Member of the Order of the Arrow.

Tom was also very active with the Downingtown High School Band Parents organization, making numerous trips hauling the band instruments to local venues and even Florida for band appearances. He also worked the concession stand at the Downingtown High School stadium for numerous athletic events and band competitions, all part of his committed efforts to support our local youth.

No task was too big or too small for Tom. As long as he knew it would benefit area youth, he was there to help.

All of Tom's work and accomplishments will be acknowledged this weekend at the Downingtown Area Chamber of Commerce Annual Dinner on May 2, 2008, at Whitford Country Club. His wife, Winifred, will accept the Citizen of the Year Award on his behalf and area leaders and residents will pay tribute to the life and work of a selfless man.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in praising the work of Thomas J. Cooper, Sr., and all those who give of themselves to help others. The Citizen of the Year Award is an acknowledgment of the full and vibrant life that Tom led, and whose work is still remembered and paving the future for tomorrow's generation.

RECOGNIZING THE HOMES FOR
OUR TROOPS ORGANIZATION
AND PULTE HOMES

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2008

Mr. TANCREDO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a program that has provided an invaluable service to our nation's wounded veterans. The Homes For Our Troops organization is a non-partisan, non-profit 501(c)(3) group that provides specially built homes to veterans who have received debilitating injuries while fighting for our continued freedom in the ongoing military conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan. These homes are provided at no cost to the family receiving assistance. John Gonsalves founded this wonderful organization with the aim of providing a service for our soldiers which was much needed and even more appreciated. He has dedicated his time to this noble endeavor and his organization has proven to be of the highest standard of excellence. Homes For Our Troops has been awarded the Independent Charities Seal of Excellence. This award, bestowed upon members of the Local Independent Charities of America and the Independent Charities of America is recognition of the highest level for charity work. Fewer than 5 percent of all eligible charities are honored with this award.

Providing these homes for our injured service men and women is a team effort. Recently, ground was broken on a home for Army Staff Sergeant Matthew Keil and his wife Tracy, of Parker Colorado. Numerous organizations have teamed up with Homes For Our Troops and provided their expertise, materials and time to make this home a reality. Pulte Homes, under the guidance of Mike Meneguzzi has designed the Keil's future

home. Their organization has graciously donated over \$31,000 to the building effort and one of their employees, Bret Hribar, will be operating as the general contractor. Pulte has further demonstrated their dedication to worthy projects such as this by providing their employees 2 paid days of leave annually to participate in charitable projects.

With the help of other local businesses, Homes For Our Troops and Pulte Homes have performed a great service for a great American hero. Their continued dedication to the welfare of our returning veterans is a great example of patriotism which we should all strive to achieve.

CONGRATULATING MRS. DAWN
O'CONNOR RECIPIENT OF THE
2008 PRESIDENTIAL AWARD FOR
EXCELLENCE IN SCIENCE TEACH-
ING

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2008

Mr. HONDA. Madam Speaker, as a former teacher, school principal, and school board member I am proud to rise today to congratulate Mrs. Dawn O'Connor for receiving the 2008 Presidential Award for Excellence in Science Teaching. Since 1983, the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching have honored outstanding kindergarten through 12th grade mathematics or science teachers for their contributions in the classroom and to their profession. On behalf of the people of California's 15th District, I am honored to recognize one of our own as a recipient of the Presidential Award, the highest recognition that a teacher can receive—Mrs. O'Connor teaches Seventh Grade Biology at Ascencion Solorsano Middle School in the Gilroy Unified School District.

Ascencion Solorsano's students are fortunate to have Mrs. O'Connor serve as chair of the Science Department, coach of the Cross Country team, and advisor of the school's MESA program. After graduating from California State University, Humboldt with a B.S. in Biology Mrs. O'Connor completed her multiple subjects credential program at my alma mater, San Jose State University.

Mrs. O'Connor received the 2007 Horace Lucich Award for Outstanding Teachers by the Synopsys science fair and the California State Science Fair Teacher of the Year Award. She was a Summer Institute Fellow at Stanford University's Center for Probing the Nanoparticle and also participated in the Summer Leadership Institute hosted by the National Science Education Leadership Association.

During Mrs. O'Connor's tenure year at Ascencion Solorsano she has helped to expand a traditional science fair into a five-month inquiry-based project involving 98% of the students in the activities of a practicing scientist—problem identification, hypotheses generation, experimental design, experimentation, writing and presenting conclusions. Her inclusion of cross-curricular skills is indeed commendable. Through her encouragement students have performed exceptionally in the Silicon Valley science fair competition and gone on to attain awards at the State level

competitions. According to Mrs. O'Connor "It is also my goal to produce a population of capable problem solvers," a goal I share, one that is crucial to ensuring our Nation's competitiveness in the 21st century global economy.

Mrs. O'Connor represents the spirit of innovation that is the core of my District, the Silicon Valley and the State of California, and she is dedicated to inspiring and engaging students in science through inquiry. I congratulate her and her colleagues and students for this distinguished achievement.

STATEMENT IN RECOGNITION OF
EDIE FRASER

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2008

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the work of one of the leaders of diversity, entrepreneurship, women in business and mentoring, Edie Fraser, who was honored on April 24 with the Lou Campanelli Award for volunteerism and leadership.

The award, presented by SCORE "Counselors to America's Small Business," honors Edie Fraser for her volunteerism, philanthropic contributions and dedication to entrepreneurship and SCORE.

The Lou Campanelli Award annually recognizes outstanding individual volunteerism, leadership, vision and philanthropy in support of small business, entrepreneurship and SCORE. Edie received the award at SCORE's Afternoon of Vision 2008 in Washington, D.C., on April 24. SCORE CEO Ken Yancey and Lou Campanelli presented Edie with the award.

