

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN MEMORY OF TEXAS TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION CHAIRMAN
RICHARD "RIC" WILLIAMSON

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 16, 2008

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember The Honorable Ric Williamson, former Chairman of the Texas Transportation Commission and a dear friend of mine.

Ric began his 23-year tenure in faithful public service to the state of Texas in 1984, when he was elected as a State Representative. In 2001, he was appointed by Texas Governor Rick Perry to serve on the Texas Transportation Commission, and was named chairman in 2004. Ric served on several boards, including the Southern Regional Education Board, Legislative Budget Board, Department of Information Resources Board, Uniform Statewide Accounting System Committee, and the Southern Legislative Conference, to name a few.

As Chairman of the Texas Transportation Commission, Ric's visions always aimed at improving the state of transportation and the quality of infrastructure in Texas. Many times his initiatives were deemed controversial or difficult, but his resolve and determination persevered and many of his harshest critics have come to respect and support his innovative transportation concepts.

Ric will always be remembered by his friends and associates as a true champion for all things Texan. Unafraid to challenge the status quo, he was a highly regarded leader bringing innovative ideas to provide safe, economic and reliable transportation to improve the daily lives of Texans.

On a personal level Ric remained a patient mentor and a steadfast friend. My thoughts and prayers are with his wife Mary Ann and his family. Ric will be greatly missed.

HONORING WILLIAM J. WINIARSKI

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 16, 2008

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to William J. Winiarski as he retires from Rowe Incorporated. A dinner was held in his honor on January 11th in Grand Blanc, Michigan.

William Winiarski started working for Rowe Incorporated in 1971. He received his bachelor of science in civil engineering degree from Michigan Technological University in 1973. He was promoted to project manager in 1976, the same year he became a professional engineer. His career with Rowe continued and he was named a vice president in 1978 and became the president/chief operating officer in

1986. During this time William was licensed as a professional surveyor. He assumed the position of chief operating officer in 1991 and 10 years later became the marketing principal. This enabled him to focus on the marketing and client side of the business.

Working at the helm of several significant projects, William has put the Rowe stamp on many communities in Michigan. He led the team that worked on projects for the City of Flushing, City of Niles, City of Linden, Village of Byron, Village of Chesaning, Village of Holly, Village of Oxford, Charter Township of Flushing, Genesee County Road Commission, Shiawassee County Road Commission, Shiawassee County Drain Commission, Flint Downtown Development Authority, Genesys Health Systems, and Venice Park Landfill.

He is affiliated with several professional and community organizations and has held leadership positions with many. He is the past national director and past president of the American Council of Engineering Companies. He is the past president of the American Society of Civil Engineers, East Central Michigan Chapter. William is the past president of the Michigan Society of Professional Engineers, Flint Chapter. He is a member of the Michigan Society of Professional Surveyors, a Genesee/Lapeer/Shiawassee Region V planning commissioner, the Chairman of the Genesee County Brownfield Redevelopment Board, and the vice chairman of the Flint River Corridor Alliance. He has served as the chairman and acting president of the Flint/Genesee Economic Growth Alliance and the chairman of the Genesee Area Focus Council. He is on the board of directors of Genesee County Mental Health Facilities, Genesee County Mental Health, and the "Ready-Set-Grow" Program for Genesee County. William is a past board of directors member of the Flint Industrial Mutual Association and the past chairman of the Genesee Regional Chamber of Commerce.

William continues his association with his alma mater by serving on the board of directors for the Michigan Technological University Fund, the Civil Engineering Advisory Board and as a member of the Civil and Environmental Engineering Academy.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in paying tribute to William J. Winiarski as he retires from Rowe Incorporated. Through his work he has left a permanent mark upon the communities of Michigan and has enhanced the quality of life for its citizens.

CONGRATULATING THE TAFT UNION HIGH SCHOOL WILDCATS VARSITY FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 16, 2008

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the student ath-

letes and coaches of the Taft Union High School Wildcats varsity football team on winning the 2007 California Interscholastic Federation Central Section Division IV championship, also known as the Valley Championship.

On Friday, November 30, 2007, the Wildcats defeated Corcoran High School 28-14 in their last game of the season to win the championship. This was a truly outstanding achievement to cap an outstanding season, a season where the Wildcats finished with a record of 12-1. The Wildcat victory marked the first football Valley Championship for Taft since 1930. Taft Union High School football fans, students and the Taft community were treated to an exciting championship game where in the fourth quarter with a tied score, the Wildcats' skill, training, hard work, and athleticism paid off and led them to an emotional two touchdown victory.

I want to extend my congratulations to the Taft Union High School Wildcats student athletes for their impressive championship win and 2007 season. The 2007 roster included Donald Baggs II, Derek Barnes, David Barraza, Dalton Botts, Chad Cruz, Wes Elland, Blake Emberson, Lyndon Faagau, Jose Flores, Jeremy Gonzales, Sergio Gonzales, Tommy Halphin, James Hiracheta, Tyler Houghton, Austin Kindred, Loren Kolb, Joe Lau, Andrew LeClair, Konelio Maino, Dylan Niblett, Matthew Nixon, Jeremy Orr, Christian Ramirez, Kurtis Rawls, Blaine Reich, Jerry Romo, Ricardo Romo, Ben Savali, Ioane Savail, Fabian Scheifele, Shane Sefo, Cody Shirreffs, Jesse Simmons, Steven Spoonemore, Jesse Tafoya, Fabian Taute, Kyle Taylor, Jeremiah Twisselman, Joel Vermillion, Tommy Williams, Aaron Wroblewski, Stewart Bandy, Avesee Faagau, Adalberto Figueroa, Eric Foch, Shaquil Gant, Mike Hagstrom, Kacey Kaszycki, Hunter Liljeroos, Mike Newkirk, Todd Parker, Felipe Puldo, Cody Reaves, Andrew Smith, Freddy Tuuamalemal, Jordan Vermillion, and Braxton Walters.

I also want to congratulate the coaching staff who helped lead the team to its championship season. The Wildcat head coach is Steve Sprague and his coaching team includes Russell Emberson, Arley Hill, Rick Woodson, Shawn Cummins, Rob Cleveland, Paul Martinez, Brian Durkan, Bryan Powell, Dee Griffith, Mike Goodwin, John Wagner, and Jeremy Letterman.

Participation in athletics is a wonderful component of a high school education because it provides opportunities for leadership, teamwork and competition. The months of physical and mental training and the teamwork that was required to win this Valley Championship will benefit these young men long after their high school graduation.

On behalf of the residents of the 22nd Congressional District, I once again commend the Taft Union High School Wildcats on winning the 2007 Valley Championship. I am very proud of the accomplishments of the 2007

• 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.

Wildcats football team, and I know the parents, teachers, neighbors and fans in our community will remember this season for many years to come.

IN HONOR OF THE GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER TIGERS: 2007 AAA GEORGIA STATE FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 16, 2008

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the achievements of the 2007 Georgia AAA State Football Champions, the George Washington Carver Tigers. On December 15th, 2007, the Tigers defeated another great football team in my district, the Cairo Syrupmakers by a score of 16–13 on a rainy, windy day in Cairo, Georgia.

The game was an epic battle between two talented, well coached teams. This capped an undefeated 15–0 year for the Tigers and also delivered the school's first State football title in history. And the first state title in any sport since the basketball team accomplished this feat in 1971.

I want to extend my congratulations to Principal Chris Lindsey, Coach Dell McGee and the entire Carver family for this great achievement.

I also want to extend my congratulations to the Cairo Syrupmakers for a great season. They played all season with courage, spirit, and intestinal fortitude.

It takes a great deal of work and sacrifice to assemble a State-championship football team. It takes the dedication of the young men who are playing on the team. It also takes a dedicated coaching staff who have the wherewithal to dedicate their time and energy to not only teaching young men about the game of football, but also the game of life. A winning football team can in many ways bring a community together. This team has brought this community together.

The 99 young men that made up this year's football team accomplished something special. By accomplishing this special goal, they developed the character that will help them to succeed in other aspects of life. I am proud to represent these special young men and once again congratulate them on their history-making achievement.

HONORING GEORGE W. BRITTON

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 16, 2008

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. George Britton upon his retirement from the city of Modesto as the city manager. Mr. Britton was honored on January 3, 2008, in Modesto, CA.

George Britton was born and raised in Modesto, CA. After graduating from high school, Mr. Britton attended the University of Oregon where he received a bachelor's degree and then attended the University of Southern California where he received a master's degree in

public administration. He also completed the program at the John F. Kennedy School of Government and the Senior Governmental Executive Program at Harvard University.

Mr. Britton served in the Air Force Reserve from 1970 until 1978. He left reserve to join the city manager in the city of Scottsdale, Arizona, where he served as the director of municipal utilities and assistant to the city manager. Mr. Britton was the executive assistant to Arizona Governor Bruce Babbitt from 1980 through 1986, where he chaired the Governor's Cabinet and oversaw various State agencies. For the next 15 years, he was the deputy city manager for the city of Phoenix.

In 2001 Mr. Britton returned back to Modesto and joined the city of Modesto. He started as deputy city manager and was appointed city manager in March 2005. During Mr. Britton's time in office the city of Modesto has made numerous improvements. In 2006 alone the city had increased downtown signage, and developed and increased participation in the Citizens Emergency Response Team. The Modesto Fire Department was also able to add 12 new firefighters, a new fire truck, and the department was awarded funding to add three fire investigators to be available for all of Stanislaus County. In addition to all of this, the city was also awarded funding to increase the capacity and ability of the airport. There have also been major developments with the city's solid waste program, expansion of the youth center, increased commerce, the creation of more parks and bridges and 71 miles of roads were added, repaved or repaired. The city of Modesto was able to make enormous strides under the direction of Mr. Britton.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate George Britton upon his retirement from the city of Modesto. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Mr. Britton many years of continued success.

