

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN HONOR OF JOHN MAURICE
MASSETTI

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2005

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise to remember and honor John Maurice Massetti, a leader and tireless advocate for working families, who passed away on December 4th. John's devotion to his family, friends and to causes that helped others is an inspiration to so many people in Minnesota. He will be missed by everyone who was fortunate enough to know him.

Throughout his life, John brought integrity and a sense of obligation to his fellow workers, as well as to his community. For 20 of his 38 years working with Northwest Airlines, he proudly served his brothers and sisters at District 143 International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers as secretary-treasurer of the union. During negotiations, he always put the needs of working families first. John's honest leadership instilled energy and loyalty that was contagious, helping to develop the next generation of labor leaders. Retirement did not slow him down.

John's desire to help others extended well beyond his union family. He made a strong personal commitment to Guide Dogs of America, helping to raise thousands of dollars to provide free guide dogs and instruction in their use to blind and visually impaired men and women across the country. His success at raising funds at the Annual Guide Dogs of America Golf Tournament and the "Hawgs for Dogs" motorcycle ride are legendary.

Both he and his wife, Mary were also active in delivering Meals on Wheels among other volunteer activities.

I consider myself privileged to call John a friend, and was often witness to his enthusiastic participation in volunteer efforts he believed in. We can all be proud of the life John lived, because his was a life dedicated to working for the good of all people.

My thoughts and prayers are with John's wife, Mary; his son, Michael; his mother, Aida; his stepdaughter, Candice and his many relatives, friends and colleagues who loved him.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in paying tribute to the life of John Massetti.

HONORING DAVID THOMAS ON HIS
CAMPAIGN TO BE ELECTED TO
THE CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 16

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor David, a resident of Chautauqua County for his quest to become the elected represent-

ative to the sixteenth legislative district in the Chautauqua County Legislature. Although Mr. Thomas was not able to realize his dream, he has been able to make an impact on others' lives in a different way.

The campaign trail is a difficult path to take. Any person with a dream may enter but only a few are able to reach the end. Mr. Thomas traveled that path with his head held high and a smile on his face the entire way. I have no doubt that his kind demeanor left a lasting impression on the voters of district 16.

Chautauqua County is blessed to have such strong candidates with a desire to make this county the wonderful place that we all know it can be. Mr. Thomas is one of those people and that is why, Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor him today.

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND STEPHEN
JOHN THURSTON

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Reverend Stephen John Thurston, a man who has an unprecedented record of service in the Baptist Church.

Mr. Speaker, Reverend Thurston is a third generation preacher and pastor in the historic New Covenant Missionary Baptist Church in Chicago, Illinois. Thurston is also the youngest reverend to be named President of the National Baptist Convention of America, Incorporated.

Reverend Thurston is a graduate of Bishop College in Dallas, Texas where he received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Religion in 1975. He is also a highly sought after revivalist, and his ministry has affected the lives of people as far away as the Caribbean and Africa.

Two of the numerous honors Reverend Thurston has received are America's Best and Brightest Young Business and Professional Men by Dollars and Sense magazine and Co-ordinator for Baptist World Alliance in Seoul, Korea.

On November 29th, 2005, Reverend Thurston will be in San Antonio as a guest preacher for the Baptist Ministers Union of San Antonio and Vicinity Communities year end service. San Antonio is honored to host Reverend Thurston and is proud to have him as a guest preacher.

SECURING AIRCRAFT COCKPITS
AGAINST LASERS ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2005

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the legislation before us,

H.R. 1400, the Securing Aircraft Cockpits Against Lasers Act of 2005. I thank the distinguished chairman from Wisconsin, Mr. SEN-SENBRENNER for his thoughtful inclusion of a definition of the term "laser pointer" at my suggestion. This bipartisan gesture is very important to the crafting of comprehensive and conscientious criminal measures.

I kept my strict constitutionalist hat on and remained mindful to the fact that legislation should be as narrowly tailored as possible—especially with respect to exacting criminal penalties.

I understand that since 1990, there have been more than 400 incidents proscribed in this bill and more than 100 since November 2004. Furthermore, I understand the relative threat that the act proscribed in this bill poses for pilots—FAA research has shown that laser illuminations can temporarily disorient or disable a pilot during critical stages of flight such as landing or take-off, and in some cases, may cause permanent damage. This legislation could provide the legislative fix. I thank the chairman for his effort to address my concern with potential vagueness in its provisions.

Mr. Speaker, for the above reasons, I do support this legislation.

HONORING THE LIFE, LEGACY,
AND EXAMPLE OF ISRAELI
PRIME MINISTER YITZHAK
RABIN ON THE 10TH ANNIVER-
SARY OF HIS DEATH

SPEECH OF

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2005

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 535, a resolution honoring the memory of former Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on the tenth anniversary of his assassination.

Prime Minister Rabin served the people of Israel for two terms as Prime Minister, as well as previous roles as Ambassador to the United States, Minister of Defense and Member of the Knesset. Among his many accomplishments, it is his role as a visionary peacemaker which has ensured him a place of honor in history.

Mr. Rabin began his career during Israel's War for Independence as a member of the Jewish Defense Forces. For the next 19 years, he held various positions in the Israeli Defense Forces, ending his tenure there as chief of staff. In this role, he was able to strengthen Israel's ties with the United States, fostering the special relationship which continues to benefit these two nations.

Mr. Rabin also had a distinguished five-year tenure as Israeli ambassador to the United States. At the height of the Cold War, he encouraged Israel to stand strongly on the side of the United States. The relationship between the two countries blossomed in this period as

• 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.

Israel established itself as a trustworthy ally in the Middle East.

During his tenure as Prime Minister, Mr. Rabin made remarkable progress in the Middle East peace movement. Teaming with former rival Shimon Peres, Mr. Rabin entered peace negotiations with then-Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasser Arafat in 1993 in Oslo, Norway. Prime Minister Rabin, Mr. Peres and Mr. Arafat all received the Nobel Peace Prize for their efforts.

As a member of the Clinton Administration, I had the pleasure of witnessing the signing of these historical accords on the White House lawn. Meeting Prime Minister Rabin was an honor I will never forget, and his example continues to inspire me to this day.

Prime Minister Rabin was revered by the Israeli citizens for his unwavering commitment to the peace process. Tragically, the life of this man of peace was cut short by an extremist gunman on November 4, 1995. I would like to express my condolences to the family of Prime Minister Rabin on the tenth anniversary of his death.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New York for introducing this important resolution, and I urge my colleagues to honor the memory of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2862,
DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE
AND JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND RE-
LATED AGENCIES APPROPRIA-
TIONS ACT, 2006

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2005

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the conference report on H.R. 2862, the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, for Fiscal Year 2006, though I do so with reservations.

This conference report, while providing increased funding from the House-passed legislation, still fails to provide adequate funding levels for state and local law enforcement. However, I am pleased that Congress rejected the Administration's proposal to eliminate funding for the COPS program, which is critical to our local law enforcement agencies that are already underfunded. Funding for local and state law enforcement assistance in this legislation funded at \$1,142.7 million, which, although significantly less than was provided in 2001, is an increase from the House-funded level of \$1,069.2 million. Along with many of my colleagues, I would have supported further increases in funding for our state and local law enforcement and intend to work to make this a priority in the next Congress. We owe our law enforcement officers the tools they need to protect our communities and our families.

I was also extremely surprised and disappointed that the conferees stripped the amendment offered by Mr. SANDERS that passed in the House overwhelmingly, by a vote of 238–187, during consideration of H.R. 2862. This critical amendment would have barred funds to carry out provisions of the

USA PATRIOT Act permitting law enforcement officials to obtain records from booksellers and librarians. This amendment was a reasonable and needed amendment that would have restored the much-needed Congressional oversight to FBI searches.

Congress wisely rejected the Administration's significant cuts to the Legal Services Corporation in this report. The Legal Services Corporation is funded at \$330.8 million in this report, a \$12.6 million increase over the President's request. Legal Services Corporation makes a significant impact in the lives of many vulnerable citizens, and is often the only reason low-income families have access to our justice system.

In order for the U.S. to remain competitive and in order to ensure a skilled workforce in this global marketplace, we must continue to make critical and strategic investments in science and research. Science, and science education, are crucial elements to our society and our daily lives. I was very pleased with the funding for the science agencies, including NASA, and the National Science Foundation. NASA and NSF received increases of \$273 million and \$180.2 million respectively, both of which represent larger investments than the President's request.

I will support this conference report today, because it reflects an overall increase in investments for our future.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DOUGLAS
COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL VARSITY
TEAM

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2005

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I would also like to applaud the accomplishments of a group of Douglas County, Colorado student-athletes. The Varsity Football team from Douglas County, High School—Emilio Acosta, Bobby Acsell, Mitch Acsell, Ethan Adkins, Weston Anderson, Carrett Angus, Charles Arnold, Will Arnold, Jermoe Atkinson, Joe Barlow, Hunter Bartz, Anthony Bortot, Justin Brown, Chris Cancino, Dillon Carlson, Tanner Clark, Nate Cotanch, Dustin Davis, Luke Diehl, Rob Evans, Michael Facchinello, Joel Fassler, Steve Fendry, Grant Fisher, Kyle Folven, Kyle Galenza, Keiffer Garton, Andy Giepel, Ryan Groat, Nick Hernon, J.T. Herbert, Ben Hitchcock, Kaither Holliway, Tyler Jackson, Nick Kennedy, Drew Kesinger, Logan Klossner, Cole Kranhenbuhl, Chris Lagace, Eric Lawson, Zachary Loudon, Jordan Lyons, Mark McCarron, Tim McGraw, Jordan Manghan, Kris Mansfield, Ryan Misare, Andy Muns, Cody Monroe, Matt Monroe, Andy Nappo, Zach Nye, James O'Hara, Drew O'Malley, CJ Oechle, Taylor Oswald, Dan Oulliber, Curtis Prock, Matt Przylucki, Tucker Reddy, Ian Reither, Cory Reynolds, Spencer Rich, Landon Richey, Marcus Richtel, EJ Rivera, Josh Rodriguez, Jesse Royce, Joshua Ruff, Cody Sanders, Jacke Schwab, Jake Schultz, Aaron Shaffer, Richard Speact, Jeff Stevens, Ryan Swope, Terrence Taylor, Chris Treloar, Kevin Vanzet, Nick Voyles, Dominick Wagner, Chauncey Wahinya, Adam Walsh,

Clint Weis, Cameron White, Mike Whitney, Joe Williams, Matt Zoeteway and their coaches, Jeff Ketron, Gene Hill, Buce Misare, Mike Wade, Kevin Folven, Lon Smith, Steve Bantz, RL Boyles, Pat McGraw, Mike Smith, Jodie White, Brandon Gilbert and Melissa Martinez—won the Colorado State Division 5A Football Championship on December 3, 2005.

After completing the season at 9–1, the Huskies were given the first place seeding in the State playoff bracket. They won the next four games and this outstanding group of athletes earned their first ever State Championship.

The Huskies have trained intensively while maintaining a standard of academic excellence throughout the season. It is my pleasure to honor their championship, and to wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM MCGUIRE

HON. THOMAS M. REYNOLDS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2005

Mr. REYNOLDS. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise today to pay tribute to William McGuire, upon his retirement as head of Western New York's Kaleida Health.

Mr. Speaker, when Bill McGuire arrived in Buffalo in 2002, morale among Kaleida's staff was at its nadir. The system had lost \$125 million in its first 5 years of existence, physicians were fleeing, and the community was in an uproar over a proposal that would have moved its Women and Children's Hospital.

Just as doctors worked to heal Kaleida's patients, Bill McGuire's seemingly impossible mission was to heal the health system itself. And heal it he did.

As Ted Walsh, Chairman of the Kaleida Board of Directors once remarked, "Bill McGuire arrived at a critical moment in Kaleida's history and brought the organization from fiscal chaos to financial health and stability."

In addition to bringing stability to Kaleida Health, under Bill McGuire's leadership, the nationally-renowned Women and Children's Hospital remains open, providing vital health care services to the Western New York community.

A graduate of the University of Notre Dame and the University of Michigan, Bill McGuire previously served as President and CEO for Catholic Medical Centers of Brooklyn and Queens. He has held similar positions at a number of hospitals across the United States.

Further, Bill McGuire has provided his time and leadership to such organizations as the Greater NY Hospital Association, the Hospital Association of New York State, the Western New York Healthcare Association, the Greater NY Healthcare Association, Buffalo Niagara Partnership, and the Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus.

Mr. Speaker, Bill McGuire once noted that "people working together can make a real difference. They can influence the future, rather than being a victim of it."

Bill McGuire's leadership, commitment and service has influenced our future, the Western New York community is the better for it.

TRIBUTE TO BOULDER-DUSHANBE
SISTER CITIES

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2005

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Boulder-Dushanbe Sister Cities organization and its ongoing work to develop friendship and understanding between the citizens of Boulder, Colorado, and the citizens of Dushanbe, Tajikistan.

In 1987, two cities on opposite sides of the world, in countries on opposite sides of the political spectrum, collaborated to bring their respective traditions, culture, and history to one another in a peaceful manner. During a time of great conflict and tension, the cities of Boulder, Colorado, and Dushanbe, Tajikistan, united as the Sister Cities. Over the next 3 years, dozens of Tajikistani painters, woodcarvers, and ceramicists worked on completing Dushanbe's gift to Boulder, the Boulder Dushanbe Teahouse. The result was a magnificent structure and a wonderful restaurant that offers exquisite cuisine and atmosphere.

Now it is our turn to give back to the people of Dushanbe. Planning is well underway for Boulder's reciprocal gift of a cybercafe, which will be part restaurant, learning center, and Internet connection point.

Most of all it will be our way of connecting to Tajikistan—by sharing our culture, helping Tajiks communicate with the outside world, providing educational resources, and investing in their community. At a time when international understanding between countries and their citizens is more valuable than ever, this project deserves strong support.

Mr. Chairman, I've attached a June 2005 newspaper article from The Daily Camera highlighting progress on the cybercafe project. I think it's important to call attention to this project and the volunteer efforts of the Boulder-Dushanbe Sister Cities organization. On its website, the group writes about the cybercafe that it "hopes that that gathering place, offering computer and Internet access rare in that part of the world, will bring to life the goal of helping people connect through what they have in common rather than what keeps them separate." I share that hope and commend the Boulder-Dushanbe Sister Cities organization for helping this project come to life.

[From the Daily Camera, June 20, 2005]

RESIDENTS WORK TO REPAY DEBT: DUSHANBE CYBERCAFE PROJECT IS EXPECTED TO START IN FALL

(By Ryan Morgan)

Boulder owes the city of Dushanbe a cybercafe to reciprocate for a teahouse from the Tajikistani capital that opened in Boulder in 1998.

Now, after years of work, the Boulder residents organizing the cybercafe effort have received good news from Dushanbe officials: They expect to break ground on the project this fall.

Don Mock, a former Boulder city councilman and co-president of Boulder-Dushanbe Sister Cities, said his group learned late last week that city planners in Dushanbe had approved a new site for the cafe.

"It looks like some of the final hurdles have been cleared," he said.

Much of the delay came after Mock and other committee members realized that the

site originally proposed for the cybercafe—one that would have placed it in downtown Dushanbe, next to a large concert hall and the national library—wouldn't work.

It turned out that city planners there wanted every building in that district to be at least five stories tall, far beyond the expected scale and cost of the planned cybercafe. So organizers had to find a new site and alter the building's design.

If all goes well, the cybercafe will sit in Dushanbe's Park of International Friendship, Mock said.

Mock said he thinks the cybercafe will give something of real value to residents of Dushanbe. It will offer books in Tajik and Russian and a "cultural center," he said.

"It's going to be more than a place to check e-mail."

With a final plan in place, the sister cities committee will now start redoubling its fundraising efforts.

"We want to be able to tell these big donors exactly what they'll be getting for their donation," Mock said.

The committee has raised about \$400,000 and will need to raise an additional \$300,000, he said.

Vern Seieroe, an architect helping to design the building, said he is relieved the process of navigating an often confusing bureaucracy located 7,000 miles away will finally yield dividends.

"You can only imagine the obscurity of what the process is, seeing it and attempting to understand it from this distance," Seieroe said. "We're learning a lot. Our learning curve is almost vertical."

Boulder's colorful Dushanbe Teahouse was also the culmination of several years' work and delays. Tajik craftsmen carved the intricate structure, disassembled it into 14 sections and shipped them to Boulder in 1990. The sections sat in storage for years. In 1998, they were re-assembled and the teahouse finally opened its doors.

THE REPUBLICAN RAID ON
STUDENT AID

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2005

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support and in solidarity with America's college students and our Nation's higher education institutions. Our competitiveness in the global economy is built on the foundation of a highly educated workforce. My Republican colleagues feel financial aid for higher education is a privilege, not a necessity for American students.

The Republican strategy to cut and gut Federal financial aid by over \$14 billion hurts students, hurts families and threatens America's competitiveness. Harming higher education harms America.

The Republican raid on student aid makes the largest cut in the history of Federal student financial aid, while also increasing the deficit by \$20 billion—adding more debt on the backs of hard working Americans and students.

Tim McDonald attends Hamline University in St. Paul, Minnesota. Tim spoke eloquently to me last week against these cuts. Tim said:

The generation that benefited from highly-subsidized, affordable higher education is now pulling the ladder up with them and forcing us to debt finance not only our own education, but their tax cuts. . .