Edie Fraser has won more than 35 major diversity awards. SCORE is in her blood as her dad, Les Fraser, was a SCORE volunteer and leader for 33 years in Atlanta. Edie has worked with SCORE over the years, now serving on the SCORE Board of Directors.

She was named in 2007 as one of the Top 50 Pioneers in Diversity by Profiles in Diversity Journal and top 46 of America's Top Diversity Advocates by DiversityBusiness.com, along with Oprah Winfrey, Presidents Jimmy Carter and Bill Clinton, and many other senior diversity leaders. Her other awards include: The Enterprising Women Hall of Fame; the eWomen Network International Femtor Award for Lifetime Achievement; the Count-Me-In Leader Entrepreneurial Award; and the Euro-American Women's Council Artemis Award, presented by Athens and the sacred island of Delos. She also received the First Global ATHENA Award in Athens, Greece.

As an advocate for small business and entrepreneurship Edie says, "SCORE is a cornerstone of what is the best of this country. Small business is the most significant part of our economy across this nation." Fraser believes, "SCORE is the premiere source of free counseling and advice, and a source of loan information for America's aspiring entrepreneurs."

Edie's extensive background in support of diversity and women spans four decades, and she is the founder of Diversity Best Practices and Business Women's Network. She is a

counselor and champion focusing on business results. She is an advocate for diverse leadership executive talent. Edie has worked to support more than 200 corporate organizations, and she has worked with more than 100 CEOs in support of diversity practices. Talent recruitment and retention are her number one issue.

"To say thanks to SCORE is easy. We know SCORE to be perhaps the most important program that the government has created with millions of donated hours of counseling in communities across America," says Edie Fraser.

On a personal note, Edie has been a dynamic and energetic force for women in business and diversity nationwide. A resident of Washington, D.C., Edie is active in many worthy causes. She currently serves on the Board of Directors of SCORE and Advisory Board of the U.S. Center for Citizen Diplomacy. She received the Big Brothers Public Service Award and was the recipient of the Big Brothers Most Outstanding Service Award for outstanding service to youth. Edie received the United States Peace Corps award and Peace Corps Princess with others from State Department and AID. Her commitment to mentoring and community service is an inspiration to all of us striving for equality and the opportunity to achieve the American dream.

THE DAILY 45: A SUBURBAN
YOUTH SNAPS

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday May 1, 2008

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, the Department of Justice tells us that, everyday, 45 people, on average, are fatally shot in the United States. And while needless gun-related deaths continue to take place at a savage pace on Chicago's streets, including my district, we're not the only community in crisis.

The 45 people who die somewhere in America come in all shapes, sizes, colors and zip codes. In February of this year, in suburban Cockeysville, Maryland, 16-year-old Nicholas Browning confessed to taking his father's 9 mm Smith and Wesson and walking through his home and taking the lives of both his parents and his two younger brothers. According to his attorney, young Nicholas, an avid Sunday school student, apparently snapped for reasons unknown. One can only imagine what might have been if whatever demons he was confronting did not lead him to grab a gun.

Americans of conscience must come together to stop the senseless death of "The Daily 45." When will Americans say "enough is enough, stop the killing!"

HONORING DR. LASLEY FOR 45
YEARS OF SERVICE AT BUFFALO
RIDGE BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. DAVID DAVIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday May 1, 2008

Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Lasley for

his 45 years of service at Buffalo Ridge Baptist Church. Tennessee has been called the "Volunteer" state by the great efforts of our citizens during The War of 1812. Since The War of 1812 people like Dr. Lasley continue to show pride, dedication and service through volunteer efforts.

Dr. Lasley's wife Ellen, daughter Laurie, and sons Torrey and Calvin all embody the same giving and service oriented characteristics their father has bestowed upon them.

Since Dr. Lasley began his tenure in 1963, he grew the church from an average of 135 people per Sunday to over 766 per Sunday today. This is a true accomplishment and highlights his devotion to Buffalo Ridge Baptist Church and the parishioners who call that church home. What's even more is that Dr. Lasley helped spur a new donations program that has grown to receive about 1.7 million in total offerings in the year of 2007.

Dr. Lasley and Buffalo Ridge Baptist Church have continually shown their dedication to the community by leading its followers in five building construction programs. He has also emphasized missions and has even built a mission program that supports over 100 missionaries and mission agencies throughout the world.

Dr. Lasley's strong commitment to God is evident in the numerous hours devoted to studying His Word, preaching it, and encouraging others to become involved. Dr. Lasley has been a strong advocate for faith and has encouraged his church to live the same way leading by example.

Since Dr. Lasley took over Buffalo Ridge Baptist Church in 1963, he has been a true friend, asset, and noble man to Tennessee's First District. I ask that my colleagues join me today honoring Dr. Lasley for his great devotion, dedication, and service to Buffalo Ridge Baptist Church and Tennessee's First District.

HONORING MR. HERB RUBEN

HON. CAROLYN McCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2008

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate Herb Ruben, who is being honored by Peninsula Counseling Center at its 95th anniversary celebration on May 13, 2008. Herb Ruben has served with extraordinary devotion and dedication for the past 50 years as executive director of Peninsula Counseling Center, the largest non-profit community mental health center in Nassau County, New York.

Mr. Ruben has received many awards and has served in many capacities, always striving to strengthen and enhance the lives of individuals of all ages, to strengthen family life and to contribute to the social-psychological well-being of the community. He has served as past president of the Council of Family Service Agencies in New York State. He is the recipient of the Joseph M. Sokol Memorial Award from the Five Towns Community Chest; the recipient of the Distinguished Service Award from the New York Public Health Association, Long Island Region; and the Henry Brill Professional Award from the Nassau County Department of Mental Health for "outstanding achievements and leadership with the Mental

Health community of Nassau County." In addition, he was presented with a Lifetime Achievement Award by the New York State Office of Mental Health.

