

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 6, 2004

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, November 20, 2004, I was unavoidably detained and thus missed rollcall votes Nos. 541 and 542. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 541, H.R. 5382, the Commercial Space Launch Amendments Act; and "yea" on rollcall No. 542, H.R. 4818, the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2005.

IN HONOR OF JOHN D. WEBSTER
ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. JACK KINGSTON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 6, 2004

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize John D. Webster, who is retiring from his post as Chief Financial Officer of the Library of Congress on January 3, 2005.

As chairman of the Subcommittee on Legislative Appropriations, I know that I speak not only for myself, but also for all the members of the subcommittee and clerks in thanking John Webster for his service to the Library and to the United States Congress.

John leaves a legacy of dedication, the highest principles of financial management and reporting, a highly professional and devoted staff, and an enviable record of eight consecutive unqualified audit opinions on the Library's financial statements. We on the subcommittee are equally grateful for John's groundbreaking work as co-founder and co-chairman of the Legislative Branch Financial Managers Council. We have benefited from John's testimony and appearance before this subcommittee on behalf of the Council.

John has served as the Library's chief liaison and representative to this subcommittee since 1996. He has worked hard—and often at inconvenient times including nights and weekends—to ensure that the subcommittee and its clerks had the information and understanding needed to complete appropriations work on the Library's complex budget. Both before and during my tenure, the Library has achieved major budget milestones—support for collections arrears reduction, collections security, an integrated library management system, storage modules at Ft. Meade, the National Audio-Visual Conservation Center, the National Digital Library, the Digital Talking Book Program for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, the alternate computer facility and National Digital Information Infrastructure and Preservation Program. John was keenly aware that each of these projects was a high priority for the Librarian of Congress, Dr. Billington,

and John ensured that the subcommittee understood these priorities as well as the complex financial underpinnings needed to appropriate funding requisite to their realization.

John Webster has served the Library for 15 years. He was named CFO in 2003, having been honored in 2000 as the recipient of the National President's Award by the Association of Government Accountants. As Chief of the Financial Management Office at the Library, and later CFO, John achieved not only Dr. Billington's goals but his professional commitment to modern, integrated financial systems that serve all customers—internal and external—with trust, confidence, and integrity. He leaves a powerful legacy in the Legislative Branch, one that we collectively applaud and hopefully can emulate. We wish John the best as he retires after a difficult year—losing his beloved wife Gloria and his only brother. His dedication to his work never failed even in light of terrible personal tragedies. His hard work, dedication, and expertise will be sorely missed.

IN HONOR OF DR. HENRY (HARRY)
MONIBA

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 6, 2004

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, it is with sadness that I rise today in honor of Dr. Henry (Harry) Moniba, former Vice President of Liberia. Dr. Moniba died suddenly on November 23, 2004, as a result of an automobile accident.

He was born in Liberia on October 22, 1937. Dr. Moniba earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Secondary Education in 1964, a Masters degree in Secondary Education from SUNY, participated in a post-Masters program in International Relations and European Studies at NYU, and as a Fulbright Scholar, earned a Ph.D. in International Relations and African Studies at Michigan State University.

He began his professional career as an educator. A strong believer in the power of a good education, Dr. Moniba once stated: "If you think education is expensive, then, try ignorance". He served in various capacities in the education field, from classroom teacher to Director of Research at the Ministry of Education in Monrovia, Liberia.

Dr. Moniba had a long and distinguished career in public service. He served as First Secretary and Consul for the Embassy of Liberia in Washington, D.C., and Ottawa, Canada from 1976–1980; from 1981–1984, he served as Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs for European Affairs, Liberia; he was the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Liberia, to the Court of St. James in London, England, the Vatican, and the Sovereign Military Order Malta, in Rome from 1981–1984. In 1984, he was appointed Vice

President of the Interim National Assembly Government of Liberia, and in 1985, elected to the office of Vice President of Liberia. In 1994, he was awarded the Human Rights Award from the Liberian Human Rights Chapter.

Dr. Moniba loved his country, and worked tirelessly to establish peace and prosperity for Liberia. He understood well the true role of a politician in a democratic society, and said: "The objective of the good politician cannot, therefore, be the acquisition of power for its own sake or at any cost. What he wants is a healthy political environment in which he and his fellow citizens can lead a fulfilling life." At the time of his death, Dr. Moniba was one of the leading candidates for the 2005 Liberian presidential election.

I join his family and his many admirers throughout the world in mourning his passing. May his tireless commitment to his homeland and the advancement of peace and democracy in Liberia stand as a timeless memorial to him. May God bless him and his family, and may he rest in peace.

RECOGNIZING BRAD KNIPP FOR
ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE
SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 6, 2004

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

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

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

IN RECOGNITION OF PAUL W.
CARUSO

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 6, 2004

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Stanislaus County Supervisor Paul W. Caruso, as he will be retiring on January 1, 2005 as Supervisor of District 5 of the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors.

Paul W. Caruso was born on June 20, 1947 in San Jose, California. When Paul was two

• 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.

months old, he and his family moved to Stanislaus County, California where he has resided for the past 57 years. Paul attended local schools including Modesto State Junior College and California State University, Stanislaus. He served in the California National Guard from 1967 through 1973 earning the rank of Staff Sergeant.

Supervisor Caruso and his wife, Sharon, continue to reside in Stanislaus County, where they raised their daughter Amanda who is a recent graduate of California State University, Stanislaus. Paul's involvement in the community throughout the years has been extensive, serving as a member, charter member, or Past President of the Ceres Chamber of Commerce, the Salvation Army Modesto Corps and Red Shield Board of Directors, and the Ceres Rotary Club. He has served as Chairman or Past President of the Stanislaus County Council of Governments, the San Joaquin Valley Regional Association of California Counties, and Mountain Valley Regional EMS, among many others. Paul is also the President and CEO of Caruso Shopping Center, Inc. which was built in 1951.

Prior to his election to the Board of Supervisors, Paul was elected to the Democratic Central Committee in 1976. In 1984 he served as Fire Commissioner to the Industrial Fire Protection District until 1987 when he was elected to the Ceres City Council. It was in November of 1990 that Paul W. Caruso was first elected as Supervisor for District 5, of the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors. He has since served as Chairman of the Board in 1995, 2000 and 2004.

Supervisor Paul W. Caruso has had a remarkable career in public service that has been recognized on many occasions. He received the 2001 VFW Modesto Post 3199 Man of the Year Award, the Ceres Chamber Honorary Life Member Award in 1989, Rotarian of the Year Award in 1986 and 2000, Ceres Citizen of the Year 1985, and the Rotary International Paul Harris Fellow Award in 1985, among many others.

Throughout the years, Paul has certainly distinguished himself as a leader and dedicated member of the community. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor and privilege to congratulate Supervisor Paul W. Caruso upon his retirement and thank him for his outstanding service to Stanislaus County.

TRIBUTE TO RON EAGLIN

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 6, 2004

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a dedicated advocate of academic excellence, Mr. Ron Eaglin. After serving more than 12 years as president of Morehead State University, President Eaglin is retiring and embarking on a new stage of life. I want to express my deepest gratitude for his many contributions.

President Eaglin has led a distinguished career in academia, playing a critical role in improving the lives of countless students from across my congressional district in Southern and Eastern Kentucky. Under his leadership, Morehead State University has taken great strides forward and garnered national recogni-

tion as one of the top public regional universities in the South.

During President Eaglin's tenure, the University opened two regional campuses, worked toward the creation of Kentucky's first online degree program, created the Space Science Center, and developed only the fourth space science bachelor's degree in America. MSU also achieved its highest enrollments in the school's 117-year history, peaking at 9,509 in the fall of 2003. Through his tireless efforts, the school's institutional endowment rose from \$500,000 to \$25 million. He's also overseen \$75 million in capital construction projects, which have greatly enhanced MSU's campus. These are just a few of President Eaglin's many accomplishments.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank President Ron Eaglin for the time and effort he has invested in the lives of students in Kentucky, and for his friendship throughout the years. Although his days with Morehead State University are drawing to a close, I know his contributions will live on for many years to come. I want to wish him and his family all the best for this new chapter in life.

IN MEMORY OF SUSAN P. GORMAN

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 6, 2004

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to the life of Mrs. Susan P. Gorman, who passed away on Wednesday, November 17, 2004, at the Veterans Hospital in Elsmere, Delaware.

Sue Gorman was born in Bally James Duff, County Cavan, Ireland. After her family moved to Delaware, she attended Wilmington High School, and was a 1944 graduate of the Wilmington General Hospital School of Nursing. She also attended St. John's University and the University of Pennsylvania.

Sue was a dedicated and hard-working registered nurse for the Wilmington Hospital for nearly four decades. Sue Gorman also heard the call of her adopted country and joined the nascent Army Nursing Corps in 1944, serving in the Asian and Pacific Theaters at the 108th General Hospital in Tinian during World War II. The battle against the Japanese Empire in the Pacific saw some of the most brutal fighting of the entire war and, but for the skill and dedication of nurses like Sue Gorman, the mortality rate for American servicemen would have been much higher.

We now recount the names of the Pacific battles—Guam, Iwo Jima, Okinawa, Leyte Gulf—as if the American victory was simple and assured. At the time, of course, victory was not assured and the men and women who served knew that it was anything but simple. Sue Gorman was one of those women and, like the other brave nurses in the Army Nurse Corps, her contributions to the war effort and our enduring freedom will never be forgotten.

Sue Gorman was a member of the Wilmington High School Alumni Association, the Cathedral of St. Peter, the Wilmington Republicans Women's Club and a charter member of the Irish Culture Club. She enjoyed Irish music and dance and spending time with her grandchildren and great grandchildren.

We are a better nation, a better people because of brave and strong women like Sue Gorman. She deserves our utmost respect, and appreciation.

RECOGNIZING ERIC SHUPE FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 6, 2004

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Eric Shupe of Independence, Missouri, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 82, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

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

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

IN HONOR OF BERNICE BROSIUS ON THE OCCASION OF HER RE- TIREMENT

HON. JACK KINGSTON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 6, 2004

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Bernice Brosious, who is retiring this month from her post as Associate Administrator for Finance for the Chief Administrative Office of the U.S. House. She had a long career of public service and deserves our thanks and admiration.

In 1979 Bernice began her career in government at the General Services Administration. Service at the Defense Investigative Service, the Department of Agriculture, and the Federal Aviation Administration followed as she honed her financial skills before bringing her expertise to the House in 1998 as Director of Accounting for the Chief Administrative Officer. In 2001 she became the Associate Administrator for Finance. Over the years, Bernice's outstanding customer service, organizational knowledge, resourcefulness and her leadership on numerous initiatives have benefited countless Members and staff.

Among her many other achievements, Bernice was instrumental in obtaining the House's first clean audit opinion for calendar year 1998 and for maintaining this clean opinion every year since. Over the past seven years Bernice has also been instrumental in moving the House from an ancient paper ledger accounting system to the imminent introduction of a 21st century state-of-the-art financial management system.

On behalf of the entire House community, we extend congratulations to Bernice for her many years of dedication and outstanding

contributions to the U.S. House of Representatives. We wish Bernice many wonderful years in fulfilling her retirement dreams.

Mr. Speaker, Bernice will be very hard to replace. She has tirelessly served this institution and the American people, and we will miss her dearly.

HONORING THE LUMEN CHRISTI TITANS

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 6, 2004

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, football is a great American tradition. In Michigan, this tradition is personified by the Lumen Christi Titans, who on November 27, 2004, won their 7th State Championship Title at the Pontiac Silverdome in Pontiac, Michigan.

I rise today to honor the 2004 Lumen Christi Titans: Tyler Aldridge, Josh Badall, Alex Belfey, Eddie Bellers, Michael Berkemeier, Andrew Biskupski, Mike Blair, Blake Brannick, Patrick Brogan, Corey Burris, Mike Calderone, B.J. Carter, Conor Coffman, Daniel Coolbaugh, Blake Davis, Trevor Elinski, Eric Ewing, Andy Flippo, Ken Gallant, Golden Gibson, Ben Gier, John Gurriero, Evan Hagan, Andy Horning, Luke Jarzynka, Corey Johnson, Kyle Johnstone, Doug Karasek, Guy Kennedy, Brent Kuntz, Stephen Kutyna, Ryan LaMarre, Mark Lathers, Marty Lozier, Nick Lefere, Dan Lusty, Nick Maes, Joe Marcantel, Trevor Markovich, Sean Miller, Tyler Moran, Josh McCormick, Ben Neville, Tony Panici, Michael Patchak, Brad Polnasek, Ken Powers, Marc Powers, Ryan Powers, Joe Putra, John Riley, Phil Riley, Kent Richardson, Sean Richardson, Michael Risner, Jon Ryan, Jeremy Sauter, Brent Schaefer, Corey Skinner, Abram Soper, Alex Soper, Kyle Strong, Kelly Thompson, Sean Thompson, Brandon Vinson, Derek Walker, Mark Warfield, Chris Weeks, Matt Weeks, Terrell Willis, Terrence Willis, Jeff Wojtusik; Managers Coley Crowley and Christopher Gaddy, Trainer Todd Sparks and Assistant Trainer Sarah Duffey.

These fine young men were coached by Head Coach Herb Brogan, and Assistant Coaches Mike Armeli, Sean Brogan, Ken Dillon, Ted Cole, Dick Corser, Dan Crowley, Jason Idziak, Pete Lefere, Joff Marcantel, Matt Reesor, Frank Slaby, Tim Sullivan, Jerry Sykes, Mike Tash, and Joe Williams.

Led by Team Captains Doug Karasek, Luke Jarzynka, and B.J. Carter, these 72 young men worked diligently throughout the season to achieve this laudable goal. Despite a difficult start to the season, the Titans continued to work as a team and won 9 consecutive games to win the title. The Titans have been Division V State champs four of the last five years, and have won three of those titles with no points scored against them. The Titans are the only team in Michigan that has won more than six State titles without losing a single State championship title game.

This honor is also a testament to the parents, students, and community who have supported and influenced this team and this program throughout the years. I am proud to join with their many admirers, friends and fans in extending my highest praise and congratulations to the 2004 Lumen Christi Titans for their outstanding football season.

IN RECOGNITION OF PAT PAUL

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 6, 2004

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Stanislaus County Supervisor Pat Paul, as she will be retiring on January 1, 2005, as Supervisor of District 1 of the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors.

Pat Paul was born and raised in Washington, DC. In 1965 she obtained her bachelor of science degree from East Carolina University in Greenville, North Carolina, and began teaching at John F. Kennedy High School in Rockville, Maryland. She continued her education at Adelphi University, Long Island, New York, earning her masters degree in 1972. Just 4 years later she obtained her administration credential from California State University, Stanislaus. In 1975 Pat arrived in Stanislaus County, California and in the years following she taught at Oakdale High School, Modesto City Schools, Modesto Junior College and Beyer High School.

Supervisor Pat Paul began her career in public service as a member of the Oakdale City Council in 1980 and served as vice-mayor for the city in 1982. Then in 1989, Pat Paul became the first woman ever to be elected to the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors. She served as chair of the board in 1992, 1996 and 2001.

Supervisor Paul's exceptional leadership and commitment to the community has been recognized on many occasions throughout her career, as she has received numerous awards for her outstanding service. Over the years Pat has been honored with the Department of Defense Teacher of the Year Award, the Outstanding Woman of Stanislaus County Award, the Soroptimist International Women Helping Women Award and many others. In addition, Pat has also served on various commissions and boards including the Stanislaus County's Children and Families First Commission, the California State Workforce Investment Board, and the San Joaquin Valley Water Coalition and Executive Board.

It is my honor and privilege to join the community in recognizing Supervisor Pat Paul for her extensive dedicated service to the citizens of Stanislaus County. Throughout her career, she has distinguished herself as a leader, educator, and member of the community. I am delighted to congratulate Supervisor Pat Paul upon her retirement and thank her for her outstanding service to Stanislaus County.

HONORING JEFF AND RACHEL LANCE

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 6, 2004

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause today to recognize two outstanding constituents of Missouri's Sixth Congressional District: Jeff and Rachel Lance. Jeff and Rachel will celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary on December 1, 2004.

Jeff and Rachel first met in the spring of 1979, when Rachel was working in a grocery

store bakery that Jeff frequented. They soon fell in love, and were married December 1, 1979. On May 11, 1983 the Lance family grew as Jeff and Rachel welcomed their son Joshua into the family. Their daughter Kristen followed to complete the family on July 28, 1989. Today, Joshua is a senior at the University of Missouri-Kansas City and will graduate with a business degree next year and Kristen is a sophomore at Liberty High School. The Lance family has regularly attended Pleasant Valley Baptist Church since the early 1990s, and I know Joshua and Kristen feel fortunate to be raised in a Christian home by such fine parents.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in commending Jeff and Rachel Lance on their 25th wedding anniversary. Jeff and Rachel truly exemplify the qualities of commitment and dedication, and I am honored to call them my constituents and represent them in the United States House of Representatives.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE VALOR OF CLAY R. KING

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 6, 2004

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to stand before you today and recognize Clay R. King for his dedicated service as a Transportation Security Screener at Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport located in my district. As a frequent traveler, I am thankful for the bravery and sacrifice provided by individuals like Mr. King.

This year, Clay King was named the Transportation Security Administration's DFW "Screener of the Year" for his extraordinary performance while serving as both a Transportation Security Screener and as a Lead Transportation Security Screener.

Clay King's valor, professionalism and dedication to the TSA mission was recognized by his subordinates, his peers, TSA/DFW staff and myself. Mr. King's commitment to security is not just part of his job but a part of his life as evidenced by a recent event where his knowledge and skills in emergencies was needed.

