

intolerance, and "in particular anti-Semitism and anti-Islamism."

In the strongest of terms I urge the government of Venezuela to live up to this statement, and end the incessant bullying and harassment of the Jews of Venezuela.

HONORING AMBASSADOR JOE M.  
RODGERS

**HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 4, 2009*

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the extraordinary life of Ambassador Joe Rodgers, who passed away on Monday at the age of 75. He exemplified the values of dedication, hard work and perseverance; and he committed himself to serving others. This is the inheritance he leaves his family and all those who knew him.

Although a native of Alabama, he built many of the iconic buildings that define his adopted hometown of Nashville. From the Schermerhorn Symphony Center to the Wildhorse Saloon to the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum, many of the most well-known and well-loved buildings in Middle Tennessee will stand as a permanent memorial to Joe Rodgers. He was an enormous force in the construction industry, building a series of companies that built hotels, hospitals, university buildings and countless other structures around the country and around the world.

Not content to rest on his success in business, Joe Rodgers engaged in public life through his support of candidates who shared his belief in fiscal conservatism. He would eventually become National Finance Chairman for both the Republican National Committee and the re-election effort of President Reagan. In 1985, President Reagan named him the U.S. Ambassador to France. His exemplary service was rewarded with the rank of Grand Officer of the Legion of Honor presented by French President Mitterand. He also served on both the Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board and the U.S. Trade Representative's Foreign Advisory Committee.

At home in Nashville he was involved with countless civic, charitable and religious groups such as the Boy Scouts of America, the Chamber of Commerce, the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and Vanderbilt University.

Indeed it is difficult to find another person who has had so much impact on so many different aspects of our community. He will be missed and our sympathy is with his loving family.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in appreciation of a life well lived.

**NATIONAL TEEN DATING VIOLENCE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION WEEK**

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 3, 2009*

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, we must pass House Resolution 103

and bring awareness to an often overlooked yet extremely dangerous issue.

As a parent, I know the dangers my children faced when they were growing up. I often lost sleep worrying that something would happen to one of my kids that was beyond my control. It was part of the reason I decided to run for Congress.

Today, more than ever, we need to make people aware of the dangers our children face, we never did. Children have such broad access to information that it ages them in ways still not fully understood.

They look at their favorite movie or TV stars and want to emulate them. They research adult topics on the Internet and share information through cell phones and facebook with their friends. They feel because they know things they view as adult, they are adults. Parents do not discuss regularly enough drug use, domestic violence or sex with their children.

This legislation will set aside a week to help foster discussion between the parent and the child, which is the number one way to prevent the awful outcomes which have become far too common on our daily news. This resolution will also bring attention to this matter and would let Americans know that this issue is serious.

The statistics are staggering: one out of every eleven adolescents have reported they have been the victim of a physical abuse. Of the teenagers who are in "serious relationships" one in five have reported being abused in some way. Our children are trying to be like us and in the process they are growing up far too fast. The scariest statistic is, of children who are between the age of 11 and 12, the youngest of our teens, has been or knows someone who has been abused. This is a true travesty.

We can no longer sit by and reminisce about the golden age of child rearing. Children can not be left alone and can expect to turn out like we did. As Chair of the Congressional Children's Caucus, I have worked tirelessly to ensure all America's children can lead safe and productive lives. We must ensure they get the right start.

This resolution will not only prevent our children from living through a terrible ordeal, but it will also help curtail future attacks. Evidence exists showing the severity of domestic violence among a couple is far greater if there is a pattern of abuse from early on in the abuser's life. We have a duty to protect our children and we have a duty to protect our fellow citizens and assure the right to live in peace.

Proclaiming this week National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Week will show how serious this issue is and continue the discussion which has already begun in many homes. This resolution will also expand the discussion to many homes in the district I represent as well as the rest of the country. We must pass this resolution today and send a clear message to our fellow citizens that this issue will not go away.

Madam Speaker, I urge its immediate passage so we can begin to solve a problem that's gone unchecked far too long. We can make a difference in these and future young adults. The time to act is now.

