

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING TEMPLE SHOLOM

HON. JOE SESTAK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 17, 2008

Mr. SESTAK. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to recognize the 50th anniversary of Temple Sholom in Broomall, Pennsylvania.

Temple Sholom, founded in 1956, is a member of the Union for Reform Judaism dedicated to the promotion of fundamental Jewish principles. The Temple strives to ensure the continuity of the Jewish people by honoring traditions, beliefs and rituals of both the past and present. It allows members to develop their spiritual relationship with God and each other. Temple Sholom also serves to promote a firm sense of identity for its members and employs social activism to improve local, national and global communities.

Temple Sholom is a Reform Congregation, promoting a sense of warmth and openness. Through the practice of inclusion, the Temple aids its members throughout their lives and does not exclude individuals regardless of race, religion or sexual orientation. Such diversity and heterogeneity within the community adds to the ever-changing personality of the Temple.

Temple Sholom serves its members beyond religious practice. It also assists individuals with social, educational and community opportunities. Members adopt the Temple as a place to study, worship and simply interact with others. Opportunities for participation include Preschool through Adult Education programs as well as holiday festivals and community service.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in recognizing the 50th anniversary of Temple Sholom. The openness and warmth of the Temple and its members is highly admirable. It is without doubt that Temple Sholom will, in the future, continue to serve our citizens on local, national and global levels.

IN RECOGNITION OF NICHOLAS J. PIRRO ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 17, 2008

Mr. WALSH of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today with great pride to honor someone who is a good friend and for whom I hold great respect—Mr. Nicholas J. Pirro. For two decades Nick has served as Onondaga County Executive, and it has been a great honor to work with him for so many years.

Nick began his career in county government in 1965, when he was elected to the Onondaga County Board of Supervisors, the precursor to today's Onondaga County Legislature. He would eventually be elected as the Legislature's chairman. In 1987, Nick was

elected to the first of five terms as Onondaga County Executive, an office he would hold for 20 years.

When Nick took office in 1987, he was confronted with a number of challenging tasks. Onondaga County had a failing trash disposal system and jails that were so severely overcrowded that the U.S. Justice Department filed a remediation order. The county was also faced with the tremendous task of cleaning up Onondaga Lake after a Federal clean-up order was issued. Convention business was stagnant due to the lack of appropriate facilities and the future of Syracuse's Triple-A baseball franchise was in jeopardy because of an insufficient stadium. In addition, Onondaga County tax payers were feeling the heavy burden of high Medicaid costs.

Today, as Nick steps down as County Executive, Onondaga County has a state-of-the-art trash disposal system and a new county justice center, which opened in 1995. A local, State, and federally-shared \$535-million clean up of Onondaga Lake has been ongoing for the past 10 years. The OnCenter was opened in 1992 to increase the success of convention business and a convention center hotel will begin construction soon. The Syracuse Chiefs have a state-of-the-art baseball stadium that was built in 1997. Skyrocketing Medicaid costs have been curbed by instituting a State-wide price cap that Nick was instrumental in obtaining due to his lobbying of State lawmakers for change.

Onondaga County in 1987 is vastly different from Onondaga County in 2007, and a large reason for that is because of the efforts of Nick Pirro. For 20 years Nick has been the face of Onondaga County and has been committed to doing what was right for the people he so faithfully served.

I thank Nick for his 42 years of serving Onondaga County and recognize his wife Patti and his children Nicholas III and Jessica for sharing him with us for so many years. While Nick is retiring, I know he will continue to be a fixture in the community and an advocate for the people of Onondaga County. I congratulate Nick on a job well done and wish him the best in a well-deserved retirement. We will miss him.

IN HONOR OF THE TREMENDOUS PUBLIC SERVICE OF ROBERT GABRIEL SHORTAL

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 17, 2008

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a tremendous public servant, Robert Gabriel Shortal of Harrington Park, NJ. From the time that he, his wife, Jackie, and his children moved to this small Bergen County suburb, the Shortal family has been an integral part of this community, raising money for the public li-

brary and founding the Harrington Park Swim Club and more.

Bob was born in Kearny, NJ, in 1928. After the bombing of Pearl Harbor, Bob convinced his father to allow him to enlist at the young age of 16. He served honorably with the Navy, stationed on a destroyer in the Atlantic theater. Upon his discharge, he completed his education, studying journalism at New York University. He worked for United Press International, UPI, first as a copy boy and later as a financial reporter. Dedicated to his profession, Bob joined the Financial Writers Association and became its president in 1958.

As his family grew, Bob switched to work in public relations, first at City Service and later at RCA, where he remained until his retirement in 1985. Upon his retirement, Bob threw his talents and energies into community service. He became a certified EMT and became a leader with the Harrington Park Ambulance Corps. He has applied his journalist's skills as editor of the Harrington Park Newsletter. And, he has served his fellow veterans as Commander of American Legion Post 30. Bob is an active member of the Our Lady of Victories Church community and the Knights of Columbus. And, he can often be found working as a school crossing guard.

In 1992, Bob was elected to the Borough Council. He has chaired or served on each of its standing committees until his retirement last year. All the while, Bob and Jackie raised a lovely family of four children—John Frances, Mary Judith, Roberta Ann, and Judith Ann. Jackie passed away in 1999, but Bob remains blessed with seven beautiful grandchildren and a lifetime of memories.

Bob Shortal epitomizes public service. He has answered the call of his country and his community and given of his talents and time for his neighbors. I join the people of the Borough of Harrington Park in honoring Bob for his dedication and commitment.

PASSING OF FORMER DELEGATE MARGARETTE LEACH

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 17, 2008

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, West Virginia recently lost an outstanding daughter, Margarette Leach. Margarette passed away on December 23, 2007, but today I rise to celebrate a life well lived and to remember with fondness the accomplishments of a remarkable woman who, over her many years, was a torchbearer in the arenas of healthcare and politics in West Virginia.

The unfortunate news of her passing has brought sadness to so many throughout West Virginia, including those who did not have the opportunity to meet Mrs. Leach but who have

• 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.

come to benefit from her passionate support for the field of healthcare.

Margarette, a West Virginia native, was born in Goodwill, WV on December 4, 1926. She graduated from Beaver High School in 1944 and from St. Mary's School of Nursing in 1948. She would go on to dedicate her life to helping other by serving as a nurse and elected official for the next 60 years, 14 of which she spent as a member of the West Virginia House of Delegates representing District 15.

In April of last year, Delegate Leach was honored with The Center for Rural Health Development's 2007 Rural Health Leadership Award. The year 2007 would see another honor bestowed on Margarette, when the Prester Center for Youth and Families was named after her. She pushed hard for the Merritt Creek connector from Interstate 64 to State Route 2 and helped to obtain funding for the Jenkins Plantation Museum and the Madie Carroll House. She also helped to bring the bronze statue of Carter G. Woodson to its current location in Huntington.

In 2004, Margarette was named a West Virginia History Hero, but to those she diligently served over the years, she was already a hero many times over.

She will be greatly missed by her family, in particular her husband of 58 years and their family, as well as, the community she served so faithfully over these many years. My thoughts and prayers are with the family of Margarette Leach. I join with West Virginians in honoring her remarkable life and the legacy she left behind.

IN MEMORY OF SGT. SHAWN
FITZGERALD HILL

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 17, 2008

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, on January 2nd of this year, Sergeant Shawn Hill of the South Carolina National Guard's 218th Brigade Combat Team lost his life when his Humvee was struck by a roadside bomb in Afghanistan. The community of Wellford, SC, where Sergeant Hill had been an all-region football player at Byrnes High School and worked as an electrician while serving with the National Guard lost a fine citizen and friend.

Sergeant Hill's funeral was attended by almost 700 people who came to honor the life and sacrifice of this brave American. His commander in the field, BG Bob Livingston described Sergeant Hill as someone who "didn't have to go to Afghanistan, but he went because he thought it was the right thing to do." He further noted that it was through the courageous and selfless acts of Sergeant Hill and his fellow soldiers that parts of Afghanistan that were once considered lawless had become peaceful and safe for the citizens of Afghanistan. This success is a tribute to his life, a life that General Livingston said had "made more of a difference than 99 percent of the people will make in their entire lifetime."

Our thoughts and prayers are with Sergeant Hill's wife, Julie Ann, his children, and all his family, friends, and fellow soldiers of the 218th Combat Brigade during this difficult time. Sergeant Hill's death is a reminder of the tremen-

dous sacrifice so many of our citizen-soldiers make to protect American families. His life was a testament to the strength and selfless dedication so many Americans have for the defense of liberty. We should always remain grateful for their service.

HONORING OFFICER KEITH G.
LOCKHART

HON. JOE SESTAK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 17, 2008

Mr. SESTAK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Officer Keith G. Lockhart on his retirement on March 31, 2007 from the police force after 28 years of dedicated service to Ridley Township and Delaware County, Pennsylvania.

Officer Lockhart joined the Ridley Township Police Department in January of 1979 along with eight other officers. He worked the then newly created "24" district of Holmes, Morton, and Secane, where he remained for the majority of his career.

During his career, Officer Lockhart received many letters and commendations for his exemplary police work. He served briefly as a corporal and temporary sergeant during his time as a police officer.

A lifelong resident of the Leedom Estates Section of Ridley Township, Officer Lockhart has been married to his wife Mary for 19 years. One of Keith's hobbies is Delaware County history. In 30 years of collecting, Keith has amassed one of the largest collections of Delaware County historical memorabilia, from which he has created history websites for both Ridley Township and Delaware County. He now serves the community as historian for these websites, and has received hundreds of comments of praise for his efforts from the over 12,000 grateful viewers of the sites' guestbooks. Keith has also written several booklets on the history of the area.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in honoring Officer Keith G. Lockhart for the decades of hard work and selfless dedication given to the Police Department and citizens of Ridley Township and Delaware County, Pennsylvania.

HONORING THE 175TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEMOCRAT AND CHRONICLE

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 17, 2008

Mr. WALSH of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 175th anniversary of Rochester, New York's Democrat and Chronicle.

In 1833 the first publication of a new daily newspaper, the Evening Advertiser, was issued. Thirty seven years later, after a series of mergers and name changes, the name plate of the Democrat and Chronicle was established.

From Susan B. Anthony and Fredrick Douglass to Kodak and Xerox, as history unfolded in Western New York the Democrat and Chron-

icle was there to cover it. As the publication continued to grow it began reaching historic milestones of its own. In 1884 the Democrat and Chronicle published its first Sunday edition. That same year the paper printed a portrait of a woman for the first time. In 1906, the first color comic strip was run and in 1978 the paper printed its first articles using a word processor that included a video monitor.

Not only has the Democrat and Chronicle been essential to reporting news and covering history, but it has also been an innovator in how the news is delivered. Throughout its history, the paper has used a wide range of delivery methods, including the pony express and a pigeon carrier service, and now it serves the community technologically, using the internet, videos, photos, forums, podcasts, text messages and online newsletters.

Over the past 175 years, many things about the Democrat and Chronicle have changed—the name, the cost, the delivery method—but the commitment to deliver the news and serve the community has never wavered. I congratulate the staff at the Democrat and Chronicle, both past and present, on achieving this milestone, and thank them for their hard work and dedicated service. This anniversary should not only serve to look back at the Democrat and Chronicle's history, but it should also be used to look forward to the papers future, as it will continue to serve an essential role in serving the Greater Rochester community.

IN HONOR OF CHIEF FRANK
GURNARI, 2008 PRESIDENT OF
THE BERGEN COUNTY POLICE
CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 17, 2008

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a fine public servant, Frank Gurnari, police chief in Bogota, New Jersey. Chief Gurnari has served the people of Bogota for 30 years, exemplifying the honor and pride of the uniform. This weekend, he will be installed as President of the Bergen County Police Chiefs Association, extending his service to other Bergen County residents and to his fellow chiefs.

Upon his graduation from the Bergen County Police Academy in June 1978, Chief Gurnari was assigned to the Bogota patrol division. Except for a brief assignment to the Detective Bureau, Chief Gurnari served with the patrol division for nearly twenty years. He attained the rank of sergeant in 1988, and was promoted to lieutenant two years later. As lieutenant, he remained in patrol as a Tour Commander. In June 2000, Chief Gurnari was appointed Acting Chief of Police, and just six months later, he was sworn in as Chief of Police. He and the officers that work under his leadership respond to about 16,000 calls each year.

