

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2008

Mr. CONAWAY. Madam Speaker on rollcall No. 85, S. 2272—The “John ‘Marty’ Thiels Post Office” Designation Act, in honor and memory of Thiels, a Louisiana postal worker who was killed in the line of duty on October 4, 2007, I was unable to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea.”

A PROCLAMATION HONORING NORM GARY ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2008

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Mr. Gary has demonstrated values of hard work and service throughout his life, always maintaining a positive outlook; and
Whereas, Mr. Gary is recognized for 30 years of dedication to the Hocking County community; and

Whereas, Mr. Gary has impacted the lives of many while teaching residents skills that have helped them obtain employment; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That along with his friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I thank Norm Gary for his 30 years of service. We recognize the tremendous impact he has had in his community and in the lives of all of those people he has touched.

VALERO

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2008

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, on January 10, 1901 the world was introduced to the modern petroleum age. It was on this day in Jefferson County, Texas the Gladys City Oil, Gas, and Manufacturing Company discovered the largest oil reserve the world had ever seen. Ever since Jefferson County, Texas has been a leader in the oil and gas industry, fueling our nation's economy.

This tradition of leadership continues today with the recent announcement of Valero's Port Arthur Refinery \$2.4 billion expansion project.

Valero will be expanding their Port Arthur Refinery, becoming the 2nd largest refinery in Jefferson County, which is home to some of the largest refineries in the nation. When construction is complete, it will produce 415,000 barrels of per day. The Port Arthur refinery production resume includes conventional, premium and reformulated gasoline before oxy-

genate blending, as well as diesel, jet fuel, petrochemicals, petroleum coke and sulfur. This project will generate an economic boost to Southeast Texas by bringing in 2,000 jobs.

Valero is more than just an oil company, it is an active corporate citizen concerned about all aspects of the community where it resides. Both the corporation and employees alike are focused on the betterment of their community. With its 2007 pledge of \$13 million to the United Way Campaign, Valero is the only company that has received United Way's highest national honor, the Spirit of America Award, twice.

Valero also hosts the largest professional charity golf tournament in the country. The Valero Texas Open, which is an official PGA Tour event, and the associated Benefit for Children Golf Classic, which is Valero's own charity tournament, raised a record-breaking \$8 million for charities. That is the largest contribution of any tournament in the PGA Tour's history.

Employees give back both financially and through their time, last year employees donated 272,346 hours of time for countless community projects, including mentoring students, organizing fund-raisers, participating in clean-up events, volunteering at youth centers and much more.

I am proud to commend Valero for its corporate citizenship and commitment to communities not only in Southeast Texas but across the nation.

And that's just the way it is.

QIAOCHU YUAN CONGRATULATIONS

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2008

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, It gives me great pleasure to honor Qiaochu Yuan, a senior at Bellevue High School, for being named 1 of 40 finalists in the prestigious Intel Science Talent Search, STS—America's most prestigious research competition for high school seniors, often referred to as the “junior Nobel prize.”

Qiaochu submitted a mathematics project involving the complex and highly intellectual subject of algebraic geometry. His groundbreaking work may one day be used by future generations in the field of computer-aided design. On top of being named a finalist in the Intel STS, Qiaochu has excelled in his daily studies and will finish first in his graduating class of 334 this spring. Additionally, Qiaochu received a perfect score on his SAT test.

Qiaochu's persistent work ethic and truly remarkable accomplishments provide a wonderful example for his peers at Bellevue High School and other aspiring scientists and mathematicians around the country. I've been told Qiaochu is deciding whether to attend MIT or

Princeton next year. No matter where he takes his talent and intellect, he will surely continue to reach new heights and advance the boundaries of math and science.

TRIBUTE TO THE HARRISVILLE LIONS CLUB

HON. PHIL ENGLISH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2008

Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, today I rise to congratulate the members of the Harrisville Lions Club as they celebrate their 60th anniversary this year.

For over half a century, the Harrisville Lions Club has been dedicated to helping the less fortunate. As a Lions Club, the organization is part of the world's largest service organization with over 1.3 million members worldwide.

They have provided aid for those in need, whether it is helping local residents obtain eyeglasses or assisting families after disasters. The Club has been involved in several children's programs, including supporting a camp for local blind children and sponsoring a drug poster program aimed to raise awareness among elementary students of the problems associated with drug use.

I commend Harrisville club president, Lion Connie Rider, for her leadership and dedication to the organization. I'd also like to recognize Lion Leroy Montgomery, who at the age of 99, remains a very active member of the Harrisville Lions Club. I applaud Mr. Montgomery for his lifetime of dedication to helping the less fortunate in his community. His efforts have certainly not gone unnoticed.

I hope my colleagues will join me at this time in recognizing the accomplishments of these individuals as well as all of the other members of the Harrisville Lions Club. Congratulations on 60 years of service.

TRIBUTE TO DR. NICHOLAS NEUPAUER

HON. PHIL ENGLISH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2008

Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Dr. Nicholas Neupauer for his appointment as the 8th president of Butler County Community College, BC3.

Throughout his career, Dr. Neupauer has established himself as a leader in higher education. For the past 8 years he has worked at BC3, serving as vice president for academic affairs from 2004 to 2007 and as dean for humanities and social sciences from 1999 to 2004.

As vice president, Dr. Neupauer coordinated articulations and dual enrollments with three

• 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.

institutions as part of the LindenPointe project in addition to bringing five degree completion partners to Butler's main campus. As dean, he was instrumental in the development of the Praxis Preparation program, which has helped more than 3,000 students and attained a remarkable 95 percent passing rate since its introduction. Prior to his arrival at BC3, he chaired the Communication Department at Marist College where he created a sports communication degree and was recognized by the Office of Special Services for his efforts for students with disabilities.

Dr. Neupauer's contributions to Pennsylvania's Third Congressional District go beyond those made as an administrator and professor. Dr. Neupauer participates in many service activities, including United Way Day of Caring, Pittsburgh Area K-16 Council, and Butler P.M. Rotary. In the 2003-2004 school year, he was named an "Outstanding Service and Community Achievement" recipient for administrators at BC3.

I hope my colleagues will join me in congratulating Dr. Nicholas Neupauer and wishing him the best of luck in his new position as president of Butler County Community College. Pennsylvania's Third Congressional District is fortunate to have such a dedicated person to educate our youth and develop the future leaders of our district, State and Nation.

TRIBUTE TO THE REPUBLIC OF
KOREA

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2008

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I am proud to congratulate the Republic of Korea on the 89th anniversary of the March 1 Independence Movement against Japan's colonial rule.

It is especially fitting for Americans to join Koreans in celebrating this day. Many believe that the Fourteen Points, outlined by U.S. President Wilson at the Paris Peace Conference, helped to inspire the Samil Movement to protest against the restrictive Japanese government.

On March 1, 1919, hundreds of Koreans participated in peaceful rallies to promote liberation. Some were upset by the burdensome taxation system that often led to famine or slavery. Many Korean Christians, including entire churches, protested the strict religious regulations enforced by the Japanese.

Across the country, nationalist leaders simultaneously read the independence declaration out loud in public. These readings motivated thousands of demonstrators to join the cause of freedom, and the movement grew. The Japanese responded by killing thousands of protestors. In at least one case, Korean men were driven into a church and burned alive. However, it took the Japanese 12 months, and the assistance of the army and navy, to quell the uprising. In the end, the Japanese government was forced to adopt more lenient measures.

The United States has been proud to stand with the people of the Republic of Korea as they confronted oppression, solidified their democracy, and became part of the vibrant Asian economy. Even after independence is

gained, it must be carefully guarded. Brave citizens must be willing to sacrifice their lives in order to protect liberty. Just as both of our nations have struggled to survive after the initial moment of independence was earned, we must continue to foster the causes of freedom and democracy.

Again, I congratulate the Korean people on this historic celebration. This anniversary is a time to remember the sacrifices of the past, to take pride in your nation, and to look ahead to a future of promise.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2008

Mr. CONAWAY. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 86, H.R. 3936—The "Sgt. Jason Harkins Post Office" Designation Act, I was unable to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

MISSILES AND SATELLITES

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2008

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, starting in WWII the Army recognized a need for defense against the German's A4, the world's first ballistic missile. In that time the allies' only defense against the A4 was to destroy or occupy its launch site. Some accounts state that if the war lasted another year, the German Army would have had the technology to develop a ballistic missile that could reach New York City. During the war, General Sir Fredrick Pile, Chief of Britain's Anti-Aircraft command, developed a system using 12,000 rounds of anti-aircraft artillery with only 3 percent accuracy. We have since come a long way in missile defense.

During the Cold War spurred on by a continued threat to our soil, Ronald Reagan called "upon the scientific community, those who gave us nuclear weapons, to turn their great talents to the cause of mankind and world peace to give our country the means of rendering these nuclear weapons impotent and obsolete."

