

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### HONORING RETIRING CONCORD TOWN JUSTICE MARY HUBERT

#### HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor a woman whose tireless service as Concord Town Justice has made her court the envy of town courts throughout Erie County. I want to honor the service of Judge Mary Hubert.

A native of Buffalo, Judge Hubert has served on the bench as Town Justice in the Town of Concord for many years. She is well known throughout the legal community as a fair-minded and efficient judge.

The Hubert family has served their adopted hometown very well. Judge Hubert's husband, Raymond, is a longtime member of the Concord Town Board, and their combined service has augured well for local residents; they are better for having had the privilege of Judge Hubert's service.

As Judge Hubert now goes into retirement as an active judge, I want to thank you, Mr. Speaker, for allowing me an opportunity to honor her service to the residents of the town of Concord in this manner. My thanks go out to Judge Hubert for her fine service, and my best wishes go out to her, Ray and to their entire family for good luck and Godspeed in the months and years to come.

### IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF DR. FRANK WILLIAM REIS

#### HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute and recognition of Dr. Frank William Reis, upon his retirement that reflects 35 years of exemplary service as an educator and leader within the public school and college arena.

Dr. Reis honorably served our country as a Vietnam war veteran. Following his service, he enrolled in college and earned a bachelor's degree in education, MBA and ME degrees, and a Ph.D. in Educational Policy and Leadership. Equipped with an unwavering commitment to raising the lives of children through the power of education, Dr. Reis brought his enthusiasm and concern for his students into the inner city classrooms of Rhode Island. In 1974, Dr. Reis was named the Rhode Island Teacher of the Year—a rare occurrence at that time for an inner city schoolteacher.

For the past 16 years, Dr. Reis served in critical positions at Cuyahoga Community College, most recently as executive vice president for Administration and chief operating office. His leadership and expertise served to elevate operations throughout the areas of human re-

sources, training and development, public affairs, staff advancement, public safety, information technology, telecommunications and government affairs. Additionally, Dr. Reis instituted the "Jennings Scholar" program that recognizes outstanding public school teachers, K-12, throughout Greater Cleveland. Beyond his abiding dedication to his professional vocation, Dr. Reis has volunteered countless hours as a member and leader within numerous civic organizations, including the Community Organization for Drug Abuse Control, Kidscope, Recovery Resources and the Governor's Regional Economic Advisory.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of Dr. Frank William Reis, whose retirement reflects 35 years of educational excellence and accomplishment. Dr. Reis's steadfast devotion as an educator and leader in education has empowered and inspired countless students, young and old. We wish Dr. Reis and his family an abundance of peace, health and happiness as he journeys onward from here.

### IN MEMORY OF VICE ADMIRAL ARTHUR K. CEBROWSKI

#### HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2005

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it is with deep sadness that I inform the House of the death of Vice Admiral Arthur K. Cebrowski, USN, Ret.

Admiral Cebrowski was born in Passaic, NJ. He graduated from Villanova University in 1964. He received a master's degree in Computer Systems Management from the Naval Post Graduate School and attended the Naval War College.

In 1964, he entered the Navy through the Reserve Officers Training Corps. He was a naval aviator and commanded Fighter Squadron 41 and Air Wing 8. He commanded the assault ship USS *Guam*, the aircraft carrier USS *Midway* and the USS *America* Battle Group. He had combat experience in Vietnam and Desert Storm. His joint assignments included service as the director, Command, Control, Communications and Computers, J-6, Joint Staff. He also had served in the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations as director of space, information warfare, and command and control. Admiral Cebrowski retired from the Navy on October 1, 2001, after serving as the president of the Naval War College in Newport, RI. On November 26, 2001, Admiral Cebrowski was appointed to the position of director, Office of Force Transformation.

Mr. Speaker, Admiral Cebrowski was a valuable leader in the U.S. Navy and our country. I know the Members of the House will join me in extending heartfelt condolences to his family.

### RECOGNITION OF NIDA'S PSA CAMPAIGN CONNECTING DRUG ABUSE WITH RISK OF HIV/AIDS

#### HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2005

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, on this our first day in session following World AIDS day, I rise to recognize a public awareness campaign released by the National Institute on Drug Abuse that brings critical attention to the dangerous link between drug abuse and HIV/AIDS.

This campaign seeks to inform our youth how drug abuse can impair judgment and cause risky sexual behaviors that increase the danger of contracting or transmitting HIV.

The connection between drug abuse and HIV/AIDS isn't limited to the risks of injecting drugs and being infected by contaminated needles. It is much bigger than that. Drug or alcohol intoxication changes behavior—inhibitions disappear and the ability to make good decisions is impaired.

Only 1 in 50 high school students report having ever injected an illegal drug. However, young Americans use alcohol and other drugs at high rates. According to NIDA, between 2000 and 2003 about 10 young people (age 13-24) were diagnosed with HIV/AIDS each day.

Today an estimated 1 million people in the United States are living with HIV/AIDS, and, approximately 4 out of 10 U.S. AIDS deaths are related to drug abuse.

My advisory committees on AIDS/HIV and Drugs and Substance Abuse confirm the toll that this dual epidemic has taken. Drug abuse and HIV/AIDS affect our children, our families, and our communities not only in the 7th District of Illinois but also across this nation.

I commend NIDA's efforts in advancing research and public awareness to better understand the pivotal role drug abuse (in all its forms) can play in the spread of HIV/AIDS.

We need to continue to educate our constituents about the risks of drug abuse and HIV infection. We need to provide adequate and accessible treatment for those with drug problems and HIV/AIDS. We need to support what NIDA has established that drug abuse treatment is HIV prevention. Because by limiting and protecting against the risky behaviors associated with drug abuse, we can decrease the likelihood of spreading or contracting HIV/AIDS.

### TRIBUTE TO BRONSON METHODIST HOSPITAL

#### HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2005

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Bronson Methodist

• 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.

Hospital in Kalamazoo, Michigan for providing outstanding health care to the residents of Southwestern Michigan. Bronson was recently honored with the 2005 Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award, which is our Nation's highest Presidential honor to commend quality and organizational performance excellence.

The 6 recipients of the Malcolm Baldrige Award were selected from a highly competitive field of 64 nation-wide applicants, which were rigorously evaluated by an independent board of examiners.

This prestigious award will come as no surprise to the folks of Southwestern Michigan who have for years relied upon the hard work and treatment provided by Bronson Methodist Hospital. There is nothing more important to us than our health and the health of our family members. I would like to thank Bronson Methodist Hospital for the continued quality service they provide our community and congratulate them once again for being recognized nationally for their hard work and dedication. We are truly fortunate to have such an exemplary hospital working for us in our corner of Southwest Michigan.

**TORTURE VICTIMS RELIEF  
REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2005**

SPEECH OF

**HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 6, 2005*

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, as the House stands poised to consider and pass H.R. 1717, the Torture Victims Relief Reauthorization Act of 2005 (TVRA), I want to express my strong support for this legislation. I am proud to be a cosponsor of H.R. 1717. I want to take this opportunity to recognize the efforts of Survivors of Torture, International (SURVIVORS) in my district of San Diego, California. SURVIVORS is an independent, nonprofit organization dedicated to caring for survivors of politically-motivated torture and their families who live in San Diego County.

San Diego is home to the busiest land border crossing in the world. According to conservative estimates based on International Red Cross Red Crescent Societies' extrapolations of the percentage of torture survivors among refugees from countries where the use of systematic torture is documented, approximately 11,000 torture survivors are living in San Diego County today. They are from countries where the use of systematic torture is documented, including countries in Africa, Southeast Asia, the Middle East, and Latin America.

Since 1997, SURVIVORS has helped more than 500 torture survivors from more than 40 countries to recover from their traumas through a holistic program including medical, dental, psychiatric, psychological, legal and social services. SURVIVORS empowers torture survivors to reclaim the strength and vitality that were stolen from them by brutal dictators and governments. The specialized care SURVIVORS provides these vulnerable individuals helps them to become self-sufficient and healthy members of their families and of our community. SURVIVORS currently serves approximately 200 survivors of torture and their families in San Diego County.

Mr. Speaker, SURVIVORS works with refugees, asylees, asylum seekers, and immigrants who are survivors of torture. By working with this large population in San Diego County, SURVIVORS is strengthening the nation: many of its clients move to other communities in the United States after receiving the care and services necessary to successfully build a new life here. As SURVIVORS continues to work in the community, it receives an increasing number of referrals and requests for services each year. There is also a need to continue making services even more comprehensive.

The professional background of SURVIVORS' clients include: business, religious, government, and farm leaders; university students and educators; journalists; physicians and nurses. They are talented, trained, productive people who feel destroyed. Torturers today are able to create conditions which effectively break down the victim's personality, identity, and his/her ability to live a full life later. At SURVIVORS and groups like it across the nation, these individuals find help to begin reclaiming their lives.

The significant majority of SURVIVORS clients in San Diego suffer from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, Major Depressive Disorder, or both. The worst consequences of torture are psychological "sequelae." These are normal yet disabling reactions for ordinary people who have endured the extreme trauma of torture.

People are referred to programs like SURVIVORS through a variety of sources, including: religious and community-based social service organizations, refugee resettlement organizations, immigration attorneys, public health care providers, schools, individuals in the community, and other torture survivors.

Mr. Speaker, the TVRA provides funds for torture treatment centers in the U.S. through the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR). Currently, 27 programs in 17 states receive assistance through ORR. The treatment provided by these programs enables survivors of torture to recover their lives and become productive members of their communities. Many of these centers also train mainstream organizations and personnel. This increases the ability of health care providers, schools and other institutions to provide for the special needs of torture victims and contribute to the prevention of torture.

Since 2000, SURVIVORS has received the bulk of its funding from TVRA through ORR; and almost two-thirds of SURVIVORS' current financial support is funded through an ORR grant. TVRA provides funds for foreign treatment centers through the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). In some cases, direct investment by the U.S. in torture rehabilitation centers provides important political support and protection, especially when the local embassy, Members of Congress and other American leaders visit these centers. SURVIVORS also receives funding to provide technical assistance and build the capacity of NGOs in Mexico that provide services to survivors of torture.

Mr. Speaker, TVRA also authorizes a contribution to the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture (UNVFVT). Funding from the U.N. helps many centers feel more secure in the dangerous work of aiding torture survivors that a regime has identified as its enemies. The UNVFVT supports nearly 200 treatment programs spanning 70 countries, in-

cluding nearly all U.S. centers. This funding is also vital to groups like SURVIVORS for direct programs.

In conclusion Mr. Speaker, the TVRA is a vital piece of legislation which funds essential services for survivors of torture throughout the 53rd District of California and San Diego County, and enhances the standing and reputation by exporting America's values in the form of support for foreign treatment centers. I strongly urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill that is so important to so many.

**HONORING RETIRING CONCORD  
TOWN COUNCILMAN JOHN ALLAN**

**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2005*

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor John Allan, whose service as a member of the Concord Town Board will come to an end on December 31, 2005.

Councilman Allan is a man dedicated to effective public service for the residents of the Town of Concord. Few public officials love their hometown the way John Allan does, and his public acts have always had the intention of making life in the town of Concord better for those fortunate enough to live there.

While John's most recent run for public office has proven unsuccessful, it is a virtual certainty that he will remain active in local civic affairs. That is a good thing, for the town of Concord is better for the active public service of individuals like John Allan.

I want to thank you, Mr. Speaker, for offering me this opportunity to honor the public service of retiring Concord Councilman John Allan, and I hope that you will join me in offering to Mr. Allan the House's best wishes of good luck and Godspeed in all of his future endeavors.

**U.S. MARINE LANCE CORPORAL  
DAVID A. MENDEZ RUIZ**

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2005*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of United States Marine Corporal David A. Mendez Ruiz of Cleveland, Ohio, who bravely, honorably and selflessly heeded the call to duty and made the ultimate sacrifice on behalf of our country.

Family, friends and service to others framed Corporal Ruiz's young life. He gained personal strength and faith from those who knew him best and loved him most, especially his father and mother, Maximiliano and Miriam; sisters and brothers, Sandra, Byron, Laura, Mynor, Zucely, Edgar and Nydia; grandmother, Elvia Ruiz; and his fifteen nieces and nephews.

Corporal Ruiz was born in Guatemala City, Guatemala, on May 26, 1985. In 1991, at the age of six, Corporal Ruiz and his family immigrated to the United States and settled in Cleveland, Ohio. He quickly assimilated to American culture; his easygoing nature and generous heart easily drew others to him. One

month after graduating from Greater Cleveland Christian High School in May 2003, Corporal Ruiz enlisted in the United States Marine Corps, where he served with dedication and honor. In February 2004, he left for first tour of duty in Iraq. Corporal Ruiz left for his second tour of duty on July 4, 2005.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and remembrance of Lance Corporal David A. Mendez Ruiz. I extend my deepest condolences to his parents, brothers and sisters, grandmother, extended family members and many friends. Integrity, kindness, unwavering service to others and endless heart defined his young life and his spirit will live forever in the hearts and memories of everyone who knew and loved him best—his family and friends. Corporal Ruiz's courageous life and legacy of service will be forever honored and remembered by the Cleveland community and by our entire nation.

#### IN MEMORY OF DAVID HENSON

#### HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2005

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it is with sadness that I inform the House of the death of Dr. David Henson of Jefferson City, Missouri.

Dr. Henson grew up in Orlando, Florida. He attended Florida A&M University where he received a B.S. degree in Biology in 1961. In 1968, he earned a M.Sc.Ed. degree in Chemistry from Tuskegee University. In 1972, Dr. Henson received his Ph.D. degree in Biochemistry from the University of Iowa.

For more than two decades Dr. Henson made significant contributions to the field of higher education. Most notably, he was the Acting Chairperson, Department of Biochemistry, Assistant Dean of Student Affairs, and Associate Professor of Biochemistry at Howard University College of Medicine; Dean of Student Affairs, Associate Dean of Yale College, Lecturer in Molecular Biophysics and Biochemistry and Fellow in Timothy Dwight College at Yale University; Provost and Professor of Chemistry at the Broward Campus of Florida Atlantic University and Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Services/Student Support Services at the University of Colorado at Boulder. Dr. Henson also served as President and Professor of Chemistry at Alabama A&M University in Huntsville, Alabama, and as Vice President of Student Services at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana. On July 2, 1997, Dr. Henson became the seventeenth President of Lincoln University, Jefferson City, Missouri. Under his leadership Lincoln University experienced unprecedented growth and renewal.