For almost eighty years, the Bergen County Police Chiefs Association has served as a fellowship of officers throughout this busy corner of New Jersey. The camaraderie it fosters helps local police chiefs protect and serve the people of Bergen County and enhances the safety of the county. Chief Gurnari has earned the respect of his peers and by virtue of his

long and honorable career of service he has earned this position of leadership.

Throughout his honorable career, Chief Gurnari has received two Honorable Service Awards from the Bogota Police Department and the Chiefs Achievement Award from the Bergen County Police Chiefs Association. I commend Chief Gurnari for his lifetime of service and wish him and his colleagues the best for a safe and productive year.

MRS. NITA GORE'S 80TH BIRTHDAY

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 17, 2008

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and personally congratulate my dear friend, Mrs. Nita Gore of Huntington, WV, on her 80th birthday this Friday, January 18, 2008.

Thomas Jefferson once said, "None deserve better than those who contribute to the amelioration of that form (government)." As a nurse at St. Mary's Hospital, a life-long Democrat, and member of Our Lady of Fatima Church, she has spent a lifetime serving the residents of Huntington. Her unwavering dedication to bettering the lives of others is very much appreciated by the people of southern West Virginia.

In her amazing 80 years, she has been a devoted mother, wife, and friend. At the same time she has been a nurse, volunteer, and public servant and has endlessly battled for the betterment of southern West Virginia. I agree with Mr. Jefferson. None deserve better than Mrs. Gore.

Mrs. Gore has spent many years encouraging others to become active in our government. She brings an irreplaceable enthusiasm to her community and the State of West Virginia. As her birthday approaches, I wish to thank my dear friend, Mrs. Nita Gore, for the extraordinary effort she has put into our State.

Mrs. Nita Gore is a true pillar of the community, whose list of accomplishments far exceeds her years of service. Her devotion to her family and commitment to her community are examples to us all. Southern West Virginia is lucky to have her.

I salute Mrs. Gore for her 80 years of friendship and service, thank her for the contributions she has made to the city of Huntington and southern West Virginia, and wish her the best of health and happiness in the years to come.

COMMEMORATING BLACK JANUARY

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 17, 2008

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, as a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, I note that January 19 will mark the 18th anniversary of an historic and tragic day in the history of the country of Azerbaijan. On the night of January 19, 1990, 26,000 Soviet troops invaded the capital city of Baku and surrounding areas. By the end of

the next day, more than 130 people had died, 611 were injured, 841 were arrested and 5 were missing. This event is memorialized as "Black January," and for the citizens of the Republic of Azerbaijan this event left an indelible mark on the minds of all citizens.

Soviet troops entered Azerbaijan under the authority of a state of emergency declared by the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and signed by then President Mikhail Gorbachev. In the face of growing unrest among the people of Azerbaijan, a national independence movement which had gained a strong foothold, and emerging democratic groups who were projected to succeed in an upcoming Parliament, the Soviet Union sought to "restore order" by indiscriminately firing on those peacefully demonstrating in Baku, including women and children. The protesters were calling for independence from the Soviet Union and the removal of Communist officials.

The Soviet incursion in early 1990 was intended to suppress the growing independence movement. Instead, it further incited Azerbaijani nationalism. In the end, Azerbaijan's pro-Moscow regime grew weaker and by 1991, popular pressure led the country to break away from Soviet rule and declare its independence. On August 30, 1991, Azerbaijan's Parliament adopted the Declaration on the Restoration of the State Independence of the Republic of Azerbaijan, and on October 18, 1991, the Constitutional Act on the State Independence of the Republic of Azerbaijan was approved. November 1991 marked the beginning of international recognition of Azerbaijan's independence. The United States opened an embassy in Baku in March 1992 and remains committed to aiding Azerbaijan in its transition to democracy and its formation of an open market economy.

Some historical observers have noted that the violence inflicted on the citizens of Baku may have been intended to send a message to other Soviet republics that similar aspirations of nationalism would not be tolerated. In the wake of this horrific act and inspired by the strength of the Azerbaijani people's belief in the principles of democracy, the Republic of Azerbaijan has maintained its independence for over 16 years, despite lingering economic and social problems from the Soviet era. Today, Azerbaijan has developed into a thriving country with double digit growth, in large part due to a freely elected president and parliament, free market reforms led by the energy sector, and most importantly, no foreign troops on its soil.

The road to independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity for the Azerbaijani people has not come without adversity and sacrifice. Even though Azerbaijan thrives today, the people of Azerbaijan recognize those who lost their lives on Black January in 1990 and honor their sacrifice through their commitment to the ideals of democracy. On the anniversary of this terrible tragedy, we who believe in the tenets of freedom and the hope of democracy should recognize the incredible sacrifice made by the people of Azerbaijan and by free people all around the world.

HONORING DETECTIVE SERGEANT RICHARD HOLMES

HON. JOE SESTAK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 17, 2008

Mr. SESTAK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Detective Sergeant Richard Holmes on his retirement from the Ridley Township Police Department after over 30 years of service to the people of Delaware County, Pennsylvania.

Detective Sergeant Holmes began his distinguished career in 1975, and the following year became one of the first four canine officers for Ridley Township. He was promoted to corporal in 1988, and became a sergeant in May 2005. In April 2006, he was promoted to Detective Sergeant, and served as the Township Juvenile Officer until his retirement on March 31, 2007.

During his career, Rich also worked as the Township Arson Investigator and served with the Holmes Fire Department, one of six volunteer fire companies serving Ridley Township. Rich and his wife Darlene live in the Holmes section of the township.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in honoring Detective Sergeant Rich Holmes for his decades of distinguished service and selfless dedication to the community of Ridley Township.

HONORING THE RED CREEK HIGH SCHOOL BOY'S SOCCER TEAM

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 17, 2008

Mr. WALSH of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today in tribute to the Red Creek High School Boy's Soccer Team, 2007 Class C New York State Champions. The Red Creek Mules Boy's Soccer Team defeated the Marathon Olympians by a score of 3-1, earning Red Creek's second State soccer championship in 3 years.

The Red Creek Boy's Soccer Team has an excellent tradition of athletic achievement. They have been crowned State champions five times, including twice in the last 3 years alone.

On behalf of the 25th Congressional District, I congratulate these young men on their outstanding athletic achievement and praise head coach Don Hartley, and assistant coach David Gregg on their team's success. I look forward to another exciting year when the Mules take to the field to defend their title in 2008.

The team members are: Colton Gregg, Jordan Lang, Bryan March, Anthony Roden, Devin Reese, Eric Stevens, Reis Cunningham, Steve Deferio, Ryan Fisher, Drew Knox, Alex Keeling, Ryan Pudlowski, Anthony Losurdo, Keyan Scutt, Cody Sherman, Ryon Adam, Nathaniel Gregg, Eli Vitale, Matt Treby, Dan Burnett, Ryan Gould and Juan (Chino) Torres.

HONORING SEAN PATRICK
ASHCRAFT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 17, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Sean Patrick Ashcraft of Holt, Missouri. Sean is 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 494, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Sean has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Sean 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 Sean Patrick Ashcraft 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 DR. MARTIN LUTHER
KING—

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 17, 2008—

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, as we celebrate the birth of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and reflect on his life and work, we are reminded of the challenges that democracy poses to us and the delicate nature of liberty. Dr. King's life, and, unfortunately, his untimely death, reminds us that we must continually work to secure and protect our freedoms. Dr. King, in his courage to act, his willingness to meet challenges, and his ability to achieve, embodied all that is good and true in the battle for liberty.

The spirit of Dr. King lives on in the citizens of communities throughout our nation. It lives on in the people whose actions reflect the spirit of resolve and achievement that will help move our country into the future. In particular, several distinguished individuals from Indiana's First Congressional District will be recognized during the 29th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Breakfast on Monday, January 21, 2008, at the Genesis Convention Center in Gary, Indiana. The Gary Frontiers Service Club, which was founded in 1952, sponsors this annual breakfast.

This year, the Gary Frontiers Club will pay tribute to several local individuals who have for decades unselfishly contributed to improving the quality of life for the people of Gary. Those individuals who will be recognized as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Marchers at this year's breakfast include: James Baker, Reverend Carrell Cargle, Sr., Eloise Gentry, Joseph Nichols, Earl Smith, Jr., and Attorney Frederick Work. Additionally, Finis Springer will be honored with the prestigious Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Drum Major Award, an award given out annually to an outstanding individual of the Gary community.

Several other individuals will be receiving special recognition as well. Alpha Stewart will be recognized as the first female to serve as Chief of Police in the City of Gary. Also, Bill Joiner will be honored as the 2007 Yokefellow of the Year, and Dr. A.S. Williams will receive a special honor, the Founders Award, as the only remaining founder of the Frontiers Club.

Though very different in nature, the achievement of all these individuals reflect many of the same attributes that Dr. King possessed, as well as the values he advocated. Like Dr. King, these individuals saw challenges and faced them with unwavering strength and determination. Each one of the honored guests' greatness has been found in their willingness to serve with "a heart full of grace and a soul generated by love." They set goals and work selflessly to make them a reality.

Madam Speaker, I urge you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commending the Gary Frontiers Service Club officers: President Oliver J. Gilliam, Vice President James Piggee, Secretary Melvin Ward, Financial Secretary Sam Frazier, and Treasurer/Seventh District Director Floyd Donaldson, as well as Breakfast Chairman Clorius L. Lay, Videographer Otho Lyles, Master of Ceremony Alfred Hammonds, the honorees, and all other members of the service club for their initiative, determination, and dedication to serving the people of Northwest Indiana.

COMMEMORATING THE 230TH ANNI-
VERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF
BRANDYWINE

HON. JOE SESTAK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 17, 2008

Mr. SESTAK. Madam Speaker, our Nation will soon commemorate the 230th anniversary of the Battle of Brandywine. Let me take this opportunity to relate the importance of that battle, the largest land battle of the Revolutionary War, and to remember the brave soldiers who fought for the independence of our country.

In 1777, the British army campaigned to control Philadelphia, which was then the capital of the newly-declared United States of America. British General William Howe and his troops approached Philadelphia through the Chesapeake, landing in Elkton, Maryland in early September of that year.

American General George Washington was confident that his army would secure the capital city. On September 9, 1777, American troops were stationed along the Brandywine River, guarding the fords. Washington's strategy was to force a fight at Chadds Ford, where the Americans would have the advantage.

On September 9, a small portion of British troops marched from Kennett Square as if they would battle the Americans at Chadds Ford. However, the majority of British troops this time marched north to cross the river at a ford unknown to Washington and his army.

The battle began in the early morning on September 11. Washington, believing that all of Howe's army would fight at Chadds Ford,

was unprepared when British troops arrived at the right flank of the American line. He ordered his troops to take the high ground, near the Birmingham Friends Meetinghouse to defend their position. However, British troops were already stationed nearby, and the Americans were unable to secure these grounds.

General Howe's army soundly defeated the Americans due to their superior position and the surprise of their attack. By night, Washington's troops were forced to retreat to Chester.

Despite being outnumbered and outmaneuvered, Washington's troops fought valiantly. The American Congress was able to escape from Philadelphia to safety in Lancaster, and then York, PA. Military supplies were also removed from the capital city before the impending British takeover.

On September 26, 1777, British forces marched unopposed through the city of Philadelphia. This takeover proved of little strategic value, however.

Washington's troops regrouped. The General wrote to John Hancock that night, "Notwithstanding the misfortune of the day, I am happy to find the troops in good spirits; and I hope another time we shall compensate for the losses now sustained." Congress sent reinforcements, strengthening the American army.

Washington's troops successfully defended the military supplies in Reading. On June 18, 1778, British troops abandoned Philadelphia and the city returned to American control.

IN RECOGNITION OF DON COLVIN

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 17, 2008

Mr. WALSH of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor former Savannah Town Supervisor Don Colvin.

Don was first elected to public office in 1959 and served the people of Savannah for the next 48 years. His dedication and leadership helped Savannah through some of its toughest times. The three heavy duty trucks that Don sought to purchase in 1964 were essential in helping the town deal with the storms of 1966.