Our Nation was able to use this technology once again, as Reagan had intended to keep safe the citizens of not just the United States, but this time an unknown country that could have come in direct contact with a disabled spy satellite and its dangerous 1,000 pound tank full of hydrazine fuel.

This mission was to be precisely executed with a direct hit to bus sized satellite's heart, a fuel tank. Hydrazine fuel could be compared to ammonia and would be dangerous should the intact satellite land anywhere in the world near a populated area. The U.S. military did not take this mission lightly, taking every precaution to protect the unfortunate country that would have fallen victim to this freefalling piece of space junk. A Standard Missile 3, or SM-3, costs \$10 million and with another \$20 million spent on missile reconfiguration for this specific task, the project cost around \$30 million.

A broken down satellite does not float lazily 130 miles above the Pacific Ocean; it rockets through space at 17,000 miles per hour. The precision and timing have to be perfect to strike an object at such a great distance and speed. The SM-3 missile travels at around 6,000 miles per hour and was launched from the USS Lake Erie in the North Pacific. When the missile was fired at 10:26 p.m. Eastern Time, only 3 minutes elapsed until it hit its intended above atmosphere target. Approximately 10 minutes after the missile was launched it was confirmed "highly likely" that impact was made on the satellite's fuel tank. When the missile struck the satellite at a combined speed of 22,000 miles per hour there was a great burst. Marine General James Cartwright, vice-chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, took this burst as an 80-90 percent chance that the missile hit its intended target, the fuel tank, because the missile was not armed with a warhead.

This giant piece of metal and gas would have done major environmental and physical damage when it eventually found a landing pad on earth. However due to accurate military technology, and exact execution scientists are now monitoring 3,000 pieces of satellite, none larger than a football, that are all expected to burn up in the earth's atmosphere before they reach the earth's surface.

The U.S. military's innovation and ingenuity is unmatched in the world. This launch was an unprecedented real world test of the United States' missile defense system so extraordinary that defense secretary Robert Gates, not a lower ranking military official had to give the launch order. Secretary Gates said in response to the direct hit "I think the questions over whether this (missile defense system) capability works has been settled."

And that's just the way it is.

NORTHWEST KIDNEY CENTERS
SEATAC FACILITY

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2008

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to rise and congratulate Northwest Kidney Centers for the recent completion of their SeaTac facility. Located near the Seattle-Tacoma International Airport, the new facility provides additional medical surge capacity at a moment's notice to communities facing a major public health emergency.

With ever-increasing numbers of obese and diabetic Americans, organizations such as Northwest Kidney Centers offer an unparalleled number of services to patients in need of critical, advanced care. Hundreds of dialysis staff and nephrologists are equipped and prepared for any emergency, and the new facility's innovative design allows additional dialysis stations to be activated at any time. The new facility will no doubt play an integral role in the lives of countless Northwest residents who depend on kidney therapy to live quality lives—and to enable them to spend more time with their families and friends.

The new Northwest Kidney Centers' SeaTac Facility is a perfect example of a successful State and Federal partnership, and it will be a significant asset to our communities. All of us

in the Northwest can take pride in knowing that the SeaTac facility is a model for the rest of the country to follow.

CONGRATULATING ATTORNEY JOSEPH M. COSGROVE UPON RECEIVING THE W. FRANCIS SWINGLE AWARD FROM THE GREATER PITTSSTON FRIENDLY SONS OF ST. PATRICK

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2008

Mr. KANJORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Attorney Joseph M. Cosgrove, a native of Pittston, PA, who has been honored by the Greater Pittston Friendly Sons of St. Patrick with the W. Francis Swingle Award for 2008.

Attorney Cosgrove is a graduate of St. John's High School and the University of Notre Dame and its law school in South Bend, IN. He received a master's degree in theology from Notre Dame's graduate school and a master of arts degree from Marywood University.

Attorney Cosgrove was admitted to practice law in Pennsylvania and the Federal court system including the United States Supreme Court. In 2005, he was appointed to the Lawyers Advisory Committee of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit on the nomination of the Honorable Max Rosenn. He serves as conflict counsel for the Luzerne County Court of Common Pleas and is engaged in the private practice of law with offices in Forty Fort, PA.

Attorney Cosgrove served two terms as president of the Luzerne County Law and Library Association and is immediate past president of the statewide Pennsylvania Association of Criminal Defense Attorneys. As president of the county bar, some accomplishments include recognition of the importance of a local case that made history through a U.S. Supreme Court decision 70 years ago. The case, *Erie v. Tompkins*, involved a railroad accident in Hughestown where local resident Harry Tompkins was injured. Through Attorney Cosgrove's efforts, the Luzerne County Bar and the New York City Bar will conduct a special seminar in New York in September. In addition, Attorney Cosgrove created "Maysie's Bike Program," based on Harry Tompkins' promise to his niece, Maysie Cochran. In honor of that promise, the bar now awards bicycles to locally needy children and is establishing a children's pro bono representation project in Maysie's name.

Attorney Cosgrove has also worked extensively in the local educational field, having served on the Pittston Area School Board for one term and is currently a member of the board of trustees for Marywood University in Scranton. In addition to this, Attorney Cosgrove has been an adjunct faculty member at King's College for more than 20 years and is currently a member of the selection committee for dean of the Wilkes University Law School initiative. He also serves on the ethics committee at Misericordia University.

Attorney Cosgrove is a former chair of the Luzerne County Election Board where he

served three appointed terms. He is also a member of the Screen Actors Guild, AFL/CIO, and has appeared in several motion pictures. He also had a recurring role on NBC-TV's hit show, "The West Wing."

While an undergraduate student at the University of Notre Dame in the late 1970s, he served as "The Leprechaun," the university's sports mascot. During his tenure, the "Fighting Irish" were football national champions, and their basketball team reached the "Final Four."

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Attorney Cosgrove on this auspicious occasion. The W. Francis Swingle Award is intended to honor those who distinguish themselves by honoring their Irish heritage and who commit themselves to a high level of community service. In that context, Attorney Cosgrove's selection for this award is indeed well deserved.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING HAROLD AND DIANE KEESEE ON RECEIVING THE ANGELS IN ADOPTION AWARD

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2008

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Harold and Diane Keesee are recognized for receiving the Angels in Adoption Award, and

Whereas, Mr. and Mrs. Keesee are an asset to our community and have been fostering children for seventeen years, and

Whereas, Mr. and Mrs. Keesee have made a difference in those lives that enter their home, and

Whereas, Mr. and Mrs. Keesee exemplify the spirit of selflessness and giving through their extraordinary work in child welfare: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That along with their friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I commend Harold and Diane Keesee on their contributions and service to children in Tuscarawas and Guernsey Counties. Congratulations to Harold and Diane Keesee on receiving the Angels in Adoption Award.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2008

Mr. CONAWAY. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 87, The "Iraq and Afghanistan Fallen Military Heroes of Louisville Memorial Post Office" Designation Act, in honor of the service men and women from Louisville, Kentucky, who died in service during Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom, I was unable to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

A PHONE CALL IS PRICELESS . . .

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2008

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize Cell Phones for Soldiers, a non-profit, charitable organization founded by two teenagers, Robbie and Brittany Bergquist, from Norwell, Massachusetts. True patriots, Robbie and Brittany Bergquist, recognized the fact that many of our soldiers are spending a tremendous amount of money on cell phone bills to stay connected to their families. They implemented a simple plan to help soldiers call home: Collect used cell phones, recycle them for cash, and use the money to buy prepaid calling cards to send overseas to our military. Through a network of more than 3,000 collection sites across the country, they have raised almost \$1 million in donations and distributed more than 400,000 prepaid calling cards to soldiers.

Across my district, I have witnessed patriotic Americans helping military families cope through difficult times. I would like to commend patriot Dave Kilby with the Greater Humble Area Chamber of Commerce for doing his part in helping our soldiers overseas. Four years ago, Dave Kilby approached the Greater Humble Area Chamber of Commerce with the idea for the chamber to become one of the central drop off sites for Cell Phones for Soldiers. This extraordinary group of chamber members began promoting and challenging members to recycle used cell phones. Soon thereafter, collection boxes were then placed in schools, churches, and private businesses. Over 10,000 used cell phones have been collected throughout the second district of Texas on behalf of Cell Phones for Soldiers program.

Dave Kilby recalls one exceptional event held on behalf of Cell Phone for Soldiers at the Houston Astro's Minute Maid Park. Cell Phones for Soldiers Day at the park brought Robbie and Brittany Bergquist along with their family to Houston. They donated 27,000 phone cards to Col. Lanny B. McNeely, Commander of the 147th Fighter Wing stationed at Ellington Field. Col. McNeely was able to deliver those cards to troops in Iraq.