Dr. Henson also was involved in the Jefferson City community. He served on the Board of Directors for the Jefferson City Chamber of Commerce, was a member of the Jefferson City Leadership Forum and the Rotary Club of Jefferson City.

Dr. Henson was a member of Sigma Xi Honorary Society, Beta Kappa Chi Scientific Honorary Society, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., and an Honorary Member of Kappa Kappa Psi Band Organization. Dr. Henson received the "African Americans Who Make a Difference Award", the Howard University Col-

lege of Medicine Student Council's Award for "Excellence in Teaching", the George Washington Carver Research Foundation Student Award, and an American Council on Education Fellowship.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Henson was a valuable leader in his community and was respected by everyone who knew him. He will be missed by all. I know the members of the House will join me in extending heartfelt condolences to his family.

#### HONORING STUDENTS AT LAKE SHORE MIDDLE SCHOOL

#### HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, November 30, I was invited to address a gathering of students and faculty at the Lake Shore Middle School, located in the town of Evans in the 27th Congressional District. In addition to having the honor of speaking to a group of very attentive and inquisitive middle school students, I was honored with a presentation of writings in a "memory folder" that I want to talk about here today.

Students in the eighth grade government class of Mr. Keith Dash, a Lake Shore teacher—and former Buffalo State College graduate school classmate of mine—asked his students to write about freedom, and about what they think about when they think of freedom and life in America. A collection of these writings was bound and presented to me at this gathering, and I wanted to take this opportunity, Mr. Speaker, to enter these writings into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

The students contributing to this project are: Joshua Allen, Kelly Carlson, Cody Catalano, Katherine Dinkuhn, Rebecca Swatsworth, Kim Vona, Kalie Weinheimer, and Jessica Westley. I am honored to have received the writings that these students have labored on for so long, and am delighted to enter each student's contribution into the RECORD, as follows:

The most important element in social studies is the U.S. government. I mean we have all these freedoms; write anything, say anything, do anything. We get a fair trial no matter what the odds are. I am trying to say there isn't any place in the world as good as the USA. In the world it is chaos. I mean wars, fights, and riots. I mean we basically are the translators of many languages like English. We are strong and I don't want it to crash.—Joshua Allen

#### GOVERNMENT

(By Kelly Carlson)

The United States' Constitution is the foundation of our country, what we've built our lives around. To me the most important part of it is the first Amendment in the Bill of Rights. To have freedom of speech, freedom of the press, the very concept that we, the people of America can voice our opinions, is comforting. I value this amendment because, in most countries you're not allowed opinions, let alone to share those opinions with people around you. To me, what I believe is more important to me than a lot of things.

The most important right that the Constitution gave me is the right to bear arms. My father and I are both hunters. It is im-

portant that the animal population is controlled so deer don't get hit by cars and animals don't have to fight each other for food. It is also a good source of food because we eat all the meat of our kill. The right to bear arms is definitely the most important right to me.—Cody Catalano

#### THE AMERICAN LIFE

We see the obvious differences between, Us and the citizens of other countries. Some are industrialized, While others are third world.

We say what we want to in Maine, We publish in California. And worship in Pennsylvania, In Texas we gather

We buy a gun in Nevada We drive through Ohio And vote in New York

Marriage and voting It's all the same In the U.S. we can do it all The constitution states our rights It says what we can do It protects us all And lets us have a view

(By Katherine Dinkuhn)

Voting is the most important to me in Democracy because it lets me have a say in the government. It also allows me to say my opinion and how I feel about my future. For example the person I feel appropriate to run for government, I would vote for. Voting may be an option but I feel that its everyones job but even better its everyones duty.—Rebecca Swatsworth

I think the most important thing in our government is our laws. This is the most important because they keep order within our community and make it a safer place to live.—Kim Vona

When I think of government, I think of the three branches, the constitution and lots of laws. To me, the most important part of the government is laws. The laws I lead my life by, the laws I follow and the laws I can look up to when I need to be pointed in the right direction. They show me right and wrong, good and bad. They let me understand our society today. They explain things like how we became a free country or how slaves became free. But most important, they hold up our society. So, when I think of our government, I think of laws.—Kalie Weinheimer

There are many important ideas in the Constitution of the United States of America. But there is a very important one that means a lot to me. I think the most important thing in the Constitution is the 15th Amendment. This amendment states that all citizens are given equal rights. This is very important to me because I think regardless of race and color all people should be equal—as the Constitution states. Just because people have a different race they should not be treated different. The Constitution protects this right. The Constitution is the guideline to the government of the United States of America. All people should put others' race and color aside. All people are created equal and should be treated equal as well. Living in America would not be as wonderful without that right. Because of this great Constitution many people came to America and this should always be a part of the United States way of life.—Jessica Westley

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE  
JOHN J. SINDE, PRESIDENT, VIL-  
LAGE OF WESTCHESTER

**HON. DANNY K. DAVIS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2005*

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to The Honorable John J. Sinde who passed away on November 22, 2005. Mayor Sinde was born on November 13, 1925 and continued a lifetime of work until his retirement in May of 2005. John J. Sinde attended Our Lady of Sorrows Grammar School and St. Phillips High School in Chicago. He enlisted in the U.S. Navy for 3½ years and served in the Pacific Theatre. He was honorably discharged in August 1945.

On September 11, 1954, he was married to Ms. Marilyn Honeyman and they adopted three children, John Anthony when he was seven weeks old, Kimberly Marie when she was six months old and James Michael when he was seven days old.

Mr. Sinde went to work for material service in 1949 and remained until 1983. He began his political career in 1973, by getting elected to the Westchester Park District Board where he served for seven years. In 1981, he was elected Village President or Mayor of Westchester, where he served until his retirement in 2005. John J. Sinde served as President of the Village of Westchester for over twenty-four years. He was the true embodiment of civic involvement and public service. Not only did he serve as Village President but he was also President of the Westchester Park District, Westchester Baseball League, President of the Mary Jane Kennedy PTA, President of Westchester Band Parents, Chairman of the North Central Council of Mayors for ten years, manager of the Pee Wees for 21 years, umpire for Westchester Girls Softball, eight years active as a crossing guard until his last illness.

Proudest accomplishments: Village Swimming Pool, New Post Office, New Village Hall Westbrook Corporate Center, new 2,000,000 gallon water tower Children's Memorial Hospital, 1st lighted baseball diamond. A man who truly loved and was committed to his family and to his community.

The Honorable John J. Sinde, President, Village of Westchester. A true servant of the people, may he rest in peace.

TRIBUTE TO DR. WILLIAM C.  
RICHARDSON

**HON. FRED UPTON**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2005*

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. William C. Richardson, who for the past ten years has shown great leadership and vision as the President and CEO of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. Throughout his lustrous career, Bill has tirelessly worked for the betterment of his community and has significantly impacted countless individuals both professionally and personally. Although he will be retiring at the end of this year, the dedication and mission to promote and improve philanthropy that Bill has set forth will no-doubt continue long into the future.

Dr. Richardson has been exceedingly active within the public, private, and non-profit sectors of society. He has served as president of the Johns Hopkins University, executive vice president and provost of Pennsylvania State University, and dean of the graduate school and vice provost for research of the University of Washington.

In addition to his great work with the W.K. Kellogg Foundation and our institutions of higher education, Bill is a trustee of the Council of Michigan Foundations, a former chair and board member of the Council on Foundations, and a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the American Public Health Association.

Dr. Richardson has received numerous honors throughout his distinguished career, and I am pleased to call him a friend. I have known Bill for a long time and have often looked towards his leadership for guidance. The great work that Bill and the Foundation have accomplished over the past 10 years has stretched throughout our country and world. The impact that Bill has had on countless communities throughout his career is truly awe inspiring. The folks of southwest Michigan are fortunate to call Bill a neighbor. On behalf of the Sixth District, I wish Bill and his family all the best in retirement—we are all better off because of his service.

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

SPEECH OF

**HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 6, 2005*

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I stand in support of House Resolution 535, which honors the life of former Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on the tenth anniversary of his assassination. I would like to join the world community in celebrating his life and legacy. Yitzhak Rabin will forever be known as a man of peace who provided many, Arabs and Jews alike, with the promise of change in a region engulfed in violence. His life gives us hope for the progress of the peace process in the Middle East. The anniversary of his death reaffirms the special relationship between the United States and Israel and serves as a reminder that negotiations can be successful and peace between Arabs and Jews can be attained. I hope current leaders in the region honor Rabin and use this opportunity to breathe new life into the peace process.

TRIBUTE TO WIBC-AM  
INDIANAPOLIS

**HON. MIKE PENCE**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2005*

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, each year at the National Association of Broadcasters Annual Marconi Awards dinner, the evening ends with the awarding of the Legendary Station of the

Year. The fraternity of radio stations that can call themselves "legendary" is an exclusive club. And this year, WIBC-AM Indianapolis joins that group.

For 67 years WIBC has been the 50,000-watt News and Talk of Indiana. The WIBC News Team is the largest in the state, offering 24-hour Local News. It has won a record number of AP and Sigma Delta Chi awards and has received the Murrow Award for three consecutive years. Further, WIBC has been named a Marconi recipient for Station of the Year for the second straight year.

The National Weather Service called WIBC's weather coverage "life-saving."

WIBC is the flagship station of the Indiana Pacers and home of the Indianapolis 500 for 51 years.

In the community, WIBC is known for its charitable acts, having raised almost \$1 million for the Salvation Army and collected thousands of teddy bears for police to give to traumatized kids.

WIBC's Race for Riley with John Andretti has raised over \$500,000 for the Children's Hospital and the station runs thousands of PSAs each year for many more deserving organizations.

WIBC is home to news and personalities that reflect the lifestyle of mid-America. It is the most popular news/talk station in Indiana.

Mr. Speaker, when you talk radio legends, one voice is clear. WIBC.

HONORING MARK SACKETT ON HIS  
CAMPAIGN TO BE ELECTED TO  
THE CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY LEG-  
ISLATIVE DISTRICT 4

**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2005*

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

The campaign trail is a difficult path to take. Any person with a dream may enter but only a few are able to reach the end. Mr. Sackett traveled that path with his head held high and a smile on his face the entire way. I have no doubt that his kind demeanor left a lasting impression on the voters of district 4.

Mr. Sackett is a former legislator where he served the people of district 4 for many years. Mark is also a very creative man who never stops thinking of ways to assist a friend. Many people of Sheridan, New York may remember the large gavel that he constructed.

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

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF  
BARBARA JACOBS

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Barbara Jacobs, whose joyous life was framed by family, community, culture and giving to others. Her passing marks a great loss for her family and friends, and also for the people of Cleveland, whom she served with the highest level of commitment, compassion and concern.

Mrs. Jacobs shared her enthusiasm for community service with her late husband, David Jacobs, former owner of the Cleveland Indians. The welfare of her family and her community defined her life. Together, Mr. and Mrs. Jacobs raised three children: Marie, David Jr. and John. They instilled within them the significance of giving to others and helping those in need.

Mrs. Jacobs continued to carry the torch of philanthropy that she shared with her husband. Her unwavering support focused on uplifting the lives of others. Her generous donations will ensure that students have musical opportunities at the Indiana University School of Music; her spirit of giving will allow poor families and individuals to receive free medical treatment at MetroHealth Medical Center; and her focus on healing will continue to provide support and funding for the Ohio Cancer Research Center.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and remembrance of Barbara Jacobs. Her boundless spirit of giving and joy for living will continue to have a profound impact upon the lives of countless families and individuals, from Cleveland, Ohio to the University of Indiana. I extend my deepest condolences to her children, Marie, David Jr. and John; to her five grandchildren and great-granddaughter; to her dear friend and companion, Albert Werner; and to her many extended family members and friends. Mrs. Jacobs' kindness, energy and compassion will live on within every life she touched and she will never be forgotten.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JULIA CARSON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2005

Ms. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, due to a weather related travel delay, I was unable to record my vote for rollcall suspension votes 609 through 611. Had I been present I would have voted "yes."

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

SPEECH OF

**HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I have great respect for the gentleman from Pennsylvania

who speaks with authority about the military matters of the United States.

JACK MURTHA won the American Spirit Honor Medal, received the Bronze Star with Combat "V", two Purple Hearts, the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry, and the Navy Distinguished Service Medal.

The issues he raised yesterday are profound issues for each and every American. We honor the fallen soldiers by making an honest assessment of our national security needs. We honor our great democracy by having the national conversation about the war in Iraq—but we dishonor democracy by mischaracterizing what JACK MURTHA said—and putting forward a resolution that does not reflect what he asks . . . and stifles real debate on this important issue.

Nobody here really believes the United States should—tomorrow—withdraw all troops from Iraq. But many of us—indeed many Americans—are unhappy with the direction of the war and believe we could have done it better from the beginning.

This is a serious resolution for us to consider; it should not be a political ploy for the leadership to mischaracterize. This is a serious debate that the Congress is not inclined to have—as evidenced by the late scheduling of a mischaracterized bill.

We should be holding hearings about this . . . and we should not be debating any of this on a Friday night when people don't watch the news, we should do it next week and give it 50 hours of debate. What is more important than a debate about our national defense and the security of our troops?

It is instructive to remember that we sent our troops to battle in Iraq ill prepared for what they would encounter. We did not send them with the tools—or in the numbers—they needed to win the war. We sent them with helicopters and rifles that didn't function properly . . . we sent them without the body armor they needed . . . we sent them in humvees without the armor they needed. They were not greeted as liberators—more faulty intelligence—they were greeted with improvised explosive devices . . . and IED attacks have only grown more sophisticated and more frequent on our troops.

Here's where we are right now: when you make a wrong turn and discover that, do you stay on that road because you don't want to admit you are wrong? Or do you find an exit, get off and find your way? By staying in Iraq after our invasion based on faulty intelligence—we are doing irreparable damage to our international friends: Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Pakistan, Kuwait . . . and the list goes on.

We need to do it right . . . or leave as JACK MURTHA suggests . . . 1. redeploy U.S. troops consistent with the safety of the U.S. forces; 2. create a quick reaction force in the region; 3. create an over-the-horizon presence of Marines in the region; and 4. to diplomatically pursue security and stability in Iraq.

I will vote "no" for the fabricated resolution before the House tonight . . . but I urge the House to follow the advice—the actual advice—of JACK MURTHA.