In 1966 Don was elected chairman of the Wayne County Board of Supervisors, where his influence during trying times continued to be felt. After flooding affected the county in 1972, Don played a crucial role securing a disaster declaration and in helping to obtain \$1 million to fix the dikes.

Don's contributions were also instrumental in creating the Montezuma Audubon Center, which has helped to bring people to Savannah and revitalize the town. He also helped to establish the annual Potato Fest, which grew from a car show that Don sponsored.

As he vacates his role of town supervisor, Don leaves the town of Savannah in good shape to continue progressing in the future. On behalf of the people of New York's 25th Congressional District, I thank Don for his commitment to the people of Savannah and for the hard work he has done on their behalf for 48 years. I wish him well in all of his future endeavors.

EXPRESSING APPRECIATION FOR
THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF MISS
JOHNNIE WHITELAW

HON. JOHN S. TANNER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 17, 2008

Mr. TANNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a long-time community servant, a dedicated teacher and historian, and my friend, Miss Johnnie Whitelaw.

In more than 20 years of knowing Johnnie, I have grown to see how important she is to our community in Dyersburg and how much she is loved by her friends, former students and neighbors throughout West Tennessee. An active leader of the Dyer County Democratic Party, Johnnie was also a teacher and librarian from 1972 to 1991.

Even after retiring, however, she did not give up on one of her greatest loves—collecting oral, photographic and written first-hand accounts of history so that we and future generations will forever understand the history of West Tennessee and the stories of its people. Her contributions will truly be appreciated for generations to come.

Madam Speaker, I hope you and all our colleagues will join me in congratulating Miss Johnnie Whitelaw on her upcoming honor from the Dyer County branch of the NAACP, Delta Sigma Theta sorority, Community Resource Development and Order of the Eastern Star, organizations which understand how valuable Miss Johnnie's contributions have been to our community.

HONORING THE TINICUM
TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. JOE SESTAK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 17, 2008

Mr. SESTAK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Tinicum Township and the Tinicum Township Fire Department on the opening of their new firehouse.

The Tinicum Township Firehouse, named Station 48, will be home to the recently merged Essington and Lester Fire Companies. After several years of planning, the township's hard work has produced a state of the art facility that will serve the community for years to come.

The opening of Station 48 represents a new chapter in public safety for the township of Tinicum. Both the Lester and Essington Fire Companies have a long history of heroic and dedicated service. Combining them under one roof will maximize their ability to provide the entire township with coordinated fire protection services.

It is my honor to have been a part of the Tinicum Township Fire Company's ribbon cutting ceremony this past Saturday. It is important to recognize the brave men and women who volunteer their time to protect our communities. Through the years, their names and faces have changed, but the commitment and pride with which they serve has persevered.

The members of the Essington and Lester Fire Companies have selflessly served the community while balancing their full-time ca-

reers and families, and will continue to do so at Station 48. I ask everyone to join me in commending the members of the Tinicum Township Fire Company and to congratulate them on the dedication of their new firehouse.

HONORING DANIEL JESUS
BERMEJO

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 17, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Daniel Jesus Bermejo of Faucett, Missouri. Daniel is 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 351, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Daniel has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Daniel 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 Daniel Jesus Bermejo 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 NORTHWEST INDIANA'S
MOST DEDICATED AND
HARDWORKING INDIVIDUALS

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 17, 2008—

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with great admiration and respect that I offer congratulations to several of Northwest Indiana's most dedicated and hardworking individuals. On Saturday, January 12, 2008, the Hammond Letter Carriers Organization, Hammond Merged Branch 580 of the National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) recognized its retiring members for 2007, and they also honored members with at least 50 years of service. The event was held at the Patrician banquet hall in Schererville, Indiana.

At this year's banquet, the organization recognized the following retirees for their commitment and their many years of outstanding service to their communities: Kenneth Durall, William Harper, Judy Krause, Roger Reins, Frank Robinson, Tim Rutz, and Audrey Simpson. I wish them all the best of health and happiness in the years to come.

Also honored at the event for their many years of membership in the organization were: Marlin Bossard (65 years), John Schlesinger (60 years), Nolan Camp (58 years), Joe Watson (57 years), Bell Anderson (56 years), Ray Breshock (54 years), Ben Dotson (54 years), Richard Barnard (50 years), and Joseph Pressnell (50 years).

Northwest Indiana has a rich history of excellence in its workforce. These individuals are an outstanding representation of the work ethic present in Northwest Indiana. They have demonstrated their loyalty to each other and to

their communities through their hard work and selfless dedication.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring these dedicated and hardworking individuals. They have committed themselves to the people of Northwest Indiana, and I am very proud to represent them in Washington, DC.

HONORING RETIRING HAMBURG
TOWN COUNCILMAN MARK
CAVALCOLI

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 17, 2008

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Mark Cavalcoti, a longtime public servant whose retirement at the end of this year will mark the close of a distinguished career in elective office that has spanned nearly two and a half decades.

Mark began his public service as a biology teacher, working 33 years at Frontier Central High School before retiring in 1997.

In 1983 Mark was first elected to serve on the Hamburg Town Board, where he worked to improve and protect Hamburg's unique character. Throughout his tenure the Councilman was deeply involved in waterfront development, greenspace preservation, regional cooperation, and local master planning.

A natural negotiator and leader, Mark acted as the liaison between the town board and several departments and also functioned as Deputy Supervisor for 15 years.

Of all the great accomplishments, one of Councilman Cavalcoti's proudest is working to provide public water to nearly 300 homes not connected to water lines and severely restricted in their water use.

Despite his deep involvement on the town board and his commitment to his wife and two children, Mark still found time to further serve his community as a member of the Hamburg Chamber of Commerce, Knights of Columbus, PTAs for Frontier and Hamburg High Schools and as the Chairman of the Eighteen Mile Creek Preservation Committee.

In 2007, Mark Cavalcoti chose not to run for re-election and instead will spend time traveling with Anne, his wife of 45 years.

The Town of Hamburg is a better place because of Councilman Mark Cavalcoti's years of dedication. This community is fortunate to have benefited from his leadership, and I am grateful, Madam Speaker, that you have allowed me this opportunity to commemorate his service here today.

A TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL PATTERSON
FOR SAVING THE LIFE OF
AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENT

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 17, 2008

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise today to pay tribute to Michael Patterson whose heroic actions helped save the life of Chad Hostnick,

a first-grader at Elsanor School in Robertsedale, Alabama.

On the morning of Monday, December 17, 2007, Michael decided to take the bus to school instead of driving his motorcycle as he often does. Michael just had a feeling that he should ride the bus that morning and what followed was simply miraculous.

On the bus ride home from school that Monday afternoon, Michael noticed that 7-year-old Chad appeared to be having trouble breathing. Without hesitation, Michael put to use his first-aid training—training he learned as a part of his Navy Junior ROTC program at Robertsedale High School—and he initiated the Heimlich Maneuver.

When Michael realized that his efforts were not dislodging the object, he quickly began to massage Chad's throat until he located the obstruction and pushed upward. He then attempted the Heimlich Maneuver again and a piece of butterscotch candy came out of Chad's mouth.

In recognition of Michael's efforts, Master Chief Petty Officer Robert Dairy awarded him the Meritorious Service Ribbon, the highest honor available to Navy Junior ROTC members.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me recognizing Michael Patterson for his heroism and commending him on his quick actions to save the life of Chad Hostnick. The citizens of Robertsedale and the state of Alabama are forever thankful. Michael is a true hero.

HONORING THE UPPER MAIN LINE YMCA

HON. JOE SESTAK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 17, 2008

Mr. SESTAK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Upper Main Line YMCA on the dedication and grand opening of its new facility.

Since its charter in 1962, the Y has become a vital resource, now serving more than 20,000 residents of Berwyn, PA, and the surrounding communities. In addition to providing traditional exercise facilities, YMCA offers programs, classes, and events for youth, teens, families, and older adults in everything from painting to tennis to babysitting.

In order to accommodate a growing community and membership, over the past 40 years, the Y has renovated, reconfigured, and expanded Cassatt Mansion and the surrounding property. The new building houses an 8,500-square-foot Wellness Center, new locker rooms, exercise, cycling, and dance studios, expanded childcare services, and a cafe overlooking the tennis courts, complete with internet access. In addition, the new facility provides improved handicapped and parking accessibility.

The opening of this new facility furthers the YMCA's mission to build healthy spirit, mind, and body through programs and facilities that nurture children, strengthen families, and build strong communities.

Madam Speaker, I ask everyone to join me in commending all those who have generously contributed their time, effort, and resources to the Upper Main Line YMCA and its state-of-the-art facility.

HONORING ALEXANDER E. COOPER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 17, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Alexander E. Cooper of Platte City, Missouri. Alexander is 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 351, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Alexander has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Alexander 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 Alexander E. Cooper for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING MR. MARK MAASSEL

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 17, 2008—

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with great admiration and pleasure that I stand before you today to recognize the many years of dedicated service of Mr. Mark Maassel. Having known Mark for a long time, I can truly say that he is one of the most committed, knowledgeable, and honorable citizens in Northwest Indiana. Nowhere has his knowledge and commitment been more evident than in his faithful service as President of Northern Indiana Public Service Company, Northern Indiana Fuel and Light, and Kokomo Gas and Fuel for NiSource. Mark has served NiSource with over three decades of dedicated leadership in different roles throughout the company, and has been a constant fixture and involved in virtually all aspects of NIPSCO's business. For his efforts, I would like to thank him and extend my best wishes for his retirement.

Mark Maassel has spent his entire life, both professionally and personally, working at ways to improve not only NIPSCO, but society as a whole. Mark has continuously devoted himself to our community by serving on the Board of Directors of several local community organizations, such as: the Indiana Humanities Council, the Indiana Chamber, the Ivy Tech Foundation and the Northwest Indiana Forum, at which he served as Chairman in 2006. During this time, Mark has shared his unrivaled expertise and knowledge of his field with local organizations. From his service at NIPSCO and NiSource to his work with various organizations in Northwest Indiana, Mark has always sought opportunities to better our community with his expertise.

Looking back, it is no surprise that Mark was chosen to lead NIPSCO. Following a very successful undergraduate career, earning a Civil Engineering degree from the University of Minnesota, Mark was initially offered a job at NIPSCO to work on a proposed nuclear plant. Since beginning with NIPSCO in the late

1970's, Mark has completely dedicated his professional life to the advancement and improvement of the company and the quality of life for its customers. Due to Mark's involvement at so many levels of NIPSCO's business, his tenure as president will forever be remembered.

Though it may be difficult to imagine where he has found the time, Mark has always been a dedicated husband and father, raising three children with his wife Christine. They are the proud parents of Jesse, Lee and Jill, all now grown. He has also found time to develop several hobbies, becoming an accomplished woodworker and golfer, as well as a novice runner.

Madam Speaker, Mark Maassel has devoted his life to improving NIPSCO and to serving the people of Northwest Indiana. At this time, I ask that you and all of my distinguished colleagues join me in commending him for his lifetime of service, perseverance, and dedication. I also ask that you join me in wishing him the best of health and happiness in the years to come.

RECOGNIZING THE GARRETTTFORD DREXEL HILL FIRE COMPANY FOR 100 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. JOE SESTAK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 17, 2008

Mr. SESTAK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Garrettford Drexel Hill Fire Company for 100 years of service to the residents of Upper Darby, Pennsylvania.

The Garrettford Drexel Hill Fire Company is the oldest of Upper Darby's five fire companies, and is the only one that remains entirely comprised of volunteers. What began with a handful of citizens committed to protecting the people of Drexel Hill has grown into a company with over 60 active members. These men and women selflessly protect the community while balancing their full-time careers and families. Through the years, their names and faces have changed, but the commitment and pride with which they serve has persevered.

I would like to recognize in particular James Verner, who served as chief of the company from 1913 until his tragic death in 1934. His was the first and only line of duty death to strike the Garrettford Drexel Hill Fire Company.

The Garrettford Fire Company, as it was originally known, started with just two Babcock extinguishers. From these humble beginnings, Garrettford Drexel Hill has expanded to an impressive, modernized apparatus fleet. The current firehouse, built at the site of the converted Baptist church, which originally housed the company, now has four bays and a spacious hall to accommodate this growth.

I ask everyone to join me in commending the members of the Garrettford Drexel Hill Fire Company, past and present, for their service to the community, and to congratulate them on reaching this 100-year milestone.

