

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN HONOR OF MARZEE ANN
HYNEMAN

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 8, 2007

Mr. BERRY. Madam Speaker, I rise here today to pay tribute to a dear friend, Marzee Ann Hyneman, of Jonesboro, Arkansas. Marzee was not only a devoted mother, grandmother and wife; she was someone who spent her entire life working to make a positive impact in her community.

Marzee was born on August 28, 1919 in Jonesboro, Arkansas. After her father's death in an accident, she was raised by her mother, Carrie Rains Holt, and stepfather, William Charles Holt. She graduated from Jonesboro High School in 1936 and got her degree from Arkansas State University in 1940. While in college she was a member of the Alpha Tau Zeta and Phi Gamma Mu sororities, the French and Home Economics Club, and was selected as Journalism Queen. After college, Marzee married Frank Hyneman on December 12, 1943, just before he was sent overseas to fight in World War II. Upon his return they resided in Trumann, Arkansas.

Throughout her lifetime, Marzee was a civic leader who constantly worked to make positive changes in her community. She was an active member the Century Arts and Civic Club and the Daughters of the American Revolution. She also generously opened her home in Weona, Arkansas to host the Trumann Fine Arts Council Mayfest musical celebration for several years. Marzee was also president of the Trumann Parent Teacher Association in 1961–62 and coordinator of Trumann's celebration of the USA Bicentennial in 1976. Because of her leadership, she was the first recipient of the "Woman of the Year" award given by the Trumann Jaycettes.

As a member of the First United Methodist Church in Trumann, Marzee served as choir director for 17 years and believed that her tenure as the director was perhaps one of her proudest accomplishments.

Marzee and her husband Frank Hyneman have two sons and daughters-in-law, Ben and Janet Hyneman and Hal and Pam Hyneman of Jonesboro. They also have five grandchildren, Brian Hyneman, Matt Hyneman, Lindsey Ann Hyneman, Hunter Hyneman and Camden Rains Hyneman and three great-grand children. They carry on the family tradition of community responsibility and activism.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Marzee Ann Hyneman. She was an incredible woman who made a difference in the lives of so many Arkansans. She will be remembered as a great friend and will be missed by all who knew her.

HONORING ALABAMA'S ARMY
NATIONAL GUARD

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 8, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to the men and women of Alabama's Army National Guard.

Alabama has distinguished itself by having sent more Army National Guard troops to Iraq and Afghanistan than any other State except Texas since September 11, 2001. As of December 2006, a total of 7,068 men and women have been deployed to these two fronts: 6,281 Alabama Army National Guard troops to Iraq and 787 to Afghanistan.

The men and women of Alabama's Army National Guard should not simply be commended for their bravery, but for their dedication and commitment to the cause of freedom. Alabama's Army National Guard continues to distinguish itself through brave and honorable service, which is evident from the numerous awards and decorations conferred upon many units of Alabama's Army National Guard. These high deployment levels confirm that Alabama's Army National Guard units are equipped with the necessary skills to meet the United States military's mission requirements in Afghanistan and Iraq.

The dedication of the men and women of Alabama's Army National Guard, as well as the vision and leadership of the officers in charge, has brought honor to the Guard, their fellow Alabamians, and fellow Americans. They and their families have sacrificed much, while some have paid the ultimate price ensuring our freedom. The diversity of units sent to Iraq and Afghanistan includes medical, engineering, water purification, military police, special forces transportation, and communication units. Currently, seven of Alabama's Army National Guard units are serving in Iraq, comprised of approximately 1,100 troops, and others around the State are on alert awaiting possible deployment.

It is an honor for me to rise today and recognize the brave men and women of America's armed forces, and in particular, the brave men and women of Alabama's Army National Guard. May their dedication to the cause of freedom be an example to their families, friends, neighbors and citizens throughout Alabama and across the United States of America.

HONORING AND RECOGNIZING THE
HEROES OF THE BATTLE OF
CRETE

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 8, 2007

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I am reintroducing legislation to

honor and recognize the heroes of the Battle of Crete and commend the PanCretan Association of America for preserving and promoting the history of Crete and its people.

During the Battle of Crete in May 1941, Allied forces and the people of Crete joined together to fight against an advancing Nazi army. Although unsuccessful in defeating the Nazi invaders, this coalition of forces inflicted enormous casualties to the airborne Nazi assault, resulting in more than 3,700 German troops killed and the destruction of multiple transport aircraft. In addition to these losses, the Allied forces were able to hold off the Nazi victory long enough to ensure that the German army would face a harsh and destructive winter as it proceeded to Russia.

This resolution observes the memory of the brave men and women who perished and honors the living that fought in the Battle of Crete.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO KATHLEEN
DYE

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 8, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Kathleen Dye, the executive director of the Southern Nevada Chapter of HomeAid. She leads an organization which tirelessly works to better the lives of all Nevadans.

HomeAid is a non-profit organization that seeks to construct and renovate shelters for temporarily homeless families and individuals. In addition, every HomeAid project includes support services that help residents move toward self sufficiency, such as educational and job training, as well as physical and emotional support.

It is with this mission in mind that Kathleen is leading HomeAid's efforts to help renovate the St. Jude's Ranch for Children's Boulder City campus. HomeAid has undertaken this effort along with a team of more than 100 volunteer subcontractors since early January.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Kathleen Dye. Her work with HomeAid and efforts on behalf of Southern Nevada's homeless is truly commendable. Her enthusiastic and dedicated approach has helped and inspired numerous Nevadans to better their lives. Kathleen Dye and the volunteers and staff of the Southern Nevada Chapter of HomeAid have made a profound difference in our community and we are most fortunate to have such a civic minded organization in Southern Nevada. I applaud her efforts and wish her the best in her future endeavors.

● 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.

CONGRATULATING LOVIE SMITH AND TONY DUNGY ON BECOMING THE FIRST AFRICAN-AMERICAN HEAD COACHES OF NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE TEAMS TO QUALIFY FOR THE SUPER BOWL

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the historic meeting of two wonderfully talented African-American coaches, Lovie Smith of the Chicago Bears and Tony Dungy of the Indianapolis Colts. These two men have made history by leading their teams to Super Bowl XLI. February 4, 2007 will remain a significant day in the pantheon of sports history, as well as American history. Prior to this date, there was never an African-American coach at the helm of a team that qualified for the big game. It is important for us to recognize the historic nature of this meeting—the meeting of two extremely successful coaches and two very talented teams—because the victories celebrated on this date extend far beyond the length of the football field and speaks to significant changes from a time when Black players and coaches were not allowed to join White sports leagues. The leadership of African-American coaches who pride themselves on their Christian ideals and coach using positive reinforcement demonstrate the resilience, perseverance and desire to partake in all aspects of the American dream of people of African descent. I urge my colleagues to support the resolution to H. Res. 90, congratulating Lovie Smith of the Chicago Bears and Tony Dungy of the Indianapolis Colts on becoming the first African-American head coaches of National Football League teams to qualify for the Super Bowl.

We should pause to commemorate this historic event, but it is important that we remain critical while celebrating. Though there have been significant improvements in racial inequities in the NFL, there is still much work to be done. Frederick Douglass “Fritz” Pollard became the first African-American head coach of an NFL team in 1921 with the Akron Pros. It would be another 70 years before another head coach joined the ranks. Throughout the 1980s, there was not a single African-American head coach in the NFL, in fact all head coaches were Caucasian. In 1989, Art Shell joined the Oakland Raiders as head coach. He would be joined by two more Black coaches in the years that followed while the number of African-American assistant coaches continued to grow. The stark contrast between the number of Black coaches, always very few in numbers, and the number of Black players has sometimes drawn critical attention from those outside of the Black community; however, it was extremely difficult to avoid discussing these discrepancies in the coming weeks. I hope that as we move forward and continue to remember the first meeting of two great African-American men and continue to push for true equality, throughout the ranks, in the NFL and in other professional leagues.

Football, in America, has always been more than just a game. It is the American game, deeply entrenched in the fabric of our society and a symbol of our culture as Americans.

Travel to any city or town throughout the Nation and you will see people of all races, ethnicities, religions, socio-economic classes and social backgrounds discussing, celebrating and playing football, sharing in the losses and successes of their favorite teams. While tremendous progress has been made, especially in the area of racial equity, there is still work to be done in extending equality to all Americans.

RECOGNIZING TYLER COVERDELL FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 8, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Tyler Coverdell, 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 75, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

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

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

CONCERNING VENEZUELA'S PASSAGE OF THE ENABLING LAW

HON. CONNIE MACK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 8, 2007

Mr. MACK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to call attention to a gathering storm in our own backyard.

Last week, Venezuela's self-proclaimed Communist President Hugo Chavez was granted free rein to accelerate changes in all areas of society by presidential decree.

This action, granted to him by the National Assembly, which is completely under his control, is putting Venezuela on a rapid path toward dictatorship.

Venezuelan lawmakers unanimously gave President Chavez sweeping powers to legislate by decree and impose his radical vision of a socialist state in the mold of Castro's Cuba.

The new law gives Chavez more power than he has ever had in 8 years as president.

And, based upon his own words and statements, he plans to use this power to nationalize many privately held companies, snuff out political dissent, and remove term limits, thereby allowing him to serve indefinitely as president.

Madam Speaker, some of my colleagues on both the left and the right argue that Chavez was democratically elected and that he and his quest for his Bolivarian Revolution are no threat to the Western Hemisphere.

For example, last week in response to the new law, Assistant Secretary of State for the

Western Hemisphere Tom Shannon said, and I quote from an interview with the Associated Press, “the enabling law isn't anything new in Venezuela. It's something valid under the constitution. As with any tool of democracy, it depends how it is used. At the end of the day, it's not a question for the United States or for other countries, but for Venezuela.”

But I vehemently disagree with this statement and the hands-off-approach-to-Chavez sentiment. The mere holding of elections is not enough.

Venezuela with Chavez at the helm is on a glidepath towards a dictatorship disguised as a democracy.

Madam Speaker, we should all be concerned about the direction President Chavez is taking his country. Any leader who tries to tighten his grip on power by destroying the institutions of democracy, curtailing press freedom, and using his office to intimidate pro-democracy opponents is setting in motion a dangerous process with potentially ominous consequences.

During almost every speech Chavez gives, he says it is “socialism or death.” Madam Speaker, it is time to realize Chavez must be taken seriously. We must refocus our efforts in Latin America and defeat this gathering storm.

INTRODUCTION OF FOUR NATIVE AMERICAN BILLS

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 8, 2007

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, I am today reintroducing four bills that would make various changes in current laws regarding Native Americans. Each of these bills is identical to one that I introduced last year, and each is identical to a bill passed by the Senate in 2005 or 2006 on which action was not completed before the end of the 109th Congress. I am reintroducing them today so that their consideration can resume without further unnecessary delay.

One bill corresponds to S. 1231 as passed by the Senate on December 14, 2005. Entitled the “National Fund for Excellence in American Indian Education Amendments Act,” it would amend the Act to provide four key improvements intended to assist the Fund in achieving self-sufficiency. First, it would provide initial seed money to the Fund for three fiscal years to facilitate operations. In addition, it would authorize the Secretary to provide funding for operational costs of the Fund on a reimbursement basis. It also would authorize the Board to appoint the Chief Operating Officer rather than mandating the Secretary of the Board serve as the Chief Operating Officer. And it would increase the administrative cost cap of ten percent currently in place to 20 percent for one year, 15 percent the following year and then decreasing back to 10 percent.

Another bill corresponds to S. 1758, as passed by the Senate on September 26, 2005. It would amend the Indian Financing Act of 1974 with respect to loan guaranty and insurance to: (1) authorize the Secretary of the Interior to guarantee or insure loans to both for-profit and nonprofit borrowers; and (2) allow all or any portion of a guaranteed or insured loan, including its security, to be transferred by the lender by sale or assignment to

any person, and be retransferred by the transferee. It also would allow a fiscal transfer agent to be compensated through any of the fees assessed and any interest earned on any funds or fees the agent has collected while the funds or fees are in the agent's control and before the time at which the agent is contractually required to transfer such funds to the Secretary or to transferees or other holders. And it would make loans made by an eligible Community Development Finance Institution eligible for guaranty or insurance and increase from \$500 million to \$1.5 billion the amount of loans the Bureau of Indian Affairs can have outstanding.

Another bill corresponds to S. 1480, passed by the Senate on July 26, 2006. It provides that any actual rental proceeds certified by the Secretary of the Interior from the lease of land acquired with a FHA Direct Loan by an Indian tribe or Tribal Corporation shall be deemed to: (1) constitute the rental value of that land; and (2) satisfy the requirement for appraisal of that land.

And another bill corresponds to S. 1483, also passed by the Senate last July 26th. It would amend the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act of 1998 with respect to grants to tribally controlled postsecondary vocational and technical institutions that are not receiving federal support under the Tribally Controlled College or University Assistance Act of 1978 or the Navajo Community College Act to provide basic support for the education and training of Indian students. It also would revise the definition of "Indian student count" (essential to the formula for the determination of grant amounts). And it would require the Indian student count to be determined according to a specified formula, for each academic year, on the basis of the enrollments of Indian students as in effect at the conclusion of the third week of the fall term and the third week of the spring term, allowing the counting of students without secondary school degrees under certain circumstances.

I urge the leadership of the committees to which these bills will be referred to consider them as soon as practicable.

CONGRATULATING MRS. SHIRLEY SISCO VAUGHN ON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 8, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise to honor Mrs. Shirley Sisco Vaughn on the occasion of her retirement from teaching after serving the people of Mobile County and Alabama's First District for 44 years.

During her distinguished teaching career in Mobile, Mrs. Vaughn served as a teacher for Mobile County Public Schools, Mobile Christian School, and Faulkner University. She also taught in the National Guard's extended education program. Many years of her personal sacrifice and dedication have benefited our community and our service members in the military.

Mrs. Vaughn has also been a devoted mother to her two sons, John and Robert Bogle. Mrs. Vaughn has humbly guided thou-

sands of lives throughout her career, and it is with great honor that I rise today to recognize her service.

Madam Speaker, there are few individuals more important to the development of our young men and women in this country than those who commit themselves to educating children. Mrs. Shirley Vaughn is an outstanding example of the quality individuals who have devoted their lives to the field of education, and I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating a dedicated teacher and friend to many throughout south Alabama. I know Mrs. Vaughn's colleagues, her family, and her many friends and former students join with me in praising her accomplishments and extending thanks for her many efforts over the past four decades on behalf of Mobile County and the First Congressional District.