I came to Congress to promote hope and opportunity. Vocational schools, technical schools and our colleges and universities provide America's scientists, engineers, entrepreneurs, teachers, nurses, law enforcement officials—our future leaders, with the skills, knowledge and opportunity to keep America strong and prosperous.

Republican priorities cut and gut the vital resources students depend upon to achieve their career goals and contribute to America. Instead of investing in students, instead of investing in America's future, this Republican scam forces students to pay the price for a mismanaged Republican budget.

I ask my Republican colleagues to stand with us and students to protect America's economic future, to not abandon the next generation of American leaders and to defeat the cutting and gutting of hope and opportunity for millions of American students.

HONORING ANTHONY RAFFA ON
HIS CAMPAIGN TO BE ELECTED
TO THE CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY
LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 14

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Anthony Raffa, a resident of Chautauqua County for his quest to become the elected representative to the fourteenth legislative district in the Chautauqua County Legislature. Although Mr. Raffa was not able to realize his dream he has been able to make an impact on other's lives in a different way.

The campaign trail is a difficult path to take. Any person with a dream may enter but only a few are able to reach the end. Mr. Raffa traveled that path with his head held high and a smile on his face the entire way. I have no doubt that his kind demeanor left a lasting impression on the voters of district 14.

Mr. Raffa has tried his hand in county politics many times. That is a respectable trait to have. Determination to do good things for your county is one thing that Chautauqua County residents strive for. He was a long time legislator and a long time advocate for "good government."

Chautauqua County is blessed to have such strong candidates with a desire to make this county the wonderful place that we all know it can be. Mr. Raffa is one of those people and that is why, Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor him today.

TRIBUTE TO T.J. CONNOLLY

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the seventh anniversary of Connolly and Company, a public relations, advertising and marketing firm in San Antonio which is located in the district I represent, the 28th district of Texas.

Mr. Speaker, in 1998, T.J. Connolly had a vision which he put into practice. He recognized a void in public relations that he thought

he could fill with a company specializing in message management.

Connolly and Company was started with one telephone, two computers, a secretary and one client. Seven years later, it's a thriving public relations firm whose dynamic staff services clients in telecommunications, commercial real estate development, health care and law—among many others.

Connolly and Company is an upstanding business in Texas that helps its many clients put their best foot forward. The firm has collected many awards and is regarded as one of the top firms in San Antonio.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have had this opportunity to celebrate the anniversary of Connolly and Company.

RECOGNIZING ANNIVERSARY OF THE RATIFICATION OF THE 13TH AMENDMENT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2005

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise here today to express my support for H.R. 196 that recognize the 140th anniversary of the thirteenth Amendment, which abolished slavery in the United States.

I applaud my colleague from Oakland, California, for her hard work on this resolution because of the efforts that have been made to ensure that the Thirteenth Amendment is respected in practice. There were many examples of seemingly deliberate attempts to bypass the 13th Amendment regarding slavery. For example, in Texas in 1867, African-Americans constituted about one third of the convicts in state penitentiaries. However, about 90 percent of those inmates were leased out for cheap railroad labor.

Apprenticeship laws also were embraced with increasing vigor throughout the South. In some States, such as Maryland and North Carolina, courts ordered African American children to be bound for labor to white "employers" without the permission or knowledge of the children's parents. Records compiled by the Freedmen's Bureau in those States indicate a virtual deluge of requests for assistance in obtaining the freedom of children enslaved through "lawful" State-court action. Of course, the State-court actions in these cases were inconsistent with Federal law, and the resulting involuntary servitude of these children was a violation of the Thirteenth Amendment. As founder and Co-Chair of the Congressional Children's Caucus, I assert that it is critical for the future of our children that we preserve the spirit of this Constitutional Amendment, for history has shown that children have been vulnerable in the past.

As members of Congress, we must ensure that this milestone in American history is recognized and celebrated. I am pleased to stand with my colleagues by being an original cosponsor of this legislation.

HONORING IRENE ALEXANDER

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2005

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize one of Chicago's treasures, Mrs. Irene Alexander.

Today Mrs. Alexander will perform a concert of Chopin and Gershwin pieces for victims of Hurricane Katrina. Following that, she will visit Walter Reed Hospital to perform for wounded soldiers. Her final performance of the day will be for Navy veterans at a concert in Bethesda, Maryland. While this schedule would be too much strain for most, it is the norm for Mrs. Alexander, who is 85 years old.

When she is back home in Chicago, Mrs. Alexander shares her musical gifts at nursing homes throughout the city, performing approximately 150 concerts each year. An accomplished pianist, she has played at Chicago's Orchestra Hall and at venues in Israel and China.

Mrs. Alexander has overcome several personal hardships in order to serve others. As a child, she overcame polio, and as an adult she battled breast cancer. For the past 15 years, she has suffered from macro-degeneration of the eyes, and is legally blind today. Through it all she has continued to perform and serve as a source of inspiration for many.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to stand in recognition of Chicago's most generous and talented citizens, Mrs. Irene Alexander.

IN RECOGNITION AND REMEMBRANCE OF THE LIFE OF U.S. MARINE CORPS MASTER SERGEANT BRETT ANGUS

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2005

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I thank you for the opportunity to recognize and honor the life of U.S. Marine Corps Master Sergeant Brett Evan Angus.

Minnesota and St. Paul have lost another courageous serviceman. U.S. Marine Corps Master Sergeant Brett E. Angus served his Nation, his community and his family with honor in one of the military's most dangerous jobs, as an ordnance disposal expert. Master Sergeant Angus was serving his second tour in Operation Iraqi Freedom when, on November 26, 2005, an improvised explosive device detonated while he was conducting combat operations near Camp Taqaddum, Iraq. He was assigned to Marine Wing Support Squadron-372, Marine Wing Support Group-37, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, I Marine Expeditionary Force, out of Camp Pendleton, California. During Operation Iraqi Freedom, his unit was attached to 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing, II Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward).

Master Sergeant Angus was born in St. Paul, Minnesota. His family history of military service dates back to the Civil War, and he followed his father, uncle and grandfather into military service. He was an outstanding professional soldier who loved being a Marine and earned several awards and medals for his

service. He was eligible for retirement this year, but chose to return to Iraq for a second tour of duty. As an ordnance disposal expert, his family was constantly afraid of the danger his job put him in, but knew that his vital work was saving the lives of U.S. Armed Forces and the Iraqi people. His vast knowledge and expertise made him a valuable teacher for his fellow Marines.

I extend my condolences and share in the grief of his family and friends. Master Sergeant Angus' made the ultimate sacrifice while serving our Nation, and we will be forever grateful. The sympathies of all Americans go to his wife, Masami, his father, Russell, and to his family and friends.

Master Sergeant Brett Angus is the 26th service member from Minnesota to die in Iraq since 2003. I honor Brett Angus for his courageous service to this country, and his commitment to protecting our freedom.

TRIBUTE TO THUNDER RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL VARSITY TEAM

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2005

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I would also like to applaud the accomplishments of a group of Highlands Ranch, Colorado student-athletes. The Varsity Football team from Thunder Ridge High School—Tyler Ames, William Ard, Cody Barday, Jesse Bartholomew, Damjan Bates, Dylan Baumgarten, Brian Behnke, Shay Belfiore, Kyle Black, Sean Brandon, Lucas Braun, James Breidel, Shawn Brevig, John Callahan, Evan Carter, Chris Carpenter, Hunter Caulder, Josh Ceccarelli, Bryce Clark, Robert Clark, Phillip Clukies, Mike Coffey, Chris Collins, Richie Cooper, Evan Crabtree, Carlos Cristaldo, Justin Curnow, Scott Day, Matt England, Ben Faddis, Paden Faulkner, Matt Flood, Brennan Fox, Brendan Gallagher, Desi Gallegos, Cody Gibbs, Caleb Golter, Russ Gorham, Alex' Guesnier, Corey Hankins, Zach Hansen, Clay Harrison, Chris Hernley, Michael' Hoffman, Cory Hofstetter, Ryan Huber, Matt Hutton, Ryan Jellum, Nick Kochan, Jordan LeMarinel, Brian Lawrence, Bryce Lines, Nick Lind, Benny Lopez, Nate McCarroll, Matt Maichele, Kyle Manhart, Cody Martin, Jordan Meek, Drew Miguel, Eric Moats, Brendan Nelson, Tyler Nelson, Brandon Nelson, Doug Nisenson, Alex Nittoli, Will Palamet, Tim Papik, Shane Pickrell, Brent Pokryfke, Chris Ray, Josh Roach, LeRoy Santos, Steven Savage, Alex Sawyer, Josh Schaner, Patrick Sharshel, Cory Sicard, Ethan Sizer, Ben Smith, Parker Smith, Travis Somma, Tyler Spieker, Andrew Tapp, J.T. , Taylor, Bret Techentien, Zach Tiedgen, Brandon Townsley, James Tucker, Andrew Ulmer, Danny Vail, Tyler VanderVegt, Jeff Watt, Riley Williamson, Derrick Youhas, Eric Zane, Chuck Zimmerman and their coaches, Joe Johnson, Joe White, Ryan Hollingshead, Jon Ackerman, Mick Ward, Marty Moon, Kent Milius, Matt Chapman, Steve Miller, John Reyes, Joe Wegner, Nick Grimm, Craig Kyllonen—won the Colorado State Division 4A Football Championship on December 3, 2005.

After their undefeated season, the Grizzlies gained the second place seeding in the State

playoff bracket. They won the next four games and this outstanding group of athletes earned the right to be called State Champions.

The Grizzlies have trained intensively while maintaining a standard of academic excellence throughout the season. It is my pleasure to honor their championship, and to wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO JUDGE RONALD H. TILLS

HON. THOMAS M. REYNOLDS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2005

Mr. REYNOLDS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to honor a respected jurist, a dedicated public servant, a valued mentor and a trusted friend upon the occasion of his retirement from the New York State Court of Claims.

A native of Hamburg, New York, and a veteran of the United States Army Reserves, Judge Ronald H. Tills began a career in public service that spanned five decades when he joined the Zoning Board of Appeals in 1960. An Assistant Town Attorney and Town Justice, Ron Tills was elected to the New York State Assembly in 1968, where he served his community and his State with distinction, becoming Chairman of the Assembly's Select Committee for Revision of Corporation Law.

It was in his capacity as Member of the State Assembly that Judge Ron Tills took a chance on a young college student with little political experience to help run his re-election campaign in 1972. Joining his Assembly staff following that election, my own career in government and public service was launched, and I will be forever grateful for Ron's guidance, counsel and friendship.

Judge Tills' service to his community culminated when he was nominated by Governor George E. Pataki, and confirmed by the New York State Senate, to the New York State Court of Claims in July of 1995, where he has served as a Court of Claim Judge and Acting Supreme Court Justice for the past decade.

Mr. Speaker, Ron Tills involvement in a variety of civic and community organizations, and the awards and recognitions he has received over the years are too numerous to list. Whether it was the Lions Club, Chamber of Commerce, Hamburg Volunteer Fire Company, or so many others, Ron Tills involved himself as he did in each endeavor throughout his life and career, with passion, leadership, and commitment.

One of his great loves is the largest and oldest fraternal organization in the world. As a Mason, Ron Tills has held numerous responsibilities within the Masons and the organizations within it, including Proctor of the Grand Lodge of the State of New York, Potentate of the Ismalia Shrine Temple, Director and President of the Shrine Oasis and Director of the Buffalo Court 22 of Jesters.

In addition to the Masons, gardening and travel, Ron Tills' greatest love of all is the former Elizabeth Clarkson. Ron and Betty were married on May 6, 1960, and are parents of Thomas and Suzanne and grandparents of Dale Jr. and Diane Goodridge, and Timothy and Abigail Tills.

Mr. Speaker, in recognition of and in gratitude for his service, leadership and patriotism,

I ask that this Honorable Body join me in honoring Judge Ronald H. Tills upon the occasion of his retirement, and wish him great health and happiness in the days and years ahead.

RECOGNIZING THE SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION'S COLORADO DISTRICT OFFICE AND THE LEADERSHIP OF DISTRICT DIRECTOR PATRICIA BARELA RIVERA

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2005

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and congratulate the U.S. Small Business Administration's Colorado District Office, under the leadership of District Director Patricia Barela Rivera, for directing a record \$520 million into Colorado's economy through its lending programs during 2005. The SBA approved 2,255 loan guarantees, a 20 percent increase over 2004, which is the highest number of loans ever approved in Colorado. This critical investment will help strengthen Colorado's economy and create jobs.

Many women and minority-owned businesses are the beneficiaries of these SBA loans. Of the total number of loans, 1,010 worth \$214.6 million went to women and minority firms, and 188 loans worth \$38.7 million went to small businesses owned and operated by veterans. Access to capital is critical in starting and maintaining a business and these loans will ensure that women, minorities and veterans will be part of a robust economy and they will be able to live the American dream.

In addition, I am also pleased at the level of outreach that the Colorado District Office has done in rural Colorado. A large portion of the loans distributed in 2005 went to small businesses in rural areas, which oftentimes are left out during good times and hurt even more when the economy takes a downturn. Every area of the state should be able to share in the success of our economy, and through the tireless efforts of the Colorado District Office staff many rural areas in the State are not being forgotten.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize the steadfast leadership of SBA District Director Patricia Barela Rivera. Patricia understands that small businesses are the backbone of America's economy. She is one of the most talented public servants in Colorado who is always striving for excellence, always coming to the aid of those individuals in need, and always working to make our State a better place to live, work, and play. The SBA is lucky to have Patricia as its ambassador in Colorado. I salute her for her unswerving dedication and I know she and her staff will continue to make all of us proud.

WAIVING POINTS OF ORDER AGAINST CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 3010, DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2005

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 3010, the FY 2006 Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations bill. I voted against this bill when it passed the House and the conference report before us today is even more objectionable.

The Republican leadership has proposed severe cuts to services that keep our families and communities strong. At a time when consumers are expecting to pay nearly 30 percent more for home heating, the majority has refused to include an increase for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, which helps to keep our seniors and children safe during the winter.

This bill also shortchanges important health care programs. Although slightly better than the House-passed bill, this proposal cuts health professions programs by 69 percent at a time when we are struggling to provide health care access in many areas of this country. It also cuts funding for the Maternal and Child Health Block Grant and forces a 24 percent cut to block grants for State health departments. Most striking, while we ask our local public health departments to do more to prepare for a possible pandemic, this bill instead imposes an 11 percent cut on local health departments.

The conference report also cuts overall funding for the Department of Education for the first time in over 10 years. It cuts and guts programs from early childhood education through college. Our Nation's public schools will see budget cuts totaling more than \$784 million, despite the promise to fully fund No Child Left Behind at the time of its enactment in 2002. Since then, NCLB has been underfunded by more than \$39 billion. Our public schools and our students deserve better. This bill underfunds critical programs for the most vulnerable students, providing \$217 million less for Title I Education for Disadvantaged Children program than in fiscal year 2005. In addition, Safe and Drug Free Schools will receive a cut of \$87 million—a decrease of 20 percent. Several other education programs and services will see their budgets frozen, despite increased program costs, greater needs, and inflation.

Pell grants for low-income college students are frozen for the fourth straight year in a row, despite promises by the administration to increase the maximum Pell grant award. While Congress underfunds student financial aid, students and families continue to struggle to pay for a college education that is increasing faster than the rate of inflation.

Investments in health and education are important to our families, our communities, and our country. This conference report does not reflect the values of Minnesotans or Americans. I will vote to reject this conference report and urge my colleagues to do the same.

HONORING RETIRING EVANS TOWN
COUNCILMAN TOM CSATI**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of a dedicated elected official from the town of Evans who has served with distinction as a member of his Town Board. I am speaking of retiring Evans Town Councilman Tom Csati.

Tom Csati is a strong leader who worked hard to get things done in Evans and Angola. A member of the Town Board for 8 years, Tom Csati is a public servant who always put people first. The town of Evans and its residents are better for the service he provided, and I am proud to honor his service here today.

TRIBUTE HONORING THE 125TH AN-
NIVERSARY OF THE UNIVERSITY
OF THE INCARNATE WORD**HON. HENRY CUELLAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 125th anniversary of the University of the Incarnate Word, an institution of higher education in San Antonio, Texas that serves students from Texas, as well as throughout the United States and around the world.

Mr. Speaker, the University of the Incarnate Word evolved when three sisters went to San Antonio to help serve people in need of health care and children in need of homes.

After founding several hospitals and two orphanages, the sisters established Incarnate Word School, which began as an elementary and secondary school but has blossomed into a university that has a campus in Mexico City and one in China.

The university's service is based on the belief in God, their love for God, and their desire to serve God's people.

The university is also celebrating the 20th anniversary of Dr. Louis J. Agnese, Jr. as president of the university. He is a great leader and his long service is a testament to the dedication of the school.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for allowing me the privilege of celebrating the 125th anniversary of the University of the Incarnate Word and the 20th anniversary of Dr. Louis J. Agnese, Jr. as president.

TERRORISM RISK INSURANCE
EXTENSION ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2005

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of S. 467, the Terrorism Risk Insurance Extension Act of 2005, TRIA. The brutal attacks of September 11, 2001, shook the Nation, caused enormous grief, and strengthened

the country's resolve. Congress pledged to do all we could to help the victims' families and to write policy that would help in the aftermath if such an attack ever occurs again.