HONORING 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF HURLEY MEDICAL CENTER

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 16, 2008

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 100th anniversary of Hurley Medical Center in my hometown of Flint, MI. Hurley Medical Center kicked off a yearlong celebration on January 11.

In 1908, James J. Hurley left \$55,000 and property to the city of Flint to establish a hospital to treat everyone, regardless of their ability to pay. The first Board of Managers, J. Dallas Dort, Charles A. Lippincott, Edward D. Black, William E. Martin, and George L. Walker, implemented his vision. Mrs. Flint P. Smith organized the first auxiliary to raise money for the fledgling hospital. Their vision and hard work paid off and the hospital opened its doors on December 19, 1908.

Today Hurley Medical Center is a 443-bed teaching medical center annually treating over 20,000 persons for inpatient care and 76,000 emergency room cases. It is the only Level I trauma center and Level III neonatal intensive care unit in Genesee County. In addition to these two services, Hurley Medical Center offers the region's only care centers in the following specialties: burn center, maternal and

fetal care center, pediatric intensive care unit, pediatric emergency room, fertility and reproductive medicine center, and kidney transplantation center.

The 2,500 employees of Hurley Medical Center work very hard to provide quality healthcare to their patients. The medical center has received the 2007 HealthGrades Critical Care Excellence Award, and the 2007 "Certificate of Merit for Outstanding Achievement in Organ Donation" from Michigan Gift of Life. In 2005 they received the Governor's Award for Quality in Inpatient Setting, Ambulatory Setting, and Emergency Department. The Hurley Asthma Center has also received the MHA Ludwig Community Benefit Award.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Hurley Medical Center for providing outstanding healthcare to the Flint community for the past 100 years. Their mission statement is "Clinical Excellence, Service to People." Every person living in Genesee County has been touched, either directly or through a loved one, by the commitment of the employees, affiliated healthcare providers and volunteers of Hurley Medical Center to live up to their motto. They continue to exemplify James Hurley's vision to provide quality healthcare to everyone regardless of their income. I am grateful for their compassion and wish them the best for the next 100 years.

IN MEMORY OF COACH NEAL WILSON

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 16, 2008

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember Coach Neal Wilson, the longtime athletic director of Lewisville Independent School District in Lewisville, Texas and a tireless public servant.

Coach Wilson began his four decade-long coaching career in 1965 with the Lewisville ISD, and was Lewisville head football coach from 1978 to the fall of 1985, when he assumed full-time athletic director duties. He retired in December 2000, but came back for brief athletic director stints at surrounding school districts for several years. Coach Wilson then came back to assume the athletic director role in the Lewisville ISD during the spring of 2004, and then again in 2007.

In 2003, Coach Wilson was inducted into the Texas High School Coaches Association Hall of Honor, and in 2005, Flower Mound High School in Flower Mound, Texas, renamed its football stadium the Neal E. Wilson/Jaguar Stadium. Coach Wilson was known as a strong advocate of all sports and took great pride in making sure he not only gave equally to all sports, but also increased his knowledge about every sport with each passing day.

His motto, according to Lewisville assistant athletic director Roddy Durham, was that you have to give the kids a chance to win. Coach Wilson expected himself and every coach to do their part to put their teams in the best position possible and lead by example. "When we have needed him, he's always been there for us," Coach Durham said.

My thoughts go out to his wife Donna and two sons, Darrell and Lance, as well as a

long-list of family and friends. Coach Wilson will be greatly missed by the many that are fortunate enough to speak of the impact he had on their lives.

HONORING RAY KARPE

HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 16, 2008

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Ray Karpe, a resident and community leader from Bakersfield, California, for his outstanding and exemplary leadership while serving as the 2007 President of the Bakersfield Association of Realtors®.

After earning a bachelor of science degree in business administration from California State University, Bakersfield, Ray graduated from the Graduate Realtor® Institute, GRI, in 1989. He began his real estate career with Karpe Real Estate Center in 1986 and served as property manager, sales associate, loan officer, project development manager, and vice president before becoming the center's president. He received his real estate broker's license in 1998.

Ray Karpe has been a longtime leader in local real estate matters, reflecting the same success, enthusiasm, care, and commitment to his community as two generations of Karpes before him. He has served the Bakersfield Association of Realtors® in all levels of leadership and served on over 35 committees since becoming a Director of the association in 2002. He became the third generation of the Karpe family to be honored as the Realtor® of the Year in 2005 by the Bakersfield Association of Realtors®, before being appointed president of the association in 2007.

Ray has also ably represented Bakersfield realtors and the Bakersfield community in the State and national association. Since 2003, Ray has been a director of the California Association of Realtors®, C.A.R., and has served as chair and vice-chair of the Taxation Committee. And this year, C.A.R. President Bill Brown appointed him to serve on the 2008 C.A.R. executive committee. Since 2006, Mr. Karpe has been a director of the National Association of Realtors®, a member of the Taxation Committee, and is a "National Golden R" Member—President's Circle.

In his free time, Ray is an active community volunteer serving as a director on the boards of the California State University, Bakersfield Foundation, Mercy Hospitals of Bakersfield, and Garces Memorial High School. He is also a member and past director of the Rotary Club of Bakersfield, the Young Presidents' Organization, YPO, and a member of the 11 Gallon Club at the Houchin Community Blood Bank.

A true mark of leadership is the generosity of time and talents that one gives on behalf of his neighbors and communities. Ray Karpe exemplifies this time-honored tradition. I commend Ray for his service and leadership as president of the Bakersfield Association of Realtors® and wish him and his family well as he continues to serve our community.

IN HONOR OF EDWARD DuBOSE

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 16, 2008

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Edward Dubose, the president of the Georgia State Conference of the NAACP and Second District citizen.

Edward O. DuBose was born in Atlanta, Georgia, the third oldest of 10 children to Carnell and Margie DuBose. He received his early education through the Atlanta public school system, graduating from Harper High School. He then joined the United States Army where he completed 21 years of honorable service.

Mr. DuBose, who also earned a masters degree in clinical mental health counseling, is a licensed professional counselor, anger management specialist, member of the National Board of Certified Counselors, and a member of the Licensed Professional Counselors Association of Georgia. As the owner of Oxygen Mental Health Counseling services, he provides in-home counseling to at risk youth and families throughout the State of Georgia and Alabama.

In addition to his career as a counselor, Mr. DuBose has served his community through leadership in the NAACP. He has served 7 years as president of the Columbus, Georgia, branch of the NAACP, and 5 years as 2nd vice president of the Georgia State Conference NAACP. In addition, he has served as Georgia State NAACP veterans affairs chairman and as the district coordinator for a 9-county area.

Mr. DuBose was elected to the position of president of the Georgia State Conference NAACP on October 2005, and reelected for a second term in 2007. He is the only resident and NAACP member in Columbus history to hold the title of State president.

While serving the NAACP, Mr. DuBose led the organization to achieve several landmark accomplishments, including negotiating the only NAACP radio show in Georgia, helping start the first Black History Month Parade in Columbus, Georgia now in its seventh year, and coordinating the largest protest march in Columbus history by rallying over 15,000 people to call for justice for the shooting death of Kenneth Walker.

Mr. DuBose is married to Cynthia DuBose and they have three beautiful daughters; Cynthia Harris, Casonya Hardaway Glover, and Kimberly DuBose. Madam Speaker, it is my privilege to honor this man today for his dedication to Columbus, the NAACP, the Second Congressional District, and to the betterment of his State and Nation.

HONORING ROBERT DUNBAR

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 16, 2008

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Councilman Robert Dunbar upon his retirement from the Modesto City Council. Councilman Dunbar was recognized at the city of Modesto swearing in ceremony held on December 19, 2007.

Councilman Dunbar was born in Terre Haute, Indiana and attended Indiana University and Indiana State University where he received a bachelor of science degree in speech and drama with a minor in political science. After moving to southern California he attended University of Redlands, University of California in Riverside and California State University, Fullerton and received a master of science degree in public school administration with a minor in political science and urban politics. This was the beginning of Councilman Dunbar's first career as a teacher.

Before Councilman Dunbar was an elected official, he worked in the public school system. He began by teaching high school and junior high school. He moved to Merced, California, in 1972 to pursue a position with the Merced Union High School District. He held various positions within the district, including; dean of boys, vice-principal and learning director. In 1980 he moved to Modesto, California to join the Sylvan Union School District, where he became the principal of Somerset Junior High School. The school was named a "Top 100 Distinguished Junior High School" during his tenure. He was also the principal at Sylvan Elementary School, and was named the "Eighth District PTA Principal of the Year." While working for the school districts, he was also a part-time professor on various subjects at Merced Junior College, California State University, Stanislaus, St. Mary's College, and Chapman University. Councilman Dunbar retired from education in 2001 and moved onto more civic duties.

Councilman Dunbar served on the Planning Commission for the city of Merced for 2 years and on the Planning Commission for the city of Modesto for 7 years serving as the chairman for 2 of those years. He was elected to the Modesto City Council in 2003, and currently serves as vice chair of the Finance Committee. Throughout his lifetime he has served in many capacities; as a baseball coach, Boy Scout leader, Kiwanis leader, member of the board of directors for the Modesto chapter of the Red Cross, member of the Association of California School Administrators and Stanislaus Partners in Education.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Councilman Robert Dunbar upon his retirement from the Modesto City Council. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Councilman Dunbar many years of continued success.

HONORING BRAD L. HARNICK

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 16, 2008

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today and ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Brad L. Harnick upon his retirement from Michigan State University Extension for Genesee County. A reception for Brad was held on January 11th in my hometown of Flint, Michigan.