INTRODUCTION OF THE TANNING ACCOUNTABILITY AND NOTIFICATION ACT—THE TAN ACT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 8, 2007

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, today I am reintroducing bipartisan legislation along with my friend and colleague from Florida, Representative GINNY BROWN-WAITE, the Tanning Accountability and Notification Act. This bill would require the Food and Drug Administration to determine whether the current labeling of indoor tanning beds provides sufficient information to consumers about the risks associated with indoor tanning beds. It doesn't tell the FDA what the label should say, it merely tells the FDA to examine the label and figure out how to make it as effective as possible. The current tanning bed warning label hasn't been updated since 1979. It is over 104 words long and it buries the mention of skin cancer deep in the label, and it is often placed where nobody can see it.

The statistics on skin cancer are sobering. According to the American Academy of Dermatology, 70 percent of tanning bed users are women between the ages of 16 and 49. The American Cancer Society estimates that this year more than 1 million people are expected to be diagnosed with skin cancers, which is associated with exposure to ultra-violet light. In 2007, a person's chances of getting invasive melanoma was 1 in 63. In 2007, a person's chances of getting melanoma were 1 in 33. One American dies of melanoma every 65 minutes.

We need a clear, simple warning that reflects the science of the 21st century so we can help reduce the numbers of preventable melanomas.

RECOGNIZING MITCHELL KILPATRICK FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 8, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Mitchell Kilpatrick, 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.

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

For his Eagle Scout project, Mitchell researched 42 years of football statistics for defense, offense and special teams to determine the record holders for Truman High School. He also raised \$1,300 to purchase a glass covered statistics case which now displays the record holders' names and their statistics at Truman High School.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Mitchell Kilpatrick 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 CHRISTOPHER MARTIN

HON. ALAN B. MOLLOHAN

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 8, 2007

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Madam Speaker, the Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittee and the Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriations Subcommittee will soon bid farewell to our Congressional Fellow, Christopher Martin, as he begins his next assignment with the U.S. Coast Guard. Lieutenant Commander Martin has proven himself to be a tremendous asset to the work of both of these subcommittees.

As he assisted subcommittee staff members, Chris brought a unique perspective to bear on many of the lively debates and sometimes convoluted issues we face as we craft appropriations bills, and in overseeing the agencies and programs in our jurisdiction. Throughout his service here, Chris's unqualified professionalism, perceptiveness, willingness to pitch in, and cool head have helped these subcommittees and the Congress move forward on a wide range of policy and budgetary issues. His assistance in planning for and coordinating a complicated trip to review all of the border and immigration issues on the southern border was of particular benefit to us.

Lieutenant Commander Martin has served these subcommittees, and the House well. Each of us on the Homeland Security and Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriations Subcommittees wish Chris all the best as he resumes his Coast Guard career, and expect to see great things there.

CHARITY CARE FOR THE UNINSURED ACT

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 8, 2007

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, there are more than 40 million uninsured Americans today—

nearly a million in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Throughout the country, medical professionals and countless others have responded to the need of those who are seriously ill and cannot pay for a doctor, medicine, and other health costs. In many places, this help has come in the form of community free clinics.

Community free clinics, particularly in Virginia, have helped people in communities come together to care for those in need. The health care "safety net" for the poor, like the community free clinics in my congressional district, exists in communities across America, but often in widely varying degrees.

I am pleased to introduce today the Charity Care for the Uninsured Act. While this legislation alone will not solve the problem of the uninsured. I believe it will help strengthen community "safety nets," like the community free clinics in Virginia, for those in need and will allow doctors recognition for their willingness to give back to their communities.

The Charity Care for the Uninsured Act would provide a personal income tax credit of up to \$2,000 for doctors who provide between 25 and 50 hours of uncompensated, pro bono charity care to the uninsured in a single calendar year. This legislation would encourage the many physicians who have treated patients who were not able to pay, either in their offices or in community clinics, to continue to do so.

The Charity Care for the Uninsured Act also will help provide a valuable tool—a personal tax credit—to community clinics in recruiting physicians as well as helping motivate countless specialty doctors to take community clinic referrals. Free clinics have contributed to reduced emergency room, ER, utilization among the uninsured, helping save taxpayer dollars. A safety net in which the uninsured can access specialists and medications will improve their health and guard against catastrophic illnesses and trips to the ER.

All of the cost savings and health benefits can be traced back to the commitment and the compassion of the doctors and community partners, and their concern for those who cannot afford insurance. The Charity Care for the Uninsured Act of 2007 recognizes and encourages these caring acts made to help those who need a helping hand. This legislation can be an important tool for communities as they seek to strengthen or build the health care safety net available to their uninsured residents.

FLOOD INSURANCE COMMUNITY OUTREACH GRANT PROGRAM ACT OF 2007

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 8, 2007

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, almost a year and a half after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, it is clear that more needs to be done to protect and prepare homeowners from future catastrophic flooding. This is why I have reintroduced the "Flood Insurance Community Outreach Grant Program Act of 2007." The intent of this legislation is to increase the overall participation in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) while moving the program toward long-term stability and solvency.

My legislation will forge a stronger partnership between the Federal Government and local floodplain managers. It will:

Create a grant program within FEMA to educate property owners about their flood risk and about the importance of flood insurance; and

Funds this grant program at \$50 million dollars annually over 5 years.

People at risk of flooding need to know their options and our local floodplain managers are our best partners in this effort. To put it quite simply, with 20,000 participating communities in NFIP—one size does not fit all. Our local partners know the risks, they know the landscape and in many cases they know the people. They know how to reach out to the people in their flood plain.

They can focus on the estimated 20 to 25 percent of property owners who have fallen through the cracks of our flood insurance system. People who are supposed to carry flood insurance, but do not carry it. Or use the money for an educational campaign directed towards people living in areas protected by levees, but not subject to the Federal flood insurance requirement. Spreading the message: Levees can fail or overtop in severe weather. So it is common sense to carry flood insurance, even if the federal government no longer requires it.

This program can work.

A little over a year ago, with the support of a \$162,000 FEMA grant, my local flood protection body, the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency (SAFCA), conducted just such a flood insurance outreach initiative.

SAFCA reached out to more than 45,000 National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) policyholders in the American River floodplain. In February of 2005, this densely populated region was released from the Federal flood insurance requirement.

SAFCA's efforts yielded impressive results.

More than one year after SAFCA conducted outreach, seventy-four percent of the 45,000 NFIP policyholders who were removed from the Federal requirement had maintained their flood insurance protection.

Of this group, forty-three percent now carry Preferred Risk flood insurance. Preferred Risk Policies provide property owners, who have been released from the Federal requirement, but remain at risk of flooding, with full flood insurance protection for about half the price of a Standard flood policy. Because of their lower cost, it is likely that these Preferred Risk Policies will result in a higher level of policy retention over time.

Through this partnership with SAFCA, FEMA was able to retain a high number of flood insurance policies in the Sacramento region—a region that accounts for nearly 1 in 4 of all flood insurance policies in California.

Increasing the number of people who carry and hold on to their flood insurance will only strengthen the National Flood Insurance Program. And as Katrina made painfully clear: We need a strong and functional program to be there for our constituents in times of crisis.

While this grant program would be funded at \$50 million dollars annually and authorized for 5 years, I want to emphasize that this grant program has an excellent return on its investment.

For FEMA to recoup its initial grant to SAFCA, five hundred and fifty Preferred Risk Policies had to be sold to property owners who otherwise would have canceled their flood insurance. SAFCA accomplished this . . . more than 20 times over.

Because of the FEMA and SAFCA partnership, more than 35,000 property owners who did not have to carry flood insurance stayed in the Federal flood insurance pool. What is more, nearly 13,000 policyholders in the American River floodplain switched to Preferred Risk Policies.

In short, FEMA got its money's worth. And this says nothing of the Sacramento premiums that will continue to come into the Federal flood insurance pool each year these policyholders maintain their flood insurance.

Again, most of these policyholders no longer have to buy flood insurance. They do so because it is the safe thing to do. Because SAFCA has alerted them to the on-going flood risk in their community. And because they saw what happened on the gulf coast.

If we can have this type of success in Sacramento, I am confident it can be replicated across the country.

These local outreach efforts will augment and benefit FEMA's existing marketing program by targeting property owners who are most likely to leave the NFIP—those who have been or will be released from the Federal flood insurance requirement.

The lesson learned here is that people whose houses, apartments and businesses are vulnerable to flooding are willing to enter and stay in the National Flood Insurance Program when they are informed of the risk they face and the options available to them.

Let me be clear, I speak from experience. When it comes to flood risk, my district of Sacramento is the most at-risk river city in the Nation.

My highest priority is to provide the city of Sacramento, my neighbors and my constituents with the best flood protection possible. We are making strides in strengthening and reinforcing the levees in Sacramento and making improvements to Folsom Dam—but whenever I talk about these efforts I remind my constituents, "If you live behind a levee, you should purchase flood insurance."

Finally, I am encouraged by the efforts we are making as a nation to develop a comprehensive flood protection agenda.

FEMA is in the process of implementing their Map Modernization Program that will update our Nation's flood maps.

Additionally, the Army Corps of Engineers is conducting a national levee inventory. When completed, this inventory will provide communities a greater understanding of their flooding vulnerabilities. It will also provide us with a good indication as a country as to what long term investments need to be made toward our flood protection infrastructure.

Both the FEMA Remapping initiative and the levee inventory are important to the long term safety and economic security of our country. The "Flood Insurance Community Outreach Grant Program Act of 2007" would be an excellent resource for communities to augment these initiatives.

This bill is a step in the right direction in providing for comprehensive flood protection for property owners and communities. I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF MR.
RYAN DEGRAFFENRIED, JR.

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 8, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, the city of Tuscaloosa and indeed the entire State of Alabama recently lost a dear friend, and I rise today to honor him and pay tribute to his memory.

Former State Senator Ryan deGraffenried, Jr., was a devoted family man and dedicated community leader throughout his entire life.

A graduate of the University of Alabama and the Cumberland School of Law at Samford University, Ryan represented the Tuscaloosa area in the Alabama Senate for 16 years, 7 of which he served in the Senate's highest position, president pro tempore.

The last year and a half of his term, he became the Senate's presiding officer when Lt. Governor Jim Folsom, Jr., ascended to the governor's office.

Ryan's legacy in Alabama will certainly be his hard work and dedication, as well as the fact that his word was his bond.

Make no mistake, the University of Alabama couldn't have had a better friend in the legislature than Ryan deGraffenried and the entire State watched with awe as he played a lead role in establishing the first auto assembly plant in Alabama, the Mercedes-Benz plant in nearby Vance.

Ryan's political savvy, combined with his many friendships in the legislature, enabled him to ensure the economic incentives necessary to make the Mercedes deal a reality passed the legislature, and in so doing, he deserves the lion's share of credit for helping to create what is today Alabama's booming auto industry.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a dedicated community leader and friend to many throughout Alabama. Ryan deGraffenried, Jr., will be deeply missed by his family—his wife, Sandra Sims-deGraffenried and his children, William Ryan deGraffenried III and Frances Margaret deGraffenried—as well as the countless friends he leaves behind. Our thoughts and prayers are with them all at this difficult time.

RECOGNIZING MICHAEL REYNOLDS
FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF
EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 8, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Michael Reynolds, 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.

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

Michael's dedication to his school work and church are outstanding. Michael works hard in school, while he remains involved with his church where he is the second assistant to the President of the Priest's quorum. Michael has also contributed significantly to the community, through his planning and organization of a food drive that collected more than 600 non-perishable food items for donation to the local food pantry.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Michael Reynolds 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 VOLUNTEER
FIREFIGHTER SHANE DAUGHETEE

HON. ZACH WAMP

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 8, 2007

Mr. WAMP. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and memory of Volunteer Firefighter, Shane Daughette. We thank him for his work and that of the 750,000 Volunteer firefighters nationwide.

Recently, this valiant, young man died while rescuing a family from a fire in Hamilton County, TN. The 24-year-old volunteer fell through the roof of the burning home, but the family members' lives were spared because of his bravery.

Mr. Daughette was part of the Highway 58 Fire department. He was a 7-year veteran of the department and had been named firefighter of the year. He was laid to rest at New McDonald East View Cemetery.

Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife, Nicole, who he had met while working at Winn-Dixie together years ago, lost touch with, and subsequently started dating in 2002. Since then, fellow volunteers said Shane and Nicole were joined at the hip.

Nicole wore her husband's firefighter jacket to his funeral. She said her husband loved being a firefighter so much that when they bought a house last summer, he insisted that it be in his station's district so he could continue to volunteer there. Mr. Daughette is also survived by his parents, James and Linda. We mourn with the entire Daughette family at this difficult time. Shane Daughette will be greatly missed and was an extraordinary citizen of East Tennessee.

We are so grateful for the dedication and compassion of all Volunteer Firefighters and other rescue personnel as they put themselves at risk to save perfect strangers in our communities. These men and women put their lives on the line to help others every day and we often do not take the time to think of emergency personnel and the dangers they are willing to face. Their courage is unquestioned, their cause is noble, and we thank them for ensuring our safety.

JOE T. GETHERALL MEDAL OF
HONOR LEGISLATION

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 8, 2007

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce a bill to authorize and request the President of the United States to award the Medal of Honor to Joseph T. Getherall, of Hacienda Heights, California, for acts of valor while serving his country in the Republic of Vietnam on December 22, 1966.

Joe Getherall was a sergeant in the United States Marine Corps who served two tours of duty in Vietnam and was seriously wounded three times during his second tour. He served as a squad leader with Company M, Third Battalion, Twenty-Sixth Marines, Third Marine Division during "Operation Chinook." In the early morning hours of December 22, 1966, Company M was occupying a night defensive position in the area of the Co Bi-Thien Tan Corridor, Thua Thien Province. Suddenly, the Marines came under intense small arms and mortar fire from the 802nd Viet Cong Battalion. Sergeant Getherall unhesitatingly exposed himself to intense small arms, automatic weapons, and mortar fire in order to repeatedly move across open terrain to effectively control his unit. While moving from one position to another he was seriously wounded in both legs and arms by an exploding mortar round. However, despite his painful injuries, he steadfastly refused medical evacuation and continued to direct his unit.

As the battle raged throughout the night, with most of the enemy ground assaults concentrated in front of his squad's position through 50 meters of open terrain, he continually exposed himself to enemy small arms fire. With enemy mortars and grenades exploding around him he disregarded his own safety in order to pinpoint enemy targets, direct fire, resupply his men with ammunition and ensure the integrity of the perimeter defense. He personally killed many of the enemy attackers with his own rifle fire. During one of the enemy assaults, a Marine went down in the open. Sergeant Getherall realized the gravity of the situation and fearlessly moved across the hazardous open terrain under intense enemy fire and dragged the Marine to cover.

