

care that they require and deserve. We must ensure that the proper medical services are available to service men and women for their use while on active duty and once they return home. Today, the percentage of women in the military is at the highest level ever. My home State of Ohio currently has over 65,000 female veterans. I am deeply concerned about the impact these high service levels are having on the well-being and stability of America families and I am committed to working on this issue in Congress.

The 11th Congressional District of Ohio is represented by an outstanding group of women serving in our Nation's armed forces and our State's national guard. Their service and sacrifice is greatly appreciated and will not be forgotten.

#### TRIBUTE TO U-2 PILOTS

### HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 22, 2008*

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the heroic feats and commendable military service of 11 U-2 pilots of the 4080th Strategic Reconnaissance Wing. Based out of Laughlin Air Force Base in Del Rio, Texas, these men weathered great danger in flying critical surveillance missions over the Caribbean during the height of the Cold War.

On October 14, 1962, their efforts provided the first convincing evidence that Soviet medium range ballistic missiles were present in Cuba; and thanks to their courage, our country was able to recognize and navigate one of the greatest national security threats of the 20th century, the Cuban Missile Crisis. At great personal risk, the unit exposed some of the deepest and darkest secrets of our country's adversaries.

Named "Operation Brass Knob", this distinguished group of pilots ventured over Cuban airspace armed only with cameras. Declassified documents and the pilots' personal accounts reveal that each was engaged by the enemy; indeed, on the 27th U-2 flight over Cuba, and during the pinnacle of the crisis, Major Rudolf Anderson Jr. was shot down and killed by a strategic air missile. Nevertheless, the intelligence photographs these pilots compiled gave President Kennedy the information needed to initiate a naval blockade of Cuba and ultimately dissuade the Soviet Union.

On November 26, 1962, President Kennedy awarded the 4080th Strategic Reconnaissance Wing with the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award. Kennedy nobly remarked, "The work of this unit has contributed as much to the security of the United States as any unit in our history, and any group of men in our history!"

While President Kennedy's decisionmaking during the Cuban Missile crisis is properly designated as lore, the 11 U-2 pilots have spent the past 45 years in relatively humble obscurity. Because of the sensitivity of their mission, most of these men were denied the public praise and recognition warranted by their mission.

And so today I applaud the Val Verde Historical Commission for its decision to honor these men by placing a commemorative historical marker in Del Rio, TX, on behalf of the 11 pilots of Operation Brass Knob: Majors Ru-

dolf Anderson Jr., Buddy L. Brown, Edwin G. Emerling, Richard S. Heyser, James A. Qualls, and Captains George M. Bull, Roger H. Herman, Charles W. Kern, Gerald E. McIlmoyle, Robert L. Primrose, and Daniel W. Schmar. A ceremony will take place May 23, 2008, and five of the six surviving pilots will be in attendance.

As we approach Memorial Day, let us pause, reflect, and give thanks for the efforts of our men in uniform, both those whose efforts will be infamous and those whose service will be unheralded by the public at large. I am proud to represent the district from which the men of Operation Brass Knob staged their valiant flights, and I wish to congratulate them on their upcoming recognition.

#### INTRODUCTION OF COHEN-ISSA LIBEL TOURISM LEGISLATION

### HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 22, 2008*

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, today, I, along with Congressman DARRELL ISSA, introduced a bill that would address the phenomenon of "libel tourism," which occurs when plaintiffs seek judgments from foreign courts against American authors and publishers for making allegedly defamatory statements, often to get around first amendment-based constraints on American defamation law. This phenomenon threatens to undermine our Nation's core free speech principles. U.S. law places a higher burden on certain defamation plaintiffs and with respect to certain types of allegedly defamatory speech in order to safeguard first amendment-protected speech. Other countries, including those that generally share our legal tradition, provide no such protection, and American authors and publishers should not be forced to restrict their speech to comport with more limited foreign standards.

Our legislation will codify the principle that, while U.S. courts will normally enforce the judgments of foreign courts, they should not do so when foreign judgments undermine our Constitution. Specifically, our bill prohibits U.S. courts from recognizing or enforcing foreign defamation judgments that do not comport with the first amendment. This is a straightforward solution that is designed to discourage foreign defamation plaintiffs from filing suit against American authors and publishers in foreign courts and instead encourage them to file suit in the United States.

I would like to thank the Association of American Publishers and the Media Law Resource Center for their valuable feedback during the drafting of this bill and for their support for this legislation. I urge my colleagues to become cosponsors of this bill.

#### HONORING STATE CHAMPION WRESTLER BYRON TATE OF CLINTON HIGH SCHOOL

### HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 22, 2008*

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding results

achieved by Clinton High School wrestler Byron Tate. This winter Byron captured the Iowa Class 3A Individual Wrestling Championship in the 215 pound weight class.

Byron won a thrilling championship match. He defeated his final opponent in a 5-2 decision.

Madam Speaker, I am extremely proud of the accomplishments of Byron and the Clinton High School Wrestling team, both on and off the court. Perhaps Paul "Bear" Bryant, the late, great coach of the Alabama Crimson Tide football team said it best: "Show class, have pride, and display character. If you do, winning takes care of itself" This year, Byron Tate and Clinton High School proved just that.

#### RENEWABLE ENERGY AND JOB CREATION ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

### HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 21, 2008*

Mr. MARKEY. Madam Speaker, oil prices have now reached \$135 a barrel and regular gasoline averages \$3.81 per gallon around the country. Meanwhile, the big five oil companies are reaping the rewards of record prices. The major oil companies recorded more than \$123 billion in profits in 2007. However, rather than reinvesting the bulk of those profits to advance a strategy that vigorously incorporates renewable energy alternatives, oil company profits have been spent largely to fund huge increases in stock buybacks designed to prop up stock prices. ExxonMobil—the largest of the major oil companies—recorded \$40 billion in profit in 2007 and spent \$31.8 billion repurchasing shares of its own stock. Meanwhile ExxonMobil only spent \$10 million investing in renewable energy in 2007.

The oil industry in the past 5 years has undertaken one of the largest stock buybacks in the history of capitalism. Spending on share buybacks for the five major oil companies went from under \$10 billion a year in 2003 to nearly \$60 billion a year in 2007. Big Oil has increased spending on stock repurchases from \$7.9 billion in 2003 to \$57.7 billion in 2007—an increase of 630 percent. The increase in Big Oil's spending on stock buybacks in recent years has been so remarkable, and indeed unprecedented, that Exxon spent more repurchasing its own shares in the first quarter of 2008—\$8 billion—than all the major oil companies spent on stock buybacks for all of 2003.

The money being invested by Big Oil in all types of production still pales in comparison to the value being returned to shareholders in the form of dividends and stock buybacks. While ExxonMobil has increased capital investment in drilling and exploration from \$12 billion in 2003 to \$15.7 billion in 2007—an increase of roughly 30 percent—ExxonMobil has increased spending on stock buybacks from \$5.9 billion in 2003 to \$31.8 billion in 2007—a five-fold increase.

The legislation that I am introducing today, the Renewable Investment and Consumer Protection Act of 2008, would impose a 10 percent fee on all stock buyback transactions entered into by major oil companies and redirect that revenue to fund investment in renewable energy and low-income energy assistance programs. If the oil companies refuse to