Brad began working for the Michigan State University Extension Service in 1978. He worked as the Genesee County 4-H Youth Development Program associate until 1990. At that time he became the 4-H Youth Development agent and Extension educator.

During his tenure he developed several programs to promote leadership, citizenship, achievement, and community service in young people and adult volunteers. He created the Citizenship Academy, the Adolescent Mentoring Program, and the Genesee After-School Program. He was a significant contributor to the development of the Capitol Experience Program, Exploration Days, and the Great Lakes Environmental Camp.

As the 4-H coordinator for Genesee County, Brad has instilled the four values of 4-H: head, heart, hands and health, into thousands of young people. He has brought the resources of Michigan State University Extension and the 4-H program into partnership with schools, churches, community groups and youth-serving organizations to enhance the advancement of young persons throughout Genesee County.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in thanking Brad L. Harnick for his service to our youth. His innovative programs have educated, his creativity has inspired, and his leadership has enhanced the lives of countless children. I am grateful that he devoted his life to giving life skills to the young people of Genesee County and I wish him the best for the future.

HONORING MERCY HOSPITAL CADILLAC ON THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF ITS PUBLIC DEDICATION

HON. PETER HOEKSTRA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 16, 2008

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the founders, administrators, staff and supporters of Mercy Hospital Cadillac as they celebrate the 100th anniversary of the hospital's public dedication.

Madam Speaker, Mercy Hospital Cadillac has helped to ensure that the local community has remained healthy and productive since 1908.

Mr. and Mrs. Delos F. and Esther Diggins started construction on a home for the sick in 1907 and entrusted it to the Sisters of Mercy in 1908. It admitted its first patient on January 15, 1908, and it was dedicated to its purpose by a reception to the public on January 20, 1908. It will be rededicated to its purpose during a public celebration on Sunday, January 20, 2008.

From 1908 to 1934 Mercy Hospital conducted a nursing program titled the "Mercy Hospital School of Nursing," which prepared young women for careers as skilled nurses. In 1952 the Mercy School of Practical Nursing was founded, and it educated 1,115 students before closing in 1985. It was ranked first or second by the Michigan Nursing Board in its last 16 years.

The hospital is currently engaged in an \$11 million capital campaign to modernize its facilities and invest in new technologies, which so far has provided it with the means to construct a 1,800-square-foot Obstetrical Unit, a new emergency department and a new radiology department. The initiative will build upon the hospital's successes and ensure that it has the best equipment, expertise and infrastructure.

Mercy Hospital Cadillac provides health care services to more than 60,000 residents across four counties, and with more than 600 employees is one of the area's largest employers.

Madam Speaker, Mercy Hospital Cadillac has contributed greatly to its community by continuing the legacy of Mr. and Mrs. Diggins and is deserving of the recognition of the U.S. House of Representatives.

CONGRATULATING THE LEWISVILLE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR RECEIVING AN AA+ BOND RATING FOR 2007

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 16, 2008

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the City of Lewisville's Independent School District. The Lewisville Independent School District has received an AA+ bond rating for 2007.

District officials apply for the ratings each year, which are granted by Standard and Poor's Corporation of New York. Lewisville is the only district in Texas, and one of three districts in the Nation, to receive such a rating this year.

The Lewisville Independent School District has demonstrated a strong aptitude for increasing fund balances while responding to modifications in State funding policies. The AA+ rating is an improvement from the district's AA rating in 2006.

The Lewisville Independent School District has managed to increase its bond rating from AA- to AA+ in two years, despite statewide school finance issues. State funding policies have been changed multiple times throughout the last decade, and Lewisville has positively modified its spending practices each time in response.

I extend my sincerest congratulations to the City of Lewisville and the Lewisville Independent School District. It is my hope that they will continue to be as fiscally responsible and resourceful as they have proven themselves to be in the past. It is my honor to represent them in the United States Congress.

RECOGNIZING GENEVA MAE SMITH

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 16, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause and ask you to join me in recognizing Geneva Mae Smith of Gladstone, MO. Geneva celebrated her 100th birthday on January 9, 2008, and it is my privilege to offer her my warmest regards on achieving this important milestone.

Geneva Mae Richardson was born to Lille Mae and Lee Howard Richardson in Kansas City, KS, on January 9, 1908. Geneva was one of eight children born into the Richardson family. On October 11, 1924, Geneva married Chester Melvin Smith. Geneva and Chester had four children: Geneva Mae, Chester Melvin, Georgia Bea, and Frank Cooper. After

Geneva's parents passed away, she also cared for and raised her baby brother Glenn.

Chester and Geneva remained active in the community during their marriage by participating in Chester's Masonic Lodge and American War Dads. For 12 years Geneva was the national pianist for the American War Dads organization. After Chester's death Geneva remained active in American War Dads and other community organizations.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Geneva as she celebrates her 100th birthday. It is an honor to represent Geneva in the United States Congress, and I wish her the best of luck in the future.

HONORING ROBERT CRAWFORD

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 16, 2008

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Robert Crawford, for his retirement and years of dedicated service to the citizens of Berkeley County.

"Bob," as he is better known to his friends and colleagues, has served as the executive director of the Berkeley County Development Authority since March 1990.

During his tenure, he has experienced the many changes Berkeley County has undergone in the past 18 years as it transformed from a small rural county to a bustling bedroom community of the Washington, DC metro area. Bob has worked tirelessly to assure that all the needs of the county were sufficiently met despite surging growth and infrastructure challenges.

As executive director of the Berkeley County Development Authority, Bob has been involved with the development of the two major industrial parks; Cumbo Yard Industrial Park and Tabler Station Business Park. He also played a major role in recruiting industries to the area that serve as the county's major employers.

It is an honor to congratulate such a distinguished public servant for his years of service and contributions to Berkeley County and the State of West Virginia. I'm proud to call Bob a friend and fellow West Virginian. I wish him all the best in the years to come.

HONORING SAMUEL ARTHUR FRIEDMAN

HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 16, 2008

Mr. COLE of Oklahoma. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Professor Samuel Arthur Friedman for his devotion and extensive contributions to the science and literature of geology.

As a leading authority on coal geology and resources, Professor Friedman developed his passion early on earning his undergraduate degree from Brooklyn College, a master's in geology from Ohio State University along with completing graduate work in geology at Indiana University and the University of Tennessee.

For 15 years, Professor Friedman served as an expert on coal formations at the Geological Survey at Indiana University after which he became the coal project leader for the U.S. Bureau of Mines in Tennessee and Pennsylvania. In 1971, he joined the Oklahoma Geological Survey where he established a coal research program and taught coal geology seminars as a member of the graduate faculty of the School of Geology and Geophysics. Professor Friedman also chaired master's students' thesis committees and organized continuing education classes in the fundamentals of coal geology.

He has held numerous leadership positions in professional geological societies such as serving as chairman of the Coal Geology Division of the Geological Society of America and receiving the division's Distinguished Service Award in 1992. Professor Friedman was also awarded the Past Presidents Award, the Distinguished Founders Award, and the Distinguished Service Award from the American Association of Petroleum Geologists Energy Minerals Division. In recognition of his extensive contributions to the science of geology and of his generous commitment to the advancement of his profession, Brooklyn College awarded him the Distinguished Alumnus Award in 1995.

Professor Friedman's work as a research and resources coal geologist with the U.S. Bureau of Mines and the Oklahoma Geological Survey, his excellent relationship with Federal and State agencies, and his role as a principal investor in geology projects have all contributed to his being recognized as a leading expert in the field of coal geology and resources.

His biography has been listed in American Men and Women of Science, Marquis Who's Who in America, Who's Who in Science and Engineering, and Who's Who in the World.

Madam Speaker, I would like to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Professor Samuel Arthur Friedman on his many accomplishments in the field of coal geology.

TRIBUTE TO KATY HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. MICHAEL T. MCCAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 16, 2008

Mr. MCCAUL of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Katy High School football team of Katy, Texas, on their Class 5A, Division II Texas State football championship on Saturday, December 22, 2007.

Katy High School became the Class 5A, Division II State champions after defeating Pflugerville High School, 28 to 7, at the Alamodome in San Antonio, Texas.

Starting the season as the second-ranked team in Class 5A and ending the regular season as the top-ranked team, the Katy Tigers were a team expected to do great things, and they did. When the senior players were freshmen, they made it their goal to win a State championship game and with much hard work and determination this objective was accomplished. Always tough to live up to expectations, the Tigers did so and then some in claiming the Class 5A, Division II title in 2007 with a perfect 16-0 season record.

Throughout the season, both the offense and defense were dominant. Offensively, the

Tigers scored over 43 points per game. Defensively, Katy allowed an average of only 8 points per game.

The Katy Tigers advanced to the championship game by easily defeating Strake Jesuit College Preparatory 51-18 in the bi-district playoff game, by defeating Houston Madison High School 42 to 8 in the Region 3 semifinals, by defeating Pasadena Memorial High School 30 to 14 in the Region 3 championship, by defeating Fort Bend Clements High School 42 to 0 in the quarterfinal playoff game, and by defeating San Antonio Madison High School 66 to 21 in the State semi-final game.

The Katy Tigers rose to the challenge during the championship game against the Pflugerville Panthers, in San Antonio at the Alamodome. Katy scored 28 unanswered points after being down 7 in the first half. A hail mary at the end of the first half changed the momentum for the Katy Tigers to finish out the State championship game with a final score of 28-7, a truly outstanding accomplishment.

The win is Katy's fifth title all-time and fourth since 1997. More significantly, it is the first for head coach Gary Joseph, who ran his all-time win-loss record to 55-4 with the victory. It was not just a State title however, as the Tigers would find out about 30 minutes after the game's final whistle. Coach Joseph announced to a packed home locker room that the Tigers had been voted the No. 1 team in the Nation by ESPN. A roar of shouts, whistles and cheers filled the underground corridors of the Alamodome following that announcement as Katy returned to the top of the charts in Texas for the first time since 2003. In addition, Katy is ranked No. 4 in the USA Today Super 25 football rankings.