While driving to work on March 7, 2004, he noticed an automobile that was engulfed in flames. Without hesitation, he pulled over to render aid. As he approached the burning car, he saw a man, unconscious and trapped, on the driver's side of the car. Lacking regard for his own safety, Clay King opened the door and wrestled the driver out of the burning wreck. By doing so, he singed his right hand in the rescue for the flames had already reached the interior of the car and the passenger's pant legs were on fire. Due to Clay King's heroic actions, this person is alive today. From the accident scene, Clay King had the wherewithal to call into his supervisor and notify him that he would be late. After arriving at work, he asked if he could return home to shower and change uniforms as he felt he didn't look professional. Although he was granted the rest of the day off, he declined stating he wanted to complete his shift. Those that have had the opportunity to speak with Clay King about the incident convey that he is extremely humble about his courageous

actions. In fact, he has stated that anyone would have done the same thing under the same circumstances.

I believe that Clay King's professionalism should be emulated and his heroism honored here today on the floor of the United States House of Representatives. I rest easier knowing that Mr. King is watching out for all of us, everywhere.

IN HONOR OF POLLY E. HODGES
ON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT

HON. JACK KINGSTON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 6, 2004

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Polly E. Hodges, who is retiring on January 7, 2005 from her post as Chief Financial Officer of the Congressional Budget Office. I would like to take this opportunity to thank her for her service to CBO and to the Congress.

Polly was born and raised in Arkansas. She began her postsecondary studies at Hendrix College but obtained her bachelor's degree in accounting and business, cum laude, from San Antonio's Trinity University. Soon afterward, she earned the Certified Public Accountant designation and honed her professional skills at Tenneco, where she rose to the position of senior auditor. After a brief flirtation with the idea of medical school, she became chief accountant to Jacuzzi Brothers, Inc., and then joined CBO's staff on December 21, 1981.

Polly began her career at CBO as Finance and Budget Officer and was later named its Chief Financial Officer. For 23 years, she has overseen the office's budgetary and financial affairs and provided sound financial counsel to each of its six Directors. Polly has played a major role in developing and executing CBO's annual budgets, working closely with its management and with staff of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees. Even during a period of tight budgets—not normally a situation relished by budget officers—Polly was proud to assist Appropriations Committee staff in crafting report language that proved useful in leading the legislative branch through potentially painful funding reductions.

Polly's service to the Congress has extended beyond the confines of CBO—she was a founding member of the legislative branch's Financial Management Council and continues to provide that organization with thoughtful counsel.

Throughout her years as a public servant, Polly's command of financial methods and management and her professional and personal integrity have enriched both CBO and the Congress. Thank you, Polly, for your dedication and service, and we wish you well in your retirement.

HONORING MR. JACK MERKEL

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 6, 2004

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. I rise today to honor the 2004 Chelsea Area Citizen of the

Year, Mr. Jack Merkel. A lifelong resident of Chelsea, Jack Merkel has dedicated his life to the betterment of his community. Mr. Merkel is a respected business owner, community leader, husband, father, and grandfather.

He has served on countless boards and commissions throughout his life, including the Chelsea Village Council, Mayor of Chelsea, Chelsea Community Hospital, Silver Maples of Chelsea, Chelsea Area Chamber of Commerce, Chelsea City Charter Commission, and is an active member of St. Mary's Catholic Church. A distinguished businessman, Jack and his brother, Bob, owned and operated Merkel's Furniture, a Chelsea landmark, for 46 years.

Mr. Merkel was the leader of the Chelsea Cityhood initiative. Over 12 years, he provided tireless leadership, focus, and support to the project, which culminated in a City Charter first approved by the State of Michigan and approved by the residents of Chelsea in March of 2004.

On behalf of the Congress of the United States of America, I am proud to honor Mr. Jack Merkel for his commitment to family and community, and his dedication to improving his hometown. We commend him for his selfless service to others, and honor his contributions to his community.

RECOGNIZING NICHOLAS JOHN
ROPCHOCK FOR ACHIEVING THE
RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 6, 2004

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Nicholas John Ropchock of Blue Springs, Missouri, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 603, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

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

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

NEW RULES APPROVED BY THE
PCAOB

HON. JOHN E. SWEENEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 6, 2004

Mr. SWEENEY. Mr. Speaker, under the Sarbanes-Oxley Act (Section 106(a)) any foreign accounting firm that audits an issuer of securities in the United States capital markets shall be subject to the same regulatory framework applicable to domestic accounting firms. The Act requires that foreign audit firms must adhere to the same rigorous standards applicable to domestic firms.

Sarbanes-Oxley also established the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (PCAOB) and directs them to conduct a continuing program of inspections of registered public accounting firms and to investigate alleged violations of the Act, related securities laws, and auditing and related professional practice standards.

The PCAOB recently approved rules under which non-U.S. regulators would be permitted to fulfill the inspection and enforcement mission of the PCAOB if the non-U.S. regulator is judged by the PCAOB to be sufficiently independent and rigorous. What concerns me is that the PCAOB might allow the Canadian Public Accountability Board to fulfill this mission. This would be a serious mistake.

The PCAOB in looking at its own structure and mission identified five factors as bearing upon the independence and rigor of the non-U.S. regulatory systems: (1) The adequacy and integrity of the non-U.S. system; (2) the system's source of funding; (3) the system's independence from the accounting profession; (4) the system's transparency; and (5) historical performance.

The first looks at the system's authority to inspect, investigate, sanction and enforce professional standards of the accounting profession.

The second assesses the accounting profession's authority over the governance and operation of the non-U.S. regulatory system. How many accountants have decision making authority? Are they appointed by government? Does the government or the accounting profession hold removal power?

The third implicates the accounting profession's control over the system's source of funds.

The fourth on transparency requires open rule making procedures and periodic reporting to the public.

With respect to historical performance—if the system is new the PCAOB will not consider this factor.

Consequently, any decision by the PCAOB to rely on a specific non-U.S. regulator should require that they pass these minimum tests. The Canadian Public Accountability Board fails these tests.

The Canadian Public Accountability Board has no direct statutory authority. It has no oversight mechanism, no transparency, and no public interest accountability. It is subject to the whims of its membership and its governing structure is comprised primarily of accountants. Most importantly, the source of funding for the Canadian Public Accountability Board is in fact the accounting industry itself.

As the PCAOB moves toward granting reciprocity to foreign organizations to help enforce Sarbanes-Oxley the Congress will be watching to make certain that the interests of the American investors and the integrity of the U.S. financial sector are protected.

IN MEMORY OF NEW YORK CITY
FIREFIGHTER AND ARMY NATIONAL
GUARD SERGEANT
CHRISTIAN ENGELDRUM

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 6, 2004

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in sadness to pay homage and tribute to the life and

memory of New York City Firefighter and Army National Guard Sergeant Christian Engeldrum of Edgewater Park, the Bronx, New York, who died serving his country in Iraq on November 29, 2004.

Mr. Engeldrum was a proud member of the New York City Fire Department, most currently serving at Ladder Company 61 in Co-op City in the Bronx.

Sergeant Engeldrum's service to our Nation began in 1986 when he joined the U.S. Army and later served with distinction in Operation Desert Storm. During his tenure in the Army, Sergeant Engeldrum earned numerous accolades for his service including the Southwest Asia Service Medal with Bronze Service, Army Service Ribbon, National Defense Service Medal, Army Lapel Button, Sharpshooter Badge, Parachutist Badge, Army Good Conduct Medal, Army Achievement Medal and the NCO Professional Development Ribbon.

Upon completion of his military service, Sergeant Engeldrum joined the New York City Police Department, and, after successfully completing the Fire Academy in 1999, joined the Fire Department. He was assigned to Engine Company 89 in the Bronx. Moving through numerous fire stations Engeldrum was ultimately placed with Ladder Company 61 in the Bronx. His career in the Fire Department was as distinguished as his career in the Army, including his company's successful rescue of two civilians at a fire.

Among his many accomplishments, Firefighter Engeldrum was also one of the first people to raise an American flag over Ground Zero after September 11, 2001. The events he witnessed that horrible day spurred him to reenlist into the Army to fight for our Nation overseas and ensure our protection here at home. He was deployed to Iraq in November, 2004.

While he left a wife and two growing sons behind, he volunteered so they could live in a safer country, a better world. Tragically, on November 30, he paid the ultimate price for his love of family and country when a roadside bomb exploded near his convoy outside of Baghdad. Firefighter Engeldrum was the first New York City firefighter to die in service to his Nation in Iraq.

Christian Engeldrum is survived by his wife, Sharon who he met as a teenager selling Christmas trees at Engeldrum's Gas Station in the Bronx, as well as two sons, Shaun and Royce. Additionally, to make this sad occasion far more heartbreaking, his wife is now expecting another child. While this child will never get to know his father, may he always know that his father did not die in vain, but died to ensure the world this child is born into is one of safety, justice for all and free of terror. Christian was a patriot, and he loved this country, and died protecting it. Our City and our Nation owe him a true debt of gratitude.

IN HONOR OF THE 63RD ANNIVERSARY OF PEARL HARBOR DAY,
DECEMBER 7, 2004

HON. JACK KINGSTON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 6, 2004

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, December 7, 2004, marks the anniversary of the attack on

Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, a day, which like September 11, 2001, Americans will remember forever.

As the sun came up over the Pacific paradise of Oahu, Hawaii, on that Sunday morning in 1941, U.S. Navy Mess Attendant 1st Class Doris "Dorie" Miller should have been preparing the morning meal but never made it to the mess. Instead, he manned a machine gun on the deck of the U.S.S. *West Virginia*, and successfully shot down several enemy planes. Miller was awarded the Navy Cross for gallantry and continued to serve on active duty. On the morning of Nov. 24, 1943, Miller died when an explosion sank the U.S.S. *Liscome Bay* (CVE-56). Today, many Boys Clubs are named for U.S. Navy Mess Attendant 1st Class Doris Miller.

Since the Revolutionary War, the United States had rarely been attacked. Both Norfolk and Washington were threatened during the War of 1812. During the Spanish American War, port cities along the East Coast stood at high alert against possible attacks by Spanish forces sailing from Cuba. And 60 years after Pearl Harbor, our Nation was deliberately attacked by terrorist evil doers who wanted to do nothing more than kill innocent people—arguably in the hopes that it would scare freedom loving people into isolation.

During Pearl Harbor, many Americans, including some military commanders, had come to consider U.S. lands immune from enemy invasion. That feeling of immunity ended on the morning of December 7, 1941, when the Japanese Navy attacked the island of Oahu, Hawaii in two massive waves of carrier-based warplanes.

Sixty years later, many Americans felt immune once again, especially after the end of the Cold War. But, as terrorist-driven jet liners pounded into the Twin Towers and the Pentagon, with a fourth plane falling out of the sky in rural Pennsylvania, we were reminded that history does indeed repeat itself—we are never immune from those who want to perpetuate evil.

The 2-hour Japanese attack sank 21 Navy ships, destroyed 185 military planes and killed 2,290 military personnel at bases throughout Hawaii, along with 48 civilians. Japan lost 29 planes and five midget submarines. The hull of the sunken U.S.S. *Arizona* became a tomb for 1,103 U.S. sailors.

From the death and destruction in the aftermath of the attack on Pearl Harbor rose a resolve to duty on the part of the American people that would culminate on September 2, 1945, with the surrender of Japan. And today, the American people share the same resolve—an undying commitment to defeat the evil of terrorism. History will repeat itself. We will prevail.

HONORING JOHN AND JULIA KOMAI

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 6, 2004

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor John and Julia Komai of Jackson, Michigan.

Born in Liberia, both John and Julia have dedicated their lives to improving the plight of

Liberians and restoring peace and democracy to Liberia.

John first came to the United States in the 1950's to attend Spring Arbor High School and later Spring Arbor College. He completed degrees at Greenville College in Greenville, Illinois; Chicago State University in Chicago, Ill.; McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago, Illinois; and Loyola University Graduate School of Education. An ordained Presbyterian Minister, Dr. Komai was Pastor-at-Large and Supervisor of Missions for the Community Presbyterian Church in Liberia, as well as Founder and President of Jobai International Development Corporation to support mission development. In 1984, Dr. Komai was appointed to the Ministry of Education, and served as the Director of the World Bank and African Development Bank education projects for the Republic of Liberia.

Born in Zlehtown, Liberia, June 7, 1947, Julia grew up there and in Monrovia. A strident and outspoken believer in the dignity of all people, she was jailed as a political prisoner in 1979 for speaking out against human rights abuses committed by then-President William Tolbert. She was freed in 1980 when Samuel Doe came to power. Julia served as the Assistant Director of the African Unity Conference Center from 1982 to 1990. She and John fled Liberia during the coup-de-etat of 1989, walking 300 miles to reach Sierra Leone, surviving on grass and sleeping wherever they could.

Julia passed away suddenly on November 23, 2004 in an automobile accident. She will be forever remembered for her generous spirit and enthusiasm for life. In the face of hardships most Americans cannot begin to imagine, she persevered. Hers is a story of hope and boundless optimism, of dedication to ideals greater than herself. She loved her native land and hoped to return there someday.

I am proud to join the many friends and admirers of John and Julia Komai in recognizing their dedication to the restoration of peace and democracy to their homeland of Liberia. I extend my condolences to Julia's family and friends. May she rest in peace, and may her memory live on in those whose lives she touched.

RECOGNIZING ANN SCHLUETER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 6, 2004

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Ann Schlueter, a dedicated member of my congressional staff who will be leaving my office on November 30, 2004. Her work ethic, professionalism, and dedication to Missouri's Sixth Congressional District will be sadly missed. I consider myself fortunate though, because Ann will soon start a new career as Atchison County Economic Developer, which means that my home county will continue to benefit from her expertise and commitment to service.

Ann has been affiliated with my office for over three years now, and has held just about every position available. She began her service as an intern in my Liberty, Missouri district office in 2001, and since then has held the positions of caseworker, scheduler, and field representative among others. In January of 2003,

she began working in my Saint Joseph, Missouri district office and I know her colleagues there will miss her just as much as I will. While she excelled at every task, in my mind the highlight of Ann's tenure on my staff was her organization of the Tarkio Fly-In on June 5, 2004.

Ann has also excelled outside of the office. She is a graduate of Tarkio High School and the University of Missouri—Columbia. Ann and her husband Matt currently reside in my hometown of Tarkio with their son Aaron, who was born in 2003.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Ann Schlueter for her many important contributions to myself, my staff, and Missouri's Sixth Congressional District. Ann exemplifies the qualities of dedication and service and I am extremely proud of her accomplishments. While she is leaving my congressional staff, I am proud that I will still be able to represent her in the United States Congress.

CONGRESS SHOULD NOT ABUSE
TAXPAYER PRIVACY

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 6, 2004

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in complete support of the unanimous consent agreement to strike the FY '05 omnibus spending bill provision that would allow congressional staff and appropriators access to individual tax returns. But I must point out that Congress has made a similar mistake by dropping from the same bill a House amendment advocated by Representative CAPITO and me, that would have prevented 2.6 million tax returns a year to be turned over to private contractors for the purposes of tax collection. While Congress is attempting to correct what is clearly a bad idea to allow congressional staff and Members of Congress to peruse individual tax returns, taxpayers are also vulnerable to potential abuses of tax return disclosure through private debt collection agents.

Prior to the 2004 election, Congress enacted H.R. 4520, the corporate tax bill that will give the IRS private tax collection authority. The enacted language allows the IRS to use private collection agencies to collect tax debt. This means that up to 2.6 million tax returns—which are currently only scrutinized by federal government employees—will now be open to at least 10 private collection agencies within the first 6 months, and an untold number of private debt collection staff.

While IRS employees are explicitly forbidden from being evaluated on the basis of revenue collected, the private collection scheme would actually link contractor pay to the amount of revenue collection. This policy encourages contractors to use aggressive collection techniques to boost their remuneration. Furthermore, the IRS is currently liable for damages to a taxpayer resulting from the misuse of confidential information by an IRS employee, but taxpayers will not be able to recover damages from the federal government where contractors are guilty of malfeasance.

What's more worrisome is the IRS' inability to oversee the work of these private debt collectors. A 1996 pilot program for private col-

lection was so unsuccessful that a similar pilot program planned for 1997 was cancelled outright. The contractors used in the pilot programs regularly broke the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, did not protect the security of personal taxpayer information, and even then failed to bring in a net increase in revenue.

The IRS has said that it has learned from the 1996 project and is better equipped to address the problems raised. However, even recent evidence is to the contrary. An eye-opening report by the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration (TIGTA Audit #200320010) shows how IRS contractors put taxpayers' data at risk. The TIGTA audit found that the "lack of oversight of contractors resulted in serious security vulnerabilities." The report, found that, "contractors blatantly circumvented IRS policies and procedures even when security personnel identified inappropriate practices."

The objective of the review was "to determine whether the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has adequately protected Federal Government equipment and data from misuse by contractors." The review found: "The involvement of non-IRS employees in critical IRS functions increases the risk of misuse or unauthorized disclosure of taxpayer data, and could lead to loss of equipment or sensitive taxpayer data through theft or sabotage."

Under the current conditions of rampant identity theft and deteriorating privacy here in the U.S., the federal government ought to be strengthening and protecting taxpayer privacy where it can. A first step is to eliminate the egregious provision placed in the Omnibus Bill. But a second, and more critical step, is to abolish the IRS' plan to place 2.6 million tax returns in front of private collection agencies and their staffs. This proposal sets a dangerous precedent down a path of contractor abuse and taxpayer distrust.

I urge my colleagues to join me in the 109th Congress in working with the IRS to find a more effective means of collecting delinquent tax debt collection and avoid this risky scheme altogether.

IN HONOR OF JOHN W. VAN HISE,
JR.

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 6, 2004

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Commander John W. Van Hise, Jr., upon his retirement after over 35 years of service in the Naval Security Group Reserve. Commander Van Hise has commendably served his country in a variety of assignments at key duty stations around the world. I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations on his retirement, and express my appreciation for his service to our country.