HONORING RICHARD NEWTON ON  
HIS CAMPAIGN TO BE ELECTED  
TO THE CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY  
LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 1

**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2005

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

The campaign trail is a difficult path to take. Any person with a dream may enter but only a few are able to reach the end. Mr. Newton traveled that path with his head held high and a smile on his face the entire way. I have no doubt that his kind demeanor left a lasting impression on the voters of district 1.

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

A PRINCIPLED REPUBLICAN'S CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR FAIRNESS

**HON. BARNEY FRANK**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2005

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, when I was a Member of the Massachusetts Legislature in 1973, I introduced legislation to protect gay and lesbian people against discrimination. To the surprise of many—myself included—one of the strongest champions of that bill turned out to be a Republican State Senator from a socially conservative part of Massachusetts, Robert A. Hall. As he describes in the attached article, he had not thought much about this before, but when he listened with an open mind to the issues involved, he became a supporter. When he found that he was in fact the only one willing to be the floor manager for the bill on the floor of the Massachusetts Senate, he took that on, in the face of a great deal of political wisdom that said he was making a mistake. As he noted, he went on to a very successful further career.

Bob Hall's article in the Madison, Capital Times continues his work in defending fairness. His arguments on the marriage issue seem to me irrefutable, and they come with great credibility given his background and his current set of views. Since it is apparently the intention of the Republican leadership once again to bring a Constitutional amendment before the House that would prevent States from making their own decisions with regard to same-sex marriage, I think it is very relevant that Mr. Hall's persuasive argument be printed here.

[From the Capital Times, Dec. 1, 2005]

ANTI-GAY BILL WON'T HELP YOUR MARRIAGE

(By Robert A. Hall)

I'm opposed to a constitutional amendment prohibiting gay marriage, now being considered by the Wisconsin Legislature.

Oh, I know, I'm an unlikely champion of gay rights. I'm a Marine Vietnam vet who has deep regrets about that war—mostly I regret that we didn't kill twice as many of those totalitarian murderers. I hope we do better in Iraq.

I believe the "out-now crowd" are racists who think the Iraqis are too inferior to deserve democracy. Or they don't care, as long as America is defeated and George Bush embarrassed.

I worked hard to defeat John Kerry last November, and will do so again, if he runs.

And I'm a death penalty advocate who thinks we should run it like a barbershop—two chairs, no waiting.

As a member of the Massachusetts Senate, I regularly voted against increasing the state budget more than any other senator.

And don't get me started on guns. I'm not for mandatory concealed carry, but I do think fondly of how polite folks were in the days when gentlemen wore swords.

Living in Madison, I feel a certain kinship with the Israeli ambassador to Baghdad. While I think of myself as a centrist Republican with a libertarian bent, to the average Progressive Dane voter, I'm a fascist pig.

So how did I become a supporter of gay rights?

In 1973, Massachusetts State Rep. Barney Frank had filed bills prohibiting employment and housing discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

The bills came before a committee on which I served. There were a lot of jokes and nudging going on—this was the early '70s. Appearing to testify was a bright and charming woman, Elaine Nobel, who would later serve as a state representative herself. Elaine convinced me that supporting Barney's bills was the right thing to do. I told the chairman, Sen. Allen McKinnon, to record me in favor of them.

The bills received a favorable report—but no one in the committee's Democratic majority was willing to carry (be floor manager) for them. So, my back up, I volunteered.

The Republican floor leader had a minor stroke when he learned I was carrying gay rights bills. He had only seven Republicans out of 40 senators. I was 27, single and holding a seat I'd won by nine votes out of 60,000 cast. The common wisdom was that I was a one-term wonder who caught the incumbent senator vulnerable but couldn't be re-elected.

I suspect that I may have been the first legislator in the country to speak for gay rights on the floor of a state legislature. McKinnon spoke for the bills after me. On the roll call, only six senators voted in favor—McKinnon, four other Democrats and myself. And the bills were dead that year.

But I won the next election by 10,000 votes, carrying every city and town in my working-class Democratic district. More legislators decided that supporting anti-discrimination was a safe thing to do. Today, it's the law in Massachusetts—which strangely doesn't seem to have collapsed because of it or because of the gay marriage decision there last year.

Trust me, no true heterosexual wakes up and thinks, hey, I'm really angry with my partner. I think I'll try dating someone from my own gender from now on.

So who is destroying traditional marriage in America?

How about men—and increasingly women—abusing their spouses? How about the heterosexual trend toward infidelity, led by the example of our highest elected leaders? How about men fathering and then abandoning children to poverty and state support? How about a large number of straight people deciding serial marriage and divorce is a cool lifestyle?

Doing something about those trends would really protect marriage.

## IN HONOR OF RICHARD WALTER

### HON. ROY BLUNT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2005*

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Richard Walter on his retirement from more than 36 years of dedicated service to the State of Missouri. Richard Walter distinguished himself in Missouri by his commitment to improving the lives of citizens in this great State.

On December 31, 2005, Richard will retire as District Engineer for MoDOT's District 7. The leadership he provided during his time with the department was crucial to the success of several projects currently moving forward in the 7th Congressional District. Just a few of the projects Richard spent his time advocating include the completion of MO 249, commonly known as the Range Line By-Pass, building four lanes of U.S. Highway 71 south from Joplin to the Missouri-Arkansas border, and completing four lanes of MO Highway 13 north of Springfield to Kansas City. These major projects are vitally important to the economic growth and quality of life in southwest Missouri. The citizens of southwest Missouri owe a great deal of gratitude to Richard for his efforts to advance these projects.

I congratulate Richard on his accomplishments during his tenure with the Missouri Department of Transportation and wish him the best in his retirement.

## HONORING THE LIFE OF PATRICIA A. KANE

### HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2005*

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a tremendous amount of sadness that I report to the House on the passing of a gentle woman whose strength of character served her community and the Democratic party in my hometown of South Buffalo, NY, with tremendous honor and distinction. More importantly, she was a woman of valor—a wife, mother, and grandmother of extraordinary stature, and someone who will be missed for generations to come.

Born Patricia Ann Doyle, Pat Kane was, simply put, a legendary figure in Democratic politics for decades. Pat and her husband, Donald F. Kane—another legendary figure and mentor to many of my contemporaries—were part of a large extended family that, along with leaders like former county and State Chairman Joe Crangle and families like the Crotlys, Dillons, Keanes, Mahoneys, Whalens and many others, ruled South Buffalo politics from the 1960's to well into the 1990's.

Former House Speaker Thomas P. "Tip" O'Neill is often quoted as saying that "politics ain't beanbag," and that statement goes double for the rough and tumble world of South Buffalo politics. Pat Kane was a strong leader, who was no shrinking violet; she was an integral player in many important races over the

years, and her absence will be felt for many years to come. Through her gentle example and moral leadership, she made so many of us so much better than we otherwise would have been. She had the guts to say what was on her mind and the integrity to get away with it.

On a more personal level, Pat Kane's graciousness and generosity extended beyond her family to a wide yet close circle of neighbors, classmates, friends and the friends of her six children, of which I was honored to be included. Having attended school with her son, Patrick Timothy, I will always hold the warmest of kind feelings and blessing of happy memories having been a guest in the Kane home many times. Once given, Pat Kane's hospitality and her genuine interest in you could never be forgotten. I am also proud to note that Pat Kane's eldest daughter, Bonnie Kane Lockwood, is a member of my district staff. Bonnie and I have worked together since my initial election to the Buffalo Common Council in 1987, and I am fortunate to have her working with me, because Bonnie possesses both the intellect and the political acumen one would expect from Don and Pat Kane's daughter, and my constituents and I are blessed to have her service on a daily basis.

Pat Kane loved her family, loved her community, and loved the Democratic party, and her influence is seen in the many young women who have become active in local politics over the past several years. I am a better person for having known Pat Kane, and our community is better for her tireless service to it.

Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, November 26, a cold and snowy morning in South Buffalo, Pat Kane left St. Teresa's Catholic Church on Seneca Street toward her final resting place.

Before doing so, her daughter Bonnie delivered a stirring eulogy that was extraordinary in both its content and its delivery. With the House's consent, I want to close my remarks with Bonnie's words from the Mass of Christian Burial celebrating the life of Patricia Ann Kane.

#### EULOGY OF PATRICIA A. DOYLE KANE

(By Veronica Bonnie Kane Lockwood)

On behalf of our Dad, Don Kane—and the entire Kane Klan—I want to thank Fr. Paul Seil for celebrating the new life of Patricia Ann Kane this morning and for being with us as that new life began. Our cousin, Fr. Paul has been with us so many times before—weddings, christenings—but his finest moment may have been in Room 8—ICD—8th Floor Mercy Hospital Monday, Nov. 21 at 3 p.m., when, surrounded by her loving family—Fr. Paul stepped to my Mother's side and helped her cross over and help us to accept the cross of missing her—knowing she is with us always.

We also know she is with God and—by now; my guess is God has received his first hand-delivered letter from Mrs. Kane. While I cannot imagine the exact contents of the letter—I am confident a couple of dollars were enclosed.

Thank you to all the Clergy here who celebrate my Mother's life—my Mother was a part of your lives too. And, of course, we thank the Sisters of Mercy for being such an important part of my Mother's life—"Pat Kane lived Mercy, taught Mercy and was Mercy"—and we thank the St. Thomas Aquinas Rosary and Altar Society for providing the honor guard this morning.

Thank you Fr. Mitka for welcoming her and all the Kane's back to St. Teresa's—St.



Teresa's was My Dad's parish for more than 70 years—A Navaho boy—he bought a four-bedroom house all the way across the street on Pawnee Parkway before they were married—and St. Teresa's became Mom's parish too! As with so many things in our parent's lives and loves together—Mom made it her own—she is rightly remembered for her leadership and involvement in so much of St. Teresa's history—Msgr. Toomey's Golden Jubilee, the first St. Teresa's Restoration campaign—with Fr. Berg—another success as we can see.

Mom and Dad organized the hot dog concession for the Annual Comeback Run and I know people came back—for Mom's brownies—which she would offer with every hot dog sold! She was a lecturer for many years—so standing here—where she stood many times before—feels very right.

Our family thanks all of you here today. We know you share our loss—one of my great friends said "thanks for sharing your Mom with me." There was no choice—My Mother's life was and her legacy will be about sharing. Her devotion to countless classmates and neighbors, her friends and the friends of her children was imbedded into her very being—it was not what she did—it was who she was!

She gave of herself—listening, organizing, collecting for a worthy cause, her talents—singing Danny Boy—always a favorite, fashion show commenting, the wearing of the hats, the baking of the brownies, the donating of the dollars—in fact, we realize our true inheritance is all the good she did—because her money went to so many of you here today—a dollar here, five dollars there—that really adds up, you know).

She gave her heart—when she had her heart attack in 1994—her grandson, James—just a little guy then—said—Gram's heart hurts—because she loves too much—and now, all of our hearts hurt because we loved her so much.

And we have to hurt—but we also must give thanks! If that fact escaped any of our attention—it was Thanksgiving Day when the Buffalo News printed her beautiful picture and life story.

We give thanks for Patricia Doyle born almost 76 years ago to Mike and Gert Doyle of South Park Avenue. At 14, her world would be forever changed by the death of her father—she would have to go to work at Cecil's dress shop every day after class at her beloved Mt. Mercy Academy to help make ends meet—and dreams of college and a teaching career were ended.

Her life was not to be an easy one—but she made it easy for all of us. She was not a teacher by trade—but our greatest teacher by example—she became a legal secretary where many a Judge and co-worker told us—they worked for Mrs. Kane. She would always say the greatest gift you can give your child is to teach them empathy—understanding the feeling of others—and oh, how she understood.

We give thanks for Patricia Doyle whose goodness and beauty caught the eye and heart of a young man named Donald F. Kane—56 years ago—husband and wife for 52 years—wonderful parents and best friends whose mutual respect for each other made them even more successful as individuals. We strive to be better husbands and wives, better parents and friends—better at whatever we do in the workplace—because of their example.

We give thanks for the best Mother and Mother-in-Law, making us each feel special as individuals but showing us nothing is more important than family. Mom to six, Mother-in-Law to five, Grandma Kano to 14, Sis to two brothers whom she loved so much, a Sister-in-Law who became a good friend and confidant, a Cousin who became an older

sister, Aunt Pat to many and 'Chubby Cheeks' to some.

Our Mother always said, "Make a Difference in this World." And we give thanks for the difference she made in all of our lives.

We give thanks to a woman ahead of her time who was always a lady—a politically savvy partner with my Dad—a politically active person on her own—she knew who she was and what she stood for, stayed loyal when it would have been easier to bend, a truth teller—even when we on the receiving end did not always ask for it or want to hear it when it was given—She never had a driver's license—but how she drove us all to be better than we otherwise would have been—A special friend said—"she had the guts to say whatever was on her mind and the integrity to get away with it."

We give thanks for her words—left to us to read, remember, treasure and share. Before there was E-Mail there was "Mom-mail!" Can you imagine the discipline (which I do not have) it took to put paper in the typewriter—with not an insert or delete button in sight—and type out her thoughts to you perfectly—perhaps include an article she clipped or currency for a special treat—what was better than knowing you got a letter from Mom, Grandma Kano, Aunt Pat or Mrs. Kane.

Let me restate that—not all letters brought good news—some brought "constructive criticism," some brought fashion tips including Dr. Scholl's footpads for all of us before a family wedding.

Words were my Mother's actions and her strength. Her own experiences were an endless well of hope and faith, a simple, powerful reminder that you were not alone!

We give thanks for my Mother's love of holidays—and how she helped us get through our first Thanksgiving without her physically present—yet her presence filled the day. We were at my house—watching football, taking the kids to St. Tommy's gym, making fun of me being in the kitchen—and after dinner—Gramps called us together and—told the Grandkids how Grandma Kano talked about what she wanted to do for them for Christmas this year. And of course what she talked about doing—she did—and so—

Gramps called each of them by name and gave them an envelope from Grandma. Tears and thanks were followed by lots of stories and reading from a few of her letters—it is only right to leave you with the words of Patricia Kane—I will read the words but it is her voice I know that you will hear.

"Keep doing what you think is right and realize that not everyone will agree with you. Put a smile on your face—even in the darkest of days, you found Mom with a smile throughout her whole life. Smiles make everyone feel good—yourself and the one to whom the smile is given. God Bless You—keep your head high and your mind ever working and your spirit with God. He will help you every step of the way—I am proof positive of that statement—I love you today and always."

Thank You Mom—We love you today and always!