The Greater Humble Area Chamber of Commerce continues to be the designated drop site for Cell Phone for Soldiers. Dave Kilby's collections net approximately 100 phones a month. I hope that all of us recognize the significant ways in which we can strengthen our Nation's Armed Forces. I applaud the efforts of the great State of Texas. And that's just the way it is.

HONORING MARGARET WEINBERG

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2008

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing Mrs. Margaret "Midge" Weinberg for her public service to the Germantown community.

Since joining the Maternal League in 1986, Mrs. Weinberg has been greatly involved with caring for young mothers and their babies by

making it her mission to help teenage mothers learn effective parenting skills through the Maternal League's successful Sunshine program. Serving as corresponding secretary, historian and parliamentarian, Midge has been indispensable to the efforts of the League and has proven time and time again her ability to avert any crisis with her quick thinking and calm presence.

When she's not dedicating her time to the Maternal League you can often find Mrs. Weinberg serving as co-chair of "This Side Up," teaching safe sleeping practices to caregivers of newborns, as well as serving on the boards of Bethany Home, The Parenting Center and LeBonheur Club.

In culmination of all her community efforts, Margaret Weinberg has been recognized by the Germantown Lions Club as their Citizen of the Year for 2007. Her experience and leadership make her an invaluable member of the Germantown community and a shining example for others to follow.

Please join me in honoring Margaret Weinberg and wishing her the best on this well-deserved award.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2008

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I was voting in the Texas Democratic Primary and missed the votes on:

H.R. 1143, To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to lease certain lands in Virgin Islands National Park (Rollcall 88). Although H.R. 1143 passed by a vote of 378-0, I respectfully request the opportunity to record my position. Had I been present I would have voted "yea" on Rollcall 88.

H.R. 1311, To direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey the Alta-Hualapai Site to the city of Las Vegas, Nevada, for the development of a cancer treatment facility (Rollcall 89). Although H.R. 1311 passed by a vote of 377-0, I respectfully request the opportunity to record my position. Had I been present I would have voted "yea" on Rollcall 89.

H.R. 816, To provide for the release of certain land from the Sunrise Mountain Instant Study Area in the State of Nevada and to grant a right-of-way across the released land for the construction and maintenance of a flood control project (Rollcall 90). Although H.R. 816 passed by a vote of 375-0, I respectfully request the opportunity to record my position. Had I been present I would have voted "yea" on Rollcall 90.

Again, I express my full support for these important pieces of legislation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RIC KELLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2008

Mr. KELLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I have remained in Orlando, Florida with my wife and our new daughter who was born on Monday, March 3rd. If I had been present yes-

terday, I would have voted in the following manner: rollcall 88: "yea"; rollcall 89: "yea"; rollcall 90: "yea."

A PROCLAMATION HONORING LADY BAESMAN ON HER RE- CEIPT OF THE OUTSTANDING ADVOCACY VOLUNTEER AWARD

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2008

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Lady Baesman is appreciated for her dedication and contributions to the American Cancer Society; and

Whereas, she has been a volunteer for the American Cancer Society since 1956; and

Whereas, she has fought for numerous improvements and has been successful in many of her campaigns; and

Whereas, her efforts have been recognized through the Capitol Dome Award, which is the highest nationwide advocacy award given at the state level each year; and

Whereas, she has served the organization and her community selflessly and tirelessly: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That along with his friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I commend Lady Baesman on her contributions to the American Cancer Society. Congratulations to Lady Baesman on her receipt of the Outstanding Advocacy Volunteer Award.

RECOGNIZING CARLOS K. HAYDEN

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2008

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, Elmer Davis once said "this nation will remain the land of the free, only so long as it is the home of the brave." Standing as a testament to Mr. Davis' statement are courageous Veterans like Atascocita resident Carlos K. Hayden. Born into a family with generations of soldiers, he always harbored aspirations to serve his country. Throughout his 35 year military career, Carlos K. Hayden bravely fought to uphold the liberties that we are able to today as a Nation hold dear.

Hayden was commissioned as a second lieutenant on June 17, 1941. Just a week later, he was on active duty with the 1st Armored Division, 68th Field Artillery Battalion. While fighting in Tunisia under the command of General George S. Patton he served as a forward observer. He even had the fortune of meeting Gen. Patton while overlooking a battlefield. During WWII he served 5 years of active duty, 3 in North Africa, and 2 in Italy.

When Carlos K. Hayden retired from the military in 1976 he had attained the rank of Brigadier General. The evidence of his brave 35 year career is illustrated through his many commendations. They include the Purple Heart, the Silver Star with Oak Leaf Cluster, a Bronze Star with Valor, a Presidential Unit Citation and Six Battle Stars. The Battle Stars were awarded for his service in Tunisia,

Naples, Foggia, Rome-Arno, Anzio, North Apennines and the Po Valley. He also received the Texas DAR Metal of Honor, and the Ohio State University Distinguished Service Award. As a result of Hayden's impressive vocation; he was inducted into the Army ROTC hall of fame.

Now at the age of 90, Carlos continues to serve the community and commemorate his time as a military serviceman. He returned to the battlefields in Tunisia on the 50th anniversary of its liberation. With other members of the 1st Armored Division, they retraced their 1940's route. In 2008, Hayden is serving his third term as the president of the 1st Armored Division's national association. For the Military Order of the Purple Heart, he is also the senior Vice Commander of chapter 782.

Abiding with the generational service to their country, Carlos K. Hayden's Grandson Army Captain Jeff Sharpe recently returned from a second tour in Iraq. Evidence that America is still "the home of the brave."

And that's just the way it is.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2008

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to explain my absence from votes cast on March 4, 2008. I was in Houston for the Texas primary election.

On rollcall vote No. 88, to approve H.R. 1143, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

On rollcall vote No. 89, to approve H.R. 1311, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

On rollcall vote No. 90, to approve H.R. 816, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

A PROCLAMATION HONORING THE PRO MUSKINGUM FAMILY AND CHILDREN FIRST

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2008

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Pro Muskingum Family and Children First has been selected to receive the Ohio Department of Education's 2007 Asset Builder Award for Exemplary Practices to a Community Organization; and

Whereas, Pro Muskingum Family and Children First is enhancing the quality of life in Muskingum County and are attracting families and businesses to the region; and

Whereas, areas such as family strengthening, promoting education, developing leaders within the community are being addressed by the organization: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That along with his friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate you on receiving the Ohio Department of Education's 2007 Asset Builder Award. With great appreciation and respect, we recognize the tremendous impact the Pro Muskingum Family and Children First has had on the community.

BRITAIN RETURNS TO THE DARK AGES

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2008

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, in the Dark Ages, King Henry VIII left the Catholic church because it would not permit his multiple marriages. Well, Britain is heading back to the Dark Ages. The more wives a British male has, the more benefits he will receive under welfare. This new policy will really only benefit Muslim extremist men, who keep a harem of 4 wives.

The Archbishop of Canterbury suggested that Britain appease Muslim extremists so that they would not have to choose loyalty between Islam and Britain. Tell this to the British soldiers, who are fighting Muslim extremists in Iraq, while their own government rewards Muslim extremists at home. It seems that the real extremists are Britain's own leaders, who have gone too far in the name of political correctness.

Religious law cannot overrule the law of the land. We cannot make exceptions to appease an individual group.

The great Winston Churchill once said, "Never give in, never . . . never give in except to convictions of honor and good sense." I'm sure Winston Churchill is turning in his grave.

And that's just the way it is.

BIPARTISAN CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO NATO PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY MEETINGS AND SOUTHEASTERN EUROPE

HON. JOHN S. TANNER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2008

Mr. TANNER. Madam Speaker, I recently led a bipartisan House delegation to NATO Parliamentary Assembly meetings in Brussels and Paris, and to additional meetings in Croatia, the Republic of Macedonia (or Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, FYROM), and Albania from February 16–24. The co-chair of my delegation was the Honorable JO ANN EMERSON. In addition, Representatives CAROLYN MCCARTHY, ELLEN TAUSCHER, DENNIS MOORE, JEFF MILLER, MIKE ROSS, and BEN CHANDLER, and staff, worked to make this a highly successful trip in which we examined current NATO issues, above all the coming decision at the NATO summit in Bucharest on possible enlargement of the alliance.

The NATO Parliamentary Assembly (NPA) consists of members of parliament from the 26 NATO states, as well as members of parliament from associated states such as Russia, Georgia, Ukraine, Croatia, Albania, and Macedonia. During NPA meetings delegates discuss and debate a range of issues of current importance to the alliance. At the February meetings, three issues dominated the discussions: enlargement of the alliance, Afghanistan, and developments in Kosovo. Delegates have the opportunity to listen to presentations by specialists from NATO and on NATO affairs, and to engage in discussion of

the issues raised. An additional element of the meetings is the opportunity to meet and come to know members of parliaments who play important foreign-policy roles in their own countries. Some of these acquaintances can last the duration of a career, and are invaluable for gaining insight into the developments of allied states.