In 1969, Commander Van Hise enlisted in the United States Navy, and after completing Basic Training was assigned to the Russian Language School at Syracuse University. Shortly after, CDR Van Hise served active duty in Japan as an aircrew and plane captain, flying over 100 missions in the Sea of Japan, the Gulf of Tonkin, and off the USS *Coral Sea*. Upon returning to the United States he continued his career in the Naval

Reserve in California. After relocation to Florida, he served as both Training Officer and Operations Officer at the Naval Reserve Security Group in Tampa. In 1986 CDR Van Hise transferred to Charleston and created the first Direct Support Program for Security Group reservists and as a result, was selected as Commanding Officer. Returning to California in 1991, he served two more tours as the Commanding Officer of Naval Reserve Security Group Santa Ana and Naval Reserve Security Group Ft. Lewis, Washington. In 1996, he enrolled in the Naval War College at the Naval Postgraduate School where he graduated with honors in 1999.

In his exemplary career in the Navy, Commander Van Hise has received many promotions, and has been awarded with many honors and medals. His first Navy Commendation Medal was awarded to him after serving as the Operations Officer of the Naval Reserve Security Group San Francisco from 1994 to 1995. In 1995, the Commander was awarded the Joint Commendation Medal by US European Command for his planning and execution of 40 Military-to-Military contact events between Albanian and US forces. He received a second Navy Commendation Medal in 2000 after serving as Action Officer for Joint Secure Communications under the Director of Naval Intelligence.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to personally congratulate Commander Van Hise on his upcoming retirement, and thank him for his dedicated service in the Navy. I wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING NATHAN OLSON FOR
ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE
SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 6, 2004

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Nathan Olson, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America Troop 214 and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Nathan has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities and earning 30 merit badges. Nathan is an Ordeal member in the Order of the Arrow Camping Honorary and is a Warrior in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say.

For his Eagle Scout project, Nathan supervised the pouring of a concrete slab foundation for the bleachers at St. James Catholic Church baseball field. In addition, he supervised the pouring of two additional slabs for players and coaches to stand behind the backstop.

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

FREEDOM FOR LÉSTER GONZÁLEZ
PENTÓN

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 6, 2004

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about Léster González Pentón, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. González Pentón is a member of the Reason, Truth and Freedom Human Rights Movement and a delegate of the Cuban Confederation of Democratic Workers. He is a peaceful pro-democracy activist who has worked intensely to liberate Cuba from the control of the demented terrorist in power in Havana. Mr. González Pentón believes in human rights, worker rights, and freedom for the people of Cuba. As these tenants are the antithesis of the tyrant's policies of lies, fear, intimidation, and repression, he has been constantly harassed by the terrorist regime in Havana.

According to Amnesty International, on August 5, 2002, the tyrant's thugs prevented him from leaving his house, in order to stop him from participating in events organized by fellow pro-democracy activists. Previously, on July 9, 2001, Amnesty International reports that Mr. González Pentón was questioned and threatened with imprisonment by police if he did not work: despite the fact that he was fired him from his job as a baker because the totalitarian regime was threatened by his peaceful activities with the Cuban Confederation of Democratic workers.

On March 18, 2003, as part of the dictatorship's deplorable crackdown on peaceful pro-democracy activists, Mr. González Pentón was arrested. In a sham trial, he was sentenced to 20 years in the grotesque totalitarian gulag. According to the U.S. Department of State, members of the tyrant's totalitarian apparatchik threatened to suspend family visits for Mr. González Pentón because he, and eight other political prisoners, read aloud to each other from the Bible.

Mr. Speaker, it is an affront to the inalienable rights of man that Mr. González Pentón is languishing in the inhuman squalor of a totalitarian gulag simply because he believes that liberty is the sacred right of all people. It is unconscionable that he and others have been further punished because they read the Bible. My colleagues, we must demand the immediate release of Lester González Pentón and every political prisoner suffering under the nightmare that is the Castro regime.

RECOGNIZING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE BATTLE OF THE
BULGE

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 6, 2004

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the veterans of the Battle of the Bulge on the occasion of its 60th Anniversary this month. On November 16, 2004, the U.S. House of Representatives passed H.J. Res. 110, a resolution recognizing the 60th

anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge during World War II, and I was proud to vote in favor of H.J. Res. 110.

Mr. Speaker, the Battle of the Bulge was a significant turning point of the Allied victory over the Axis powers in Northern Europe. At the time of the battle, from December 16, 1944, to January 25, 1945, the outcome of World War II was in question. But neither the harsh winter nor enemy fire could overcome the Allied determination to win the greatest battle of that war.

Mr. Speaker, out of the 16 million veterans of World War II, roughly 4 million are with us and about 1,200 die each day. With each death, we lose a first hand account of the war and the opportunity to thank them for their service. That is why it is so important that the House, on this anniversary, acknowledge the sacrifice and service of the men of the Battle of the Bulge.

Mr. Speaker, after 60 years, the veterans of the Battle of the Bulge are traveling to Belgium and Luxembourg this month to participate in 60th Anniversary events. They and their families will join with the people of Belgium and Luxembourg in somber remembrance of the battle. Both the King of the Belgians, Albert II, and the Grand Duke of Luxembourg, Henri, will participate in official events.

Mr. Speaker, my hometown of Worcester, Massachusetts is home to the Central Massachusetts Chapter of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge. The Worcester chapter has 155 members. Its objective is to honor the men who fought at the battle, to preserve historical data and sites, to foster international peace and goodwill, and to promote friendship and comradeship. The Worcester chapter has honored the 10 sons of Worcester who died during the battle by placing square markers throughout the city. Many members of the chapter are going to Europe this month for the remembrance services.

Mr. Speaker, the Battle of the Bulge and World War II tore apart the continent of Europe. It pitted great civilizations against each other in an epic battle for control of Europe. But the Allied victory and the great sacrifice of the men of World War II have contributed to today's peace in Europe. Indeed, the United States, Belgium, Luxembourg, Germany and other nations involved in the Battle of the Bulge are allies today as members of NATO. Our countries have worked closely on solidarity, freedom, security, and the trans-Atlantic alliance. Today's European and American cooperation is due in large part to the veterans of the Battle of the Bulge.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of all my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives, I thank these veterans for their service, their courage, their sacrifice and their continuing efforts to foster international freedom and democracy.

RECOGNIZING GEOFFREY KUDLACZ
FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF
EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 6, 2004

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Geoffrey Kudlacz, a very special

young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 180, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

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

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

TRIBUTE TO THE HARDENBERGH
INSURANCE AGENCY

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 6, 2004

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend and honor the Hardenbergh Insurance Agency for 50 years of venerable and dedicated service to the families and business of our region. Since its founding in 1954 by the late Richard C. Hardenbergh, the Hardenbergh Insurance Agency has expanded its services to provide commercial business insurance, health benefits, personal insurance, bonding, and risk management services. The agency currently covers a wide range of prestigious clients including public entities, private businesses, not-for-profit groups, real estate owners, school districts, and others.

In recognition of the agency's admirable growth, Richard J. Hardenbergh, son of the late Richard C. Hardenbergh, has changed the agency's name to the Hardenbergh Insurance Group on its fiftieth anniversary. Under the direction of Richard J. Hardenbergh, this agency operates as a family and has established a considerable reputation of good will and professionalism within their industry and New Jersey. Hardenbergh Insurance Group serves as an inspiration within its industry, and indeed to all businesses of the great Nation of the United States of America.

THE RETIREMENT OF DR. MARVIN
KIRSH

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 6, 2004

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Marvin Kirsh, a noted cardiothoracic surgeon, who is on staff at the Ann Arbor Medical Center in Ann Arbor, Michigan, and to express my deep gratitude for his enormous contributions to the field of medicine.

Dr. Marvin Kirsh has been an integral part of the center staff for more than 36 years and has been the Chief of Cardiothoracic Surgery since 1990. Although he has chosen to retire at the end of this month from his post, he will continue to use his extensive expertise in the educational community as a member of the University of Michigan School of Medicine teaching staff.

In his capacity as a Professor of Surgery at the University of Michigan, Dr. Marvin Kirsh

was honored by The American Heart Association and received its Lifetime Achievement Award.

Dr. Marvin Kirsh is also an accomplished writer and has authored and co-authored more than 200 published articles on cardiology and cardiothoracic surgery and contributed to the works of nearly two dozen other authors. One of his best-known works is "Blunt Chest Trauma", published in 1997.

Because of the dedication, devotion and skill of Dr. Marvin Kirsh, the lives of hundreds of military veterans have been touched.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and all my colleagues rise and join me in honoring Dr. Marvin Kirsh and his legacy of surgical excellence.

TRIBUTE TO MARTIN J. "HOOT"
MCINERNEY

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 6, 2004

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Martin J. "Hoot" McInerney, recipient of the St. Joseph Mercy Oakland Hospital Man of the Year Award and Distinguished Community Service Award.

Known for his kindness and infectious personality, Martin J. "Hoot" McInerney is also known throughout the metro-Detroit area as a successful car dealer and philanthropist, supporting numerous charities on a local, national and international level.

Hoot was born and raised in Detroit. He began his career in the automobile industry as a young boy working for an auto dealership, being paid fifty cents a week to keep the coal furnace stoked over cold weekends. In 1963, Chrysler offered Hoot his first dealership. Forty-one years later Hoot has become a successful businessman owning numerous car dealerships in the metro-Detroit area. The former U.S. Marine is still known to "hang out" at his Star Lincoln Mercury dealership in Southfield, Michigan.

Hoot helped to establish the St. Joseph Mercy Men of Mercy in 1974. He is also one of the founders of the J.P. McCarthy Foundation, in honor of the late and renowned radio personality who was diagnosed with and succumbed to myelodysplastic syndrome. He is also a generous donor to several Catholic churches and schools in the metro-Detroit area as well as churches and schools in Honduras, Nicaragua and the Sisters of Mary in Omaha, Nebraska.

In addition, Hoot supports Focus: HOPE, Operation Read, the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption, Purple Rose Theater, Friends of Golf, St. John's Men's Guild, Angel's Place, the National Football Fund and Stewards of Tomorrow.

Mr. Speaker, Hoot McInerney is deserving of this recognition for his humanitarian and volunteer efforts. His dedication to helping others has made a significant difference in the lives of many people.

RECOGNIZING SPENCER COPE FOR
ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE
SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 6, 2004

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Spencer Cope, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 180, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

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

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

HONORING JENNIFER HAMMER

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 6, 2004

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Jennifer Hammer of Northern Virginia, a friend and neighbor who passed away after succumbing to a three-year battle with Ovarian Cancer in November 2004.

Mrs. Hammer's courage and resilience should serve as an inspiration to us all. Despite her health, she remained an active member in her community. She volunteered at her children's schools and participated in the 350-mile AIDS bicycle ride from North Carolina to the National Mall. Mrs. Hammer worked hard to train, but was most concerned about the criteria to raise \$1,700 in order to participate. In the end, she raised over \$4,000 and finished the four-day ride with energy to spare.

On Election Day, Mrs. Hammer voted on the way to what would be her final surgery. She was so weak that the voting officials had to bring a voting machine to the car for her. She thanked them and then left for the hospital.

Mrs. Hammer touched many lives and is survived by her beloved husband Tom and children Adam and Samantha. Over Thanksgiving weekend, when many friends were out of town for the holiday, almost 600 people came to a memorial service to celebrate her life.

Mrs. Hammer showed us how to enjoy life in the good times and be positive and full of abundant grace in the worst of times. She was at peace in the end because of her faith in God and because she knew that she lived fully while on earth. Jennifer made a huge impact on many and was loved by all. Our lives were better for having known her, and we will continue to draw inspiration from her strength and compassion.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to pay tribute to the life and work Mrs. Hammer, and express my deepest condolences to all who knew and loved her.

H.R. 5107, THE JUSTICE FOR ALL
ACT

HON. TOM DELAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 6, 2004

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of myself and Representatives SMITH and CARTER of Texas, I would like to include the attached letter from the Texas Task Force on Indigent Defense regarding H.R. 5107, the Justice For All Act (P.L. 108-405), into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. This letter responds directly to a statement found on page S11609 of the November 19, 2004 CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

The mission of the Texas Task Force on Indigent Defense is to promote justice and fairness to all indigent persons accused of criminal conduct, including juvenile respondents, as provided by the laws and constitutions of the United States and Texas. The Task Force was created by state law, the Fair Defense Act of 2001, and took effect on January 1, 2002. Since its implementation, the Task Force has awarded over \$30 million to 250 counties in Texas in furtherance of its mission to improve legal representation for indigent persons accused of crimes.

TEXAS TASK FORCE
ON INDIGENT DEFENSE,

Austin, Texas, December 1, 2004.

Re H.R. 5107, the "Justice For All Act"—
Congressional Record page S11613.

Hon. TOM DELAY,
U.S. House Majority Leader,
The Capitol, Washington, DC.

Hon. LAMAR SMITH,
Rayburn House Office Building,
Washington, DC.

Hon. JOHN CARTER,
Cannon House Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVES DELAY, SMITH, & CARTER: In response to an inquiry last week regarding the statements made by Mr. Leahy in his statement on November 19, 2004, I am offering the following for clarification of what I believe is the current state of indigent defense in Texas.

I commend the goals of this bill and the willingness of Congress to provide States much needed money in the criminal justice arena. Since the reforms to Texas indigent defense laws known as the Texas Fair Defense Act were originally enacted in 2001, the Task Force on Indigent Defense, the Texas judiciary, and local government have worked diligently to meet and exceed the mandates of this reform. This reform was hailed by Robert Spangenberg, a leading national expert on indigent defense as, "the most significant piece of indigent defense legislation passed by any state in the last twenty years."

Nevertheless, the key to meaningful reform lies in implementation. In that regard, Mr. Bill Beardall, Director of the Equal Justice Center, and leading advocate of indigent reform in Texas recently said that, "[S]ignificant indigent defense improvements were implemented both at the state level and in most of Texas's 254 counties in response to the new law."

Worth noting is that Mr. Spangenberg served as the primary author of the Fair Defense Report, which influenced the passage of the Fair Defense Act. In response to the progress made by Texas, he states: "In three short years, the Task Force has used the limited funding provided to mandate that each county has an indigent defense plan on file. Moreover, these plans are posted electronically and viewable by anyone. This in

itself is significant in that what was formerly a closed process is now open to public scrutiny. Also significant is the fact that these are countywide plans, thus providing greater uniformity than before when practices varied from judge to judge. From what I've seen, the Task Force has successfully built bridges with county government and leading advocate and public interest groups for meaningful collaboration and significant reform."

The following are some of the highlights of what Texas's courts, counties, and Task Force have accomplished.

More Indigent Defendants Receiving Court Appointed Counsel—In 2002, 278,479 persons received court appointed counsel. In 2004, 371,167 persons received court appointed counsel. This represents a 33% increase while all criminal case filings are up only 8%. Courts and local government are taking their responsibilities seriously.

Public Access—Every indigent defense plan (adult and juvenile) and every county's indigent defense expenditures are posted electronically and available to anyone with access to the Internet. In addition, all model forms, procedures, and rules promulgated by the Task Force are available online at www.courts.state.tx.us/tfjd.

In response to Task Force recommendations, judges across the state have submitted amendments to bring indigent defense plans into compliance with the law. Also, every indigent defense plan has been reviewed by the Task Force and is in accordance with the law.

Accountability—Because of centralized oversight of plan submission, the judiciary is accountable to the Task Force. County officials are accountable to the Task Force through expenditure reporting and because of receipt of state grants. Prior to this act each county and court in Texas was left to its own means on how to provide these services.

Training and Outreach—Each year since 2001, the Task Force and staff have provided presentations across the state to 1,200 or more judges, county commissioners, defense attorneys, county employees, and other criminal justice stakeholders on their responsibilities and on the responsibilities of the State regarding effective indigent defense representation. One program of particular interest was designed specifically for State district trial judges who hear capital offenses. This program was sponsored by the Center for American and International Law in Plano, Texas on August 19–20, 2004.

Spending Up Almost 50% Since 2001—The State and counties have significantly increased expenditures for indigent defense services statewide to improve the quality of counsel appointed to represent the poor.

In 2001, counties expended approximately \$92 million on indigent defense services without any state assistance. In 2002, county and state spending together reached approximately \$107 million—\$15 million more than was spent in 2001. In 2003, county and state spending together amounted to approximately \$130–\$38 million more than was spent in 2001. And, the most recent reports for FY04 reveal county and state spending together totaled approximately \$137 million—\$45 million more than 2001. All in all since the Fair Defense Act passed the State and counties are expending almost 50% more than they did prior to the Fair Defense Act. Neither the State nor the counties are abdicating their responsibilities—to the contrary, the State and counties are providing their best efforts to secure additional revenue sources as well as implementing process changes to ensure tax payers receive the most value possible for their tax dollars.

Nine Administrative Judicial Regions Working Collaboratively with Task Force—

The Nine Administrative Judicial Regions are responsible for the development of qualifications and standards for counsel in death penalty cases. Notwithstanding the Texas Defender Service report referenced by Mr. Leahy in his testimony, the nine administrative presiding judges take very seriously their responsibilities under Texas law. Through officially published standards and qualifications and a thorough screening process, they ensure that only the most capable and competent attorneys are appointed in death penalty cases.

The report that Mr. Leahy relies on was criticized by many criminal justice stakeholders in Texas. I was disappointed with the secretive and surprise tactics utilized by the authors in its preparation. No Task Force members or staff were consulted prior to the report's publication. More significantly, the nine administrative judges were not consulted regarding its preparation or its findings prior to its release. For a Dallas Morning News article regarding this report, I noted the report's lack of methodology and stated that the report's conclusions "may be a matter more of form over substance." John Dahill, general counsel for the Texas Conference of Urban Counties and a former Dallas County prosecutor, was more blunt. "It just riles me to no end that the Texas Defender Service and the Equal Justice Center didn't bother to inquire of people with knowledge in each of these counties," he said. Counties generally follow the regional plan for appointment of counsel in capital cases, he said, and Dallas County follows the plan of the first administrative judicial region. That region covers 34 counties in northeast Texas.

Judge John Ovard of Dallas, who presides over the 1st administrative region, said he had not had a chance to read the report but said the county's failing grade surprised him. "We're in compliance with the task force . . . which is the primary state agency we report to," he said. "I certainly am interested in looking at it and see why they came to those conclusions."