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. MARK GREEN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2005

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from Washington on Tuesday, December 6, 2005. As a result, I was not re-

corded for rollcall votes No. 609, No. 610 and No. 611. Had I been present, I would have voted aye on rollcall No. 609, No. 610 and No. 611.

#### IN MEMORY OF GURDEV SINGH SANDHU

#### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2005

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I was recently informed of the passing of Gurdev Singh Sandhu at the young age of 62. I would like to extend my sympathies to his family and friends. He is survived by his wife Jaswant Kaur Sandhu, whom he married in 1974, his daughters Samreet and Ramneek, his son Sanmeet, his son-in-law Jason Pavlak, and his grandson London Singh Pavlak.

Gurdev Singh Sandhu was a very passionate supporter of Sikh freedom. He came to this country at age 18 and attended Wayne State University. He worked at many careers, including working as an engineer at Motown Records, working at DEA, employment as an engineer at General Dynamics, and a Quality Manager at Thyssen-Krupp Budd Company. He even had a couple of businesses of his own. He was very involved with his children, helping with homework, coaching Little League Baseball, teaching them to ride a bike, and so many other activities. He designed the house where he and his wife lived.

In his last few years, Gurdev Singh Sandhu had learned to play golf, worked in his garden, was active at a local gym, and worked in his yard and on various home-improvement projects. He had recently built a deck and designed his new garage.

Gurdev Singh Sandhu was a strong supporter of the cause of Sikh freedom and the Sikh homeland, Khalistan. He had hoped to live to see Khalistan free. Hopefully, even though he won't be around to see it, this dream will be achieved in very short order.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my condolences to Mr. Sandhu's family and friends and I know that the Members of this House join me in that. May God bless him.

#### IN TRIBUTE TO MRS. EDITH A. GRAY, DISTINGUISHED CONECUH COUNTY EDUCATOR

#### HON. TERRY EVERETT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2005

Mr. EVERETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the long service of a distinguished Conecuh County citizen who has contributed to the education of many in Southeast Alabama. Mrs. Edith A. Gray, who turned 95 this year, is truly an inspiration of community service.

A native of Galveston, Texas, Mrs. Gray received her educational training in 1940 at Tuskegee Institute. Already teaching even before she obtained her B.S. degree, Mrs. Gray dedicated over four decades of her life to educating others at Conecuh County Training School.

Gray went on to develop one of the largest and most successful home economics programs in the State of Alabama. She founded the New Homemakers of America (NHA) organization in Conecuh County and the Mother-Daughter-Father-Son organization as a means of bringing families together.

Her insightful programs brought together families to teach them in their own homes a variety of skills from sewing, cooking, decorating, child care, and preserving homegrown foods.

I am pleased to note that due to Mrs. Edith A. Gray's exemplary service she will be honored on December 12 with the office ribbon cutting of the Edith A. Gray Library and Technology Center at Reid State Technical College in Evergreen, Alabama. She is certainly worth of this honor and I extend my personal congratulations to her and her family.

#### NICS AND MENTALLY ILL

#### HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2005*

Mrs. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, for months, I have been discussing how Congress can improve the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) by passing H.R. 1415, the NICS Improvement Act. People who now are barred by current law from possessing a firearm can purchase guns because NICS data is incomplete. The attached article provides more information on why the 109th Congress must pass H.R. 1415.

I want to comment on patient privacy or the stigma of mental illness. The bill contains language directing the Attorney General to work with Federal, State, and local law enforcement and the mental health community to establish protocols for protecting the privacy of information sharing.

My bill does not change current law. The 1968 gun act already bars guns to people "adjudicated as mentally defective or those committed to mental institutions." That is how the law now reads. H.R. 1415 does not change the law.

It is important to remember how the NICS process works. If a NICS search determines that a prospective buyer is barred from getting a gun, then NICS tells the gun dealer that the sale must be "Denied." NICS does not tell the dealer why the purchase is denied. The stigma, if any exists, is that a prospective gun purchaser is denied the gun. Why he was denied does not come into the NICS process.

[From the Hartford Courant, Nov. 27, 2005]

GAPS IN RECORDS ALLOW MENTALLY ILL TO BUY GUNS

(By Mark Sherman)

WASHINGTON.—In Alabama, a man with a history of mental illness killed two police officers with a rifle he bought on Christmas Eve.

In suburban, New York, a schizophrenic walked into a church during Mass and shot to death a priest and a parishioner.

In Texas, a woman taking anti-psychotic medication used a shotgun to kill herself.

Not one of these names was in a database that licensed gun dealers must check before making sales—even though federal law prohibits the mentally ill from purchasing guns.

Most states have privacy laws barring such information from being shared with law en-

forcement. Legislation pending in Congress that has bipartisan support seeks to get more of the disqualifying records in the database.

In addition to mandating the sharing of mental health records, the legislation would require that states improve their computerized record-keeping for felony records and domestic violence restraining orders and convictions, which also are supposed to bar people from purchasing guns.

Similar measures, opposed by some advocates for the mentally ill and gun-rights groups, did not pass Congress in 2002 and 2004.

The FBI, which maintains the National Instant Criminal Background Check System, has not taken a position on the bill, but the bureau is blunt about what adding names to its database would do.

"The availability of this information will save lives," the FBI said in a recent report.

More than 53 million background checks for gun sales have been conducted since 1998, when the NICS replaced a five-day waiting period. More than 850,000 sales have been denied, the FBI reported; in most of those cases, the applicant had a criminal record.

Legislation sponsored by Rep. Carolyn McCarthy, D-N.Y., says millions of records are either missing or incomplete. "The computer is only as good as the information you put in it," McCarthy said.

In the Alabama case, police say Farron Barksdale ambushed the officers as they arrived at the home of his mother in Athens, Ala., on Jan. 2, 2004. Barksdale had been committed involuntarily to mental hospitals on at least two occasions, authorities said.

Facing the death penalty, he has pleaded not guilty and not guilty by reason of mental disease and defect.

The shootings led Alabama lawmakers to share with the FBI the names of people who have been committed involuntarily to mental institutions. But just 20 other states provide NICS at least some names of people with serious mental illness, a disqualifier for gun purchases under federal law since 1968.

Shyla Stewart had been hospitalized five times in Texas, twice by court order. Yet Stewart was able to buy the shotgun that she later used to kill herself at a WalMart in 2003 because Texas considers mental health records confidential.

The same is true in New York, where Peter Troy was twice admitted to mental hospitals but bought a .22-caliber rifle that he used in the shootings inside a Long Island church in March 2002. Troy is serving consecutive life terms for the killings.

As a result of the church shootings, McCarthy and Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., introduced legislation that year to close the gaps in the background check system. The bill would have required the states to give the FBI their records and provided \$250 million in grants to cover their costs.

The bill passed the House without opposition but stalled in the Senate. In 2004, the measure again had the support of lawmakers who support gun rights, but it did not pass Congress.

McCarthy, whose husband was among six people shot to death on a Long Island Rail Road train in 1993, has introduced it again this year, but it has not yet been taken up by a House Judiciary subcommittee.

Sen. Larry Craig, R-Idaho, a National Rifle Association board member, was a sponsor of the bill in the last Congress and continues to support it, spokesman Dan Whiting said. The NRA supports the concept, but it has not taken a position on McCarthy's legislation, spokesman Andrew Arulanandam said.

Michael Faenza, president and Chief executive of the National Mental Health Association, said forcing states to share information

on the mentally ill would violate patient privacy and contribute to the stigma they face.

It's just not fair. On the one hand, we want there to be very limited access to guns," Faenza said. "But here you're singling out people because of a medical condition and denying them rights held by everyone else."

The states that provide some or all mental health records are Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, New Jersey, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Carolina, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, and Wyoming.

HONORING TOWN STEFFAN RETIRING SUPERVISOR MARK CONCORD STEFFAN

#### HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2005*

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor a man whose years of service, both as a councilman, and for the last 4 years as Supervisor of the town of Concord, have served his town admirably. Today, I want to honor retiring Concord Town Supervisor Mark Steffan.

Mark Steffan is someone who loved his town with every fiber of his being. A successful businessman, Mark was elected to the Concord Town Board and his recent service as Supervisor has come at a time when more people in Erie County and western New York look to the town of Concord and its incorporated village of Springville as an outstanding place to live, work and raise a family. It is that way because of the dedicated service of public officials like Mark Steffan.

Mark Steffan and his family are moving on with a planned move out of western New York. I want to take this opportunity, Mr. Speaker, to commend Mark Steffan for his service to the residents and the taxpayers of the Town of Concord, and remind him that local residents are better for the service he provided to town government.

CONGRATULATING MR. PETER A. TAMILIN

#### HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2005*

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Peter A. Tamilin on his achievements in public service by serving the United States Army for over 33 years.

Mr. Tamilin began his civil service career as an engineer-in-training in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 1972. He held positions of progressive responsibility as a civil engineer in the Walter Reed Area Office, the Baltimore District and the Europe District, and began serving at Headquarters, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 1990. In 2002, Mr. Tamilin moved to his current position as the assistant for construction in the Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army Installations and Housing, Assistant Secretary of the Army, Installations and Environment. As assistant for construction, he has been an invaluable asset in the development and issuance of installation policy with focus on Military Construction



which included facilities for the Active and Reserve Components and Army Family Housing.

His efforts, recognized within the Army Family Housing, Office of the Secretary of Defense, and Congress, have focused specifically on the Secretariat policy and oversight for the Army's Transformation to the Army Modular Force, Integrated Global Presence and Basing Strategy, and supplemental request to support the global war on terrorism and responses to natural disasters. Throughout his career, he has provided outstanding leadership, advice, and sound professional judgment to his colleagues. He is an exemplary civil servant and will be missed by the United States Army.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to congratulate Peter Tamilin for his service to our country. I call upon my colleagues to join me in applauding his past accomplishments and wishing him the best of luck in all future endeavors.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. SHERROD BROWN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2005*

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, December 6, 2005, I was unable to cast votes on two measures on the suspension calendar. I ask that my absence be excused, and that the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD show that had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on H. Res. 535, honoring the legacy of Yitzhak Rabin, and "yea" on H. Res. 479, commemorating the 50th anniversary of the 1956 Hungarian Revolution.

#### LET'S GET SERIOUS ABOUT SUPPORTING OUR TROOPS

### HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2005*

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, today's actions are a shameful disservice both to our soldiers in Iraq and to Americans here at home. Republicans are denying the Nation an open debate on the war in Iraq. On tonight's agenda, the Republicans not only have replaced Mr. MURTHA's resolution on Iraq with H.R. 571, a perversion of the Murtha Resolution that Representative HUNTER introduced, and which in no way conveys the sentiment of Representative MURTHA's proposal. They also have had the temerity to characterize it as a "Democratic proposal."

Representative MURTHA's Resolution states that, "The deployment of U.S. forces in Iraq, by direction of Congress, is hereby terminated and the forces are to be redeployed at the earliest practicable date." It also provides for deploying a contingency capability outside of Iraq, and requires America to pursue security and stability in Iraq through diplomacy. The Republican legislation contains none of this language.

I am a member of the "Out of Iraq Caucus" because I believe we should bring our troops home from Iraq as soon as practicably possible, as does Representative MURTHA. The

citizens of this country deserve to have a true floor debate on why this is right and on how best to do it. Then their Representatives owe them an up or down vote on this issue. Mr. MURTHA's speech should open serious hearings on the issue, followed by extensive debate on our policy in Iraq.

Mr. Speaker, to paraphrase FDR: Tonight it's clear that the only thing the Bush White House has to fear is public debate itself.

It is the height of hypocrisy for the Republican leadership to schedule a sudden, strait-jacketed mini-debate and vote on their version of Mr. MURTHA's resolution. To understand this hypocrisy its necessary to put their deceit in context.

The House Majority Leadership has consistently refused to allow the House to debate H.J. Res. 55, an earlier bill offered by 63 House members in a bipartisan fashion. It would require the President to set forth a plan for withdrawal from Iraq and to begin to implement it next fall. The Republican Leadership has stonewalled efforts to have this bill considered in committee and brought to the Floor for consideration. They have forced us to employ the parliamentary last resort of filing a discharge petition, in order to force the Leadership to let us debate H.J. Res. 55. The issue before the House at this point is not even the merits of that resolution. Instead, it is preservation of the basic democratic process and the ability of the public to hear debate on the most pressing issue facing this country.

Now, in a 180 degree reversal, the Leadership suddenly wants an abbreviated debate on our policy for ending President Bush's disaster in Iraq. Why this bizarre turn-around, Mr. Speaker? The answer is simple. Mr. MURTHA, the Ranking Member of the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee yesterday struck fear in the Leadership and the White House with his statement of plain truths. Because of his stature in this body, the gentlemen from Pennsylvania, with that single speech, shredded the White House's defense of its flawed policies.

Until now, the President and Vice President have relied on questioning the patriotism of their critics on Iraq. They have hidden behind the claim that—any critics of their war do not support our troops and do not respect our troops' sacrifices. They have repeated that outrageous mantra over and over, most disgracefully in President Bush's remarks on Veterans Day.

Those false claims to discredit critics were demolished in one stroke by Mr. MURTHA's statement. The White House knows full well:

that there is no more patriotic Member of this House,

that there is no Member who loves our troops more,

that there is no Member who has supported our troops more, and

that there is no Member who has served in our military more bravely than Mr. MURTHA.

The White House political spinners also realize that the American people are disgusted when attacks on a patriot like Mr. MURTHA are made by elected officials in the White House who sought to evade military service in time of war. So now they resort to this sleazy tactic. They pretend to have the Nation consider the issues raised by Mr. MURTHA's candid analysis, but in reality they seek to sweep those powerful remarks under the rug.

Then they will pretend that the Congress has seriously considered the tragic issues of

life and death and claim that this steam-rolled vote reflects the fully-informed, considered opinion of our constituents. That's nonsense.

This is a disgrace to the House, and more important, it's a disgrace to all that our men and women in Iraq are fighting and dying for. The American people and our soldiers deserve better than this cheap trick. To those across the aisle who want to prevent the American people from learning the awful truths about Iraq and who seek to stifle real national debate, there is only one thing to say: "Shame on you."

Mr. HUNTER's charade should be defeated.

S. 136; TITLE III—REDWOOD NATIONAL PARK BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT ACT OF 2005

### HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2005*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Senator FEINSTEIN and Chairman POMBO for their support of my legislation to adjust the boundary of Redwood National Park to include the State of California's recent Mill Creek acquisition. This legislation is included as Title III in S. 136—The Rancho Corral de Tierra Golden Gate National Recreation Area Boundary Adjustment Act.