During another assault, Sergeant Getherall observed a Viet Cong about to throw a grenade and Sergeant Getherall killed him with rifle fire. The enemy was still able to throw his grenade, which landed among the Marines. Sergeant Getherall shouted a warning to his men and with complete disregard for his own life, under heavy enemy fire he was able to get to the grenade and jump on it. He then picked it up and threw it back at the enemy where it exploded a few meters away, wounding Sergeant Getherall for a second time in one of his legs. By his prompt and courageous action in the face of almost certain death, he saved several of his squad members from death or serious injury.

During the remainder of the night, he moved among his men, encouraging them and ensuring that there was maximum security and firepower to repulse subsequent attacks. Inspired by his selfless courage and aggressive fighting spirit, his squad members repulsed a number

of savage attacks while inflicting heavy casualties on a determined and numerically superior enemy force. By his outstanding leadership, resolute determination and unflinching devotion to duty in the face of grave personal danger, Sergeant Getherall upheld the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and of the United States Naval Service.

This bill I am introducing today will waive the time limitations that require the award to be made within 5 years of the act. This is needed because the original award recommendation by Gary Loveridge, the platoon commander at the time, was lost by the Marine Corps. Additionally, six of Sergeant Getherall's squad members and his commanding officer have recently submitted sworn affidavits attesting to his heroic actions.

Madam Speaker, Joe Getherall is a great man who performed an amazing feat to defend his country and his squadron. He deserves the Medal of Honor for his heroic actions and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

CENTENNIAL OF THE FOUNDING OF EAST MILLINOCKET

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 8, 2007

Mr. MICHAUD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the families who 100 years ago, drawn by the promise of employment at Great Northern Paper Company's new 4-machine mill on the banks of the Penobscot River, founded the town of East Millinocket in northern Maine.

Working together for the benefit of their new community, the people of East Millinocket quickly established a school, water and sewer system, and volunteer fire department. They also established a proud way of life. Today, equipped with the same community spirit and sense of common purpose, the people of East Millinocket continue to embrace the challenges and opportunities of living and working at the gateway to Maine's North Woods.

Like my father and my grandfather before me, I joined these hardworking individuals as we all worked together to provide for ourselves and our families at the Great Northern Paper Company mill in East Millinocket. I am happy to have grown up and worked alongside these proud people, and it is these individuals and families along with the many other hardworking people of Maine that I remember every time I cast a vote here on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives.

It is an honor and a privilege to represent the people of East Millinocket and I am happy to have this opportunity to help this community, the "town that paper made," celebrate its 100th anniversary.

IN MEMORY OF PRIVATE CLARENCE T. SPENCER

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 8, 2007

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to share the collective grief of the peo-

ple of north Texas in the death of PVT Clarence T. Spencer, 24, who died defending our country in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom on February 4, 2007.

Mr. Clarence Spencer was assigned to B Company, 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, and 1st Cavalry Division at Fort Hood, Texas. While serving the U.S. Army, he put forth continuous dedication and bravery in protecting our Nation. His compassion and faithfulness in serving our country will forever be remembered, and his loss is greatly felt by all.

Mr. Spencer is survived by his wife in Killeen, Texas, and his mother and father in Fort Worth, Texas. I extend my sincerest condolences to his family and friends, and my thoughts and prayers are with them. Mr. Spencer's courage and dedication brought hope of a safer country. He will be remembered as a husband, a son, and a hero.

TRIBUTE TO HRANT DINK

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 8, 2007

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, last month, the world lost a powerful voice for free speech when journalist Hrant Dink was tragically killed for expressing his views on the Armenian Genocide. His death should serve as a watershed moment for Turkish-Armenian relations.

While Turkish officials have rightly condemned the killing, Turkey should honor the memory of Hrant Dink by using this opportunity to begin an open dialogue between Turkish citizens and their neighbors of Armenian descent. Laws that criminalize free speech and serious discussion of difficult issues are counterproductive to true democratic reform, which the Turkish government has called a priority. Taking steps to finally reconcile its past with its future by recognizing the Armenian Genocide are the foundations for real progress for Turkey.

In the wake of this tragedy, we must not allow an assassin's bullet to silence such a dynamic voice for change, but rather, continue to encourage Turkey to make positive changes with the same resolve Hrant Dink showed throughout his life as a champion of freedom.

TRIBUTE TO MR. GARY KURPIUS

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 8, 2007

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate a great Alaskan, Mr. Gary Kurpius, who was recently elected Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Nation's largest association of combat veterans. Gary Kurpius was elected to his position on August 31, 2006, at the VFW's 10th National Convention, in Reno, Nevada. Gary Kurpius is the first Alaskan to hold this tremendously important position.

During the Vietnam War Gary Kurpius served with the Army's 541st Transportation Company providing vital convoy security

throughout the central highlands, an extremely treacherous area. He was awarded the National Defense Service Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal with four bronze service stars and the Republic of Vietnam Service Medal, for his endeavors during the conflict. In addition to the medals received during Vietnam, Gary Kurpius was selected Vietnam Veteran of the Year for St. Louis County, Minnesota by President Jimmy Carter.

After the war, Gary Kurpius continued his unrelenting passion for public service. This led him to join VFW Post 1539 in Babbitt, Minnesota in 1970, where he became a life member. He earned the title of All American Post Commander in 1977 and in 1983 was named All American District Commander. Gary then transferred to VFW Post 9785 in Eagle River, Alaska in 1985. Currently Gary is a Life Member of VFW Post 9365 in Wasilla, Alaska, near to where he currently resides with his wife Nancy, in the beautiful city of Anchorage.

Gary has served diligently in the Department of Alaska service office for the last 19 years and as Department Adjutant for the past 17 years. Then in 2001, Gary was elected Department Commander and earned All-American Department Commander status. Most recently Gary completed a two-year term as Governor Tony Knowles' appointee to the Alaska Veterans Advisory Council.

Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Gary Kurpius, is also a member of the Military Order of the Cootie, American Legion and Vietnam Veterans of America. In 1999, he received the Alaska Community Service Medal. Few men have had such a dedicated and lengthy history of service and I know that Gary Kurpius will continue to serve with the same dedication and fortitude, meeting all the challenges he is presented with.

On behalf of The United States of America, I extend my thanks and appreciation to Commander-in-Chief Gary Kurpius, for his dedication and service to American Servicemen, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and to the people of the Great State of Alaska.

IN MEMORY OF WILLIAM A. LUCKING, JR.

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 8, 2007

Mr. GALLEGLY. Madam Speaker, I rise in memory of my friend, Bill Lucking, who died at home earlier this week at the age of 89, surrounded by generations of family.

There are not enough pages in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD to do justice to the life of William A. Lucking Jr. He was a decorated World War II combat veteran, a horseman, a rancher, a hunter, a world traveler, an attorney, a community volunteer, and an outdoorsman as comfortable on land as he was on or below the water. Bill also was active in Republican politics, including being a delegate to the Republican Convention that nominated Richard Nixon in 1960, much to the chagrin of his Democratic father.

Bill Lucking would say that he worked hard and played hard. Raised in the Ventura County, California, community of Ojai, he bought more than 200 acres of rugged land there in 1956—6 years after he passed the California

bar—and turned it into a thriving citrus and avocado ranch. His home there is testament to his world travels, filled with such treasures as maps and ancient pottery.

Bill served during World War II as a Navy Reserve ensign and skipper on coastal defense sailboats and as executive officer of the radar picket *Pritchett* (DD-561). It was on the *Pritchett* that he earned a Bronze Star for sinking a whaleboat to rescue sailors from the sinking USS *Callaghan* in the Pacific Theater.

Bill's love of the ocean continued throughout his life. He was a body surfer and a founder of the South Jetty Swells, and a diver who explored the sunken *Winfield Scott* off Anacapa Island. He put his horse-riding skills to use riding with the Ventura County Sheriff's Posse and Rancheros Adolfo—when he wasn't riding in Death Valley, Oregon, or with the Navajo in Arizona.

Bill was partner with many attorneys who went on to become judges. Bill also was offered judgeships, but turned them down. As he told a reporter in a 1970 interview, "I enjoy being on one side or the other."

In politics, he was squarely on the side of the Republican Party and was responsible for helping launch many a stellar political career, including that of my friend and mentor, a former member of this body, Bob Lagomarsino. Not only have they been close personal friends since the '50s, ("We called each other 'Cuz' because he was married to my wife's cousin," Bob recalled), but Bill also was instrumental in Bob running for the California Senate in 1961. Bob credits Bill for keeping the party in Ventura County strong in good times and bad.

True to a life lived on his own terms, when Bill learned the end was near, he left the hospital to "be at home, in front of the fire, with his arm around (his wife) Lucy," recalled his daughter, Helen.

Madam Speaker, I know my colleagues will join me in remembering Bill Lucking for a life lived to the fullest, who made contributions great and small in war and in peace, and who serves as an inspiration to all Americans.

Godspeed, Bill.

TRIBUTE TO CLARE ASHBY

HON. PHIL ENGLISH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 8, 2007

Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, since the beginning of the year, my office has had the privilege of hosting Clare Ashby as an international trade intern.

Clare joined my Washington, D.C. team as part of the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Program. Now in its 8th year, the educational exchange program brings 12 distinguished Australian university students to the Nation's capital each year to intern in the office of a Member of Congress. This unique bilateral exchange offers participants the opportunity to not only learn the inner-workings of the U.S. Federal Government but to also develop and maintain new, career-building relationships. Although this is only my first year hosting a student, I am impressed with Clare's intellectual curiosity and have found that she has made a real and substantial contribution in advocating my legislative efforts.

As a congressional intern in my office, Clare has actively engaged in open dialogue regarding the challenges of current U.S. trade policy; conducted extensive research and analysis on these same issues; and assisted in the drafting of legislation. Her intellectual breadth and keen ability to understand complex public policy have surely not gone unnoticed. At the same time, Clare has also taken the initiative to help bridge the gap between American and Australian cultures. My office joined Clare in the celebration of Australia Day, where we learned of Australian tradition and history. We also shared a favorite Australian treat, a sweet chocolate biscuit, known as a Tim Tam. During her time with our office, Clare also shared the same birthday as one of my legislative staffers. On that special day, we again celebrated the occasion and shared the stories of our birthday traditions.

Madam Speaker, I am proud that my office participated in this year's Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Program, as I found it to be a valuable experience on a variety of different levels. It is at this time that I hope my colleagues will join me in congratulating Clare Ashby for her successful internship in my office. It was an honor to host her and I wish her continued success in her future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF MRS. ANDRA LYONS, JACKSONVILLE HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 8, 2007

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a constituent of mine, Mrs. Andra Lyons, of Jacksonville, Alabama. Mrs. Lyons is a highly accomplished educator and was recently named Jacksonville High School's Teacher of the Year.

In 1982, Mrs. Lyons began her career as a teacher. After graduating from Jacksonville State University, Mrs. Lyons began teaching elementary school, a position she held for 15 years. She later began teaching middle school, and she currently teaches 8th grade science. As part of her career in education, Mrs. Lyons has also participated in the Alabama Math, Science, and Technology Initiative. According to her colleagues, Mrs. Lyons has been a dedicated and talented educator, who by applying new hands-on teaching methods to her classroom, has enriched her students' learning experiences. In recognition of her dedication to academic excellence, Mrs. Lyons' colleagues have named her Teacher of the Year.

Mrs. Lyons has touched hundreds of young lives over the years, helping guide our future leaders toward success in life. I congratulate Mrs. Lyons for her dedication, and for receiving this important recognition.

TRIBUTE TO SHAWN WELLS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 8, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize the achievements of

Shawn Wells, husband, father, and the postmaster of Cowgill, MO, who passed away on December 10, 2006.

Mr. Wells was a 22-year veteran of the United States Postal Service and throughout his career was a clerk at the St. Joseph, MO Post Office, and the officer in charge at the Rushville, Dearborn, Mound City and Easton Post Offices.

Mr. Wells not only provided his valuable service to the United States Postal Service, he also was a veteran of the United States Navy and served on the USS *Hunley*.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing the life and achievements of Shawn Wells, whose dedication and service to the United States Postal Service is truly admirable.

TRIBUTE TO KEVIN "KP" ENER, COMMUNITY SERVANT AND BROADCASTING ENTREPRENEUR

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 8, 2007

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Kevin Ener, of Houston, Texas, who died last Saturday, February 3, 2007. Kevin Ener, or simply "KP" to the multitudes who knew and loved him, was a self-made man and broadcast entrepreneur, who dedicated his life to serving his family, friends, neighbors, and the people of the community he loved more than any other, the Acres Homes community of Houston.

Kevin Ener served the people of the Acres Homes community in a multitude of ways, but most of all by keeping them informed and providing them an outlet by which their voices could be heard. He used the broadcast station he founded, FM96.1 DaZone, and managed to empower his community. Madam Speaker, I want to share with you the story of Kevin Ener and his creation, FM96.1 DaZone, so the world will understand how much KP meant to the people of Acres Homes and why he will be missed so much.

Kevin Dwayne Ener was born to Deborah and Carl Shankle on March 8, 1970 in Houston, Texas. He was educated at Aldine High School and Texas Southern University, where he learned to become a legal assistant.

But Kevin's true love and calling was music, both the performance and the business. His first business venture occurred when he was 13 and secured engagement as a mobile disk jockey at St. Monica's Catholic Church and at the Sid Ranch. By the time he was twenty, Kevin Ener had managed several record labels; he started his record label, AHM Recording, before he was thirty.

Along with his partner, Sean Whittington, Kevin produced music for many local artists, including Billy Cook, Phoenix, Big Mello, Hahje, Eda Massberg, and Nuyorka. Kevin's interest in music production soon led him to the business of music promotion, graphic design and production, merchandizing, artist management, and, ultimately, radio broadcasting.

Madam Speaker, in his heart and soul, Kevin Ener was always a son of Acres Homes. So great was his love for this community that in May 2005, Kevin and his long-time

friend Larry Williams, started a low power FM radio station. In those heady early days, the station broadcast from the living room of Kevin's house in Acres Homes. Later, as the station established its niche and found its audience, it moved the broadcast signal up the FM dial from 89.1 to 96.1, and moved its base of operations to the corner of West Montgomery and South Victory Streets.

Located in the heart of Acres Homes, FM96.1 DaZone soon became the heartbeat of the community. Led by Kevin and a team of over 30 dedicated volunteers, the station broadcast a wide range of music, public service announcements, live-remote events, and public affairs programming, including exclusive interview shows with local government officials, community activists, economic developers, performing and visual artists, and leaders of faith-based organizations.