HONORING RETIRING TOWN OF
EVANS COUNCILWOMAN KATH-
LEEN BARTUS

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS-

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 17, 2008

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Town of Evans councilwoman Kathleen Bartus for her years of tireless service to the residents of the town of Evans. A longtime town resident and a leader within her community, Kathy's commitment to others stretched far beyond the scope of her position in town government and rested its hand on a passionate soul and loving heart.

A wife, mother of three and a longtime business and community activist in Evans, Kathy's commitment to her community is rivaled by few. While she'll be missed on the town board in a formal capacity, Kathy will never be more than a phone call away, in a manner that will no doubt comfort those continuing to serve.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in recognizing the achievements of Kathleen Bartus upon the occasion of her retirement as a member of the Evans Town Board. I know that you join with me in wishing Kathy, her husband Robert and their entire family the very best of good luck and Godspeed in the years to come.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF AR-
THUR ROBERT "BOBBY" WILSON

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday January 17, 2008

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, Baldwin County and indeed the entire state of Alabama recently lost a dear friend, and I rise today to honor and pay tribute to the memory of Mr. Arthur Robert Wilson.

Known to his many friends as "Bobby," he was a devoted family man and a dear friend to his community. Bobby, the "Unofficial Mayor" of Spanish Fort, was the owner of Wilson's Service Center for roughly 50 years. Wilson's Service Center was much more than a typical service station; it was the heartbeat of Spanish Fort. As Mobile's Press-Register remembered Bobby, "just about anyone who passed through Spanish Fort seemed to have encountered him."

Known for his insatiable work ethic, Bobby "rose with the chickens" and was often at the service station before 5 a.m.—he never seemed to stop working. Bobby's service to Spanish Fort did not stop at the doors of Wilson's Service Center. For 26 years, he served as the volunteer fire chief, keeping a red phone and firefighter's gear in his shop for emergencies. Bobby also served in the U.S. Army and was a veteran of the Korean War. He was a justice of the peace and a Mason; it's probably safe to say that everyone in Spanish Fort knew Bobby Wilson or at least knew who he was.

In a fitting tribute, Bobby's casket was placed on the back of a tow truck for his final trip through Spanish Fort. His procession, which included about 12 other tow trucks, cars carrying his family, and a police escort, drove

to Wilson's Service Center, passing through the parking lot and under the front awning. All along the route to Wilson's Cemetery, fellow residents stopped and got out of their cars to stand along the route with their hands on their hearts.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a dedicated community leader and friend to many throughout south Alabama. Bobby Wilson will be deeply missed by his family—his wife, Jo Anne Wilson; his daughters, Tracey Goens and her husband Robert, Gina Lee and her husband Thomas, and Joelle Wilson; his brothers, Earl Wilson and Charles Wilson; his sister, Louise Dahlen; his grandchildren, Jeffrey Mosley, Jonathan Mosley, Jasmine Lee, and Zackary Lee; his great-grandchild, Lola Jo Anne Mosley—as well as the countless friends he leaves behind.

Our thoughts and prayers are with them all at this difficult time.

RECOGNITION OF THE WOMAN'S
CLUB OF NEWTOWN SQUARE'S
60TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JOE SESTAK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 17, 2008

Mr. SESTAK. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Woman's Club of Newtown Square's 60th anniversary.

Founded in 1947, the Woman's Club of Newtown Square is part of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, a world-wide organization that donates millions of volunteer hours to their respective communities every year.

The 110 members of the Woman's Club of Newtown Square selflessly volunteer countless hours in service to their community.

The services and donations of the club are given to: the Coatesville Veterans Medical Center, the Newtown Public Library, the Newtown Square Fire Department, Operation Smile, area arboretums and gardens, fine arts awards, and the Hugh O'Brian Youth Award.

The Woman's Club of Newtown Square gives donations to: the Marple Newtown Senior High School Student of the Month, middle school awards, three high school scholarships, fifth grade essay awards, and the Youth Recreation Center.

I ask that everyone please join me in recognizing the Woman's Club of Newtown Square for their contributions and commitment to enriching the community of Newtown Square, Pennsylvania, for the last 60 years.

HONORING ERIC MICHAEL
BARMANN

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 17, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Eric Michael Barmann of Platte City, Missouri. Eric is 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 351, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

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

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

HONORING THE MEMORY OF
DWAIN LUCE

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 17, 2008

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, the city of Mobile and indeed the entire nation recently lost a true American hero, and I rise today to honor Mr. Dwain Luce of Mobile, Alabama, and pay tribute to his memory.

Many Americans came to know Mr. Luce last year as his courageous story, along with those of other Mobilians, was told in the Ken Burns' documentary series "The War."

Born in Mobile in 1916, Mr. Luce was educated at University Military School. Upon graduation from high school, he continued his studies and earned a degree in chemical engineering from Auburn University.

Shortly following the attack on Pearl Harbor, Dwain volunteered for military service and entered the U.S. Army as a second lieutenant in January 1942. As a lieutenant in the 82nd Airborne Division's 320th Glider Field Artillery Battalion, he participated in the invasions of Sicily and later Italy. Just prior to the U.S. invasion of Normandy, he was promoted to captain. He landed his glider at Normandy on D-Day and survived 33 days of fighting there.

Several months later, his unit saw action again when they were dropped behind enemy lines into Holland as part of Operation Market Garden. They remained in Holland for six weeks battling both the Germans and the cold weather. He and his unit also participated in the Battle of the Bulge where they anchored the northern flank of the American lines. On May 1, 1945, the 82nd Airborne took 144,000 German prisoners as they surrendered to Americans.

Following the war, Mr. Luce left the service as a major in 1945, and began a career in banking. He joined American National Bank, in Mobile, Alabama, and rose to senior vice president and director. He remained with American National Bank for 16 years before joining First National Bank of Mobile, where he served as executive vice president. Mr. Luce retired as president of First Bancgroup-Alabama and as vice-chairman of the board of directors of the First National Bank of Mobile.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a dedicated community leader, a true American and friend to many throughout Alabama, as well as a wonderful husband and devoted father. Mr. Luce will be missed by his family—his wife of 65 years, Margaret Wilson Luce; their children, Margaret Luce Brown and Dwain Gregory Luce Jr.; his brother, Jex Ransom Luce; his five grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren—as well as the many countless friends he leaves

behind. Our thoughts and prayers are with them all during this difficult time.

HONORING CAROL A. WILEY AND
RONALD SCOTT YOUNG

HON. JOE SESTAK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 17, 2008

Mr. SESTAK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Carol A. Wiley and Mr. Ronald Scott Young for their years of service to the community. These two outstanding citizens were recognized this past weekend at the annual Freedom Fund dinner for their commitment to the Darby area NAACP branch.

Carol is a lifetime member of the Darby area NAACP branch, and has served for over 10 years as branch treasurer and co-coordinator of the annual Freedom Fund banquet. She also volunteers with the Sharon Hill School, and was a group leader for a 4-H program in Darby Township/Sharon Hill. In addition, Carol is a lifetime member of the Mt. Zion C.M.E. Church of Darby Township, where she serves on the Usher Board and often coordinates the annual fashion show.

Carol grew up in Darby Township, PA, with her dad, Richard A. Stewart, an electrician, and her mother, Clemie, a homemaker. The youngest of three children, Carol was educated in the Southeast Delco School District and attended Darby Township High School. Carol graduated from Apex Beauty School and is an experienced beautician. During the last year, she has been sharing her love for cooking with Conversation's Catering, a new catering company located in Sharon Hill, PA. Carol is married to Alex, and is the mother of four children: Sheila A. Carter, Donna Dailey, Charles Roberts and Andre Harrison. She is also blessed with seven grandchildren.

Mr. Ronald Scott Young joined the Darby area branch in 1988, and he initially served as 1st vice president, and later assumed the duties of secretary. He has been a valuable asset to the branch, recruiting new members, raising money, and working to complete whatever task is at hand.

Ron's contributions to the community include serving as Cub Scout Master for Pack 189 for the past 45 years, and as treasurer at Southwest Community Enrichment Center of southwest Philadelphia. He is also an active member of Mt. Zion Baptist Church in southwest Philadelphia, where he serves on the Senior Choir and monitors the summer cleaning project. As a result of his involvement, Mt. Zion holds a life membership with the Darby area NAACP branch. Ron's devoted family includes wife Lucille, sons Scott and Drake, daughters Donna and Nicole, granddaughter Tempest and grandson Ryan.

Through their contributions to the community, Carol and Ron have shown their commitment to the NAACP's mission of ensuring the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights of all persons. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Carol and Ron for their years of service, and to thank them for their hard work for the NAACP.

HONORING JASON SCOTT
BARMANN

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 17, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jason Scott Barmann of Platte City, Missouri. Jason is 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 351, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Jason has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Jason 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 Jason Scott Barmann for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING THE LIFE OF
TERRANCE J. "TERRY" WILSON,
FORMER EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
HILLSBOROUGH CLASSROOM
TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 17, 2008

Ms. CASTOR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and contributions of Terrance J. "Terry" Wilson, and to acknowledge his tireless work for the teachers, children, and all of us in Hillsborough County.

Terry was born in Everett, Massachusetts October 22, 1942. After graduating from Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School in 1960, he moved to Tampa to attend the University of Tampa. A member of the Class of 1965, he graduated with degrees in business administration and economics and then went on to obtain a master's degree from the University of South Florida in 1968.

During Terry's four year tenure as a social studies teacher at Leto High School in Tampa, he became actively involved in the Hillsborough Classroom Teachers Association. During that time, he witnessed a teachers' strike, poor benefits, and failing students, and he found his calling as an advocate for creating a better environment for both teachers and students in the community's classrooms. As his wife, Elizabeth Wilson, explains it, "He just saw that teachers were extremely dedicated and selfless. They weren't going to spend a lot of time speaking up for themselves."

For decades, Terry dedicated his career to tirelessly defending Hillsborough County school teachers. Fellow members elected him to two terms as president of the Association, and he later served as executive director from 1989 to 2000. He fought for higher teacher salaries, sick leave pay, early retirement, and better health insurance, and he spear-headed efforts to create the Center for Technology for teachers.

The Tampa community honors the life of Terry Wilson for his outstanding contributions to teachers. His service to the Hillsborough Classroom Teachers Association has made a lasting mark on education in the Tampa area.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT
OF SOLANO COALITION FOR BET-
TER HEALTH EXECUTIVE DIREC-
TOR PATRICK HUGHES

HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 17, 2008

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Madam Speaker, I rise with the support of my colleague, Hon. GEORGE MILLER, in the House of Representatives, to recognize Patrick S. Hughes, Ed.D, who has faithfully served the residents of Solano County since 1990.

Mr. Hughes has dedicated over 18 years to the community. After serving as assistant to the city manager for the city of Vacaville, Mr. Hughes shifted his focus to the community health arena where his innovation and accomplishments have made him a leader in his field.

During his tenure with the Solano Coalition for Better Health, SCBH, Mr. Hughes has implemented initiatives and strategies that promote access to health care, have improved population health, continue to support policy advancement, and increase community organization.

As a result of his work and dedication, great strides have been made in eradicating disparities in health care throughout the community, especially in our youth population.

Mr. Hughes designed and facilitated a comprehensive strategy to enroll children in appropriate health care coverage that is currently experiencing record success. In conjunction with successful fundraising efforts, this helped lead Solano County to the coveted distinction as one of the "100 Best Communities for Young People," as recognized by the America's Promise Alliance, for 2 consecutive years.

Building on his achievements in children's health awareness, Mr. Hughes has also made a commitment to decreasing the disparities in health care within minority communities in Solano County. Under his leadership, a major initiative is underway aimed at eliminating the disparities in health status that impact the African-American residents of Solano County. Attention to these disparities received a concentrated focus with the successful celebration, "Champions for African-Americans," sponsored by the SCBH.

Taking his vision and dedication to the national stage, Mr. Hughes recently completed a 2-year term as president of Communities Joined in Action, a national organization supporting community efforts to increase access to health care.

Mr. Patrick Hughes's many accomplishments have immeasurably improved Solano County and enriched the life of its residents. Mr. MILLER and I thank him for his years of public service and wish him success and happiness in his future endeavors.