In 1994, the National Park Service and the California Department of Parks and Recreation established an historic framework for cooperative management of the four redwood parks included in the boundary of Redwood National Park. Now officially known as Redwood National and State Parks (RNSP), this partnership is viewed as a nation-wide model of interagency cooperative management effort. Prior to the cooperative agreement, there were inefficiencies, duplication of effort, management and operational conflicts and confusion for the visitor. Now the park appears to the visitor and the traveling public as a seamless park unit. A Redwood National and State Park general management plan was adopted in 2000 that guides the future management and protection of these parks. The proposed boundary revision will enable the two park systems to extend the unique RNSP partnership to the Mill Creek acquisition.

The Mill Creek acquisition is contiguous to the existing boundary of RNSP. It is bordered to the west by Del Norte Redwoods State Park, to the north by Jedediah Smith State Park and to the east, by Six Rivers National Forest, Smith River Recreation Area. My legislation adjusts the RNSP boundary to include the State acquisition of the Mill Creek and Rock Creek watersheds.

The California Department of Parks and Recreation acquired the approximately 25,000 acres of redwood forest in Del Norte County in 2002. The addition of this land protected two important watersheds that link the Pacific Coast with the inland mountains. The Mill Creek and Rock Creek watersheds are important coho salmon rearing tributaries to the Smith River, California's largest remaining undammed river. Protecting and restoring habitat for coho salmon in these areas will help increase salmon populations along the Northern California and Southern Oregon Coasts. It will

ultimately help reduce regulatory burdens on all stakeholders in the watershed. Stimson Lumber Company, who logged the area since the mid-1800s and had gradually phased out its timber operations on this property, initiated the sale of the land.

The property was purchased by Save-the-Redwoods-League and the State of California for \$60 million. The purchase price was funded by a variety of state sources, including \$42.5 million from Proposition 12, Proposition 13, Salmon Habitat Funding (SB271) and the Governor's Land Conservation Matching Grants. Save-the-Redwoods League provided \$15 million and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service provided an additional \$2.5 million.

As a result of negotiations between the State, Save-the-Redwoods-League, Stimson Lumber and Del Norte County, a mitigation payment was established to off-set the loss of local property tax revenue. Del Norte County received a one-time \$5 million payment. The county has preserved the principal and hope one day to be able to invest the interest to grow the fund.

This legislation is supported by the State of California, the National Park Service, the County of Del Norte, Save-the-Redwoods-League and many of my constituents. Passing it today will strengthen the management of these lands and benefit visitors who come from across the country and around the world to see the redwoods and it will help protect important coho habitat.

Again, thank you for your support of this bill which will help both the National Park Service and the California Department of Parks and Recreation work more efficiently and cost effectively. I urge your "aye" vote.

#### TSUNAMI READINESS

### HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2005*

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, today I shared the letter below from Admiral Lautenbacher, administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), to all U.S. coastal governors as well as the governors of U.S. territories.

During a recent radio broadcast, I heard a NOAA official state that it was not a question of if a tsunami would hit the United States, but when. The letter below from Admiral Lautenbacher confirms this statement.

It is my hope that our coastal states will contact the NOAA National Weather Service state liaison to receive more information about NOAA's TsunamiReady program.

It was only one year ago that the deadly tsunami struck Indonesia. We must not forget this tragedy and should remember how important it is to be prepared in the event of a natural disaster.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF  
COMMERCE, THE UNDER SEC-  
RETARY OF COMMERCE FOR OCEANS  
AND ATMOSPHERE,

*Washington, DC, November 22, 2005.*

Hon. FRANK WOLF,  
*House of Representatives,*  
*Washington, DC.*

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE WOLF: Thank you for your recent inquiry regarding the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administra-

tion's (NOAA) tsunami education and community preparedness programs.

All coastal communities in the United States are at some risk. It is a matter of when, not if, a tsunami will strike. The anniversary of the devastating Indonesian tsunami of December 26, 2004, can serve as an opportunity to educate residents of the United States about our vulnerability to tsunamis, and help them minimize personal risk.

Many lives can be saved during a tsunami if the community and local emergency managers are educated and prepared. NOAA has a ready-to-implement program available to coastal communities called TsunamiReady. The TsunamiReady program helps ensure a community is prepared—from understanding what is a tsunami, to ensuring a warning notification system is in place, and establishing evacuation routes and response actions in case of a tsunami warning.

One key to a successful warning program is public notification. TsunamiReady uses NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards (NWR) as one method to alert individuals when a warning is issued. NOAA Weather Radio continuously broadcasts National Weather Service forecasts, warnings, and other crucial weather information. NOAA Weather Radios can be programmed to receive information specific to a certain area, and sounds an alarm to alert users to dangerous situations, including tsunamis.

For further information, please contact Kim Campbell (Kimberly.Campbell@noaa.gov), NOAA's National Weather Service Performance and Awareness Branch Chief, at (301) 713-0462 extension 118, or the appropriate State Liaison office from the enclosed list.

We appreciate your ongoing interest in NOAA.

Sincerely,

CONRAD C. LAUTENBACHER, JR.,  
*Vice Admiral, U.S. Navy (Ret.), Under Sec-  
retary of Commerce for Oceans and At-  
mosphere.*

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINIS-  
TRATION NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE STATE  
LIAISON OFFICES

Alaska: Anchorage, Robert Hopkins, Tel. 907-266-5117; Juneau, Tom Ainsworth, Tel. 907-790-6804.

Alabama: Birmingham, Jim Stefkovich, Tel. 205-664-7829.

California: Sacramento, Elizabeth A. Morse, Tel. 916-979-3041.

Connecticut: Boston, MA, Robert M. Thompson, Tel. 508-823-1900.

Delaware: Philadelphia, PA, Gary Szatkowski, Tel. 609-261-6600.

Florida: Tallahassee, Paul Duval, Tel. 850-942-8833.

Georgia: Atlanta, Lans Rothfusz, Tel. 770-486-1133.

Hawaii: Honolulu, James Weyman, Tel. 808-973-5270.

Louisiana: New Orleans/Baton Rouge, Paul S. Trotter, Tel. 985-649-0357.

Maine: Portland, Albert W. Wheeler, Tel. 207-688-3216.

Maryland: Baltimore/Washington, James Lee, Tel. 703-260-0107.

Massachusetts: Boston, Robert M. Thompson, Tel. 508-823-1900.

Mississippi: Jackson, Alan Gerard, Tel. 601-936-2189.

New Hampshire: Portland, ME, Albert W. Wheeler, Tel. 207-688-3216.

New Jersey: Philadelphia, PA, Gary Szatkowski, Tel. 609-261-6600.

New York: Albany, Eugene Auciello, Tel. 518-435-9580.

North Carolina: Raleigh/Durham, Darin Figurskey, Tel. 919-515-8209.

Oregon: Portland, Steve Todd, Tel. 503-261-9247.

Rhode Island: Boston, MA, Robert M. Thompson, Tel. 508-823-1900.

South Carolina: Charleston, Mike Emlaw, Tel. 843-744-3207.

Texas: Austin/San Antonio, Joe Arelano, Tel. 830-629-0130.

Virginia: Wakefield, Anthony Siebers, Tel. 757-899-4200.

Washington: Seattle/Tacoma, Christopher D. Hill, Tel. 206-526-6095.

Puerto Rico: San Juan, Israel Matos, Tel. 787-253-4586.

Guam: Guam, Genevieve Miller, Tel. 671-472-0944.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF MR. HAROLD "SANDY" SANDELMAN

### HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2005*

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Harold "Sandy" Sandelman, a resident of Laguna Woods, California, for turning 100 years old on November 26, 2005.

Mr. Sandelman, a son of a Russian immigrant, was born in Sault Saint Marie, Michigan, on November 26, 1905. In 1912, his family moved to Detroit, Michigan where Mr. Sandelman attended high school and became known for his ability to sing, dance, and play the banjo. In fact, the students named Mr. Sandelman "Banjo Buddy" because of his passion for playing the instrument.

Following high school, Mr. Sandelman attended Wayne State University for one year. After a year of college, Mr. Sandelman returned to Detroit and worked for Metro Goldwin Mayer selling motion pictures to various theatres in southern Michigan. Mr. Sandelman also worked in the advertising business for several years before becoming a salesman of building materials until he retired at the age of 75.

Mr. Sandelman has also enjoyed a long life of playing golf from age fifteen into his early nineties. His drive, energy and enthusiasm should encourage us all to live life to the fullest.

Mr. Sandelman is the father of Mrs. Carole Lynn Jones who is married to Mr. Robert R. Jones, who resides in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, a part of Michigan's Ninth Congressional District, which I represent.

Mr. Speaker, once again, I would like to wish Mr. Sandelman a happy 100th birthday.

#### BRIGADIER GENERAL ERNIE TALBERT

### HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2005*

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to pay tribute to Brigadier General Ernie Talbert. This amazing man was also the first African American promoted to the rank of general in the 350-year history of the Delaware National Guard. I chose to wait until today to recognize General Talbert's first because today is also another great first—it is Delaware Day, which signifies the birth of our Nation. At his promotion ceremony on December 4, 2005, he was described by Major General Frank Vavala, as

"having a career of firsts . . . a pacesetter, a role model and a champion of change." I find Ernie Talbert to be all of those things and much more. He is a distinguished leader, an insightful and honest man, and a true patriot. Recognizing General Talbert on Delaware Day, which signifies the birth of our Nation, seemed a much deserved honor.

A native of Wilmington, Delaware, General Talbert's military career began in 1973 as a United States Air Force pilot flying C-141s out of Charleston, South Carolina. His 26 years of distinguished service with the Delaware National Guard began in January 1979, and today he is a command pilot with 6,500 flying hours. General Talbert's career with the Delaware Air Guard has been noteworthy in the wide variety of positions he has held including Squadron Commander; Operations Group Commander; Wing Commander and Chief of Staff for the Delaware Air Guard.

General Talbert's impact is certainly not limited to the Delaware National Guard. He is actively involved in many professional and community organizations including the John Porter Chapter of the Tuskegee Airmen; the Delaware Aviation Hall of Fame; the Brig. General Spruance Chapter of the Air Force Association; and the Central Baptist Church.

I congratulate Ernie Talbert for his years of extraordinary service and countless contributions to the Delaware National Guard and the community. General Talbert is an exemplary citizen, and on behalf of all Delawareans I would like to thank him and his family for the many sacrifices they have made during the past 26 years. His recent promotion to the rank of brigadier general is appropriate recognition for a remarkable career.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF MAYOR JOHN J. SINDE OF WEST- CHESTER, IL

##### HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2005

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mayor John J. Sinde of Westchester, IL.

Mayor Sinde passed away in the village he loved so dearly on November 17, 2005. After serving 24 years as mayor, Sinde retired from public life due to health issues.

Mayor Sinde was born in Chicago in 1925 and served in the U.S. Navy during World War II. He married his wife Marilyn in 1954 and moved to Westchester in 1963. Ten years later he began his public service on the Park Board and was elected as Village President in 1981.

During his tenure as Mayor, Sinde oversaw the construction of Westchester's administrative building, post office, Westbrook Towers and the Westchester Park District swimming pool which was renamed for him in June.

Mayor Sinde also helped the village of Westchester to receive its own ZIP code, 60154. This act helped to lower insurance rates by allowing insurers to look at the village apart from neighboring communities. Additionally, he assisted in the development of the southwest part of Westchester, including the shopping center at 31st Street and Wolf Road, the subdivisions along Wolf Road, and Westbrook Towers.

It is my honor to recognize and pay tribute to the life of Mayor John J. Sinde who always had the best interests of the village of Westchester at heart.

#### TRIBUTE TO BOEING BREAKING THE WORLD RECORD FOR LONG- EST NON-STEP FLIGHT

##### HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2005

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight a remarkable aviation achievement—a new world record for the longest nonstop distance flown by a commercial aircraft.

On October 9, 2005, a Boeing 777-200LR Worldliner touched down at London Heathrow Airport after completing a non-stop flight from Hong Kong, breaking its own world record set just 16 years earlier.

The Boeing 777-200LR, Boeing's newest aircraft, took the long way around, leaving Hong Kong and flying over the Northern Pacific ocean, crossing North America and then over the Atlantic Ocean to complete its record setting 11,664 mile flight, beating out the previous record by 1,164 miles.

The lead pilot for this remarkable flight was Captain Suzanna Darcy-Hennemann, who in the tradition of aviation pioneers like Amelia Earhart, is inspiring the next generation of young women pilots.

Mr. Speaker, this achievement is a milestone in the history of aviation. We have come a long way since Charles Lindbergh's first solo trans-Atlantic flight in 1927, which set the first world record.

I rise today to congratulate Boeing and its record setting crew, and to express on behalf of my constituents in Orange County, many of whom are Boeing employees themselves, my sincere appreciation of all that Boeing has done in service of American aviation.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

##### HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2005

Ms. SCHWARTZ of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, during an absence yesterday, I regrettably missed rollcall votes 609-611. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner: Rollcall No. 609: "yea"; rollcall No. 610: "yea"; rollcall No. 611: "yea."

#### HONORING THE ACCOMPLISH- MENTS OF DR. JAMES A. BOYD

##### HON. ROGER F. WICKER

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2005

Mr. WICKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. James A. Boyd of Columbus, Mississippi, on the occasion of his 40th anniversary as pastor at Zion Gate Missionary Baptist Church. I want to join with the con-

gregation, his family, and friends in offering congratulations on this special recognition.

Dr. Boyd's dynamic presence in the pulpit and his leadership abilities have given him the opportunity to travel far and wide in service to God and country. He entered the ministry in 1965 when he became pastor of Zion Gate and El Bethel Missionary Baptist Churches in Columbus. He also taught English in the Columbus School System before choosing to become the fulltime pastor at Zion Gate in 1970.

Over the past four decades, Dr. Boyd has played leadership roles in countless organizations and served as evangelist for revivals, seminars, and conferences all across the nation. He is currently serving as president of the Northeast Mississippi Baptist State Convention, Inc., and is a board member of the National Baptist Convention USA, Inc. He is Trustee/Chairman of the Ministerial Institute and College, Homiletic instructor at the college, and lecturer for the Mt. Olivet District Association.

Dr. Boyd is a native of Oktibbeha County, Mississippi, and graduated from Oktibbeha Training School before earning a bachelor's degree from Stillman College in 1964. He also attended Iowa State University and Mississippi State University. He received a doctorate of ministry at San Francisco Theological Seminary in San Anselmo, California. He also received a doctorate of divinity from Mary Holmes College in West Point, Mississippi, in 2002.