**MIDDLE CLASS INVESTOR RELIEF ACT**

**HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 4, 2009*

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, in the past year, shareholders in American companies have seen the value of their holdings drop by 30 percent. Congress is taking action to stimulate our economy, and reviewing options to strengthen oversight of the capital markets that keep our economy going.

We must not forget the small investor. Middle class families have watched their nest eggs shrink and their home values drop. Their shaken confidence impacts consumer spending and the future growth of our nation's economy. Some middle class Americans nearing retirement may need to work additional years to earn back their stock losses.

With continuing economic uncertainty, we must bring relief to middle class families while boosting investor confidence in an uncertain stock market. Today, I am introducing the Middle Class Investor Relief Act, increasing the maximum annual capital loss a taxpayer can take from \$3,000 to \$20,000.

Current tax law is asymmetrical with regard to taxing capital gains and writing off capital losses. Long-term gains are taxed at 15 percent while capital loss write-offs are capped at \$3,000 per year. An individual who lost more than \$3,000 in the stock market could take years to rebuild his or her holdings. The Middle Class Investor Relief Act will correct the asymmetry of current tax law and help middle class Americans recover losses and rebuild their portfolios.

**2008 REALTOR ACHIEVEMENT AWARD: MICHELE BRENNAN**

**HON. DAVID G. REICHERT**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 4, 2009*

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, I rise in recognition of a wonderful American, a devoted professional, volunteer and personal friend. Michele Brennan, a constituent, was recently honored by the Seattle-King County Association of Realtors with "The Realtor Achievement Award" for an extraordinary body of work improving both the association and real estate industry overall.

Michele, a dedicated wife and mother of two children, has worked in the real estate industry for 25 years. She ensures that my office is aware of the issues important for Realtors, the families they serve, and my constituents in the Eighth District of Washington.

Apart from her professional duties in the real estate industry, Michele is a selfless leader dedicated to the betterment of her community. A long-serving volunteer in the Auburn, Washington School District, Michele has also served as president of the Kent, Washington Swim and Tennis Club and as a member of the Windermere Foundation Board, where she worked hard on behalf of needy families and children. It is difficult to fully explain Michele's dedicated community involvement because, either as a leader or "behind-the-scenes" organizer, Michele is interested not in earning praise, but only in making a positive impact.

The mission of the Seattle-King County Association of Realtors is to enhance the ability and opportunity of members to operate their businesses successfully and ethically through a strict code of ethics. As a professional member, Michele Brennan could not fulfill that mission more appropriately in her own life, her community and, of course, her profession. I wish her the very best in the future, thank her for her sincere commitment to her community, and congratulate her on receiving such a prestigious award.

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HONORING CARL MERRIGAN

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 4, 2009*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Carl Merrigan a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 47, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Carl has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Carl has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Carl Merrigan for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

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THE INTRODUCTION OF THE NATIVE HAWAIIAN GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION ACT OF 2009

**HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE**

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 4, 2009*

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Native Hawaiian Government Reorganization Act of 2009, a bill to affirm and formalize the long political relationship between Native Hawaiians and the United States. This measure clarifies that political bond and provides a process for Native Hawaiians to form their own governing body and participate in a government-to-government relationship with the United States. This is a companion measure to legislation being introduced by Senator DANIEL AKAKA in the Senate this evening.

The United States recognized the sovereignty of the Kingdom of Hawaii more than 175 years ago, accorded the Kingdom full diplomatic recognition and entered into treaties and conventions in 1826, 1842, 1849, 1875 and 1887, all ratified by Congress. The United States has declared in law a special responsibility for the welfare of the Native peoples of the United States, including Native Hawaiians.

P.L. 103-150, the Apology Resolution, extended an apology to the Native people of Hawaii on behalf of the United States for our country's role in the overthrow of the Kingdom of Hawaii in 1893. The Apology Resolution also expressed the commitment of Congress

and the President to acknowledge the ramifications of the overthrow, and to support reconciliation efforts between the United States and Native Hawaiians.