The success of these fine young athletes of Katy High School serves as an inspiration for their school and community. I know from my own experience how high school football teaches you not only how to win on the field but also how to succeed in life. It teaches you that through hard work, discipline, dedication, and teamwork you can dream any dream and achieve any goal. I know that these fine athletes will apply their success on the football field to their lives after high school to accomplish great things.

I officially recognize and honor the outstanding achievements and contributions by the 2007 Katy High School Varsity Football Team, coaches, school and loyal fans, for their exemplary representation of our community. Congratulations Katy Tigers. I commend you on a spectacular football year and wish you the best next season and beyond.

HONORING MRS. MARGUERITE CANTINI

HON. RON KLEIN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 16, 2008

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Mrs. Marguerite Cantini of Fort Lauderdale, FL, who will turn 100 years old on January 25, 2008.

Mrs. Cantini is the paradigm of her generation. Her parents immigrated to the United States, making her the first generation of her

family to be born on U.S. soil. She was the second daughter to her parents, Edgar and Thea Barbe, who had recently arrived in New York. The family moved to California and then returned to the East Coast.

In 1936, she married Raphael S. Cantini, a surgeon from New Jersey, and together, they raised a family. She dedicated her life to the welfare and happiness of those around her. The American people can look to Mrs. Cantini as a model for family values.

Mrs. Cantini has always lived a graceful and creative life, and throughout her 100 years, she has excelled in flower arranging and drawing. She would create doll houses out of cardboard with her grandchildren and especially enjoyed making paper dolls and all their clothing for her granddaughters.

I join her family and friends in wishing Mrs. Marguerite Cantini a very happy birthday.

IN HONOR OF THE PRESIDENT OF JESUS THE HOPE OF ROMANIA, PETER DUGULESCU

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 16, 2008

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, on behalf of my colleagues Representative CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH of New Jersey and Representative JOSEPH R. PITTS, we rise today to honor the memory of Pastor Peter Dugulescu, who was the founder and president of the charitable organization "Jesus the Hope of Romania" and who passed away from a heart attack on January 3, 2008.

Pastor Dugulescu was born in 1945 in Romania, eventually marrying and having four children. He served as a Baptist pastor during the Communist regime, and was seen as a fighter of the revolution and a true spiritual leader in Romania. He was given the honor of many awards, including the "Ambassador of Peace" award from the Interreligious and International Peace Council.

Pastor Dugulescu was a dear friend of many of us who have followed events in Romania over the years. He was a strong Christian, and a selfless servant of the poor. His charity opened an orphanage, created feeding programs for the impoverished, and established a home for the elderly and handicapped children. The loss of this bright soul will be felt acutely by all whose lives he touched. We extend our condolences to his family and friends.

THE RETIREMENT OF DOUG MACDONALD

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 16, 2008

Mr. DeFAZIO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a dedicated member of the United States Forest Service as he concludes his 32-plus years of service to his country. Mr. Doug Macdonald deserves this honor. Oregonians are grateful for his contributions to the wise and sustainable use of our Nation's forests.

Doug Macdonald's personal and professional career accomplishments are as diverse

as they are noteworthy. His loyal service and sacrifices for over three decades working in the communities of Oregon are a testament to all who use and appreciate our public lands. I would like to take a moment to reflect upon Doug's career as he makes the transition to life beyond Government service.

Born in Yakima, Washington, Doug learned to speak Japanese before he spoke English because he spent time in Japan as a toddler while his father was serving in the Armed Forces. His family then moved to upstate New York where Doug gained appreciation for the outdoors at their home near the Catskill Mountains. After high school, Doug started college in Boston but the lure of the Pacific Northwest pulled him back to where he calls home.

Doug joined the Army National Guard where he served his country for 6 years. He graduated with a civil engineering degree from the University of Washington and in 1975 started his Forest Service career as a civil engineer trainee on the Willamette National Forest.

Doug's career in the Pacific Northwest Region of the Forest Service included positions in the regional office in Portland, Oregon, and on the Malheur National Forest in John Day, Oregon. In 1986, Doug returned to the Willamette National Forest as the Assistant Forest Engineer and eventually was promoted to the Forest Engineer. In the 1990s, Doug was part of an international team that traveled to Indonesia for 3 or 4 weeks per year to train Indonesian foresters to design and build environmentally sensitive roads. He retires as the Zone Engineer for the Willamette, Siuslaw, and Mt. Hood National Forests, as well as the Columbia River Gorge Scenic Area.

Early in his career, Doug was instrumental in developing and implementing new forest road designs that were efficient, cost effective, and more environmentally sensitive. Doug also played a significant leadership role in bringing together research science and engineering to improve hydrologic function and fish passage on forest roads and culverts. In the last several years, Doug has worked tirelessly to enhance the facilities of the Forest Service. He has forged new partnerships and inspired innovation and creativity to reduce costs and improve the vital facilities for the entire Pacific Northwest Region. In my own district, Doug was responsible for initiating a partnership to build an interagency center to house the new offices for the Forest Service, the BLM, and the Oregon Military Department. His efforts helped save tax payers millions of dollars in facilities costs.

Among Doug's numerous and exemplary accomplishments, none are more evident than the relationships he has built and his commitment to others that he tirelessly displays. Doug has touched so many people both in and outside the Forest Service. His caring for people has resulted in immeasurable benefits to the people of Oregon and our Nation.

Madam Speaker, it is with great honor for me to present these credentials of Doug MacDonald to the House of Representatives today. It is clear through all of his accomplishments that he has dedicated himself to furthering the benefits we enjoy on public lands. All of his actions reflect a true leader with a sense of purpose, commitment, and conscience.

As Doug departs from public service, I ask my colleagues to join me in delivering an appreciative tribute from a grateful nation, and best wishes to him and his family for a productive and rewarding retirement.

HONORING MANUEL ESCONTRIAS ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 16, 2008

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Mr. Manuel Escontrias on announcing his retirement from Exxon-Mobil, after 38 years of service. Mr. Escontrias, a long time Baytonian, served his community for 6 years as a District 3 city councilman, 6 years as a Goose Creek school board trustee and as a Lee College regent for 1 year.

Mr. Escontrias holds a bachelor's degree in science from Texas A&M and a master's degree from Pepperdine University. In 1968, Mr. Escontrias went to work for the Exxon-Mobil Chemical Plant as the first Hispanic engineer at the Baytown complex.

In the 1980s, while with Exxon-Mobil, Mr. Escontrias helped develop and build the Exxon Coal Liquefaction Plant (ECLP), was involved in the biggest expansion in the company's history, and was part of the Exxon-Mobil Process/Risk Management Group. Through his 40 years as a Baytonian, Mr. Escontrias has been involved with many local groups including the United Way, the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, the Lakewood Civic Association, and many more. For his involvement in the community, Mr. Escontrias was awarded the Henry B. Gonzalez Leadership Award.

And so it is with great pleasure that I recognize Mr. Manuel Escontrias, for his service to Exxon-Mobil and the city of Baytown, and I congratulate him on the announcement of his retirement.

HONORING DETECTIVE KENT HAWS

HON. DEVIN NUNES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 16, 2008

Mr. NUNES. Madam Speaker, I take this opportunity to pay tribute to Tulare County Sheriff's Detective Kent Haws, who, at the age of 38, sacrificed his life in the line of duty so others may live.

Detective Haws honorably served our Nation in the United States Army and subsequently went on to serve his community as a member of the Tulare County Sheriff's Department.

After spending time overseeing local prisoners, he was posted to a community officer position covering the Porterville area. His talents and commitment to duty were quickly recognized with an appointment to the prestigious Sheriff's Tactical Personnel Unit. In this capacity, he led his team in tactical responses to drug cartel activities in our Nation's forests and parks.

Detective Haws' commitment to his community was proven last December when he fearlessly confronted a suspicious individual on a back road of our farming community. That confrontation ended with Detective Haws' making the ultimate sacrifice for his family and his community. His true act of heroism will only be known between himself and his God.

Those of us that he left behind will forever remember his brave actions that day. His heroics deserve a place in history on the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial here in Washington. This memorial contains a fitting quote that sums up Detective Haws' life—"In Valor—There is Hope".

Detective Haws, a devoted husband, and a loving father, is survived by his wife Francis and three wonderful sons Dominik, Nicholas and Evan.

I ask that my colleagues join me in solemn tribute to Detective Kent Haws, whose actions undoubtedly saved others.

HONORING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FELD FAMILY OWNERSHIP OF THE RINGLING BROS. AND BARNUM & BAILEY CIRCUS

HON. VERN BUCHANAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 16, 2008

Mr. BUCHANAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Feld Family, who, for forty years have preserved the legacy of the circus and provided Americans with quality family entertainment. On November 11, 1967, Irvin Feld fulfilled a life long dream by purchasing the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey circus, which for years made its winter home in Sarasota, Florida. Quickly, Irvin Feld made changes to modernize the show and ushered in the era of modern American entertainment.

An astute promoter, Irvin Feld designed a new two-year tour system for Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey. He purchased the Circus Williams and created a second unit of Ringling Bros. equal in size, scope, and quality to the first. The second unit showcased the incredible talents of Gunther Gebel-Williams, who captivated American audiences for 30 years.

Just like the great Barnum, Feld devised national advertising campaigns and creative public relations, to reinstate the Ringling circus as America's living treasure. It is not surprising that Irvin Feld was dubbed "The Greatest Showman on Earth."