From top to bottom, FM96.1 is and has always been a labor of love. It has no employees; no one involved with the station receives a salary; everyone serves in a volunteer capacity. The station operates largely on a barter basis, exchanging, for example, free staff haircuts for live remote broadcasts from the Acres Homes College of Barber Design, or free lunches on Fridays in exchange for "shout outs" to Chi Chi's Soulfood Kitchen. Modest cash donations are made in exchange for other on-air notices or promotions.

FM96.1's mission and programming are targeted directly to the needs of the roughly 40,000 people who live in Acres Homes, an underprivileged and underserved historic part of north Houston. The mission of FM96.1 is to enhance the services, identity, unity and overall quality of life of Acres Homes' residents by providing programming focused directly on their needs and aspirations. It promotes local activities, community events, businesses, churches, and service organizations, offering a microphone to business owners, school principals, ministers, community service providers and politicians who seek to instruct, employ, build or inspire the community.

Perhaps FM96.1's indispensable role in the Acres Homes community is best demonstrated by its response to a series of rapes and murders occurring last year within just a few miles of the station's broadcast location. Anchored by Kevin Ener, the station performed yeoman work in informing the community and participating in a series of weekly Town Hall Meetings at the Acres Homes Multi-Service Center. These meetings were held to inform local residents of the presence of a serial killer in the community, educate area women about personal safety, and inform the community about efforts being taken by a wide range of law enforcement agencies to find the perpetrator.

In addition, under the leadership of Kevin Ener, FM96.1 routinely provided free promotional advertising and live remote broadcasts for such events as Christmas toy drives, school supply drives, little league baseball registrations, basketball camps, Trail Riders, youth ministry conferences, Juneteenth celebrations, park dedications, teen dances, North Houston City College registration, Stay-In-School drives, GED certification drives, disaster-relief commodity collection projects, community health awareness events, and voter registration drives.

The depth and quality of service FM96.1, a creation of the love and vision of Kevin Ener, has delivered to the Acres Homes community

is widely recognized and acknowledged and reflected in the many letters, certificates and testimonials it has received from civic organizations, churches, small business owners, community leaders, and elected officials. It is no exaggeration to say that the large radio stations serving the Houston market would be hard pressed to match the FM96.1's record of direct service to the Acres Homes community and effectiveness in addressing the real-world issues facing Acres Homes' residents.

Madam Speaker, Kevin Ener was preceded in death by his father, Carl, and by his daughter Carolyn. He leaves to cherish his memory a beloved wife, Felisha, and nine devoted children: Brittany, Brandan, William, Kevin, Lois, Dexter, Chase, Jessica, and Nyah. Mourning his loss are his mother Deborah, his grandmother Daisy; brothers Robert, James, Kerry, and Carl; sisters Cora, Carlisle, and Tiffany; and a host of relatives, friends, and admirers.

In closing, Madam Speaker, let me say that although many a tear is falling in Acres Homes tonight, joy cometh in the morning. Because that is when the thousands of people whose lives were touched and uplifted by the incandescent, effervescent, and irrepressible Kevin Ener will remember that when he was in their midst, they were in the company of a hero. He will never be forgotten. Farewell, dear prince. May angels carry you to your final rest.

TRIBUTE TO JOANNA KURYLO

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 8, 2007

Mr. CROWLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of my constituents, Joanna Kurylo of Queens, NY. I wish to recognize Ms. Kurylo for being awarded the 2007 New York State Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Humanitarian Youth Award. Joanna is a student at Christ the King Regional High School where she has achieved a high level of excellence and has already established herself as a community leader. While participating in a number of extra-curricular school activities, Joanna was honored for her notable fundraising efforts which brought aid to the Darfur region and helped advance the battle against leprosy. This award is granted to five students throughout New York State each year.

Madam Speaker, I join to wish Ms. Kurylo best wishes and good fortune in his future projects.

CONSUMER OVERDRAFT PROTECTION FAIR PRACTICES ACT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 8, 2007

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I am introducing a bill that extends the protections of the Truth in Lending Act to overdraft protection programs and services provided by depository institutions. The bill also requires customer consent before a depository institution may initiate overdraft protection services and fees, and enhances the

information made available to consumers relating to overdraft protection services and fees. In addition, the bill prohibits systematic manipulation in the posting of checks and other debits to a depository account for the purposes of generating overdraft protection fees, among other things.

HEALTHCARE AND THE FY 08 BUDGET

HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 8, 2007

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Madam Speaker, today I rise to express my strong concern and disappointment over the budget that the President sent to us this week. This budget—like those that The President has presented every year for the past 7 years—clearly shows that his priorities are not in sync with that of the American people. This budget takes money that could help millions of the most vulnerable Americans—the poor, the chronically ill, the elderly, people with disabilities and children and uses it instead to give a few wealthy Americans tax breaks they don't need and many don't want.

While many have called this budget fiscally irresponsible, which is an appropriate description, Madam Speaker, in my opinion this budget goes far beyond fiscal irresponsibility! It lacks compassion and humanity and it is unjust. The American people expect better, Madam Speaker, and we must answer their call.

As others of my colleagues have conveyed, this budget does not just cut, but slashes Medicare and Medicaid, two programs that literally sustain the lives of millions of Americans who have serious health needs. And simply cannot afford coverage.

And, in this budget, the State Children's Health Insurance Program is so under-funded that the 9 million children who are uninsured today will likely remain uninsured tomorrow.

The President's budget also takes aim at people living with HIV/AIDS.

The CARE Act and its ADAP program are drastically under-funded, and will leave far too many people with HIV/AIDS without reliable access to the most advanced medications, the most appropriate health care and treatments, and the support services that they will need to manage their conditions, protect their health and care for their families.

Additionally, under this budget, the CARE Act will find itself expected to serve more people with HIV infection, but without adequate funding to do so.

Madam Speaker, as both a physician and the Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus Health Braintrust, more than just being disappointed, this budget makes me angry. As though the cuts to Medicare and Medicaid, and the inadequate funding for the CARE Act and SCHIP were not bad enough, after what has been hundreds of years of preventable premature deaths in people of color, I am particularly disturbed that the President's budget completely ignores and does nothing to end the travesty and injustice of racial and ethnic health disparities; nor is their funding in Health and Human Services for Katrina recovery or rebuilding the healthcare infrastructure in the Gulf region.

Further, this budget cuts or under-funds all of the programs—from aging programs, social service grants, and nursing programs, to SAMHSA, newborn screening programs, maternal and child health programs, state and local capacity building and training for doctors, nurses and other health providers—that are not only integral, but essential to the elimination of health disparities. Further, the cuts in that budget to Veterans programs will also impact their services and undermine their health.

And, as though to add insult to injury, even though NIH gets a slight increase in this budget, the National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities at NIH instead gets a cut!

Madam Speaker, the nation's leading economists often talk about "good" debt as investment debt that creates or improves value and "bad" debt, which creates no value. It's time that we champion a budget that creates good debt!

By making an increased investment in the health and health care of all Americans who have unmet health and health care needs, we would be making an investment that will, in fact, create value by bolstering the health and well being of not only individuals and communities, but of the workforce, our defense and ultimately our nation and our nation's security.

Unfortunately, this budget does little more than continue to create the "bad" debt that has accumulated during the last 6 years and from which most Americans have not benefited at all. In fact, despite the very high levels of spending in those years, most find themselves worse off economically educationally and with respect to their health.

Now that the prior bad debt has been created and used for tax cuts and squandered on a war that yet leaves our soldiers under-protected and under-equipped, the poor and people of color who have been further marginalized are told they will have to continue to suffer because there is no money and now at our expense, the budget must be balanced.

This is patently unfair and unjust. This budget does not put access to healthcare within the reach of the millions of hard working, low income Americans and their families. All it does is continue to ensure the huge tax breaks for million and billionaires. The president's budget continues the misguided health priorities of the Republican Party, wealthy corporations and their conservative base.

We have a great challenge before us in this budget with the unprecedented deficit and the huge debt this administration has put us in to countries like China.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, far too many of the people we represent have waited patiently for far too long and in that time hundreds of thousand have died because of the unhealthy communities they live in and because they could not get the healthcare they needed.

Despite the fire fiscal circumstances left for us to deal with, and for us to correct, we cannot delay healthcare justice for them, for justice further delayed is justice further denied.

We must reject the president's budget and replace it with a new one that responds to the needs of the people who are depending on us and is in keeping with the ideals this nation was founded on.

The time to do more is now; this is our moment to answer the call of millions of Americans who have the desire for a healthier today

and a healthier tomorrow for themselves and their families. This is the time to redefine our Country through realigning its priorities.

This budget is our opportunity to set a new direction for our Nation.

HONORING THE LIFE OF "SECRET SANTA," MR. LARRY STEWART

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 8, 2007

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Larry Stewart, more affectionately known as "Secret Santa." He passed away January 12 of this year of complications from cancer of the esophagus. For 27 years during the Christmas season, he anonymously gave away more than 1.3 million dollars in cash to those that needed it most. Although he was a resident of Lee's Summit, Missouri in my Fifth Congressional district and was known as "Secret Santa" in the Kansas City area, he distributed his "gifts" from east coast to west coast and many areas of the country in between.

He went to New York during the holiday season of 2001. He distributed \$25,000 in \$100 bills to the people of New York City who were still feeling the devastation of September 11. In 2002, he distributed cash "gifts" in the Virginia area which was reeling from sniper attacks. In 2003, he visited the San Diego area which was being damaged by fires. And in 2004, he went to Florida where Larry gave nearly \$30,000 to those who had suffered damage from the hurricane. As can be seen, this man's generosity touched many of my colleagues' Congressional Districts. He also traveled to the Washington, D.C. area, Chicago, Las Vegas, and Mississippi, the state of his birth.

Following the gifts in New York City, he appeared on the Oprah Winfrey show where he wore a Santa Claus costume to protect his identity. Only his family, and a handful of local law enforcement and fire officials knew his real identity, hence the name "Secret Santa." Even though I was the Mayor of Kansas City, Missouri for 8 years during his gift giving escapades, I did not know who he was, and there was quite a bit of talk of who really was Secret Santa. As I said before, his "gifts" were of cash to the less fortunate. They were gifts from his heart and were never taken as a tax deduction. Much of the money he gave away was to people he saw on the street, at pool halls, pawn shops, and Laundromats—he went where the people were.

This last holiday season, Larry came forward to reveal his real identity. For 26 years he was known only as "Secret Santa," but he received word that the tabloids were about to announce who he really was. His final holiday season, he was able to give away \$100,000 in memory of his late friend, the legendary "Buck" O'Neil, who had passed away in October 2006. This amount was increased by an additional \$75,000 from "elves" who had come forward to carry on his program.

Larry was a member of the Crime Commission Board, the Foundation Board for the St. Luke's Hospital, the Lee's Summit Economic Development Council, the Board of Directors of S.A.F.E., and the Eastern Jackson County Youth Court.

Madam Speaker, please join me in expressing our heartfelt sympathy to his adult children, sons Joe, John, and Mark Stewart, as well as daughter Kimberly Stewart, and his many relatives and friends. He was a shining example of humanity and kindness. He gave of himself and asked nothing in return. I urge my colleagues to please join me in conveying our gratitude to his family for sharing this great man with us, and to accept our condolences for their tremendous loss. He was an inspiration to us all.

HONORING ROSS AND JUDY PARADIS

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 8, 2007

Mr. MICHAUD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a husband and wife who have been tireless advocates for many of the disadvantaged in rural northern Maine. Ross and Judy Paradis are from Frenchville, a small town along the St. Lawrence River overlooking our neighbor to the north, Canada.

Through a range of professional positions, Ross and Judy Paradis have worked day and night to help make the lives of the residents of the St. John Valley better and more prosperous.

They were both teachers, then state representatives in the Maine Legislature. Judy was also a state senator. Even today, with no direct ties to public office, the Paradis have championed the causes of their neighbors. They continue to work as advocates on education, housing, health and human services, and many other issues that affect the day-to-day lives of those around them. They champion Maine's children, Maine's rural communities and Maine's way of life. They have also helped to preserve the stories and culture of Maine's Acadian heritage.

Ross and Judy have always stepped up when faced with a challenge. As a result, they have gained the respect of their colleagues from all over the state and beyond. Their concern has always been the needs of their constituents in the Saint John Valley and the people of Maine.

The citizens of the State of Maine are extremely fortunate to have such wonderful advocates and friends.

RECOGNIZING THE WORK AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF MR. BRITT "MAX" MAYFIELD, DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL HURRICANE CENTER'S TROPICAL PREDICTION CENTER UPON HIS RETIREMENT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 7, 2007

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 72, which honors Dr. Britt "Max" Mayfield upon his retirement from his position as the Director of the National Hurricane Center. This resolution recognizes his leadership at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Tropical Prediction Center.

Although we continue to mourn the loss of the thousands of victims who perished in Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath, because of Max Mayfield's cool head and steady hand the lives of the countless thousands were saved since they were able to heed Dr. Mayfield's warnings and evacuate the area. His accurate forecasts and persistent warnings have hundreds of thousands of lives over the last three decades and it is fitting that we honor him today.

Dr. Mayfield began working at the National Hurricane Center 34 years ago as an intern. Through hard work and demonstrated performance, Max Mayfield was promoted through the ranks of the National Hurricane Center: forecaster, senior forecaster, deputy director, and finally, director.

His extensive work in the field of meteorology has earned him numerous awards. In 1996, the American Meteorological Society honored him for his outstanding performance as coordinator of the National Hurricane Center's hurricane preparedness training. In 2000, he received an Outstanding Achievement Award for his work in the development and expansion of educational opportunities for state and local emergency management officials. Dr. Mayfield has also been recognized by the U.S. Department of Commerce with Gold and Silver Medals for his work during some of this nation's most destructive hurricanes.

Dr. Mayfield retired one month ago, and we will surely miss his outstanding service and leadership at the National Hurricane Center. I thank the gentleman from Florida, Mr. Mahoney, for introducing this legislation to honor Dr. Max Mayfield for his dedication to meteorology and his 34 year career of distinguished service to NOAA and our nation. For these reasons, I strongly support H. Res. 72 and urge all members to do likewise.

TRIBUTE TO JONATHAN RIVERA

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 8, 2007

Mr. CROWLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the accomplishments of one of my constituents, Jonathan Rivera of Bronx, NY. I wish to recognize Mr. Rivera for being named a semi-finalist in The New York Times College Scholarship Program. Currently a senior at Monsignor Scanlan High School, Jonathan has demonstrated both a commitment to academic excellence and to serving the community through his involvement in the Campus Ministry, making him a deserving recipient of this honor.