HONORING MATTHEW PHILIP
SHINER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 17, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Matthew Philip Shiner of Platte City, Missouri. Matthew is 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 351, and 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 Phillip Shiner for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

CONGRATULATING WILBUR C.
HENDERSON

HON. JOE SESTAK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 17, 2008

Mr. SESTAK. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to honor Wilbur C. Henderson, the founder, chairman, president, and CEO of Henderson Group, Inc and the recipient of Delaware County Chamber of Commerce's Lifetime Achievement Award, 2002.

Mr. Henderson houses commercial, industrial, office, professional, and retail operations in his buildings throughout Delaware County. He pioneered a new vision providing park-like settings to businesses in Chadds Ford, Darby Township, Folcroft, Media, Nether Providence, Sharon Hill, and Tincin Township.

Moreover, Mr. Henderson defended his country during World War II, including the Battle of the Bulge, as a distinguished member of the 82nd Airborne Division, 508th Parachute Infantry. Currently, this American hero is a retired lieutenant colonel of the U.S. Army Reserve.

If Mr. Henderson's military and business accomplishments were not enough, he is currently active in his community as chairman of the Borough of Folcroft Planning Commission, senior deacon of the Folcroft Union Church, and a member of the Board of Trustees of the Florida Institute of Technology. Likewise, Mr. Henderson was formerly a member of the Board of Trustees of Drexel University, a member of the Delaware County Government Study Commission, a member of the Greater Philadelphia First Corporation, a bank director with Fidelity and Elmwood Federal Savings and Loan Association, and, last but not least, the chairman of the board of the Delaware County Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Henderson was recognized as one of Drexel's most outstanding 100 graduates and received numerous other awards and honors during his 60-year career. Wilbur C. Henderson may have many accomplishments, but he

is not nearly done. This entrepreneur has future plans to expand his programs in Delaware County and Florida.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in honoring Wilbur C. Henderson. He is the living epitome of the American dream. Through his hard work, Mr. Henderson has defined Delaware County's industry for six decades, defended our country during WWII, and exhibited altruism as a volunteer in a myriad of community activities.

HONORING JESS A. LAIRD FOR
CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARD

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 17, 2008

Mr. HENSARLING. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize an outstanding citizen, Mr. Jess A. Laird, for being named Citizen of the Year by the Athens Chamber of Commerce.

Jess currently serves as president of First State Bank and as a board member for the Athens Chamber of Commerce. He devotes his time and efforts to not only serving, but also to leading the community through numerous civic organizations. In addition to serving as the former president of the Cain Center board, Rotary Club, Industrial Foundation and the American Heart Association, Jess has worked with the TVCC Foundation, ETMC board of managers, Salvation Army and United Way board.

In addition, Jess still finds time to be involved at First United Methodist Church, by singing with the Praise Team. More importantly, Jess is a devoted husband to Susan and a dedicated father to two sons, Blake and Rex.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the Fifth District of Texas, I am honored to be able to recognize a constituent and good friend of mine, Jess, for being an invaluable leader and for generously offering his talents to improve his community.

HONORING REED WILLIAMS

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 17, 2008

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a hometown hero and someone who embodies the true spirit of the Mountain State.

Reed Williams of Moorefield, West Virginia captured the attention of the nation on January 2, 2008 after he was named Defensive MVP for his outstanding performance in the West Virginia University Mountaineers' historic win over the Oklahoma Sooners in the Fiesta Bowl this year.

Reed's talents are not only on the football field, but also in the classroom. He was named by ESPN as a member of the prestigious Academic All-American Football Team and maintains the highest G.P.A. on the Mountaineer football team. Prior to his college career he was the valedictorian of the Moorefield High School Class of 2005.

Reed is currently a junior majoring in finance and plans to pursue postgraduate stud-

ies. He is the son of Robert and Jacqueline Williams of Moorefield, West Virginia.

I look forward to hearing about Reed Williams' future accomplishments both on and off the football field and wish him and his teammates congratulations on their Fiesta Bowl victory. I'm proud to call Reed Williams a fellow West Virginian and a true Mountaineer.

HONORING JOSHUA E. CATTON

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 17, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Joshua E. Catton, 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.

Joshua has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Joshua 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 Joshua E. Catton for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

NIAGARA LOSES ITS JOBS

HON. STEVE KAGEN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 17, 2008

Mr. KAGEN. Madam Speaker, yesterday, Niagara, Wisconsin—a town of 1,900 people—was hit with an economic earthquake when the new corporate owner of the former Stora Enso paper company, Newpage, announced that every single one of the 319 higher-wage papermaking jobs would be eliminated. The mill is closing. Period. It's gone.

The paper company is the primary source of income and the town's tax base. And as Niagara goes, so goes our Nation.

Niagara is paying the price for our Nation's unbalanced and unfair trade policies.

The NAFTA and CAFTA-style "fair trade" policies have failed to produce prosperity that professional politicians promised.

These failed trade deals will soon bankrupt hard-working families in Niagara and families all across America.

When will the President realize that no one—not even skilled papermakers—can compete against slave labor in Communist China?

China has targeted every one of our manufacturing industries for extinction. Textiles, steel, paper, automobiles, toys, pots and pans, even our ammunitions; what's next?

We must stop the bleeding of our economy and we must stop it now. We simply cannot afford to lose any more jobs, and we certainly cannot afford to stand by the side of the road and watch the tax base of every city in America disappear.

Instead of exporting our jobs, we must begin to export our values, for without a viable economy, we have no freedom.

Today, the good people of Niagara have lost their freedom.

Congress must hear their voices, their fears, and their prayers.

These papermaking jobs put food on their tables and helped pay the mortgages for the 1,880 hard-working families in Niagara. The good people of Niagara need our economic and psychological support—and they need help now, not next year.

INTRODUCTION OF THE STEALTH TAX RELIEF EXTENSION ACT OF 2008

HON. THOMAS M. REYNOLDS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 17, 2008

Mr. REYNOLDS. Madam Speaker, I rise today—along with numerous original cosponsors—to announce the introduction of the “Stealth Tax Relief Extension Act of 2008”—new legislation that would extend to 2008 the temporary alternative minimum tax (AMT) relief that Congress enacted on a bipartisan basis last month. As the lead sponsor of a prior bill—the “Stealth Tax Relief Extension Act of 2007” (H.R. 1112)—on which Congress’s year-end AMT patch bill for 2007 was based, I urge the House to take the earliest possible action this year on a new patch for 2008.

As my colleagues will recall, last year’s AMT patch—which extended temporary AMT relief through December 31, 2007, without raising taxes—was enacted later in the legislative year than ever before. As a result of that unprecedented delay in Congressional action on last year’s patch, the upcoming tax-filing season is expected to involve significant disruption and substantial taxpayer confusion. While I remain hopeful that bipartisan efforts to achieve a long-term AMT solution will eventually bear fruit, I sincerely hope that, over the weeks ahead, Republicans and Democrats can, at the very least, work together to prevent a similar situation from developing again.

Accordingly, I am today introducing follow-up legislation that would simply extend for an additional year—through December 31, 2008—the temporary AMT relief enacted this past December. I am confident that the common-sense approach taken in my new legislation will once again engender overwhelming, bipartisan support, just as it did last year.

Specifically, my new legislation would increase the AMT exemption level for single filers from \$44,350 in 2007 to \$46,200 in 2008, and it would increase the exemption level for joint filers from \$66,250 in 2007 to \$69,950 this year. These increases—\$1,850 for singles and \$3,700 for joint filers—reflect the same dollar amounts by which Congress raised these exemption levels in December, and they represent the best current estimates of the amounts necessary to ensure that no additional taxpayers will be affected by AMT in 2008 than were affected in 2007. I have submitted a formal request to the Joint Committee on Taxation for an updated estimate as to the exact dollar amounts that will be required to achieve this objective, and I expect to receive that information sometime next month. At that time, any appropriate adjustments to the figures included in today’s bill can be made. In

the interest of ensuring that Congress can begin work on the 2008 AMA patch as early in the year as possible, however, I am formally filing this bill as a place-holder today.

Timely introduction of this bill is all the more important in light of the heightened, bipartisan interest over recent weeks in enacting an economic stimulus package early this year. I would note that the 2008 AMT patch has been identified by the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) as among the more effective legislative options to help address the current economic situation. As this week’s CBO report made clear, enacting an AMT patch early this year would permit hard-working, middle-class taxpayers to properly adjust their withholding levels to provide workers additional take-home pay in each paycheck. Because the AMT patch has been estimated to save affected taxpayers an average of about \$2,000 per year, early enactment of my new legislation would be expected to increase the typical AMT-affected worker’s take-home pay by as much as \$167 per month. These taxpayers could, in turn, use those additional funds to purchase food, gasoline, healthcare, or other critical items that would help them not only meet the material needs of their families, but spur the economy as well. In my view, this is precisely the sort of immediate, high-impact tax policy change that Congress should be discussing as part of the ongoing economic stimulus debate, and I would encourage my colleagues to give this idea careful consideration as we work to craft a bipartisan stimulus package.

Clearly, the AMT patch stands on its own merits as a matter of tax policy and fairness, as evidenced by the House’s overwhelming 352–64 vote on the free-standing 2007 patch last month. Regardless of whether my new AMT patch legislation covering 2008 is included as part of the forthcoming stimulus package or is considered separately at a later date, I stand ready to work with members on both sides of the aisle to prevent this needless tax increase on millions of America’s middle-class taxpayers, while also ensuring that we avoid other unwarranted tax increases that would further endanger our economy. Working together, I am confident that we can once again protect taxpayers from an unwelcome tax hike due to the AMT, and that we can do so in a much more responsible manner than occurred last year.

HONORING HAROLD C. HILL

HON. MIKE FERGUSON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 17, 2008

Mr. FERGUSON. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to announce that I recently honored Harold C. Hill of the Scotch Plains Rescue Squad with the top award at the First Annual Volunteer Awards Breakfast, which I held in Bridgewater, NJ, November 29, 2007.

Offering one’s time and energy to help others and make a difference is what being a member of a community is all about, and I created this event and award to recognize the importance of volunteering in our society. In preparation for the event, I contacted numerous volunteer organizations in New Jersey’s Seventh District—which includes portions of

Hunterdon, Middlesex, Somerset and Union counties—and asked them to nominate an individual who has made exceptional contributions to the community.

I was thrilled to see the number of nominations we received. Any of our nominees are worthy of recognition, and my staff and I were faced with the difficult task of selecting a recipient of our top award.

In the end, we found Mr. Hill to be the most notable of the many outstanding candidates, and I am sure anyone who knows him and is familiar with his dedication to his community was not surprised. He was born and raised in Scotch Plains, NJ, and has served for 50 years as a member of the town’s rescue squad, an all-volunteer organization that serves and protects more than 25,000 residents.

Records indicate that during his service, Mr. Hill has answered more than 12,300 calls for assistance to the residents, businesses and visitors of Scotch Plains, and he still actively rides as an emergency medical technician answering more than 250 calls a year. He also has been instrumental in assisting the squad in maintaining and upgrading ambulances and equipment, and is an exemplary role model to other members of the squad.

As devoted as he has been to serving his community, perhaps Mr. Hill’s most impressive service was to his country. He is an American hero who served honorably in the Korean war, was twice wounded and was decorated with the Purple Heart.

It is with great pride that I thank and congratulate all of our nominees for their service and recognize Harold Hill for his exceptional commitment to others.

CONDEMNING ASSASSINATION OF FORMER PAKISTANI PRIME MINISTER BENAZIR BHUTTO AND REAFFIRMING COMMITMENT OF UNITED STATES TO ASSIST PEOPLE OF PAKISTAN

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 16, 2008

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 912.

Benazir Bhutto was a leader for her people. In 1988, she won the first free democratic elections after 20 years of military rule. Not only one of the youngest leaders in the world, she became the first woman to head an Islamic country. Prime Minister Bhutto pushed for equality between men and women through supporting the modernization of Pakistan. She built schools around the country and brought electricity to rural areas. She pushed housing, hunger, and health care to the top of her priority list.