Enlargement is one of the key issues before the alliance today. NATO will hold a summit in Bucharest April 2–4. Croatia, Albania, and Macedonia are candidate states, and each must receive unanimous support from all 26 allied governments in order for it to receive an invitation to join. From that point, each member state will follow its own constitutional processes to amend NATO's founding Washington Treaty to admit new states and to make a commitment to defend additional territory. There must again be unanimous support in this process for a candidate if it is to be admitted to membership. The alliance is still at an early stage, therefore, in considering the applications for membership of these three countries. Congress will hold hearings on the qualifications of the three states, and the United States and other allies will expect them to continue to work to meet NATO requirements under their Membership Action Plans (MAPs).

Our delegation also held discussions over NATO's effort to stabilize Afghanistan. It is clear, as Secretary of Defense Gates himself reportedly noted on February 8, that U.S. involvement in Iraq has damaged the effort to persuade allies to send forces to Afghanistan. European public criticism of the Iraq conflict has made more difficult our allies' task of persuading parliaments to contribute more troops to Afghanistan. The United States now contributes approximately 15,000 troops to NATO's International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), and will soon send 3,200 additional Marines to compensate for shortfalls in allied forces in the fight against a resurgent Taliban. This is a highly important mission in the effort to stem the growth of fanaticism and barbarism that remains a threat to civilized peoples everywhere. Each of us in the delegation made an effort to persuade our counterparts from the NATO parliaments to support ISAF and to contribute the forces necessary to stabilize Afghanistan.

Kosovo declared independence on February 17. Our delegation arrived for meetings in Brussels the day before, and reaction in southeastern Europe to the decision to place Kosovo under the EU's "supervised independence" was a principal topic of discussion. The United States and most allies quickly followed with recognition of Kosovo's new status and urged its continued development as a democratic, multi-ethnic state. NATO's Kosovo Force (KFOR), of whom approximately 1,500 are U.S. soldiers, continues to provide security and is an important factor for stabilization in the current tension between Kosovo Albanians and the Serb minority in the north of the country. With the assistance of our embassies, the delegation closely followed developments in Kosovo throughout the trip.

While in Brussels, we met first with Ambassador Nuland, the U.S. permanent representative to NATO. She provided a briefing and responded to our questions on a wide range of issues. There followed two days of meetings of the NPA's Economics and Security, Defense and Security, and Political Committees. The meetings raised such issues as NATO's

political agenda, the effectiveness of the alliance's public diplomacy efforts, and a possible new Strategic Concept, which would lay out NATO's mission and goals for the coming several years.

We also held a private meeting with NATO Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer. Afghanistan and public support for ISAF were important topics of discussion, as was Kosovo. De Hoop Scheffer offered to come to Washington to meet with Members of Congress in the near future, and this is an idea worthy of consideration. There was also a "brainstorming" session at NATO headquarters, attended by Representatives ROSS, MOORE, and MILLER. Representative ROSS made a forceful presentation outlining the importance of the ISAF mission, and of allies making a fair share of the contributions to NATO forces in Afghanistan. The rest of the delegation attended a meeting of the North Atlantic Council, the alliance's governing body, comprised of representatives from the 26 member states. A range of issues—Russia, energy security, Kosovo, and Afghanistan among them—was discussed. We ended the day at NATO headquarters with a meeting with U.S. General Karl Eikenberry, who is the deputy head of NATO's Military Committee; he was also formerly commander of NATO forces in Afghanistan. He briefed the delegation on the effort to defeat the Taliban, and on the complexities of the political situation in Pakistan that is affecting Afghanistan's stability.

The delegation held meetings at the European Commission the following day. As chairman of the NPA's Economics and Security Committee, I presided over some interesting meetings on trade and the international economy. A highlight of the day was an exceptional presentation by the EU's Director General for trade, David O'Sullivan, who gave a lively presentation and concise overview of the principal points of controversy in the Doha round of trade talks, and in broader trade issues.

The delegation then traveled to Paris for meetings at the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). After a brief session with our ambassador to the OECD and his staff, I chaired sessions at the OECD on a number of issues. The global economy, Russia's economic practices and potential, and the value of education in economic development were key subjects of discussion. That evening we met with members of the French-American Foundation, together with our ambassador to France and a number of members of the French parliament who are in the French-American caucus.

The following day the delegation traveled to Zagreb, Croatia, for the beginning of meetings with candidate state governments for membership in the alliance. Serbian reactions to Kosovo's independence and recognition by many governments had set the region on edge. The U.S. embassy in Belgrade, Serbia, was attacked on February 21, as were the Slovenian and Croatian embassies there. U.S. Ambassador to Croatia Robert Bradtke accompanied us during much of our stay in Croatia and kept us up to date on developments in Belgrade and on the safety of U.S. personnel at our embassy there. He also briefed us on Croatia's efforts to qualify for NATO membership.

While in Zagreb, we met with Prime Minister Sanader, President Mesić, and other senior officials. We were interested in discovering the

progress that Croatia has made in military modernization and in other aspects of the program outlined for the country in the MAP. That evening Ambassador Bradtke arranged for us to meet with members of the Croatian parliament, including opposition figures and key members of the foreign policy and defense committees, as well as independent voices in Croatia. This meeting allowed us to hear a wide range of views beyond those in the government, and added to our ability to evaluate Croatia's progress in the MAP. There is a consensus that significant progress has been made over the past several years. A key issue was the relatively low level of public support—somewhat over 50%—in the population for NATO membership, a figure that appears to be climbing. There must also continue to be progress made in the fight against corruption.

The following day we flew first to the Republic of Macedonia (FYROM), then to Albania. In Macedonia, our ambassador gave us a briefing that touched on several issues of relevance. The delegation then proceeded to meetings with Macedonian President Cervenkovski, Prime Minister Gruevski, and other senior officials, including General Stojanovski, the chief of defense forces. The internal political situation in the country remains complicated and unsettled, and issues range well beyond ethnic divisions in the country. Macedonian troops serve in NATO operations in Afghanistan, Iraq, and Bosnia-Herzegovina, and we met several soldiers who had returned from assignments there. A key issue in NATO is the formal name of the country, and there are continuing discussions with Greece to attempt to reach a compromise under U.N.-sponsored talks. We are hopeful that Skopje and Athens can reach a settlement of this issue, and that Macedonia's candidacy for NATO can be judged solely on its qualifications under the MAP.

In Albania we met with President Topi and with Prime Minister Berisha. We also met with members of parliament from both the governing parties and the opposition. We were accompanied throughout our meetings by U.S. Ambassador Withers, who provided an overview of developments in Albania. There are conflicting views on the depth of the problem caused by organized crime and corruption in Albania, and this was one issue raised in our discussions with government officials. While laws have been passed to fight crime and corruption, it may be useful for Congress in the coming months to examine the degree to which such legislation has been implemented. It should be said that Albania, although a poor country, by all accounts has made progress in downsizing and modernizing its military.

The Serbian reaction to Kosovo's independence time and again surfaced during our meetings. In the coming months, we are likely to see a range of ideas raised for and against the possible membership of the "Adriatic 3" in the alliance. These are small countries with correspondingly small militaries; they must concentrate on niche capabilities to make a contribution to allied security, and each is making progress along this road. Given the continuing tensions in the region in part brought on by Serbia's reaction to Kosovo's independence, proponents of the three governments' candidacies are likely to argue that their developing democracies and contributions to multinational, cooperative efforts to bring stability are factors in their favor. These

are issues that my delegation and other Members of Congress will be considering in the coming months.

As always, members of the United States military contributed greatly to the success of this trip. The logistics of such a trip, compressed into a tight time frame, are complicated and require lengthy and detailed preparation. Our crew was from the 932nd Air Wing at Scott AFB, Illinois. This is an Air Force Reserve unit, and they did an outstanding job. I thank them for their hard work and their dedication to duty.

TRIBUTE TO MIKE ADAMS, GERALD HAYS, AND MARCEL SHIPP

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2008

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, I would like to call your attention the lives of three fellow natives of my hometown, Paterson, New Jersey, Mike Adams, Gerald Hayes, and Marcel Shipp, who will be honored this evening by the Murph Boys Charitable Association, not only for their impressive athletic achievements, but for all they have done for others in need.

Each of these men began his journey in Paterson, New Jersey, and attended the same high school, Passaic County Technical Institute, PCTI, in Wayne.