The New York Times awards four-year scholarships and mentoring opportunities to only 20 students each year attending New York City public schools. Recipients are selected for attaining high levels of scholastic achievement in the face of adversity.

Madam Speaker, I join to wish Mr. Rivera best wishes and good fortune in his future projects.

HONORING STATE REPRESENTATIVE THOMAS TIGUE AS HE RETIRES FROM THE PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATURE AFTER 26 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 8, 2007

Mr. KANJORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Pennsylvania State Rep. Thomas M. Tigue, who retired this year after serving 26 years in the Pennsylvania Legislature.

Mr. Tigue represented the 118th Legislative District which includes Pittston City, Bear Creek, Buck and Jenkins Townships and Avoca, Bear Creek Village, Dupont, Duryea, Hughestown and Laffin Boroughs in Luzerne County and Chestnuthill, Eldred, Polk, Tobyhanna and Tunkhannock Townships in Monroe County.

Mr. Tigue was a member of the United States Marine Corps from 1968 to 1971. He served in the Vietnam War and earned the Silver Star. He was later elected to the Pittston Area School Board before being elected to the state House in 1980.

During his tenure as an elected state lawmaker, Mr. Tigue's accomplishments included sponsoring the PACE preservation law, securing funds to replace the dam at Brady's Lake, working to bring about property tax reform and addressing numerous education issues. Mr. Tigue was meticulous about being responsive to matters of concern and interest to his constituents.

He frequently advised his younger colleagues in the House to listen to voters. He would admonish them to be flexible, put aside partisan politics and be willing to compromise to get things done. Mr. Tigue believed that voters expect their elected officials to make tough decisions.

Mr. Tigue was born in Pittston, Pennsylvania, to Michael and the late Joan Walsh Tigue. He graduated from St. John's High School, Pittston and earned a bachelor's degree in public administration from King's College in Wilkes-Barre. He was a Legislative Fellow at East Stroudsburg University.

While serving in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, Mr. Tigue served as the Democratic chairman of the Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committees and the Intergovernmental Affairs Committee.

Mr. Tigue was a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion, Marine Corps League, Knights of Columbus, Greater Pittston Chamber of Commerce and the Greater Pittston Friendly Sons of St. Patrick.

He is married to the former Dianne Walsh and the couple has four children: Thomas, Tracy Ashby, Kristin Lazevnick and Colleen. They also have seven grandchildren.

On a personal note, let me add that it has been an honor and a pleasure to work with Tom on countless occasions through the years. I could always count on him to be thoroughly informed and willing to do the hard work necessary to solve what sometimes appeared to be intractable problems. Always a straight shooter, Tom never hesitated to tell the hard truth, not always what our constituents wanted to hear. His candor is all too un-

common, and his retirement is a great loss to the Legislature and to Pennsylvania.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mr. Tigue on a very successful career in public service. His commitment to community service contributed greatly to improving the quality of life throughout northeastern Pennsylvania.

CONGRATULATIONS TO CHIEF JUDGE STEPHEN C. COOPER ON THIS RETIREMENT

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 8, 2007

Mr. LEVIN. Madam Speaker, I rise to offer my congratulations to Chief Judge Stephen C. Cooper, who is retiring from the bench of the 46th District Court. Judge Cooper brings closure to a distinguished 33-year career in public service. In addition to his service to the 46th District Court, Judge Cooper also served as City Council President Pro-Tem for the Southfield City Council.

Chief Judge Cooper was elected to the 46th District Court in 1986 and re-elected in 1992, 1998 and 2004. His re-election was unanimously endorsed by both the Democratic and Republican Parties, both defense and plaintiffs lawyers, business and labor and every prominent elected official and community leader in his District. The Bar Association rated his performance "outstanding."

Judge Cooper was elected and served as president of the Michigan District Judges Association and currently in his second term as Michigan Governor of the American Judges Association (AJA). Judge Cooper was recognized by Optimist International as "triple distinguished president" of the Southfield-Lathrup Optimist Club.

Judge Cooper has received numerous awards including the Martin Luther King, Jr. Award which is given to a local citizen whose life exemplifies the ideals espoused by Dr. King. He was selected as the Honoree-of-the-year of the Women's Bar Association, the Governor's Award for Volunteer Service, and the Southfield Schools' Alumnus of the Year Award.

Judge Stephen Cooper was elected President of the Michigan District Judges Association, the Southfield Bar Association and the B'Nai Brith Association and was Vice President of the Southfield Chamber of Commerce. He also served on numerous boards including the Salvation Army, League of Women Voters, Anti-Defamation League, Southfield-Lathrup PTA Council, MLK Taskforce and the Easter Seals Society.

Upon retirement, Judge Cooper will direct his professional talents to the field of mediation and teaching. He will also have more time for his hobbies, including kayaking, ceramics, welding, roller-blading and, above all, enjoying life with Caroline, his wife of more than 36 years and being a grandparent.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this fine individual and thanking him for his dedication to our community. I extend my heartiest congratulations and warmest wishes as he starts this new chapter in his life.

PRESERVATION OF ANTIBIOTICS
FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT ACT

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 8, 2007

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation that is critically important in preventing our current stock of antibiotics from becoming obsolete. As a mother, grandmother, and microbiologist, I cannot stress the urgency of this problem enough.

Seven classes of antibiotics that are considered medically important for humans are currently approved by the Federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for nontherapeutic use in animal agriculture. Among them are penicillin, tetracyclines, macrolides, lincosamides, streptogramins, aminoglycosides, and sulfonamides. These classes of antibiotics are among the most critically important in our arsenal of defense against potentially fatal diseases.

Penicillins, for example, are used to treat infections ranging from strep throat to meningitis. Macrolides and Sulfonamides are used to prevent secondary infections in patients with AIDS and to treat pneumonia in HIV-infected patients. Tetracyclines are used to treat people potentially exposed to anthrax.

Despite their importance in human medicine, these drugs are added to animal feed as growth promotants and for routine disease prevention. This kind of habitual, nontherapeutic use of antibiotics has been conclusively linked to a growing number of incidents of antimicrobial-resistant infections in humans, and may be contaminating ground water with resistant bacteria in rural areas.

The legislation I am introducing today, the Preservation of Antibiotics for Medical Treatment Act, would phase out the use of the seven classes of medically significant antibiotics that are currently approved for nontherapeutic use in animal agriculture. Make no mistake, this bill would in no way infringe upon the use of these drugs to treat a sick animal. It simply proscribes their nontherapeutic use.

Although the FDA could withdraw its approval for these antibiotics, its record of reviewing currently approved drugs under existing procedures indicate that it would take nearly a century to get these medically important antibiotics out of the feed given to food producing animals. In October 2000, for example, the FDA began consideration of a proposal to withdraw its approval for the therapeutic use of fluoroquinolones in poultry. The review is still ongoing, and under its regulations, the FDA must review each class of antibiotics separately.

Unfortunately, upcoming actions by the FDA could make us less, not more safe. As antimicrobial resistance is on the rise, the FDA is considering an application to permit the use of a fourth-generation cephalosporin, cefquinome, in animal agriculture. Fourth-generation cephalosporins are used to treat food borne illnesses, including E. Coli and Salmonella. In Europe, where cefquinome has been approved for use in animal agriculture, scientists have noticed an increase in resistant bacteria. Already, the emerging strains of resistant bacteria are reaching a crisis level here in the United States. That the FDA is currently con-

sidering approval of a drug that will only make humans more vulnerable to resistant bacteria underscores the need for this legislation.

Madam Speaker, when we go to the grocery store to pick up dinner, we should be able to buy our food without worrying that eating it will expose our family to potentially deadly bacteria that will no longer respond to our medical treatments. Unless we act now, we will unwittingly be permitting animals to serve as incubators for resistant bacteria.

It is time for Congress to stand with scientists, the World Health Organization, the American Medical Association, and the National Academy of Sciences and do something to address the spread of resistant bacteria. We cannot afford for our medicines to become obsolete.

I urge my colleagues to support the Preservation of Antibiotics for Medical Treatment Act to protect the integrity of our antibiotics and the health of American families+.

INTRODUCTION OF "WITNESS SECURITY AND PROTECTION ACT OF 2007"

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 8, 2007

Mr. CUMMINGS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to reintroduce the "Witness Security and Protection Act of 2007," to attempt to provide protection for some of our Nation's bravest citizens.

Last year, 38-year old John Dowery of East Baltimore, a murder witness, was shot and killed after having Thanksgiving dinner with his family.

Two years ago, Baltimore Police Detective Thomas Newman was murdered following his testimony in a shooting trial.

Three years ago, Edna McAber of North Baltimore survived a series of violent attacks in apparent retaliation for her efforts to drive criminals out of her community.

And in perhaps one of the most heart-breaking incidences: Four years ago, drug dealers in East Baltimore firebombed the Dawson family home in an attempt to silence them—killing mother, father, and their five young children.

Make no mistake, Madam Speaker: Witness intimidation in Baltimore City is not dreamt up by producers of HBO's critically acclaimed drama "The Wire." The threat is real—and the reality is horrific.

To be sure, criminals in Baltimore City produced their own DVD in 2004 entitled "Stop the Snitching." It depicts grotesque images of three bullet-ridden, bloody corpses accompanied by the phrase "snitch prevention."

Sadly, my hometown of Baltimore is not the only community plagued by this horrific reality. The problem is pervasive.

The National Institute of Justice finds that intimidation of victims and witnesses is a major problem for 51 percent of prosecutors in large jurisdictions (counties with populations greater than 250,000) and 43 percent of prosecutors in small jurisdictions (counties with populations between 50,000 and 250,000).

Further, prosecutors estimate that witness intimidation occurs in up to 75 to 100 percent of the violent crimes committed in some gang-dominated neighborhoods.

Violent retaliation against witnesses and informers threatens the very fabric of our criminal justice system. Known murders walk the streets every day because we lack the evidence necessary to bring them to justice.

Thankfully, witness protection programs can provide law enforcement with an indispensable tool in combating crime and addressing witness intimidation.

The Federal Witness Security Program, established in 1970 and administered by the Department of Justice, has successfully carried out its charge to protect witnesses testifying in extremely serious Federal cases.

Under the program, the United States Marshals Service (USMS) provides witnesses and their families with long-term protection, relocation, new identities, housing, employment, medical treatment, and funds to cover their most essential needs.

In over 30 years, not a single witness that followed security procedures was harmed while being protected by the program. More to the point, cases involving the testimony of the WSP participants have an 89 percent conviction rate.

In contrast, State witness protection programs are severely under-funded and enjoy virtually no Federal support.

While non-Federal witnesses can participate in the federal program under certain conditions, States are required to reimburse the Federal Government for the cost of providing such protection unless a waiver is granted.

As a result, State and local prosecutors often must choose between funding investigations or funding costly, but necessary witness protection programs. This often leads to some jurisdictions providing no witness protection at all.

No one wins when law enforcement officials are forced to make such choices.

That is why I am reintroducing the "Witness Security and Protection Act of 2007." Senator CHUCK SCHUMER of New York has reintroduced a companion bill to this legislation in the Senate, S. 79. It also enjoys the support of the National District Attorneys Association.

The "Witness Security and Protection Act of 2007" would establish within the USMS a Short-Term State Witness Protection Program tailored to meet the needs of witnesses testifying in State and local trials involving homicide, a serious violent felony or a serious drug offense.

The Act would also authorize \$90 million per year in competitive grants for the next 3 years. State and local district attorneys and the U.S. attorney for the District of Columbia, can use these funds to provide witness protection or pay the cost of enrolling their witnesses in the Short-Term State Witness Protection Program within the USMS.

Grants under this legislation would only be awarded to prosecutors in States with high homicide rates to ensure we target those most in need of Federal support.

Improving protection for State and local witnesses will move us one step closer toward alleviating the fears of and threats to prospective witnesses, and help to safeguard our communities from violence.

While we cannot bring back all those who suffered in the face of witness intimidation, we can honor their sacrifice by trying to prevent future tragedies.

I urge my colleagues to join me in taking that critical step by cosponsoring the "Witness Security and Protection Act of 2007."

HONORING THE LIFE OF JUAN
DESOSA

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 8, 2007

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary life and accomplishments of Mr. Juan Desosa.

Juan was born in Havana, Cuba, on February 10, 1927. His family was involved in the sugar and newspaper business, and he and his five siblings lived a happy life until 1959, when communist revolutionaries led by Fidel Castro took everything away from them. At that time, Juan made a life altering decision to leave his homeland and family and escape Cuba for freedom.

In 1960, Juan left Cuba and successfully made it to Miami, Florida. Not forgetting his homeland and the suffering of those he left behind, he worked to do everything in his power to help those that were not as lucky as he was. It was in Miami that Juan heard talk of a plan to liberate Cuba, and he soon found himself in the mountains of Guatemala with other Cuban refugees secretly training for an invasion. It was these refugees who later became the would-be liberators of the Bay of Pigs invasion. Juan fought fiercely for as long as he could, but was ultimately captured by Castro's soldiers. He suffered unimaginable conditions in a Cuban concentration camp for 3 years. Only after an exchange of prisoners for dollars between the Kennedy and Castro governments, was Juan released.

True to his character, upon returning to the U.S., Juan did not settle into a life of comfort and ease, but wanted to serve the country that liberated him twice, providing him with the economic, political, and religious freedom that was stripped away from him from his home country. He joined the U.S. Army, and during his military service, he proudly became a U.S. citizen. After serving 10 years in the Army, during which he engaged in combat missions during the Vietnam war, Juan retired as a major.

He settled down with his wife in New Port Richey, Florida, where he raised six children. Along the way, Juan has been recognized as an extraordinary businessman in his community who has owned and operated many popular restaurants in Florida's Ninth Congressional District. Currently, he owns and manages Juan Black Bean Deli in New Port Richey, an establishment that serves one of the best Cuban sandwiches on Florida's west coast.

Madam Speaker, as my good friend, Juan Desosa celebrates his 80th birthday, he has much for which to be proud. The life he has lived, and continues to live, serves as an example to us. He has displayed an uncommon courage, valor, and patriotism combined with his love of God, family and community that has benefited not only his fellow countrymen whom he endeavored to liberate, but his fellow citizens in the United States of America for whose freedom and liberty he fought for as a member of the U.S. Army.