Mr. Ruben has been a columnist with the South Shore Record where his articles "Within the Family" have appeared in the paper for more than 30 years.

Again, I wish to congratulate Herb Ruben and thank him for the leadership and direction he has brought to Peninsula Counseling Center, as its executive director. For 50 years, he has helped to make it the outstanding organization that it is.

TRIBUTE TO DAVID PLOTINSKY

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2008

Mr. REYES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. David Plotinsky who recently left the House of Representatives to take a position with the Department of Justice.

Mr. Plotinsky served in the Office of the General Counsel for 10 years, first as a law clerk while he was a student at Georgetown Law School and, since 2000, as an Assistant Counsel.

Mr. Plotinsky provided frequent and invaluable legal advice and representation to the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. Our staff came to rely on his expertise and guidance in connection with many of their investigative and oversight activities, as well as in the Committee's interactions with the other branches of the federal government.

Over the years, Mr. Plotinsky played a significant role in safeguarding the legal and institutional interests of the House of Representatives, and he served the House with great distinction. I know that he will serve the Department of Justice with that same level of distinction.

On behalf of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, I thank him for his many years of devoted service, and extend to him our very best wishes for his continued success.

HONORING SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY
VOLUNTEERS CONNOR
DANTZLER AND CHRISTOPHER
ANDERSON

HON. ROSCOE G. BARTLETT

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2008

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Madam Speaker, I would like to congratulate and honor two young students from my district who have achieved national recognition for exemplary volunteer community service by the 2008 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program, an annual honor conferred on the most impressive student volunteers in each state and the District of Columbia.

Connor Dantzler of Damascus has just been named one of the top honorees in Maryland. An eighth-grader at John T. Baker Middle School, Connor is being recognized for his "Health through Humor" program. He has distributed over 5,000 joke books to patients,

their families and caregivers at hospitals and care centers throughout Maryland. In addition to delivering books to participating hospitals and health care centers, Connor spends time with patients and their loved ones. "I've shared a smile and positive moment with a lot of people," said Connor. "I hope that these efforts have made a difference to those who really needed something to laugh about." I am sure they did.

Christopher Anderson, a sophomore at Westminster High was named a finalist and will receive a bronze medal. I heartily applaud Christopher for his initiative in seeking to make his community a better place to live by renovating an outdoor break area for the Association for Retarded Citizens of Carroll County to make it accessible to disabled residents. Inspired by his uncle who has Down syndrome, he recruited more than 40 volunteers and raised \$3,000 for the project. Christopher and his volunteers removed old rock, built special picnic tables, replaced wooden sidewalks and planted trees and shrubs in order to make the area handicapped-accessible. It will continue to have a positive impact on the lives of others for years to come.

Young volunteers like Connor and Christopher are inspiring examples to all of us, and are among our brightest hopes for a better tomorrow. The dedication and commitment by Connor Dantzer to sick hospital patients and Christopher Anderson to disabled individuals should fill all of us with pride that America's community spirit is strong. On behalf of the residents of Maryland's Sixth District I am honored to publicly thank and congratulate Connor and Christopher for their volunteer efforts. You give us hope and confidence that America's future will be led by a new generation of inspiring and compassionate leaders.

TAIWAN'S LEADERSHIP ON GLOBAL ISSUES

HON. DANA ROHRBACHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2008

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Madam Speaker, in the 6½ years since terrorists attacked the American homeland, our government has undertaken a series of steps to prepare for, deter, and ultimately stop future attacks from occurring. In advancing these objectives, it has been essential to partner with like-minded nations to ensure security and freedom for all our citizens. In this regard, I would like to take the opportunity to express the appreciation of many in the Congress to President Chen Shui-bian of Taiwan as he prepares to leave office later this month.

During President Chen's time in office, Taiwan has demonstrated time and again its commitment to global security and cooperation. Such actions have been forthcoming despite the preoccupation of an existential threat facing it from across the Taiwan Strait.

After 9/11, Taiwan immediately opened its airspace to U.S. military aircraft transiting Pacific routes to Afghanistan. It subsequently partnered with our government and others in the Container Security Initiative, which seeks to prevent illicit cargo from reaching rogue entities around the world. Furthermore, Taiwan has committed over \$100 million to recovery

efforts in Afghanistan, making it one of the most significant contributors to coalition efforts there.

Recognizing that global security can be advanced in a variety of ways, Taiwan has been a leader in addressing public health issues internationally. Struck by SARS in 2003, Taiwan acted swiftly to share information with other nations that helped limit its spread. Soon thereafter, Taiwan's experience in tackling avian flu was again made available to the international community in order to deter that contagion's deadly proliferation.

Beyond these multilateral efforts, Taiwan has also developed one of the most extensive bilateral development assistance programs in the world. For instance, it has established 36 long-term technical missions in 30 partner countries, focusing on capacity building, agriculture, fisheries, horticulture, livestock, handicrafts, medicine, transportation, industry, mining, electricity generation, printing, vocational training, trade and investment. Taiwan allocates approximately 100,000 tons of rice annually as humanitarian foreign aid. After the South Asia tsunami occurred in December 2004, the Taiwanese government provided \$50 million in initial relief assistance, and cooperated with international non-governmental organizations in additional relief efforts. It also provided more than 355 tons of relief materials to tsunami-affected countries.

These and other measures undertaken by Taiwan over the past several years are to be commended. Under the leadership of President Chen, his government has served as a model for others seeking to play a constructive role in the international community. I encourage continued leadership by Taiwan as a new president prepares to assume office, and can assure him of America's enduring partnership in these efforts.

CONSOLIDATED NATURAL RESOURCES ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. ADRIAN SMITH

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2008

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, I want to thank the House of Representatives for taking action on the Platte River Recovery Implementation Program today.

The Platte River has undergone extensive development for irrigation, power generation, and municipal water uses. The river system today contains 15 major dams and reservoirs and provides water for about 3.5 million people.