Task Force staff meets quarterly with the 9 Administrative Presiding judges. The Task Force provides administrative assistance to the 9 Administrative Judicial Regions in posting the lists of standards and attorneys qualified for appointments in electronic format readily available to anyone in Texas. This collaborative effort is not mandated by State law but is being done at the request of the 9 Administrative Presiding judges to ensure that this process is open to the public and administered consistently across the State.

Summary—For the first time in Texas history the State is providing oversight, fiscal assistance, and technical support to local government and courts to improve the delivery of indigent defense services. All 254 counties in Texas are in compliance with the state reporting requirements. Each indigent defense plan in Texas has been reviewed by the Task Force to ensure it provides for prompt appointment of qualified counsel and reasonable compensation for appointed counsel. Since the passage of the Fair Defense Act, staff has provided presentations across the state to more than 4000 judges, county commissioners, defense attorneys, county employees, and other criminal justice stakeholders on their responsibilities and the responsibilities of State regarding effective indigent defense representation. The key criminal justice stakeholders in Texas are being trained and the Texas system has improved dramatically since the passage of this law. Furthermore, in what may be its greatest achievement, the Task Force has created an efficient and collaborative infrastructure for continuing implementation of the Fair

Defense Act and for future improvements to indigent defense procedures statewide.

Thank you for considering my views. If you need any further information, feel free to contact me or any member of the Task Force. We are at your disposal to build on the successes all Texans have experienced since the passage of the Fair Defense Act.

Sincerely,

JAMES D. BETHKE,

Director, Task Force on Indigent Defense.

RECOGNIZING LUKAS JOHNSON FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 6, 2004

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Lukas Johnson, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 180, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

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

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

HONORING CHRISTIAN BROTHERS ACADEMY'S CLASS AA FOOTBALL STATE TITLE

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 6, 2004

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an extraordinary group of athletes, the Christian Brothers Academy's football team. CBAS captured its first State title in Class AA, the state's largest classification for any Section 3 team in the history of the tournament.

The 41 to 35 victory was a nail biting, come-from-behind win lead by Coach Joe Casamento, senior Greg Paulus, senior Lavar Lobdell, senior Bruce Williams, senior Brian Bojko and senior Erik Estabrook. While these individuals paved the way to victory in the final game of the season, the entire CBA football roster is responsible for the 2004 flawless success. They and their families who offer daily support deserve special recognition.

Lavar Lobdell, Erik Estabrook, Bruce Williams, Matt Kinnan, Greg Paulus, Max Greenky, Peter Giordano, Joe Nicoletti, Mike Paulus, Jim Chapman, Matt Halliday, Greg Khanzadian, Jovon Miller, Steve Peltz, Joe Losurdo, Adam Drescher, Mike Kenien, Alfonso Merola, Ricardo Donalson, McKenzie Mathews, Jim Brennan, Austin Merola, Brian Bojko, Greg Hadley, Dario Arezzo, Mike Suits, Pat McNamara, Tim Bobbett, Evan Mazur, Jon Knaust, Dan Delluomo, Andy Bongiovanni,

Rich Cummings, Mike Dracker, Matt Oliver, Eric Fletcher, Tom DiStasio, Steve Kuhns, Matt Rainbow, Brian Dushatinski, Peter Paris, Mark Callahan, Leon Saddler, Stephen Pride, Kevin Didio, Kris Estabrook, Matt Wilson and Bill Urciuoli were all instrumental components of this CBA powerhouse.

Throughout the 2004 season, the team overcame fatigue, injury, sweltering August heat, and a rigorous schedule, to complete an unblemished record of 13 wins and 0 losses, truly exemplifying the definition of a champion.

I commend Christian Brothers Academy's 2004 football team for their hard work and perseverance and congratulate them on a perfect season. You have set the standard for future Purple and Gold teams.

Congratulations to the Champs.

HONORING TEENA M. BOREK

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 6, 2004

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. I would like to rise in order to honor Teena M. Borek—the 2004 Woman of the Year in Agriculture. She is a pioneer in the agriculture industry and an incredible example to young women throughout America.

When her husband tragically died in 1980, Teena decided to run their farm and became the only female vegetable farmer in Miami-Dade County. Impressively, she was able to successfully run the farm while raising two young toddlers, who are now both involved in agriculture.

In the late 1980s, Teena Borek played a large role in bringing needed computer technology to farms and worked with the Community Bank of Florida to ensure that appropriate financing mechanisms were in place to increase access to this important technology. Not surprisingly, Borek Farms was the first Homestead vegetable farm to use a computer.

Using her knowledge from when she first handled the books at Borek Farms, Teena also helped implement an accounting program for farms that is still in use today.

Her achievements in advancing agricultural crops is also unparalleled. Teena became the first Miami-Dade County farmer to use the linear irrigation system and Borek Farms had the first commercially grown Florida 7862 tomato.

One of her greatest achievements, however, is the impact she has had on young women. As a female pioneer in Florida agriculture, she has paved a path for young women in an industry that has largely been dominated by men. Currently, she is serving as the second female President of the Dade County Farm Bureau and has mentored many young women, including the current executive director of the Farm Bureau.

I have had the honor of visiting with Teena and learning about the many achievements she has made for Florida's agriculture industry. After getting to know her and better understand the work of Steven Borek Farms, it seems clear that Teena's contribution to Florida agriculture will be understood well beyond our lifetime.

She may be most recognized for her work in Miami-Dade County, but her achievements have impacted the entire state of Florida.

While advancing the entire industry through technological expansion, she paved the path for generations of women hoping to enter the industry.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring and congratulating Teena M. Borek on being named the 2004 Woman of the Year in Agriculture by the Florida Farm Bureau.

CONGRESSIONAL TRIBUTE TO
RALPH CERNY

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 6, 2004

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a man who has made remarkable contributions to the health of the people of northern Michigan. Ralph Cerny is retiring from his position as CEO of the Munson Medical Center in Traverse City on December 31st, closing a long career dedicated to providing his community with quality health care. Mr. Cerny's 38 years as a hospital administrator and community leader serve as a shining example of his profession.

In 1964, Ralph Cerny graduated from Cornell University with a Bachelor's Degree in Economics. The year before, he actually had his first experience at Munson Medical Center, working as a summer intern. From Cornell University, Ralph went on to study Hospital Administration at the University of Michigan, where he not only earned a Master's degree, but also met his wife, Maureen.

After graduating from U of M in 1966, Ralph began his career as an Associate Administrator at the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha. He remained there for seven years, but in 1973, he returned to Michigan as the CEO of the Memorial Medical Center of West Michigan in Ludington.

In 1985, the long-time CEO of Munson Medical Center, Jack Bay, asked Ralph to move north and join Munson as Chief Operating Officer. He accepted, and began a 19 year tenure that saw Munson grow into a nationally-recognized hospital and health care provider at the center of a regional network of community-based hospitals.

In his eight years as COO, and eleven years as CEO, Munson Medical Center has created a cardiovascular program that has been recognized on four occasions for superior clinical and operational performance; opened a new South Tower for patient care, opened a new ambulatory surgery center; and initiated an air ambulance service. This excellence has not gone unnoticed either. Munson received the National Quality Health Care Award in 2000 and was named one of the Nation's Top 100 hospitals six times.

In short, Mr. Speaker, Ralph's leadership has had a lasting impact on the quality of care at Munson Medical Center, and on the quality of life in the Grand Traverse Region. I worked closely with Ralph Cerny and the Munson Medical family, and I have seen firsthand his dedication to his work and to his community.

While Ralph will be missed at Munson, he has more than earned this retirement. As much as he has given to his career, Ralph has always had time for his family, and I know he looks forward to spending more time with his wife Maureen, their three sons Tim, Tyler,

and Ryan, and their five grandchildren. I also suspect he will spend more time indulging in two of his favorite pastimes: golf and downhill skiing.

Mr. Speaker, Ralph Cerny's commitment to his family, his community, health care, and Munson Medical Center serves as an example to all of us. I ask the House to join me in honoring him, thanking him for his service, and wishing him well in his retirement.

HOUSE ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE HAS BROAD JURISDICTION OVER "CONGRESSIONAL CONTINUITY"

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 6, 2004

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, on May 4, 2004, I introduced House Resolution 623. This was a one-line resolution which stated: ". . . That the House of Representatives should address issues relating to the potential incapacity of its Members." I did this to make an important jurisdictional point.

The resolution, which was referred solely to the Committee on House Administration, served to highlight the committee's jurisdiction over how to deal with the status of incapacitated Members, and, by implication, more broadly with certain other matters relating to the continuity of Congress. The committee already has principal jurisdiction over the conduct of congressional and Presidential elections, the qualifications and credentials of House Members, and administrative control over the internal operations of the House, including Chamber security.

I would hope that in the 109th Congress, our committee, where I serve as the ranking minority member, will more forcefully exercise the authority it has to address a range of issues which threaten the ability of Congress to function in the event of a national catastrophe. We need to develop specific, and constitutional, proposals to address the potential absence of incapacitated Members. If the only effective way is through a constitutional amendment, as I suspect it is, then that argument should be clearly made.

Much attention in the 108th Congress has gone to other committees, such as Rules and Judiciary, which have specialized roles in considering certain types of continuity measures. If a proposal is introduced as a House rule, it will be referred to the Rules Committee; if it is a constitutional amendment, it will go to Judiciary. The Rules Committee held a useful hearing this year on incapacity, but its ability to deal with elements of the issue beyond changes to the rules of the House is limited.

This Congress has been a huge disappointment because of its failure to effectively address many issues involving the stability of our structure of Government, deficiencies brought to the forefront by the September 11 attacks, as well as a disturbing tendency to paper over controversies with legislation which fails to substantively address the problem.

For example, the House earlier this year rejected a constitutional amendment offered by Representative BAIRD of Washington which would have reconstituted the House quickly through temporary appointments, pending special elections, if a large number of Members

were killed. I had introduced an alternate version of the proposal, H.J. Res. 89. Members opposed to the concept—which is admittedly extremely controversial—refused to allow real hearings and debate, preferring instead to misrepresent the various proposals which were introduced and to mock the sponsors. Even though prospects for passage of such an amendment at the time were extremely slim, a substantial debate would have served to educate the Congress and the American people on the importance of these issues, and perhaps provided impetus in a search for alternatives.

Instead, the House passed, but the Senate subsequently killed, H.R. 2844, the “Continuity of Representation Act”, which created an unrealistically fast, unfair, undemocratic and unworkable scheme to fill vacant House seats through a mandatory national 45-day special election period. This bill was referred principally to the House Administration Committee, where I was able to point out its many flaws.

Neither House passed simple legislation which would have corrected an oversight in the legislation creating the Department of Homeland Security in 2002, which failed to place the supposedly critical new Cabinet officer somewhere—anywhere—in the statutory line of succession to the Presidency.

Though hearings were held, neither House addressed significant issues of Presidential succession, such as the role of the Speaker and President pro tempore and lame duck Cabinet members in the succession lineup, and the ability of some officials to “bump” others serving as acting President under the current Federal statute.

The House is apparently planning to paper over its failure to effectively address congressional continuity by passing a blatantly unconstitutional new House rule when the 109th Congress convenes. It would pretend that a rump group of Members, acting with a “provisional quorum,” could exercise the full powers of the House even though a majority of the membership might still be alive but unable to reach the place the House was meeting in a timely manner.

The proposal pretends to address the problem of incapacitated Members by effectively ignoring it, and by allowing the Speaker to deprive them and other absent Members of their constitutional authority by adopting an unprecedented and radical procedure to declare a quorum present when it clearly isn’t. The proposed rule would ignore the explicit constitutional prohibition against less than a majority of the Members of the House taking any action except to adjourn, or to compel the attendance of absent Members. It would also demolish the century-old precedent, based on the Constitution, that a quorum of the House consists of a majority of the membership chosen, sworn and living.

It is likely that this unconstitutional proposal will be shoehorned into House Resolution 5, the traditional opening-day resolution through which the House adopts its rules, to be considered on January 4, 2005. Parliamentary practices in effect at that time would allow only one hour of debate on the resolution, no matter how numerous or how controversial the rules changes contained within it might be. At a minimum, the House should debate the provisional quorum issue separately, following hearings by the Rules Committee through which Members could better inform them-

selves, I would hope, of the truly dangerous ramifications of this idea.

Mr. Speaker, I plan to urge further action on congressional continuity issues in the new year, to work with my colleagues on the Committee on House Administration to assert our own jurisdiction more effectively and to push the other relevant committees to do the same. We need both more effective action, and better internal cooperation, to accomplish these goals.

TRIBUTE TO RETIRING REPRESENTATIVE CAL DOOLEY

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 6, 2004

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to have the opportunity tonight to join with my fellow members of the New Democrat Coalition in paying tribute to Representative CAL DOOLEY of California, who is retiring from Congress at the end of this year.

As the Almanac of American Politics 2004 edition described CAL: “The congressman from the 20th District is CAL DOOLEY, a Democrat first elected in 1990. He is a farmer, growing cotton, alfalfa and walnuts, as his great-grandfather did before him. In 1987 he became a staffer for Tulare state Senator Rose Ann Vuich. In 1990, he ran for Congress in a more Republican-leaning district. Luck was with him: The incumbent had accepted contributions from S&L operator Charles Keating and interceded on his behalf with regulators. DOOLEY won with a solid 55%. . . . DOOLEY’s endurance has been partly a testimonial to his moderate voting record, which is the most conservative of California Democrats. On the Agriculture and Resources committees, he tended to district interests. He was one of three committee Democrats to vote for RICHARD POMBO’s guest worker bill, and he supported lifting the ban on food sales to Cuba. He has co-chaired the Congressional Beef Caucus, the Western Water Caucus and the Biotechnology Caucus. He strongly backed PNTR with China and he worked closely with neighboring Congressman and Ways and Means Committee chairman BILL THOMAS to get Democratic votes for trade promotion authority in 2001 and 2002. . . . He sided with most Democrats in opposing the increased work requirements in the Republicans’ welfare bill. DOOLEY is active on local issues, including flood control projects, increased dam capacity, and additional funds for farm workers. . . .”

Most importantly, CAL DOOLEY was one of the founders and original co-chairs of the House New Democrat Coalition, which Politics in America’s 2004 edition described as “a growing group of moderate, pro-business lawmakers who say they seek bipartisan solutions. . . . It is a measure of DOOLEY’s reputation as a leader of centrist Democrats—he co-founded the New Democrat Coalition in 1997 along with Virginia’s JAMES P. MORAN and former Indiana Rep. TIM ROEMER—that his name was floated, during the disputed 2000 presidential election, as a potential appointee to either a Bush or a Gore administration.”

Mr. Speaker, CAL DOOLEY has been a friend and mentor of mine during the past 6 years I

have served in Congress. As a fellow member of Congress who has sought bipartisan solutions to the many difficult issues we have faced in this body, he has offered me wise counsel on many occasions and his leadership of the New Democrat Coalition in the House Democratic Caucus provided important leadership to all members of our Caucus. The people of CAL DOOLEY’s California congressional district have been very well served by his 14 years of representing them in Congress and I know they join with me and his colleagues in this body in wishing him all the best as he pursues a new career in the private sector. He will be missed in the halls of Congress. But CAL DOOLEY will not be forgotten.

HONORING CONGRESSMAN AMO HOUGHTON AND CONGRESSMAN JACK QUINN

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 19, 2004

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I address the House tonight to extend my best wishes and a fond farewell to my good friends and colleagues in the New York Congressional Delegation, Congressmen JACK QUINN and AMO HOUGHTON.

Beyond the insight, experience and professionalism these gentlemen brought to this body, they represented the very essence of what it means to represent New York State in Congress. They were loyal to their constituencies, and their voters were in turn loyal to them. Their policy expertise transcended ideological lines, and they understood that, in our corner of the world, good people are good people, regardless of party affiliation. People voted for them year-in and year out on account of who they were as people, and how hard they worked for Buffalo, Rochester, Corning and the Southern Tier. JACK and AMO have nearly 30 years’ worth of experience in Washington between them, and, though none of us like the fact that they are leaving us, we are all grateful to have been the beneficiaries of their good humor, wisdom, graciousness and friendship.

The U.S. Congress, New York State and our country are better off for having been represented by these two gentlemen. I’ve had the privilege of serving with JACK and AMO for a long time and feel fortunate to consider them good friends. It is my hope the other members of this body from New York and beyond recognize and applaud their service, friendship, and loyalty to those who have worked beside them along the way.

I know I will miss JACK QUINN and AMO HOUGHTON when the gavel falls to begin the 109th Congress; but I join my colleagues in wishing them the absolute best for whatever comes next. I take comfort, though in knowing that departure from this House will not signal the termination of their public service. Nor will it be the end of their involvement in the lives of the people they represented so well, for so many years.

So as we depart for the year and bring an end to the 108th Congress, I once again say good-bye and thank you to JACK and AMO while wishing them the very best for the future.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE
WATSON FEED STORE

HON. CHET EDWARDS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 6, 2004

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my most sincere congratulations to the historic Watson Feed Store in Mart, Texas on their recent Texas Historical Marker Dedication. After nearly a century of service to the Central Texas community, the Watson Feed Store has become a vital part of the social fabric of the Mart community and an inspiring example of the very best of Texas.

That the Watson Feed Store still stands today just as it was almost 100 years ago is truly remarkable and a reflection of the commitment and dedication of Murray Watson and family to preserve the history of this building for future generations. Watson's Feed Store is not only a historic reminder of the past, but an enduring symbol of the belief in community that Watson's Feed Store has come to represent.

Today, the Watson Feed Store is still a daily meeting place for many citizens of Mart, enjoying conversation and comfort in the building known as "home" to many, a living testament to the impact that Murray Watson and family continue to have on the Mart community.

I personally want to thank Murray Watson for his many years of friendship and the countless contributions he has made to the community of Mart and Central Texas. Murray Watson is a true Texas leader and there is no doubt that the state of Texas and the Nation would benefit greatly from more leaders like Murray in our communities.

REPORTS OF VOTING FRAUD AND
IRREGULARITIES

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 6, 2004

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, like many of my constituents, I am very concerned about the widespread reports of voting irregularities surrounding the recent election.