TRIBUTE TO UNI-CAPITOL WASH-
INGTON INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 8, 2007

Mr. CLYBURN. Madam Speaker, as we listen to our constituents, grapple with their needs, speak out, legislate, and otherwise work to improve their lives and the life of our Nation, we take great pride in the ability of Congress and our system of government to inspire the world beyond our borders. But just as important as this inspiration is the recognition of what we all can learn from that world, from people who want to study, visit or otherwise immerse themselves in this great institution as a means towards better understanding the United States.

For the last 8 years, a unique international exchange has taken place here in Congress. Future leaders of Australia have participated in what's known as the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Program. Through this program each year, one dozen of Australia's best and brightest university students have been carefully matched to House and Senate offices for two-month full-time internships. These internships have enabled me and many of my colleagues to share our pride in the American republic while at the same time learning more firsthand about the Australian commonwealth, its people, its ideas, and our numerous shared values.

It is an understatement to say that Australia and the United States are close allies globally or that we merely have such similarities as vibrant democracies, free-enterprise economies, and diverse societies. We are in many ways close cousins with complex national histories. That is what these young Australians get to learn as they are welcomed here, and how we profit by their all-too-brief presence among us.

This year, it has been my pleasure to participate in this program for the third time and host Sylvia Gaston from the University of Melbourne.

Her kindness, can-do spirit, eagerness to learn, and willingness to share her views with me and my staff have made her an exceptional ambassador for her university and for her country. During her time with us, the closeness of the Australian and American peoples is clearly evident, just as it is evident that this exchange is not merely an academic exercise or even confined to Congress. It is about building for tomorrow, about personal and professional growth, and about lasting international friendships.

Sylvia is not alone in this experience in the First Session of the 110th Congress. Joining her in this very bipartisan effort: Emmanuel Rohan in the office of Representative MIKE CASTLE; Charis Tierney in the office of Senator MIKE CRAPO; Nicole Woodmansey in the office of Senator CHRISTOPHER DODD; Clare Ashby in the office of Representative PHILIP ENGLISH; Anna Keenan in the office of Representative SAM FARR; Nisha Sundaresan in the office of Senator CHUCK HAGEL; Anu Ambikaipalan in the office of Representative ALCEE HASTINGS; Megan Bainbridge in the office of Representative JERROLD NADLER; Stuart Broadfoot in the office of Representative ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN; Jennifer Grant in the office of Representative LORETTA SANCHEZ; and, Michael Ng at House

Transportation and Infrastructure Committee (Majority).

Both the U.S. and Australian Governments have been strong supporters of this exchange over the years, and rightly so. Seven Australian universities currently participate in the program from 4 of the 6 Australian states and the Australian Capital Territory. Students are put forward from such diverse disciplines as economics, commerce, trade, science, law, communications, politics, and of course, American studies.

One of the more noteworthy aspects of the program is that it is an entirely pro bono project. Eric Federer, who served as a senior staffer in the House and Senate for a dozen years in the 1980s and 1990s, created the program 8 years ago soon after going to work for the auditing firm KPMG. What the effort almost completely lacks in bureaucracy, it makes up for in the personal trust, practical purpose and contagious enthusiasm that gave life to this highly-personalized vision of international exchange, which followed Eric's many travels to Australia in the 1990s while still on congressional staff.

Madam Speaker, many of my colleagues have recognized this effort over the years. I did so myself 4 years ago when the annual intern group was much smaller and drawn from only a single Australian university. It is heartening to see how much this program has grown, thrived, and how tribute has been paid not just here but in the Australian Parliament.

In conclusion, Madam Speaker, there is so much we can learn when we connect people, whether here at home or around the world. Technology has greatly reduced what the Australians would call the "Tyranny of Distance." But only when you meet with and sit down with someone from another city, another state, or another country can you fully understand and appreciate the world through their eyes and divine where common ground can be found and endure.

My great hope is not only that this program continues, but that others will be founded in its spirit and focused towards as many peoples and places as possible in our world.

SUPPORT OF H.R. 365, METH-
AMPHETAMINE REMEDIATION
RESEARCH ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 7, 2007

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 365, the Methamphetamine Remediation Research Act of 2007. As a member of the Congressional Caucus to Fight and Control Methamphetamine, I am proud to be a sponsor of H.R. 365, which will help combat the scourge of methamphetamines and ameliorate the serious problems it is causing our Nation.

First and foremost, H.R. 365 will require the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to develop health-related guidelines for the cleanup of methamphetamines. It will also call for the National Academy of Science to perform a study on the long-term health effects on children rescued from living in methamphetamine lab homes. In addition, NIST, the National Institute of Standards and Technology, will establish a research program to develop field

kits that will test for and detect methamphetamine.

Despite improvements in state and local efforts to reduce its prevalence, the problems produced by methamphetamines and incidents related to methamphetamines continue. In 2005, 5,846 methamphetamine labs were seized, and in 2003, 7.6 percent of high school students reported having used methamphetamines. Self-reported use of methamphetamines by adults and adolescents continues to rise. As methamphetamine usage increases, the demand for the drug rises. Nowhere is it a bigger problem than in the Midwest, where methamphetamines account for nearly 90 percent of all drug cases. In states such as Oklahoma, methamphetamines are surpassing cocaine as the drug of choice. The state medical examiner's office reports the number of death cases testing positive for methamphetamines has been higher than cocaine. The office also reports methamphetamine is found in more cases of homicides, and motor vehicle accidents.

Methamphetamine labs not only damage individuals, they affect our children and our environment. As the founder and co-chair of the Congressional Children's Caucus, I am horrified by the effects methamphetamine labs have on children. Children living at methamphetamine labs are at increased risk for severe neglect and abuse, both physical and sexual abuse. A child raised in or near a methamphetamine lab environment experiences stress and trauma that significantly affect his or her overall safety and health, including behavioral, emotional, and cognitive functioning.

Hazardous living conditions and filth are common in methamphetamine lab homes where explosives and loaded guns are often present and in many instances, within easy reach. The safety and development of our children are negatively influenced by living in methamphetamine lab homes.

Our environment suffers from methamphetamine labs as well. In general, there are 5–7 pounds of toxic waste produced for every pound of methamphetamine manufactured. There are more than 30 chemicals used to produce methamphetamines, and most are explosive, caustic, and carcinogenic. The chemicals are often poured into streams, down drains or disposed of in fields, yards or gutters. Many highway cleanup crews have reported finding toxic garbage from methamphetamines in ditches. All of this illicit toxic waste eventually winds up in waterways via rainwater runoff.

Mr. Speaker, these dire problems require immediate action and H.R. 365 does this appropriately. I urge my colleagues to join me in the fight against the methamphetamine epidemic by supporting H.R. 365, the Methamphetamine Remediation Research Act of 2007.

TO AMEND TITLE VI OF THE PUBLIC UTILITY REGULATORY POLICIES ACT OF 1978 TO ESTABLISH A FEDERAL RENEWABLE ENERGY PORTFOLIO STANDARD FOR CERTAIN RETAIL ELECTRIC UTILITIES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 8, 2007

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bill to amend title VI of the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 in order to establish a Federal renewable energy portfolio standard for certain retail electric utilities. I would like to thank Representatives PLATTS, PALLONE, UDALL of Colorado, SHAYS, DEGETTE and MCNERNEY for their work on this issue and for joining me in introducing this legislation.

This bill will take a modest but important step towards developing our country's vast renewable energy resources by requiring retail sellers of electricity to use a minimum amount of electricity from renewable energy sources. That minimum increases gradually from only 1 percent in 2010 to a long-term target of 20 percent by 2020.

Developing our homegrown energy resources will create jobs, save consumers money, and bolster rural economies. In addition, diversifying our energy supply will increase our energy security and reduce the threat of global warming.

For example, a 2006 analysis by the Union of Concerned Scientists found that a standard requiring 20 percent of generation from renewable energy sources by the year 2020 would generate over 355,000 new high-paying jobs. In 2004, the Union of Concerned Scientists, using a modified version of the National Energy Modeling System, found that a 20 percent standard would have virtually no impact on consumer electric rates and would actually work to reduce natural gas prices.

Moreover, they calculated that a 20 percent standard would provide \$72.6 billion in new capital investments, \$15 billion in property tax revenues, and more than \$17 billion in payments to farmers, ranchers, and rural landowners. Consumers would save over \$12.6 billion. Commercial and industrial users would save \$19.1 billion and \$17.4 billion, respectively. And, all of those savings would actually be helping us reduce our reliance on foreign sources of energy and our impact on global warming.

The momentum for a national renewable portfolio standard, more simply known as an RPS, has been building. A Federal RPS mandate has already passed the Senate three times. Twenty-one States and the District of Columbia have already enacted renewable portfolio standards of their own because they recognize the economic benefits of an RPS. Nine States have even increased or accelerated existing standards. The RPS has proven itself effective, efficient and popular. It is time to bring those benefits to the rest of the Nation.

This bill provides for a gradual start, and it has many provisions both to help utilities meet the requirement and to reward those utilities that meet the requirements ahead of schedule.

It allows States, many of whom have moved far ahead on this issue, to have standards that are more rigorous than the Federal standards, and it provides incentives for the distributed generation of renewable energy and for the development of renewable energy resources on tribal lands.

I urge my colleagues to join me in support of this legislation.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF MR. PAUL ANTHONY WIESER

HON. ERIC CANTOR

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 8, 2007

Mr. CANTOR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the late Paul Anthony Wieser of Culpeper, Virginia, who passed away on Tuesday, December 12, 2006. Mr. Wieser dedicated his life to military and public service and should be honored today.

Mr. Wieser was a proud World War II veteran who served in the United States Navy aboard the USS *North Carolina* as a Boatswain Mate First Class from 1941 to 1946. After the war, he returned home to Linden, New Jersey and became a firefighter for the Linden Fire Department. He was called from the United States Naval Reserve in 1951 and served in Korea aboard the USS *Kula Gulf*. After retiring from the Linden, New Jersey Fire Department in 1980, Mr. Wieser moved to Wilmington, North Carolina to be closer to the battleship he loved, the USS *North Carolina*. He was a volunteer tour guide on the USS *North Carolina* for over 10 years. Mr. Wieser remained in touch with many of his shipmates and attended all of the USS *North Carolina*'s annual reunions. As the guest of honor at Constitution Day on September 17, 2006, he had the opportunity to ring the USS *North Carolina*'s bell. He was also featured on the cover of the October 2006 issue of Virginia Living Magazine in an issue that honored World War II heroes.

I hope that you will join me in honoring the life and service of Mr. Wieser and offering our sincerest condolences to his wife, Millie Wieser, and his family and friends.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DEBORAH PRYCE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 8, 2007

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I was absent from the House during the week beginning February 5, 2007. As a result, I was not recorded for a series of votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcalls 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, and 92, and "nay" on rollcall 81.

**A RESOLUTION TO URGE THE
PRESIDENT TO APPOINT A SPE-
CIAL ENVOY FOR MIDDLE EAST
PEACE**

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 8, 2007

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution urging President Bush to send a special envoy to the Middle East to focus on solving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

In my view, we have not committed enough resources to encourage peace in the region.

Maintaining the security of the State of Israel will always remain a priority of Congress and the United States of America.

This resolution does not change our policy for a secure and safe Israel, but acknowledges that we need to play a more constructive role in the region.

I was encouraged to see Secretary Condoleezza Rice make a trip to the region last month.

I was also pleased to see the Quartet recently meet to reaffirm their commitment to the peace process.

These are important steps, but I worry that they will have the same result as similar efforts and we will not see the type of sustained diplomacy required to solve such a complex issue.

I am calling on all my colleagues to help me send a message that we need a new approach. We need a special envoy with the authority to bring all responsible parties to the table.

This role was critical in the 1990s and is necessary today.

This envoy would work with the Secretary of State to ensure a constant, high-level American presence and provide our country with the ability to capitalize on every opportunity for progress.

The United States, Israel and the entire international community cannot afford to miss an opportunity to broker a lasting peace.

A special envoy, with the sanctioned mission of securing a lasting peace through negotiation, must be dispatched to the region.

Madam Speaker, thank you for the opportunity to introduce this resolution today.

RECOGNIZING PAMELA SIME

HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 8, 2007

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, education is the foundation of a strong nation, and I strongly believe that by investing in education and supporting our teachers, we can maintain American competitiveness in an increasingly global economy.

That is why I am honored to rise today in recognition of Ms. Pamela Sime, a science teacher at Unami Middle School in Chalfont, Pennsylvania. Today, Ms. Sime is here in Washington as one of five finalists nominated for the National Education Association Foundation Award for Teaching Excellence.

Madam Speaker, as a teacher in the Central Bucks School District, Ms. Sime has inspired

students for the better part of a decade, and the people of the Eighth Congressional District are lucky to have her. Ms. Sime teaches students a very modern curriculum, emphasizing ecology, energy, and the use of technology. She employs a hands-on, interactive approach to learning. Ms. Sime's students recently released their own science publication and after studying oil, they wrote letters to soldiers stationed overseas. Every year, her students look forward to investigating the disappearance of Skully, the classroom skeleton. In this exercise, students use modern forensic techniques, incorporating real-life applications in their study of science. I believe that great science teachers like Ms. Sime are a big part of why innovation exemplifies the American spirit.

Were Ms. Sime's excellence limited only to the classroom, we would still be proud, but her activities outside of the classroom are equally impressive. She is involved in all aspects of students' lives, and is always available for extra help. This dedication to her students is one of the most inspiring things about Ms. Sime. In a field where our professionals regularly demonstrate uncommon compassion and dedication, the rarefied few that go beyond set a new standard of excellence. That is why it comes as no surprise, Madam Speaker, that Ms. Sime entered the contest not for her own recognition, but in order to secure a grant to further enrich the educational experience of her students.

For these reasons, Madam Speaker, I am delighted to honor Ms. Sime's achievements. I wish her luck today regardless of the outcome of the competition's final decision, the people of Bucks County are proud of her accomplishments and grateful for her years of service.

**TEMPORARY EXTENSION OF AU-
THORIZATION OF PROGRAMS
UNDER SMALL BUSINESS ACT
AND SMALL BUSINESS INVEST-
MENT ACT OF 1958**

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 7, 2007

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 434, the Short Term Extension of the Small Business Administration, SBA, as amended by the Senate. H.R. 434 will provide for additional temporary extension through July 31, 2007, of programs under the Small Business Act and the Small Business Investment Act of 1958. This very important extension is crucial to the success of many small businesses across the country. Our entire Nation's economy relies on the success of small businesses.

Mr. Speaker, small businesses represent more than the American dream—they represent the American economy. Small businesses account for 95 percent of all employers, create half of our gross domestic product, and provide three out of four new jobs in this country.