Dr. Boyd is married to the former Kathrene Peterson, and they have two daughters and three grandsons.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Dr. James Boyd for his lifetime of service to God and country.

#### TRIBUTE TO PHIL RUBENSTEIN

##### HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2005

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of my good friend, Phil Rubenstein.

Throughout his career, Phil selflessly and passionately worked on behalf of the senior citizens in Ocean County, New Jersey, located in my congressional district. For 30 years, his federal career included work with both the Veterans and Social Security Administrations, and once he "retired", he began his second 30-year career—Director of the county's Office of Senior Services.

While leading this office, Phil strove to make seniors' lives better both through new innovations and by improving existing services. For example, he established a transportation system to assist elderly and disabled residents with rides to their radiation, chemotherapy and dialysis treatments—a system that won federal support. This is just one example of the many efforts Phil put forth on behalf of Ocean County seniors.

Phil's hard work and passion for helping seniors earned him numerous federal, state, county and community service awards, and a local medical center even dedicated its education center to him.

During my time in Congress, Phil and I worked closely on a number of issues. Over

the years, it became evident just how much he cared about the seniors of Ocean County, and this commitment never ceased to amaze me.

On November 25, 2005, Phil passed away at the age of 89. He led a full and purpose-driven life, and I can say with confidence on behalf of all of the seniors in Ocean County and myself that he will be missed.

CONGRATULATING REVEREND OTIS SNEED, JR. UPON HIS CONSECRATION TO THE SACRED OFFICE OF BISHOP ACCORDING TO THE APOSTOLIC SUCCESSION

**HON. JOHN LEWIS**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2005*

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to recognize Reverend Otis Sneed, Jr., Pastor of God's Church International Fellowship in Atlanta upon his recent consecration to the sacred office of Bishop according to the Apostolic Succession. I offer him my sincere congratulations and thanks for his continued commitment to transforming inner city communities.

Through his strong faith and Christian principles Bishop Sneed has bridged the racial, economic, social, educational and generational gaps in our community. He has served the metro Atlanta community with integrity and honesty. His service to my district has been invaluable and I wish him continued success in all his future endeavors. I ask that the Consecration documents be placed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

THE INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIP OF  
REFORMED EPISCOPAL CHURCHES

MANDATE OF CONSECRATION

Be it known to all that the Holy Synod of the International Fellowship of Reformed Episcopal Churches has approved the consecration of The Reverend Odis Sneed, Jr. of God's Church International Fellowship with jurisdiction over the State of Georgia and its environs.

Let it be recorded that the very Reverend Duane Ganther of Los Angeles, California is the presenter of this candidate. Said consecration is scheduled to take place at The Elim International Fellowship, The Protestant Cathedral in Brooklyn, New York on Saturday, October the fifteenth at 10:00 am in the year of our Lord, two thousand and five.

Given under our seals at the Archdiocesan office 20 Madison Street, Brooklyn, New York, on Wednesday, September twenty-first, two thousand and five in the year of our Lord.

WILBERT STERLING

MCKINLEY,

*Patriarch.*

TREVOR DOMINIC BENTLEY,

*Exarch.*

CERTIFICATE OF CONSECRATION

IN THE NAME OF GOD, AMEN.

Be it known to all present that we by divine right Patriarch of the International Fellowship of Reformed Episcopal Churches did on this the fifteenth day of October in the year of Our Lord two thousand and five ordain and consecrate our well beloved in Christ,

THE REVEREND ODIS SNEED, JR.

TO THE OFFICE OF BISHOP

Of the one true Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church and appoint him Bishop of Georgia with his see in Atlanta.

Of whose spiritual advancement, love of the Lord Jesus Christ, educational qualifications and knowledge of Holy Scriptures we are well acquainted,

Given under our seal and signature

In this our thirty-third year of Episcopacy

MOST REVEREND WILBERT

S. MCKINLEY,

*Consecrator.*

MOST REVEREND TREVOR D.

BENTLEY,

*Co-consecrator.*

MOST REVEREND MICHAEL

RENE LUNSFORD.

INCARDINATION

INTO

THE INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIP OF

REFORMED EPISCOPAL CHURCHES

OF

GOD'S CHURCH INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIP

INSTRUMENT OF INTERCOMMUNION

IN THE NAME OF THE MOST HOLY AND

INDIVISIBLE TRINITY.

ARTICLE I

The International Fellowship of Reformed Episcopal Churches, recognize with gratitude that they are living in a far reaching community of belief of the transmitted Catholic faith as defined in the Holy Scripture and the ecumenical creeds of Nicea and Constantinople. They rejoice in their joint recognition of the divine Revelation and their transmission in the Catholic evidence of Holy Scripture, and in the Apostolic tradition of the Church of all ages of which both are an integral part.

ARTICLE II

The Reformed Episcopal Churches recognize the ecclesiastical office as it is vested in and derived from the Apostolic Succession and personified in the Bishops of the Church as the legal successor of the Apostles.

ARTICLE III

The Reformed Episcopal Churches recognize that the Grace of God is received through prayer and the faithful keeping of the ordinances of Holy Scripture.

ARTICLE IV

The Reformed Episcopal Churches hold the conviction that the Church in all her nuances cannot be subservient to God's intention in the world if she is torn asunder and divided by strife, discord and confusion to the detriment of herself or her mentor, we not only form a part of a unique people, a royal priesthood but the one body of Christ whose mission is to be an anticipating and active sign of the final union of all things, when God in Christ will be all in all.

ARTICLE V

To be shown trustworthy that the Church receives all her life from and through Jesus Christ and the Holy Scriptures. The various Christian denominations must help and correct each other in spite of all differences inherent to mankind and cooperate in all matters which relate to the mission and welfare of the Church, known as "The One Holy Apostolic Church" (Una Sancta et Apostolica Ecclesia), the spiritual home of all who confess Jesus Christ as their Lord, Redeemer and Saviour.

ARTICLE VI

Realizing that the above Churches live in and form a common Catholic faith, The International Fellowship of Reformed Episcopal Churches and God's Church International Church take the view of declare publicly that nothing exists between the above Churches which hinders a full communion in Sacris, so that while continuing individually autonomous and independent, a definite form of agreement of the above Churches is possible. This means in fact:

a. Mutual recognition of the validity of their administrations without any restrictions.

b. Mutual admission to Word and Ordinances.

c. Mutual aid to clergy and members of both Churches as able, if need should arise.

d. Cooperation and consultation in the field of general polity and ecclesiastical affairs.

e. Affiliated prelates must attend the Biannual Synodical Convention at a time and place as indicated by the Secretary General of the Synod.

f. Affiliated prelates must submit semi-annual reports to the Archepiscopal offices at 20 Madison Street, Brooklyn, New York.

ARTICLE VII

The Churches acknowledge and bow to the infallibility of Holy Scriptures and thereby are bound by its dictates. Be it clearly stated that no one will be ordained or elevated to the Office of Bishop according to the Apostolic Succession without the consent of the Archbishops, Patriarch, Primate, Metropolitan, and President, meeting in a duly constituted consultative Synod.

Given under our hands and seals:

duly authorized by the Universal Canons as exist in Holy Scripture

WILBERT S. MCKINLEY,

*Patriarch.*

TREVOR D. BENTLEY,

*Exarch.*

TRIBUTE TO MAYOR RICHARD C. SNYDER

**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2005*

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of former Mayor Mr. Richard C. Snyder of Sanger, California. He is survived by his two children Richard A. Snyder, daughter Jerry Ann Latham, four grandchildren, six great grandchildren, and his childhood sweetheart and wife of 59 years, Pearl Snyder.

Mr. Snyder was a well respected man who always put his family and friends first. The residents of Sanger continue to appreciate the work he has done to better their community and lives.

Born on May 6, 1922, Mr. Snyder was destined to live a happy and full life. He graduated from Sierra High School and spent four years of his life serving his country in the United States Air Force. Upon returning from service, Richard married his childhood sweetheart, Pearl on June 12, 1946.

Richard was a man of principle. He served the residents of Sanger, California as a council member, mayor pro tempore, and mayor for a combined total of twenty years.

In addition, Mr. Snyder volunteered as the Assistant Fire Chief for the Sanger Fire Department for 18 years. His kind nature and concern for others led the citizens of Sanger to honor him with the City of Sanger Citation of Appreciation Award on March 3, 1964.

The Sanger Eagles, Veterans of Foreign Affairs, and AmVets are just some of the many organizations of which Richard was a member. A highly decorated veteran, he was the recipient of the Soldier Medal of Valor, Good Conduct Medal, and Distinguished Unit Badge.

Mr. Snyder enjoyed fishing, hunting, swimming, but most of all he loved to spend time

with his beautiful wife, two children, four grand children, and six great grandchildren. There was nothing more important to Mr. Snyder than the happiness of his family and the contentment of his friends.

It is without doubt that the memory of Richard C. Snyder will live on and flourish for all of the generosity that he bestowed and the loyalty he preserved.

CELEBRATING THE BIRTH OF  
ELIZABETH ANNE GANS

**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2005*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today I am happy to congratulate Laura and Dan Gans of Alexandria, VA, on the birth of their new baby girl. Elizabeth Anne Gans was born on November 11, 2005 at 3:35 p.m., weighing 7 pounds, 3 ounces and measuring 19.5 inches long. Elizabeth has been born into a loving home, where she will be raised by parents who are devoted to her well-being and bright future. Her birth is a blessing.

TRIBUTE TO MR. HECTOR  
MACLEAN

**HON. MIKE MCINTYRE**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2005*

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of North Carolina's finest gentlemen, Mr. Hector MacLean of Lumberton, NC. Hector's voice and vision have had a profound impact on the citizens of Lumberton and Robeson County. His dedication to and determination for economic development has provided many opportunities for our community to plan, prosper, and prepare for the future. Furthermore, his belief in God and strong emphasis on community service have improved the community and made it a better place for all.

As the former Mayor of Lumberton and a State Senator, Hector played a large role in bringing economic development and positive change to Lumberton and Robeson County. Among other things, he persuaded the Governor to build Interstate-95 within the confines of Lumberton, thereby connecting the area with the rest of the country. His efforts paid off and because of his commitment, Lumberton and Robeson County have continued to thrive.

At the pinnacle of his career, Hector served as the president of the Southern National Bank in Lumberton. He also supported the county and Lumberton community as the chairman of the Robeson County Bicentennial Commission for the celebration held in 1986–1987. In addition, Hector has been honored as an elder emeritus of the First Presbyterian Church in Lumberton.

Samuel Logan Bringle, the legendary leader in the Salvation Army, once said, "The final estimate of a man will show that history cares not one iota about the title he has carried or the rank he has borne, but only about the quality of his deeds and the character of his heart." These words truly reflect the character of Hector MacLean, who is known by persons

of all races, ages, and religions for both his kind deeds and his loving, unselfish heart.

When I think of Hector's commitment to the public good, the words "spirit, sacrifice, and service" also come to mind. Hector is the embodiment of a positive spirit—a spirit that inspires others to achieve. The sacrifices he has made to achieve success for southeastern North Carolina has made it a better place to live and work. His spirit and his sacrifices truly demonstrate his long-time career in service, and for this, he will always be recognized and remembered.

Mr. Speaker, Hector MacLean has been an integral part of the positive economic development of Lumberton and Robeson County. On behalf of the citizens of southeastern North Carolina, I thank him for his years of service. May God's strength, peace and joy be with him always.

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

SPEECH OF

**HON. JOHN LEWIS**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 6, 2005*

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in honor of a warrior for peace. Yitzhak Rabin, a former soldier, the former chief of staff of the Israeli Defense Force, put down his gun and decided that sacrifice was necessary to achieve peace.

After fighting Israel's enemies his whole life, Yitzhak Rabin chose to talk to his enemies at the negotiating table. He chose to try and end a conflict that pre-dated the birth of the state of Israel by agreeing to exchange valuable land for the end of all bloodshed.

Yitzhak Rabin knew that war was not the answer. He knew that war does not bring along peace. In his 1994 Nobel Prize acceptance speech he said, "There is only one radical means of sanctifying human lives. Not armored plating, or tanks, or planes, or concrete fortifications. The one radical solution is peace."

Mr. Speaker, today I rise to mark the legacy of a leader who not only spoke about peace, but gave his life in the pursuit of peace. His life was taken away from him because he tried to end the bloodshed of his people. Yitzhak Rabin was a leader for peace and today we remember him for that legacy.

TRIBUTE TO MR. KEN DYAR

**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2005*

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Ken Dyar of Delano, California for receiving the California Teacher of the Year award from the State of California. California State Superintendent of Public Instruction selects 5 Teachers of the Year to honor outstanding teachers.

With his innovated teaching skills and passion to incorporate physical fitness into the

lives of his eighth grade students, Ken Dyar is deserving of this honor.

Mr. Dyar was born on May 27, 1965 in Delano, California. Son of Don and Shirley Dyar, Mr. Dyar attended Cecil Avenue Middle School and graduated at the top of his class from Delano High School. He went on to earn a degree from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo.

Mr. Dyar served as a freshman basketball coach at Selma High School, a fourth grade teacher at Terrace Elementary School and a junior varsity boys basketball coach at Delano High School before discovering his true passion for teaching physical education to junior high students. Currently, Mr. Dyar is the Physical Education teacher at his alma mater Cecil Avenue Middle School in Delano, California.

Mr. Dyar is a member of several education organizations including the National Education Association, California Teacher's Association, Delano Union School Teacher's Association, and the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance.

The honors and awards that Mr. Dyar has received are numerous. He was named Kern County Educator of the Year, was listed in Who's Who Among American Teachers, was voted Most Motivating Teacher by Cecil Avenue Middle School students.

During this critical period in our nation's history, it is essential to have qualified and dedicated educators to help our youth steer this country in the direction of righteousness and honor. Mr. Dyar exemplifies such an educator and I stand to applaud his efforts. The California Teacher of the Year award is well deserved.

MOURNING GOVERNOR CARROLL  
A. CAMPBELL, JR.

**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2005*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, with the death of my friend Governor Carroll Campbell, South Carolina lost a true hero today.

Governor Campbell led an extraordinary life, demonstrated by his commitment to his family and his community. As a devoted family man, he was always attentive to his wife, Iris, and his sons, Carroll and Mike. While working in Washington and Greenville, he was widely respected as a business leader who valued integrity and honesty.