Existing facilities on the river provide hydroelectric power, irrigation water, flood control, recreation, and fish and wildlife habitat. Substantial portions of the economies of the Platte River basin States—Wyoming, Colorado, and Nebraska—are based on water supplied by the Platte River.

In 1997, the three States and the U.S. Department of the Interior signed an agreement to pursue a basinwide cooperative recovery implementation program to improve and maintain habitat for four threatened and endangered species which use the Platte River.

The legislation we are discussing today is designed to implement a multi-state coopera-

tive approach to assist in the conservation and recovery of habitat for the Platte River's endangered and threatened species and to help prevent the need to list more species under the Endangered Species Act. The bill would also provide regulatory certainty to the cities and industries which rely on flows of the river.

As we move forward with the implementation of the program, positive and negative economic impacts must be assessed and considered in order to minimize adverse effects of the recovery efforts.

This legislation is the first step of many to protect and recover species and provide long-term water use for our communities.

THE RISKS AND REWARDS OF THE POPE'S VISIT TO THE U.S.

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2008

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, it is my privilege to enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD today an article that was written by a constituent of mine, Thomas J. Carty, PhD, Associate Professor of History and American Studies at Springfield College in Springfield, MA. His article is entitled, The Risks and Rewards of the Pope's Visit to the U.S., and it outlines the history of the interaction of politics and religion as it related to papal visits in the past. I thought it was a pertinent piece in light of Pope Benedict's recent visit to Washington, DC and New York City.

THE RISKS AND REWARDS OF THE POPE'S VISIT TO THE U.S.

(By Thomas J. Carty)

Pope Benedict XVI's meeting this week with a U.S. president during an election year demonstrates how Americans increasingly tolerate the confluence of religion and politics. While George Bush does not face the prospect of election this year, his meeting with Pope Benedict may affect the presidential campaign. Bush's policies have both delighted and disappointed the Pope. The president's opposition to legalized abortion and embryonic stem-cell research earned him praise by John Paul II, but this pope also critiqued Bush and his father for resorting excessively to war in Panama, the Persian Gulf, and Iraq. For Bush, this meeting offers an opportunity to burnish his legacy as a defender of traditional values.

Bush can maximize benefit from this meeting by studying the successes and failures of Lyndon Johnson, Ronald Reagan, and Bill Clinton. Johnson's 1965 decision to greet Pope Paul VI strained traditional diplomatic protocol because no pope had previously set foot in the United States. Prior to the pope's landing in New York in order to deliver a speech at the United Nations, therefore, Johnson arranged elaborate plans to avoid appearing biased in favor of the Catholic Church. The president agreed to wait in New York's Waldorf-Astoria hotel for Pope Paul VI to visit Johnson's suite so that the president could deny having initiated the unofficial summit. Johnson certainly hoped such appeals to the pope might have helped his standing among Catholics in an eventual run for reelection. Yet the pope's public criticisms of U.S. bombing in Southeast Asia contributed to Johnson's later decision to withdraw from the 1968 presidential campaign.

By contrast, Pope John Paul II boosted Ronald Reagan's political popularity among

Catholics and conservative non-Catholics in the 1980s. Although the U.S. Catholic bishops opposed the construction of nuclear weapons and criticized Reagan's movement to expand U.S. armaments, John Paul and Reagan shared an uncompromising anticommunism. Meeting with the pope allowed the president to deflect attention from the American Catholic hierarchy's opposition to his arms buildup. When Reagan appointed an official, full-time ambassador to the Vatican in 1984, the president had established a direct diplomatic line of communication with the pope, and subverted the American bishops. Reagan showed none of Johnson's protocol concerns when deciding to stay an extra night in Alaska to coordinate an informal meeting with the pope, whose plane arrived the next day, in May 1984, a year in which a majority of Catholics voted to help him win reelection.

In the most analogous case with George Bush's position this year, Bill Clinton met with John Paul II in 1999 as a second term president unable to run again for reelection. Absent the Cold War, Clinton aggressively pursued common cause with Pope John Paul II in other areas. Due to Clinton's unapologetic support of legalized abortion and artificial contraception, the policies of this president clashed with the pope's absolute opposition to late-term, or "partial birth" abortions. Yet Clinton sought closer connections between U.S. and Vatican economic assistance programs while the Republican congress planned to curtail funding for foreign aid. The Catholic Church also endorsed Clinton's ambitions to provide government assistance to the poor and immigrants. These efforts may have helped Clinton obtain the meeting and photo opportunity with John Paul II at the same time as two Papal Knights in Congress (House Judiciary Committee Chairperson Henry J. Hyde and his legal counsel David P. Shippers) prepared the case for the president's eventual impeachment.

Since George W. Bush cannot legally compete in the 2008 presidential election, Pope Benedict may have more to gain or lose than the president in this year's papal-presidential meeting. Some reports indicate that the pope will court controversy by highlighting abortion in this presidential election year visit to the United States. If so, many Americans will charge the pope with a partisan appeal which threatens America's recent tolerance for Catholicism and church-state cooperation. If Benedict addresses respect for immigrants and the poor, as well as the unborn, however, he can avoid the appearance of favoring one political party platform over another.

CHIEF STANDING BEAR

SPEECH OF

HON. ADRIAN SMITH

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2008

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of one of our nation's greatest advocates for Native Americans, Chief Standing Bear.

I have long said a leader does not make people do the right thing—a leader inspires them to do the right thing.

Chief Standing Bear was such a leader.

Born in Nebraska, the Ponca Chief and his tribe were forcibly moved to Oklahoma. In 1879, Chief Standing Bear was arrested and put on trial for leaving Indian Territory to bury his son in their ancestral home.

After a two-day trial, a federal judge recognized Standing Bear as human under the law and freed him, a landmark decision securing constitutional rights for all Native Americans.