In his career at PCTI, Adams earned all-state honors, as well as all-area and all-county, and was chosen as one of the top 100 players in New Jersey. He was outgoing and well-rounded, also lettering in track and baseball. He is remembered at PCTI for his tenacity and perseverance, overcoming many obstacles to succeed. He took this "can-do" attitude to the University of Delaware, where he started 23 of 43 career games, and posted 213 tackles, 11 interceptions, and 14 PBU, and ranks 11th in school history in interceptions. He entered the NFL in 2004 as an undrafted free agent and signed with the San Francisco 49ers. He made his NFL debut in November 2004 and by the next year appeared in 14 games. In 2005 he started 10 games, posting 68 tackles, a sack, a forced fumble, and tied for the team lead with four interceptions. In 2006 he started eight games and played in all 16, recording 67 tackles, three PBU, and 12 special teams tackles. After 3 years in San Francisco he signed as a free agent with the Cleveland Browns, recording 29 tackles, a sack, and two PBU in 2007 before a knee injury placed him on injured reserve.

During his time as a PCTI Bulldog, Gerald Hayes impressed coaches from the start and was a 4-year varsity player. He was a dominating player on the field, and off the field, won numerous awards in fine arts, and his pencil drawings were displayed in galleries throughout the State. He went on to play college football at Pittsburgh, and was a three-time first-team all-Big East selection. His career statistics at Pittsburgh include 387 tackles, 13.5 sacks, nine pass deflections, and two interceptions. He was chosen in the third round of the 2003 draft by the Cardinals, and by 2004 he saw action in every 2004 game, and was poised to start in 2005 before suf-

fering a season-ending injury in the pre-season. He made his return in 2006, starting 14 games, leading the team in tackles with 111, despite missing the last two games with an injury. He had another successful season in 2007, with 98 tackles, four sacks, an interception, and three passes deflected.

Shipp was a quiet unassuming leader while at PCTI. He knew what he wanted to achieve and worked hard to reach his goal. He was an all-state selection as a senior, running for 1,510 yards and 24 touchdowns on 172 carries. Shipp then played 1 year at Milford Academy Prep, gaining 3,239 yards and 42 touchdowns on 429 carries. He then went on to the University of Massachusetts and is one of the school's most decorated athletes. He was the 6th ranked rusher in the history of NCAA Division 1-AA, with 5,383 yards. He gained over 100 yards 33 times, including 7 200-yard efforts. He holds UMass career records with 1,215 carries for 6,250 yards, 58 touchdowns, 378 points, and 7,759 all purpose yards. He signed in 2001 with the Arizona Cardinals as an undrafted free agent and as a rookie played in 10 games. He ended 2002 with 1,247 total yards, on 226 touches, a 5.5-yard average that was 2nd in the NFC. In 2003 he shared running back duties with Emmitt Smith until an injury sidelined Smith, and Shipp started the final 11 games. He gained 830 yards on 228 carries. He was the first Cardinal since 1992 to log back-to-back 100-yard games. He missed the 2004 season with an injury, but came back in 2005 to lead the team in rushing with 451 yards on 157 attempts. In 2006 he finished the season with four rushing touchdowns in the final four games and became the first Cardinal to rush for three touchdowns in one game since 1998.

What is most special about these three men is not what they achieve on the field, but what they do off of it. They all dedicate time and financial support to help those who are in need through charitable endeavors. Never taking their success for granted, they look for ways to make their communities a better place to live.

The job of a United States Congressman involves much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to being able to recognize the charitable community efforts of Americans like Mr. Adams, Mr. Hayes, and Mr. Shipp.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, everyone at Passaic County Technical Institute, all those who have been touched by the generosity of these men, and me in recognizing the outstanding contributions of Mike Adams, Gerald Hayes, and Marcel Shipp to their communities.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING ZANE STATE COLLEGE FOR ITS INCLUSION IN WASHINGTON MONTHLY'S LIST OF THE TOP 30 COMMUNITY COLLEGES

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2008

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Zane State College is ranked ninth among two-year colleges in the nation according to a report released by Washington Monthly; and

Whereas, the results are based on graduation rates and on student feedback as collected in the Community College Survey of Student Engagement (CCSSE); and

Whereas, Zane State College has used student feedback in a successful effort to satisfy students' needs: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That along with his friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I commend and thank Zane State College for its outstanding service to students, families, and the Zanesville community. Congratulations to Zane State College on its ranking as number nine among two-year colleges in the U.S.

RECOGNIZING SERGEANT
FRESHOUR

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2008

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, a hero is someone that accomplishes great things for others without seeking glory for themselves. Heroes don't identify themselves with this title and try to shrug off accolades by living a life of strong character and silent modesty. We pass by many heroes throughout our lives and don't even realize it because they hide their true identities behind humble titles such as dad and grandpa.

Sgt. David F. Freshour is a hero from the Second Congressional District of Texas. He recently passed away on Monday, February 18, 2008. He was a World War II veteran and a member of the 15th Air Force, 451st Bomb Group Heavy, 725th Squadron stationed in Italy.

Sgt. Freshour's once described to me some of his fondest memories of military service. He repaired and maintained heavy bombers, specifically the B-24 "flying boxcars." His overseas tour of duty began when his squadron was shipped over to Europe in the hold of a Liberty Ship. After 25 days in a convoy, they disembarked in Naples, Italy. During this time, the U.S. Infantry was still fighting the Germans on the west side of Italy just north of Naples.

According to Sgt. Freshour, his convoy leader got confused and led the squadrons north instead of east. They soon realized their mistake when they began to hear the bombardment of ground troops. The convoy leader turned them around and led them over the mountains to the east.

When they arrived, the base was not ready. They were then taken to a temporary location that they used for two months until the runway was so badly damaged that they had to move to another base in the south. They finally got to their final location on a plateau that overlooked Foggia Airbase occupied by the British Air Force.

Their primitive base consisted of canvas tents, some of which were located in an olive grove. There was no way to heat the tents and their January arrival was in the middle of a cold Italian winter.

Five other soldiers shared a tent along with Sgt. Freshour and they all decided that this was to be their house for the duration of their military service unless "Axis Sally" fulfilled her promise to bomb them out of existence.

Instead of complaining about their circumstances, Sgt. Freshour and five other sol-

diery took it upon themselves to improve their rustic living conditions. They borrowed a truck and went to Foggia Airbase where they loaded it with stones from bombed out buildings and brought them back. A member of the group spoke some Italian and managed to hire local laborers to pour a concrete base for their house.

Another member of the group was a construction worker and he supervised the roof and window installation. The man was so much of a perfectionist during the construction process that one time Sgt. Freshour had to cut one-eighth of an inch off a six-inch wooden board.

Military men are known for being very resourceful and Freshour's group proved that by completing numerous projects with very limited resources. They built a stove which heated their new home using 1/3 of a 55-gallon steel barrel and with copper tubing from a gasoline drum.

Their efforts inspired a building boom in the area. Most of the ground crew, air crew and officers built houses instead of living in tents.

Their enthusiasm in building extended into a desire for a permanent mess hall. Thinking about entertainment opportunities in the future, Freshour, along with several other men, began building a mess hall with a large stage to be the main focus of attention for the diners. The smart men used trusses for roof support instead of posts so that the soldiers' view of the stage would not be blocked. The stage had a curtain made of aircraft cotton and canvas on each side with murals painted by a Canadian air crew member. The stage was often used as the site for USO shows.

A kitchen which included a steam table was also built inside the mess hall. The steam table didn't improve the food much, according to Freshour, but the mess sergeants tried. The finished mess hall was a proud display of American craftsmanship. During an inspection by Major General Nathan Twining, he said the mess hall was the finest in the 15th Air Force.

As a member of the air maintenance crew, one of Freshour's main jobs was replacing fuel cells damaged by anti-aircraft flack. The plates covering the cell had thousands of small screws and the only thing they had to use was a small hand drill to remove and replace them.

Sgt. Freshour was additionally assigned as crew chief of a radar ship that was used as a lead ship to drop bombs when targets were obscured by clouds. It was sometimes used for rare night missions.

There was also a guard group assigned to patrol the planes at night. One time, some of the guards got into a plane and played a prank on the crew by cutting out the parachute nylon and replaced them with rags. When the crew found these chutes, they were so furious that the officers were afraid a war would break out. The guards were removed that day.

Sgt. Freshour and his fellow soldiers became the replacement guards. They were issued ammo for their carbines and spent the night on patrol protecting the planes and keeping the other guards and flight crew from killing each other over the parachute prank.

Freshour recalled that the day Germany surrendered; the American troops put all of the planes on the base in the air for a great fly over. The end of the war in Europe was good news because it meant that they were on their way home. They returned on a fast troop ship that arrived in America in a little over six days as opposed to the usual 35-day convoy.

One day, while on the ship, Sgt. Freshour was emptying a trashcan overboard when he ran into his good friend from his neighborhood back home. He had been a radio man on a B-24. It was a rare chance encounter seeing a close friend thousands of miles from home.

After returning to the U.S., Freshour was not yet able to immediately leave the military because the war in Japan was raging. He was assigned to an air transport squadron in Presque Isle, Maine. The ground crew they replaced had been there all throughout the war, but since they had been stationed state-side, their everyday lives were completely different from Freshour and his squadron because they had cars, part-time jobs and their wives in the same location.