Most South Carolinians will remember Governor Campbell for his dedication to improving their lives. Throughout his service in the State Legislature, U.S. Congress, and Governor's office, he was a true statesman. As a member of the State Senate, I was fortunate to witness his passion for restructuring the government and ensuring greater access for citizens. His vision helped create economic development, and helped bring BMW to Greer and Michelin to Lexington.

As a political leader, he effectively changed the face of politics in our country by establishing a Republican majority in South Carolina. On the national level, he was a key ally of Ronald Reagan, George H.W. Bush, and George W. Bush.

The Wilson family extends its deepest sympathy to the Campbell family.

TRIBUTE TO MR. GEORGE  
GRUETT

**HON. JO ANN EMERSON**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2005*

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of Mr. George Gruett, who has served the Mississippi Valley region and our Nation for 25 years as executive vice president of the Mississippi Valley Flood Control Association. Up and down the river, residents and landowners have been lucky for the expertise and tireless advocacy of Mr. Gruett. His work on their behalf has made the region safer for them and their families, as well as preserved vital river transportation.

The Mississippi River is a strange, and sometimes difficult, neighbor to us in southern Missouri. We are struck by her beauty in times of calm and heartbroken by her unstoppable power in times of flood. Living along the Mississippi River presents unique challenges, which Mr. Gruett has made his life's work to meet.

The infrastructure needs of flood protection are staggering. Levees, pumping stations, locks and dams, berms, floodwalls and river management are all critical components of preserving our relationship with the Mississippi River. Managing the plans, construction and upkeep of these facilities demands a rare, dedicated individual. For 25 years, Mr. Gruett has been that person.

Born and raised in west Tennessee, Mr. George Gruett is no stranger to the service of his country. He is a veteran of World War II, during which he served with the 12th Air Force in Europe. He was educated in civil engineering at the University of Alabama and the University of Mississippi and spent 35 years with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers before joining the Mississippi Valley Flood Control Association.

Mr. Gruett has received the Meritorious Civilian Service Award and earned a Lifetime Achievement Award from the American Rivers Museum. He has been a faithful guardian of our delicate relationship with the Mississippi River in southern Missouri. I thank him for his great service to the residents of Missouri's Eighth Congressional District and to the people of our Nation.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MONTGOMERY BUS BOYCOTT

SPEECH OF

**HON. JOHN LEWIS**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 6, 2005*

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, December 1, 1955, became a history-making day, when a brave and courageous Rosa Parks committed one simple act. By sitting down and refusing to give up her seat on a city bus, Rosa Parks ignited a non-violent revolution in America. By sitting down she inspired many of us to stand up and become participants in the modern-day Civil Rights Movement. America is a better country, and we are a better people today, just 50 years later.

The action of the brave and courageous African Americans of Montgomery, under the leadership of Martin Luther King Jr., ushered in a period of great hope and great expectation in America. During the past 50 years, we have seen unbelievable changes. We have seen the end of segregation in public transportation and in places of public accommodation. And the signs that said WHITE and COLORED have come tumbling down. In 50 years, we have witnessed the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1957, the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Voting Rights Act of 1965, and the Fair Housing Act of 1968.

It is my hope that as we pause and take note of what happened in Montgomery 50 years ago, another generation will be inspired to take a stand. I hope another generation will be inspired to speak up and to speak out for what is fair, for what is right and for what is just in this nation and the world.

TRIBUTE TO MR. WILLIAM T.  
POWERS

**HON. MARY BONO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2005*

Mrs. BONO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize and applaud the dedication and tireless service of my dear friend and constituent, Mr. William T. Powers. I ask all of my colleagues to join with me today in saluting this outstanding American.

Mr. Powers has had a long and distinguished career within the banking community. Following 21 years of employment with the Bank of America, Mr. Powers relocated to the desert. He soon saw the realization of his professional goal when, in 1993, he joined the First Community Bank of the Desert (now Pacific Western Bank) as President and Chief Executive Officer. The notable achievements of Mr. Powers' professional career are a reflection of his seemingly boundless capacity for hard work and service.

I would like to give special recognition and thanks to Mr. Powers for the tremendous community service that he has, and continues to render the citizens of the desert. I have personally seen the positive impact of his many efforts on the community in which I live. Mr. Powers has served as the President of many organizations throughout the years including; the American Cancer Society, United Way of the Desert, College of the Desert Foundation, Palm Desert Chamber of Commerce, Indian Wells Desert Symphony. He has also served as the Director or President and Tournament Chairman of the Bob Hope Chrysler Classic since 1998.

Mr. Powers has been joined in his efforts by his lovely wife, Anita, who is also a beloved community figure. The Powers' have been partners in so many efforts that have greatly enhanced the desert community. Together they have raised two children and are the proud grandparents of four.

Mr. Powers stated that the best way he knows how to give back to the community is through excellent service and that that philosophy has permeated his personal and professional life. I join with my community this week in commending and thanking Mr. Powers for his great community service as the Boy

Scouts of America honor him as the Distinguished Citizen of the Year. I encourage my colleagues to join me in recognizing and celebrating the many contributions of Mr. William T. Powers.

IN RECOGNITION OF MARSHA  
PETTY—ARKANSAS'S 2005–2006  
TEACHER OF THE YEAR

**HON. MIKE ROSS**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2005*

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, it is with tremendous pride that I rise today to recognize Arkansas's 2005–2006 Teacher of the Year, Marsha Petty of Texarkana, Arkansas.

A cum laude graduate from Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia, Marsha has been teaching for 29 years and is an 11th grade chemistry teacher at Arkansas High School in Texarkana. There are few jobs more important, more rewarding, and more difficult than that of a teacher.

I have always held a public school education in the highest regard. As parents, educators, and public officials, we have an obligation, a moral duty, to ensure that students, from pre-school to high school and beyond receive the highest quality education possible. By properly educating our students and providing them with the tools they need in order to become successful adults, they will thrive in today's fast-paced and technological world.

The most important component to our children's education is our teachers. Today more than ever, our educators face new obstacles and challenges. As the son of public school educators, I have a deep respect and gratitude for all educators and their personal commitment to our children.

America is deeply indebted to top-notch educators, such as Marsha Petty, for their continued excellence in the classroom and commitment to our students. Today's teachers shape the very foundation of America's future. It is an honor to extend my heartfelt congratulations to Marsha as the 2005–2006 Arkansas Teacher of the Year.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF DR.  
TJ OWENS

**HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2005*

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, today I rise with my colleague, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, to honor the life of Dr. TJ Owens of Gilroy, California who recently passed away. I rise to honor a life dedicated to family and the community. His hard work and compassion for those often overlooked helped to illuminate a path of social awareness and service for others to follow. TJ was the person who made a difference in countless lives, giving them hope and showing them that they could achieve their dreams.

The second of nine children, TJ Owens was born on February 4, 1937, in Shreveport, Louisiana to General and Maxine Owens. When TJ was seven, his father moved the family to



Barstow, California. Although his parents did not finish high school, they instilled in TJ the importance of hard work, perseverance and education. Growing up, TJ excelled in academics, student government, marching band and five varsity sports. He received a football scholarship to the University of Idaho but transferred to Fresno State after spending two cold years in Idaho. While at Fresno State, TJ was an outstanding football player, an undefeated boxer, and a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity. TJ received his bachelor's degree in 1960, making him the first African-American from Barstow to graduate from college. He subsequently earned a Masters degree in Counseling from Santa Clara University and a Doctorate in College Administration from the University of San Francisco.

In 1960, TJ married his college sweetheart, Carol Curtis. The couple had three beloved daughters, Annette, Alisa, and Audrey. They settled in Barstow, where TJ began teaching and coaching at his former high school.

He also launched his social and community activism as President of the Barstow NAACP.

The family moved to San Jose in 1968, where TJ worked as a Counselor at San Jose City College. He was a mentor and friend to his colleagues and students, creating a lasting legacy for the student body. TJ served as an advisor to the Black Student Union at San Jose City College, and organized the Black Studies Program. He was one of the founding members of EOPS (Extended Opportunity Programs and Services), a program that provides college support services for low-income and educationally disadvantaged students. In 1969, TJ also co-founded the San Jose Chapter of the NAACP and served as president of the organization.

TJ married Brenda Jordan in 1984 and became a father to her two children, Milah and Navarro. As a loving parent, TJ instilled his children with the same dedicated work ethic and perseverance that brought him success: All five of his children earned college degrees. He loved his children very much and was so very proud of them, treasuring his time with them.

In 1991, TJ became Vice President of Student Services at Gavilan College. He was elected President of the Gilroy School Board in 2000 and served on the Santa Clara County Grand Jury. He was involved in more than ten organizations, serving as a leader and community role model in all. I first met TJ when I served as a Member of the Board of Trustees of the San Jose/Evergreen Community College District. I know first hand about his leadership and his passion for those in need. Countless young people achieved educational success because of his efforts. TJ was an active member of 100 Black Men of Silicon Valley where he received a Lifetime Achievement Award in 2001.

TJ died on October 17, 2005, surrounded by his family and friends. He is survived by his wife, Brenda Jordan-Owens, his children, Annette, Alisa, Audrey, Navarro, and Milah, and his two grandchildren, Samuel and Tyler.

TJ's death leaves a huge hole in our community. As a pioneer of civil rights, social awareness and community activism, TJ was a friend, mentor and local hero. We are grateful for all that he gave to help so many in our community, inspiring us all with his dedication and showing us how one person can truly make a difference.

## CONGRATULATING THE MICHIGAN CITY MARQUETTE HIGH SCHOOL BLAZERS ON THEIR BACK-TO-BACK CLASS 1A STATE GIRLS VOLLEYBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

### HON. CHRIS CHOCOLA

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2005*

Mr. CHOCOLA. Mr. Speaker, when we think of sports dynasties, we often think of the Chicago Bulls, the New York Yankees, or the New England Patriots. But in my District, in Michigan City, Indiana, we think of Marquette High School and the girls volleyball team.

Over the past 7 years, they have won five Indiana High School Athletic Association Class A State Girls Volleyball Championships. From 1999 to 2001, they won back-to-back-to-back titles. This year makes another series of back-to-back titles, having also won the State crown in 2004. And the 2 years they were not State champs, they were State runner-up.

Needless to say, the past 7 years at Marquette High School have been amazing for the girls volleyball team.

Amazing, too, for third-year coach Troy Campbell. His 34-win season was capped off with his team not only winning the title match, but it also earned him his 100th career coaching victory at Marquette.

This year's championship squad includes seniors Sarah Denny, Kalan Sebert, Danielle Barnett, Colleen Trainor, and Michelle Fletcher, juniors Rachel Konrady, Kara Kmiecik, and Tiffany Cerrillos, sophomores Emily Komaskinski, Katie Krueger, Alison Griffin, Ashley Pinkney, Mary Catherine Mengel, and Kim Ziarko, and freshmen Danielle Easton, Jenna Furno, Janie Welsh, and Marissa Disbrow.

Assistant coaches Larry Sheagley and Kylee Osborne also deserve a note of congratulations.

Congratulations to all of you, and to the seniors, best of luck on your future endeavors. You have proven you have what it takes to be a champion.

## TORTURE VICTIMS RELIEF REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

### HON. JIM RAMSTAD

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 6, 2005*

Mr. RAMSTAD. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise in strong support of H.R. 2017, the Torture Victims Relief Authorization Act.

I am especially proud that the first Center for Victims of Torture in the United States is located in Minnesota. Minnesota's Center for Victims of Torture is certainly one of the premier centers for torture survivors in the entire world.

Minnesota is home to about 30,000 victims of torture, and there are some 500,000 victims of torture in our country. Even though people are becoming increasingly aware of the issue of torture, support and treatment for the victims have often been lacking.

That's where the center, with its excellent leadership, comes in. We in Minnesota have learned much, and now we want to bring that

leadership, and the path-breaking work of the center, to the rest of the country.

Mr. Speaker, this important legislation provides support for Minnesota's Center for Victims of Torture and will enable our world-renowned Center to continue providing rehabilitation and other critical services to victims of torture.

All Minnesotans can be proud of our Center for Victims of Torture, which helps victims of torture recover from their horrific pain, suffering and scars.

Mr. Speaker, the issues of torture and human rights have finally penetrated the global consciousness, and I urge my colleagues to support passage of this important legislation.

## HONORING LIEUTENANT COLONEL JAMES J. FINKLE, U.S. AIR FORCE (RETIRED)

### HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2005*

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor and recognize a great American patriot, retired Lt. Col. James J. Finkle, for his distinguished accomplishments in both the U.S. Air Force and in civilian public service.

James joined the U.S. Air Force in 1968, 4 years before attending the University of Maine, from which he graduated in 1976. Shortly thereafter, he was assigned to the Maine Air National Guard and appointed the first town manager of Veazie, Maine.

James stayed in Maine until 1980, when he was hired by the Suffolk County Legislature's Office of Budget Review. Returning to Long Island, where James was born, did not interrupt his commitment to military service. He transferred to the 106th air rescue wing of New York's Air National Guard located at Gabreski Air Force Base on eastern Long Island.

Within the civilian community, James served as the federal aid coordinator for the Nassau-Suffolk Regional Planning Board. He was promoted by the board to serve as the first administrator of the Suffolk County Pine Barrens Commission, and participated in the evacuation study of the Shoreham Nuclear Power Plant.

Subsequently, James was selected as the director of planning for the Town of Huntington, managing a staff of 15 and guiding the economic development of this suburban community. After working for the Research Foundation of SUNY Stony Brook in 1990, James joined Shoreland Distributors as vice president for administration where he helped direct the company's rapid growth as it became the largest distributor of boat trailers in the nation.

His National Guard service provided a natural transition to his civilian duties, which included recovery in the aftermath of TWA Flight 800. He helped write a definitive account of that experience in *Deadly Departure: The True Story of Flight 800* and contributed to the New York Times bestseller, *"The Perfect Storm: A True Story of Men Against the Sea"* about the 106th air rescue wing.

James returned to active duty to serve in Operation Allied Force, which responded to the crisis in Kosovo in 1999. He also served in media affairs through the aftermath of the September 11th attacks and participated in the

planning stages of the Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2002.

On behalf of New York's first congressional district and indeed a grateful nation, I thank Lt. Col. James Finkle for his service, congratulate him for a distinguished career, and wish him good health, continued success and a happy retirement with his wife Louise and their children, Amanda and Eugene.