This relationship was explicitly affirmed in the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act of 1920, which set aside 200,000 acres of land for homesteading by Native Hawaiians. Legislative history clearly shows that Congress based this action and subsequent legislation on the constitutional precedent in programs enacted to benefit Native Americans. In fact, since Hawaii's admission into the Union fifty years ago, Congress has legislated on behalf of Native Hawaiians, including them as Native Americans in numerous statutes.

The legislation I am introducing today is important not only to Native Hawaiians, but to everyone in Hawaii. It provides a process to address many longstanding issues facing Hawaii's indigenous peoples and the State of Hawaii. In addressing these matters, we have begun a process of healing, a process of reconciliation not only between the United States and the Native people of Hawaii, but within the State of Hawaii.

The essence of Hawaii lies not in the allure of its islands, but in the beauty of its people. The State of Hawaii has recognized the need to preserve the culture, tradition, language and heritage of its indigenous peoples. This measure gives form to the U.S. government's responsibilities in that same effort.

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THE "MULTI MODAL TRANSPORT BENEFIT AND TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS ACT"

**HON. EARL BLUMENAUER**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 4, 2009*

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing the "Multi-Modal Transport Benefit and Technical Corrections Act," a bill that encourages flexibility for employees and employers hoping to take advantage of the bike commuter tax benefit created in last year's financial rescue package. The bill also makes small technical changes to the program.

This legislation amends the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow employees to receive transportation fringe benefits for the same month both in the form of transit passes and reimbursements of qualified bicycle commuting expenses. It offers smarter, more flexible benefits without imposing additional costs on employers or taxpayers, as the multi-modal benefits fall under existing caps for transit.

Allowing individuals to choose how to commute to work, and providing parity to those who choose alternative methods of transportation, simply makes sense. Bike commuters—who burn calories instead of gasoline, emit fewer fossil fuels and have a much smaller impact on our roads and transport systems than most other commuters—should at the very least have the same access to fringe benefits that their car driving colleagues enjoy. The "Multi-Modal Transport Benefit and Technical Corrections Act" will level the playing field for bike commuters and ensure smooth application of the bike commuter tax benefit for employers.

I am proud to introduce this bill today and urge my colleagues to support it.

RECOGNIZING WILLIAM J. POST WHO IS RETIRING FROM HIS POSITION AS PRESIDENT AND CEO OF PINNACLE WEST CAPITAL CORPORATION

**HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 4, 2009*

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate William J. Post, who is retiring from his position as Chairman and CEO of Pinnacle West Capital Corporation after 38 years of extraordinary service to the company. Since the beginning of his time at Pinnacle West in 1973, Bill's strong work ethic and ambition have earned him great respect, and have inspired others within the company.

During his time at Pinnacle West Bill's leadership contributed to many important company milestones, including navigating a state push to deregulate utilities and then reshuffling when that effort was pulled back. Bill accomplished this without bankruptcy, new ownership, or any kind of employee reorganization. His efforts have made a significant and lasting impact on the company.

Bill is well-known for his leadership abilities not only within the Pinnacle West Corporation, but in his community as well. Most notably, he contributed to the creation of the Greater Phoenix Business Leadership Coalition, which is comprised of regional businesses working toward stabilizing the economy. Bill is also involved in the United Methodist Outreach Ministry, Translational Genomics Research Institute, Blue Cross Blue Shield, and Arizona State University.

On a personal note, like me, Bill is an alumnus of Tempe High School, where I also taught. I know the residents of our hometown share my pride in seeing a fellow Tempe Buffalo make such profound contributions to the community.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing Bill Post's contributions to Pinnacle West Capital Corporation and his surrounding community, and wishing him well in his retirement.

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BLACK HISTORY MONTH

**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 4, 2009*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, It is with great respect and sincere admiration that I rise to celebrate Black History Month and its 2009 theme—The Quest for Black Citizenship in the Americas. Throughout its history, the struggle for racial equality has been and continues to be one of the greatest testaments of America's progress.

The theme for this year's Black History Month, The Quest for Black Citizenship in the Americas, is a reminder that in striving for a greater society, we must examine the past. No group has contributed more to reflecting on the past in order to create a better future than the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). As the NAACP celebrates a remarkable milestone, its 100th anniversary, we take this time to remember