

a Chinook helicopter near Tallil, Iraq. The soldiers were assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 149th Aviation, 36th Combat Aviation Brigade based in Grand Prairie, Texas. Captain Robert Vallejo II will be remembered for his commendable and selfless service to this great nation.

Captain Robert Vallejo was born in Beeville, Texas, and later moved to Fort Worth. He was a member of the ROTC program at Texas Christian University, where he graduated in 2005 with a Communication Studies degree before being accepted to flight school at Fort Rucker, Alabama. He dreamed of being a pilot and he put his passion into practice when he joined the Texas National Guard.

Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize such a brave man as Robert Vallejo II. I am proud to have had the chance to represent him in Congress. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family and friends of this American hero.

HONORING THE MARINO-CAPPELLO
FAMILY

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I am pleased that this week the Senate has followed the House in passing the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008, H.R. 6893. This landmark legislation will make significant improvements to child welfare through numerous provisions, including reauthorizing the Adoption Incentive Program and increasing education oversight for youth in foster care.

I would also like to recognize Voice for Adoption, an organization that works to improve our adoption policies. There are 129,000 children in foster care who are waiting to be adopted, and many families who wish to adopt. These numbers may sound daunting, but Voice for Adoption positively illustrates the need to adopt through the Adoptive Family Portrait Project. This program promotes adoption by matching Members of Congress with a photo of an adoptive family from their district or State.

It has been my privilege to participate in this project for the second year in a row and I have decided to display the photo in my DC office for an entire year. The 2008 theme emphasizes the importance of sibling connections for youth in foster care and adoptive placements.

I am honored to recognize the Marino-Cappello family. Sandy Marino and her husband Sam Cappello were moved when they learned about the many waiting children in the New Jersey foster care system. Five adoptions later, they have been blessed with Kirby, who was adopted as an infant from South Korea; Percy, Maya and Violet, who are birth siblings adopted separately as infants; and Helena, adopted at seven months. Caring for medically-fragile, drug-affected infants has stretched the Marino-Cappello family to new limits. They deserve praise for their willingness to provide permanent, loving homes for children in foster care, despite challenges.

H.R. 6893 will help families like the Marino-Cappellos to better provide for the special

needs of children adopted from foster care. I applaud the passage of this much-needed legislation.

IN RECOGNITION OF JAMES F.
LONERGAN ON THE OCCASION OF
HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE
NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT
OF EDUCATION

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to James F. Loneran, a distinguished New Yorker who has selflessly devoted himself to his community and our nation. His contributions to the civic life of New York City are being recognized this month as he begins his retirement after many years of dedicated public service at the New York City Department of Education's Division of School Facilities, which he served with distinction as its Chief Executive Officer.

After serving in the United States Navy in Vietnam, James F. Loneran joined the New York City Department of Corrections. At the Department of Corrections, he served as Stationary Engineer, Senior Stationary Engineer and Supervisor of Mechanics. In 1989, he joined the New York City Department of Education and rose through its ranks, serving as Deputy Director of Facility Maintenance, School Plant Manager, Assistant Director, Director, Senior Director and ultimately Chief Executive Officer of the Division of School Facilities. As the Chief Executive Officer, he supervised 9,000 employees and managed a \$1 billion budget with effective leadership and consummate skill. Dedicated to education and self-improvement, he also earned a master's degree in urban affairs.

He made the School Facilities Mission Statement his mantra: "To provide a safe, warm, clean setting that is conducive to the education and nurturing of our children in the most economic and efficient manner possible and to provide a school environment that allows students to realize their full potential and to improve the quality of life in the community we serve."

James F. Loneran views our public schools as cornerstones of the community, symbols of prestige in the community, and harbingers of a better future. He dedicated himself to making every school in his purview a "beacon of light" for the surrounding community. He was relentless and untiring in his efforts to improve the "circle of quality" that are our public schools. He fought against complacency, warning his co-workers that efforts to improve school facilities were never completed, and urging them on with the words, "We must do it for the children."

Born in the Bronx in 1951 into a family of four boys and six girls, James and his family moved to the Borough of Queens in 1953. He is devoted to his wife, Joanne Loneran, a teacher at Public School 24Q. Together they were blessed with two children, James III, 28 years old, a manager with the Social Security Administration, and Kelly, 26 years old, an attorney.

In keeping with his energetic, can-do disposition, James F. Loneran is not so much

retiring as moving on to other activities. He is earning a second master's degree, in pastoral theology at St. John's University, and will continue to serve as a certified lay minister at Holy Trinity Parish and as a Eucharist minister. He will also remain very active in several veterans' and civic associations, including Vietnam Veterans, American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Building Owners Management Association, Taxpayers Association, and the Whitestone Booster Association.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing the contributions to our civic life made by James F. Loneran on the occasion of his retirement from a distinguished career as a dedicated and effective public servant.

EXTENSION OF QUALIFIED GREEN
BUILDING AND SUSTAINABLE
DESIGN PROJECT BONDS AU-
THORITY

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I support extending authority for the issuance of qualified green building and sustainable design project bonds. I fought for the inclusion of this extension in this bill because of its importance to Atlanta. I fought for this extension because I believe the use of these bonds helps finance cutting-edge, environmentally conscious redevelopment projects like the Atlantic Station project in Georgia. Over and over again businesses and developers are seeing that going green improves their bottom line. Projects like Atlantic Station and green initiatives must be commonplace in the future.

The authority to issue qualified green building and sustainable design project bonds was set to expire in 2009. Unfortunately bond applications were not even approved until 16 months after the legislation creating the authority to issue these bonds passed in 2004. The delay caused setbacks because the technology and engineering behind these projects are groundbreaking. To make up for that lost time, this bill extends the authority to issue qualified green bonds through September 30, 2012. In addition, this legislation clarifies that amounts in a reserve account may be released to the project five years after the date of issuance of the last bond issue issued with respect to the project. This will make sure that all funding can be made available to these projects in a more timely and efficient manner. While this legislation makes small but important changes, it does so without altering any other aspect of this enormous program, such as the tax-exempt status of these bonds.

I am proud to support this effort and the good work occurring right in the 5th District of Georgia. The Atlantic Station project has been good for Atlanta. It is in the national spotlight. Major efforts like this are necessary to show cities across America there is a better way forward for our environment and our communities. I appreciate the work of my colleagues and the Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, Chairman RANGEL, for helping make sure these projects are given the opportunity to succeed. I look forward to continuing to work with him on this and welcoming him to