One tangible way Congress can help is to make sure that businesses can afford terrorism insurance; to do this, we must reauthorize TRIA. Before the terrorist attacks of 9/11, most insurers offered terrorism insurance. Between 9/11 and the signing of TRIA in 2002, it was estimated that more than \$15 billion in real estate transactions had been canceled or put on hold because owners and investors could not obtain the insurance protection they needed. TRIA, a public/private partnership, protects consumers, keeps an engine of our society going, and respects state regulation of insurance.

As cochair of the New Democrat Coalition, I have long believed that TRIA has worked well for individuals, businesses large and small, and our country. I am proud that the NDC has been a leader on this issue, and I am pleased that Speaker HASTERT has responded to the letter our coalition sent to him earlier this year, urging him to bring TRIA to the Floor. TRIA is scheduled to expire at the end of this month, but Mr. Speaker, threat of terror has not expired.

I plan on supporting this bill, and I encourage my colleagues to do the same.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION
OF H.R. 4241, DEFICIT REDUCTION
ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2005

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to the Republican plan to cut billions of dollars in services for the most vulnerable people in our country while giving away billions of dollars in tax breaks to the wealthiest Americans—the so-called "budget reconciliation package."

This plan will harm low-income children and seniors, students, working parents and local government. It is an appalling plan that I oppose on both policy grounds as well as moral grounds. Denying access to food stamps to our poorest families is cruel and immoral when we live in a generous country of abundance.

The Republican budget reconciliation bill also makes significant cuts to Medicaid, a critical program serving children, the elderly and persons with disabilities. The Republicans propose to cut \$11.4 billion from Medicaid, primarily through imposing increased costs on families which will result in decreased access to care. At a time when health care costs and the number of uninsured families in our country are increasing, this proposal is both unwise and unfair.

The Republican plan also cuts \$14.3 billion from student loan programs, which will make higher education more expensive and less accessible at a time when our nation should be focused on educating and training a highly skilled workforce to compete globally. An investment in higher education is an investment in our future. The Republicans have chosen instead to ignore this reality and balance their mismanaged budget on the backs of students and families.

It is also extremely disappointing that the Republicans chose to include their punitive reauthorization of Temporary Assistance to Needy Families in this bill. This plan increases work requirements and sanctions while severely underfunding child care. In order to work, families need access to safe, affordable child care. We know that Congress needs to fund child care at \$7 billion in order match the new rigid work requirements, yet this bill provides an inadequate \$1.3 billion. Families want to work but that is not possible if there is not safe, affordable child care available. In addition, the leadership has included a cut to child support enforcement funding in this package, which will make it more difficult for families to access the resources they need to care for their children.

My opposition also extends to the Republican desire to cut \$70 billion in taxes, primarily for investors and the wealthy, while adding over \$20 billion to the federal budget deficit. Rewarding the rich, punishing the poor and passing the cost on to the next generation is a disgraceful way to lead this nation. I will vote against this Republican reconciliation package and I urge my colleagues to join me.

HONORING RETIRING ELMA TOWN
COUNCILMAN BILL CIROCCO**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of a dedicated elected official from the Town of Elma, Bill Cirocco.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I like most of my colleagues represent a large number of different communities. All told, I represent all or part of 19 towns and 2 cities in Erie County, as well as 27 towns and 2 cities in Chautauqua County. But Elma is a very important town in my district it's where my parents live.

It's that closeness that I have to Elma that leads me to commemorate Bill's service to Elma. As a public official, Bill always had the best interests of his constituents—his neighbors—first in his mind. As time went on, and as battles were waged in town about this issue or that, Bill Cirocco always looked at each issue individually and kept the residents and taxpayers first in his mind.

Now, as Bill contemplates retirement from elective office, I want to take this opportunity to thank him for his dedicated service to Elma, and to the people who live, work and raise their families there. Elma is a better place for his service to the town, and I want to thank you, Mr. Speaker, for allowing me this opportunity to honor Bill's service.

TRIBUTE TO JUAN ARECHIGA, SR.

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Juan Arechiga, Sr., a decorated World War II veteran and lifelong resident of Laredo, Texas who passed away Saturday, December 3, 2005.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Arechiga was a veteran of the U.S. Army and was a member of Company F, 333rd Infantry, serving in the Rhineland and Central Europe. He served bravely from November 25, 1942 to December 9, 1945, when he was honorably discharged.

For his dedication while in the service, he received the American Theater Campaign Ribbon, the EAME Campaign Ribbon with three bronze stars and a Good Conduct Medal.

Mr. Arechiga was an electrician who was one of the founding members of the Laredo Electrical Association which was formed in 1948. As his business expanded, he developed a construction firm that was contracted to build the first Sears and Roebuck buildings in Barcelona, Spain and San Juan, Puerto Rico.

When he returned to Laredo, he became a well-known residential contractor and established his own local construction company. Mr. Arechiga was an important part of Laredo's growth in the late 1970's and we are proud to have had such a respected person as a citizen of Laredo.

ON THE 24TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PASSING OF DANIEL FAULKNER: HONORING PENNSYLVANIA LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES IN THE LINE OF DUTY

HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2005

Ms. SCHWARTZ of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, on December 9, 1981, Daniel J. Faulkner, a five-year veteran of the Philadelphia Police Department was shot and killed while making a routine traffic stop. Although he was only 25 when he left us, Officer Faulkner achieved many things. He was a loving husband, an active church parishioner, and a respected member of his Northeast Philadelphia community.

Since Officer Faulkner's murder, more than 115 brave men and women in uniform have given their lives while serving and protecting the communities of Pennsylvania.

My colleagues, these fallen officers paid the ultimate price for their service to our Nation. They left behind family, friends and colleagues. And we must never forget their contributions to the safety, security and betterment of our neighborhoods.

So today, I rise to pay tribute to and remember the 140 law enforcement officers who died this year in the line-of-duty in our Nation. In particular, I rise in honor of the four fallen law enforcement officers from my home state of Pennsylvania:

York County Sheriff Deputy Edward "Skip" Schroeder;

Easton Police Department Officer Jesse Sollman;

City of Philadelphia Officer Paris Williams; and

Newton Borough Police Department Officer Brian Gregg.

Mr. Speaker, these officers' sense of dedication will forever be remembered by their family, friends, loved ones, and the Nation. And I know that all of my colleagues, and all Americans, join me in honoring their sacrifice in the line of duty.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2528, MILITARY QUALITY OF LIFE AND VETERANS AFFAIRS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the conference report on Military Quality of Life/Veterans Affairs appropriations for Fiscal Year 2006 and to commend the conferees for their hard work on this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, this has been a difficult year for veterans—there has been misrepresentation, confusion, and overall misuse of the funding allocated to the Medical Services Account for the Department of Veterans Affairs. I have heard from veterans in my District, and throughout Minnesota, of their extreme concern regarding funding for the VA. Veterans in Minnesota and this country have told me that they are worried about how the funding shortfall that was revealed over the summer will directly impact their VA benefits.

The good news for veterans today is this bill provides \$22.5 billion for Veterans Medical Services for Fiscal Year 2006, \$1.7 billion more than the current funding level and 3 percent more than the Administration's request. This conference report also provides \$1.2 billion in emergency funding for the Medical Services account. I am pleased to be able to tell Minnesota veterans that Congress heard their concerns, values their service, and will keep our promises regarding their health care.

The mental health and welfare of our returning soldiers, and of our veterans, must be a priority. The agreement also includes \$2.2 billion specifically reserved for mental health care, and designates \$15 million: for further research into Gulf War Illness. Too many soldiers return and do not have access to proper mental health care. We have an obligation to do all that we can to address these conditions and help these brave men and women rebuild their lives. This bill takes an important step in providing this care.

I am also very pleased that Congress rejected the Administration's proposals for imposing new fees for health care services. When the Administration proposed a \$250 enrollment fee for particular veterans without service-connected disabilities, and an increase in drug co-payments to \$15, I heard loud and clear from the veterans throughout Minnesota that this would greatly impact their health and well-being.

Veterans' health care should not be cut to solve the budget deficit. Veterans deserve to continue to have access to affordable, quality health care. It is what they were promised and it is our responsibility to ensure that those services remain for today's—and tomorrow's—servicemen and women.

Mr. Speaker, the Americans who have served our country in the Armed Services deserve to return home to a country that values their service. This agreement reflects, in part, the gratitude of Congress for their sacrifices, and I am proud to support it.

HONORING OUTGOING BUFFALO CITY COUNCILMAN JEFFREY CONRAD

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Jeffrey Conrad, a great son of South Buffalo, New York, who will complete his service as a member of the Buffalo Common Council on December 31, 2005.

Now, Mr. Speaker, when it comes to the Buffalo Common Council, I know of what I speak. Having served as a member of that body in the same seat as Mr. Conrad from 1988 to 1993, I know and understand the position of district councilmember in the city of Buffalo. In that job, Mr. Speaker, you are never presented with good news; you are only presented with crumbling sidewalks and broken streetlights, with poorly paved roads and neighbors complaining about nearby lots that need mowing.

In short, Mr. Speaker, this job is one of the toughest in local government. Jeff Conrad handled that job with dignity and aplomb, and I am pleased to honor his service here today.

Jeff Conrad is a bright young leader in South Buffalo. While his first run for public office was unsuccessful, Jeff is a solid individual from a great South Buffalo family, and he has a very bright future full of promise in months and years to come.

While Jeff Conrad served only a few short months as a member of the Buffalo Common Council, his commitment to the neighborhoods we live in and the people who inhabit them can never be overstated. Jeff's service to his constituents was effective and honorable, and I look forward to future opportunities to work with him to make our community a better place to live, work and raise a family.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4340, UNITED STATES-BAHRAIN FREE TRADE AGREEMENT IMPLEMENTATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2005

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, as Chair of the New Democrat Coalition, I rise today on behalf of the New Dem Co-Chairs, RON KIND, ARTUR DAVIS, and ADAM SMITH, to voice support of the United States-Bahrain Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act.

Passage of this free trade agreement will help strengthen the United States' relationship with Bahrain and build a more secure and productive future for our countries and citizens.

We believe when instituted correctly and fairly, trade agreements open up foreign markets to U.S. goods, create new opportunities for companies and their employees, and lift the standard of living for the people in the countries with whom we are trading.

As our Nation leads the world into the 21st century, we should not shy away from opportunities to guide and expand global trade.

U.S. goods exported to Bahrain totaled \$302 million in 2004, constituting .03 percent of total U.S. merchandise trade in 2004.

The U.S.-Bahrain FTA will provide substantial market access for U.S. services providers, including financial services.

One hundred percent of bilateral trade in consumer and industrial products will become duty-free immediately, and 98 percent of U.S. agricultural product exports to Bahrain would be immediately duty free.

Moreover, as Democrats who are strong on defense, we believe that securing an FTA with Bahrain is a positive foreign policy and national security step for the United States.

Bahrain has been a strong and stable state in the Persian Gulf region and a friend to the United States.

The U.S. Navy's 5th Fleet is based in Bahrain, and the United States has recognized the importance of our relationship with this country by establishing a joint U.S.-Bahrain Defense Cooperation Agreement and designating Bahrain as a "Major Non-NATO ally."

This FTA strengthens relations with one of our proven strategic allies in an unstable region.

Furthermore, Mr. Speaker, it is critically important that trade agreements are balanced and fair for workers.

We are pleased that Bahrain has agreed to take the additional steps necessary to comply with basic international labor standards that are integral to ensuring that the benefits of globalization are broadly shared among all people.

Bahrain has committed in writing and with a clear and immediate timetable to amend all provisions of its labor laws that are not consistent with basic International Labor Organization (ILO) standards.

The government will repeal its current laws that forbid the formation of more than one trade union within a single enterprise; allow foreign workers who have not been paid their wages to only change employers after wages have not been paid for more than 3 months; do not provide for the reinstatement of workers fired because of anti-union discrimination; and require that in order to conduct a legal strike, three-quarters of the union must approve and the union must give the employer and Ministry of Labor two weeks notice.

The Bahraini government will also reiterate its commitment to ensuring that penalties for anti-union discrimination are adequate to deter this activity and that workers are paid in a timely manner.

Bahrain remains committed to progress on these issues and recognizes the need to ensure its laws are consistent with international standards.

These changes are a major step forward in securing safe and fair working environments for all workers in Bahrain.

Mr. Speaker, my colleagues and I are happy to support this FTA today. It is in our best interest to engage Bahrain and complete this bilateral free trade agreement. We urge all Members to support H.R. 4340.

TRIBUTE TO PENN DETROIT
DIESEL ALLISON

HON. MELISSA A. HART

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2005

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Penn De-

troit Diesel Allison company for the grand opening of their new state-of-the-art facility in Pittsburgh. The new facility will be located in Cranberry Township just outside of Pittsburgh.

Penn Detroit Diesel Allison has provided the latest innovations in diesel engines, transmissions, and replacement parts to their customers for over 50 years. With the opening of their new facility, they will be able to "provide our customers with a superior and professional service experience," said Jerry Tiffan, president of the company. The new facility is equipped with 10 drive-through service bays, and a full diagnostic service center.

I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in honoring the grand opening of the new Penn Detroit Diesel Allison facility in Pittsburgh. It is an honor to represent the Fourth Congressional District of Pennsylvania and a pleasure to salute such a distinguished company like the Penn Detroit Diesel Allison company.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 3058,
TRANSPORTATION, TREASURY,
HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOP-
MENT, THE JUDICIARY, THE DIS-
TRICT OF COLUMBIA, AND INDE-
PENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIA-
TIONS ACT, 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Conference Report on Transportation-Treasury-HUD Appropriations for fiscal year 2006.

This legislation provides \$60.7 billion to fund the Transportation Department and improve America's transportation infrastructure. I was especially pleased this legislation included \$2 million for Central Corridor, an eleven-mile transit corridor that will run from St. Paul to Minneapolis along University Avenue. Building Central Corridor is vital to keeping the Twin Cities competitive in the 21st Century.

The conference report provides \$1.3 billion in funding to Amtrak. Maintaining a strong and healthy rail system in America is necessary to reduce our dependency on automotive transportation, reduce ozone emissions, and combat smog in our cities. Furthermore, high-speed rail provides convenience and mobility to travelers, while creating new jobs and economic growth. A diversified transportation system including Amtrak is critical to our Nation's future.

The report also includes \$300,000 to address the problem of homelessness among youth, which is a symptom of a larger problem in our community. For many youth, their home situation is violent and unhealthy. These young adults need our partnership, and this funding will help provide the support and opportunity they need to get their lives back on track.

Recognizing the need for every American to have access to affordable housing, this bill funds affordable housing programs above the President's request. Unfortunately, in this Republican bill, funding for critical housing programs, such as Section 8 vouchers, is still not adequate to address the affordable housing

crisis occurring in communities in the Fourth District of Minnesota and across the country. The lack of affordable housing is a serious problem for too many Americans, young and old, who are trying to live on less than a living wage. In order to excel at school, hold down a steady job, stay active and healthy, and contribute to our communities, Americans must have access to safe and affordable housing.

For these reasons, I support this bill and encourage my colleagues to vote for this legislation.

HONORING THE LATE FRANK
FALKOWSKI FOR HIS VALIANT
SERVICE TO THE UNITED
STATES

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of a great American—a Western New Yorker whose service to this Nation brings honor to his family and to his countrymen alike. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the memory of Frank Falkowski.

Frank Falkowski was born on February 24, 1919 in Depew, New York. He was the eldest child in a family of 11 children. Forced to quit high school to help support his family when his father died unexpectedly, Frank entered the U.S. Army at the age of 22 on February 3, 1941. Stationed in Georgia, Los Angeles, Hawaii, the Philippines and New Guinea, Frank performed a number of important roles during his military service, including service as a Military Policeman and machine gunner. During his spare time in the Army, Frank played Basketball and Football on military teams, but, more importantly, he completed his GED studies. Frank served a total of 42 months overseas during World War II, and while stationed in the Philippines and the Pacific theater, he assisted with the evacuation of women and children to safe havens as the Japanese were advancing. After receiving a letter of appreciation and thanks for his efforts from the mayor of Luzon, Frank was discharged from the U.S. Army on June 22, 1945.

After serving in the military, Frank met his wife, Marion. They were married in 1946 and raised 4 children, Marcia, Linda, Jerry and Janice. Frank worked as a welder for Contractor's Ornamental Steel and also worked part time as a security guard at the once famous Palace Theater in downtown Buffalo. After his retirement, Frank had the opportunity to enjoy his greatest pleasure—time with his friends, family and loved ones.

Frank was an Army veteran of World War II. While much is not known about his military service, it is well known that his service on the field of battle was valiant indeed. As a result of his service, he earned the following awards:

Bronze Star Medal; Good Conduct Medal; American Defense Service Medal; Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal; World War II Victory Medal; Combat Infantryman Badge First Award; Philippine Liberation Ribbon with 1 bronze service star, and Honorable Service Lapel Button WWII.

Unfortunately, Frank never lived to actually receive these awards. His daughter, Linda

Falkowski Stanek, contacted my congressional office some time ago to inquire as to the status of these awards, in that she, on her mother's behalf and with the assistance of her siblings, wished to create a legacy honoring her late father that could be passed down for generations to come.

Through the hard work of the staff in our Buffalo District Office, and particularly the help of one of our Senior Field Representatives, William J. Greeley, we were able to verify Mr. Falkowski's entitlement to these awards and, on Thursday December 1, 2005, I had the supreme honor of presenting these medals, ribbons and other commendations to Mr. Falkowski's widow and members of his family.