Small business growth means economic growth for the Nation. But to keep this segment of our economy thriving, entrepreneurs need access to loans. Through loans, small business owners can expand their businesses,

hire more workers and provide more goods and services. The Small Business Administration, SBA, a Federal organization that aids small businesses with loan and development programs, is a key provider of support to small businesses. The SBA's main loan program accounts for 30 percent of all long-term small business borrowing in America.

Recently, my colleagues and I were able to restore funding to the SBA's main loan program for small businesses for 2005. And I am confident that we will continue to protect loan programs that will create and expand American small businesses. I have worked fervently and will continue to work to make sure small businesses have access to loans. These loans contribute greatly to the viability of many of these small businesses.

Providing loans for small businesses has also played a role in "Rebuilding the Gulf Coast" contracting opportunities. As of March 6, 2006, the Small Business Administration there have been: 55 Disaster Home Loans approved for \$727,000; 27 Disaster Business Loans approved for \$1,750,800; 17 Disaster Economic Injury Loans approved for \$750,100; and 99 Total Disaster Loans approved for \$3,227,900.

In my own district, small businesses are vital to our economy. That is why I have worked to introduce minority, women, and small business owners to contracting officials at NASA to help promote and develop Houston small businesses.

Mr. Speaker, I have worked hard to help small business owners to fully realize their potential. That is why I support entrepreneurial development programs, including the Small Business Development Center and Women's Business Center programs. These initiatives provide counseling in a variety of critical areas, including business plan development, finance, and marketing.

I also support investing in the highly successful Manufacturing Extension Partnership, MEP, Program, which offers services to help small U.S. manufacturers stay competitive. These measures are important to keeping jobs here at home, and helping American small business prosper.

Small business owners are leaders in innovation, creative business operations and new technologies and products. I urge my colleagues to join me in support of the extension of the Small Business Administration.

**INTRODUCTION OF THE EMMETT
TILL UNSOLVED CIVIL RIGHTS
CRIME ACT**

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 8, 2007

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I am so pleased to join my House and Senate colleagues today in introducing this important and necessary legislation. I would like to thank Senators DODD and LEAHY and Congressman HULSHOF for their commitment to justice and to the passage of the Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crime Act.

Nearly 60 Members of the House of Representatives from across the country joined us in cosponsoring this important and historic bill. There is strong, bipartisan, bicameral commitment to passing and enacting this legislation

as swiftly as possible. It is long overdue. The country is ready. The victims' families, friends, and loved ones have been suffering indefinitely, and Congress needs to act.

Our purpose here today is not to open up old wounds. There is a need for those who committed horrible crimes to be brought to justice. This process of seeking justice is not just good for history's sake, but it is good for the process of healing. It will help us to put this dark past behind us and to bring closure to the families of the victims of these age-old and vicious crimes.

The Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crime Act will deliver the added focus and resources necessary to get this job done. It is my hope and prayer that many murders committed during this Nation's struggle for civil rights will be solved as a result of this legislation. I will work tirelessly to see it passed.

SUPPORTING H.R. 365, THE METHAMPHETAMINE REMEDIATION RESEARCH ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 7, 2007

Mr. SHULER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a cosponsor of H.R. 365, The Methamphetamine Remediation Act of 2007, which will help communities across North Carolina clean up methamphetamine labs and the dangerous toxins that they leave behind. We must work toward making our communities safer, while also protecting our environment against the harmful effects of methamphetamine.

The chemicals used in the production of methamphetamine are extremely hazardous to our health and to our environment. These chemicals are toxic both during production and in their post-production residue. They can cause soil contamination through chemical dumping, in addition to hazardous waste problems. This residue seeps into carpets, furnishings, drapery and walls, so anyone who occupies the space now or in the future will be exposed to the dangerous toxins. This is extremely alarming since two-thirds of all methamphetamine labs are found in residential areas. Future residents are often exposed to these toxic chemicals without even knowing it, with children particularly vulnerable to harm.

Despite the best efforts of our dedicated men and women in law enforcement, this problem is growing. In 2005 there were 322 methamphetamine lab incidents in North Carolina alone. In 2003, the Asheville Port of Duty targeted large methamphetamine trafficking group in the region that was distributing over 40 pounds of methamphetamine monthly to habitual users in Western North Carolina.

H.R. 365 addresses these problems in several ways. It will help protect innocent families against the after effects of methamphetamine labs and make our communities safer and cleaner places to live. It will direct the National Institute of Standards and Technology to work with the EPA to develop technologies that will detect methamphetamine labs. The bill authorizes funding for the EPA to research the chemical residues and work with State and local officials to ensure that all levels of government are using the best practices for meth-

amphetamine lab recovery and remediation, so that future residents of a home are safe from harmful toxins.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues today to vote for this important legislation that will help protect our environment from pollution and our innocent families from the dangerous poisons that are imposed unknowingly upon them.

BAINBRIDGE ISLAND AMERICAN MONUMENT ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 6, 2007

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, February 5 the House unanimously passed H.R. 161, the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Monument Act of 2007. This measure would provide for the preservation of a historic site on Bainbridge Island, WA, where the first Japanese Americans were assembled for internment during World War II.

I thank my friend, Congressman JAY INSLEE, for his heartfelt commitment and leadership in introducing this legislation and working so effectively through the years to provide for this historic site. As an original cosponsor of this legislation and supporter of past efforts, I am proud to see its passage in the House. In addition, I wish to thank the Committee on Natural Resources and especially my friend, Chairman RAÚL GRIJALVA of the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands for their support and quick action.

During the war hysteria in 1942, Executive Order 9066 was signed by President Roosevelt which effectively trampled on the rights of U.S. citizens by ordering the internment of approximately 120,000 Japanese Americans.

Due to the military importance of Bainbridge Island, WA, lawful Japanese American families of this community were the first to be forcibly removed from their homes and sent to internment sites. These families would not be able to return to the island for more than four years. H.R. 161 would preserve their story.

H.R. 161 would enact recommendations from the National Park Service by extending the boundary of the Minidoka Internment National Monument, located in Idaho, to include the Bainbridge Island site as a satellite location. The Minidoka internment camp was the final destination until the end of the war for most of the families from Bainbridge Island. Including the Bainbridge Island site into an existing national monument would make it eligible to receive grants for funding.

Mr. Speaker, I am truly grateful for the support H.R. 161 enjoyed in the House of Representatives, and I anticipate similar endorsement in the Senate. Memorializing the Bainbridge Island site will preserve the stories of injustice fallen on these innocent American families and serve as a reminder of how easily the civil rights can be discarded in guise of homeland security. Appropriately, the Bainbridge Island Memorial will be named Nidoto Nai Yoni, which translated from Japanese means "Let It Not Happen Again."

HONORING THE PADEREWSKI SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA'S FEBRUARY 2007 PRODUCTION OF STANISLAW MONIUSZKO'S OPERA, THE HAUNTED MANOR

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 9, 2007

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the more than 110,000 Polish and Polish-American constituents of my district, as well as those of Polish descent around the country, I rise today to honor the late Polish composer Stanislaw Moniuszko. On February 10 and 11, the Paderewski Symphony Orchestra will perform Poland's national opera, The Haunted Manor, for audiences at the Rosemont Theater.

Considered the father of Polish opera, Moniuszko was born in the spring of 1819 to a patriotic family of Polish landowners living on the eastern edge of partitioned Poland. Revealing a passion for music at an early age, he began taking private piano lessons while still very young. In 1837, Moniuszko traveled to Berlin where he studied composition and choral conducting. By 1840, the young artist had already composed several operas as well as sacred music and secular cantatas.

Moniuszko became well-known for his many songs, operas, and ballets filled with patriotic and Polish folk themes. His music is quite stylistically distinct while incorporating various national motifs including certain Polish dances and folk tunes.

To this day, Moniuszko is considered one of Poland's great composers. One of his most famous operas is *Straszny Dwór*, or The Haunted Manor. In it, Moniuszko depicts Polish nobility and gentry while emphasizing Polish customs and traditions. The comic opera is claimed as Poland's national opera, as it encompasses different levels of society, and it has a vitality that speaks to everyone.

During his professional life, Moniuszko traveled numerous times to St. Petersburg to give concerts, so it is fitting that his works are traveling across the ocean to be performed by the Paderewski Symphony Orchestra of the Fifth Congressional District of Illinois.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to recognize Moniuszko and honor his success, as well as to commend the Paderewski Symphony Orchestra for bringing this important part of Poland's history to the Polish and Polish-American communities in the United States.

RECOGNIZING BENJAMIN LITTLE BEAR BRINK FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 9, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Benjamin Little Bear Brink, 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 388, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Benjamin has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities.

Over the many years Benjamin has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

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

RECOGNIZING GLENDA JASEN AS
WALTON COUNTY, FLORIDA'S
TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 9, 2007

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is an honor for me to rise today to recognize Glenda Jasen as Walton County, Florida's Teacher of the Year.

Glenda Jasen joined the Walton County school district administration in 2001 with over 30 years of teaching experience and an educational background in Counseling and Personal Services; Elementary Education; and Early Childhood Education. Mrs. Jasen has proudly served the school district over the past six years, and Walton County is honored to have her as one of their own.

Glenda Jasen currently teaches fifth grade at Van R. Butler Elementary School in Santa Rosa Beach, Florida. Every morning, Mrs. Jasen walks into her classroom with hope that she can provide her students with inspiration, and it is that hope coupled with her dedication and passion for teaching that she has won the hearts and respect of her students, colleagues, community and this distinguished award. To be honored as Teacher of the Year, the proof of greatness lies well beyond the title—it lies in the hearts and minds of the students and community who have been deeply affected.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to recognize Mrs. Jasen for her great achievement as Teacher of the Year and her continuing commitment to excellence at Van R. Butler Elementary School and in the Walton County School District.

TRIBUTE TO ROXBURY TOWNSHIP
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 9, 2007

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Roxbury Township Historical Society in the Township of Roxbury, Morris County, New Jersey, a vibrant community I am proud to represent. On February 10, 2007, the good citizens will celebrate the Roxbury Township Historical Society's 45th Anniversary.

In the early 1960's Roxbury citizens were cataloguing historic sites and structures in preparation for participation in the State of New Jersey's Three Hundredth Anniversary

when several active participants determined the need for a town historical society. The Roxbury Township Historical Society was formed on February 12, 1962 to research, preserve and promote the township's heritage, one of the four original townships designated by the County of Morris in 1740.

One home in the inventory, in the Ledgewood section of Roxbury Township, with a sloping rear roof-line reminiscent of early salt containers, was threatened by demolition. The rescue of this pre-Revolutionary dwelling became the Society's first major project. With great effort that included having the intact structure moved to its present site; fundraising; help from various sectors of the community; and the guidance of architectural historian, John Dodd, the Society transformed the Silas Riggs Saltbox House from a forlorn old building into a warm and welcoming living history museum. The house now hosts a variety of events that provide a glimpse into the past for those who step inside. It also serves as the Society's meeting place and repository of historical data.

By 1976, our nation's bicentennial's year, the house was completely restored and the Society held a dedication ceremony in honor of its restoration. During the Bicentennial, the Society spear-headed a variety of township-wide activities, and did so again in 1990 when Roxbury Township celebrated its 250th anniversary.

Over the years, Society members collectively and individually have provided numerous services to the community. Society accomplishments include the publication of three volumes of township history and lore; the sponsoring of house tours; tours of the township and activities at the Saltbox House for lower grade school children over a fourteen year period from 1975 through 1989. The Society members have hosted living history days for the interpretation of early skills and crafts and scouting activities that encourage community participation on the part of our young people. They reach out to other historically and preservation minded organizations; and have achieved State and National Historic Register status for the Saltbox House, as well as for other historical structures in the township, including the Theodore King Canal Store and King Homestead. Society members provide programs to civic groups and schools not only in the township, but also to neighboring communities.

Madam Speaker, I urge you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Roxbury Township Historical Society on the celebration of its 45th Anniversary.

IN RECOGNITION OF RICHARD A.
LANGMAN

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 9, 2007

Mr. CARDOZA. Madam Speaker, it is with the greatest respect and sincerity that I rise today to honor TSgt Richard Langman. Sergeant Langman will retire today after serving 20 years in the United States Air Force.

Richard Langman was born in Dover, New Jersey, but spent most of his childhood and teen years growing up in Modesto, California.

It was in Modesto where Richard showed a real talent for sports, playing in the local Bel Pasi Youth Baseball Association and even pitching a three up and three down inning during an All-Star Game. Richard continued his passion for sports during his years at Fred C. Beyer High School playing junior and senior varsity football. However, he quickly developed a new passion and entered the NASCAR "Hobby" division at Stockton "99" Speedway. As one of the youngest drivers, Richard was able to win a number of races and endear himself to many fans. His love of racing continues right up to this day.

Approximately 6 months after graduating from high school, Richard set out on a new adventure and enlisted in the United States Air Force. Upon completion of basic military training and technical training for Aircraft Environmental Systems at Chanute Air Force Base (AFB), and graduating Technical School, he was assigned to the 693rd Organizational Maintenance Squadron (OMS), KC-135A, Castle AFB in Atwater, California. While assigned to Castle AFB, Sergeant Langman was handpicked to participate in the Strategic Air Command Bombing and Navigation competition (Proud Shield 89). His technical expertise resulted in a 100 percent on-time take off rate and an overall third place finish for the 93rd Wing. In 1991, he was assigned to the 909th Air Refueling Squadron (AREFS), KC-135R Kadena AB, Japan, where he developed and implemented a much needed method of tracking aircraft engine fire suppression system bottles and squibs. His methods improved the tracking rate of over \$200,000 worth of Air Force assets and earned him the Air Force Achievement Medal.

In 1994, he was assigned to the 55th Air Refueling Squadron (ARS) Altus AFB, Oklahoma, where his dedication to duty shined once again. He was selected as Electro-Environmental systems subject matter expert for the 55th ARS maintenance quality training program. He processed, trained, and certified over 150 civil service personnel in under a 4-month period to accommodate the KC-135R civil service maintenance conversion.

In January 1997, Sergeant Langman began his special operations career when he was assigned to the 16th Aircraft Generation Squadron (AGS) where he upgraded and was task qualified on a completely different airframe in less than 6 months. His superb performance aided the 16th AGS in winning the Air Force Maintenance Effectiveness Award for 1997. Shortly afterwards, Sergeant Langman retrained into the Flight Engineer career field. In June 1999, he was assigned to the 16th Special Operations Squadron (SOS) Hurlburt Field, Florida. Sergeant Langman's SOF career includes Publications Assistant NCOIC, Flight Engineer Functional Manager, and NCOIC Unit Security Office. Sergeant Langman's combat experience in Operation Enduring Freedom includes 164 combat sorties and over 750 hours. Sergeant Langman, wife Sheila, and their two children, Karissa (age 12) and Kirsten (age 7) will continue residing in Navarre, Florida.