I am proud to cosponsor H. Res. 1043, honoring Chief Standing Bear's life, legacy, and contributions to civil rights.

HONORING GERALD WALKER

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2008

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Gerald Walker upon his retirement from Clovis Unified School District as the Director of Construction and Engineering. Mr. Walker will be honored at a reception on May 3, 2008.

Gerald Walker graduated from Clovis High School in 1953. Shortly after graduation he began to work for the School District. He has served 23 years with the Clovis Unified School District; 16 of those years as a member of the governing board and the past 17 years as the Director of Construction and Engineering. The District was able to complete over a billion dollars of construction related projects and is recognized as a leader in the area of school facilities in California. Under the direction of Mr. Walker, Clovis Unified has successfully completed over 200 projects, including 16 new elementary schools, 3 new intermediate schools, 3 new high schools, and countless modernization and improvement projects. For these accomplishments, Mr. Walker was recognized by the Builder's Exchange in 2007 for "Outstanding Industry Achievement" and by Darden Architects for "Excellence in Building". In addition, Mr. Walker has been a member of the District's Career Technical Education Advisory Committee.

Clovis schools have received many honors over the years, including being named numerous times as a California Distinguished School, a National Blue Ribbon School and National Drug Free Schools Program. Mr. Walker's dedication to providing exemplary school facilities and grounds has assisted Clovis Unified in attaining these achievements.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Gerald Walker upon his retirement from Clovis Unified School District. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Mr. Walker many years of continued success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2008

Mr. COLE of Oklahoma. Madam Speaker, on Wednesday, April 30, 2008, I missed the first vote in a series of two votes. I missed rollcall votes Nos. 230, 231, 232, and 233.

Had I been present and voting, I would have voted as follows: Rollcall vote No. 230: "aye" (on agreeing to the Miller, George amendment to H.R. 5522); rollcall vote No. 231: "aye" (on agreeing to the Wilson (SC) amendment to H.R. 5522); rollcall vote No. 232: "aye" (on motion to recommit H.R. 5522 with instruc-

tions); rollcall vote No. 233: "no" (on final passage of H.R. 5522).

SPOKANE TEACHER RECEIVES PRESIDENTIAL AWARD

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2008

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Linda Hutchinson, the Mathematics Department Head at Shadle Park High School in Spokane, Wash., on her outstanding performance as a mathematics teacher. In recognition of her exceptional contribution to the academic wellbeing of her students, Mrs. Hutchinson has been awarded the "Presidential Award for Excellence in Teaching Mathematics and Science."

The Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching, PAEMST, is the highest recognition that a kindergarten through 12th-grade mathematics or science teacher may receive for outstanding teaching in the United States. Mrs. Hutchinson is one of just 108 teachers to receive this honor each year.

Mrs. Hutchinson was evaluated on five dimensions of outstanding teaching. She proved she demonstrated her mastery of mathematics content, and that her teaching methods increase student achievement. In addition, by winning the award, she has demonstrated that she evaluates and improves not only her students' achievement, but how she teaches the material. Finally, Mrs. Hutchinson is committed to improving her personal mastery of the content she teaches. She is also committed to mentoring and supporting other teachers at her school.

Providing quality education is a key to increasing America's competitiveness and creating a skilled, 21st century workforce. Today, over half of China's undergraduate degrees are in math, science, technology and engineering. Yet, only 16 percent of American undergraduates pursue these fields. To meet the demands of an increasingly advanced, global market we must better train and equip our nation's workforce and Mrs. Hutchinson is doing just that. Shadle Park High School is fortunate to have such an inspiring and committed teacher.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Linda Hutchinson for her outstanding work as mathematics teacher. What an honor it is to receive this recognition from the President. I invite my colleagues to join with me in congratulating Mrs. Hutchinson on this great achievement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2008

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I would like to offer a personal explanation of the reason I missed rollcall Vote No. 146 on March 14, 2008. I was meeting off Capitol Hill with over 100 World War II veterans from my

district who flew up on the Emerald Coast Honor Flight.

If present, I would have voted: Rollcall vote No. 227, Previous Question on the Rule for H.R. 5522—Worker Protection Against Combustible Dust Explosion and Fire Act, “nay”; Rollcall vote No. 228, Rule for H.R. 5522—Worker Protection Against Combustible Dust Explosion and Fire Act, “nay.”

CORSON BUILDING RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY—FITTING TRIBUTE TO TONY AND CHRISTOPHER SOUZA

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2008

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, on May 16 there will be a very important event in New Bedford, Massachusetts: the ribbon cutting for the newly renovated Corson Building, which will be dedicated on that date as a key component of the New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park Visitors Center.

I look forward to being joined at the ceremony by my colleague Senator EDWARD KENNEDY and many other people who have played an active role in both the initial establishment of the National Park and in the preservation and restoration of the Corson Building, an important historical structure which was nearly destroyed by fire in 1997. Through a combination of Federal, State and local government financing, along with non-profit funds and efforts, the building, now attached to the existing Visitors Center, will serve as a major educational facility with valuable public meeting space that will be available for both National Park programs and community meetings.

Among those who will be recognized at the celebration on May 16 for their efforts in making the Corson project a reality, there is one individual whose contributions over the years were crucial and deserve special mention. I speak of New Bedford native Tony Souza, who was the long-time Executive Director of the Waterfront Historic Area League, WHALE, the city's leading historic preservation organization.

While Tony and his wife Elsie (who did great work as the Deputy District Director of my Congressional office) moved a couple of years ago to Florida to pursue other opportunities, it is his vision for both the National Park and the Corson Building that we will to a large extent be honoring at the ribbon cutting event. A little known aspect of Tony's efforts to restore the Corson Building and convert it into an educational facility is that he took much of his inspiration for that work from his late son, Christopher Souza, who had been a member of Senator KENNEDY's staff.