While stateside, Sgt. Freshour was Charge Quarter on night duty. He had the job of waking the air crews up and leading them to the planes that were going to the war in the Pacific. As soon as Japan surrendered, they were discharged and Sgt. Freshour reentered civilian life.

Sgt. Freshour married Doris and together they had four children: Karen, David, Sue and Denise.

As a U.S. Representative, one of the most honorable things I have the privilege of doing is recognizing American heroes of past wars such as Sgt. David F. Freshour, for their honorable actions. On August 5, 2006, I presented him with medals and citations that he had earned more than 60 years earlier for his service during World War II but had never received. I presented him with the Presidential Unit Citation, the Good Conduct Medal, the Honorable Service Lapel Button WWII, the American Campaign Medal, the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign, and the World War II Victory Medal in a ceremony at First Presbyterian Church of Kingwood.

It was an honor to finally recognize an American hero. Our country owes a debt of gratitude towards those who fought and won World War II. We owe our lives and our liberty to "The Greatest Generation" of our time. The courage and sacrifice of the members of the United States Armed Forces and of the military forces of the Allied Powers who served valiantly to rescue the Pacific nations from tyranny and aggression should always be remembered.

Our Nation is safer, stronger and better because of the sacrifice of Sgt. David F. Freshour and the thousands of other World War II veterans. Though his light here on earth has extinguished, his sacrifice has made America's lantern of liberty burn brighter.

Thank you, Sgt. Freshour for being a loving father, a caring grandfather and a great American.

And that's just the way it is.

IN MEMORY OF CLYDE WALKER,
JR.

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2008

Mr. PICKERING. Madam Speaker, Clyde Walker, Jr. served as the chief of the Collinsville Volunteer Fire Department for more than 35 years. The fire department was his life, and his love of volunteering and serving others

showed drastically through his contributions to the department.

Clyde had two major goals for the department and was extremely fundamental in obtaining both for the Collinsville community. First was to receive a Federal grant to purchase a combination brush and rescue truck. After three years of perseverance, including letters and phone calls, the grant was received. The second goal was to build a new fire station. Clyde inspired the community to give financial donations, time, and materials. A building estimated to cost from \$60,000 to \$80,000 was built, and when the volunteers moved in, they owed only \$4,000. The new station was complete with 4 bays, a kitchen and meeting area, and a room for sleeping quarters and storage space. Clyde accomplished two major feats that would drastically improve the operations of the fire department.

The amount of love and respect that the Collinsville community has for Clyde showed immensely in one of the most trying times, his death. The family asked that donations be made to the department to help pay off the final debt. So far, more than \$7,000 has been donated. Not only is this enough to pay off the final note, but also they plan to have a dedication service for the new fire department.

Clyde served his community as an active member of Collinsville First Baptist Church. There he served as a deacon, Sunday school director, as well as on various committees. He was a charter member of the Collinsville Lions Club and a member of the Collinsville Community Development Club. Clyde also served as the director of the Lauderdale County Welfare Department until he retired in the 90s.

He was married to Ellen Walker for 49 years, and they have three children. Their son Randy is married to Jo Ann, and they have two daughters. Their other son, Ricky, is married to Chris, and they have two sons. Their daughter Renee is married to Max, and they have a son and daughter. Randy, Ricky, and Ricky's oldest son, Davey, are all volunteers with the fire department.

Madam Speaker, I hope the Congress joins me in remembering Clyde Walker for a lifetime of service. His contributions will be remembered by all who knew him. Clyde will be greatly missed, but his legacy will live on through his family, friends, and especially the Collinsville Volunteer Fire Department.

HONORING THE EASTRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL LANCERS VARSITY CHEERLEADING TEAM

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2008

Mr. WALSH of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today in tribute to the Eastridge High School Varsity Cheerleaders, 2008 Reach the Beach National Cheerleading Competition Grand Champions. The Eastridge High School Lancers Cheerleaders won first place in their division, and were named Grand Champions for earning the highest total score in a very competitive field of 400 teams.

On behalf of the people of New York's 25th Congressional District, I congratulate these young women on their outstanding athletic achievement and praise head coach Ashlee

Arberger on her team's success. I look forward to another successful and exciting year when the Lancers defend their title in 2009.

Team members are: Catherine Andolina, Taylor Baker, Makaila Danizio, Niner Davis, Areli Diaz, Nicole Fanelli, Rebecca Junco, Cristina Magliocchetti, Christina Maniaci, Shelby Millen, Marissa Pixley, Abigail Prodrick, Latoya Sanders, Ali Scrimenti, Leah Scrimenti, Taniqua Spencer, and Marshay Williams.

HONORING INDIANA STATE SENATOR DAVID C. FORD

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2008

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Indiana State Senator David C. Ford.

I was deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Senator David Ford. Senator Ford's passing is a loss to the entire State.

David Ford was a tireless advocate for the families and communities of Senate District 19. During our last visit, just weeks before his passing, Senator Ford still took time to advocate his optimistic vision for technology benefiting all Hoosiers.

The four-term Republican senator was not only a leader for the people of his district, he was a recognized leader across the State of Indiana. His stature was recognized last year when Senator Ford was named Government Leader of the Year by the Indiana Chamber of Commerce. Senator Ford also served as Assistant Majority Floor Leader and chaired the Senate Committee on Economic Development and Technology.

David Ford was a role model to me. His humble example of honest and visionary public service was an inspiration to all of us who had the privilege to know him. I will miss his example, his counsel and his friendship very much.

May God comfort Joyce and his entire family with the assurance of his grace and with the assurance of the gratitude of the people of the State he served and loved.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SACRED HEART SCHOOL

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2008

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, the parents, students, community and staff of the Sacred Heart School celebrate the 100th anniversary with great joy; and

Whereas, occasions such as these illustrate to us that we have many blessings; and

Whereas, the Sacred Heart School has been preparing students to be outstanding citizens for 100 years; and

Whereas, it is the fond wish of this body that you will continue to positively impact the community and develop students of strong character: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That along with his friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congres-

sional District, I commend the Sacred Heart School, recognizing that all great achievements come from great dedication.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. W. TODD AKIN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2008

Mr. AKIN. Madam Speaker, I was unable to participate in the following votes. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: March 4, 2008: rollcall vote No. 90, on motion to suspend the rules and pass, as amended, H.R. 816—To provide for the release of certain land from the Sunrise Mountain Instant Study Area in the State of Nevada and to grant a right-of-way across the released land for the construction and maintenance of a flood control project—I would have voted "aye"; rollcall vote No. 89, on motion to suspend the rules and pass, as amended, H.R. 1311—To direct of the Secretary of the Interior to convey the Alta-Hualapai Site to the city of Las Vegas, Nevada, for the development of a cancer treatment facility—I would have voted "aye"; rollcall vote No. 88, on motion to suspend the rules and pass, as amended, H.R. 1143—To Authorize the Secretary of the Interior to lease certain lands in Virgin Islands National Park, and for other purposes—I would have voted "aye."

HONORING OLD FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2008

Mr. ISRAEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the anniversary of the Old First Presbyterian church in Huntington Village, NY. This year the church celebrates its 350th anniversary. Old First Presbyterian has not only survived wars, economic downfalls, racial and religious tensions, but has become a beacon of hope and light for its parishioners. It is a symbol of perseverance to the entire community.

After being overtaken and dismantled by the British during the Revolutionary War, the constituents of Huntington Village joined together to rebuild the church as it stands today. The large bell encased in the front hall of this building was at one time taken captive by the British. Now it is proudly displayed in a glass case with the slogan "A Town Endures" engraved upon it.

As society has evolved, so has the Old First Presbyterian Church. It now offers a vast range of services for children and adults. Many parishioners have been members since birth and have taken advantage of all that this church offers to this community. Old First Presbyterian remains the largest Presbyterian church on Long Island with a following of 680 members.

In closing, Madam Speaker, I would like to express my admiration of a community that has worked so diligently ensuring that a true piece of history remains functioning to this day. Old First Presbyterian serves as a reminder of our Nation's rich history and a source of inspiration to its members.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING COMMANDER GRADY JAY WILLIAMS II FOR HIS SERVICE ON BEHALF OF NATIONAL SONS OF AMVETS

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2008

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Grady Jay Williams II has served as Sons of AMVETS Squadron 95 Commander for two years; and

Whereas, he has held the office of 2nd Vice Commander; and

Whereas, under his leadership Squadron 95 supported the AMVETS "Thank a Vet" program by hosting dinners and supplying food baskets for the needy; and

Whereas, Commander Williams set up a budget providing the Sons of AMVETS 12th District with the necessary funds to continue their excellent service for veterans; and

Whereas, Grady Jay Williams II has worked tirelessly on behalf of veterans: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That along with his friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I commend and thank Commander Grady Jay Williams II for his contributions to his community and country.