Reports about voter intimidation, discrimination, fraud, partisan election officials, misplaced ballots, discarded provisional ballots, malfunctioning electronic voting machines, delays in mailing absentee ballots, and countless other suspicious or illegal activities, all raise potential doubts about the legitimacy of our system of elections.

And there is mounting credible evidence that indeed some potentially illegal and fraudulent activity did occur before, during, and after the election.

That is why I have joined onto the efforts of my colleagues, Representatives JOHN CONYERS, JERROLD NADLER, and ROBERT WEXLER, in asking the GAO to investigate the 2004 election. And I am pleased to say that the GAO has agreed with the necessity and urgency of our request and is moving forward with a formal investigation.

As history has repeatedly shown, the right to vote and the right to have our votes counted are fundamental to our democratic system of government.

The moment that we become complacent and cease to insist on the fundamental value and equality of every individual vote is the moment that we begin to undermine the democratic ideal that this nation was founded upon.

That is why I believe it is so important to investigate any reports of voting irregularities.

And that is also why in July, I was one of the leaders in Congress to call for international monitors to observe our system of elections.

Although the administration refused to invite the United Nations to send an observation team, the 55 member Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) was invited.

While the OSCE was severely hamstrung in its ability to fully observe the election, according to their preliminary report, they did observe many of the same problems that were reported by the media.

I hope that with the GAO report, and the forthcoming report from the OSCE, we can take a hard look at our current election system and make a concerted bi-partisan effort to fix the problems that still clearly remain with us from the 2000 election.

As elected representatives of the people, we hold a sacred responsibility to every voter across this nation to ensure that their vote is counted and recorded properly.

We cannot, and we should not accept any flaws in our election process.

HONORING THE BIRTH OF HARPER
NATALIE BRUCKENTHAL

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 6, 2004

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the birth of Harper Natalie Bruckenthal. On Friday, November 19, 2004, this beautiful young girl was born to Patricia Bruckenthal, the widowed wife of Petty Officer 3rd Class Nathan Bruckenthal, an American hero lost to us in the conflict in Iraq. The birth of Harper Natalie Bruckenthal ensures that everything that was good about Nathan Bruckenthal will live on for another generation and many more to come. In that infant baby's eyes can be seen the images of her heroic father. It is tragic that she will grow up not knowing her father, but I hope that she will be able to find some comfort in his legacy and allow his spirit to guide her.

Today, I honor once more the sacrifice of Nathan Bruckenthal; I honor his wonderful wife Patricia, mother of his infant child; and, most importantly, I welcome his new daughter, Harper Natalie Bruckenthal, the child of an American hero, to our world. It is a better world because people like Nathan Bruckenthal answered the call to duty, made great sacrifices and met the greatest challenge posed to every generation: leaving behind a better world for their children.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 6, 2004

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, had I been present for the following votes on Satur-

day, November 20, 2004, I would have voted as follows:

Rollcall vote 538: I would have voted "nay" on waiving the House rule to allow for the same day consideration of legislation. Congress should follow the House rules and have adequate time to review legislation before casting its votes.

Rollcall vote 539: I would have voted "yea" on the resolution recognizing the Boy Scouts of America for the public service the organization performs for neighborhoods and communities across the United States.

Rollcall vote 540: I would have voted "nay" on the resolution waiving points of order against the conference report to accompany the fiscal 2005 omnibus appropriations bill.

Rollcall vote 541: I would have voted "yea" on passage of the Commercial Space Launch Amendments Act. While this legislation only allows the Federal Aviation Administration to regulate technologies that "have resulted in a serious or fatal injury," this will be an interesting test for safety regulations of a very narrow group of consumers who are aware of the risks they face.

Rollcall vote 542: I would have voted "yea" on passage of the fiscal 2005 omnibus appropriations bill. The uproar caused by the last-minute insertion of a provision opening up tax returns to the Appropriations Committee is not a surprise based on the manner in which the bill came to the floor under a "Martial Law" rule. Congress deserves the opportunity to have the time to thoroughly review bills before being asked to vote on them. While I disapprove of the manner in which the omnibus bill was brought to the floor, funding for the 15 governmental agencies receiving funding from this bill are indispensable to my district and the country.

TRIBUTE TO LANCE CORPORAL
DIMITRIOS GAVRIEL

HON. MARTIN T. MEEHAN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 6, 2004

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a fallen hero, LCpl Dimitrios Gavriel, of Haverhill, Massachusetts.

Lance Corporal Gavriel was killed in action during the conflict in Fallujah, Iraq, on November 19, 2004, only days after voluntarily returning to the battlefield from a shrapnel wound. "Dimmy," as he was known to those close to him, is survived by his mother, Penelope; his father, Chris; and his sister, Christina.

Dimmy's family describes him as a deep thinker with big dreams. A quote from his diary says it all: "I have heard that Great Men often kept journals—I'd like to be great."

After losing two friends in the September 11th terrorist attacks, Dimmy knew he wanted to make a difference in the world by joining the Marine Corps. When the service turned him down because of lingering injuries from his days as a high school wrestling champion, he wrote a letter to his local recruiting office pleading for them to reconsider. He would go on to turn down a lucrative career on Wall Street for the chance to serve our country as a Marine.

Mr. Speaker, there is perhaps no better way to pay our respects to Dimmy Gavriel than to

insert a poem of his into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD entitled "The Leader," in which he explores the themes of leadership and greatness. May Congress forever remember the greatness of this young man through his words as well as his heroic actions.

THE LEADER

(By Dimmy Gavriel)

How will words of beauty
Sprout root on deafened ears?
When many choose to follow
And so few dare to lead
Forsaken dreams lie prisoners
In vapid minds left blank
Of countless, breathing numbers
Lined up along the track
And then there are the dreamers
Who see beyond the shroud
Distinct are they among us
They shuffle through the crowd
Hope lives among so few
Yet strong it is I know
For I am still a dreamer
Along the track I go

RECOGNIZING THE NEW HARTFORD HIGH SCHOOL BOYS VARSITY SOCCER TEAM

HON. SHERWOOD BOEHLERT

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 6, 2004

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the New Hartford High School Boys Varsity Soccer team. On Sunday, November 21, 2004, the team concluded an amazing season by winning the New York State Public High School Athletic Association Class A Title.

The New Hartford Spartans Varsity Soccer team boasted a 21–2–2 record at the end of the season thanks to the leadership of Coach Christopher Abdoo and Team Captains Andrew Donovan, Stephen Peck, and Matthew Pecheone. Due to the outstanding efforts of the Spartans, they remained undefeated at home and set team records for fewest goals scored against in a season and most wins in a season.

I would also like to recognize Team Captain Matthew Pecheone, and Goalkeeper Max Silberlicht for their outstanding individual achievements. Matthew Pecheone set both the school record for number of goals scored in a season and total number of points in a season. Max Silberlicht set the record for the most shutouts in school history by a goalkeeper.

The title match against the Jericho Jayhawks went into four overtime periods, ending in a draw and both teams holding the title "State Champions". After a game-tying goal in the second-half, the New Hartford Spartans tied the game due to the same tenacious defense that set the school record for fewest goals allowed. I commend the players and coaching staff of the New Hartford Spartan Boys Varsity Soccer team for the hard work, training, and dedication. Congratulations, we are very proud of you.

The 2004 New Hartford High School Boys Varsity Soccer team members include: Mike Alcott, Eric Anderson, Aaren Ashmore, Nick Bergmann, Hans Bjerke, Mihir Buch, Anish Butala, Andrew Donovan, Matthew Eadline, Brandon Goodman, Erik Jerrard, Milind

Kachare. Michael Matt, Mike Payne, Christopher Pecheone, Matthew Pecheone, Steven Peck, John Picano, Max Silberlicht and Andrew Tubis. Head Coach: Christopher Abdoo.

TRIBUTE TO CONGRESSMAN KLECZKA

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 6, 2004

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a fellow Member and friend, Congressman JERRY KLECZKA, and to congratulate him on his twenty years of outstanding service to those in Wisconsin's 4th Congressional District.

Since the age of twenty-four, Mr. KLECZKA has been active in the public service sector and has served in the House of Representatives since 1984. Mr. KLECZKA has made a timeless effort to serve his constituents and has demonstrated his commitment to serve those in his local community by becoming a member of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, the Brady Street Area Association, and America's Black Holocaust Museum.

Mr. KLECZKA has illustrated his desire to meet the needs of his constituents by addressing a variety of issues while serving in the House of Representatives. The people of southeast Wisconsin were once faced with the severe problem of elderly abuse in public housing complexes. Recognizing the severity of this situation, Mr. KLECZKA fought back with strong legislation resulting in Milwaukee becoming the first city in the nation to provide elderly-only public housing.

Mr. KLECZKA has demonstrated not only his desire to improve the health and well-being of elderly in unsafe living conditions, but he has also fought for measures to decrease health care costs and increase personal privacy for deserving Americans.

Mr. KLECZKA has also displayed his leadership capabilities by representing not just those in his district, but all citizens from Wisconsin by serving on the House Ways and Means Committee. This committee has allowed him to take an active role in the legislative process and effectively serve the people of Wisconsin.

Mr. KLECZKA has served in the House of Representatives in a respectful manner, and his creative insight for implementing new policy and unselfish dedication to serving others will be greatly missed but not forgotten.

To the Wisconsin delegation, the retirement of JERRY KLECZKA may feel like the Packers losing the leadership and dedication of their head coach Mike Sherman. It will be very difficult to follow in the footsteps of Mr. KLECZKA; however, I am confident that my fellow Wisconsin members will follow the example Jerry Kleczka began twenty years ago.

I want to thank JERRY for his leadership and his friendship. I wish him the best of luck on his new endeavors.

THE AMERICAN PHYSICAL SOCIETY'S REPORT ON THE MOON-MARS PROGRAM

HON. CHRISTOPHER SHAYS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 6, 2004

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, in November 2004, the American Physical Society (APS) released a report on the MoonMars program. The report reached many important conclusions and I encourage my colleagues to review APS's findings.

Currently, NASA's agenda is set by the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) Decadal Surveys. The panel is comprised of outstanding scientists who represent the full range of research within astronomy.

According to the report, the scope of the Moon-Mars initiative has not been well defined, its long-term cost has not been adequately addressed, and no budgetary mechanisms have been established to avoid causing damage to NASA's scientific program.

To accommodate the Moon-Mars initiative, NASA has already begun to reprogram its existing budget, resulting in indefinite postponement or delay of scientific programs that were assigned high priority by the NAS decadal studies.

The consensus achieved by the committee is that the recent success of the Mars Rovers demonstrate that we can use robotic means to address many scientific questions. The panel also found that human exploration has a role in NASA, but it must be within a balanced program in which funding is distributed to other initiatives as well.

APS makes 3 recommendations, which I encourage Members of Congress to take into consideration as we continue the debate on the President's Moon-Mars proposal.

First, NASA should continue to be guided by the recommendations of the NAS decadal studies in formulating its science programs.

Second, before the United States commits to the Moon-Mars proposal, a review of the initiative's science impact should be carried out by the NAS.

Finally, before the United States commits to the Moon-Mars proposal, the GAO should estimate the likely budgetary impact.

Given our country's fiscal challenges, I do not think we can afford manned flights to other planets at this time. I am willing to support more unmanned space flights, provided their mission goals are well-defined.

It seems to me NASA's activities should be driven by science, not destinations. This report provides important information on NASA's future and I strongly encourage my colleagues to read it and take the findings into consideration as we continue the debate on Moon-Mars.

HONORING WENDY ABRAMS

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 6, 2004

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Wendy Abrams of Highland Park, Illinois, on the occasion of her 40th birthday.

I have long admired Wendy for her dedication to our community, particularly with respect to safeguarding the environment. She is committed to making the world a better place and ensuring that future generations of Americans will inherit a thriving and healthy planet.

Wendy has worked on both the national and local level to protect the environment—on issues ranging from conservation to climate change and the impact of environmental policies on the developing world. She is highly knowledgeable about current environmental issues and a passionate advocate for positive change.

Wendy is a member of the National Council of Environmental Defense, an organization that finds ways to preserve our environment while also strengthening the economy, such as market incentives that reward governments and businesses for lowering pollution levels.

In addition, Wendy is a member of the National Advisory Council of the Sierra Club Foundation, which is dedicated to preserving wildlife and promoting responsible use of the Earth's ecosystems and resources.

Wendy's interests and influence reach beyond environmental concerns to include other matters important in our community. For example, she has been an active participant in the Holocaust Education Foundation and is an owner of Medline Industries, Inc., a private medical equipment distributor. Wendy has always expressed a strong interest in effective health care reform as well as a broad array of other important public policy initiatives.

Mr. Speaker, Wendy Abrams is helping to make the world a safe and healthy place for our children. I am proud to call Wendy a good friend, and I thank her for her contributions to public service. I wish Wendy, her husband Jimmy, and their four children continued good fortune on the occasion of her 40th birthday.

COMMENDING WHITKO HIGH SCHOOL ART STUDENTS

HON. MARK E. SOUDER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 6, 2004

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the artistic achievements of students at Whitko High School in South Whitley, Indiana. Whitko High School was one of 11 schools in the United States that recently participated in the 35th World School Children's Art Exhibition in the Republic of China, Taipei. The purpose of the exhibition is to promote mutual understanding and friendship among the younger generation of the world.

It is a tremendous honor for Whitko High School students to be recognized for their artistic abilities on an international level, especially considering 47 countries were represented at the exhibition.

I'd now like to recognize by name each of the eight Whitko students who participated in the competition: Renae Banks, Julianne Haines, Wendy Chalk, Amanda Crosser, Callista Duggins, Kylee Brown, Jill Wendel, and Shannon Sleighter. Two of these students—Julianne Haines and Shannon Sleighter—were recognized by the World School Children's Art Exhibition for their outstanding artistic skill and talent and were awarded selected medals for their work. I send them my sincere congratulations.

I also commend Whitko High School's art teacher Walter C. Malicki for his dedication and enthusiasm. Under his guidance, Whitko High School students have received 32 national and 97 international awards. These honors are due, in large part, to Mr. Malicki's leadership and the encouragement he gives each of his students.

Once again, I extend my congratulations to the Whitko High School art students for their achievements in the 35th World School Children's Art Exhibition.

TRIBUTE TO THE EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT CELEBRATING 70 YEARS OF REGIONAL PARKS

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 6, 2004

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, my East Bay California colleagues Mr. GEORGE MILLER, Mrs. ELLEN TAUSCHER, and Ms. BARBARA LEE, join with me to recognize the 70th anniversary of the East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD), headquartered in Oakland, California. The Park District spans Alameda and Contra Costa Counties and encompasses 1,745 square miles on the eastern side of San Francisco.

In 1934, a unique "regional park" concept, unheard of at the time, was presented to the voters on a November ballot measure. A vote for the proposed new Park District meant an increased five-cent tax on every \$100 worth of property. Even in the economic hardships of the Great Depression, where a nickel still went a long way, citizens approved the initiative by a 2½ to 1 margin and the Park District was created.

The East Bay Regional Park District opened its first three parks in 1936, which included present-day Tilden Regional Park, Sibley Volcanic Preserve and Lake Temescal. Redwood Park was added to the list of parks a few years later.

In the intervening years, the Park District grew from seven cities—Alameda, Albany, Berkeley, Emeryville, Oakland, Piedmont and San Leandro—to encompass all of Alameda and Contra Costa counties.

Today, the East Bay Regional Park District is the largest local park agency in the United States. It encompasses over 95,000 acres of parkland in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties for outdoor recreation, wildlife habitat, and nature education.

The Park District's vision is to "preserve a priceless heritage of natural and cultural resources, open space, parks and trails for the future and will set aside park areas for enjoyment and healthful recreation for generations to come. EBRPD states "an environmental ethic guides us in all that we do."

The Park District's core mission is to "acquire, develop, manage, and maintain a high quality, diverse system of interconnected parklands which balances public usage and education programs with protection and preservation of our natural and cultural resources."

The vision and mission of the East Bay Regional Parks continues to be achieved with commitment and efficiency. For 70 years, the East Bay Regional Parks has been dedicated to preserving open space and offering enjoy-

able and healthy recreation opportunities for local residents.

We join in honoring the individuals whose vision created an unprecedented Regional Park System and the individuals who continue to ensure the East Bay Regional Park District's success.

IN MEMORY OF DOLLY NASH, A DISTINGUISHED AMERICAN

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 6, 2004

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise to remember a distinguished South Carolinian, Janet Dolly Nash. Dolly Nash and her husband always flew the American flag at their home in Beaufort, South Carolina. She was a proud American. Not long ago, Dolly "passed" (a term often used in my state). She died in Cape May, New Jersey, a community with which Beaufort shared her. A retired school teacher, Dolly gave of her wide knowledge to many others—others who will remember her and her lessons of life.

Dolly Nash believed it was her mission to promote the legacy of her great grandfather, Robert Smalls, a legend in the Beaufort area. Despite his status as a slave of only 23 years of age, Robert Smalls learned to be a pilot in Charleston Harbor. During the Civil War, he "commandeered" the Confederate vessel *Planter* and delivered it to Union forces. He rose to the rank of major general in the South Carolina militia. After the war he founded the Republican Party in the Beaufort area and was elected to the United States House of Representatives. In April of this year, the Army Supply Ship, *Major General Robert Smalls*, was christened in Mississippi, the first Army vessel to bear the name of a black American.

"Dolly was everywhere, just like sunshine," says Delores Nevils of St. Helena, South Carolina, a close friend of Dolly's and herself a fine American. In a recent article in the Beaufort Gazette, Mrs. Nevils extolled Dolly and described her extensive service to her community. As Mrs. Nevils described it, at her 75th birthday party, Dolly gave gifts rather than received them. Dolly Nash gave many gifts to many people in her lifetime. She herself was a gift to the people of Beaufort, of South Carolina and of America. I would like to share with you the memory of Dolly Nash.