To save the art of clowning from extinction, Irvin Feld founded the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Clown College in 1968. Originally located in Venice, Florida, then relocated to Baraboo, Wisconsin and finally, Sarasota, Florida it was the world's first and only "Clown College."

In 1970, Feld's son, Kenneth, joined the organization and was made a co-producer in 1973. When Irvin Feld suddenly died on September 6, 1984, Kenneth Feld immediately assumed control and has surpassed the level of entertainment excellence set by his father and other legendary showmen before him. Expanding the circus, he instituted a third unit that travels all across America.

Today, Kenneth Feld is the largest provider of live action family entertainment in the world. The Feld legacy continues through the third generation with Kenneth Feld's daughters, Nicole and Alana, who work to maintain the high quality, family-focused productions that have been the hallmark of the "Greatest Show on Earth."

The Feld's support school curriculum programs and have developed Circus Fit, a national youth fitness program. To help preserve the Asian elephant, Kenneth Feld established the Center for Elephant Conservation (CEC) in central Florida in 1995. This state-of-the-art breeding and retirement facility is dedicated to the conservation, breeding, and study of the Asian elephant.

In each generation, the Feld family has continued to capture children of all ages by preserving the great American circus and led the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus, The Greatest Show on Earth, into the 21st century.

I thank my colleagues for joining me in recognizing the contributions of the Feld Family to American culture and entertainment.

TRIBUTE TO PHILLIP S. FIGA
UNITED STATES DISTRICT
COURT JUDGE

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 16, 2008

Ms. DeGETTE. Madam Speaker. I rise to honor the extraordinary life and exceptional accomplishments of United States District Court Judge Phillip S. Figa. This exceptional jurist merits both our recognition and esteem as his impressive record of civic leadership and invaluable service has improved the lives of many Coloradans.

Sadly, Judge Figa was taken from us by a brain tumor at the young age of 56 and he will be greatly missed. His passion for the law and justice and his capacity for community service were beyond measure. He molded a life of genuine accomplishment and served our Nation with distinction. His passing is a great loss to the Federal bench and our entire community.

Judge Figa was born in 1951 in Skokie, Illinois, the son of Holocaust survivors from Poland. He earned a scholarship to Northwestern University and graduated with a degree in economics. While at Northwestern, he met and married Candace Cole Figa. He went on to graduate from Cornell Law School and started his law practice in Colorado at Sherman & Howard in 1976. Four years later, Judge Figa became a founding partner of Burns, Figa & Will, P.C. and became the firm's President. For over 26 years, Judge Figa maintained a broad litigation-oriented practice and established a national reputation as an expert in the field of legal ethics. He was actively involved in the Colorado legal community and served as President of the Colorado Bar Association and as Chair of the Ethics Committee. He served on the Civil Justice Reform Act Advisory Committee and on the Colorado Commission on Judicial Discipline. He served as an instructor at the University of Denver College of Law and the National Institute of Trial Advocacy. Judge Figa was also one of the founding members of the Faculty of Federal Advocates and is credited with the development of the very successful Pro Bono Mentoring Program. As a former Chair of the Mountain States Region of the Anti-Defamation League, Judge Figa was deeply committed to fighting bigotry, extremism, anti-Semitism and supporting Holocaust awareness.

President Bush nominated Judge Figa to the United States District Court and he was confirmed by the United States Senate on October 2, 2003. During the confirmation process, Senators of both parties viewed him as highly intelligent and a fair prospective jurist. Many friends, family and associates have praised Judge Figa as "even handed" . . . "smart, caring and authentic" . . . "a great jurist" "a true humanitarian" . . . "one who brought passion and integrity to the field of law" . . . a humble and gracious man who genuinely cared about helping other people." I was honored to give the highest recommendation to the Senate Judiciary Committee. On a personal note, Judge Figa was a good friend of both me and my husband. He was loved and respected across the legal community. Judge Figa was a mensch—an upright, honorable and decent human being.

Judge Figa has been recognized with several accolades and honors including nomination to the International Society of Barristers, the American Bar Foundation and the Colorado Bar Foundation. He was honored by the Colorado Supreme Court for "outstanding leadership of the Coalition for the Independence of the Colorado Judiciary" and in January of 2006, he was named one of the Leading Judges in America by The Lawdragon. On February 4, 2008, the Anti-Defamation League will present the late Judge Figa with the Distinguished Community Service Award "for his commitment to human rights and dignity, and his dedicated service to his community, state and nation." Judge Figa lived a life that is rich in consequence and our country is a better place because of his labors. Truly, we are all diminished by the all too early passing of this remarkable gentleman and our thoughts are with Candace Figa and their two children, Ben and Elizabeth. Please join me in paying tribute to the life of United States District Court Judge Phillip S. Figa, a distinguished jurist. It is the values, leadership and dedication he exhibited during his life that serves to build a better future for all of us.

IN TRIBUTE TO MR. BOOKER
TOWNSELL

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 16, 2008

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Booker Townsell. Mr. Townsell was falsely accused along with 42 other African-American soldiers for rioting and lynching an Italian POW at Fort Lawton, an Army base in Seattle in 1944. It was the largest and longest Army courts-martial of World War II. Mr. Townsell was ultimately court-martialed and convicted with 27 others and served two years in prison. After 63 years, Booker Townsell has been fully exonerated. Mr. Townsell was not able to see this travesty reversed having died in 1984 at the age of 69. However, his family persevered until he was fully exonerated for a crime he did not commit.

Members of Mr. Townsell's family learned of Jack Hamann's, 2005 book, "On American Soil: How Justice Became a Casualty of World War II", which chronicled the Fort Lawton court martial. The Townsell family contacted

Hamann and was the first to petition the Army to reverse the conviction. The Army Review Board required each family to apply individually for a review. Bipartisan requests were made in Congress to review the case. In October, 2007, an Army review board, acting on evidence uncovered by Hamann's book, overturned Townsell's conviction. The analysis used to reverse Townsell's conviction would apply to all of the soldiers convicted, an Army lawyer who reviewed the case for the review board told The New York Times.

Hamann's investigation uncovered racial bias against the soldiers, including charges being brought immediately without the benefit of full counsel which led to their unfair convictions. This incredible story also involves Leon Jaworski, a young lieutenant who prosecuted the case for the Army and later served as special prosecutor in the Watergate case. Hamann discovered that Jaworski failed to share evidence with defense lawyers that could have exonerated the black soldiers. Hamann said it seemed suspicious that black soldiers in 1944 would participate in a lynching, given the racial attitudes in America at the time. According to his research, no black person had ever been put on trial for a lynching until then.

A lawyer who specializes in military affairs helped the Townsell family with their petition to the Army review board. The decision that overturned Townsell's conviction was a sweet victory for justice in our country.

On January 19th 2008, the family will celebrate their legal victory with a ceremony attended by Army officials to recognize the overturning of this conviction after 63 years. I am honored to have this opportunity to pay tribute to Mr. Townsell and to his family. Mr. Townsell's good name has now been restored.

COMMEMORATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF PHEASANTS FOREVER

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 16, 2008

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the members of Pheasants Forever for their strong legacy of environmental advocacy and conservation on the occasion of the 25th Anniversary of the organization.

Pheasants Forever started with a campaign for a Minnesota pheasant stamp. Since that modest beginning, the organization has demonstrated just how effective conservation at the grassroots level can be. By working with local farmers to restore marginal lands, a few pioneering Minnesotans started a movement that has spread across North America with great success. Currently the members of Pheasants Forever organize the efforts of hunters, farmers, and environmentalists in nearly 30,000 restoration projects each year. During the past 25 years, these efforts have helped to protect 4 million acres of wildlife habitat.

Pheasants Forever has accomplished great things over the past two and a half decades in the areas of critical habitat improvement, public and private land management, and public awareness and education. Hunting and

other outdoor recreational activities are strong traditions for many families in Minnesota and across America. Thanks to the foresight and hard work from the members of Pheasants Forever, these traditions can be passed down for generations to come.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring Pheasants Forever on its first 25 years of grassroots advocacy.

CONGRATULATING LIBERTY
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 16, 2008

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Liberty Christian School in Argyle, Texas for winning the TAPP Division II State Championship in football.

This season's title was the program's third state title in six tries, and capped a season in which the Warriors went 12–2 and were the No. 1 ranked team in the Dallas Morning News' Large Private School poll the entire season. Liberty Christian's season was certainly a magical one. After beginning the season 1–2, the Warriors won 11 games in a row. They held opponents to two touchdowns or less in nine of those games while scoring 40 or more points in eight games during that stretch.

The Athletic Director of Liberty Christian, Coach Darren Chrane, attributed the success of this season's team after their rough start to the resolve of their senior class. "They decided that they weren't going to be denied a win and went out there and dominated against a good football team." Coach Chrane stated.

This year's team was eighth out of all private schools in offense with an average of 384 yards per game. Defensively, the Warriors were 11th overall with 246 yards against per game.

These student athletes exemplify the type of leadership and work ethic we all strive to possess. I extend my sincerest congratulations to the Liberty Christian football team, Athletic Director Darren Chrane, Head Coach Mark Bowles and the entire coaching staff, and all of those involved in the successful 2007 season. I wish them the best of luck in their future endeavors. It is my honor to represent a group that exhibits such talent, hard work, and dedication.

THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
FOREIGN OPERATIONS, AND RE-
LATED PROGRAMS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2008 (CONSOLIDATED
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2008)

SPEECH OF

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak in support of Department of Homeland Security FY 2008 Appropriations Bill which is part of the larger omnibus spending package, Amendment to the Senate amendment to H.R. 2764. Specifically, I want

to note that the Democrats have done a better job at funding key homeland security programs, but as always, more needs to be done.