Mr. Speaker, while Frank Falkowski never received his due recognition during his life, I am honored to have been given the opportunity to help give him his deserved recognition today, albeit posthumously. Frank Falkowski was always proud to be an American and was proud of his service to his country, but according to his family, he never spoke much of his experiences in World War II, perhaps owing to the pain those memories brought forth. Frank Falkowski served this Nation proudly and honorably, and his life after the service, where he settled in Western New York, married, worked and raised a family, are a positive example to us all. Fifteen years ago, the Falkowski family prayed that Frank would rest in peace; today, we pray that he knows that his country has, at long last, paid him the full honor to which he so richly deserves.

IN SUPPORT OF ISRAEL AND THE POSSIBILITY OF PEACE

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2005

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of two important resolutions: H. Res. 438, urging member states of the United Nations to stop supporting resolutions that unfairly castigate Israel and H. Res. 535, honoring the life, legacy and example of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. At a time when the death of Yasser Arafat and Israel's withdrawal from the Gaza Strip have created the renewed possibility for a safer, more secure, and more peaceful future for Israel, these two resolutions highlight both the challenges and the hope of the current moment.

While Israel has been the victim of unfair United Nations resolutions for much longer than I have been in Congress, the people of Israel should know that the United States will always stand side by side with them in the struggle against hatred and anti-Semitism. We join with them in the fight against terrorism, such as the recent suicide bombing in Netanya which killed 5 Israelis and wounded over 50 others.

At the same time, the memory of Yitzhak Rabin reminds us all of the courage that the Israeli people and their leaders—from David Ben-Gurion to Ariel Sharon—have shown when peace appears possible. I commend the House for making these two important statements and join my colleagues in the hope that Israel will one day live out Prime Minister Rabin's dream, "No more blood—no more tears."

SUPPORT FOR THREE RESOLUTIONS

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2005

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, under the assumption that the House would have adjourned for the year by Tuesday, December 6, I accepted a very important speaking engagement for that evening in Massachusetts. The event was the installation of a constituent, David Wluka, as President for the year of the Massachusetts Association of Realtors, an important organization with which I have worked closely on the issue of housing, which is one of those that is most important to me in my role on the Committee on Financial Services. My presence at this event had been advertised by the Realtors, and so when suspension votes were scheduled for Tuesday night, I made this one of those rare occasions when I missed votes in order to carry out a responsibility in my district. All three of the votes taken were unanimous, so my absence obviously had no impact on the outcome. But I did want to make sure that my strong support for all three of those resolutions was noted. This is particularly true with H. Res. 438, which urged UN member states to cease their one-sided and unfair condemnations of Israel. The lack of balance in the UN with regard to the Middle East peace process has in fact been an obstacle to the success of that process, by increasing the fears of many in Israel that they will be unfairly treated. As a strong supporter of the ongoing peace process in the Middle East, I believe this resolution was an important one and I hope that the members of the UN will heed it.

Similarly, the resolution honoring the late Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin is another important affirmation of the great value we place on the peace process. Those who murdered this great man sought to murder the process of peace, and it is important for us to make it clear that they did not succeed in that latter effort, although they tragically did succeed in killing one of the great leaders of our time. Yitzhak Rabin's courageous efforts for peace, grounded in the heroic efforts he made during his lifetime to advance Israel's security, deserve not simply this commendation, but serious efforts to bring to fruition what he worked so hard to achieve.

Finally, it is entirely appropriate that our colleague, the gentleman from California, Mr. Lantos, lead the House in recognizing the Fiftieth Anniversary of the extraordinarily brave, through tragic, effort by the Hungarian people to win their freedom from the brutal dictatorship imposed on them by the Soviet Union. While this ended badly with the deaths of so many brave people, it was an affirmation that the human drive for freedom cannot easily be snuffed out, and served as an extraordinary example for the later, successful efforts to break the tyrannical Soviet empire.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MONTGOMERY BUS BOYCOTT

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2005

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Con. Res. 273, to recognize the courage, perseverance, and demand for justice displayed 50 years ago in the Montgomery bus boycott.

On Thursday, December 1, 1955, Ms. Rosa Parks, who recently passed away at the age of 92 and whom this body has honored, was arrested for refusing to give up her seat to a white passenger on a Montgomery, Alabama, public bus. With fifteen year old Claudette Colvin arrested for the same infraction just a few months earlier in Montgomery, the NAACP and the Women's Political Council finally had the opportunity to shed light on their treatment as second-class citizens.

Following discussions amongst civic and church leaders, including the Reverend Ralph Abernathy, the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., Jo Ann Robinson, who was the head of the Women's Political Council, and E.D. Nixon, who was the Montgomery official for the NAACP, the people of Montgomery decided to take a simple action that would end up crippling the city for almost a year. The Montgomery bus boycott, which began on Monday, December 5, 1955, called a nation's attention to a legacy of racism, inexplicable discrimination, and equal treatment under the law.

Bringing Montgomery's segregated bus lines to their knees, boycotters did everything from organize a system of carpools to match black taxi cab rates to those of the city's now-empty buses. The crowded rush hour sidewalks served as a testament to that single act of courage and bravery which inspired the modern civil rights movement and went on to revolutionize our country.

As the months passed on with Montgomery's buses continuing to receive few, if any, passengers, leaders of the bus boycott movement soon became targets of racist bigotry—Rev. Abernathy's and Rev. King's houses were firebombed, and boycotters were physically attacked. Yet their movement continued.

It is this great will and determination that was rewarded, on November 13, 1956, when the United States Supreme Court upheld a Federal district court ruling declaring segregation on buses unconstitutional. These events laid the groundwork for future landmark achievements, such as the passing of the 1964 Civil Rights Act. And fifty years later, we are still inspired and invigorated by the strength and determination of the people of Montgomery.

Mr. Speaker, my constituents and the people of this great nation honor the ideals of justice and equality set forth by the Montgomery bus boycott every time we stand up for what is right. This is the legacy of that event, and the legacy we should continue to honor. As we look to the future, we should be inspired by their example and continue to fight for social justice and equality for all people. Just as the devoted boycotters did, we should all remain committed to erasing the inequities that still exist in our society and around the world.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to support this resolution.

INTRODUCTION OF MORTGAGE AND RENTAL ASSISTANCE REAUTHORIZATION ACT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2005

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, today Representatives MAXINE WATERS (D-CA), CHARLIE MELANCON (D-LA) and I introduced the Mortgage and Rental Assistance Reauthorization Act to give victims of Hurricane Katrina the same housing aid awarded to New Yorkers in the aftermath of 9/11.

Once fully implemented, the Mortgage and Rental Assistance (MRA) program was one of the most useful FEMA programs following 9/11. This grant program provided direct mortgage or rent payments for individuals still living in their home, but were experiencing difficulties in making payments. When FEMA administered the program in New York, recipients were required to have a loss of income of at least 25 percent to qualify. Rent or mortgage payments lasted up to eighteen months. This program was particularly useful for people who lost their job as a result of 9/11 and could not afford to pay their rent or mortgage.

Unfortunately, 9/11 was the last disaster for which this program was available. The Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 eliminated this program because it was considered too costly and difficult to administer (the enactment date was 18 months and the attacks of 9/11 occurred after this act was signed into law, but before enactment). The Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 merged temporary housing assistance with grants to individuals and families. This merge now limits the assistance FEMA is allowed to provide victims of disasters.

On December 1, 2005, the three-month mortgage suspension on mortgages for victims of Katrina expired and many individuals are now faced with mortgage bills they are unable to afford. This week the Bush Administration announced a limited loan program to assist victims having difficulty paying their mortgage.

This program was instrumental in stabilizing New York's economy after 9/11, it is beyond me why we are now refusing to get the people of the Gulf Coast the very same aid we got in New York. The offering of loans to pay off loans unfairly straddle Katrina victims with more debt. When Congress debated converting reconstruction aid to Iraq from grants to loans, the Administration threatened a veto. Why should reconstruction of the Gulf Coast be any different?

RECOGNIZING THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE 13TH AMENDMENT TO H. RES. 196

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2005

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the House considered the recognition of the anniversary of the 13th amendment, H.

Res. 196. On the 31st day of January, 1865, the 13th amendment was proposed to the State legislatures by the 38th Congress and ratified by 27 of the 36 State legislatures on December 6, 1865. January 31, 1865, the day the House passed the proposal, the gallery which had just opened to African-Americans erupted into cheers and Representatives on the House floor were visibly emotional, crying and hugging each other. Slavery had ended and the deep roots of the modern civil rights movement were planted.

Although the abolition of slavery did not mean equality for all Americans, the amendment initiated a civil rights movement that continues to this day.

Through the ratification of this landmark legislation, our government initiated the process to work towards uniting the American people. Their actions also inspired the eventual passage of the 14th amendment, which granted equal protection under the law, the 15th amendment, which gave African-American males the right to vote, and the 19th amendment which granted universal suffrage to all women.

Despite these monumental changes in our Nation's constitution, African-Americans and other minorities continue to experience social and economical injustices. I submit to you Mr. Speaker that we still have a long way to go to rid our Nation of the vestiges of slavery and discrimination. By passing this legislation, we are renewing a national commitment towards eradicating racial and ethnic inequalities.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2005

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, due to official business, I missed four votes on December 7, 2005. I ask that the RECORD reflect that had I been able to, I would have voted "no" on rollcall vote No. 615, tabling appeal of the ruling of the chair; "no" on rollcall vote No. 616, the United States-Bahrain Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act; "aye" on rollcall vote No. 617, the Tax Revision Act; and "aye" on rollcall vote No. 618, the Gulf Opportunity Zone Act of 2005.

TAX REVISION ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2005

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in strong support of H.R. 4388—Tax Revision Act of 2005.

This bill has many important components that assist the America in being competitive in a global economy, but I specifically want to talk about the provisions in this legislation that concern the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and all the hard work that one of our colleagues, LUIS FORTUÑO has done on this bill.

H.R. 4388 extends the benefits of the manufacturing deduction enacted with the American Jobs Creation Act of 2004 to manufacturing operations conducted in Puerto Rico.

This is an issue of the utmost importance to the U.S. citizens of Puerto Rico, and being such, was a top legislative priority for Mr. FORTUÑO.

Under current law, U.S. corporations that operate in Puerto Rico are subject to full U.S. tax on the income from those operations in the same manner as income from operations in the mainland.

Thus, a U.S. corporation's income from manufacturing activities in Puerto Rico is subject to immediate tax in the United States, as well as being subject to tax in Puerto Rico. This difference in tax treatment under current law means that the tax burden of operating in Puerto Rico is significantly higher than in the United States.

This means, Mr. Speaker, that you pay a higher tax of 35 percent on income on a product manufactured in Puerto Rico versus a lower tax of 32 percent on that same product manufactured in the States.

The higher tax burden creates a clear disincentive for U.S. companies to manufacture in Puerto Rico. It distorts manufacturing location choices, putting Puerto Rico at a disadvantage relative to the mainland in terms of attracting and retaining investment.

This bill eliminates the disadvantage for manufacturing in Puerto Rico created under current law. It provides U.S. companies with comparable tax treatment for their manufacturing activities in Puerto Rico and their manufacturing activities conducted in the States.

Last year, we enacted the American Jobs Creation Act to enhance the ability of U.S. companies to compete in the global marketplace.

At the time, we stated that "a reduced tax burden on domestic manufacturers will improve the cash flow of domestic manufacturers and make investments in domestic manufacturing facilities more attractive. Such investment will assist in the creation and preservation of U.S. manufacturing jobs."

I agree with this wholeheartedly. Extending equal treatment to manufacturing conducted in Puerto Rico will further enhance the ability of U.S. companies to compete in the global marketplace. It will assist in the creation and preservation of the local manufacturing jobs that are so vitally important to the Puerto Rican economy.

This bill does not provide special benefit to Puerto Rico or to companies operating in Puerto Rico. It simply levels the playing field by treating manufacturing in Puerto Rico the same as manufacturing in the mainland, leaving companies free to choose where to locate based on business considerations.

Mr. Speaker, once again, let me thank Mr. FORTUÑO for his hard work on this issue. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF HOUSE THAT DEPLOYMENT OF FORCES IN IRAQ BE TERMINATED IMMEDIATELY

SPEECH OF

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I support JACK MURTHA but I do not support this fraudulent Republican Resolution.

In my district back in 2000, tens of thousands of ballots were thrown out, spit out by faulty machines.

The Republicans stole the election back in 2000 and now we are at war.

It's time for the Republicans to talk the talk and walk the walk.

If they want war, give them a gun and make them go fight.

Those in the White House who have deferred 5 times and others over there who were called to duty yet never showed up . . . how dare they call Mr. MURTHA a coward!

JOHN MURTHA has been the most ardent supporter of our troops on the ground in Congress.

In his 37 years in the Marines, JOHN MURTHA won two Purple Hearts, a Bronze Star with Combat "V", and the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry. He was awarded the Navy Distinguished Service Medal by the Marine Corps Commandant when he retired from the Marines.

JOHN MURTHA earned his bona fides to comment on what the troops are going through when he volunteered for duty in Vietnam.

And yes, Mr. Speaker, I can't speak for Congressman MURTHA but I will tell you straight out that I AM calling the President, and the others in the White House who have intentionally misled the Americans into this war liars.

They knew from the outset that there weren't any Weapons of Mass Destruction over there.

They knew from the outset that there was no connection between Al Qaeda and Saddam Hussein.

But yet, Mr. Speaker, we went in there anyway.

And now over 2,000 of our brave soldiers have lost their lives; over 30,000 have suffered permanent injuries and their lives, or the lives of their loved ones will never be the same.

This war is a sham, it was a sham from the get go, and it is a sham today.

Now, I support the troops but I do not support the leaders of this Nation who led them into battle without enough equipment, and without any exit plan whatsoever.

CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO MEN'S SOCCER TEAM FOR ADVANCING TO THE COLLEGE CUP

HON. HEATHER WILSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2005

Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the University of New Mexico Men's Soccer Team for advancing to the College Cup for the first time in school history. Last Friday, in the fourth round of the NCAA Tournament the second seeded Lobos defeated seventh seeded California Bears 1-0 to advance to the College Cup in Cary, North Carolina.

These Lobo student athletes have proudly represented the UNM in classroom and on the field. Led by Head Coach Jeremy Fishbein the Lobos finished the season with a 15-1-2 finish and a No.1 ranking in the final NSCAA Top-25 and Soccer Times Top-25 poll.

Mr. Speaker, this team is packed with home grown talent. A total of nine players are from New Mexico including seven from my district in Albuquerque. In fact, Mr. Speaker, three Albuquerque Public High School graduates combined for the winning overtime goal against California. Eldorado Eagle Brandon Moss passed down the field to Sandia Matador Ben Ashwil who chipped to La Cueva Bear Jeff Rowland who buried the ball in the net for the winning goal.

I would also like to congratulate UNM seniors Jeff Rowland and Lance Watson for being two of only 54 collegiate soccer players who received invitations to the 2006 Adidas MLS Player Combine, a pre-draft Major League Soccer camp. In addition, Jeff Rowland, a non recruited walk on who maintains over a 3.7 cumulative g.p.a. is a candidate for the Herman Trophy, awarded annually to the top player in college soccer.

Players and fans alike often have strange superstitions to ward off bad luck. For example, Mr. Speaker, former baseball player Wade Boggs would eat only chicken the day of a game. Many Lobo players their fans and family have kicked it up a notch by growing moustaches.

I am eagerly anticipating the Lobos College Cup Semifinals game against Clemson, tomorrow, December 9, 2005, as these Lobo athletes proudly represent the University of New Mexico on the national stage.

Mr. Speaker, In closing, I wish to commend the UNM Men's Soccer Team, UNM Head Coach Jeremy Fishbein, UNM athletic director Rudy Davalos, and all the dedicated Lobo fans for this successful season. Go Lobos.

TRIBUTE TO H. WALKER FEASTER III

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2005

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to H. Walker Feaster III, Inspector General of the Federal Communications Commission, who retired on January 3, 2006, after 38 years of Federal service—32 of which were served at the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).

Walker attended Drexel University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and graduated with a bachelor's degree in Business Administration in 1966. Walker's distinguished career began with service in the U.S. Navy from August 1966 to August 1971. Walker served as Combat Information Center Officer/Intelligence Officer on a guided missile frigate and was deployed to the Middle East on the flagship for the Commander, Middle East Forces. Walker also served as Staff Assistant to the Deputy Commander for Plans, Naval Telecommunications Command. Walker was discharged from active duty with the rank of Lieutenant and ultimately retired from the U.S. Naval Reserve with the rank of Commander in 1992.

In October 1971, Walker went back to work for the Naval Telecommunications Service as a civilian employee and in January 1974, after a brief career in the private sector, Walker joined the FCC as a Senior Analyst and later Deputy Chief of the Management Systems Division within the Office of Managing Director.

During this period, Walker also found time to earn a Master of Science in Government from Southern Illinois University in 1975 and earn a Master of Business Administration from American University in 1977. In 1978, Walker joined the staff of the FCC's Private Radio Bureau first as the Assistant Bureau Chief for Management and later as the Associate Bureau Chief for Operations. In 1981, he rejoined the Office of Managing Director as the Deputy Chief of Management Planning and later became the Associate Managing Director for Program Analysis.