TRIBUTE TO SHIRLEY CONNOLLY

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 6, 2004

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Shirley Connolly, who was recently honored with the prestigious St. Madeleine Sophie Medal by the Schools of the Sacred Heart in Atherton, California.

Shirley was born in Helena, Montana and became a San Franciscan at the age of seven. She graduated from the San Francisco College for Women, better known as Lone Mountain College, with a Bachelor's Degree in History and World Literature, and later received a Master's from Lone Mountain in

American History. Shirley also completed graduate courses in Education at Boston University and Harvard University.

Shirley's heart was always with Lone Mountain and she continued her dedication to her alma mater, always being a shining example of her willingness to take on a tough job whenever needed. After Lone Mountain closed, official alumnae activities understandably waned and it became difficult to keep graduates and faculty in touch with one another. This became Shirley Connolly's challenge. She has worked hard to preserve this community, leading the Alumnae Association for many years and enabling students and their RSCJ teachers to continue or rekindle their Lone Mountain relationships.

Shirley began her own teaching career over 40 years ago at St. Joseph's School in Atherton. After 4 years at Lone Mountain and 3 years in the Religious Formation Program, Shirley was ready, willing and able to begin her career educating girls and young women. Her first teaching assignment was a classroom of 35 eighth-grade girls and boys. Shirley's warmth and wisdom were more than a match for the eighth graders, and this was the beginning of her long and tremendously successful relationship with St. Joseph's.

Shirley spent 2 years in what was then Menlo Park, and then moved to San Francisco where she served as a teacher, Dean of Students and Director of Studies at the Schools of the Sacred Heart there. After a brief stint in Newton, Massachusetts, Shirley joined the California Province of the Sacred Heart. This role gave her the opportunity to develop one of her greatest gifts, the ability to train teachers. Even today, she is highly regarded and remembered throughout the Sacred Heart community for this skill. One of her pupils described her as someone who had the common sense to sort through all the academic training and understand and pass on what young teachers really needed to know. After this stint with the Province, Shirley returned to Menlo Park in 1973, serving as Principal of the high school under Sister Nancy Morris until 1975.

In 1976, Shirley set off on a new path, joining the Catholic Telemedia Network in Menlo Park. She stayed with CTN until 2002, rising through several positions to become General Manager for her last 10 years there.

Shirley has a gift for combining crystal clarity and great wisdom with diplomacy, humility and kindness. She is the most generous, selfless person one could ever know. She is always available to assist whomever needs help, whenever they need it, without question, complaint, or regard to her own needs.

Shirley has been the best friend to the resident of Oakwood over the years, always dropping whatever she is doing to help with whatever needs to be done. She served as Chair of its Board of Directors for several years, and has recently accepted an invitation to return to this Board.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this great and good woman, Shirley Connolly, as she is honored with the St. Madeleine Sophie Medal.

RECOGNIZING THE WEEDSPORT HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. SHERWOOD BOEHLERT

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 6, 2004

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Weedsport High School football team for their outstanding achievements and victory in the New York State Class D Championships.

The No. 1 ranked Weedsport Warriors finished their season undefeated, with an impressive 13-0 record. Setting another milestone, this is also the first state championship in school history to be awarded to any team sport.

Their 22-21 victory over the Tuckahoe Tigers was an amazing feat. After the Tuckahoe Tigers claimed the lead during the 4th quarter, the Warriors were able to narrow that lead on a heroic 83-yard kickoff return by senior Brad Bach. Trailing 21-20, the Warriors opted to attempt a crucial two-point conversion that would give them the lead, thanks to the speed and agility of junior quarterback Mike Coolbaugh. The Weedsport Warriors spent the remainder of the game maintaining an impregnable defense and refusing to buckle under the pressure of the determined Tuckahoe offense.

I commend the coaching staff and the players of the Weedsport Warriors for all of their training and dedication to the game. Congratulations; I am proud of all of you and your achievements.

The 2004 Weedsport High School football team members include: Roster: Brad Bach, Brandon Bach, Jeff Bibbens, Mike Bond, Robert Bradtke, Mike Case, Chris Chorny, Mike Coolbaugh, Mike Davis, Matt Drury, Matt Duby, Kerry Green, Brandon Magill, Mike Maltese, Ken McCloud, John Meitz, Troy Nelson, Tyler Nevidomsky, Jeff Whiting, Dave Roden, Ed Rooker, Jim Scarbrough, Adam Sweet, Jeff Whiting, Jeff Williams, and Ryan Wright. Coach: Calvin Mosher. Assistant Coaches: Tim Spingler, Jason Trousedale.

TRIBUTE TO CONGRESSMAN DOOLEY OF CALIFORNIA

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 6, 2004

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have had the opportunity to serve with such an outstanding Member of Congress over the past eight years. I would like to congratulate him on his retirement from the United States House of Representatives at the close of the 108th Congress. Serving with him in Congress has been an honor, and I hope to maintain our friendship in the upcoming years.

Since coming to Congress in 1997, I have had the pleasure to work with CAL on numerous issues in addition to building and growing the influence of the New Democrat Coalition (NDC). If there is one word that best represents CAL, it is integrity. Upon my arrival in Washington, DC, I immediately turned to him as both a mentor and a friend. As founder and co-chair of the NDC, he was always a respected voice on critical issues.

The NDC, through CAL's leadership, transformed how the Democratic party worked in the late 1990s. Intent on modernizing both the Democratic party and the country, New Democrats support policies that expand economic growth and see that all Americans have the opportunity to benefit from that growth; ensure a fiscally responsible and efficient government; secure the homefront; and advance a robust foreign policy that includes trade, constructive U.S. leadership throughout the world, and a modern and strong military. As a testament of CAL's leadership, the Clinton Administration frequently sought allies in the NDC. The Clinton Administration turned to the NDC for the critical support of the coalition's major legislation initiatives such as welfare reform and trade with China.

CAL is a fourth-generation farmer and partner in his family farm, growing cotton, alfalfa and walnuts at his farm in California's San Joaquin Valley. Through his tenure in the House, CAL has concentrated heavily on Agriculture issues. During the last farm bill, I served on the Agriculture Committee and was able to see firsthand how knowledgeable he is when it comes to farm policy. I look forward to working with him again on the next farm bill in his new role as the President and CEO of National Food Processors Association (NFPA). The NFPA is extraordinarily lucky to get one of the top leaders in food policy today.

CAL, in addition to his other accomplishments, is a great student of the big issues facing our country today. As long as I have known him, he has always had a willingness to dive into new subject matters and learn them as quickly as possible.

I want to thank CAL for his leadership and his friendship. I wish him the best of luck on his new endeavors.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4818, CONSOLIDATED APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRISTOPHER SHAYS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, November 20, 2004

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, I support the Fiscal Year 2005 Omnibus Appropriations Act, but I would like to state my opposition to the Weldon refusal clause provision.

The Weldon provision would exempt health care companies from any federal, state or local government law that ensures women have access to reproductive health services, including information about abortion.

If passed, this provision would have many negative effects.

It would override federal Title X guidelines that ensure women receive full medical information. A fundamental principle of Title X, the national family planning program, ensures pregnant women who request information about all their medical options, including abortion, be given that information, including a referral upon patient request.

I am also concerned this bill does not include an increase in funding for Title X. Each year approximately 4.5 million low-income women and men receive basic health care through 4,600 clinics nationwide that receive Title X funds. This program reduces unintended pregnancies and makes abortion less

necessary. Had funding for Title X kept pace with inflation since 1980, with no additional increases, it would be funded today at double its current budget.

While Title X is receiving flat funding from last year, H.R. 4818 gives abstinence-only programs an increase of \$35 million. Unlike Title X, abstinence-only programs do not provide clinical health services.

Additionally, research shows comprehensive sex-education programs, which teach both abstinence and contraception, are the most effective. There is no federal program that earmarks dollars for comprehensive sex education.

I support a woman's right to choose whether to terminate a pregnancy subject to *Roe v. Wade*.

Abortion is a very personal decision. While a woman's doctor, clergy, friends, family, and public officials may have an opinion, the ultimate decision rests solely with her. It is vital for every woman to have access to as much information as she needs in order to make this decision.

While I support the bill, I oppose these provisions and amendments.

HONORING DENNIS H.
HOLTSCHNEIDER

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 6, 2004

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the inauguration of The Reverend Dennis H. Holtschneider, C.M., as the eleventh president of DePaul University, on Saturday, November 20 at the Harris Theater for Music and Dance School. Father Holtschneider became DePaul University's eleventh president on July 1, 2004, following the distinguished eleven-year tenure of the past president, Father John P. Minogue.

Father Holtschneider's background is as impressive as his future at DePaul is promising. He received his doctoral in administration, planning and social policy from Harvard University in 1997 after writing a dissertation on the early history of financial aid in the United States. He was also a case researcher and writer for Harvard's schools of Education, Medicine and Public Health.

Since 2000, he has served as executive vice president and chief operating officer at Niagara University in Niagara Falls, New York, where he directed the university's strategic planning efforts and daily operations of the campus. Prior to his role at Niagara, Father Holtschneider served as an assistant professor of higher education in the Graduate School of Education and as the associate dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at St. John's University.

Father Holtschneider joins DePaul at an exciting time in the school's 106-year history. Steady enrollment growth has earned DePaul distinction as the largest Catholic university in the United States and the seventh-largest private university in the country, fulfilling DePaul's academic mission to expand access to quality educational programs to a diverse student body. As DePaul concludes its stra-

tegic planning, known as Vision 2006, Father Holtschneider will share his expertise to help shape the university's future initiatives.

Father Holtschneider has led two national studies of American Catholic colleges and universities, examining trends in governance and leadership, and he consults on these matters with university boards of trustees and sponsoring religious congregations. He is the author and co-author of one book and numerous articles on U.S. higher education and Catholic higher education, as well as a frequent speaker on these topics.

On behalf of the Fifth Congressional District of Illinois, I wish Father Holtschneider continued success at DePaul University and look forward to working with him as the university continues to grow and excel in a broad variety of disciplines. I am very proud to represent DePaul in the House of Representatives and once again congratulate Father Holtschneider on his inauguration as president of the university.

CONGRATULATING JAMES W.
PYLES ON HIS ELECTION AS
CHAIRMAN OF SCORE

HON. MARK E. SOUDER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 6, 2004

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my congratulations to Mr. James W. Pyles of Elkhart, Indiana, for his recent election as board chairman of the Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE). Mr. Pyles is the first African-American to lead this national nonprofit organization in its 40-year history, and I know he will lead SCORE well in its efforts to train and counsel small business owners and entrepreneurs.

Mr. Pyles is an energetic and passionate man who believes strongly in the mission of SCORE. His 34-year experience in the sales and marketing departments at Bayer Corporation, in addition to his experience as a manager of a real estate management firm, will serve him well in his new capacity as board chairman.

SCORE, which is funded by Congress, celebrates its 40th anniversary this year. During its existence, SCORE has assisted more than 6.7 million Americans with online and face-to-face small business counseling. There are 800 offices nationwide with more than 12,500 volunteer counselors who provide individual counseling and business workshops for aspiring entrepreneurs and small business owners.

Small businesses are critical to this nation's economy, having generated 60 to 80 percent of the net new jobs annually over the past decade. Small businesses also employ 50 percent of the country's private workforce and represent more than 97 percent of all exporters of goods.

I commend SCORE for its efforts to strengthen and assist small businesses across the country, and I urge more people to use SCORE services or get involved as a volunteer counselor.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to include a copy of the press announcement regarding Mr. Pyles' election to the chairmanship of SCORE in today's CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. And, I

urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. Pyles on his recent election. We wish him the best in his 2-year service as SCORE board chairman.

JAMES W. PYLES ELECTED BOARD CHAIR OF
SCORE

FIRST AFRICAN-AMERICAN TO LEAD SCORE IN ITS
40-YEAR HISTORY

WASHINGTON, DC.—SCORE announces the election of James W. Pyles of Elkhart, Ind., as the board chair for this national nonprofit organization dedicated to small business counseling and training. He is the first African-American to lead the Service Corps of Retired Executives in its 40-year history.

SCORE, which is funded by Congress, provides free business counseling as well as workshops and seminars to more than 350,000 aspiring and existing small business owners. SCORE has a national network of 10,500 volunteers, each with business management and small business experience. Pyles will lead SCORE's efforts to increase the number of entrepreneurs it serves, improve quality and recruit new volunteers to SCORE.

Pyles spent 34 years in sales and marketing positions with the Bayer Corporation, his last position as manager of consumer promotion. Prior to retirement, he became an entrepreneur by opening his own real estate management firm. He previously served for three years on the Board of Directors for the Promotion Marketing Association of America.

Pyles joined SCORE in 1996. He has been an active leader in his local SCORE chapter and served on national quality and marketing committees and the SCORE Association Board of Directors for the past three years, as Chair of the SCORE Board Nominating Committee and most recently as board vice chair.

Jim Pyles says, "SCORE will forge ahead on a course to pursue maximum client satisfaction and increase the number of entrepreneurs we serve. I believe in the American dream of owning a small business and SCORE helps small business owners successfully pursue their dreams."

According to SCORE CEO Ken Yancey, "Jim has a depth of business knowledge and experience. His service on the SCORE Board of Directors is a tremendous asset. He will expand SCORE's service to entrepreneurs and he will help SCORE recruit new volunteers to join SCORE's mission of aiding entrepreneurs through small business training and mentoring in the United States."

Pyles' accomplished business career is rivaled by his commitment to community service. His current involvements include leadership service for the following organizations: The Samaritan Center, Goshen College Community Advisory Group, and the Elkhart SCORE Chapter. Pyles is a life member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity. Pyles, a graduate of Crispus Attucks High School, earned his undergraduate degree at the Butler University College of Pharmacy and his MBA at Indiana Wesleyan University.

Since 1964, the SCORE Association has assisted more than 6.5 million aspiring entrepreneurs and small business owners through counseling and business workshops. More than 10,500 volunteer business counselors serve their communities through entrepreneur education dedicated to the formation, growth and success of small businesses. For more information about starting or operating a small business, call 1-800-634-0245 for the SCORE chapter nearest you. Or visit SCORE on the Web at www.score.org.

THE ANATOMY OF MYTH

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 6, 2004

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, much has been written and said about the role "moral values" played in the outcome of the 2004 presidential election. I'd like to recommend the attached article from Sunday's Washington Post Outlook section to my colleagues. The author, Dick Meyer, Editorial Director for CBSNews.com, writes about how this focus on "moral values" is, "a neat theory—but wrong."

As many of us seek to evaluate this past election, I urge my colleagues to read this article. I agree with the author that this moral values perspective has been greatly overblown and does a disservice to a more thorough evaluation of the election.

[From washingtonpost.com, Dec. 5, 2004]

THE ANATOMY OF MYTH—HOW DID ONE EXIT POLL ANSWER BECOME THE STORY OF HOW BUSH WON? GOOD QUESTION.

(By Dick Meyer)

Social and intellectual conventions are supposed to settle slowly, but conventional wisdom can congeal instantly and without much wisdom. That's what has happened over the past several weeks with a prevailing interpretation of this year's presidential election—the great moral values theory.

The Big Political Idea of the '04 election goes something like this: "Moral values" turned out to be the most important issue to voters, not the economy or the Iraq war or terrorism. President Bush won because a legion of "values voters"—whose growing numbers escaped the attention of an inattentive media—preferred him. The Democrats are doomed until they can woo the voters who belong to this new political force.

It's a neat theory—but wrong. How it came to be regarded as the real story of Bush's victory is a fascinating and sobering example of journalism's quest for freshness and surprise.

Here's the simple fact: The evidence that moral values determined the election rests on a single dodgy exit poll question. And it's not at all clear that more voters are preoccupied with moral values now than were fretting about "family values" on Election Day 1996, when exit pollsters included that phrase in a question about "priorities for the new administration." But in the often arid and repetitive arena of American political ideas, fun new contestants can be hard to disqualify. The myth of the moral values election is proving hard to snuff out.

The mantra was in full hum on election night. Television commentators were understandably struck by the results of the question asked of almost 7,000 voters as they left their polling places: "Which one issue mattered most in deciding how you voted for president?" The most cited issue on the list of seven options offered to those surveyed was "moral values" at 22 percent; 80 percent of these voters went for President Bush, 18 percent for Democratic nominee John Kerry. "Economy/jobs" came next on the list at 20 percent, followed by terrorism (19 percent), Iraq (15 percent) and then health care, taxes and education in single digits.

Brian Healy was the CBS News producer covering the exit polls, something he has done in many elections. He recalled that everyone was surprised that moral values topped the list as the numbers came in, but it wasn't until about 4 a.m. that someone quite innocently asked, "What exactly are 'moral values'?"

Too late. The story line was already set. And the surprise nature of the moral values result boosted its allure for the commentariat. When the newspapers could finally write definitive headlines, the notion that moral values was a synonym for various conservative positions became a given—as did its decisive effect on the outcome of the contest. "Faith, Values Fueled Win," reported the Chicago Tribune. "'Values voters' key to Bush re-election," declared the Fort Worth Star Telegram. "Moral Values Decide Election," the Tri-Valley Herald in northern California told its online readers.

From the modest experiment of one exit poll question, a Unified Theory of Election 2004 was hatched. Pundits began to spread the word. "Ethics and moral values were ascendant last night—on voters' minds, in Americans' hearts," William J. Bennett wrote in a column posted in the National Review Online at 11:09 a.m. on the morning after the election—even before Kerry's concession and Bush's victory speech.

Several days later, American Prospect Executive Editor Michael Tomasky expressed the apocalyptic Democratic interpretation in his column: "The reelection of a president such as George W. Bush for the reasons the exit polls tell us he evidently won is a culminating event in the political retreat of modernity, a condition of existence whose fundamental tenet was the triumph of scientific skepticism over what used to be called 'blind faith.'" Wow.

And on CNN's "Crossfire," co-host Tucker Carlson opened the Nov. 5 show with this categorical assessment: "Three days after the presidential election, it is clear that it was not the war on terror, but the issue of what we're calling moral values that drove President Bush and other Republicans to victory this week."