HONORING JOHNNIE CARR, A FORCE FOR UNITY AND POSITIVE CHANGE

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and mourn the passing of Johnnie Carr, a true champion for civil rights. I am humbled and inspired by the change Johnnie Carr was able to realize over the course of her pioneering life. For nearly a century, she fought for equal treatment—remaining never complacent, never satisfied. She was the childhood friend of Rosa Parks and fought alongside her in the historic Montgomery bus boycott. She succeeded Martin Luther King, Jr. in 1967 as president of the Montgomery Improvement Association (the leading force behind the boycott) and she ably served at that post until her passing earlier this month.

But it was her dynamic message of unity—a call to arms that appealed to everyone—that set her apart as a one-of-a-kind healer, a matriarch in a movement as relevant today as it was then.

May we carry with us the exuberance and energy she maintained and aspire to live up to the ideals to which she devoted her extraordinary life of activism.

HONORING JOHN HOREJSI

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2008

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Fairfax County Federa-

tion of Citizens Associations 2007 Fairfax County Citizen of the Year, Mr. John Horejsi.

Throughout his career, Mr. Horejsi has demonstrated selfless dedication to his community and committed to improving the lives of those in need. After graduating from the University of Minnesota, he began his career as a case-worker for the Missouri Division of Family Services, and worked his way up to become the Deputy Director 11 years later. In 1974, Mr. Horejsi moved to Washington D.C., and joined the American Public Welfare Association as a staff associate. Four years later, he became a program analyst at the Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) Office of Family Assistance and later served as a Program Specialist at HHS. Since retiring after more than 40 years of dedicated service, Mr. Horejsi has fully committed himself to working for the Social Action Linking Together (SALT), a faith-based advocacy network he founded.

Over the years, the SALT Network has grown in size to over 1,000 members who advocate for social justice and fight to positively influence local public policy on behalf of low-income families. Since its founding, SALT has developed bi-partisan support in Fairfax County and Richmond for legislation that seeks to improve the conditions of: statewide homelessness, child support for low income families, oversight of problematic nursing homes, and taxation for food stamps. The organization has effectively lobbied Richmond by sending out e-mail updates and alerts about legislation, hosting annual training conferences to educate members, setting up meetings with state legislators, and coordinating an annual advocacy day in the capital city. Recently, Mr. Horejsi has been utilizing the SALT network to secure funding for childcare subsidies targeting low-income working families in Virginia, so that their children have access to safe and quality childcare and parents do not leave the workforce in order to qualify for the state benefits.

Mr. Horejsi has always been willing and able to step forward when his fellow citizen was in need. His work with the SALT network has earned him the respect and support of many citizens in the community. I could not think of anyone more deserving of the Citizen of the Year award. Mr. Horejsi should be proud of his career and his accomplishments.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I would like to commend and congratulate Mr. Horejsi on his impressive record of service to Fairfax County and the citizens of the Commonwealth of Virginia. I call upon my colleagues to join me in honoring Mr. John Horejsi, the 2007 Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations Citizen of the Year.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING THE 140TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OHIO COLLEGE ASSOCIATION

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2008

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, the Ohio College Association celebrates its 140th anniversary with great joy; and

Whereas, this milestone is the result of what a hardworking people began in 1867; and

Whereas, the Ohio College Association has unwaveringly served Ohio, its citizens, and the

higher education community by promoting higher education within the State of Ohio; and

Whereas, past accomplishments have included defining and accrediting baccalaureate curricula, middle school student recruitment, joint/group purchasing, and property and casualty insurance programs; and

Whereas, the Ohio College Association looks forward to continuing service to the citizens of Ohio and its outstanding institutions of higher education: Therefore be it

Resolved, That along with his friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate the Ohio College Association for its service and dedication.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2008

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, unfortunately last night, March 4, 2008, my plane was delayed due to weather and I was unable to cast my vote on Suspending the Rules and passing H.R. 1143, H.R. 1311, and H.R. 816 and wish the record to reflect my intentions had I been able to vote.

Had I been present for rollcall No. 88 on suspending the rules and passing H.R. 1143, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to lease certain lands in Virgin Islands National Park, I would have voted "yea."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 89 on suspending the rules and passing H.R. 1311, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey the Alta-Hualapai Site to the city of Las Vegas, Nevada, for the development of a cancer treatment facility, I would have voted "yea."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 90 on suspending the rules and passing H.R. 816, to provide for the release of certain land from the Sunrise Mountain Instant Study Area in the State of Nevada and to grant a right-of-way across the released land for the construction and maintenance of a flood control project, I would have voted "yea."

A PROCLAMATION HONORING ALEXIS ROLL FOR BEING NAMED ONE OF OHIO'S TOP TWO YOUTH VOLUNTEERS FOR 2008

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2008

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Alexis Roll is an eighth-grader at East Muskingum Middle School; and

Whereas, she undertakes at least two community service projects each month to assist the homeless and hungry, senior citizens, orphaned pets, and others in need of assistance; and

Whereas, Ms. Roll is constantly looking for needs in her community and actively filling them; and

Whereas, as a State Honoree, Alexis will receive a \$1,000 award, an engraved silver medallion, and a trip to Washington, DC, for the program's national recognition events in May; and

Whereas, she has selflessly served the needs of her community and encourages those around her to do the same: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That along with her friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I commend and thank Alexis Roll for her service to Zanesville and the State of Ohio. Congratulations to Alexis Roll on her selection as one of the top two youth volunteers in Ohio for 2008.

LEV PONOMAREV AND THE
FUTURE OF FREEDOM IN RUSSIA

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2008

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, as President Vladimir Putin ends his presidency of the Russian Federation and his anointed successor, Dmitry Medvedev, prepares to take over, I would call the attention of my colleagues to what I consider an alarming backward step recently taken by the Kremlin in the area of civil liberties and freedom of speech.

Last week, we learned that criminal charges have been filed against human rights activist Lev Ponomarev for allegedly slandering the head of the Russian prison system, General Yuri Kalinin.

Mr. Ponomarev had charged publicly that so-called "torture camps" have been established in certain penal colonies under General Kalinin's jurisdiction. If taken to court and convicted, Mr. Ponomarev could be fined, or even imprisoned for as much as 3 years.

Mr. Ponomarev, the leader of the Moscow-based organization "For Human Rights," is a veteran human rights campaigner, going back to the Soviet era. He recently met with the staff of the Helsinki Commission, of which I am honored to serve as chairman, to share his concerns about what he feels is a pattern of systematic abuse and violence in Russia's penal system. The slander charges were filed when he returned to Moscow.

Madam Speaker, I make no judgment about the substance of Mr. Ponomarev's contentions. Nevertheless, I would point out that much of what he stated has already been publicized in the Russian media and by the office of the Russian State Duma's human rights ombudsman. It would appear that Mr. Ponomarev is being prosecuted not for any genuine crimes he may have committed, but for his prominent and long-time human rights activity. If this is indeed the case, he joins a growing number of Russian citizens who have been subjected to questionable legal procedures by authorities as a result of their political activities.

Unfortunately, this situation is symbolic of larger problems in Russia that are recounted very well in a February 25th editorial by Washington Post columnist Jackson Diehl entitled, "Holding Medvedev to His Words."

I would like to submit this article for the RECORD and I urge my colleagues to read it to better understand the challenges faced by Russian citizens who work for human rights and civil society in today's Russia.

[From the Washington Post, Feb. 25, 2008]

HOLDING MEDVEDEV TO HIS WORDS

(By Jackson Diehl)

Dmitry Medvedev, the man Vladimir Putin has appointed to be elected as Russia's president next Sunday, is so slavishly devoted to his patron that he has begun imitating his physical quirks. That includes "how he lays his hands on the table or how he stresses key words in speeches," not to mention walking with "fast and abrupt steps," according to the Reuters journalist Oleg Shchedrov.

Medvedev presumably won't be exercising his power as president to dismiss the prime minister—the position Putin is about to assume—anytime soon. Yet the diminutive 42-year-old former law professor has been making some interesting statements the past couple of weeks. For example: "Russia is a country of legal nihilism. No European country can boast such a universal disregard for the rule of law."

Or: "Freedom is inseparable from the actual recognition by the people of the power of law. The supremacy of the law should become one of our basic values." Or: "One of the key elements of our work in the next four years will be ensuring the independence of our legal system from the executive and legislative branches of power."

It's hard to believe that Medvedev could mean this. After all, the man he is to succeed has, according to estimates by Russian and Western analysts, accumulated a \$40 billion fortune while in office, ranging from shares in Russian energy companies to an apartment in Paris. On his watch, 14 journalists—almost all of them Kremlin critics—have been murdered, but none of the killers has been brought to justice. Relations with Britain are icy, thanks to Putin's refusal to act on Scotland Yard's case against the former KGB agent it says poisoned a Putin critic in London.