On October 18, 2007, as she returned to Pakistan from exile in London, a failed assassination attempt nearly claimed her life. Despite the clear danger to herself if she continued campaigning in Pakistan, she chose to stay, firm in her desire to pursue the democratic and modernization goals for her country. However, on December 27, 2007, terrorists succeeded in their attempts on her life, assassinating Benazir Bhutto. Although Bhutto has

been silenced, the democratic ideals she so fervently fought for will continue to be voiced throughout Pakistan. The torch she carried will be borne by her son and her many other followers.

In a world where terrorism has become a pronounced presence, this assassination is yet another example of the lengths that terrorists will go to achieve their ends. And in a world where the United States has vowed to fight terrorism to the bitter end, this resolution is yet another example of how we will assist all governments in the fight against terrorism. Terrorists everywhere must understand that the world will not stand still.

Although no one can bring back this brilliant leader of the Pakistani people, the world must condemn these terrorist activities and promote a free and democratic environment in Pakistan, an environment in which future great Pakistani leaders will rise from Bhutto's memory and continue her successes.

INTRODUCTION OF CAGING PROHIBITION ACT OF 2008

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 17, 2008

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, today I am pleased to introduce the Caging Prohibition Act of 2008, a critical contribution to the Congress's election reform efforts as we approach the 2008 election. I would like to acknowledge and thank those that join me in this introduction—Representatives RAHM EMANUEL, CHRIS VAN HOLLEN, XAVIER BECERRA, RUSH HOLT, MIKE HONDA, CAROLYN CHEEKS KILPATRICK, and GWEN MOORE and members of my committee, the Judiciary Committee—Representatives JERROLD NADLER, ZOE LOFGREN, STEVEN COHEN, and KEITH ELLISON.

Since the late 1950's, the pernicious practice of "voter caging" has been used to discourage or prevent eligible voters from having their vote cast and counted on election day. Recent elections have shown that caging tactics are not outdated, and in fact, have been used to disenfranchise voters in recent midterm and Presidential elections. While caging efforts have traditionally been directed at minority communities, all voters are susceptible to these attempts at voter intimidation and suppression.

The undemocratic practice of voter caging involves sending mail to voters at the addresses at which they are registered to vote. Should such mail be returned as undeliverable or without a return receipt, the voter's name is placed on a "caging list." These caging lists are then used to challenge a voter's registration or eligibility. For those that suggest that voter caging is done with the purest of intentions, I point out that this method remains an unreliable and dangerous way to identify ineligible voters. Mail may be returned as undeliverable for any number of reasons unrelated to an individual's ability to vote. Typos, transposed numbers, new street names, and improper deliveries explain just some of the many reasons for returned mail.

In my home State of Michigan, I have seen firsthand how caging efforts are used to harass, bully, and ultimately disenfranchise, eligible voters. During the 2004 election, chal-

lengers monitored every single one of Detroit's 254 polling stations. With a Michigan lawmaker advocating "suppress the Detroit vote," it was obvious why the challengers were at every polling place—to create a tense and hostile environment for those eligible voters who simply wished to participate in our democracy by casting a ballot. And furthermore, I cannot help but think that "suppress the Detroit vote" is synonymous with "suppress the Black vote" as Detroit is 83 percent African American. These voter suppression campaigns always seem to target our most vulnerable voters—racial minorities, language minorities, low-income people, homeless people, and college students.

However, during the 2004 election, we learned that no one is immune to voter suppression when Ohio and Florida caging lists specifically targeted soldiers whose mail was returned as undeliverable because they were stationed overseas. Here it is, our soldiers are fighting for democracy abroad, but find out that they cannot participate in democracy at home. During the last Presidential election, caging tactics were not limited to Michigan, Ohio, and Florida. Reports of caging came from all over the country—from Wisconsin, where "suspicious addresses" were used as the basis for challenges, to Nevada, where partisan gains were the acknowledged motive for challenges.

Voter caging is inconsistent with the principle that every eligible citizen should be entitled to the right to vote. The Caging Prohibition Act of 2008 will clearly define and criminalize voter caging and other questionable challenges intended to disqualify eligible voters. This bill is really quite simple. One, it requires election officials to corroborate their caging documents with independent evidence before a voter can be deemed ineligible. And two, it limits all other challenges that do not come from election officials to those based on personal, first-hand knowledge.

Caging tactics meant to suppress the vote do more than impede the right to vote. They threaten to erode the very core of our democracy. By eliminating barriers to the polls, we can help restore what has been missing from our elections—fairness, honesty, and integrity.

IN HONOR OF POLICE OFFICER
VINCENT J. ROMANO, CITY OF
NEW JERSEY, NJ

HON. ALBIO SIREs

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 17, 2008

Mr. SIREs. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Jersey City Police Officer Vincent J. Romano on the occasion of his retirement. Police Officer Romano who retired on November 1, 2007, received numerous recognitions for his service, evidence that he was an outstanding member of the Jersey City Police Force.

Police Officer Romano, was appointed to the Jersey City Police Department in 1988, and initially assigned to the South District. His dedication garnered the trust of his superiors and earned him other opportunities to serve the Department in the West District, North District, Municipal Court Unit and the Records Room. His experience and his knowledge of

the community also won him specialized assignments in the Narcotics Unit and the Violent Crimes Unit.

Throughout his career, Police Officer Vincent J. Romano has received numerous awards which included: 2 commendations, 11 Excellence Police Service Awards, 3 Unit Citations and 1 World Trade Center Award.

Please join me in honoring Police Officer Vincent J. Romano for his distinguished service to the Jersey City Police Department, and in congratulating him, his wife, Connie, and their two sons, Vincent and Joseph.

COMMENDING BILL CAMERON FOR
BEING NAMED THE SOUTHEAST
FARMER OF THE YEAR

HON. ROBIN HAYES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 17, 2008

Mr. HAYES. Madam Speaker, today I rise to congratulate a friend and hardworking farmer who has received one of the most distinguished awards a farmer can receive in the Nation. Bill Cameron, a Hoke County citizen, won the Swisher Sweets/Sunbelt Expo Southeastern Farm of the Year for 2007, and I couldn't be more proud of him for this well-deserved accomplishment.

Bill Cameron is a native of Hoke County. He coached the high school football team for 11 years and then decided to focus on farming full time and invest his life in the agriculture industry.

Bill started his farming operation with 82 acres, and it has grown to almost 900 acres today. He is well diversified with swine, cattle and row crops. His livestock operations include Santa Gertrudis cows, bulls used to raise seed stock, feeder steers and a large breeder gilt grower operation. On the crop side, Cameron grows hundreds of acres of corn, soybeans, wheat, oats, rye and hay.

During the Southeastern competition, Cameron was selected among ten state finalists in the Southeastern states including Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia.

Folks, this is quite an achievement to be selected from such a competitive group of farmers, and I am very happy for Bill. I know that there was a tremendous amount of hard work and sacrifice that went into his operation and making it such an efficient and successful operation.

Anyone who knows Hoke County understands that agriculture is at the heart of the community. Bill Cameron has gone above and beyond the call of duty to help create and sustain a strong agriculture community, and as a citizen of North Carolina, I join many in sincerely thanking him.

Not only has Bill Cameron built a first class farming operation, but he has worked tirelessly to help increase the quality of life for Hoke County and the 8th District as a whole. Bill is a former Hoke County Commissioner, and his determination to help build and create a better community and a better North Carolina is inspiring.

I would also like to acknowledge Bill's family that has been there backing him in his efforts and successes. I am sure Bill's wife, Rhenda,

and his two children, Candace and Bill, are as proud as I am of his many accomplishments and his dedication to his profession.

AMERICA'S LOOMING LONG-TERM CARE CRISIS

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 17, 2008

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, while I was back home in Indiana for the recent congressional recess, I came across an excellent op-ed in the Indianapolis Star written by the CEO of Consecro Inc—one of our Nation's premier insurance, annuity and financial security firms—C. James Prieur. The topic of this op-ed was a subject that I have been deeply concerned about for some time, namely, the question of long-term health care. Not since the days of Hillarycare back in the early 1990s has the issue of health care been raised to such prominence in political and civic debates all across the country. However, one aspect of health care that I believe is still not garnering the kind of attention it should is long-term care, LTC, insurance.

Back in December 2006, the AARP released a shocking survey, which found that a full 59 percent of American adults age 45 and older overestimate Medicare coverage for long-term care. Other studies have shown similar results. Taken together, the implication is clear; far too many Americans do not have a clear perception of long-term care costs or to what extent long-term care is covered by public programs. For example, Medicare pays for care delivered in skilled nursing facilities to patients who require longer term medical treatment, but Medicare does not pay for custodial care needed to assist frail and disabled beneficiaries with eating, bathing and other activities of daily living. Medicaid only covers those types of services if you are impoverished or become impoverished, and it provides far fewer quality care choices than are offered through typical long-term care insurance plans.

With the impending retirement of roughly 76 million baby boomers in the next 10 to 20 years, and the average cost of a private room in a nursing home running about \$75,000 a year, in current dollars, we are facing a potential long-term care train wreck. Fortunately, the solution is already in place, and it is not a Government-run insurance program; it is the private insurance industry. As Mr. Prieur clearly says in his op-ed, and I agree with him, long-term care insurance isn't for everyone. But, millions of Americans have already put their trust in LTC insurance, and when 97 percent of long-term care claims submitted to private insurers are being paid out—which is the finding of a survey of the leading LTC insurers done by America's health insurance plans—the facts seem to show that this trust is well placed.

I urge my colleagues to read this op-ed and to talk to your constituents about Medicare and long-term care issues. And I urge my colleagues to come together to enact simple, commonsense changes in Federal policy that can help Americans take an important step towards preparing for their long-term care and retirement security needs. One of the easiest

things we could do is to allow long-term care insurance to be offered among employer-sponsored cafeteria plans and flexible spending arrangements, FSAs. Currently, benefits such as medical insurance, disability income, life insurance, and a variety of other voluntary benefits are cafeteria style but long-term care insurance is not. Moreover, long-term care insurance cannot be purchased using FSA dollars. That simply makes no sense.

[From the Indianapolis Star, Dec. 31, 2007]

LET'S WORK TO AVOID LONG-TERM CARE CRISIS

(By C. James Prieur)

Here's a question: What percentage of the long-term care claims submitted to private insurance companies were paid in 2006? 10 percent? 25 percent? 50 percent? The actual answer—according to a survey of the leading LTC insurers by America's Health Insurance Plans—is 97 percent. If that high percentage surprises you, it may be because a small number of problem LTC insurance cases have been grabbing the headlines.

Public attention is focusing as never before on the important issue of how Americans will pay for their long-term care needs. Soaring health care costs, the looming retirement of millions of baby boomers, and the fear that Medicare and Medicaid will be dangerously strained are behind this concern. Unfortunately, misleading media accounts may be driving away the very people who would benefit most from LTC insurance.

Far-sighted leaders in Congress who are pushing to broaden the number of Americans who have LTC insurance are doing so for good reason. The cost for providing long-term care will be a major, potentially crippling expense for many households. Contrary to what many think, government programs will pay only part of the tab. Sen. Chuck Grassley of Iowa noted recently that “preparing for long-term care needs can make a big difference in both the quality of life for individuals and the solvency of Medicaid.” How the success of these products and their new variations will affect public programs is a serious issue. Many seniors mistakenly believe their LTC costs will be covered by Medicare. In fact, Medicare does not cover home health care, nursing home care or the type of care one may need for a severe cognitive impairment like Alzheimer's disease.

This means that most seniors will have to bear a meaningful share of their own long-term care costs, and that's where private LTC insurers enter the picture. It is our mission to provide seniors with the assurance that their long-term care needs will be covered and their legacy will be preserved.

Millions of Americans have put their trust in LTC insurance, and the facts show that this trust is well placed. Overwhelmingly, insurers are meeting their obligations. Across the country in 2005 (the most recent full-year data available), the LTC industry paid more than \$3 billion of claims.

LTC insurance isn't for everyone. If you are among the wealthiest of Americans, you might be able to afford to pay your own LTC expenses. If you have a very low income or few assets, Medicaid may help you. If you fall somewhere in between, LTC insurance may be the smart choice to relieve the financial strain on your family and help you protect assets.

LTC insurance is getting more expensive. Many LTC insurers today are asking state insurance departments for authority to raise their LTC insurance rates. Policyholder premiums are based on several factors that have changed significantly over time, and in ways that few anticipated.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 17, 2008

Mr. COLE of Oklahoma. Madam Speaker, on Wednesday, January 16, 2008, I missed a vote.