As the first Democratic chairman of the Committee on Homeland Security, I am happy to note that the appropriated dollars will go a long way to implementing the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission which are codified in a bill I had the distinct honor of developing and steering toward passage—the Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007, P.L. 110–53. I am also glad that the fiscal year 2008 appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security are fairly consistent with my eight-point plan—the "Real Deal on Homeland Security." This 8-point plan is what I have used to develop key legislative and oversight initiatives aimed at ensuring that ours is a Nation that can flourish free from fear. In particular, the fiscal year 2008 appropriations reflect the Real Deal in the following way:

1. IMPROVING THE FUNCTIONALITY, GOVERNANCE, AND ACCOUNTABILITY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

The Department of Homeland Security FY 2008 appropriations bill provides \$28.49 million for the Chief Procurement Officer which is \$11.5 million above the enacted fiscal year 2007 level. This increase funding can help the office attract and retain experienced staff to manage procurements. The bill also provides a \$108.7 million for the Office of Inspector General at the Department of Homeland Security, \$6 million above the enacted fiscal year 2007 level. It is also notable that the bill's Joint Explanatory Statement makes clear that Congress favors contracts awarded by full and open competition. The bill also acknowledges the operation of the Small Business Act and therefore does not adversely affect the award of contracts to small, minority and disadvantaged businesses. In addition, the bill requires the Inspector General to review contracts awarded by means other than full and open competition to determine compliance with the law. Finally, I am very pleased that the bill provides no funding for MAX–HR but rather provides \$10 million for the Department of Homeland Security to address the issues revealed in the 2006 Federal Human Capital Survey. The bill further requires the Secretary to submit an expenditure plan for the \$10 million prior to the obligation of the funds.

However, I must point out that the Committee on Homeland Security was disappointed with the decision not to fund the relocation of the headquarters for the Department of Homeland Security at the St. Elizabeths site in Washington, DC.

2. ENHANCING SECURITY FOR ALL MODES OF TRANSPORTATION

I applaud the bill which provides over \$4.5 billion to enhance aviation security. That funding makes the bill consistent with meeting aviation security mandates in P.L. 110–53. For example, the bill fully funds the Aviation Security Capitol Fund at \$250 million. Furthermore, this bill provides \$15 million for a pilot program to screen 100 percent of airport workers.

Although the bill does not provide sufficient resources to implement the authorization levels in P.L. 110–53, the Appropriations Committee has provided the foundation to reach that goal. For example, the bill provides \$400 million in Public Transportation and Railroad Security Grants. This includes not less than \$25 million for Amtrak, \$11.5 million over the

road bus security grants, and \$16 million for trucking security grants. This is in contrast to the authorized amount in P.L. 110–53 which called for \$650 million for public transit, \$300 million for rail, and \$150 million for Amtrak.

I also support the bill's provision of \$523.5 million for information technology and intelligence for transportation security and the increased funding for Red Teams at \$6.26 million—a 50 percent increase over the enacted level of fiscal year 2007. Finally, the bill provides \$46 million for surface transportation security, an increase from the \$41.4 million enacted in fiscal year 2007. Of the proposed amount for fiscal year 2008, \$24.5 million is for staffing and operations, \$22.1 million is for inspectors and canines, and another \$30 million is provided for security training program, transportation risk assessment, and the development of regulation for name-based immigration screening for public transportation and rail workers.

3. RESPONSE, RESILIENCE, AND RECOVERY IN THE WAKE OF A NATIONAL CATASTROPHE

I am pleased that key programs to assist first responders and State, local, and tribal governments have been funded above the President's request. Specifically, the State Homeland Security Grant Program which provides grants to first responders in all 50 States and U.S. Territories to help them prevent, prepare for, and respond to an act of terrorism or other emergency is funded at \$950 million. The Urban Area Security Initiative, which addresses the unique planning, operations, equipment, training, and exercise needs of high-threat, high-density urban areas, is funded at \$820 million—a \$50 million increase in funding over FY 2007 levels.

The bill also provides \$41 million for the Metropolitan Medical Response System, MMRS; \$300 million for Emergency Management Performance Grant, EMPG, program; \$560 million for FIRE grants; \$190 million for the SAFER Act program; and \$32.5 million for the Urban Search and Rescue System, USAR, a \$7.5 million increase over the enacted level in fiscal year 2007.

I also support the bill for directing FEMA to assist communities by ensuring disaster preparedness and response education materials are developed and distributed to children. The bill also supports the Office of the Disabilities Coordinator and directs the Department of Homeland Security's Inspector General to investigate FEMA's policies and processes regarding formaldehyde in trailers purchased by the agency to house disaster victims in the office created by the Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of 2006.

I will note, however, that it is unfortunate that the splintered oversight jurisdiction of the Department of Homeland Security has resulted in the inclusion of section 541 of the bill which states that "none of the funds provided by this or previous appropriations Acts shall be used to fund any position designated as a Principal Federal Official, PFO, for any Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act declared disasters or emergencies." I am very concerned that this language micromanages Federal emergency response through the appropriation process, interferes with the writing of the National Response Framework which aims to clarify the role of the PFO and does not recognize the situations where the appointment of PFO would be necessary, public health emergencies, cyber attacks, etc. Simply stated, this

language unnecessarily reopens a policy question that was settled in the Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of 2006.

4. SHIELDING THE NATION'S CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE FROM FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC TERRORISM

I commend the \$50 million appropriated for chemical security. The bill also includes pre-emption language that supports States that have stronger law as it relates to the security of chemical facilities. In addition, the bill directs the Assistant Secretary for Infrastructure Protection to provide semi-annual briefings to the Appropriations Committee on implementing the National Infrastructure Protection Plan. I, too, look forward to being included in such briefing. The bill also provides \$10 million for the Office of Bombing Prevention, a legislative initiative from the Committee on Homeland Security, H.R. 4749, with the requirement that the office will develop a national strategy on bombing prevention.

5. SECURING THE HOMELAND AND PRESERVING CIVIL LIBERTIES IN TIMES OF TERROR

I believe strongly that civil liberties guaranteed under the U.S. Constitution need not be compromised to make the Nation more secure. One particular area of concern was the Department of Homeland Security's attempt to skirt congressional oversight by developing and implementing a spy satellite program. After I demanded answers about the program's reach, the Department modified its spy satellite plans. Going forward, the Committees on Homeland Security, Budget, and Appropriations should closely examine the Department's authority to ensure transparency and accountability.

6. CONNECTING THE DOTS: INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION SHARING AND INTEROPERABILITY

I am very pleased that the bill includes \$50 million to fund the Interoperability Emergency Communications Grant Program which was enacted in P.L. 110-53 and provides for improved emergency communications capabilities for first responders. Also, the bill includes \$35.7 million for the Office of Emergency Communications, an \$18.7 million increase over the enacted fiscal year 2007. The office, which was established in April 2007, pursuant to the Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of 2006, is the focal point within the Federal Government to improve national interoperable communication capabilities.

7. IMPLEMENTING COMMONSENSE BORDER AND PORT SECURITY

I believe that border and port security must reflect the Nation's commitment to facilitating the flow of commerce and demanding accountability from our Government. That is why we cannot allow fear to drive the discussion of building fences that may wind up disrupting commerce or poor governmental planning that leads to Government waste. I commend the appropriators for providing \$2 million reimbursement to the Defense Acquisition University for a review of Secure Border Initiative procurement; \$60 million for reimbursement of State and local law enforcement agencies in U.S.-Mexico border communities; and \$225 million for the extension of the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative. We must remember that border security is fundamentally a Federal responsibility and that we should not pass unfunded mandates to State and local governments that will be burdened by bad public policy.

I am especially pleased that the appropriations bill provides \$475 million for U.S.-VISIT

along with report language that makes clear that at least \$13 million is to be used to develop an exit system. The provision also requires a schedule for implementing the exit program. Under my chairmanship, the Committee on Homeland Security has held several hearings examining the exit aspect of the US-VISIT. In fact, on September 5, 2007, I called on Secretary Chertoff to implement the US-VISIT air exit by the end of the calendar year 2008. Simply put, it is folly to speak of security if we rely on a process that tells us who comes into the country but cannot verify if or when individuals leave the country.

Other commonsense border security measures in the fiscal year 2008 appropriations bill include the language that amend current law by requiring consultation with the Secretaries of Agriculture and Interior, States, local land owners, and tribes; authorizing programs to study the modernization of ports-of-entry. I also commend the bill's inclusion of \$36 million for the implementation of the Electronic Travel Authorization program—a provision that I promoted in P.L. 110-53. One particular area that reflects sound policy is language that provides "law enforcement officer", LEO, status and retirement benefits to Customs and Border Protection officers in order to enhance recruitment and retention. I was pleased to advocate the LEO status during the Committee of Homeland Security's consideration of H.R. 1684, the "Department of Homeland Security Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008." We must do all that we can to retain our trained staff who are the eyes and ears along this Nation's vast borders.

I also note that the bill prohibits the use of funds for the planning, testing, piloting, or development of a national ID card and directs CBP to brief the Appropriations committees no later than Jan. 31, 2008 on how it is using the Workload Staffing Model to allocated staffing resources.

With regard to port security, I commend the appropriators for requiring improved oversight of the Deepwater Program which is funded at \$783 million. Under my chairmanship, the Committee on Homeland Security has closely examined and demanded accountability over Deepwater, particularly in H.R. 2830, the U.S. Coast Guard Reauthorization Act and the SAFE Port Act, P.L. 109-347. Other notable funding is the \$2 million for LNG and dangerous cargo suitability assessments; the \$3.1 million to develop and finalize SAFE Port Act rulemakings; and the \$60 million for Interagency Operational Centers for Port Security, a requirement from the SAFE Port Act; and \$400 million for port security grants.