Walker was named as the Acting Inspector General of the FCC on November 14, 1994, and, on April 14, 1996, was officially appointed as the Inspector General, the position he held until his retirement. Walker had many accomplishments as the FCC's Inspector General. Directing a staff of 14 professionals, he expanded oversight of Commission operations and improved the objectivity and integrity of audits and investigations. During his tenure, he directed over 167 audits/surveys/special reports of Commission operations and programs making over 600 recommendations or observations and achieving Commission concurrence for over 95 percent of those findings. He also directed over 270 inquiries/investigations of Commission employees and contractors and assisted Federal prosecutors in criminal investigations and prosecutions resulting in plea agreements, criminal fines, civil settlements and restitutions. Walker prepared Semi-Annual Reports to Congress on office activities and testified before House and Senate committees on numerous occasions.

Walker and his wife Susan have two children, Nicole and Nicholas. Susan Smith Feaster is the President of Coastal Partners, Ltd., and CEO and Chairman of the Board for the World Leadership Institute. Susan also formerly served on the staffs of United States Senator Paul Trible, Jr. and Congressman Frank R. Wolf. Nicole, a sixth grader who speaks French fluently, is an outstanding student and athlete. She participates in Tai Kwon Do, basketball and softball. Nicholas, a bright little 3 year old, attends preschool in Georgetown, and is busy learning the alphabet and his numbers in French. The Feaster family enjoys attending sporting events together and vacations to destinations in the United States and abroad.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending the career of H. Walker Feaster III. With Walker's retirement, the FCC loses an enthusiastic, innovative leader and an exemplary Federal employee.

RECOGNITION OF THE SKYHAWKS, NCAA DIVISION II MEN'S SOCCER CHAMPIONS

HON. JOHN T. SALAZAR

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2005

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate the Skyhawks, Fort Lewis College's Men's Soccer team for winning the 2005-2006 NCAA Division II National Championship. Being undefeated, ranked first in the nation, and then winning the National Championship is indeed a dream season for this phenomenal group of athletes.

The Skyhawks 3–1 victory on December 4th capped an undefeated season with Fort Lewis winning 22 matches. In the Final Four Tournament, Team Captain Bryan Eisenbraun was named most valuable defensive player. John Cunliffe was named most valuable offensive player. These two young men and two other Skyhawks—Nick Clark and Cole Sweetser—were also named All-American soccer players.

The Fort Lewis Skyhawks are the pride of the entire community. These men are positive role models for the younger generation, not only for their talent and dedication to the sport, but because of their dedication to volunteering and giving back to the community. For several years, the coaches and team have been actively involved with the Durango Youth Soccer Association, leading soccer camps, coaching clinics, and hosting club soccer tournaments. The Skyhawk men have taken the time to be mentors for Durango youth and have become like family for many people.

The Skyhawks are a shining example of the values important to all Coloradans—hard work, dedication, leadership, and working with the community. To Fort Lewis College President Brad Bartels, Coach Jeremy Gunn, Assistant Coaches Darren Morgan, Andy McDermid, James Hall and all the members of the Skyhawk's 2005 men's soccer team: Adam Beach, Jonathan Boyer, Nick Clark, Bernardo Costa, John Cunliffe, Tom Donley, John Eckhoff, Bryan Eisenbraun, Fabian Ferrada, Sean Flanagan, Kyle Fredrick, Ben Gatenbein, Kieran Hall, Ryan Kerr, Nick Kirchhof, Taylor Lavoy, Ryan Parsons, Carter Rice, Casey Roberts, Paul Sanchez, Cole Sweetser, Justin Valashinas, Cliff Wilmes, and Kenny Wood—congratulations on your victory and thank you for your service to the community.

INTRODUCING THE FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY RESTORATION ACT

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2005

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, today I, together with Subcommittee Ranking Democratic Member Norton, and 30 other Democratic Members of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee (the Committee), have introduced the "Federal Emergency Management Agency Restoration Act of 2005". This bill will reestablish the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) as an independent, cabinet-level agency. It will further strengthen the agency by ensuring that the FEMA Director is chosen from among qualified candidates who have extensive experience in the areas of emergency preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation for all hazards. This bill will begin the process of restoring FEMA to a level of competence that the American people expect and deserve.

Moving FEMA into the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) was the wrong thing to do. It trapped the agency—an agency that needs to be nimble and be able to marshal resources quickly—in a bureaucratic morass. During its time in DHS, FEMA has been par-

tially dismantled, been bled of necessary resources, been unable to fill key management positions on a permanent basis, been unable to make timely decisions to deal with emergencies, and has been forced to focus on terrorism at the expense of natural disasters. FEMA's response to the natural disaster of Hurricane Katrina was itself a disaster.

Although I am saddened by FEMA's current troubles, I am not surprised. Three years ago, during consideration of H.R. 5005, the Homeland Security Act of 2002, I offered an amendment to keep FEMA independent from the Department of Homeland Security. I, along with many other Democrats, feared that including FEMA in the new Department would undermine its effectiveness by diverting resources away from its traditional mission of preparing for and responding to natural disasters, thereby leaving the federal government unprepared to respond to a disaster like Hurricane Katrina.

Further in testimony before the Select Committee on Homeland Security in July 2002, in response to a question by Select Committee Member Congresswoman DeLauro, I set forth what I believed to be the dangers of moving FEMA to the newly-created Department.

Congressman DeLauro: Let me ask a question with regard to FEMA. You've recommended keeping FEMA as a separate agency but would coordinate with a DHS in the event of a terrorist attack. How do you think that moving FEMA into the Department of Homeland Security would affect our ability to respond to hurricanes, other natural disasters, and how do you envision the FEMA-DHS coordination being carried out?

Congressman Oberstar: FEMA started out as the civil defense agency. . . . And then moved into, as the Cold War wound down, assuming broader responsibilities as our nation's premier disasters assistance and response agency. *To move it into this new Department of Homeland Security without a clearly defined homeland security role is, my judgment, a mistake. We have not seen a delineation of what is homeland security compared to response to floods, hurricanes, blizzards, earthquakes, tornadoes. You know, when your home is underwater up to the eaves are you going to wonder, where is FEMA? Are they on some mission looking for terrorists or are they going to be on a mission looking for your lost children and rescuing you from the rooftop of your home?* [emphasis added].

The bill I introduce today will help FEMA get back on track. By establishing FEMA as a cabinet-level independent agency in the executive branch, the bill ensures that FEMA is not trapped in a massive department in which the Director of FEMA must work through levels of bureaucracy before taking appropriate action.

In Committee hearings held in October 2005, emergency management officials from across the Nation testified that they believed FEMA needs to be moved out of DHS in order for it to function effectively. The Transportation and Infrastructure Committee plans additional hearings early next year to discuss the direction of FEMA and how to improve our preparedness and response to major disasters. I hope that Secretary Chertoff, the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, will respond favorably to the Committee's request to testify at one of these hearings.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that this bill will begin the process of restoring FEMA as a first-class agency able to prepare for, respond to, and recover from both natural and man-made dis-

asters. On September 6, 2005, when Congress returned from the August recess, Congresswoman NORTON, the Ranking Democratic Member of the Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management, and I introduced H.R. 3659, a bill to move FEMA out of the Department of Homeland Security and reestablish its independence. This bill builds upon H.R. 3659 by strengthening the qualifications for the FEMA Director and establishing the position of Deputy Director, who is to serve as a liaison to the Department of Homeland Security in the event of an act of terrorism, and act for the Director when the Director is absent, unable to serve, or when the position of the Director is vacant. The bill also includes those provisions to provide for the transfer of personnel and appropriations which are necessary to establish a separate, independent agency. A section by section explanation of the bill is set forth below.

I urge Congress to consider this legislation early in the coming year.

SECTION-BY-SECTION OF THE FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY RESTORATION ACT

Section 1. Short Title. This section establishes the short title for the Federal Emergency Management Agency Restoration Act.

Section 2. Federal Emergency Management Agency. This section establishes the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) as a cabinet-level independent agency in the executive branch. The section sets forth that FEMA is responsible for emergency preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation for all hazards, including major disasters, acts of terrorism, and other emergencies. For purposes of the Act, "emergency preparedness" does not include law enforcement efforts to prevent or deter terrorism, protect critical infrastructure, and conduct intelligence activities.

The section establishes qualifications for the FEMA Director. It states that the Director of FEMA shall be appointed by the President, with the advice and consent of the Senate, from among persons who have extensive experience in emergency preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation for all hazards, including major disasters, acts of terrorism, and other emergencies. The section also prescribes a five-year term of office for the Director.

The section establishes a Deputy Director, appointed from the competitive service, and sets for the criteria for the Deputy Director. The section also sets forth the duties of the Deputy Director and authorizes the Deputy Director to serve as a liaison to the Department of Homeland Security in the event of an act of terrorism, and to act for the Director when the Director is absent, unable to serve, or when the position of the Director is vacant.

Section 3. Transfer of Functions. This section sets forth the functions and personnel to be transferred to an independent FEMA. The section also provides for the transfer of FEMA within 120 days of the date of enactment.

Section 4. Savings Provisions. This section sets forth various technical provisions to establish an independent FEMA with the authorities necessary to function as an independent agency and provides for the transfer of personnel and appropriations.

RECOGNIZE THE PLIGHT OF SHAD VETERANS: IT'S ABOUT TIME!

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2005

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I urge support for H.R. 4259, the "Veterans Right to Know Act", recently introduced by my colleague, Congressman MIKE THOMPSON. This bill requires an investigation into chemical and biological weapons tests, especially those carried out from 1962–1974 on our nation's servicemembers.

In this time of war, it is prudent that we redouble our efforts to ensure that the nation is willing and able to protect our troops deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan. To that end, it is imperative that we learn from the past—and one of the great lessons to be learned is that of Project 112 and SHAD.

Project 112 was a Department of Defense program of weapons testing and SHAD (Shipboard Hazard and Defense) was a part of the larger Project 112. SHAD involved a series of tests that were conducted to determine the vulnerability of U.S. warships to attacks with chemical and biological agents. Although service members were not test subjects, they were on board the ships during the tests.

So far, almost 6000 unknowing military personnel have been identified as having been involved in Project 112, exposed to Vx Nerve Gas, Sarin Nerve Gas, E. coli and other toxins and carcinogens. The illnesses occurring at too early ages among many of these veterans seem to be more than a coincidence.

I want to commend our veterans for their diligence in bringing this matter to the forefront. Once again, it is our veterans who had to advocate on their own behalf to get the government to release information about harmful exposures so they could better understand their health issues and illnesses. The Department of Defense denied the tests up until 2002.

We have learned a lot since 2002 when these tests became public knowledge, but there is still much to learn. That is why this bill, H.R. 4259, is so important. We need an independent effort to diligently pursue all avenues to discover every veteran who was affected by this testing and to provide each one with appropriate treatment and benefits. In addition, we need to ensure that steps are taken to prevent and improve the documentation of potentially harmful exposures during the current wars. The lives of our veterans depend on our diligence.

H.R. 4259 is endorsed by the Vietnam Veterans of America, the American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Disabled American Veterans, the Military Order of the Purple Heart, the Military Officers Association of America, the Paralyzed Veterans of America and the Blinded Veterans Association. Won't you join them? Please let Congressman THOMPSON know that you want to co-sponsor H.R. 4259!

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4340, UNITED STATES-BAHRAIN FREE TRADE AGREEMENT IMPLEMENTATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2005

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4340, the United States-Bahrain Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act. Overall I believe the agreement contains numerous important benefits for the people of both the United States and Bahrain.

The agreement would allow 100 percent of American-made industrial and consumer goods and virtually all agricultural products to enter Bahrain duty free. The agreement would also expand access for the United States to many of the financial and service sectors in Bahrain along with strengthening intellectual property protections. This improved commercial relationship between our countries will benefit many sectors of the American economy, including agriculture, banking and securities, and high technology.

I have supported a number of trade agreements to expand access to foreign markets for exports as part of a long-term strategy to strengthen the American economy. While expanding markets for American businesses and farmers is critical, I believe it needs to be done responsibly, accounting for the treatment and protection of workers and the environment. This agreement makes efforts to do so.

Regarding the agreement's labor provisions, I am concerned that Bahrain is not in complete compliance with International Labor Organization, (ILO), core labor standards. But it is my understanding that Bahrain has committed in an exchange of letters—which will be included with the trade agreement—to modify domestic laws to comply with key labor standards. I commend the Kingdom of Bahrain for its commitment to modify its domestic laws, and I urge the Administration and the United States Trade Representative, (USTR), to monitor progress in this regard.

In the future, I think the administration and the USTR would be well served by including labor provisions, such as those included in the United States-Jordan Free Trade Agreement, in the body of future trade agreements and by making them subject to sanctions via dispute resolution procedures. The dispute resolution procedures fall short in the case of the Bahrain FTA. It is important that the United States takes step to ensure our trading partners provide workers with basic labor rights. By including such requirements we dedicate ourselves to this goal.

While this agreement is largely about the liberalized exchange of goods and services, it is also about building a stronger relationship with a strategic country in the Middle East.

Opening up commerce between the U.S. and Bahrain can help us gain Bahrain's support for initiatives in other areas, such as resolving the Arab-Israeli conflict and restoring security to Iraq. In that connection, it is important to note that Bahrain is not observing the Arab League boycott of Israel. I welcome the U.S.-Bahrain Free Trade Agreement and urge its support.

TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN SAMUEL C. FLYNN

HON. MIKE MCINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2005

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a true gentleman, wonderful husband and father, and extraordinary leader in our Armed Forces, CAPT Samuel C. Flynn, Jr. Sam passed away after a long illness on December 4, 2005, but his legacy and contributions will live on in the hearts and minds of many for generations to come, and we are forever grateful for his service to our country.

Born and raised in Lake Waccamaw, N.C., Captain Flynn embodied the true spirit of a dedicated and determined leader. He graduated from Hallsboro High School as Valedictorian of the class of 1951, where he earned varsity letters in football, basketball and baseball. In 1955, he graduated from Wake Forest College with a Bachelor of Science degree.

After college, Captain Flynn entered the U.S. Navy and received his Navy Wings of Gold and designation as a Naval Aviator in June 1958. Throughout his 31 years of service, he proudly served as a fighter pilot and Landing Signal Officer, and assumed command of Fighter Squadron 31, Carrier Air Wing TWO, Fighter Wing ONE, and NAS Kingsville, Texas. With Fighter Squadron 31, Captain Flynn embarked on his third Southeast Asia tour, and on June 21, 1972, he and his Radar Intercept Officer downed a MIG-21 over North Vietnam, making the first MIG kill of the war for Fighting 31, SARATOGA, and Attack Carrier Air Wing 3. He flew over 250 combat missions in the F-4 Phantom and logged a total of 1,175 aircraft carrier arrested landings. Not only did Captain Flynn serve his city, state, and nation with distinction, dedication, and determination, he also understood the price of freedom and risked his life so others could rest peacefully each night.

Captain Flynn is a highly decorated sailor, receiving the Silver Star, 5 Distinguished Flying Crosses, and 3 Meritorious Service medals. He also received 22 Strike Flight Air Medals, 2 individual awards of the Air Medal, 3 Commendation Medals (with combat "V"), and numerous other awards and ribbons.

Captain Flynn loved his family and was predeceased by his first wife, Shirley Ownby Flynn, and is survived by his present wife, Melynda McIntyre Flynn; his son, Samuel C. Flynn, III of San Diego, CA; his daughter, Elizabeth Flynn Pforr, her husband Paul and their children Kyle and Alexandria Pforr, of Alexandria, VA; his brother, James "Jimmy" L. Flynn, his wife Nancy, of Wilmington, NC; as well as his brother-in-law, David Ownby and his wife Jean, of Cumberland, VA.

President Dwight D. Eisenhower once said, "If we make ourselves worthy of America's ideals, if we do not forget that our Nation was founded on the premise that all men are creatures of God's making, the world will come to know that it is free men who carry forward the true promise of human progress and dignity." Indeed, Sam Flynn's life was the embodiment of this. He was a man who was known by persons of all races, ages, and religions for both his kind deeds and his loving, unselfish heart.

Mr. Speaker, dedicated service to others combined with dynamic leadership has been

the embodiment of Captain Flynn's life. May we all use his wisdom, selflessness, and integrity as a beacon of direction and a source of true enlightenment for many, many years to come. Indeed, may God bless to all of our memories the tremendous life and legacy of Captain Samuel C. Flynn, Jr.

CONGRATULATING MICHELLE
CUNNINGHAM

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Michelle Cunningham for receiving an Outstanding Community Service Award from the 16th Annual University of North Texas Latinos in the 21st Century Conference. Ms. Cunningham was selected as an individual whose contributions foster and enhance education for Hispanic students and promotes community values.

The Latinos in the 21st Century Conference was held on October 14, 2006 at UNT. The theme was "Reaching La Raza: Catering to the Future." The conference promotes higher education among Latinos/Hispanics/Chicanos in the North Texas region and discusses issues relevant to this growing population. The UNT Division of Equity and Diversity who works to develop a supportive environment for a culturally diverse faculty, staff, and student body at the University of North Texas sponsored the conference.

Michelle Cunningham is the Community & International Relations Coordinator for the City of Denton Economic Development. She has been employed with the City for seven years. Factors leading to Ms. Cunningham's selection included her long-term support of educational outreach initiatives sponsored by the UNT Center for Outreach and Community Involvement, her vocal advocacy for educating Denton's underrepresented students, and her mentorship and leadership of Hispanic students and families. The Denton LULAC Council has also recognized her initiatives and she was a nominee for the Dallas region LULAC woman of the year.

I extend my sincere congratulations to Ms. Michelle Cunningham on receiving this award and commend her dedication and desire to help her community.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENT
OF ACTON ARCHIE

HON. WALTER B. JONES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2005

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, recently I had the honor to meet an amazing young man from North Carolina, his name is Acton Archie. I wanted the opportunity to not only congratulate Archie, but to tell you about his life.

