

of constituents visiting the United States Capitol and directing the day-to-day activities of the front office have been a very special part of helping our office better serve the constituents of the Second Congressional District. Kori will be joining the Federal Bureau of Investigation in August.

The people of the Second Congressional District of South Carolina have been well-served by Chirag and Kori. Their dedication, hard work, and good humor will be missed. We wish them both good health and happiness in their future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO KARA LAWSON AND
DELANO THOMAS

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2008

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and send the best wishes of California's fifth district to Kara Lawson and Delano Thomas, two of our country's elite athletes who will represent the United States in the 2008 Olympics in Beijing. Both Kara and Delano reside in Sacramento, California's fifth district. I hope that my colleagues will join me in wishing these two athletes, as well as all of our country's amazing Olympic talent, the absolute best of luck.

Kara is a star member of the Sacramento Monarchs WNBA team, a team which has seen its fair share of success. Lawson was a key member of the Monarch's 2005 championship team. She is widely known in the WNBA as one of the league's smartest players. In addition to her on court career, Lawson has been involved in sports broadcasting during the WNBA off-season, doing commentaries for men's and women's college basketball games and Sacramento Kings games. In fact, Kara was the first female to serve as a nationwide broadcast analyst for an NBA game. Kara is a continuing inspiration to Sacramento's young women and we are honored that she will represent not only the United States but Sacramento as well, next month in Beijing.

Delano Thomas has been a member of the U.S. volleyball team since May of 2005 and has proven himself as a team leader and points producing force. This well rounded athlete toyed, for a time, with the idea of playing football for the University of Hawaii, and got his start with volleyball, basketball and soccer at Sacramento's John F. Kennedy High School. He pursued collegiate volleyball to become a freshman All American and member of the U.S. junior national team. According to USA Volleyball, "Delano was the United States leading server at the Pan American Games in 2007 with an average of 0.56 aces per set. He was the fourth-leading U.S. scorer at the Pan American Games with a total of 42 points on 27 kills, six blocks and nine aces." I am confident that he will help to push the U.S. to another astounding medal count.

Madam Speaker, while controversy understandably surrounds this year's Olympic games, I applaud our athletes for their accomplishments, pure of political influence and for sheer enjoyment of their sport. I also know that Kara and Delano, along with all our outstanding athletes, will be model ambassadors of America's world leadership and our coun-

try's foundational philosophy in a country where such freedoms aren't as readily available.

I applaud both of these individuals for their hard work, dedication, athleticism and achieving their goals. I thank them for serving our country as ambassadors and shining examples of American unity. I call on my colleagues to share in recognizing Kara and Delano, and to wish all of our 2008 Olympians a safe, fun, and successful experience.

MARIN MORRISON OF SAMMAMISH

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2008

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of an extraordinary young woman from my District whose unyieldingly positive spirit in the face of a horrendous challenge is a true inspiration at any time, but especially leading up to the Summer Olympics in Beijing.

Marin Morrison, 17, of Sammamish, Washington, was one of the top swimmers in the country as a 14-year-old. She was just 1.5 seconds away from qualifying for the Olympic time trials. She received recruiting letters from some of the top schools in the country. She was a natural and earned medal after medal. However, fierce headaches and double vision turned her world upside down. An MRI revealed a tumor on her brain and doctors gave her 4 to 6 months to live. As a result of surgery in 2005, she was left partially paralyzed. She was forced to relearn some basics such as reading, writing and walking. It appeared her Olympic dreams were dashed.

Although she sometimes struggled mightily, she swam nearly every day. She refused to give up and started a new type of Olympic journey. She battled fatigue and her other physical ailments like a heavyweight boxer and never stopped fighting. Classmates at Eastlake High School, family, friends, former Olympians and countless others rallied around her. Then in April, Marin flew to Minnesota for the paralympic trials and earned a spot on the 37 member swim team, realizing her Olympic dream.

Marin's story is beyond inspiring. The circumstances she has overcome are truly humbling. She is a true American hero and we wish her all the best in Beijing and in the future.

THE ANIMAL DRUG USER FEE
AMENDMENTS OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of inclusion in this legislation of a technical fix to an important provision in the Federal Drug Administration Amendments, FDAAA, that I authored with Congressman WAXMAN.

When the FDAAA was signed into law last September, it included a drafting error that

had the effect of exempting medical devices from the requirement in the FDAAA that adverse events occurring during clinical trials must be reported to the registry and results data bank created by the bill.

There is bipartisan agreement that this exemption resulted from a clerical error, not a deliberate change of policy. The data bank created by the bill is intended to provide patients with comprehensive information about clinical trials that are being conducted so they can consider enrolling in a trial and also learn about the benefits and problems associated with the drugs and medical devices that are being tested.

The drafting error has the effect of only requiring drug companies to report medical problems that surface during clinical trials, exempting device companies.

Everyone agrees that it was not the intent of Congress to exempt devices from reporting adverse events in their clinical trials. Both drug companies and device manufacturers were required to report to the database according to the agreement reached by Members on both sides of the aisle.

I am pleased that this legislation fixes this clerical error.

35W BRIDGE COLLAPSE DISASTER
MEMORIAL

HON. JIM RAMSTAD

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2008

Mr. RAMSTAD. Madam Speaker, I rise to take a moment to remember the tragic event that occurred 1 year ago today when an eight-lane bridge on Highway 35-W in downtown Minneapolis collapsed and took the lives of 13 people.

No Minnesotan will ever forget the night of August 1st. No Minnesotan will ever forget the horrifying image of the school bus, barely hanging onto the edge of a piece of concrete. We all wondered how many children were on the bus and how they could be rescued.

But all those children made it off the bus to safety, thanks to the kindness of strangers. And that is what people will remember the most—the brave first responders and ordinary men and women who risked their lives to save others.

Madam Speaker, our thoughts and prayers are still with the victims and their families, and we must do everything possible to assure a tragedy like this will never happen again.

Minnesota has done a lot this year to improve the quality of its infrastructure. I am proud to say that after a year of hard work and dedication, the bridge is expected to reopen in 2 months, ahead of schedule.

Madam Speaker, my deepest gratitude goes to my colleagues who responded so quickly during Minnesota's time of need, and to every person who responded to this disaster, saving lives, caring for the injured, comforting victims and their families and making our bridge whole again.