Some reporters were even apologetic for missing the big story. "Somewhere along the line, all of us missed this moral values thing," said CNN's Candy Crowley in a speech to a Florida audience.

Political reporters may have many things to atone for, but missing "the moral values thing" is not one of them. Plenty of commentators have tried to spike this dogma (including me in one of my columns), but it has proved a stubborn adversary. Let's take another swing at it.

Yes, the issues boiled down into the code phrase "moral values" were a factor in this election. There are voters passionately concerned with gay marriage and abortion, and an overwhelming number of them supported President Bush. It's also clear that gay marriage ballot initiatives energized these voters, as did Republican efforts to get out that vote.

But the size and impact of that cohort has been exaggerated. And the impact of other issues (war, terrorism) and leadership qualities was minimized. That's mostly because of oddities in the exit poll, but also because this Big Political Idea conforms to what some Republican strategists are peddling (and their interpretation has the added credibility that winners get in writing history). It also fits neatly the red/blue, "two Americas" school of thought, which projects the country as deeply divided and at war over cultural issues.

If the national exit poll had been worded differently, moral values would not have been the top issue and this argument wouldn't be happening.

If, for example, one of the choices on the exit poll list combined "terrorism" and "Iraq," it probably would have been the top concern and nobody would be talking about moral values.

If economy/jobs and taxes were one item instead of two, it might have been the win-

ner. Who knows what the exit poll would have found if "truth in government" were an option. Or "character."

And, most, importantly, the definition of moral values is in the eye of the evaluator. Most voters probably did think moral values meant being against gay marriage, stem cell research and late-term abortion; but others undoubtedly thought it meant helping poor people or not invading Iraq. For some, moral values may have referred to character attributes of the candidates. It is a bit of a Rorschach test. Moral values are not a discrete, clear political issue to be set next to taxes or terrorism; it's public-opinion apples and oranges.

Gary Langer, the polling director for ABC News who helped design the exit poll but objected to including the moral values option on the issues list, pointed out some of these flaws in a Nov. 6 op-ed for the New York Times. He argued that "this hot-button catch phrase had no place alongside defined political issues on the list of most important concerns in the 2004 vote. Its presence there created a deep distortion—one that threatens to misinform the political discourse for years to come."

Now, to the hard question: Are there more values voters than there used to be?

In 2000, the consortium that ran the national exit poll did not list "moral values" as an option on their issues menu. At that time, it would have been seen as a question about Bill and Monica, and so pretty useless. So it's hard to know whether the slice of the electorate concerned with such matters has grown during President Bush's term.

We do know that in the 1996 question about the next administration's priorities, "family values" was tops for 17 percent (behind the winner, "health of the economy," at 21 percent), and that group largely went for Bob Dole. So you could argue that the 17 percent whose top worry was family values and went heavily Republican turned into 22 percent worried about moral values in 2004. That's a slight shift, but hardly a cultural tsunami—and remember, no one asked these voters for their definition of family values then, or moral values now.

Nonetheless, analysts have been surfing on tidal-wave conclusions. It has become a breast-beating crisis for Democrats that the values voters who were 22 percent of the electorate went for the Republican by a crushing margin, 80 percent to 18 percent. By that logic, it must follow that it's a crisis for Republicans that the 20 percent who care most about the economy and jobs went 80-18 for the Democrat.

Or perhaps it's a crisis for the Republicans that the 45 percent slice of the electorate that describes itself as moderate went for Kerry 54-45? Or that first-time voters went 53-46 for Kerry? So many crises, so few facts to support them.

Voting behavior does divvy up Americans into certain patterns. Rural residents and heavy churchgoers vote Republican. City people and church-avoiders vote Democratic. But these cleavages have persisted in several elections. Moral values didn't just seep into the drinking water.

Yet the myth persists. Sometimes it's perpetuated by partisans claiming that Democrats are hostile to values voters. "There simply aren't enough voters in Berkeley, Santa Monica, Santa Fe, Manhattan and Cambridge to offset the many concerned evangelicals, Catholics and Jews in the rest of the nation for whom moral values are a determining issue," wrote Richard A. Viguier and David Franke in a Nov. 15 Los Angeles Times op-ed.

Sometimes it's perpetuated by those looking at the red and blue divide. Even after many debunking pieces came out, a story in

the Rochester Democrat and Chronicle about strained relations in the Christian community noted that "it has gotten stickier than ever in the aftermath of a presidential election in which moral values played a key role in keeping George W. Bush in the White House."

A Nov. 22 op-ed in *Newsday* by political scientist Laura R. Olson also took off from the fatal assumption. "The much-touted exit poll finding that moral values were the most important Election Day concern of 22 percent of voters highlights the fact that a sizable number of Americans expect political leaders to offer a prophetic vision," she wrote. I'm not picking on her; that's just one example of many I could have cited.

Other scholars have tried to put the exit poll question in perspective. Lawrence R. Jacobs, a political science professor and director of the 2004 Election Project at the University of Minnesota, wrote: "The initial conclusion of media commentators that 'moral values' determined the outcome of the 2004 presidential election was off the mark, neglecting the impacts of partisanship and the economy."

Despite the best efforts of myth-busters, the moral values doctrine has morphed from a simple poll finding to a grand explanatory theory to gospel truth. This contaminated strain of punditry needs to be eradicated before it spreads further.

REMEMBERING REED IRVINE

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 6, 2004

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, as America has experienced a presidential election marred by shocking media bias, it is a sad reminder how important Reed Irvine's visionary role has been to promote fairness. Never before has the need been greater with CBS News presenting forged military records as fact, with *The New York Times* contriving an October surprise hoax to slander America's troops, with multiple news organizations gleefully producing fraudulent exit polls to influence voters, and with the Public Broadcasting System hysterically forecasting on election night a coup by Bush supporters. Despite these attacks, the voters knew better and President Bush prevailed.

Fortunately, the propaganda purveyors have been unmasked by Reed Irvine with the assistance of courageous magazines, talk radio, bloggers, and Fox News.

It is particularly fitting that the below obituary was prepared by the noted and courageous, crusading journalist John Gizzi in *Human Events* for the week of November 22, 2004.

DEATH OF A WATCHDOG: REED IRVINE (1922–2004)

(By John Gizzi)

To many liberals in the media targeted by his pointed criticisms, Reed Irvine, the founder of *Accuracy in Media*, was a tormenter. But to his legions of friends and admirers he was the "Sergeant Joe Friday of the American media."

Following his death on November 16 from complications following a stroke, the 82-year-old Irvine was remembered as the conservative movement's pioneering media watchdog.

Born in Salt Lake City, Irvine graduated in 1942, at the age of 19, from the University

of Utah. He then joined the U.S. Navy, which taught him Japanese, and became an interpreter for the U.S. Marine Corps in the Pacific theater of war and in occupied Japan. Following his discharge, he did graduate work at the University of Washington and won a Fulbright scholarship to Oxford, where he earned a master's degree in 1951.

From 1951 until he retired in 1977, Irvine worked at the Federal Reserve Board. The topic of media bias dominated a group Irvine regularly lunched with and soon he founded *Accuracy in Media* to try to keep the national press honest.

Through op-ed pieces, lectures, in-depth studies, a regular newsletter and frequent appearances on radio and TV, Irvine provided evidence that the major media indeed had a liberal bias. The grassroots following he developed provided AIM with the resources to launch national campaigns against the "gods of the antennae." In 1983, for example, an AIM crusade convinced the Public Broadcasting System (PBS) to give equal time to AIM to rebut an hour-long special, *Vietnam: A Television History*.

In 1985, Irvine started *Accuracy in Academia* to combat leftist teachings at U.S. colleges.

For those outside the movement, Irvine may be best remembered for his spirited appearances at town hall meetings hosted by Ted Koppel on ABC's "Nightline." Perhaps the most poignant tribute to Irvine came from Koppel. "Reed Irvine was, at times, a harsh critic of the television news industry and me in particular," Koppel told *Human Events*, "but throughout the many years that I knew him, he was never anything but courtly and personally gracious. Just as I would insist that all other enterprises in our society benefit from the presence of a critical and fearless press, so, too, the press benefits from being held to high and occasionally harsh standards. Reed Irvine fulfilled that function to the greater good of all."

Irvine leaves his wife of 56 years, Kay Araki Irvine, son Don (who succeeded him as president of *Accuracy in Media*), and three grandchildren.

TRIBUTE TO JOAN EAGLESON

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 6, 2004

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Joan Eagleson, who was recently honored with the highest award of Sacred Heart Schools, the St. Madeleine Sophie Medal by the Schools of the Sacred Heart in Atherton, California.

An extraordinary educator at St. Joseph's School, Joan has said her greatest teachers are the children she works with every day. The children are her delight and lifeline. Joan believes children are grounding and one has only to listen to their truth and see their beauty. Joan's ability to really hear children draws them to her and she is always there for them.

Joan received her MA in Counseling from the College of Notre Dame. Recognizing the need for children to be heard, she spearheaded the Middle School Advisory Program and the Rainbows Program. Joan is marvelous at helping children recognize the light and love in themselves. One student said, "Have you ever noticed how good you feel about yourself after talking with Mrs. Eagleson?" What better testimony to Joan's ability to bring out the best in a person.

When Sister Ann McGowan, RSCJ hired Joan 16 years ago, she was given the opportunity to teach and run the library. Joan recalls with gratitude Sister Helen Daly's mentoring. Sister Daly saw in Joan the capacity to become a bridge where children could find consolation and support in the new and mysterious world of books and learning. Anyone who has ever walked through St. Joseph's library can feel it is a welcoming place of comfort, warmth, trust and generosity. Joan doesn't fit the stereotype of the librarian who only says, "Shh, be quiet." Joan creates an atmosphere of enthusiasm for learning, a place where children have time to discover, to be curious, to be imaginative, to know the value of not knowing and then, of asking the question and knowing how and where to find the answer. Most importantly, Joan guides children to recognize that what is essential they have within.

When asked what she hoped for the children to learn at St. Joseph's School, Joan said, "the value of simplicity and balance in life; the value of time to be; the value of being present to the moment; the value of embracing life wholeheartedly; the value of working in community; the value of human touch; the value of experiencing joy in the process of learning."

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this great and inspiring educator, Joan Eagleson, as she is honored with the St. Madeleine Sophie Medal.

RECOGNIZING THE MCGRAW HIGH SCHOOL LADY EAGLES ON THEIR SOCCER CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. SHERWOOD BOEHLERT

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 6, 2004

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the McGraw High School Lady Eagles for their outstanding performance and their victory in the New York State Class D Soccer Championship.

The Lady Eagles won the title match with a 1–0 victory over Chateaugay on November 20th. Under the leadership of coaches John and Kathy Rutan, they concluded an amazing undefeated season with winning the state championship. Their impressive 24–0 record was the first perfect season for the Lady Eagles, as well as the first state title in school history.

I would like to recognize goalkeeper Christy Mott, forwards Taryn Bilodeau, Jen Rutan, and midfielder Laura Buerkle for their outstanding individual achievements. Christy Mott was awarded the State Tournament Class D Goalkeeper award, as well as an Honorable Mention in the Central Counties League All-Stars. Taryn Bilodeau, in addition to being named a Central Counties League All-Star, scored her 100th career goal this season, was named to the 2nd team in the Central New York All-Star voting, and the Section III Class D All-Star Team. Along with Bilodeau, Jen Rutan and Laura Buerkle shared Central Counties League All Star positions, as well as Section III Class D All-Star honors.

Their remarkable season is a testament to their dedication and commitment to the sport and to the character of these young ladies.

The 2004 McGraw High School Girls Soccer team members include: Roster: Sarah Bilodeau, Taryn Bilodeau, Laura Buerkle, Monica Byron, Caroline Byrne, Megan Camillo, Jamie Harriger, Rachel Harriger, Natasha Ignatowski, Ashley McAdam, Allison Murray, Christy Mott, Diane Ralyea, Amanda Reynolds, Heather Rogers, Jen Rutan, Amanda Stevens, Sandra Suomikallio, and Kaci Williams. Coach: John Rutan, Assistant Coach: Kathy Rutan.

A TRIBUTE TO CONGRESSMAN C.W. BILL YOUNG AT THE CLOSE OF HIS REMARKABLE TENURE AS CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

HON. KATHERINE HARRIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 6, 2004

Ms. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my distinguished friend and Florida colleague, Congressman C.W. BILL YOUNG, as he concludes his remarkable tenure as Chairman of the House Committee on Appropriations.

During his 17 terms in Congress, Chairman YOUNG has set the benchmark for integrity, compassion, and diligence in serving his constituents, our State, and our Nation. With his steady hand at its tiller, the Appropriations Committee has remained a sanctuary of comity and productivity as it navigated the heavy winds of terrorism, recession, the stock market crash, and corporate scandals, as well as the budgetary pressures that these crises produced.

Of course, we Floridians were extremely fortunate that this island of calm resolve was serving as Appropriations Chairman when our State suffered the devastating, unprecedented blows of four hurricanes earlier this year. Within days after we returned from the August District Work Period, Chairman YOUNG built a consensus around a \$2 billion relief package that the victims of this disaster desperately needed—just as FEMA's available funds were exhausted.

During our consideration of the subsequent \$12.6 billion supplemental relief bill, the pressure to include other disasters naturally arose. Exhibiting the same empathy and fairness that served as the hallmark of his chairmanship, Chairman YOUNG managed to address these concerns while achieving swift passage of this legislation.

Our Nation has been just as fortunate that Chairman YOUNG headed the Appropriations Committee as we confronted the daunting challenges of a changed world in the aftermath of September 11. A veteran of the Army National Guard, Chairman YOUNG has garnered national recognition for his expertise on defense and security issues. He had previously chaired the House Appropriations Subcommittee on National Security, and he has served the longest term on the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of any member in history.

While ensuring that our military has the best resources available to fight the War on Terror, Chairman YOUNG has always placed his highest priority upon the men and women who risk their lives to preserve our freedom. He regu-

larly meets with enlisted personnel and officers to assess their needs. As a result of his unflagging efforts on their behalf, Congress has invested in improved base housing, better medical care, increased pay, and more modern equipment.

Chairman YOUNG has also successfully fought for the health security of every American. A leading advocate for increased biomedical research, he has worked to double Federal medical research over 5 years. He has striven to increase the immunization rate for preschoolers, improve public health programs, and provide the resources necessary to find cures for scourges like Parkinson's and Alzheimer's diseases.

In 1986, Chairman YOUNG played a leading role in founding a national registry for bone marrow donors, which now bears his name in his honor. Today, the registry contains more than 4 million volunteer donors for patients with leukemia and other life-threatening diseases and serves as a model for similar diseases around the world.

Mr. Speaker, we look forward to many more years of effective, caring service from this dedicated public servant, who exemplifies the appellation, "the gentleman from Florida."

HONORING THE UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO'S MEN'S AND WOMEN'S NATIONAL CHAMPION CROSS COUNTRY TEAMS

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 6, 2004

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Men's and Women's Cross Country Teams of the University of Colorado for claiming the NCAA National Championship titles on November 22, 2004.

While the University of Colorado has won the title for both teams before, the men's squad in 2001 and the women's team in 2000, never before have teams of the university claimed both titles in the same year. In fact, this remarkable feat has happened only four times in NCAA cross country history. Both teams achieved their goal of winning the national championship by all five of the female runners finishing in the top thirty, and all five of the male runners in the top fifty.

These athletes are the epitome of dedication and hard work. I join the University of Colorado in taking pride in this noteworthy accomplishment.

Mr. Speaker, I commend these student athletes and ask all our colleagues to join me in congratulating the University of Colorado Men's and Women's Cross Country Team on their National Championships.

HONORING 35 YEARS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 6, 2004

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Martin Luther King Observance Committee of Morristown, New Jersey in

my Congressional District, which this year is celebrating its 35th Anniversary.

The Committee, a local public service group, has solicited the involvement of the total Morris County community, and especially its young people, in its annual services commemorating the birth of Martin Luther King, Jr. since 1970. This celebration of faith, endurance, and commitment is a tribute to the rich legacy of the life and works of Dr. King.

The Observance for 2005 marks the Twentieth year that Dr. King's birthday will be commemorated as a national holiday. As an expression of local unity and in recognition of this important event, the Martin Luther King Observance Committee is inviting the Morris Clergy Council to cooperate with the Committee in jointly sponsoring the commemorative services on Monday, January 17, 2005.

The Martin Luther King Observance Committee will use for a theme "The Dream of Peace Is Dedicated Wholly to Truth." Each of us still makes a difference. Each of us needs to trust, to hope, to care, and to have the courage to make our democracy work for all of us. Yes, today we face great uncertainty and trepidation. Nevertheless, we will pull together as a community and nation during time of crisis. We are Americans indeed.

From those individuals who spearheaded the initial celebration, the late Rachel Viola Jones and Dr. Felicia B. Jamison, the planning efforts has broadened to include members of the Morris Area Clergy Council, with representatives from all major faith traditions. In addition to the two founders, other volunteers who assisted in the early years included Emma L. Martin, George Dorsey, William "Jack" Harris, Reginald and Emanueline Smith, Flora Webb, Norman Jean Matthews, Woody Huff, Elizabeth Lubar, Cecelia Dowdy, Rabbi Z. David Levy, and Rev. Charles Marks.

The core planning committee is continuing to carry on a tradition of excellence for this great program and has grown to include dedicated volunteers. Some of those individuals include Charles Jamison, Jr., James Mack, Janet Bonar, Patricia Johnson, Esq., Barbara Klingsporn, Mae Williams, Ronnie Rogers, Elie Sims, Nadine Alston, Rabbi Donald Rossoff, James Vance, Horace Melton, Marian Sykes Johnson, Gerald Martin, Dorothy C. Parker, Agnes Boyd, Rev. Paul Ratzlaff, and Rev. Jerry M. Carter, Jr., Pastor of the Calvary Baptist Church.

Mr. Speaker, I am quite certain that the Martin Luther King Observance Committee will continue in the years ahead to promote the cause of equality and educate our community in helping to promote opportunities for our young people to pursue productive, fulfilling lives. I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Martin Luther King Observance Committee of Morristown as they celebrate 35 dedicated years of serving our community, and especially Chairwoman Dr. Felicia Jamison.

THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE

HON. VITO FOSSELLA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 6, 2004

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, sixty years ago this week, one of the greatest battles of

World War II took place. While D-Day had put the Nazis on the ropes, the war wasn't over yet; as General George S. Patton reportedly said at the time, the Germans could no longer win the war, but the Allies could still lose it.

Lengthening supply lines had endangered the Allied drive to Berlin and reduced the effectiveness of American and British forces. Logistical miscalculations were a serious problem as well.

Then the weather turned bitterly cold; heavy snow and sleet took its toll on soldiers who had gone days without sleep. It became even more difficult to hold strained supply lines together. Fuel and ammunition shipments were not getting where they needed to go. Only the tenacity, courage and ingenuity of the men in uniform kept the good guys moving.

D-Day was a victory, but it wasn't the final victory, as we would soon discover.

The Battle of the Bulge was crucial. Just five months after D-Day, the Allies had yet to seal the fate of the Nazi regime. The Wehrmacht would come back with an offensive that seemed as if it might be unstoppable. The very "bulge" of the battle's name refers not to some physical place, but to the alarming way our military maps showed the major battle line had "bulged" back towards the Allies.

Ultimately it proved to be the Nazis' last gasp, but we couldn't know that at the time. Had the German offensive not been crushed, their improved morale could have caused other reverses and sent the war into a stalemate, prolonging it and leading to thousands more being killed.

The fighting men of America and the other Allied nations had to summon a fierce will to beat back this charge, and did so heroically. It was one of those occasions that showed how right America was to trust in these men to keep our families safe. Our debt to them is enormous.

These men deserve the highest respect. The Battle of the Bulge was one of the most important moments of the second World War, and winning it was critical to winning the war.

Below are 82 veterans and family members of that battle from my home district, Staten Island and Brooklyn, in New York. It is important that we honor their sacrifice while they still walk among us:

William Abell, B. Roger Acker, Albert Agnotti, Elmer Van Arrindell, Salvatore Baratta, Peter P. Benedetto, Anthony Bianco, Dennis Brackett, Maryann Briney, Carmine Burzumato, Gertrude Calvacca, James Campbell, John Capano, Paul Capofari, Barbara Carreras, Raymond Cebula, Rubin Cohen, Edward Connors, Dominic Corcillo, Anthony Cuollo, Edward Curran, Vito Dellagarzie, Anthony DeMaio, Vincent DeSetto, Eugene Devlin, Anthony DiRosa, Henry Dudziec, Frank D'Alleso, Henry J. D'Andrea, Joseph Emmanuele, Angela Fazio, Roy Ferlazzo, Stephen Fiala, Peter Fiorella, Michael Fortier, William Franz, Aldo Furetti, Eugene Gagliardi, George Geissler, Clarence Genau, Finn Gjertsen, Jonas Goldenberg, Stanley Grapes, Robert E. Holmes, John Hynes, Frank Juliano, Rudolph Korman, Robert Landvogt, Alfred Lotz, William Macaluso, Joseph Magliocco, Val Manetta, Anthony Moody, William Morris, John Nee, Charles Nolan, Lenord Parente, Edwin Petrazzolo, Thomas Poidomani, Joseph Reilly, William Reilly, Seymour Richman, Rev. Br. Marion Santor, George Sheppard, Dr. A.

B. Siewers, David Silver, Charles Snyder, Eugene Sobiesiak, Eugene Sorensen, John Spiritus, Joseph Sportiello, Joseph Sterbenz, Ralph Taliento, Herbert Thompson, Dennis Tobin, Horace Turner, Anthony Vaccaro, Ira Wells, Susan Witman, Peter T. Zacked, Dominick Zero, M. Riccio.

HONORING BRIGADIER GENERAL HAROLD KING

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 6, 2004

Mr. DeFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember Brigadier General Harold King of the U.S. Air Force, Retired. His death on October 7, 2004, ended a remarkable and distinguished career of service to the Nation.

Benjamin Harold King was born in Oklahoma in 1919. He began his successful military career in February 1942 when he enlisted in the Army Air Force as a flying cadet. He was commissioned a second lieutenant in November and was flying with a fighter squadron in the Philippines a few months later. He served proudly and well during World War II, flying 122 combat missions in the Asiatic-Pacific and European-Middle Eastern theaters. He went on to log 226 combat missions in Korea and over 100 combat missions in Vietnam.

Brigadier General King's decorations include the Purple Heart, the Silver Star, the Legion of Merit, a Distinguished Flying Cross, three oak leaf clusters, the Air Medal with 24 oak leaf clusters, and the French Croix de Guerre.

Brigadier General King will be remembered, as well, for his legacy of leadership as a commander and operations officer. He succeeded at every assignment and is revered as the father of the modern USAF Air Commandos and Special Operations.

Brigadier General King flew combat in three wars and served in the military for over 30 years before retiring in 1971. He resided in Florence, Oregon, in my congressional district, at the time of his death.

A flight of four F-15s flew directly over his memorial service, a few hundred feet above the local airport where his family, friends, and community members watched the perfect "Missing Man" formation. It was a fitting tribute to Brigadier General Benjamin H. King, Flying Ace.

CONGRATULATING THE WAYNESBORO LIONS CLUB ON ITS 75TH ANNIVERSARY AND INVALUABLE SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 6, 2004

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Waynesboro Lions Club on its 75th anniversary and to recognize the club's invaluable service to the community.

In America, unlike most countries throughout the world, the culture of charitable giving thrives. This is a nation in which freedom is our first priority, and with freedom comes em-

powerment and independence. As a result, individuals take care of each other to ensure a progressive society, creating a community committed to generosity and equality. It is out of this culture that numerous organizations have sprouted and grown upon the foundation of service to others.

At its inception, the Waynesboro Lions Club adopted a commitment to service, which reflects the cornerstone upon which this Nation was built. Since 1929, the club has maintained this commitment by contributing to numerous community projects. Members of the club have worked tirelessly to improve the quality of life of those in need, especially the visually handicapped. By providing eye exams and glasses, as well as assisting in the training of seeing eye dogs, the club has made a positive impact on the area's visually impaired.

Without the Waynesboro Lions Club, countless area projects would still be unfinished and many of those in need would still be without aid. The community of Waynesboro has been able to strengthen its cohesion as well as its culture because of the direct involvement of the Lions Club.

The legacy of service that instills a unique pride in the hearts of every American citizen has penetrated the walls of the Waynesboro Lions Club and influenced the lives of scores of people. For its commitment to the citizens of Pennsylvania throughout the last 75 years, I am extremely grateful to the Waynesboro Lions Club.

HONORING CONGRESSMEN AMO HOUGHTON AND JACK QUINN

SPEECH OF

HON. SUE W. KELLY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 19, 2004

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extol the dedicated public service and achievements of two fellow New Yorkers who are retiring from Congress. AMO HOUGHTON and JACK QUINN have both exemplified commitment and effectiveness during the time they served their constituents in Washington. Their outstanding presence in this chamber will be missed.

When it comes to obtaining federal assistance toward New York's widespread transportation needs, JACK QUINN has fought and won millions of dollars for our state. It has been an honor to work together with him on the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. During his 12 years in Congress, JACK QUINN also has distinguished himself by enhancing New York's agriculture industry, protecting our veterans, and advocating the American worker on labor issues.

AMO HOUGHTON saved one of his best achievements for last when he successfully fought this year to keep open the Canandaigua VA hospital that serves New York veterans. He has made a profound impact on both the domestic and international issues considered in this chamber during his 18 years in Congress, and he has worked tirelessly to boost the economy of New York's Southern Tier.

Mr. Speaker, surely I echo the sentiments of many in our state when I say thank you to JACK QUINN and AMO HOUGHTON for taking

such a positive and effective approach to representing New York in Washington. They always put the interests of their constituents first, and both can now retire from Congress extremely proud of their storied careers in the U.S. House of Representatives.

TRIBUTE TO CONGRESSMAN CAL
DOOLEY

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 6, 2004

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the service of my colleague, Congressman CAL DOOLEY.

CAL has been a good friend to me personally throughout my time here in the people's house. And on the professional level, I have always been impressed by CAL's intelligence, foresight and just plain hard work.

CAL's service in this body has probably been most influential through the moderate group of Members in the New Democrats Caucus. As co-chair of that pivotal group, CAL worked effectively to build bridges between the two parties to get real results. He championed balanced budgets, job-creating exports and policies to encourage the technology sector. In the process, CAL helped the Democratic party to reach out beyond our core base of supporters to bring people together to get the job done.

I also have enjoyed working with CAL DOOLEY on our joint service on the Committee on Agriculture. CAL has had the honor of representing one of the largest agricultural regions in the nation, a region that grows on the order of 200 different types of commodities. Representing so many varied agricultural interests with conflicting needs would present a challenge to any member, but CAL made it look easy. In addition to fighting for commodities that often receive little to no support from the federal government, CAL has been a tireless crusader for greater funding for agricultural research. As I represent the great agricultural university at NC State, I have deeply enjoyed working with CAL to bring greater resources for AG research. CAL understands that if we don't invest in the future of agriculture, we will quickly lose our competitive advantage in food production to other nations.

So, Mr. Speaker, I congratulate my friend and colleague CAL DOOLEY on the occasion of his retirement from Congress, and I look forward to many more great things from him in the years to come.

HONORING MONICAL'S PIZZA
CORPORATION

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 6, 2004

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Monical's Pizza Corporation (Monical's) for receiving the 2004 Optimas Award for Vision and for receiving the 2004 Winning Workforce Award for Full Service: Family.

The 14th Annual Optimas Awards honor excellence in workforce management and win-

ners are chosen by Workforce Management Magazine. Workforce Management is a magazine that provides current trends and information to business owners. Since 1991, the Optimas Awards have been a source of ideas, direction and inspiration for workforce management professionals. Optimal Award Winners have pushed their organizations to record profits, greater market share, higher stock value, and better corporate results.

In 1997, Monical's began to recognize and instituted a process called the "service-profit chain model," which links employee satisfaction with profitability and growth. This model has proven to be a success for Monical's. Monical's has reduced the turnover rate for employees from 138% in 2001 to 88% today and there have been no turnover among managers within the past 18 months. Guest-satisfaction scores are an enviable 60%.

The Winning Workforce Award for Full Service is presented by the National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation and Coca-Cola North America. This award honors those restaurant and foodservice operators that truly understand that enhancing employee satisfaction ultimately leads to achieving guest satisfaction. Monical's progressive approach to training and development includes a new blended learning (eLearning) program based on Harvard Manage Mentor as a fundamental way to continue to grow and challenge its employees. eLearning has helped Monical's obtain one of the highest employee retention rates in the industry.

Mr. Speaker, I urge this body to identify and recognize other companies in their own districts whose actions have so greatly benefited and strengthened America's families and communities.

TRIBUTE TO DR. STEPHEN A
BENTON

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 6, 2004

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a man who spent his life devoted to scientific discovery, and whose accomplishments resonate throughout the fields of holography, medicine, and art. Dr. Stephen A. Benton, inventor and imaging pioneer, passed away on Sunday, November 9, after a lifetime of teaching, creating, and enriching the lives of others with his indomitable spirit of wonder.

Following his undergraduate work at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Benton earned his Master's degree in Science and Ph.D. from Harvard University. He had a passion that extended beyond academia; Benton's interest in holography—the use of laser light to produce three-dimensional images—stemmed from his fascination with the visual presentation of the world. While a student at Harvard, Benton initially worked with holographs for Polaroid Corp., immersing himself in the vision research laboratory that spawned numerous technological advancements for the field of holography.

Believing that he could stretch the boundaries of the artistic and scientific application of holography, Benton explored the most innovative optical uses of his generation. His work

with holography extended beyond the exploratory and into the practical. Benton helped create three-dimensional composites of CT and MRI scans for medical diagnosis, provided retailers with viable options for credit card scanners, and advanced the capabilities of three-dimensional blueprints for architects and graphic designers. Perhaps his most significant achievement, Benton invented the rainbow hologram, a process that makes a hologram visible using common white light. The "Benton hologram" has been critical to the commercial success of image-based holography.

In 1980 Benton returned to MIT as a visiting scientist in the Laser Research Center, and became the founding head of the MIT Media Lab soon thereafter. He chaired the long-running "Practical Holography" meetings for the International Society of Optical Engineering (SPIE) and found funding for both artists and scientists to attend and exhibit their work. He was instrumental in rescuing the Museum of Holography in 1992, bringing it to the MIT museum. His delight in the scientific and aesthetic applications of holography led to his 15 patents in optical physics, photography, and holography.

As we remember Dr. Stephen A. Benton as a pacesetter in the field of holography, I am particularly grateful for his vision that science and art could not only coexist, but benefit each other. May his memory be preserved for future generations of intellectuals, academics, and scientific freethinkers.

TRIBUTE TO KRISTINA KIIK

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 6, 2004

Mr. SAM JONES of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is with great joy that I recognize Kristina Kiik. Kristina was elected and is believed to be the youngest elector in the history of the United States at the Texas State Republican Party Convention last June.

Next week will be a busy one for the 21-year old Republican in Austin. On December 13th, she will cast her vote for President George W. Bush in the State Capitol at the Meeting of the Electoral College.

A smart and savvy student at Southern Methodist University, Kristina is an inspiration to young people across America.

While attending the Hockaday School in Dallas, the Richardson native beat out countless students across the nation for a coveted position as a Page in the U.S. House of Representatives. Now at SMU, she interned in my District office and continues to make a difference in her community.

What an honor to recognize her for her tremendous achievement and I have a feeling this could be the first of many trips for Kristina to Austin.

I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable American.

Kristina, God bless you and God bless America.

INTRODUCTION OF KOFI ANNAN
RESOLUTION

HON. ROGER F. WICKER

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 6, 2004

Mr. WICKER. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a resolution calling for Kofi Annan to step down as Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Under his stewardship, the U.N.'s Oil for Food Program has become one of the largest scandals in world history. Saddam Hussein was able to dodge U.N. sanctions, embezzle billions of dollars intended for humanitarian aid, and strengthen his brutal rule of the Iraqi people—all under the cover of this U.N. program.

As a Member Nation that funds nearly a quarter of the U.N.'s annual budget, it is the United States' right and responsibility to press for a full accounting of this international embarrassment. Our government must help make certain the U.N. maintains the confidence and respect of the international community.

With evidence mounting of bribery throughout U.N. leadership, it is imperative that Kofi Annan resign as Secretary-General so all current charges can be fully and independently investigated. These allegations of corruption and mismanagement have irreparably undermined Mr. Annan's credibility and his capacity to head the U.N. He should step down.

HONORING NASHVILLE'S INTER-
DENOMINATIONAL MINISTERS'
FELLOWSHIP ON ITS 50TH ANNIV-
VERSARY

HON. JIM COOPER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 6, 2004

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, I am honored today to pay tribute to one of Nashville's foremost community organizations, the Interdenominational Ministers' Fellowship, on the event of its 50th anniversary on December 8.

Since its creation, the IMF has been a pre-eminent voice for social justice and change. It

has worked tirelessly for the betterment of all of Nashville's citizens but especially as a champion for the voiceless and disadvantaged. The leaders of the IMF have long played a vital role in the life of Nashville, and its members include many of the most prominent and active of Nashville's citizens.

As many of my colleagues know, Nashville has a long and proud history of community activism. Nashville played a central role in the historic struggles of the civil rights movement, and it was out of this transformational period in our nation's history that the IMF was born. The organization first grew from the wake of the landmark Supreme Court decision, *Brown v. Board of Education*. This original group included leaders from a host of religious faiths and denominations, including the Seventh Day Adventist, the Church of Christ, the Church of God, the Episcopal Church, Islam, Baha'i and the Salvation Army.

Over the past five decades, the IMF has established itself as a leading advocate for social justice. It has tackled every issue from racism to employment to education. One of its most significant achievements has been to establish the Trust Fund for Students of Historical Black Colleges and Universities, which has provided annual scholarships to numerous students over the years.

The passion that IMF members have brought to their mission is truly inspiring, and few groups can better demonstrate the transformational power of grass-roots commitment and activism. It is with great honor and pride that I recognize the Interdenominational Ministers' Fellowship for the work that its members have done and will continue to do for the city of Nashville. On behalf of the people of the Fifth Congressional District, I thank the IMF for its achievements and congratulate this organization on its 50th anniversary.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. DOROTHY
FINLEY

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 6, 2004

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my entire constituency in District 7 and all of

Southern Arizona I would like to congratulate Mrs. Dorothy Finley on her receipt of the 2003 Zachary and Elizabeth Fisher Distinguished Civilian Humanitarian Award. Though this award is a crowning achievement presented to a person who demonstrates exceptional patriotism and humanitarian concern for members of the U.S. armed forces or their families, this honor exemplifies only the tip of the iceberg when looking at Mrs. Finley's contribution to our community and State.

Even before becoming President/CEO of Finley Distributing, a wholesale distributor for Miller Brewing Company, Mrs. Finley was working to build and develop our community one individual at a time by serving as both a teacher and principal in the Tucson Unified School District for over 30 years. The stories of Mrs. Finley's kind and generous acts range from privately making donations for worthy projects to driving students to after school activities when parents were not available. Mrs. Finley embodied, during her time in education, the ideal friend, teacher, principal, and mentor.

Today as a leader in our Tucson business community and as a focal point in Arizona industry and politics, Mrs. Finley is still making her mark by serving on countless non-profit boards advocating for a variety of causes ranging from children to seniors. She represents business and other groups on local and statewide commissions and still finds time to work tirelessly for Davis-Monthan Air Force base and other mainstays of our Tucson economy. She accomplishes all of this while running a major business in Tucson and staying close with her large and wonderful family.

As the Congressman from District 7, which represents much of Southern Arizona I am proud to congratulate Mrs. Dorothy Finley on her 2003 Zachary and Elizabeth Fisher Distinguished Civilian Award and I look forward to working with her on building community for years to come.