I note that the appropriation's bill requires the Transportation Security Administration, TSA and Coast Guard to work closely with terminal operators, local port police, and other law enforcement agencies to develop the operational procedures to ensure the effective implementation of the Transportation Worker Identification Card, TWIC program. I am concerned, however, that while the bill directs TSA to work with the appropriate officials of Florida and other port authorities to resolve differences between TWIC and the State's transportation facility access control programs, the requirement maybe interpreted as indicating that the Federal TWIC program does not pre-empt the Florida program. This is very troubling and counterproductive.

Finally, the bill appropriates \$13 million for the CBP's Global Trade Exchange, GTX. CBP

recently announced the Request for Quotations for the Global Trade Exchange 1 despite significant criticism from industry concerning the lack of transparency with this new initiative. I am concerned that the Department has not fully developed this initiative and that it is premature to fund it until the Department has provided the Committee of Homeland Security and industry with a more in-depth analysis of this new pilot.

8. INSPIRING MINDS AND DEVELOPING TECHNOLOGY—THE FUTURE OF HOMELAND SECURITY

I am very concerned about the emerging threats of a chemical, biological, nuclear, and radiological attack. As chairman of the Committee on Homeland Security, I will continue to conduct oversight into this area to ensure that there is improved coordination between the Departments of Homeland Security and Health and Human Services and State, local, and Tribal governments. I recognize that the appropriation's bill does not provide a large amount of funding for pandemic flu due to the fact that the Department of Health and Human Services has \$1.2 billion in unobligated funds from fiscal year 2007.

I am pleased that the bill provides \$116.5 million to the Office of Health Affairs and includes a provision that would allow agricultural inspectors to stay at CBP and the Transportation Security Lab to recoup fees for testing. With regard to the threat of a cyber security attack, the bill provides \$125 million for the Chief Information Officer to improve information technology security at the Department of Homeland Security—a much needed act.

I am also glad that the appropriators support the development of technology and the future minds in the field homeland security. For example, the bill provides that the Science and Technology Directorate will be appropriated at \$830 million and funds the Third Generation Bio Watch at \$5.8 million. The bill also provides \$325 million for research and development. With regard to university programs, the bill provides \$49.3 million for fiscal year 2008. This amount includes \$4 million for the Transportation Security Center of Excellence. While that is far shy of the \$18 million authorized in P.L. 110-53, the Committee on Homeland Security remains optimistic that appropriators will support the Centers of Excellence as they are the training grounds for future homeland security experts.

The \$455 million appropriated to the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office, DNDO, and \$90 million for the Radiation Portal Monitor program is critical to tracking loose nuclear weapons. However, I am very concerned, like the appropriators, that there has not yet been certification by the DHS Secretary of Advanced Spectroscopic Portal, ASP, radiation monitors. We must push out the boundaries of technology if we are going to have 21st century security.

In closing, I would like to thank the appropriators for funding the vital programs that are critical to securing the Nation. As chairman of the authorizing committee, I will vigilantly monitor the Department of Homeland Security to ensure that it is drawing on the diverse talents of its experts to ensure that it is providing the American people security, accountability, and freedom from fear.

HONORING CONRAD BECKER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 16, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Conrad Becker of Platte City, Missouri. Conrad 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.

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

HONORING RETIRING ERIE COUNTY EXECUTIVE JOEL GIAMBRA

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 16, 2008

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the public career and personal sacrifices of Joel A. Giambra, who, on December 31, 2007, concluded more than two decades of continuous elective public service with the end of his second and final term as Erie County Executive.

Joel faced challenges throughout his career, and most particularly throughout his two terms as County Executive. Hit with a cancer diagnosis before taking the oath of office as County Executive, Joel faced that challenge and many, many more with a sense of commitment and—most especially—aplomb that inspired many to heed his advice to quit smoking.

Joel and I had the pleasure—and I do mean that it was a pleasure—to serve together as members of the Buffalo Common Council. My time serving alongside Joel was brief, but we were part of a new majority caucus on the council that was thoughtful, deliberative and served as an important check and balance on the office of the Mayor.

Following Joel's service on the Common Council, he distinguished himself as Buffalo City Comptroller, administering a large department of city government charged with important day to day functions in city life.

Joel's election as County Executive in 1999 was challenging at its start and was controversial almost throughout. Joel fought the fights he believed were worth fighting and never ducked a challenge. Joel rightly brought to the forefront the issues of overlapping governmental services and the need for county and local governments in Western New York to develop new strategies to collaborate and save taxpayer dollars. While Joel's efforts certainly could not be termed a complete success, he is widely and appropriately credited for bringing these issues to the forefront, and his ef-

forts have paved the way for succeeding elected officials to find new and innovative ways to collaborate and consolidate services in the future.

As I indicated, Joel's eight years as County Executive had its share of ups and downs, but while some questioned the policies Joel implemented, no one could question his commitment to the community that he lives in and loves so much. From meetings in Albany to Washington, DC and to points abroad, during his years as County Executive, Buffalo and Western New York had no more dedicated ambassador than Joel Giambra.

Joel is now entering a new chapter of his professional life and we wish him good luck and Godspeed in his future endeavors, and Madam Speaker, I want to thank you for allowing me the opportunity to recognize Joel's public career.

TRIBUTE TO HARDIN COUNTY, TEXAS, AND ITS RESIDENTS ON THEIR 150TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 16, 2008

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Hardin County, Texas, and its residents on their 150th anniversary.

Sixty-eight miles northeast of Houston and 54 miles from the Gulf of Mexico, Hardin County's 897 square miles are covered by pine and hardwood forests. This puts Hardin County in the middle of the beautiful Big Thicket of southeast Texas and the larger east Texas Timberlands region. Natural resources are still a main driver of the local economy and timber, oil, gas, sand, gravel, and salt domes are found within the county.

In 1836 the area was split between the jurisdictions of Liberty and Jefferson counties. Following the region's population growth, in 1858 the legislature established a new county. The new county was named in honor of the Hardin family from nearby Liberty County; the county seat was also to be designated as Hardin. When the Sabine and East Texas Railroad bypassed Hardin in favor of the newly established railroad town, Kountze was made the new county seat.

Long ago, American Indians in the region began to visit what they called Medicine Lake, seeking the healing powers of the mud and mineral water in what we today call Sour Lake. Oil was discovered in 1901 around Sour Lake and quickly became the lifeblood of the area, production later reached 7 million barrels a day. This same discovery allowed for the creation of the Texas Company, better known as Texaco. Today, Hardin County has grown to over 50,000 residents.

Immigrants from Ireland, Germany, France, and other countries were drawn to Hardin County for its oil, timber, livestock and agricultural products. This rich diversity contributed to economic growth and the rich culture Hardin County still enjoys today.

Today, Hardin County is one of the fastest growing areas of southeast Texas—there is a bright future of growth and prosperity. Families are choosing to live in Hardin County because of its outstanding schools and traditional

sense of community. Hardin County is the type of place where neighbors check in on each other and catch up at high school football games. Local leaders through out the county have worked hard to maintain Hardin County's quality of life. These men and women are following in the footsteps of early settlers and the county's founders to make Hardin County a better place for hardworking men and women who call it home.

Madam Speaker, it is an honor to represent this community in the U.S. House of Representatives and I urge you to join me in congratulating Hardin County on its sesquicentennial birthday.

HONORING QUINTIN PHILLIP O'DELL

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 16, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Quintin Phillip O'Dell of Platte City, Missouri. Quintin 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.

Quintin has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Quintin 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 Quintin Phillip O'Dell for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING RETIRING TOWN OF SARDINIA COUNCILWOMAN CARLA FULLER

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 16, 2008

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments and public service career of Carla Fuller, councilwoman from the Town of Sardinia, upon her retirement from active public service as a member of the Town Board.

Sardinia is among the smallest towns in my congressional district and sometimes, Madam Speaker, that makes for the most difficult service in public office. Because everyone in a small town seems to know everyone else, the decisions made in government often have a oversized impact upon the very people that you represent. It is that very challenge that makes the service of people like Carla Fuller all the more substantial.

Carla served as a diligent, thoughtful and respectful representative of the people during her years on the town board. While she will retire from active service on the town board at the end of this year, I have little doubt that Carla will remain dedicated to Sardinia and to its residents for many years to come.

Madam Speaker, I am pleased to have had this opportunity to honor Carla's service to the Town of Sardinia and am certain that you join me and the rest of our colleagues in wishing Carla and her entire family the best of luck and Godspeed in all of their future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO MS. SONJA DRAN
EMBRY

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 16, 2008

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, let me take this time to recognize the outstanding federal civilian service of Ms. Sonja Dran Embry on the occasion of her retirement. Ms. Embry has worked for the federal civil service at the Navy Personnel Command for the past 36 years.

A native of Caneyville, Kentucky, Ms. Embry is a 1970 graduate of the Kentucky Business College in Lexington, Kentucky. On January 4th 1971, she began her civil service career working at the Bureau of Naval Personnel where she held administrative support positions in the Recall and Release Branch, Civilian Personnel Branch/Administrative and Management Division, and the Congressional/Disposal Sections. As the Vietnam Conflict was winding down, Ms. Embry was again assigned to the Recall and Release Branch where she worked until September 1979.

Ms. Embry was selected to serve as the Human Resources Assistant in the Submarine and Nuclear Power Officer Assignments Branch in September 1979. In August 1998, she assisted in the move and reorganization of the Bureau of Naval Personnel, Washington, DC into the Navy Personnel Command in Millington, TN. She has been the cornerstone of this office providing continuity and service to the military members of the U.S. Navy's Submarine Service. Her tireless and caring performance of duty has touched and had a pronounced effect on the lives and careers of over 18,000 submarine officers.