REGARDING SUPPORT OF  
SUBSIDIZED GUARDIANSHIP

**HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY**

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2005*

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take the opportunity to express my enthusiastic support of subsidized guardianship. I understand that many times grandparents or other relatives become the primary caregivers to children who are not able to live with their parents. This can become a significant financial challenge and we must offer these families more resources. In my home state of Rhode Island, 4,176 grandparents were financially responsible for meeting their grandchild's basic needs in 2003. Subsidized guardianship programs, which are increasingly used by states around the country—including Rhode Island—allow children living safely with relatives to exit formal foster care and achieve legal permanence. That is why I am proud to be a cosponsor of H.R. 3380, The Guardianship Assistance Promotion and Kinship Support Act, which would allow the use of federal funding to support subsidized guardianship programs.

Today I offer my formal acknowledgement and deepest appreciation for the ongoing service of these caregivers to our country and our nation's most valuable asset, our children.

HONORING THE CLASS ACT GROUP  
OF MILITARY RETIREES

**HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2005*

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, today is the 64th anniversary of the bombing of Pearl Harbor, the infamous day in 1941 that led us into World War II. It is appropriate that I rise today to honor the military retirees' grassroots organization known as the Class Act Group. After nearly ten years of citizen advocacy, urging Congress to fully restore their promised military health care benefits, this noble group of warriors has decided to call it a day and close its offices.

CAG's roots date back to July 16, 1996, when attorney George E. Day filed a law suit in Federal Court in Pensacola, Florida on behalf of retired Air Force Colonels William O. Schism and Robert Reinlie. The suit alleged breach of contract with military retirees over the age of 65 years by the failure of the U.S. to provide the military medical care it had promised.

But George Day is not just any lawyer. Col. George "Bud" Day (Retired) is a veteran of more than 30 years service in the Armed

Forces of the United States. He joined the Marine Corps in 1942 and served 30 months in the South Pacific as a noncommissioned officer. He received an appointment as a Second Lieutenant in the National Guard in 1950. He was called to active duty in the Air Force in 1951. He served two tours in the Far East as a fighter-bomber pilot during the Korean War.

In April 1967, Colonel Day was assigned to the 31st Tac Fighter Wing at Tuy Hoa Air Base, Republic of Vietnam. Shot down over North Vietnam on August 26, 1967, he spent 67 months as a Prisoner of War. Colonel Day was the only POW to escape from prison in North Vietnam and then to be recaptured by the Viet Cong in the South. He is also credited with living through the first "no chute" bailout from a burning jet fighter in England in 1955.

Colonel Day holds every significant combat award. He is the nation's most highly decorated officer since General Douglass MacArthur. He holds nearly seventy military decorations and awards of which more than fifty are for combat. Most notable are the Medal of Honor, the Air Force Cross, the Distinguished Service Medal, the Silver Star, the Legion of Merit, the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Medal with nine Oak Leaf Clusters, the Bronze Star for Valor with two Oak Leaf Clusters, the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart with three Clusters and the POW ribbon. He wears twelve Campaign Battle Stars.

So, Mr. Speaker, Col. Day's long, distinguished record shows that he was a fighter in the field defending his comrades and country and, I can attest, he has been just as determined a fighter in the courtroom, too. He recruited his own army of grassroots soldiers who, in town meetings and over the Internet, gathered together to exercise their constitutional freedoms to fight for their rights, just as Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, Benjamin Franklin and all the Founding Fathers imagined they would.

The CAG suit filed in 1996 was based on the fact that agents of the Federal Government—including military recruiters, active duty members of the uniformed services, and other government officials—routinely promised that the government would provide lifetime health care to military retirees and their dependents if they served a career of at least 20 years in uniformed service.

The promise of lifetime care was made and fulfilled for generations, but until 1956 Congress had never passed a statute that specified what level of care would be provided. On December 7, 1956 a new law took effect with a provision that provided for health care at military facilities on a "space available" basis. This new law had the practical effect of defining and limiting the Federal Government's commitment to military retiree health care, by conditioning such care on space availability.

In other words, after 1956, health care that had been promised and routinely delivered for years was no longer assured. As military bases began to close and downsize, the availability of health care became more and more limited. Subsequent laws completely removed Medicare-eligible military retirees from the military health care system.

The 1956 law "changed the rules in the middle of the game" for military retirees who entered the service prior to December 7, 1956. When they agreed to enter the service, they had promises—a verbal contract—of lifetime health care that routinely were fulfilled.

When they left the service 20 or more years later, they lived under a new set of rules. In short, the health care rug was pulled out from under them.

On November 18, 2002, a Federal Appeals Court ruled that only Congress can authorize the level of health care the government will provide to military retirees; therefore, promises made by military recruiters or government officials were not binding. On June 2, 2003, the Supreme Court declined to consider Col. Day's appeal of the ruling, putting an end to the law suit.

Although the Appeals Court did not rule in favor of the plaintiffs, the language of the Court ruling was very clear that the plaintiffs had won a moral victory:

Accordingly, we must affirm the district court's judgment and can do no more than hope Congress will make good on the promises recruiters made in good faith to plaintiffs and others of the World War II and Korean War era—from 1941 to 1956, when Congress enacted its first health care insurance act for military members, excluding older retirees. . . .

We cannot readily imagine more sympathetic plaintiffs than the retired officers of the World War II and Korean War era involved in this case. They served their country for at least 20 years with the understanding that when they retired they and their dependents would receive full free health care for life. The promise of such health care was made in good faith and relied upon. Again, however, because no authority existed to make such promises in the first place, and because Congress has never ratified or acquiesced to this promise, we have no alternative but to uphold the judgment against the retirees' breach-of-contract claim. . . .

Perhaps Congress will consider using its legal power to address the moral claims raised by Schism and Reinlie on their own behalf, and indirectly for other affected retirees.

Mr. Speaker, CAG and the nationwide grassroots group did in fact win a substantial legislative victory. In 2000, Congress responded to an intense national grassroots campaign waged by military retirees by enacting Tricare for Life (TFL), which provides health care to Medicare-eligible military retirees (generally age 65 or older). TFL did not go all the way to fulfill the government's promise of lifetime health care for our Nation's warriors, but it was a substantial step forward in that effort.

The military retirees grassroots group also actively encouraged Congress to address the unfulfilled health care needs of many younger military retirees who find they are not well served by the military health care system known as Tricare Standard, a plan for retirees who do not live near military bases that could otherwise provide their promised military health care.

Mr. Speaker, the men and women at the core of the Class Act Group have grown old serving their country. They were heroes in World War II, Korea and Vietnam. And they were heroes in the courtroom and in the halls of government fighting for their rights.

They have fought the good fight, but as good soldiers they know when it is time to regroup. Even with the advent of TFL these grassroots warriors kept fighting for full restoration of their promised health care. But they know that budget battles in Congress have gotten tougher, that new generations of

wounded veterans coming home from Iraq and Afghanistan are fighting for even basic health care, let alone health care in their distant golden years.

And there are other battles that need to be fought by these old warriors. Floyd Sears, one of the hardest fighters on the grassroots battlefield, the leader of the Internet campaign for the restoration of military retiree health care, saw his home in Biloxi, Mississippi, destroyed by hurricane Katrina. He is living in an RV powered by a generator as he oversees the rebuilding of his house. Jim Whittington, Floyd's best friend and comrade, lost electricity in his Laurel, Mississippi, home for almost a month. He is rebuilding his Internet business. Col. Day is over 80 years old now and is ready to move on and support our new generation of veterans.

Yes, Mr. Speaker, the grassroots warriors have fought the good fight. As the Class Act Group closes its doors, we should honor them and thank them for all they have done for our country. They will always be heroes to me.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE BROWN  
COUNTY HOME BUILDERS ASSO-  
CIATION'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. MARK GREEN**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2005*

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to recognize before this House the Brown County Home Builders Association as they celebrate their 50th anniversary.

As we all know, home ownership in this country has had quite a run over the last few years, with more Americans than ever before settling into their very own homes. Last year alone, 1.18 million families purchased single-family homes—a new record. This has had a direct impact on our economy at all levels, boosting revenues, attracting new business, and spurring community revitalization.

The Brown County Home Builders have made the dream of homeownership a reality for thousands of families in northeastern Wisconsin. For the last 50 years they have helped create safe and affordable housing opportunities for Brown County residents, raising the quality of life in communities throughout my district. Despite its humble beginnings, this great organization has grown from a mere 18 members to over 1,100, and it shows no signs of slowing down.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the Brown County Home Builders Association on this wonderful occasion. Fifty years is an outstanding accomplishment, and on behalf of the citizens of Wisconsin's Eighth Congressional District, I say congratulations.

TRIBUTE TO MR. JOSEPH  
STACHON

**HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2005*

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege, as a U.S. Representative, to acknowledge my constituent, Mr. Joseph Stachon, on

his retirement from the Chicago Police Department, after serving a loyal career of 30 years with the force.

Not only a dutiful police officer, Joe Stachon has been a loving husband to his wife Barbara, and a loving father to his three children, Joseph, Julie and Jon, and most recently a new title of grandfather—one he will cherish the most, I am sure.

Joseph Stachon has lived his adult life dedicated to protecting his Nation, his city and his fellow veterans proudly. Joe served in the United States Army from 1968 to 1969 in the turbulent Vietnam war and earned the distinguished Bronze Star and Purple Heart medals for his courage and valor. After the war, he then started at the Chicago Police Department, working 12 years in the 12th, 2nd and 14th districts of Chicago. It was that experience and endless training that earned Joe his last 18 years with the forensic division of the Chicago Police Department.

His contribution to his fellow man doesn't stop there. Joe joined Johnson-Phelps VFW Post No. 5220 in Oak Lawn and, when asked, served five times as their post commander. His dedication to his fellow veterans continued as he served as the Third District commander and was a member of the VFW's State of Illinois Ways and Means Committee.

It is fitting this evening that Joseph Stachon be remembered as a loyal brother in the Chicago Police Department, a compassionate comrade to his fellow veterans and last but not least, a devoted husband and father to his wife and family. Joe, you have continually shared your time with many, have accomplished your life's achievements; it is time now to sit back and enjoy these memories with your family.

It gives me great pleasure to acknowledge the lifetime achievements of Mr. Joseph Stachon. I ask that my colleagues join with me in honoring this fine individual on his great service to our Nation and his community and wish Joseph great things as he celebrates the commencement of a new chapter in his life.

THE TERRORISM RISK INSURANCE  
ACT

**HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2005*

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased that we are finally considering this crucial Terrorism Risk Insurance Act (TRIA) extension, which will provide necessary stability for our Nation's economy in a post 9/11 world. I have strongly supported this legislation from the outset, and I congratulate Chairman OXLEY and Ranking Member FRANK for their hard work to bring it to the floor. I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this important bill.

A stable, secure insurance market is vital to the health of our national economy. More than 4 years ago, the stability of the insurance industry, and all of our Nation's policyholders, were put in jeopardy when insurers and reinsurers lost more than \$30 billion as a result of the 9/11 attacks. After these substantial losses, insurers were unable to make terrorism insurance available, which left many of our Nation's businesses vulnerable to unacceptable risk.

In response, Congress overwhelmingly passed TRIA to provide a temporary, limited Federal backstop in the event of another catastrophic terrorist attack. While we still expect the insurance industry to eventually develop methods for making terrorism insurance available without government support, the market has not yet stabilized to the point where this is possible. Extension of TRIA, which is necessary to prevent the chill of development in our cities, has wide, bipartisan support, and should be enacted promptly.

IN HONOR OF JOHN CASTELLANO,  
AN AMERICAN SOLDIER

**HON. DANA ROHRABACHER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2005*

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak on behalf of a valiant American soldier who, through no fault of his own, never became an American citizen. 1st Sgt. John Castellano of New York State and California was worthy of becoming an American citizen. I would like to tell you his story.

John Castellano was a native of Sorrento, Italy. He joined the United States Army in 1911. He served with the U.S. armed forces for more than 25 years with honor and distinction. For example, Sgt. Castellano served admirably in World War I and the Pacific Theater of Operations. For his valiant service, he was awarded numerous medals and ribbons, including the "West Indies Campaign" ribbon, the VFW medal, and an award for bravely rescuing a man from drowning on July 21, 1921.

Sgt. Castellano believed that he was a naturalized U.S. citizen by dint of his service to the United States. Unfortunately, through circumstances unknown to us today, he was required but failed to fill out the necessary documents to become a U.S. citizen. As a result, he did not become the American citizen that he always believed he would become. Today, we have members of the Armed Services who assist foreign members of our armed forces to become U.S. citizens. According to recent newspaper articles, foreign soldiers serving with coalition forces in Iraq can become U.S. citizens in less than six months. And it is right to honor those who fight and risk their lives for this great country. Unfortunately, no one was able to assist Sgt. John Castellano, an Italian immigrant, to become a naturalized U.S. citizen so many years ago.

His family lives in my district. Members of the Castellano family learned of this tragedy only in recent years although John Castellano died in 1937. Since they learned of these circumstances, the family has been trying for several years to obtain posthumous citizenship for John. Unfortunately, the law does not allow John to become a U.S. citizen at this late date. Therefore, I am honoring Sergeant Castellano's service to the United States, and want to state for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD that his service and heartfelt love for this country is commendable and makes him worthy of citizenship.

## 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 Committee—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, December 8, 2005 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

## MEETINGS SCHEDULED

## DECEMBER 12

2:30 p.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine the Transportation Security Administration's new security procedures and changes to the prohibited items list.

SD-562

## DECEMBER 13

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services

To hold closed hearings to examine the nomination of Dorrance Smith, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.

SR-222

10 a.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Deborah Taylor Tate, of Tennessee, and Michael Joseph Copps, of Virginia, each to be a Member of the Federal Communications Commission.

SD-106

## DECEMBER 14

9 a.m.

Environment and Public Works

To hold hearings to examine the Environmental Protection Agency's spill

prevention control and countermeasure program.

SD-406

11 a.m.

Finance

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Antonio Fratto, of Pennsylvania, to be Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Public Affairs, David M. Spooner, of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Import Administration, Vincent J. Ventimiglia, Jr., of Maryland, to be Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services for Legislation, Richard T. Crowder, of Virginia, to be Chief Agricultural Negotiator, Office of the United States Trade Representative, with the rank of Ambassador, and Jeffrey Robert Brown, of Illinois, to be a Member of Social Security Advisory Board.

SD-215

## DECEMBER 15

10 a.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.

SD-106