Too often we hear about the bad choices young people make and the decisions that lead them down a path to nowhere. Fortunately, Acton Archie made the right decisions, despite unimaginable obstacles, which has led him down the right path.

Growing up in Charlotte, Acton moved from one public housing development to another, he moved 12 times in 12 years. His father was murdered when he was just a child and his mother struggled with drug addiction. By 9th grade, Acton rarely attended school; he was surrounded by crime and drugs. He was on the verge of dropping out of school altogether when he was introduced to Communities in School, a program that helps young people successfully learn, stay in school, and prepare for life. Acton credits his grandmother, his strong faith in God and Communities in Schools for literally saving his life.

Acton not only finished high school, he graduated with a 3.8 GPA. He then went on to attend North Carolina State University where he recently graduated with a degree in Business Management. He will soon begin a career as a business analyst with the world's largest privately held software company.

Ten years ago, if someone would have told Acton that he would achieve so much, I doubt he would have believed them, but the wonderful thing is that he has achieved so much. I am certain even greater things are yet to come for this young man.

I would like to congratulate Acton Archie for his achievements, but I also want to congratulate Acton for the tremendous courage he has shown in overcoming barriers in his life. This young man is truly an inspiration to me, and I know he is an even greater inspiration to young kids who feel trapped by their situation in life.

May God Bless Action Archie and all who continue to overcome roadblocks in their lives to achieve what might have been seen at one time as the "Impossible Dream."

Thank you, Acton Archie.

HONORING RICHARD GORDON ON
HIS RETIREMENT

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2005

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Rev. Richard Gordon for his 43 years of service to First Baptist Church in Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

Since he became involved with First Baptist in 1962, Rev. Gordon has helped the church grow as Rutherford County has grown. After four decades as pastor of First Baptist, Rev. Gordon is now teaching the children and grandchildren of some of the first people he taught there. But Rev. Gordon will give his last sermon to the congregation on Christmas Day.

Rev. Gordon's compassion extends beyond the church and into the community. He serves on the Murfreesboro Affordable Housing Advisory Board and Rutherford County Guidance Center Board. In addition, he has been involved with many national organizations, such as the NAACP, the United Ministerial Alliance and the National Baptist Congress.

In 1967, I attended one of Rev. Gordon's services for the first time. I know firsthand that his leadership and dedication will be deeply missed by his congregation. I also have a feeling that his service to the community will not end with his retirement. As Rev. Gordon says, "You don't retire from the ministry."

I commend Rev. Gordon for his 43 years with First Baptist Church. And I wish him all the best in his retirement.

FREEDOM FOR ANTONIO AUGUSTO
VILLAREAL ACOSTA

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2005

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about Antonio Augusto Villareal Acosta, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Villareal Acosta is an economist and bookkeeper under a regime that bans truth and facts. As a student of truth, Mr. Villareal Acosta quickly joined the courageous opposition to demand human rights, democracy, and freedom from tyranny. Because he believes in freedom and because he actively and peacefully advocates for liberty, Mr. Villareal Acosta has been targeted by the despotic regime.

In March 2003, as part of the tyrant's heinous island wide crackdown on peaceful, pro-democracy activists, Mr. Villareal Acosta was arrested by the regime. In a sham trial, he was sentenced to 15 years in the totalitarian gulag.

Mr. Villareal Acosta is languishing in the revolting, hellish gulag. However, being confined in these inhuman conditions has not stopped him from continuing to demand freedom and justice for the people of Cuba and his fellow political prisoners. Amnesty International reports that Mr. Villareal Acosta has participated in hunger strikes while imprisoned in Castro's dungeon. He has undertaken these strikes to bring attention to the repulsive squalor of the gulag, the lack of medical attention, and the barbaric punishment cells; all of his actions have been in defiance of the machinery of repression that has unjustly confined him in these repugnant conditions.

Mr. Speaker, it remains categorically unacceptable that men and women who demand freedom from tyranny are locked in the dungeons of tyrannical monsters. Here, under the dome that represents freedom and democracy, we must continue to demand the liberation of all who suffer in the darkness of totalitarianism.

Let me be clear, the willful ignorance of Cuba's suffering under the Castro regime by much of the world's press and most of the international community, amounts to abetting the Castro dictatorship. Let us never forget, and always support, those who are struggling to liberate their people from the grip of tyranny. My Colleagues, we must demand the immediate and unconditional release of Antonio Augusto Villareal Acosta and every prisoner of conscience locked in Castro's totalitarian gulag.

HONORING COACH BARRY
ALVAREZ

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2005

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the coach of the University of Wisconsin football team who retires this year, Coach Barry Alvarez. In Barry Alvarez's 16 years as coach, the Wisconsin Badgers have gone from a 1-10 record in 1990 to three-time winners of

the Rose Bowl and the Big Ten Conference. Coach Alvarez has made the University of Wisconsin into a perennial Big Ten Championship contender. The abilities, both on and off the field, of players led by Coach Alvarez, many of whom have been All-Americans and have gone on to play in the NFL, serve as a testament to the standard of excellence that he established at the University of Wisconsin's football program.

It is with great sadness that I acknowledge Coach Alvarez's retirement from his duties as head coach at the close of this season. However, Barry Alvarez will now be dedicating his full attention to being Athletic Director at the University of Wisconsin. There is no doubt that Coach Alvarez will continue to bring the same determination and commitment he has brought to all of the University of Wisconsin's athletic programs as he continues his role of Athletic Director. It is fitting that in Coach Alvarez's final year as football coach, the team excelled beyond what some had predicted and will take on Auburn in the Capital One Bowl, on January 2, 2006. While at the close of this season he may no longer be Coach of the University of Wisconsin's football team, his legacy of dedication, hard work, and excellence at the University of Wisconsin is far from being complete. Thanks Coach, Job Well Done.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2005

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent from this chamber today. I would like the record to show that, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote 618.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4340, UNITED STATES-BAHRAIN FREE TRADE AGREEMENT IMPLEMENTATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2005

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to represent an area that borders the Long Island Sound. The Sound is one of our Nation's natural treasures, providing important environmental, recreational, and commercial benefits to its surrounding regions. Not only is the Sound the natural habitat for one of the most diverse ecosystems in the Northeast, but it also provides enjoyment for the millions of residents and vacationers who swim and boat in the Sound every year. Moreover, commerce relating to the Long Island Sound generates more than \$5 billion in the regional economy each year.

Preservation of the Long Island Sound is not a parochial issue, but a national one. The Sound is a charter member in the National Estuaries Program, and has been designated as one of only 28 estuaries of national significance. Unfortunately, the effects of having more than 8 million people living within its wa-

tershed have caught up with the Sound, as untreated sewage and other types of pollution have harmed the water quality and caused a dramatic drop in the Sound's fish and wildlife populations.

With the passage of the Long Island Sound Restoration Act in 2000, which authorized \$200 million for cleaning up the Long Island Sound over the past 5 years, we have seen improvements in the quality of the water in the Sound. However, our work is not complete. We must continue to build on this progress and provide more assistance in cleaning up the Sound. I am confident that the funds authorized in this bill will have a significant impact on the ongoing efforts to improve the quality of the Long Island Sound. We must do everything possible to ensure the continued funding of these efforts, and this legislation is the appropriate means for achieving the desired end.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. ALICIA ZIZZO

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2005

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the extraordinary achievements of an important member of the New York community, Dr. Alicia Zizzo.

Critics have described Dr. Zizzo as one of America's most important classical musicians, both for her skills as a pianist and her research on George Gershwin's body of work, celebrated and forgotten. Her pianistic artistry has brought her international acclaim and has been recognized on four continents.

Dr. Zizzo's musicological scholarship is focused on the research and restoration of the classical piano literature of George Gershwin. She has been able to enhance what was a remarkably small classical piano solo repertoire by working with the Library of Congress, Warner Brothers Publications, the Gershwin estate and other scholars.

Dr. Zizzo succeeded in researching, transcribing and inevitably recreating Gershwin's lost and forgotten classical solo piano manuscripts notated in his own hand. She approaches these manuscripts not with the objective of making yet another arrangement of his melodies as so many musicians have already done, but rather to literally reconstruct from fragments, sketches and partially completed scores that had been long neglected.

Critics have lauded her for the discovery of transitional scores which bring new life to classic Gershwin material. For example, the New York Times, Washington Post and many other widely recognized publications throughout the United States and the world have hailed Dr. Zizzo for her groundbreaking musicological analysis of the original manuscripts of Gershwin's famous Rhapsody in Blue. Dr. Zizzo was able to restore approximately 80 measures, mostly solos, that were deleted during editing—not done by Gershwin himself—for publication.

Dr. Zizzo has also been praised for unearthing material never known to exist. Her landmark, best selling CDs feature lost Gershwin classics like Seven Preludes, Blue Monday, Lullaby, Sleepless Night and other previously

unpublished scores. She also created a brand new manuscript edition of Rhapsody in Blue and a piano solo suite on the background orchestral scores of the movie Shall We Dance (1937). Also published is a piano solo transcription of the symphonic work I Got Rhythm Variations.

In 1998, during the Library of Congress's four day celebration of the Gershwin Centennial, Dr. Zizzo was the only concert pianist invited to present a full recital and lecture. Later that year, she was recognized by Hofstra University with an Honorary Doctorate degree for her important contributions to American music.

Mr. Speaker, I request that my distinguished colleagues rise and pay tribute to a great New Yorker, Dr. Alicia Zizzo, for her accomplishments. Her many successes have brought to light music scores by our greatest American composer, George Gershwin, important scores that we may continue to enjoy for generations to come.

HONORING THE LAKE HIGHLANDS HIGH SCHOOL PARENT TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2005

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor Lake Highlands High School's Parent Teachers Association (PTA) for achieving the Parent Involvement Schools of Excellence certification from the National Parent Teachers Association in 2005.

Lake Highlands High School (LHHS) is the only school in the Dallas-Fort Worth area to achieve certification from the National PTA and only one of three recipients in the State of Texas. The award is based on excellence in six areas: communication between school and parents, promotion of parenting skills, parent assistance in student learning, recruitment and support of parent volunteers, school decision making and advocacy, and collaborating with the community.

Today, I would like to recognize the LHHS Parent Involvement in Schools Excellence certification committee, including chairwoman, Liz Luthans, Bonnie Blackman, Bob Iden, Sharin Clark, and Jenny Wagner. I would also like to recognize parents Paula Davis, Beth Hanks, Tami Trostel and Lake Highlands Exchange Club representative Jerry Allen who also served on the committee.

As the Congressman for the Fifth Congressional District of Texas, I am very proud to represent Lake Highlands High School. Lake Highlands High School's PTA is truly helping to shape a brighter future for our community and our country. I would like to offer my congratulations on this occasion and best wishes for their continued success.

IN MEMORY OF JAMES CASHMAN, JR.

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2005

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my condolences to the family and

friends of James Cashman, Jr. Anyone living in the Las Vegas valley knows of the contributions that James gave not only to the community, but also to his family and friends. He was a native of Las Vegas and a member of a family traditionally dedicated to the development of Southern Nevada and to service to the people of the area.

Born February 19, 1926, James served as a gunnery instructor in the Army Air Corps during World War II, after which he entered the business of his father. In 1945 he married the former Mary Carmichael, who survives him. He was appointed General Manager of Cashman Cadillac and became co-owner of Cashman GMC Truck in 1958. In 1962 he assumed the Presidency of Cashman Enterprises.

James Cashman, Jr. became a true leader of the community and was very active in community service, including the Junior Chamber of Commerce, the Greater Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce, Nevada Development Foundation, University of Nevada Land Foundation and United Way of Clark County. He was also a member of the Southern Nevada Drug Abuse Council; the Boys & Girls Club of Las Vegas, Executive Board; Boulder Dam Area Council, Boy Scouts of America; the Las Vegas Elks Lodge, and the Las Vegas Rotary Club.

James received many commendations and awards over the years, some of which include being named the Las Vegas Junior Chamber's Outstanding Young Man of 1955. In 1969, he was named chairman of the United Fund Drive. In 1974, Cashman became president of the United Way of Clark County.

I would like to express my sincere sympathy to the family and friends of James Cashman, Jr. As we move forward in our lives, may we never forget his achievements and contributions. He was a wonderful person, a good friend of mine, and someone I always looked up to. This is a great loss for the state and people of Nevada. He will be greatly missed by all of us.

RECOGNIZING THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE 13TH AMENDMENT

SPEECH OF

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2005

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to add for the record the support of the gentleman from Louisiana, Mr. MELANCON, the gentleman from Illinois, Mr. JACKSON, and the gentleman from New York, Mr. BISHOP of H. Res. 196.

I submit the opening statements from the Congressional Globe 1865 House debate on floor consideration of S.J. Res. 16, the proposition to amend the Constitution of the United States by abolishing slavery.

And I also include the House vote on final passage of what would become the 13th Amendment to our Constitution.

ABOLITION OF SLAVERY

The SPEAKER stated the question in order to be the consideration of the motion to reconsider the vote by which the House, on the 14th of last June, rejected Senate joint resolution No. 16, submitting to the Legislatures of the several States a proposition to amend

the Constitution of the United States; and that the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. ASHLEY] was entitled to the floor.

Mr. ASHLEY. I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. MCALLISTER] to have read a brief statement.

Mr. MCALLISTER sent to the Clerk's desk and had read the following: "When this subject was before this House on a former occasion I voted against the measure. I have been in favor of exhausting all means of conciliation to restore the Union as our fathers made it. I am for the whole Union, and utterly opposed to secession or dissolution in any shape. The result of all the peace missions, and especially that of Mr. Blair has satisfied me that nothing short of the recognition of their independence will satisfy the southern confederacy. It must therefore be destroyed; and in voting for the present measure I cast my vote against the cornerstone of the southern confederacy, and declare eternal war against the enemies of my country."

[Applause from the Republican side of the House.]

Mr. ASHLEY. I now yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania, [Mr. COFFROTH].

Mr. COFFROTH. Mr. Speaker, I speak not today for or against slavery. I am content that this much-agitated question shall be adjudicated at the proper time by the people. It is my purpose to state in all candor the reasons which prompt me to give the vote I shall soon record.

The amending of our Constitution is fraught with so much importance to the American people that before it is accomplished the amendments proposed should be scrutinized with the strictest criticism. No frivolous, vague, or uncertain experiment should be for a moment tolerated. The life and existence of this nation is centered in the observance and faithful execution of the powers conferred by the Constitution upon the servants of the people.

The joint resolution before us proposes: "That the following article be proposed to the Legislatures of the several States as an amendment to the Constitution of the United States, which, when ratified by three fourths of said Legislatures, shall be valid, to all intents and purposes, as a part of the said Constitution, namely:

"ART. XIII, SEC. 1. Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime, whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.

SEC. 2. Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation."

The first inquiry is, has Congress this power? I turn to the Constitution, and find article fifth provides—"The Congress, whenever two thirds of both Houses shall deem it necessary, shall propose amendments to this Constitution, or, on the application of the Legislatures of two thirds of the several States, shall call a convention for proposing amendments, which, in either case, shall be valid to all intents and purposes, as part of this Constitution, when ratified by the Legislatures of three fourths of the several States, or by Conventions in three fourths thereof, as the one or the other mode of ratification may be proposed by the Congress."

It is not claimed that Congress itself can engraft this amendment into the Constitution without being ratified by three fourths of the States. Then, sir, under the Constitution, Congress has no power beyond discriminating what shall or ought to be submitted to the people. The members of this House assume no responsibility, they enact no amendment, but as faithful Representatives they submit to the people, the source from whence their power comes, the proposed

amendment. "Governments are instituted among men, deriving their just power from the consent of the governed." All political power is invested in the people. At their will constitutions can be remodeled and laws repealed.

The amending of our Constitution is no new experiment. Already at three different times amendments have been submitted to the Legislatures, and by them adopted. The first amendment was ratified in 1791, the second in 1798, and the third in 1804. It never was intended by the wise men who adopted the Constitution that it should remain unchanged. The growth of the nation, its progress and its advancement, will, as time passes, demand new articles and additional provisions. The people are the guardians of the Constitution, and I am not convinced that any danger is to be anticipated, as presented in the following illustrations of the gentleman from Ohio, [Mr. PENDLETON,] put with such admirable compactness and scholastic force:

1. "I assert that there is another limitation, stronger even than the letter of the Constitution, and that is to be found in its intent and spirit and its foundation idea. I put the question which has been put before in this debate, can three fourths of the States constitutionally change this Government, and make it an autocracy? It is not prohibited by the Constitution."

2. "Can three fourths of the States make an amendment to the Constitution of the United States which shall prohibit the State of Ohio from having two Houses in its Legislative Assembly? It is not prohibited in the Constitution."

3. "Sir, can three fourths of the States provide an amendment to the Constitution by which one fourth should bear all the taxes of this Government? It is not prohibited."

4. "Can three fourths of the States, by an amendment to the Constitution, subvert the State governments of one fourth and divide their territory among the rest? It is not forbidden."

5. "Can three fourths of the States so amend the Constitution of the States as to make the northern States of this Union slaveholding States?"

I do not think there is any power in the Constitution which would permit three fourths of the States to change the form of government. The Constitution provides for a republican form of government, and to establish an autocracy would not be amending the Constitution, but utterly destroying it, and establishing upon its ruins a new form of government of self-derived power.