Please join me and our colleagues in thanking Ms. Embry for her tireless contributions to a grateful Nation and in wishing her the best in her future.

HONORING ZACHARY BOYD HEISER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 16, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Zachary Boyd Heiser of Platte City, Missouri. Zachary 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.

Zachary has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Zachary 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 Zachary Boyd Heiser for

his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING RETIRING NYS SUPREME COURT JUSTICE JEROME GORSKI

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 16, 2008

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to honor a respected jurist, a dedicated public servant and a trusted friend of this community upon the occasion of his retirement from the New York State Appellate Court Division. Madam Speaker, I want to call to the House's attention the outstanding record of public service of Justice Jerome C. Gorski.

Judge Gorski received his law degree from Georgetown University in 1962 and was admitted to practice later that year. He initially practiced in Buffalo, concentrating on negligence, products liability litigation, and labor relations related work. From 1973 until 1980, he served as law clerk to Judge James L. Kane, first in County Court and later in Supreme Court. In the past, Justice Gorski served a clerkship under renowned U.S. District Court Judge John J. Sirica.

Initially elected to the Supreme Court in the late 1980s, Judge Gorski's judicial career culminated in his appointment to serve on the Supreme Court's Appellate Division for the Fourth Department in 2001. Judge Gorski received the Outstanding Jurist Award from the Erie County Bar Association in 1998, and the 2000 Award of Merit.

Judge Gorski is a part of a revered family in Western New York. Judge Gorski's father, the late Chester Gorski, and his brother Dennis, each had outstanding careers in public service, and each were, in the past, candidates for the congressional seat that I am fortunate to occupy today. Imbued within the Gorski family is an innate commitment to the community that is Buffalo and Western New York, and all of our residents are better for the tremendous commitment to public service demonstrated by the Gorski family.

Madam Speaker, in recognition of and in gratitude for his service, leadership and patriotism, I ask that this honorable body join me in honoring Justice Jerome Gorski upon the occasion of his retirement, and wish he and his family the very best of health and happiness in the months and years ahead.

A FAREWELL TO HOUSE GENERAL COUNSEL GERALDINE GENNET

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 16, 2008

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to say a few words on the recent retirement of Geraldine Gennet, the outgoing General Counsel of the House of Representatives.

Because of the sensitive areas that it works on, the Office of the General Counsel is not well known to many people outside of Con-

gress. Nevertheless, the office provides invaluable legal advice and representation to Members, committees, employees, and officers of Congress, regardless of their political party or affiliation. Geraldine joined the Office of the General Counsel in 1995, and became General Counsel in 1997. Prior to her service in the House of Representatives, she worked as a sole practitioner in the District of Columbia, and then served as General Counsel for the D.C. Metropolitan Police Department and as Litigation Counsel for the Office of Thrift Supervision.

During her time at the helm of the Office of the General Counsel, Congress was involved in a host of public and private battles and constitutional issues with wide-ranging implications, and through each one, Geraldine provided tremendous leadership to Congress and its Members. Indeed, even as Congress became a more partisan place over the last decade, Geraldine was ceaselessly nonpartisan in her work. During my time on the House Ethics and Judiciary Committees, I was fortunate to work with her on several occasions, and I was always impressed with Geraldine's strong focus on ensuring that congressional prerogatives and Congress as an institution were tenaciously protected from political considerations and other negative influences.

It is an honor to commend Geraldine for her leadership and hard work, and to wish her the very best in all of her future endeavors.

HONORING DAVID KYLE

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 16, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize David Kyle of Liberty, Missouri. David 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.

David has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years David 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 David Kyle 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 NICOLE SCHWARTZ

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 16, 2008

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Madam Speaker, I am honored to rise here today to recognize the efforts of Ms. Nicole Schwartz to promote a "Bill of Rights for Diabetics."

Ms. Schwartz is an exemplary young woman whose passion to fight diabetes is leaving an indelible mark in our community. By

taking it upon herself to raise awareness of this devastating disease among the people most vulnerable to it, she is setting an important example of how civic engagement can change the lives of our fellow community members. She has actively engaged policy makers at the local, State and Federal level as well as prominent civic organizations to further awareness.

For example, in partnering with the League of Latin American Citizens (LULAC), Ms. Schwartz organized a health fair to share important resources and information about diabetes with at-risk San Antonians. She also volunteers her time at the Christus Santa Rosa Hospital in order to learn more about the disease and distribute her knowledge to patients through a newsletter she created.

Without question, her dedication and persistence have proven essential in educating her colleagues and community. These two personal qualities also played a role in her efforts to encourage organizations like LULAC to adopt her Bill of Rights for Diabetics. The Bill of Rights echoes the 2007 ADA Standards of Care and includes the six following exams: a hemoglobin/A1c test; a lipid evaluation; blood pressure checks; a microalbumin test; a dilated and comprehensive eye examination; and a barefoot exam.

Ms. Schwartz shares a passion for learning more about diabetes with her father, Dr. Sherwin Schwartz, who built one of the largest diabetes research facilities in the country. Only a junior at St. Mary's Hall in San Antonio, Ms. Schwartz has the potential to achieve much more and hopes to pursue a degree at Georgetown University.

As a Member of Congress who represents the Texas-Mexico Border, a region with one of the highest incidences of diabetes in the world, I am acutely aware of the impact of diabetes and the other health problems associated with it. Young people such as Ms. Schwartz are invaluable partners in bettering our communities, and I thank her for her efforts.

It is with great pride that I recognize Ms. Schwartz as an exemplary young leader in the San Antonio community, and I wish her continued success in raising awareness about this devastating disease.

HONORING KEVIN MICHAEL
WILBUR

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 16, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Kevin Michael Wilbur of Platte City, Missouri. Kevin 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.

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

INTRODUCTION OF THE "OLD POST
OFFICE DEVELOPMENT ACT OF
2008"

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 16, 2008

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I introduce the Old Post Office Development Act to make fully useful to the government the nearly empty Old Post Office a unique, historic treasure located at 1100 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W., owned by the Federal government's General Services Administration (GSA). For many years the Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings and Emergency Management has expressed concern about the waste and neglect of this valuable government site and has pressed the GSA to develop and use this building. The GSA recognized the need in 2004 and issued a Request for Expression of Interest for which it received many indications of interest. However, for no good or sufficient reason GSA has never proceeded to the next step.

Because the building was designed as a Post Office in the 19th century, its present design makes it virtually unusable without appropriate remodeling. During decades of underutilization the government has attempted to make the space suitable for office space, but its huge, cavernous central area on the main floor and the areas that surround the atrium could only accommodate a few very small agencies currently housed there, GSA has indicated that these agencies can be easily and economically relocated elsewhere in the District of Columbia.

As we begin a new year, further delay in making use of a centrally located historic treasure can no longer be tolerated. Apparently, the private sector stepped forward when the GSA asked for indications of interest. GSA must respond without further delay. I will seek quick passage of this bill to assure that the taxpayers receive the value due long ago for this Federal site.

HONORING ZACHARY KIRK
HOLBROOK

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 16, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Zachary Kirk Holbrook of Platte City, Missouri. Zachary 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.

Zachary has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the

many years Zachary 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 Zachary Kirk Holbrook for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. NIKI TSONGAS

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 16, 2008

Ms. TSONGAS. Madam Speaker, I wanted to take a moment to explain my absence for the quorum call on January 15th. I recently returned from visiting U.S. forces serving in Iraq and Afghanistan as part of a bipartisan Congressional Delegation trip led by my colleague, Representative LINCOLN DAVIS.

The purpose of this Congressional Delegation trip was to meet firsthand with our brave men and women in uniform currently deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan to thank them for their outstanding service and to learn what additional resources they may need on the ground. I also met with military commanders as well as with national leaders in Iraq and Afghanistan to get the latest information on the security, political, and economic conditions in both countries. I think it is important for all members of Congress to see what is happening on the ground in Iraq, but as a member of the House Armed Services Committee, I take that responsibility particularly seriously.

As a result of the Congressional Delegation trip, I was unable to participate in the votes held on Tuesday evening. If I would have been here, I would have voted "present".

HONORING DONALD ALEXANDER
SOPER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 16, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Donald Alexander Soper of Platte City, Missouri. Donald 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.

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

HONORING WILLIAM TRAUGOTT
HENRY BRUNE II

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 16, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize William Traugott Henry Brune II of Kansas City, Missouri. William 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.

William has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years William 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 William Traugott Henry Brune II for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Com-

mittee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, January 17, 2008 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

JANUARY 22

2 p.m.

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Kevin J. O'Connor, of Connecticut, to be Associate Attorney General, and Gregory G. Katsas, of Massachusetts, to be an Assistant Attorney General.

SD-226

JANUARY 23

10 a.m.

Judiciary

To hold oversight hearings to examine the Justice for All Act (Public Law 108-405), focusing on the administration of the Bloodsworth and Coverdell DNA Grant Programs by the Department of Justice.

SD-226

JANUARY 24

9:30 a.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold oversight hearings to examine ways to reform the Mining Law of 1872.

SD-366

Veterans' Affairs

To hold oversight hearings to examine the report of the Veterans' Disability Benefits Commission, focusing on veterans disability compensation.

SD-562

10 a.m.

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine S. 1843, to amend title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967 to clarify that an unlawful practice occurs each time compensation is paid pursuant to a discriminatory compensation decision or other practice.

SD-430

2 p.m.

Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Ed Schafer, of North Dakota, to be Secretary of Agriculture.

SR-328A

JANUARY 30

10 a.m.

Judiciary

To hold oversight hearings to examine the Department of Justice.

SH-216

FEBRUARY 5

9:30 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To continue oversight hearings to examine veterans disability compensation.

SR-418

FEBRUARY 13

9:30 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2009 for veterans programs.

SR-418