Chris, who shared his parents' commitment to both improving New Bedford and preserving its wonderful historical legacy, sadly passed away at the age of 26 in 1994. This was of course a tragic loss for his family, but it was also a loss to the broader community because we were deprived of the talents of a young man who had chosen to dedicate himself to public service. Despite his grief over his son's passing, Tony gave some thought to steps he might take to honor Chris as an individual and

also as someone who exemplified the next generation of young leaders. This consideration led ultimately to the idea of establishing the Corson Building, once it was rebuilt, as a facility with a primary focus on education, so that it could, among other purposes, play a key role in helping tell the young people of New Bedford the remarkable history of their city.

Like many complicated projects involving older structures and various levels of government—not to mention both the vagaries of the Congressional appropriations process and the National Park Service's property management regulations—getting the Corson Building to where it is today involved a slow series of steps with numerous detours. Along the way, it was necessary to stabilize the building after the fire; develop the necessary design for the renovation; and begin to assemble the requisite funds, all of which took time. Tony was consistently the driving force behind the efforts to overcome the obstacles that emerged, and I know that his desire to see the project completed was to a large extent a reflection of his love for his son. Indeed, he only decided to seek new challenges outside Massachusetts when it was clear that his vision for the project was well on its way toward completion.

So, the Corson Building ribbon cutting ceremony will be both a physical and a much more personal homecoming for Tony and Elsie. I join with Senator KENNEDY, and the elected officials, National Park Service representatives and area preservation activists and residents who will also be attending the event, in paying tribute to Tony Souza's vital contributions to this important accomplishment, and to his son Christopher, who was such an important inspiration for his father's work on the project.

IN HONOR OF CEIL CIRILLO

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2008

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an invaluable member of the Santa Cruz community. After two decades of service, Ceil Cirillo has announced her retirement from her post as director of Redevelopment/Economic Development for the City of Santa Cruz. Ceil began her work in the Santa Cruz community after numerous buildings and homes had been destroyed in the Loma Pieta earthquake of 1989. As a part of her work as a director, Ceil acquired the challenge of reconstructing a devastated historic downtown Santa Cruz. Her success is evident today by the vibrant destination for shopping and dining that Pacific Avenue is today. Yet this endeavor was only the beginning of her accomplishments and contributions that continue to benefit the Santa Cruz community.

To rebuild the commerce affected by the quake, Ceil oversaw local building expansion. Under her direction, the agency created a new department for the redevelopment of downtown, as well as a business outreach program to ensure commercial success both downtown and citywide.

Ceil's humanitarian efforts made a great impact on Santa Cruz citizens who needed help the most. One of these accomplishments was overseeing the construction of low-rent units;

providing housing for families with limited incomes. She also facilitated the installment of emergency housing units, 26 of which are in their planning stages or already under construction. These projects, along with others, have resulted in 407,000 square feet of newly available housing; placing roofs over the heads of those who would otherwise have no place to call home.

In her reconstruction aid, Ceil has not let her artistic side go but rather channeled her passion for the arts in her efforts. She is keen on preserving and cultivating the rich culture of the community, and instituted the Tannery Arts Center and Pacific Avenue Multi-Modal Station, which today serve as outlets for local artists. In addition, in the unique spirit of Santa Cruz, she instated commercial facade projects, murals, landscaping and similar projects all over the city. These public artworks give significant aesthetic appeal to a city that had once been reduced to shambles.

Prior to coming to Santa Cruz, Ceil was the Director of Redevelopment for the City of Signal Hill, California, and in addition to some private sector employment, was a Special Assistant to the City Manager in Pasadena, California. She has received numerous awards in recognition of her works in the Santa Cruz community and has served on the Board of Directors of several local charities.

Madam Speaker, the City of Santa Cruz will miss Ceil's vision and leadership, but there is no doubt that she has left the City in a better place from when she first arrived. I wish Ceil the best in retirement and look forward to her continued involvement in the Santa Cruz community.

WAMU 88.5'S RAY DAVIS CELEBRATES 60 YEARS ON THE AIR

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2008

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, Ray Davis, host of The Ray Davis Show on WAMU's Bluegrass Country, celebrates 60 years in broadcasting on May 2. Ray Davis joined WAMU 88.5 in 1985 to host Saturday Bluegrass, and shared hosting duties for the weekday afternoon program, Bluegrass Country, until 2001. He currently hosts 3 live hours of traditional bluegrass music on The Ray Davis Show at 3 p.m., weekdays, and 10 a.m., Sundays, on WAMU's Bluegrass Country, heard in Washington, DC, in HD Radio at 88.5, Channel 2, and online at bluegrasscountry.org.

Davis provides area bluegrass fans and online listeners worldwide with a daily dose of the traditional American art form, from prison songs and “plum pitiful” tunes to the great train rides—and train wrecks—of bluegrass music, all delivered with Davis' encyclopedic knowledge of the artists and the music. More than a DJ, Ray Davis is both a musicologist and an archivist who takes listeners on a stroll down bluegrass music's memory lane. His specialties, the plum pitiful tunes, are tearjerkers that explore universal themes of death, betrayal, and jealousy.

“Ray Davis is a legend in music broadcasting. He has helped define bluegrass music on-air since its earliest days as a discrete genre, and has placed a lasting imprint on it

with his dedication to playing, promoting, and recording its musicians," said Caryn G. Mathes, WAMU 88.5's General Manager. "His booming, resonant voice is synonymous with the sound of bluegrass at WAMU, and his willingness to explore broadcasting on multiple new media platforms as radio evolves has been an inspiration to me."

Davis began his radio career at the age of 15, when he left his boyhood home in Wango, MD, for a job at WDOV-AM in Dover, DE. He had jobs at other small town stations around the country, as well as a stint south of the border at XERF, the Mexican mail-order station that made Wolfman Jack famous, where he learned to be a radio pitchman. Davis returned to the east coast and spent 38 years hosting a popular bluegrass program from Johnny's Used Cars for WBMD in Baltimore, MD. In 1962, he began recording some of the Nation's finest bluegrass musicians and selling these recordings under his own label, Wango.