I would not give one of the new copper two-cent piece for the insertion into the Constitution of explicit prohibitions against every other supposition brought forward by the gentleman from Ohio, [Mr. PENDLETON,]

"Long before three fourths of the States can become so debauched and demoralized that they would practice such monstrous injustice, they must have lost the sense of honor that would be bound by a compact, and the fear of God that would keep an oath. When these virtues have died out, no matter what safeguards a written constitution might contain, they would be of no more value than so much waste paper. There are certain things which can never be attempted so long as there is public virtue enough not to evade, explain away, or openly violate the Constitution. It is for this reason so little limitation was put upon the amending power.

"The actual limitations on that power operated against natural equity, and hence the necessity for their insertion. One of them restrained Congress from putting an end to the slave trade prior to 1808, and the practical effect of the other is to give New England,

which has a smaller population than New York and only a fraction more than Pennsylvania, twelve Senators, while New York and Pennsylvania have each only two. The Constitution presumes that the majority of the people in three fourths of the States cannot be corrupted; or that, if they should; they would not afterward respect paper restraints on their passions. A constitution is no stronger than the sense of the moral obligation of the parties bound by it. It is futile to take men's engagements against crimes more heinous than breaking an engagement. You might as well swear a man not to commit highway robbery. If he has conscience enough to respect an oath, it would be needless, and if he has not, an idle precaution."

Again, it is argued that this amendment is unconstitutional; that the Congress of the United States has no legal authority to propose this amendment, not have the States in ratifying it the constitutional power to destroy or interfere with the right of property. Learned gentlemen of this House differ on this subject. The Constitution itself provides the remedy by which all these differences of opinion can be legally adjudicated. Section two of article three provides:

"The judicial power shall extend to all cases in law and equity arising under this Constitution."

In my opinion, if any person is injured by this amendment, he has a judicial remedy before the highest court of the country.

If the States of the South desire to retain slavery, they can do so by refusing to ratify this amendment. There are thirty-five States. In order to adopt this amendment twenty-seven States must ratify it. Eleven States have seceded from the Union. This is more than is required to defeat the amendment. Certainly no one will pretend to argue that this amendment can be adopted without being submitted to the eleven seceded States. If it was, these States would not be considered a part of the Union. In fact it would be, to all intent and purpose, recognizing them as independent States, and not being under the control of the Federal Constitution.

If this view is taken, then this amendment can do no harm to the people of the States in the Union. In June last, my objection to this amendment was that it was taking away the property of the people of the States that remained true to the Union; that the Constitution was made the means to oppress rather than protect the people. Since that time Missouri and Maryland have abolished slavery by their own action, and the Governor of Kentucky in his message recommends to the Legislature of that State gradual emancipation. The same objection which was then urged against this amendment cannot now be urged.

It is argued that new State governments will be formed in the seceding States under the control of military governors, and this amendment ratified by them. Whether this amendment would be binding upon the people of the seceded States thus ratified will depend entirely upon the results of this war. If after a long struggle, and each of the contending armies or Powers will conclude to adopt the wise and humane policy of a peaceful solution of the difficulties now existing, all of the acts of the State governments formed by military power will be invalid, and the old organization of these States recognized. In this event the ratifications by the new-made State governments will not be worth the paper upon which they are written. If the South achieve her independence, then this amendment will only apply to that which does not exist. If the people of the South are subjugated and their State lines obliterated, and they are ever admitted into this Union under new constitutions, each

and every one of the constitutions will have to come free from slavery before the State will be admitted.

The South would not remain in the Union under the Constitution as it now is; they demanded stronger guarantees for their institution of slavery. Can any intelligent person believe that after fighting as they have for nearly four years they will accept that which they rejected before the war? If they will not come back under the Constitution, why not abolish slavery; strike from our statute-books every enactment which protects it; make our Constitution and our laws free from the subject of slavery? And then, when this unfortunate, inhuman, barbarous, and bloody war has been prolonged until every heart shall turn sick with its carnage and the reports of its wrongs and outrages, and the people demand a cessation of hostilities until it be ascertained if glorious peace cannot be accomplished by compromise and concession, there will be no obstacles in the Constitution to defeat the accomplishing of a much desired result. We will be free to give new guarantees or new amendments to protect the rights and property of every person who shelters himself under the American Constitution.

Again, I have voted for every peace resolution offered in this House. My heart yearns for peace. The gentleman on the other side of this Chamber refused to appoint peace commissioners, but they tell us this amendment will do more to secure peace than any resolution proposed in this House. Although they would not try the remedy we presented, I am willing to try the one they present; and if by my vote this amendment is submitted to the States, and it brings this war to a close, I will ever rejoice at the vote I have given; but if I am mistaken, I will remember it is not the first time.

Mr. Speaker, I desire above all things that the Democratic party be again placed in power. The condition of the country needs the wise counsel of the Democracy. The peace and prosperity of this once powerful and happy nation require it to be placed under Democratic rule. The history of the past demonstrates this. The question of slavery has been a fruitful theme for the opponents of the Democracy. It has breathed into existence fanaticism, and feeds it with such meat as to make it ponderous in growth. It must soon be strangled or the nation is lost. I propose to do this by removing from the political arena that which has given it life and strength. As soon as this is done fanaticism "Writhe with pain, And dies among its worshippers."

Then the rays of truth will be unshaded, and once more our people rejoice in the salvation of their country, and of the reinstating in power that party which made this country great, and which has done so much to secure to man civil and religious liberty.

Many of the honorable gentlemen of this House with whom I am politically associated may condemn me for my action today. I assure them I do that only which my conscience sanctions and my sense of duty to my country demands. I have been a Democrat all the days of my life. I learned my Democracy from that being who gave me birth; it was pure; it came from one who never told me an untruth. All my political life has been spent in defending and supporting the measures which I thought were for the good of the party and the country. My energy, my means, and my time were all given for the success of the Democratic cause. I am no Democrat by mere profession, but I have always been a working one. If by my action today I dig my political grave, I will descend into it without a murmur, knowing that I am justified in my action by a conscientious belief I am doing what will ultimately prove

to be a service to my country, and knowing there is one dear, devoted, and loved being in this wide world who will not bring tears of bitterness to that grave, but will strew it with beautiful flowers, for it returns me to that domestic circle from whence I have been taken for the greater part of the last two years.

Knowing my duty, I intend to perform it, relying upon the intelligence and honesty of the people I represent to do me justice. If this action shall be condemned by my people, I will go back with pleasure to the enjoyment of private life, free from the exciting political arena; but no power on earth will prevent me from quietly depositing my ballot in behalf of the candidates of the Democratic Party. I hope I will be granted the pleasure of reading the eloquent speeches made by my Democratic associates, and admire their rise and onward march to distinction. This boon I pray you not to take from me.

If, on the other hand, the course of the Democrats who will vote for amendment will meet the approbation of the people, and we are greeted with the plaudit of "Well done, good and faithful servants," it will be the desire of our hearts to open our arms for your reception and shelter you as the hen shelters her brood, satisfied you were honest in your belief but mistaken in your opinions.

The previous question was seconded, and the main question ordered; which was on the passage of the joint resolution.

Mr. DAWSON called for the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The question was taken, and it was decided in the affirmative—yeas 119, nays 56, not voting 8; as follows:

YEAS—Messrs. Alley, Allison, Ames, Anderson, Arnold, Ashley, Bally, Augustus C. Baldwin, John D. Baldwin, Baxter, Berman, Blaine, Blair, Blow, Boutwell, Boyd, Brandegee, Broomall, William G. Brown, Ambrose W. Clark, Freeman Clarke, Cobb, Coffroth, Cole, Colfax, Creawell, Henry Winter Davis, Thomas T. Davis, Dawes, Deming, Dixon, Donnelly, Driggs, Dumont, Eckley, Elliot, English, Farnsworth, Frank, Ganson, Garfield, Gooch, Grinnell, Griswold, Hale, Herrick, Ilgby-Hooper, Hochkiss, Asahel W. Hubbard, John H. Hubbard, Hulburd, Hutchins, Ingersoll, Jenckes, Julian, Kasson, Kelley, Francis W. Kellogg, Orlando Kellogg, King, Knox, Littlejohn, Loan, Longyear, Marvin, McAllister, McBride, McClurg, McIndoe, Samuel F. Miller, Moorhead, Merrill, Daniel Morris, Amos Myers, Leonard Myers, Nelson, Norton, Odell, Charles O'Neill, Orth, Patterson, Perham, Pike, Poneroy, Price, Radford, William H. Randall, Alexander H. Rice, John H. Rice, Edward H. Rollins, James S. Rollins, Schenck, Scofield, Shannon, Sloan, Smith, Smithers, Spalding, Starr, John B. Steele, Stevens, Thayer, Thomas, Tracy, Upson, Van Volkenburgh, Elihu B. Washburn, William B. Washburn, Webster, Whaley, Wheeler, Williams, Wilder, Wilson, Windom, Woodbridge, Worthington, and Yeaman—119.

NAYS—Messrs. James C. Allen, William J. Allen, Ancona, Bliss, Brooks, James S. Brown, Chanler, Clay, Cox, Cravens, Dawson, Dentson, Eden, Edgerton, Eldridge, Finck, Grider, Hall, Harding, Harrington, Benjamin G. Harris, Charles M. Harris, Holman, Phillip Johnson, William Johnson, Kalbtlesch, Kerman, Knapp, Law, Long, Mallory, William H. Miller, James R. Morris, Morrison, Noble, John O'Neill, Pendleton, Perry, Prun, Samuel J. Randall, Robinson, Ross, Scott, William G. Steele, Stiles, Strouse, Stuart, Sweat, Townsend, Wadsworth, Ward, Chilton A. White, Joseph W. White, Winfield, Benjamin Wood, and Fernando Wood—30.

NOT VOTING—Messrs. Lazear, LeBlond, Marcy, McDowell, McKinney, Middleton, Rogers, and Voorhees—8.

THE MILBANK MEMORIAL FUND
CELEBRATES 100 YEARS OF IN-
FORMING POLICY FOR HEALTH
CARE AND POPULATION HEALTH

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2005

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I recognize the achievements of the Milbank Memorial Fund, on the occasion of its centennial celebration. The Milbank Memorial Fund is an outstanding organization which engages in non-partisan analysis, study, research, and communication on significant issues in health policy, particularly for those people of greatest risk of disease and death. The Fund grew out of Elizabeth Milbank Anderson's philanthropic achievements during the Progressive Era, as she worked to prevent and remedy illnesses linked to poverty. Today, the Fund continues her legacy through an active approach to health care.

Elizabeth Milbank Anderson was committed to disease prevention and public health, recognizing improper sanitary conditions as a major source of disease affecting the poor. She founded the Milbank Public Baths on East 38th Street in New York City in 1904. Anderson made gifts to the National Committee for Mental Hygiene, in Manhattan, and Manhattan's Home Hospital for tuberculosis patients. As a strong supporter of women's education, she was one of the first trustees of Barnard College. She provided the funds for the college's first building, Milbank Hall, and purchased for the college three city blocks that became the Milbank Quadrangle. Acting on the suggestion of her cousin, Anderson created the Milbank Memorial Fund, named for her parents.

In accordance with Anderson's philosophy, the Fund recognizes that the public's health depends not only on conquering infectious diseases but also addressing the underlying causes and problems of these infections, such as housing, nutrition, health care, medical services and poverty. Accordingly, the Fund has been staunchly committed to evaluating and researching the causes of disease, focusing on prophylaxis and prevention in lieu of the more popular health care methods of treatment and suppression. After her death, additional bequests increased the fund's assets to about \$10 million, or \$110 million in 2005 dollars.

One of the Fund's earliest projects included creating models for agencies which would later become neighborhood health centers. Based on the premise that health must be conducted by the people not on the people, three local demonstration centers were erected. The last center to be established, the Bellevue-Yorkville center, on the East Side of Manhattan, for example, tested the effectiveness of organizing big-city public health services at the district level.

Today, the Milbank Memorial Fund undertakes projects in policy development with decision makers in public, private and nonprofit sectors in the U.S. and around the world. Their projects have addressed issues such as the implications for policy of the Americans with Disabilities Act; the adequacy of retirement income for the baby boom generation; the salience of health for foreign policy; and rapidly

growing evidence about the effectiveness of health care intervention. The Fund also conducts policy reviews on topics ranging from Households and Health Services to Opportunities in Prevention Policy.

The Milbank Memorial Fund is also known for its philanthropic commitment. In total, the Fund has spent \$465 million (in 2005 dollars) on charitable purposes. One example of the Fund's charitable work includes a Milbank Scholars Program, which provided five-year fellowships for epidemiology training and research to medical school junior clinical faculty, encouraging advancement of the work of young professionals in the field of community medicine.

Although the health care problems our world faces today are daunting, and at times, may seem insurmountable, it is the work of organizations like the Milbank Memorial Fund which help us understand and then properly combat the health care dilemmas which confront us. That the Fund manages to carry out such critical research and education, is a testament to the legacy left by Anderson, and to the present leadership of Samuel Milbank and Daniel Fox.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to request that my colleagues join me in paying tribute to the outstanding contribution made by the Milbank Memorial Fund, during its 100 years. May it continue to serve the community for many years to come.

HONORING PASTOR JEROME
BRIMMAGE AND THE FIRST
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2005

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to honor Pastor Jerome Brimmage and the congregation of First United Methodist Church of Mineola. In the hours and days before Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, the First United Methodist Church began preparing, so when the time came they were able to offer assistance, shelter, and other words of help to victims of these 2 devastating hurricanes.

Members of the First United Methodist Church stockpiled relief supplies for victims, including over 150 hygiene kits. The church itself opened its doors to house evacuees and volunteers and within hours, residents of Mineola began arriving with towels, sheets, blankets, as well as other items for those in need. More than 40 businesses, churches and civic organizations helped by donating money, food, and clothing. Approximately 450 volunteers also gave their time to make the evacuees' stay as pleasant as possible.

I am proud of the residents of the Fifth District who gave their time and energy to help those in need—from individuals cooking meals in the church kitchen to local health care facilities providing free supplies and services to evacuees.

Today, I am pleased to honor Pastor Jerome Brimmage of the First United Methodist Church, and the entire community of Mineola, Texas, for their part in providing relief to the victims of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

A TRIBUTE TO THE SERVICE OF
WINDSOR FREEMYER

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2005

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute to Windsor Freemyer, a dear friend and undeniably one of the most talented, dedicated and trustworthy individuals on Capitol Hill. As my Chief of Staff for the past 3 years, Windsor has continually proven her ability to advise with confidence, and critique with kindness.

Windsor began her career on Capitol Hill with Senator Hank Brown from Colorado in 1992, served as a Legislative Assistant for Scott McInnis from Colorado, and joined the Nevada delegation with now Senator, then-Representative, JOHN ENSIGN during his freshman year. Windsor quickly advanced and became Representative CHRIS CANNON's Chief of Staff in 1998. Her final stop before joining my staff in 2002, was a tenure with the Sugar Growers of America.

While Windsor's resume demonstrates her ability to serve various members in many capacities, I would like to briefly mention two of her most significant accomplishments. Windsor was vital in the passage of the Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act. Through her efforts, the people of Southern Nevada receive the much needed infrastructure and education dollars that are so important to our dynamic community. I would also like to point to her dedicated opposition to the storage of high-level nuclear waste at the Yucca Mountain Waste Repository. She has proven to be a stalwart force in helping persuade others of the inadvisability of this action. For all of her efforts, I and the people of Southern Nevada thank her.

While I am fortunate that Windsor shared her talents and skills with my office, I have been truly blessed in knowing Windsor Freemyer as a person. She and her husband Allen are the parents of two beautiful and intelligent daughters, Lucy and Lilly. Both are lucky to have inherited the unlikely combination of warmth and sincerity that have made Windsor such a vital member of my staff.

Windsor, from the bottom of my heart, I thank you for everything you have done for me, my staff, and the people of Southern Nevada. I wish you all the best in the coming years and am confident that your past successes will only enhance your talents in the future.

Mr. Speaker, Members of Congress search far and wide for the most qualified and talented staff. I was most fortunate to have found the ideal of this in Windsor. I am honored to pay tribute to Windsor Freemyer as she ends her distinguished service on Capitol Hill. Her contributions to my office and this body are immense and her personal friendship has been immeasurable. I ask all my colleagues to join with me in celebrating the career of this consummate professional and extraordinary person.

RECOGNIZING THE 140TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 13TH AMENDMENT

SPEECH OF

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2005

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, first I want to thank the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER), the chairman of the Judiciary Committee, for his leadership, for his support in recognizing this important date in our Nation's history, and also for ensuring that this resolution comes to the floor in a bipartisanship way, and for your support and for really reminding the entire country now of this important date.

Let me also take a moment to thank the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS), our minority leader, who worked very hard with the gentleman from Wisconsin to bring this resolution today.

The gentleman continues to lead Congress in the civil rights tradition that actually began 140 years ago. From renewing the Voting Rights Act of 1965, to protecting the victims of Hurricane Katrina, he is a tireless advocate for civil rights and civil liberties for all Americans.

Let me also take a moment to thank our staff on both sides for their diligence and very competent work in bringing this resolution, especially Kanya Bennett, Perry Applebaum, David Lachmann of the House Judiciary Committee and Jamila Thompson of my staff, who have worked together for over a year now on this very, very important effort.

Let me also express my appreciation to the 13th Amendment Foundation, located actually in my district. They have worked diligently to honor and to recognize this momentous occasion. And as the gentleman from Wisconsin said, it is very important that our young people, especially, are reminded of the importance of this 13th amendment and read and understand why what happened 140 years ago is very, very important to today in 2005.