Madam Speaker, it is an honor to share Sergeant Langman's record of accomplishments, and I thank him for his lengthy service to the United States.

CONGRATULATING MR. JOSEPH
BERRIOS

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 9, 2007

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Joseph Berrios on his appointment as Chairman of the Cook County Democratic Party.

On February 1, 2007, Mr. Joseph Berrios was elected by the Cook County Democratic Party to the position of Chairman—the first time a member of the Hispanic community has held that title.

We will all miss the man that Mr. Berrios is replacing, Tom Lyons, but the Cook County Democratic Party is in outstanding hands with its new leader at the helm.

In 1988, Mr. Joseph Berrios was elected as a commissioner of the Cook County Board of Review and has served honorably for 18 years.

As the Democratic committeeman of the 31st Ward on Chicago's northwest side, Mr. Joseph Berrios vowed to revamp the party's committee structure and to encourage more participation from minorities and suburban Democrats.

The Cook County Democratic Party has a long and illustrious tradition of working to represent the people of Cook County in Illinois. The election of Joseph Berrios as Chairman of the Cook County Democratic Party helps further realize the mission of a more integrated Illinois community.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate Mr. Joseph Berrios on his election as Chairman of the Cook County Democratic Party, and I wish him the best of luck in his new role.

RECOGNIZING MATTHEW HELM
FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF
EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 9, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Matthew Helm, 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 138, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

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

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

HONORING WILLYE WHITE

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 9, 2007

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize an African American pioneer, athlete Willye White.

Willye B. White was born on December 31, 1939, in Money, Mississippi. She was raised by her grandparents in Greenville, Mississippi. White used athletics as her escape from working in the cotton fields for her grandparents. In high school, she spent summers training with famed track and field coach Ed Temple at Tennessee State University.

By age 16, Willye White was on the 1956 U.S. Olympic Team competing in Melbourne, Australia, where she won a silver medal in the long jump. She was the first American woman to win a medal in that event. She won a second silver medal in 1964 as a member of the 4x100 meter relay team in Tokyo. Willye White competed on five U.S. Olympic teams consecutively from 1956–1972.

White, a longtime Chicago-area resident, credited her experience as an athlete with allowing her to see beyond the racism and hatred that surrounded her as a child. She grew up before the civil rights movement, so before the Olympics, she thought that the whole world consisted of cross burnings and lynching. She reported to Sports Illustrated magazine that, "The Olympic movement taught me not to judge a person by the color of their skin but by the contents of their hearts," and that "I am who I am because of my participation in sports."

She was a member of more than 30 international track and field teams and won a dozen Amateur Athletic Union long jump titles in her career, according to USA Track & Field, which inducted her into its Hall of Fame in 1981. White was inducted into 11 sports halls of fame, including the Black Sports Hall of Fame, the National Sports Track and Field Hall of Fame, and the Women's Sports Foundation International Hall of Fame. In 1999, Sports Illustrated for Women named her one of the 100 greatest women athletes in the 20th century.

After retiring from competitions, she dedicated her life to helping the underprivileged and less fortunate. She became a nurse and earned a degree in public health administration from Chicago State University. White coached, lectured and served as president of the Midwest chapter of the U.S. Olympians for 12 years. In 1991, she established the Willye White Foundation to help youth develop self-esteem and become productive citizens within the community. She also received her honorary Doctor of Humanity Degree from Springfield College in 1999.

Willye White died on February 6, 2007, of pancreatic cancer at Northwestern Memorial Hospital in Chicago.

Willye White was a pioneer for African Americans and women, by becoming the first American woman to win a gold medal in the long jump. She was a Philanthropist, who used her life experiences to help improve others' lives.

ADVANCED FUELS INFRASTRUCTURE
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT
ACT

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 9, 2007

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of H.R. 547, the Advanced Fuels Infrastructure and Development Act of 2007.

This is indeed timely and critically needed legislation to improve the use of alternative fuels such as E85 ethanol or biodiesel. We've made great strides in developing alternative fuels, but one critical problem always remains. Simply put: we can produce all the ethanol we want, but if the local gas station can't put it in their storage tank, then you will never be able to put it in your car.

During the last Congress, I had the honor of serving with Congresswoman STEPHANIE HERSETH as a co-chair or the Democratic Rural Working Group. Working with leaders like Agriculture Committee Chairman COLLIN PETERSON and Speaker PELOSI, we identified biofuels as a win-win for America's energy needs. Some states have already begun their own initiatives to make their infrastructure compatible to alternative fuels such as E85, but we need a nationwide effort in order to make these fuels viable as a real alternative.

Anyone who has filled up a gas tank in the past year knows that gas prices are highly volatile and too high for the average American. As a former North Carolina small businessman, and a part time farmer, I believe that it is our duty to find alternatives to what has become a dangerous reliance on foreign oil.

Our Nation has the capability to gain its energy independence. We possess the technology and the ability to turn the crops growing in our fields into the fuels we need to power our economy.

H.R. 547 will help accomplish this by developing the infrastructure we need to make fuels like E85 and biodiesel viable alternatives. This legislation will direct the Environmental Protection Agency to perform research and development into the infrastructure improvements needed to facilitate the proper use and transportation for fuels such as E85 ethanol and biodiesel. H.R. 547 will provide for research into existing issues that such as alternative fuel and equipment computability with existing fuel dispersment facilities and automotive technologies.

Mr. Chairman, making these fuels available to the American consumer is the first step towards making them a real alternative to foreign oil. I encourage my colleagues to vote for H.R. 547.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE
GENOMIC RESEARCH AND ACCESS-
SIBILITY ACT

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 9, 2007

Mr. BECERRA. Madam Speaker, I rise today with the hope of fixing what I believe to be a regulatory mistake—a mistake that at first

glance may seem minor in scope, but upon further examination has dramatic, costly and harmful implications for every American.

I speak of the practice of gene patenting, where private corporations, universities and even the Federal Government are granted a monopoly by the United States Patent and Trademark Office on significant sections of the human genome.

It is my belief that this practice is wrong, ill-conceived and stunts scientific advancement. And it is for this reason that today I introduce the Genomic Research and Accessibility Act to put an immediate end to this practice.

Fifty-four years ago this month James Watson and Francis Crick discovered the structure of Deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA), the molecule that contains the genetic information of nearly all living organisms. Few discoveries have matched theirs in the understanding of the make up of the human species. This discovery led to the 1990 founding of the Human Genome Project, a U.S.-initiated and funded undertaking through the Department of Energy and the National Institutes of Health and in collaboration with geneticists from China, France, Germany, Japan and the United Kingdom. Its goal was to code three billion nucleotides contained in the human genome and to identify all the genes present in it. This dramatic undertaking has given us a greater grasp of many of life's most basic—and dramatic—questions.

The Project's efforts have led to the discovery of approximately 35,000 genes.

Madam Speaker, 20 percent of these genes have already been patented. Put another way, one-fifth of the blueprint that makes you—me—our children—all of us—who we are is owned by someone else. And we have absolutely no say in what those patent holders do with our genes.

This cannot be what Watson and Crick intended.

Here are a few examples of the implications of gene patenting:

1. Gene patents interfere with research on diagnoses and cures. Half of all laboratories have stopped developing diagnostic tests because of concerns about infringing gene patents. One laboratory in four has had to abandon a clinical test in progress because of gene patents.

2. In countries where genes are not patented patients get better tests for genetic diseases than in the United States.

3. Forty-seven percent of geneticists have been denied requests from other faculty members for information, data, or materials regarding published research. The practice of withholding data detrimentally affects the training of the next generation of scientists. Almost one fourth of doctoral students and postdoctoral fellows reported they have been denied access to information, data and materials.

4. Disease-causing bacteria and viruses have now been patented. The genome of the virus that causes Hepatitis C, for example, is owned. This can lead to major problems, for if someone else wants to introduce inexpensive, timely public health testing for this (or another) common infectious disease, the patent holder can prevent it.

5. Few in this chamber would ever forget the SARS epidemic. From November 2002 to July 2003, this respiratory disease spread to 24 countries, killing 774 of the 8,096 people who contracted it. Scientists were apprehensive about vigorously studying the disease because three patent applications were pending and they were fearful of possibly facing

charges of patent infringement and subsequent litigation.

This is a serious problem and it is growing. My legislation, the Genomic Research and Accessibility Act, is straightforward: it ends the practice of gene patenting. It gives guidance to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) on what is not patentable—in this case, genetic material, naturally-occurring or modified. It is not retroactive—it does not rescind the patents already issued. But, fortunately, the Framers of our Constitution in their infinite wisdom made the point that any recognized invention deserved a monopoly for only a limited time. Congress has defined that scope of protected status to be 20 years from the point the patent application was filed. Thus, if we enact this bill into law quickly, we will reach balance in less than two decades—a patent-free genome that does not hinder scientific research, business enterprise, or human morality.

I do not wish to lay blame on anyone who has sought out a gene patent, for they all saw an opportunity and capitalized on it. But that opportunity should never have existed in the first place, and thus, it is time that we as a legislative body put an end to this practice.

Nor do I find fault with the Patent and Trademark Office. These days, it should not surprise anyone that innovative technology often outpaces innovative policies. Quite frankly, I don't know if the Patent and Trademark Office or anyone else for that matter had the technical expertise to fully understand the implications when the PTO granted the first gene patents. Those first patents set the precedent. The precedent created the practice. And the practice has now proliferated. This would not be the first time in our Nation's history where government has had to play catch up in order to properly understand technological innovation, and it certainly won't be the last.

Madam Speaker, precedent does not and should not simply guarantee continued practice. Indeed, Congress has the constitutional right to proliferate and reward the advancement of invention, but it also has the responsibility to intervene should that advancement be misdirected or incorrect. Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution states that we must "promote the progress of science and useful arts, by securing for limited times to authors and inventors the exclusive right to their respective writings and discoveries." But implicit in those words is the power of discretion—Congress' charge to offer guidance on what exactly merits an exclusive right.

I make the argument that the human genome was not created by man, but instead is the very blueprint that creates man. The genome and the approximately 35,000 genes it encompasses has existed for millions of years, predating the human species; and suffice to say that it will certainly post date us as well.

If you agree with me that genes have existed beyond the full grasp of human knowledge and indeed before the dawn of human kind, then you must conclude as I have that they are a product of nature and thus not patentable. Patenting the gene for breast cancer or any other gene is the analogous equivalent to patenting water, air, birds or diamonds.

But don't take my word for it, Madam Speaker. One need only read the Supreme Court's *Diamond v. Chakrabarty* decision of 1980 to receive guidance on what is truly not patentable. In this landmark decision, Chief Justice William Burger wrote that "The laws of nature, physical phenomena, and abstract ideas have been held not patentable . . . Thus, a new mineral discovered in the earth

or a new plant found in the wild is not patentable subject matter. Likewise, Einstein could not patent his celebrated law that $E=mc^2$; nor could Newton have patented the law of gravity. Such discoveries are 'manifestations of . . . nature, free to all men and reserved exclusively to none.'"

Proponents of gene patenting have said they are not patenting genes but instead are patenting "isolated and purified" genetic sequences. This is mere wordplay. In practice, these patents are patents on products of nature. For example, a patent on the supposedly isolated and purified breast cancer sequence prohibits a woman's doctor from looking for the breast cancer gene in her blood without paying \$3,000 to the patent holder. It prohibits the same woman from donating her breast cancer gene to other researchers because the holder of the patent has the exclusive right to prevent anyone else from doing research on any individual's breast cancer gene. Such restrictions make clear that in effect, patents on isolated and purified sequences are patents on the actual genes found in nature.

We have overstepped our bounds. We have made a regulatory mistake. We have allowed the patenting of a product of nature.

Fortunately, we have the power to end the practice expeditiously and for the benefit of all. This bill will allow all doctors and researchers to have access to the genetic sequence, consisting of the chemical letters A (adenine), T (thymine), C (cytosine) and G (guanine). Just as we would never allow a patent on the alphabet that would permit the patent holder to charge people a royalty every time they spoke, we should not allow a patent on the genetic alphabet that comprises our common genome.

I want to thank my friend, the Honorable Dr. DAVE WELDON of Florida, for agreeing to join me in writing and introducing this critical piece of legislation. I am appreciative for the support that this legislation has found in the science and medical communities. The Medical Association, the College of American Pathologists, the American College of Medical Genetics, the American Society of Human Genetics, the Association for Molecular Pathology, the Academy of Clinical Laboratory Physicians and Scientists and a host of others have all made public their wish to see the practice of gene patenting come to an immediate end. I applaud their steadfast support and encourage them to stay vocal until such time as their wish becomes reality and the Genomic Research and Accessibility Act becomes law.

Enacting the Genomic Research and Accessibility Act does not hamper invention, indeed, it encourages it. Medical innovation and economic advancement will occur if the study of genes is allowed to happen unabated. Incredible manifestations of intellectual property will result: medicines, machines, processes—most deserving of recognition, some potentially life-saving, and all worthy of a patent.

Madam Speaker, let us take up and pass in short order the Genomic Research and Accessibility Act.

COMMISSION TO STUDY THE POTENTIAL CREATION OF THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN LATINO ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 6, 2007

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 512 the Commission to Study

the Potential Creation of the National Museum of the American Latino Act of 2007.

H.R. 512 would establish a commission to develop a plan of action to establish and maintain a National Museum of the American Latino in our nation's capital.

The 23 qualified individuals selected for membership in the commission would be charged with producing a national conference to bring together experts, stakeholders, policy-makers and other interested groups to discuss the museum's viability. In addition, the commission would create a comprehensive fundraising plan of action to be presented to Congress.

America is home to nearly 40 million Latinos who share in its unique culture and heritage, yet no permanent exhibit exists in Washington, DC to commemorate the Latino community's unique contributions to the rich cultural tapestry of America.

Washington, DC's wonderful museums reflect the rich mosaic of cultural diversity that is

America. It is important that the unique lessons of history, art and culture of the Latino community are included when Washingtonians, Americans, and international travelers come to learn about America and Americans.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to support H.R. 512 establishing a Commission to study the potential creation of the National Museum of the American Latino, and I encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting this important legislation.

RECOGNIZING WILL GORMAN FOR
ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE
SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 9, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Will Gorman, a very spe-

cial 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.

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

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