I would have voted as follows: rollcall vote No. 3: “yea,” passage of H. Res. 912 under suspension of the rules, condemning the assassination of former Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and reaffirming the commitment of the United States to assist the people of Pakistan in combating terrorist activity and promoting a free and democratic Pakistan.

RECOGNIZING CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK 2008

HON. W. TODD AKIN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 17, 2008

Mr. AKIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Catholic Schools Week 2008.

From January 27 to February 2, 2008 nearly 2.4 million students who attend the Nation's 7,800 elementary, middle and secondary Catholic schools will celebrate Catholic Schools Week.

I laud the efforts of faculty and parents who provide our Nation's children with an excellent education focused on faith and values.

The 2008 theme, “Catholic Schools Light the Way” focuses on the leadership that Catholic Schools provide to our Nation by producing graduates who “light the way to a brighter future for all humankind.”

The Archdiocese of St. Louis has a long-standing tradition of leadership. I thank the Archdiocese for their commitment to enriching the lives of children.

Catholic Schools Week is a testament to the outstanding work by the Archdioceses across the country.

COMMEMORATING THE ONE YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE ASSASSINATION OF MR. HRANT DINK

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 17, 2008

Mr. CROWLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to solemnly remember the life of journalist and activist, Hrant Dink,

On January 19th, 2007, Mr. Dink was gunned down by a Turkish ultra-nationalist outside his newspaper office in Istanbul, Turkey.

Hrant Dink was a man who called for tolerance, peaceful dialogue and greater civil rights for all Turkish citizens. He was a fierce defender of freedom and believed all people have equal rights under the law. He believed that everyone should have the right to know the truth about their nation's past, however dark that past was.

Hrant Dink had been prosecuted by the Turkish government under penal code 301—a

law that bans free speech and was used to suppress a wide range of dissenting opinions, from criticism of Turkish government institutions to opposing official Turkish denial of the Ottoman campaign of genocide against its Armenian population. Under the all-encompassing phrase "insulting Turkishness" a citizen in Turkey can receive a prison sentence of up to three years, with the offence being increased 50 percent if the so-called offence is committed abroad.

Nearly 100 journalists and intellectuals have been prosecuted under Article 301—including Nobel Prize author Orhan Pamuk. Many informed observers believe Hrant Dink's prosecution under Article 301 opened him up to a campaign of harassment and death threats from ultra-nationalists, which led to his eventual murder. To this day, citizens of Turkey live under threat of this gag-law, with Hrant Dink's own son prosecuted because he reprinted his father's newspaper articles.

This is not the actions of a true democracy—it is reflective of how a totalitarian state would behave.

And, this is not the Turkey we—the United States of America—have aligned our country with.

Amnesty International has called for a complete repeal of this punitive legislation.

The European Commission has repeatedly asked for its repeal.

One year ago, Members of Congress, their staffers, and members of several communities came together to watch "Screamers"—a film about genocide in the last century featuring amongst others, Hrant Dink. Here, in the halls of Congress, we saw watched as Hrant Dink discussed the problems of Article 301.

Just two days after the film's premier, Hrant Dink was shot dead. A man who only wanted to speak the truth about historical fact. A man who wanted every citizen to be equal. A man we should applaud here in America for his courage and dedication to democracy.

I hope my colleagues will join me in honoring the memory of Hrant Dink and continuing to urge the repeal of Article 301.

ECONOMIC GROWTH PACKAGE

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 17, 2008

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, one year into a liberal Democratic majority in Congress the economy is struggling. The big government policies of the new majority are taking their toll. High gasoline prices, the sub-prime market crisis in housing, and news that inflation is at a seventeen year high, all demand a bipartisan stimulus package in the next thirty days. Congress must act; and must act swiftly.

I submit that Congress must focus economic relief on the kind of stimulus that will create jobs and growth for small businesses and family farmers. The real antidote to the impending downturn is more money in the hands of the wage-earner, and the wage-payer. This is, and always has been, the pathway to prosperity in the American economy.

INTRODUCTION OF "THE DEBBIE SMITH REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2008"

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 17, 2008

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, Along with Representatives JOHN CONYERS and LAMAR SMITH, I am introducing "The Debbie Smith Reauthorization Act of 2008." I have been working on the issue of DNA technology since 2001 when I, along with former Representative Steve Horn, held a hearing in the Government Reform Committee where we heard from a courageous rape survivor, Debbie Smith. Debbie recounted her horrifying story . . . how on a Friday afternoon in March 1989, she was in the kitchen of her home in Virginia, when a masked intruder broke in and blindfolded and robbed her. He then took her to the woods nearby and savagely raped her. Years later, Debbie learned that DNA processing techniques had produced a "cold hit" identifying her assailant, who had been jailed 6 months after her assault for another crime. He was charged with Debbie's rape in 1995, freeing Debbie from a life of fear.

It was for Debbie, and the thousands of rape survivors like her, that I authored a bill to provide Federal funding to process the unconscionable backlog of DNA evidence. Originally introduced in 2001, "The Debbie Smith Act" was signed into law in 2004 as part of "The Justice for All Act," comprehensive legislation that ensured that DNA evidence could be used to convict the guilty and free the innocent.

Since 2004, millions of dollars in funding have been appropriated under the Debbie Smith DNA Backlog Grant Program to process thousands of unprocessed DNA evidence kits across the country. Because this groundbreaking program's authorization expires at the end of FY2009, "The Debbie Smith Reauthorization Act of 2008" extends the program through FY2014.

According to the Rape, Abuse, & Incest National Network, every 2 minutes someone is sexually assaulted somewhere in the United States. DNA evidence does not forget and it cannot be intimidated. By processing this evidence, we can prevent rapists from attacking more innocent victims and ensure that the survivors and their families receive justice.

CONGRATULATIONS TO LEROY HIGH SCHOOL ON THEIR 2007 2A STATE FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 17, 2008

Mr. BONNER of Alabama. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise to honor Leroy High School on their 2007 2A Alabama State Football Championship.

Head coach Danny Powell led the Bears to their second straight Class 2A state football championship. The title is the third for Leroy in past four seasons and the third for Coach

Powell in the last two years. Like Coach Powell, I am so proud of his players, and I know they worked hard for this great accomplishment.

The Leroy Bears proved they are a team of champions in their victory on December 7, 2007, at Legion Field in Birmingham. They defeated Fyffe High School in a thrilling fourth quarter comeback to win the state crown.

Both teams had strong support from their families and fans. They traveled to Birmingham to support and cheer on their team. The fan support is a strong symbol of encouragement.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Leroy High School on their winning season and state championship. This school deserves public recognition for this great accomplishment.

I extend my congratulations to each member of the team and coaching staff:

LEROY HIGH SCHOOL ROSTER

1—Stephen Scoggins, 2—Aerik Davis, 3—Laurence Powell, 5—Grant Brown, 6—Josh Ervin, 7—Jerome Taylor, 8—Jared Elmore, 9—Patrick Wilson, 10—Josh Trotter, 11—Patrick Rivers, 12—Brandon Jones, 14—Paul Gartman, 15—Clint Moseley, 16—Alan James, 17—Zach Flowers.

18—Kenny Mitchell, 19—Ryan Daugerty, 20—Sammie Coates, 21—Johnny Williams, 22—Victor Lovick, 23—Andrew Williams,

24—Michael Bracy, 25—Clent Collins, 26—Terrence Brown, 27—Rob Reeves, 28—Phillip Ervin, 30—Deon Smith, 31—Luke Griffin, 32—Terrence Yelder, 33—Chris Weaver.

34—Detrick Powell, 35—Chet Elmore, 37—Jarrette Davis, 38—Andre Thomas, 43—Avery Nash, 44—John Truitt, 45—Tobias Roper, 46—Christian Smith, 47—Crayton Motes, 48—TJ Brannon, 51—Cody Overstreet, 52—Eddie Satterfield, 53—Anthony Payne, 54—Johathan Hammons, 55—Cody Childs.

56—Raymond Williams, 57—Jonathan Woodyard, 58—Keith Barnes, 59—Jacob Trujillo, 60—Chris Powell, 61—Tyler Faith, 62—Kyle Hayes, 63—James Foster, 64—Neil Hayes, 65—Brett Ayers, 66—Marquis Land, 67—Johnathan Sullivan, 68—Micah Bailey, 69—Tyler Chastain, 70—Frank Turner.

71—Devin Byrd, 72—Harris Long, 73—Aaron Williams, 74—Coby Powell, 75—Kendall Williams, 76—Jonathan Overstreet, 77—Tevin Anderson, 79—Payton Goldman, 83—David Morris, 84—Matt Delegal, 85—Ronny Reed, 88—Ross Reed, 89—Cody Sullivan, 90—Tyler Brown, 98—Richard Weaver, 99—Scottie McBride.

Head Coach: Danny Powell, Assistant Coaches: Jason Massey, Emanuel King, Matt Braun, Jason Rowell, Rodney Loper, Tony Nader, and Saul Worthy.

HONORING CYNTHIA "CINDY" HARRISON

HON. JAY INSLEE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 17, 2008

Mr. INSLEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Cynthia "Cindy" Harrison for nearly twenty years of hard work and dedication as Bainbridge Island's head librarian. After two decades of extraordinary service, Cindy is retiring from Bainbridge Island Public Library. In 2006, Cindy was recognized with the highly-coveted New York Times Librarian of the Year Award, bringing her library national recognition

through her tireless efforts. Cindy was a public face for the library during a period of growth when more than \$2 million was raised solely from private donations. Under Cindy's leadership, more than 75 percent of Bainbridge Islanders have library cards, with the Island's 8,000 households, borrowing more than one-half millions books and materials last year.

Cindy has made the library a better place in every way. Her stewardship and leadership has ensured that the building and programs have adapted to the changing needs of Bainbridge Islanders. Her imagination and dedication to learning have made the Library a magnet for all the citizens of Bainbridge Island and have endeared her to the community.

I offer my praise to Cindy Harrison, for her devotion to the Bainbridge Island library and community.

INTRODUCTION OF BILL TO PROTECT THE POLAR BEAR

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 17, 2008

Mr. MARKEY. Madam Speaker, I am introducing this bill today because the polar bear is in the crosshairs of global warming and the ill-advised decisions of the Bush administration to proceed with an oil lease sale in a major polar bear habitat while delaying a decision to list the polar bear as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. This legislation would require that the Interior Department delay the oil drilling rights sale in Alaska's Chukchi Sea until it had made a decision on the listing of the polar bear under the Endangered Species Act, and had performed its responsibility of establishing "critical habitat" for the polar bear.

The Bush administration's own scientists project that the prospects for the polar bear's survival are bleak. Last year, Dr. Steven Amstrup, the Government's leading polar bear scientist, headed up a team of scientists charged with examining the impact of sea ice loss on polar bear populations. In a series of reports released last fall, Dr. Amstrup's team concluded that by mid-century, two-thirds of all the world's polar bears could disappear and that polar bears could be gone entirely from Alaska. Dr. Amstrup's team also noted that based on recent observations, this dire assessment could actually be conservative.

The actions of the Bush administration in the coming months could very well determine the fate of this iconic animal. The Interior Department is currently considering whether to list the polar bear under the Endangered Species Act as a result of the impact of global warming. While this decision has been nearly three years in the making, last week the Fish and Wildlife Service announced that it was going to delay any decisions beyond its statutorily required deadline—that legal protection for the polar bear would be put on ice while its critical habitat continues to melt.

Meanwhile, the Interior Department is revving up its regulatory machine to allow new oil drilling in sensitive polar bear habitat. Earlier this month, the Minerals Management Service finalized its plan to move forward early next month with an oil and gas lease sale of nearly 30 million acres in the Chukchi Sea, an area that is essential habitat for polar bears in the United States.

The timing of these two decisions leaves the door open for the administration to give Big Oil the rights to this polar bear habitat the moment before the protections for the polar bear under the Endangered Species Act go into effect. Rushing to allow drilling in polar bear habitat before protecting the bear would be the epitome of this administration's backwards energy policy—a policy of drill first and ask questions later.