Davis hosts bluegrass festivals and concerts around the country, including the Delaware Valley Bluegrass Festival, and the Arcadia Music Festival. He also produces 15 hours of bluegrass music each week for WAMU's Bluegrass Country. When he's not acting as program host or concert emcee, chances are Davis is holed up in his basement studio producing CDs from hundreds of bluegrass tapes he's recorded over the years. Since the 1960s, Davis has been enlisting friends like Carter and Ralph Stanley, Don Reno, Bill Harrell, the Warrior River Boys, the Gillis Brothers, Owen Saunders, and a host of others to make his so-called "basement tapes." The basement tapes include previously unreleased jam sessions with many of these legendary bluegrass artists.

American University's radio station since 1961, WAMU 88.5 is the leading public radio station for NPR news and information in the greater Washington, DC, area with more than 650,000 listeners in the region. WAMU 88.5 is "your NPR news station in the Nation's capital."

HONORING OUR COMMITMENT TO
FILIPINO WORLD WAR II VET-
ERANS

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2008

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I stand before you this evening to discuss the plight of some 20,000 brave men who defended our country during World War II but have been neglected in their old age. I refer to the Filipino nationals who fought with American soldiers as part of the Recognized Guerilla Forces.

Madam Speaker, the sacrifice and suffering of these brave warriors has been well-documented. Without their support, some say, American forces likely would have been outmanned and outgunned at many of the decisive battles in the Pacific Theater during World War II. But because of an unfair designation set into law, our government treats one class of Filipino veteran differently than another.

In the days and months following the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, more than 250,000 Filipino nationals swore allegiance to

the United States of America with the same oath each of us took when we became Members of this body. They fought side-by-side with our fathers and grandfathers and suffered casualties at a far higher rate than native-born American forces. In return, the Filipino soldiers were promised the same benefits and support as their American counterparts. In fact, in October of 1945, Gen. Omar Bradley, then Administrator of the Veterans Administration, reaffirmed that they would be treated like any other veterans.

But The Rescission Acts of 1946 changed that. As happens all too often in the halls of power, short-sighted political expediency won out over fairness and common decency. Faced with massive war debts, Congress excluded a class of veteran that had no voice and no vote. Since then, piecemeal attempts have been made to rectify the inequities of The Rescission Acts, but time is clearly working against us.

Today, the few Filipino veterans who are still living are in their eighties. Their number is estimated to be at or around 20,000, with 7,000 living in the United States. Many of those veterans reside in my district, which boasts the largest number of Filipino Americans in the nation.

Madam Speaker, I am not asking for special consideration. I am not seeking an earmark or a windfall or a handout. I am simply asking that we, as a nation, honor the promise we made to the brave souls who put their very lives on the line for the sake of America and all it stands for. Let us show our gratitude to the few remaining Filipino World War II veterans and restore the benefits due them and promised to them when they, like all of us here, raised their right hands and swore: I do solemnly swear that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the United States of America.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DR. REBECCA
MILLS

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2008

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to rise today to honor Dr. Rebecca Mills, Ed.D by entering her name in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, the official record of the proceedings and debates of the United States Congress since 1873. Today I pay tribute to Dr. Rebecca Mills for her service to the students at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, and would like to commend her for her dedication and commitment to higher education.

Receiving her doctorate in secondary education, Rebecca attended the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville. After receiving her doctorate degree, she joined the University of Nevada, Las Vegas in 1987 as an assistant professor in the Department of Instructional and Curricular Studies. She would later become associate professor and then a full professor within the College of Education.

In 1998, she was appointed to the position of Senior Advisor to the President of the University, serving for two years before being named the Interim Vice President for Student Life in April 2001, where she served until her retirement in 2008. In this role, Rebecca

worked with over 400 individuals to provide services and programs that support out-of-classroom learning for UNLV's more than 27,000 students.

Rebecca has published and presented nationally on such topics as organizational change, middle level education, teacher beliefs, and teacher development. She has also been featured in the National Forum of Teacher Education Journal and the National Forum of Applied Educational Research Journal. She is a recipient of several teaching awards including the Carnegie Foundation's Nevada Professor of the Year. She is active in the National Association of the Student Personnel Administrators (NASOA) serving Region V as the Public Policy Coordinator. She also belongs to the Association of College Personnel Administrators (ACPA) and has presented at several conferences.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Rebecca Mills, Ed.D for her accomplishments at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas and applaud her for her contributions and dedication to the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. I wish her the best of luck in her future endeavors.

HONORING TAIWAN'S OUTGOING
PRESIDENT CHEN SHUI-BIAN
AND VICE-PRESIDENT ANNETTE
LU

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2008

Mr. TANCREDO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Taiwan's outgoing President Chen Shui-Bian and Vice-President Annette Lu.

Chen Shui-Bian and Annette Lu became Taiwan's second elected President and Vice-President in the year 2000. Perhaps more importantly, however, their election signified the first peaceful transfer of power from the Chinese Nationalist Party or Kuomintang—which had imposed martial law and ruled Taiwan for over a half-century.

In many ways, President Chen and Vice-President Lu's rise to the highest offices in the country is, itself, the story of Taiwan.

President Chen and Vice-President Lu's paths crossed for the first time among difficult circumstances. Ms. Lu was facing sedition charges for her work on the staff of Formosa Magazine, which had been critical of the Kuomintang dictatorship. Chen Shui-Bian, a young lawyer at the time, was a member of her defense team.

Ms. Lu was ultimately convicted and spent more than five years in prison, but the sentence failed to break her will or extinguish her passion for bringing democracy to Taiwan.