I hope that everyone will support this effort to honor the 140th anniversary of the ratification of the 13th amendment.

On December 6, 1865, slavery ended and the deep roots of the modern civil rights movement were planted. The 13th amendment was a response to the Dred Scott decision of 1856, a ruling that actually declared that Congress lacked the power to prohibit slavery in our country. If the Dred Scott ruling were still in effect today, Mr. Speaker, I would not be standing here, quite frankly, as a Member of Congress, nor would the 43 great Congressional Black Caucus Members.

As someone of African descent, whether free or enslaved, I would be considered only three-fifths of a person. I would never qualify as a citizen of this country. As the descendant of people who survived the Middle Passage, who survived the cruelty of slavery, who survived reconstruction, who survived Jim Crow, I know that my life, like the lives of millions of African Americans, our lives have been inextricably linked to the 13th amendment.

As we return from celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Montgomery Bus Boycott which launched the modern civil rights movements, we really are obliged to remember this 140-year history.

In the 1860s, Representative James Ashley of Ohio, Representative James Wilson of

Iowa, and Senator Charles Sumner of Massachusetts, all Republicans, led the congressional fight to abolish slavery.

This debate is a very important debate. And again, let me just talk about the vote. It was a vote of 119–56 right here on this floor. Our predecessors voted to add the following words to our Constitution:

Section 1. Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.

Section 2. Congress shall have the power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

Although the abolition of slavery did not necessarily mean equality for all Americans, the process actually began. According to historical accounts, on the day of the House vote on January 31, 1865, the gallery, which had just been opened, mind you, to African Americans, the gallery erupted into cheers and Representatives on the House floor were visibly moved, crying and hugging each other. Twelve months later, the requisite three-fourths of the States in the Union ratified the 13th amendment and more than 100 years later another 8 States followed suit.

Although not necessary, President Lincoln signed the 13th amendment to show a united front to abolish slavery in the United States. A treacherous and divisive burden was finally removed and our Nation was allowed to unite and truly begin to commit to the pursuit of life, liberty, and happiness for all. In fact, the 13th amendment was the foundation for future equal rights and legislative actions, like the 14th amendment, which ensured Federal and State rights to all individuals; the 15th amendment, which granted African American men the right to vote; and the 19th amendment, which expanded suffrage to all women, also the Civil Rights Act and the Voting Rights Act.

Protecting civil and human rights is not something that really should be taken lightly, quite frankly. It requires constant vigilance and review. As we honor this great act of our predecessors, we pay tribute to the visionaries who sacrificed and fought for our civil rights and liberty.

In 140 years, our country has fought and continues to fight to be a united country seeking liberty and justice for all. But it has been a long, hard journey; and countless individuals dedicated and continue to dedicate their entire lives towards this end. We must all pay tribute to the abolitionist movement leaders like Frederick Douglass, Sojourner Truth, Harriet Tubman, William Lloyd Garrison, Nat Turner, and John Brown.

And we have all reaped the benefits of the bravery and sacrifices of civil rights trail blazers like Dred Scott, Homer Plessy, Linda Brown, Ruby Bridges, Rosa Parks, and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

There are many more individuals whose names will never ever be mentioned in the history books; but they worked hard, they fought, they sacrificed for the freedom that we all appreciate today. Collectively, we must pay homage to their legacy.

It is important that we not only honor this great day in history but make sure that our children and our grandchildren understand its importance, not just to African Americans, but to all Americans and to the world.

This year, with all overwhelming bipartisan support, Congress passed resolutions that rec-

ognized the hemispheric survivors of the transatlantic slave trade and great historical trailblazers like the great Honorable Shirley Chisholm and Judge Constance Baker Motley.

These resolutions actually show how far we have come since the 19th century, but we also have a long, long way to go. One hundred forty years after slavery was abolished, African Americans and other minorities continue to experience social and economic injustices, as the recent Hurricane Katrina disaster magnified.

Within our own borders and throughout the world, human trafficking is rampant. It is a modern version, quite frankly, of slavery; and it must be abolished. And, of course, we witness every day discrimination against those who have no voice. Our work in Congress should be straightforward. It is our duty to reaffirm this tradition of justice, equality, and liberty for all.

We have an obligation to ensure that everyone has equal access to health care, education, livable wages, housing, and of course economic opportunities. Clearly, we still have much work to do. We have much work to do to ensure that discrimination is eliminated, and I mean totally eliminated, and that all people are considered equal in the eyes of our laws.

The movement that began with the ratification of the 13th amendment must continue. This has not ended. We owe it not only to those who suffered and who sacrificed in the past, but more importantly we owe it to future generations. The 13th amendment liberated African Americans from the yoke of slavery. It liberated America, and we must not forget that.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this resolution. I want to thank the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER) again for ensuring this resolution is bipartisan.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE UNITED COMMUNITY CIVIC ASSOCIATION

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2005

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge the achievements of the United Community Civic Association (UCCA) on the occasion of its annual holiday champagne brunch. I ask that my colleagues join me in saluting UCCA's distinguished honorees: Assembly Member Michael N. Gianaris, Council Member Peter F. Vallone, Jr., Gerald J. Walsh, and Dr. Arthur N. Gualtieri.

The United Community Civic Association is one of the Queens community's foremost neighborhood organizations. Deeply committed to the improvement of the Queens community, UCCA has remained vigilant on a variety of issues relevant to Queens residents, including airport pollution and health concerns. Furthermore, UCCA is an important catalyst for community pride and involvement. UCCA hosts a yearly candlelight ceremony honoring the firefighters who lost their lives on September 11 and organizes the annual Flag Day Parade in Queens. These events are moving tributes to the best America has to offer, and are always beautifully done.

UCCA is also known for its tradition of excellent leadership. UCCA's president, Rose

Marie Poveromo, has served as a pillar of the Queens community through her leadership and activism. She has contributed to community dialogue on issues of public concern and sustained the spirit of civic participation so important to our Nation's health and well-being.

The recipients of UCCA's "Men of the Year" awards, Assembly Member Michael N. Gianaris and Council Member Peter F. Vallone, Jr., have outstanding records of public service and community activism. Representing the 36th Assembly District in Queens, Assembly Member Gianaris has established himself as an effective and smart legislator, authoring many public safety measures to enhance New York's security after the attacks on New York on September 11, 2001. A lifelong resident of Queens, Assembly Member Gianaris has committed himself to improving the community in which he grew up and has provided the residents of Queens with impeccable leadership.

Council Member Peter F. Vallone, Jr., also has shown exemplary public service to our community. A tireless advocate for public safety issues, Council Member Vallone has led the fight to keep illegal guns off of the streets of New York City. Council Member Vallone has also been a strong advocate for environmental rights, introducing bills to curtail the carbon dioxide emissions from power plants.

Gerald J. Walsh, this year's recipient of the Valerie Fisher Community Service Award, was born and raised in Queens and is a longtime community activist and leader. Currently the Deputy Director of Computer Operations Hardware and Financial Information Services for the City of New York, Mr. Walsh is the President of the Dutch Kills Civic Association and also serves as a member of the 114th Police Precinct.

Dr. Arthur N. Gualtieri, the Deputy Commissioner at The City of New York Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and former Medical Director of the Mount Sinai Hospital of Queens, is being recognized with the Special Award of Recognition. A devoted public servant, Dr. Gualtieri is both a physician and a lawyer and a member of both the Queens County Bar Association and the Queens County Medical Society. As a resident of Astoria, Dr. Gualtieri continues his devotion to the Queens community by serving as a member of the Board of Directors of the Astoria Civic Association, SHAREing & CAREing, and UCCA.

Mr. Speaker, I request that my colleagues join me in paying tribute to the United Community Civic Association and its celebrated honorees: Assembly Member Gianaris, Council Member Vallone, Mr. Walsh, and Dr. Gualtieri.

HONORING SCOTT COULSON AND THE POTEET HIGH SCHOOL MARCHING BAND

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2005

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to honor Mr. Scott Coulson and the Poteet High School Pirate Marching Band for their recent victory at the University Interscholastic League State AAAA Marching Band

Championship. On November 8, 2005, the Pirates competed against more than 20 other bands from across the State of Texas and won their second State Championship since 1997.

This year mark's Mr. Coulson's 25th year of service to the Mesquite Independent School District and his 18th year on the faculty of Poteet High School. In addition, Mr. Coulson will also soon be inducted into the John Phillip Sousa Foundation Legion of Honor, where he will be recognized as an outstanding high school band director.

A graduate from Mesquite High School, Scott Coulson has been a strong role model and exceptional leader for the Poteet Pirates Marching Band. In 1987, he was named Director of Bands at Poteet High School in Mesquite, and has since then received multiple Interscholastic League Sweepstakes awards, led the band to four Grand Championships at the Plano East Invitational Marching Festival and five state Marching Championships.

As the Congressional representative of the students, parents, and teachers involved with the Poteet High School Marching Band, it is my pleasure to recognize their tremendous victory. This is an accomplishment that Mr. Coulson and these young men and women will remember for years to come.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE HAWAII FILIPINO CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2005

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the great contributions of the Filipino community to Hawaii's diverse and multicultural society, as we commemorate the arrival of the first Filipinos and the community's subsequent achievements in Hawaii.

Since the arrival of the first Filipinos to Hawaii in 1906, the rich culture and proud heritage of the Filipino people have been and continue to be a positive influence upon life in Hawaii. Next year marks the 100th anniversary of their arrival in Hawaii. The Centennial Celebration will reflect the courage, values, pride and dedication of all Filipinos. The Celebration will also raise awareness about the important accomplishments of Filipinos for the past 100 years in the fields of politics, education, business, labor, industry and medicine. It will raise awareness about the challenges and struggles that Filipinos have faced to earn their rightful place in society.

The Centennial Celebration reflects the growing significance of the Filipino community, its growing role in the development of public policy, and its increasing contributions to policy leadership at every level of government—local, state and national.

Mahuhay and best wishes to the Filipino Centennial Commission and everyone in the Filipino community who has joined together to celebrate Hawaii's Filipino Centennial. You have the nation's thanks for your contribution, and you can count on my continued support.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. ROSE BROWN

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2005

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a dynamic, feisty, dedicated, committed and courageous community, civic and religious leader who gave of herself consistently until all of her energy was gone and she had no more to share. Just a few weeks ago, I was pleased to speak at a banquet sponsored by Women for Social Change and of course, Mrs. Brown was in charge as she so often was. The banquet was in a church dining hall and was focused on education. Mrs. Brown was one of those individuals that you always looked forward to seeing and hearing because you always knew that she was either saying or doing something to benefit humanity. I always called Mrs. Brown, Aunt Rose because my friends who informally adopted me into their family called her Aunt Rose and that's how I felt about her.

Aunt Rose, I close my tribute with these words: Roses are Red, Violets are Blue, Sugar is sweet and so are you! May you rest in peace.

CONGRATULATING DR. ROY L. GLAUBER ON RECEIVING THE 2005 NOBEL PRIZE IN PHYSICS

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2005

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Roy J. Glauber, a distinguished professor of physics at Harvard University, who will be awarded the 2005 Nobel Prize in Physics this weekend in Stockholm, Sweden. Dr. Glauber will share the prestigious prize with John L. Hall of the University of Colorado and Theodor W. Hansch of the Institute for Quantum Optics in Munich, Germany. All three will receive the award for their groundbreaking work in optics and the nature of light.

Dr. Glauber will receive the Nobel Prize for his contribution to the quantum theory of optical coherence. His research on the subject was published in 1963 and provided a theoretical description of the behavior of light particles. Dr. Glauber's groundbreaking work laid the foundation for the development of incredibly high precision instruments such as lasers and Global Positioning Systems.

As a teenager growing up in New York, Dr. Glauber became so fascinated by astronomy that he created his own lens for a telescope. His interest in physics and mathematics blossomed during his high school years at the Bronx High School of Science. During his undergraduate years at Harvard, Dr. Glauber also worked on the Manhattan Project, developing the first atomic bomb. He graduated summa cum laude from Harvard in 1946 and went on to earn a Ph.D. at Harvard in 1949. Upon graduation, Dr. Glauber conducted research at the Institute for Advanced Studies at Princeton and at the California Institute of Technology. In 1952, he returned to Harvard where he has taught and researched ever since.

Dr. Glauber is a role model for young people all across this country. I hope that his extraordinary achievements and contributions will serve as an inspiration to students at all levels to pursue the study and career of science. As we honor Dr. Glauber and the other prize winners, it is critical that we also recognize our obligation to provide the next generation of Americans with the scientific and technological education that they need to succeed in today's global economy.

**RECOGNITION OF THE HEROIC JOB
THAT WAS DONE BY THE U.S.
COAST GUARD AT THE TIME OF
HURRICANE KATRINA**

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2005

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, we all witnessed the heroic job that was done by the U.S. Coast Guard at the time of Hurricane Katrina. It was widely noted in newspapers and on television that while other agencies of the Federal Government fell down on the job, the U.S. Coast Guard upheld the motto that has been its standard of performance since its creation in the 18th Century: *Semper Paratus*, Always Ready.

What is less well known is that the Coast Guard is unique among the armed services because it has, associated with it, a civilian support organization, the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary. Since 1939, these volunteer life-savers have backed up the active duty Coast Guard by relieving the regulars of a number of tasks related to marine safety, search and rescue, and pollution monitoring and control. The 30,000 members of the Coast Guard Auxiliary serve as a force multiplier in these times of threats to our national security and their unpaid service enables the Coast Guard to fulfill its missions in this time of fiscal constraint.

I would like to call special attention to the work of the 14 active members of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 014-05-05 of Edison, New Jersey.

In the past year, these auxiliary members have conducted safety checks on 123 vessels, visited marine dealers and boatyards to distribute safety materials, conducted 3 dozen boating safety courses, and attended boat shows to stress to boat owners and prospective owners the importance of marine safety and the need to take safety courses to prevent accidents on the water. The Auxiliary helps

maintain aids to navigation and conducts patrols using their own vessels.

I ask my colleagues to recognize the contribution of Flotilla 014-05-05 of Edison, New Jersey to the mission of the U.S. Coast Guard.

**INTRODUCTION OF THE NURSING
HOME FIRE SAFETY ACT**

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2005

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I am proud today to join the gentleman from New York (Mr. KING) in introducing the Nursing Home Fire Safety Act of 2005.

As millions of Americans visit their friends and family in nursing homes in this holiday season, they want to know that their loved ones are safe from the threat of fire. However, it would disturb many to learn that the Government Accountability Office estimates that 20 to 30 percent of the 17,000 nursing homes across the country still lack a full fire sprinkler system.

Unfortunately, families in my district have seen tragic results of a nursing home fire first hand. In February 2003 sixteen residents of a nursing home in Hartford were killed in one of the worst fires in the city's history. Another nursing home fire in Nashville, Tennessee later that year took the lives of fifteen people. In both cases these buildings were older facilities that had been allowed to operate without an automatic fire sprinkler system.

A July 2004 GAO report found that "the substantial loss of life in the Hartford and Nashville fires could have been reduced or eliminated by the presence of properly functioning automatic sprinkler systems," and that "federal oversight of nursing home compliance with fire safety standards is inadequate." And, according to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), there is no record of a multiple death fire in a nursing home equipped with an automatic fire sprinkler system.

It has been almost 2 years since the tragic fires of 2003, yet the federal government has taken only small steps to increase fire safety in nursing homes. To date the only concrete action the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has taken to improve fire safety is requiring nursing homes without a sprinkler system to install battery operated smoke detectors. While this is a good first step, the rule has been criticized by fire safety

advocates since the smoke detectors do not need to be hard wired to the building's alarm system or 9-1-1.

Experts agree that it's not a matter of "if" there will be another nursing home fire, but when and how bad. It should not take another tragedy to remind us how vulnerable our nursing homes are to fire.

According to the GAO and industry experts, the single biggest obstacle preventing most nursing homes from installing sprinklers is the cost. Already burdened by the increasing cost to care for their residents and shortfalls in the Medicare funding they rely on, they simply cannot afford these systems. In addition, while CMS has it within their authority to increase fire safety standards and mandate the installation of sprinklers, it has repeatedly shied away from doing so because of the cost that would be passed on to nursing homes.

That is why we are introducing this legislation today.

The Nursing Home Fire Safety Act of 2005 would provide low interest loans and need-based grants to nursing homes in the greatest need of assistance in tackling the high cost of installing sprinklers. The loan program would assist nursing homes that cannot afford the up-front cost of retrofitting their facilities, but could afford to pay back a low interest government backed loan. The grant program would target those nursing homes in the greatest need of financial assistance in installing sprinkler systems by requiring the Secretary of Health and Human Services to give priority to facilities that lack the resources to install these systems on their own. In addition, the bill expresses the sense of Congress that every nursing home in America should be equipped with full sprinkler systems within 5 years and that CMS should move quickly to adopt stronger fire safety standards.

Together, these provisions will ensure that nursing homes have access to the financial resources to overcome the cost of providing their residents with the fire safety protection they need.

The Hartford and Nashville fires demonstrated the terrible and unacceptable consequences of allowing cost to stand in the way of fire safety. Congress has ignored this problem for far too long and it is time for us to take action to ensure that our nation's most vulnerable are safe from the threat of fire.

Again, I thank Mr. KING for joining me in this important initiative, and urge our colleagues to join us in helping to make nursing homes in their districts—and around the country—safe from the threat of fire.