The decision to list the polar bear must be made on the best science. The Bush administration is still working out how it can solve global warming—with great delay—but has not yet made any declaration that we, or the polar bear, are in any danger. The Endangered Species Act does not call for a solution before a declaration, but rather a clear decision to be made on the biological status of a species at a specific time. The Bush administration are not going to solve global warming without first declaring it a problem, and they are not going to save the bear without first declaring it endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act.

Robert Frost wrote about two roads diverging in the wood, and here we have the Bush administration looking down two roads with regard to the polar bear. Down one road lies the survival of the polar bear and the orderly consideration of oil drilling and global warming and common sense. Down the other road, too often traveled by this administration, lies regulatory lunacy and a blatant disregard for moral responsibility. I urge Secretary Kempthorne and his agency to choose the Bush administration's road less traveled and protect the polar bear, and the rest of us, from global warming.

A TRIBUTE TO THE MONITORS CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF MAKING MUSIC

HON. G. K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 17, 2008

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, I rise and ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the Monitors, one of eastern North Carolina's most noted bands. On January 25, 2008, members of this band will come together at the Boykin Center in Wilson, NC, to celebrate 50 years of making music.

Madam Speaker, Bill Myers and Cleveland Flowe came together and organized the band in 1957 setting the Monitors in motion over the next 50 years. And they are still grooving today. I want to say that Bill Myers is married to my very special cousin, Diana Davis Myers, and Cleveland Flowe was my band teacher when I was in high school many years ago.

Bill Myers is the only original member of the band who performs once or twice per month. Cleveland Flowe and his wife, Cathy, now live in Charlotte, NC. The Monitors' music varies according to the crowd. The band is very versatile and can take an audience back on a journey to the World War II era, or can have them doing the twist, jerk, or mashed potatoes into the 1940s, 50s, 60s, 70s or even break dancing to the 80s or "leaning back" to those songs that you may hear on the radio today. Although the band has kept up with the time, the members have been able to savor its origi-

nal flavor and can kick it into gear on command.

Madam Speaker, all one has to do is just name the occasion—a concert, Mardi Gras, Hawaiian luau, wedding reception, prom, cabaret, or a street festival, and the Monitors will have you springing to your feet and dancing to the beat.

The Monitors' claim to fame is their noted performances as back-up band with such greats as Otis Redding, Millie Jackson, Major Lance, Faye Adams and Joyce Thorne, and as the opening act with Ray Charles and Roberta Flack. Further, a little known history fact is that in the early stages of her career, Roberta Flack was lead singer for the Monitors.

Madam Speaker, this celebration is not only a time of reminiscence for the members of the Monitors which include Bill Myers, Cleveland Flowe, Jerome Morgan, Willie Dupree, Dick Knight, Fred Moye, Donald Tuckson, Sam Lathan, Clark Mills, Jr., Mollie Hunter and Gerald Hunter, but it is a charitable occasion where proceeds of the concert will be divided between the Arts Council of Wilson and the Charles H. Darden High School Alumni Association.

Madam Speaker, I applaud the Monitors for the joy that they have brought into the lives of people across the Nation through their musical talents. I ask my colleagues to join me in extending to this renowned band our heartfelt wishes and God's continued blessings.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 16, 2008

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, the provision that caused the President to veto the entire Defense bill simply reaffirms the original intent of Congress to allow victims of terrorism to hold countries that commit or provide material support for terrorist acts accountable. As a principal author of the provision, I am pleased that we were able to salvage much of it. But I am disappointed in the change that the President has insisted on.

The President has decided that it is of utmost importance to shield the Iraqi Government from suits by American soldiers who were brutally tortured by the Iraqi Government under Saddam Hussein, as prisoners of war during the gulf war. The soldiers were not only starved, denied sleep, and exposed to extreme temperatures. They were severely beaten, threatened with castration and dismemberment, and put through mock executions. As a result, they have sustained lasting physical and mental injuries.

These brave soldiers and their families have been waiting many years for justice in our courts. The President, through the actions of his lawyers in the courts, has endeavored to block their progress at every turn. He has even gone so far as to twist a provision Congress included in the Emergency Wartime Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2003, designed to remove restrictions on providing assistance to the new Iraqi Government, into an

astounding claim that Congress somehow implicitly thereby gave him authority to block court jurisdiction over suits against Iraq—a claim that disregards the understanding of those involved in negotiating that provision, as well as article III of the Constitution and the separation of powers.

And now, despite these new congressional efforts to help those soldiers, the President wants them to continue to wait—for the good, he says, of the new Iraqi Government. In order for the Defense bill to be signed, my colleagues and I have reluctantly had to amend this provision to allow the President to carve out the Iraqi Government entirely.

It is important to note that this change does not affect rights under current law. The President's waiver authority extends only to the provisions being newly enacted in this bill; by its clear terms, it does not extend to current law. There is ongoing litigation regarding the rights of these American soldiers under current law; if the President exercises his new waiver authority, that litigation will proceed unaffected by that waiver.

The difference is that, if the President exercises the waiver authority, these soldiers will not be helped by this new provision we wrote and passed, as we wanted them to be, and as they would be absent the waiver. I believe current law, properly interpreted, already gives them the protection they need to obtain justice. Among other things, I believe it is clear, despite the administration's assertions and one aberrational court holding to the contrary, that Congress intended the 1996 amendment to the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act to provide an explicit Federal statutory cause of action against state sponsors of terrorism for the victims. That intent is stated explicitly, among other places, in the House Judiciary Committee's report for the bill in the previous Congress, H. Rept. 103-702.

In the face of sustained efforts by the President to persuade the courts to disregard congressional intent, we wanted to give these soldiers, and other victims of state-sponsored terrorism, another clear path to obtaining justice. But the soldiers who suffered at the hands of Saddam Hussein will not get the benefit of this other clear path if the President exercises his waiver authority, as we expect he will.

And there is always a risk that the courts will be persuaded by the arguments of the President and his lawyers, and reach what we believe would be the wrong interpretation, and deny the soldiers' claims under current law. If so, then the waiver will have the effect of further delaying justice, and a very real possibility of making it harder to obtain at all. Because even though the waiver cannot permanently and irrevocably extinguish their claims, another delay may make it all the more difficult to gather the proof when those claims can once again be pursued.

For all these reasons, we did not want to make this change.

And when we ultimately concluded that the President was willing to hold the entire Defense bill hostage unless we did, we tried to limit the harm.

We wanted the President to have to weigh the interests of the victims in justice, and make specific findings to inform us, and the victims, why he believes those interests are outweighed by the interests of the Iraqi Government, and why he believes those interests cannot fairly be reconciled.

We wanted him to have to explain in those findings why he believes it necessary to shelter all of Iraq's assets from legal accountability, even when Iraq is reaping billions upon billions of dollars from its oil fields.

We wanted the President to have to reaffirm those findings periodically, so that they would not be set in stone.

And we wanted a sunset, to bring a definite end to what we believe is a manifest injustice.

Unfortunately, we were not able to achieve these goals.

What we have been able to do, instead, is to add a new sense of the Congress that the President should work with the Government of Iraq to get fair compensation to these victims. That is, of course, non-binding; but it could also create a new path to justice. And I hope the President will take it to heart, and act on it, and that through one of these paths, the victims will see some semblance of the justice they have been struggling for these many years.

Otherwise, I think the President will have done a grave disservice to these soldiers, who are only 17 in number, and whose treatment at the hands of our enemies, in the service of their country, calls for greater respect than they have been getting.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF ZORA MCARTHUR MEISSNER

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 17, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Zora McArthur Meissner, and to celebrate her life of service to others and her community.

As a young woman in Alabama, Zora devoted herself to the civil rights movement as she registered young black voters, fought for the desegregation of schools, and demanded equality in the workplace.

After moving to Cleveland, Zora earned her bachelor's and master's degrees from John Carroll University while raising her children. Her spirit for advocacy and empowerment led her to a number of jobs working with the most vulnerable populations in Cleveland. Zora's compassion embraced everyone she encountered, and her desire to make the world and Cleveland a better place never waned. She had a genuine desire to help people, and relished the time she spent with clients.

Zora is celebrated in life by her beloved husband of 37 years, Joseph; and her children Betina, Chiquita, and Paul.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in remembering and honoring Zora McArthur Meissner, for a rich life spent dedicated to her family and her community. May her strength and spirit live on in us all.

HONORING RETIRING TOWN OF CHEEKTOWAGA COUNCILMAN THOMAS M. JOHNSON, JR.

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 17, 2008

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the illustrious public career

of one of western New York's most dedicated and hard working public servants—the Dean of the Cheektowaga Town Board, its longest serving member, Councilman Thomas M. Johnson, Jr.

Many years ago, the Buffalo News once referred to another public official with a reputation for energetic representation of his constituents as “indefatigable.” Untiring. Unrelenting. Unfaltering. These and so many other adjectives only begin to describe the manner in which Tom Johnson served his constituents, and the town he loves so dearly.

Since my very first days in service as a Member of the House, Tom has been an advocate for countless projects within Cheektowaga, and for the betterment of the people who live there. I am proud to serve in public office alongside people of the caliber of Tom Johnson, and I am prouder still to call Tom my friend.

I have taken the liberty, Madam Speaker, of including within this extension excerpts from an article recently published in the Buffalo News that chronicles Tom's career and his plans to “retire”—with that word intentionally left in quotation marks. Tom will never truly retire from serving the town he so dearly loves, and all of us in elective office owe a great debt of gratitude to Tom for his service and his dedication to the people in his community. Tom, on behalf of the entirety of the House of Representatives, let me wish you, Barbara and your entire family the very best of luck and Godspeed.

CHEEKTOWAGA ICON JOHNSON LEARNING THE WORD “RETIRE”

(By Thomas J. Dolan)

Cheektowaga's longest-serving Town Board member, Thomas M. Johnson Jr., is stepping down after three decades in office, but you wouldn't know it to see him.

With just days to go before his term ends, Johnson, 66, is as restless as ever. He's showing up for work sessions at Town Hall, popping in at community meetings and appearing at all manner of ceremonies and events, just as he has done through much of his career. “He gets involved in practically everything. He goes to all the meetings. He gets involved with various groups,” said Thomas J. Adamczak, supervisor of town inspectors.

Whether it's the Cheektowaga Community Symphony Orchestra, a ceremony honoring veterans, a planning session to restock wall-eye in Cayuga Creek or a discussion of storm-drainage problems, Johnson has been a force in town affairs for decades. He has left his stamp on a wide variety of projects, from the Walden Galleria shopping mall to the town's new bike path, now under construction.

Johnson's 30 years on the board easily qualify him as Cheektowaga's longest-serving lawmaker, said Supervisor-elect Mary F. Holtz, the town historian.

“Nobody else even comes close,” Holtz said after checking her records.

And few town officials have made a greater impact than Johnson, observers say.

“Tom is a true institution in Cheektowaga,” said Eric L. Recoon, vice president of development for Benderson Development Co.

Recoon, who has frequently negotiated with Johnson regarding Benderson projects, gave this assessment: “Tom probably has, in his own way, done more for the town than almost anybody. He's so passionate about his town, and he was really tireless in his efforts to do what he feels would benefit the Town of Cheektowaga.”

And while many politicians show up at public meetings to earn some “face time,”

Johnson comes armed with questions, talking points and often documents to back them up. It's not long before he's deep in the debate—or taking over the meeting, as some critics would describe it.

Recoon, who has dealt with Johnson for more than a decade, said: “He’s incredibly frank. He’s very straightforward, and he is candid—sometimes not in a fashion that you want him to be. But you know what? You always know where you stand with him.”

Johnson, an engineer and retired manager for Goodyear-Dunlop Tire Corp., recalls buying a house on Meadowlawn Road in the

early 1970s and then learning that—instead of being used for housing, as real estate agents had assured him—the large lot behind his home would be developed as a shopping mall.

As a result, Johnson helped form the Depew-Cheektowaga Home Association, which grew to more than 700 members. And, through most of his political career, he has kept close ties with Cheektowaga’s homeowners’ and taxpayers’ associations.

His list of honors and awards—many of them from community groups—fill more than a page. But after more than 32 years on

the political stage, Johnson says he is retiring to spend more time with his family, especially his grandchildren, Natalie, 7, and Eric, 5. It’s difficult to imagine him no longer being active in town affairs, especially since he believes strongly in having citizens take part in government.

“What we need more than anything else is participatory government,” he said. “For my mind, government that is closest to the people is best.”