Mr. Chen lost the case, but he was won over by his clients' ideals. The defendants and their lawyers subsequently became the core of the democratic opposition in Taiwan. And Mr. Chen too, would spend time in jail for his political beliefs.

But the democratic movement they helped to spark would ultimately triumph. Martial law was lifted in 1987, and by 1996 then-President Lee Teng-Hui had initiated democratic reforms that allowed for the direct election of Taiwan's President and Vice-President.

After the lifting of martial law in Taiwan, Mr. Chen became a member of the Taipei municipal council, and after the birth of multi-party

politics and the formation of the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP), he became the capital city's first popularly elected Mayor in 1994. And in 2000, his election as President of Taiwan marked the first peaceful, democratic transfer of power in the history of either Taiwan or China.

After her release from prison, Ms. Lu was elected to Taiwan's legislature and later, Magistrate of Taoyuan County—the equivalent of a Governor here in the United States. In 2000, she was elected as Vice-President on the DPP ticket with President Chen.

In the span of two decades, Mr. Chen and Ms. Lu had gone from political prisoners to political leaders. Ms. Lu's response to a TIME Magazine reporter's question shortly before she and Mr. Chen were inaugurated in 2000 perhaps summed up this amazing transformation best:

The reporter asked, "Fifteen years ago you were sitting in a jail cell as a political prisoner. When you take the oath of office, what thoughts will be going through your head?"

She responded, "What I'm proud of is that the same party, the KMT, that suppressed me 20 years ago will be transferring power to me, peacefully."

President Chen and Vice-President Lu spearheaded efforts to amend Taiwan's antiquated constitution to modernize Taiwan's fledgling democracy. They also conducted Taiwan's first ever citizens referendum—a milestone for democracy not just in Taiwan, but in all of Asia. Taiwan's voters rewarded the two for their diligence and commitment by re-electing them in 2004.

Under their leadership, Taiwan has deepened its democratic roots, and has become an even brighter beacon of democracy than when they first took office eight years ago. I hope that very soon, Madam Speaker, the people on the Chinese mainland will see that light, and emulate in that country what the Taiwanese have accomplished in their own.

Later this month, Mr. Ma Ying Jeou and Mr. Vincent Siew will be sworn in as Taiwan's new President and Vice President—signifying yet another peaceful transfer of power from one party to another in Taiwan.

So Madam Speaker, I rise to once again congratulate the people of Taiwan, and to recognize President Chen and Vice-President Lu for their contributions to democracy and human rights. I wish them both the best of luck as they leave office.

HONORING ALESIA HAMILTON

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize, Ms. Alesia Hamilton, an

exemplary individual and first grade teacher at Edison Elementary in St. Joseph, Missouri.

In 2004, Ms. Hamilton, in accordance with her character of compassion and service, invited Mr. Alferd Williams, 70, into her class of 25 students in order that he may finally learn to read. Her generous nature and commitment to the task of working with Mr. Williams demonstrates her willingness to go above and beyond what is required as a public school teacher.

In accordance with my Resolution to recognize the roles and contributions of America's teachers through National Teacher Appreciation Week, I would like to take a moment to individually recognize Ms. Hamilton as an educator selflessly committed to the development of our nation's students.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Alesia Hamilton for her service to America's students and for her efforts put forth in working with Mr. Williams. It is an honor to serve both of these individuals in the United States Congress.

IN HONOR OF POLISH
CONSTITUTION DAY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Polish American Congress, Ohio Division, as they celebrate Polish Constitution Day—a day where the Polish Community shares their rich culture with the Greater Cleveland Community.

The first written European constitution, the Governmental Statute of Poland, was instated on May 3, 1971. Poland's Constitution was the result of nearly five centuries of struggle and perseverance by the people of Poland to diminish the power of the King and to create facets and institutions of government vital to the foundation of a constitutional government. Formed in 1949, the Polish American Congress is a national umbrella organization representing over ten million Americans of Polish descent and origin, and serves as a unifying force for both Polish Americans and Polish citizens living in America. Cleveland's Polish American community is deeply rooted and prides itself on their commitment to the values of family, faith, democracy, hard work and fulfillment of the American dream.

The Polish American Congress strives to make Americans of Polish heritage more successful and involved U.S. citizens by encouraging them to assume the responsibilities of leadership. Since its foundation over sixty years ago, the group has created programs to successfully integrate people of Polish decent

in the U.S. and enrich Cleveland's social fabric. These programs include the Displaced Persons Program, which allowed almost 150,000 Polish immigrants to enter the U.S. after World War Two. The group also won American veterans benefits for Polish Veterans of both World War One and World War Two.

The Polish American Congress has played a crucial role in the Polish Community, and in its many years of support and service has been an invaluable contribution to the City of Cleveland and this nation. This year, the Greater Cleveland Community can celebrate Poland's rich history and culture by joining Cleveland's Polish community in attending events such as the Polonia Ball, the Grand Parade and the Photographic Exhibition.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and celebration of the leaders and members of the Polish American Congress, as they celebrate Polish Constitution Day and as they continue to promote and share their heritage, history and culture with the Greater Cleveland community.

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2008

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, today, I join with citizens around the world to commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day. On this day, we honor the European Jews who retained their human dignity in the midst of extreme suffering, and in many cases, offered passive resistance.

Some Jews opposed the Third Reich through participation in underground forces. In Warsaw, many banded together to fight the Nazis in the ghettos. Others used what meager means they had to preserve their culture. The U.S. Holocaust Museum, located just a few blocks from here, displays artwork and poetry created by Jews imprisoned in concentration camps—evidences of the prisoners' courage and resilience.

The genocide remains one of the darkest stains on the history of humanity and a testament to the strength of the Jewish people. As both a Member of Congress and a private citizen possessing a strong faith, I vow to always remember and respect those who suffered such a tragic fate.