But criminality isn't limited to the Kremlin; it may be Russia's single greatest problem. Average citizens are frustrated by everything from the bribes necessary to obtain simple services to the extortion practiced by police and the susceptibility of judges to payoffs, as well as political orders. Promising the rule of law—even if he doesn't apply it to Putin and his circle—may be the juiciest pre-election promise Medvedev can make.

In any case, his pledge was seized upon by Lev Ponomarev, the courageous and pragmatic leader of the Russian movement For Human Rights, which is fighting an uphill battle to retard the country's return to Soviet-style lawlessness. Ponomarev was in Washington this month to lobby the Bush administration and the presidential campaigns; as he explained it, Russia's presidential transition offers a rare opportunity for outsiders to press Moscow to adhere to basic international standards.

"I don't have any big illusions," Ponomarev told me. "I think Mr. Medvedev is just another face of Mr. Putin. On the other hand it provides an opportunity to follow up on the rhetoric about the rule of law. If Mr. Medvedev says A, maybe it is possible to pressure him to say B. What can B be? It can be specific steps for restoring and enforcing legal norms."

Ponomarev said that President Bush and his successor can start by pushing Medvedev to stop using the law as an instrument of political repression. That would mean ending such practices as the prosecution of liberal academics on bogus espionage charges; the involuntary commitment of opposition activists to psychiatric wards, or their draft into the military; and the campaigns against human rights and other civil society groups based on supposed tax violations or breaches of local ordinances.

Next comes what Ponomarev called "the torture camps": a re-emerging gulag of some 50 prison colonies, closed to the outside world, where prisoners are subjected to systematic violence and abuse. Ponomarev's group has documented these practices in photographs and videos smuggled out of the camps, many of which are controlled by the same officials or clans that managed them in the Soviet era.

Finally, there is the legal persecution of those who report such truths. On Friday, state prosecutors brought criminal charges against Ponomarev himself, claiming that he had slandered Gen. Yuri Kalinin, the head of the prison camp system. Ponomarev's travel documents were also revoked; his lawyers believe he is being punished for speaking out in the United States.

"It seems to me that a country that is a member of the G-8," the group of rich democracies that Russia was allowed into a decade ago, "cannot afford to have political prisoners and to have torture in its prison camps," Ponomarev said to me. It also shouldn't be allowed to prosecute human rights activists who try to promote the rule of law. Medvedev ought to be asked by President Bush and other Western leaders to explain how his talk of ending "legal nihilism" squares with the charges against Ponomarev—before the new president gets his first invitation to a G-8 summit.

A TRIBUTE TO PASTOR EMERITUS
A.D. THOMAS

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2008

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Pastor Emeritus A.D. Thomas, who is celebrating more than 50 years in the ministry.

Pastor Thomas began serving in the ministry in the late 1950s at Saint Matthew Baptist Church in Merced, California. In 1966, he was called to be pastor of Lincoln Avenue Baptist Church in Pasadena, where he ministered for 28 years, until his retirement in 1994.

Under Pastor Thomas' leadership at Lincoln Avenue Baptist Church, many milestones were achieved. A few of the landmark achievements include the purchase of the church's surrounding property, construction of a new sanctuary and the A.D. Thomas Educational Center and the incorporation of Lincoln Avenue Baptist Church.

Many youth-oriented programs were created under Pastor Thomas' guidance, including a scholarship ministry, BEST after-school program, children's church, vacation bible school, youth choir, and Baptist Youth Fellowship. Other programs created during his tenure were the Nurses Guild, food outreach—clothing ministry, the Board of Christian Education, the transportation department, and new membership ministry. Pastor Thomas has also given generously of his time and experience to many community and church-affiliated organizations, such as the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance.

Pastor Thomas and his wife, Dr. Sandra Thomas, long-time Altadena residents, have three children, Michael, Vincent, and Rosalyn, and six grandchildren.

I ask all Members of Congress to join me in congratulating Pastor Emeritus A.D. Thomas for his lifetime commitment to religious services and the betterment of the community.

RECOGNIZING THE ABILITYONE
PROGRAM

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2008

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, today I pay homage to an unsung hero among Federal programs. This initiative has found innovative ways to employ the blind and severely disabled persons among us. I am speaking, of course, of the AbilityOne Program, formerly known as the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Program, which in FY07 created over 40,000 quality jobs for Americans who were blind and/or severely disabled. Because of this program, blind and severely disabled people are able to gain skills and training that have helped them to find meaningful employment, which ultimately improved their quality of life.

Thanks to the AbilityOne program, blind and severely disabled people have more opportunities to more fully participate in society. Traditionally, people with these conditions are left with no other alternative but to rely heavily on Government programs such as SSI to support themselves. AbilityOne gives them more control over their own lives and destinies by allowing them to significantly reduce their dependence on Government resources. Recent studies have shown that the AbilityOne's employment program creates a positive net impact of \$46.75 million to Federal and State governments in both reduction of entitlements and increases of payments employees make through income and payroll taxes. Moreover, this program also helps them to enhance their self esteem by giving them alternative ways of defining themselves, their place, and their purpose in the world.

Goodwill Industries of Southeastern Wisconsin Inc. is able to provide sound employment opportunities and training for 935 blind and disabled people through the AbilityOne Program. National Industries for the Blind and NISH, along with local nonprofit organizations in Milwaukee, Wisconsin are creating new employment opportunities for people who are blind or disabled. These local programs right here in our community make possible the economic and personal enhancement of physically disadvantaged people.

I commend the efforts of AbilityOne and Goodwill Industries of Southeastern Wisconsin Inc. in fighting to bring new opportunities and resources to those that are blind or severely disabled. The remarkable contributions that they have made to communities in and around Milwaukee are significant and worthy of recognition.

IN HONOR OF JEFF NORMAN

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2008

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to pay tribute to the life and memory of a dear friend, Jeff Norman, who died last fall at the young age of 56. Jeff was a longtime resident of Big Sur in my central California Congressional District. He was many things in his short life: botanist, histo-

rian, author, activist, to name just a few. But to the many people whose lives Jeff touched, he will always be remembered as a friend, an inspiration, a pillar of support in times of need, and the possessor of a most acute acid wit that could add humor and common sense to the most tense and fractious meeting.

Jeff was born in Oakland, CA, and moved to Pebble Beach in 1962 with his parents, Don and Kathy Norman. He found his life's work as a naturalist at a very young age. While only 14, he discovered a fern unknown in Monterey County at Pico Blanco Boy Scout Camp. At 15, he was the youngest person hired as a lab technician at Hopkins' Marine Station. He graduated from Pacific Grove High School in 1969 and then attended UCSC.

Jeff's childhood experiences in the Big Sur area drew him back to the coast following college. He built a life for himself in this creative and fiercely independent community of the Big Sur coast. He lived in Palo Colorado and Bixby Canyons, and on the Post Ranch. In 1980, Jeff purchased his dream home, Alta Vista, a unique, handsplit redwood cabin that was built in the 1920s by the Overstroms, a homesteading couple. Jeff lived for 28 years in his beloved remote sanctuary three miles above the highway with no road access. It was a life that few still choose to live in modern America, but Jeff sought it out with both gusto and grace. Yet Jeff was very much connected to the world around him, especially the people, history, and environment of Big Sur. Indeed, his life's work was the preservation of both the natural and social fabrics of Big Sur.

Jeff's enthusiasm for gathering information, seeking answers, and solving puzzles was insatiable. He found equal joy in discovering a new species of clover or swapping wild tales with an old timer. As a consulting biologist he was fiercely protective of the unique ecology of the Big Sur region. Over the years he worked as a biologist for many different organizations, including the U.S. Forest Service, CA State Parks, UC Santa Cruz, the Big Sur Natural History Association, the Esalen Institute, and the Monterey County Planning and Building Department, among others. An active member of the California Native Plant Society, he was a consultant for the Big Sur Land Trust and the Monterey Pine Forest Watch.

As a social historian, Jeff was a friend and chronicler of the larger-than-life characters of Big Sur, including homesteader families such as the Posts, Harlans, Ewoldsens, Pfeiffers, and Trotters, artists and bohemians, intellectuals, conservationists, ranchers, and other folk. He was in his element when he was lecturing on local history and natural history at libraries, museums, Pacific Valley School and Big Sur Elderhostel or presenting talks on Robinson Jeffers for the Tor House Foundation. He was a charter member of the Big Sur Historical Society and past president and member of the Friends of the Big Sur Library. In 2004, Jeff co-authored *Images of America: Big Sur with the Big Sur Historical Society*, a book that traced the history of the coast from the days of the homesteaders with numerous never-before-seen photographs of the coast. He also co-authored *Big Sur Observed* with Kip Stewart in 1994, and was a major contributor to Donald Clark's *Monterey County Place Names* (1991). At the time of his death he was energetically at work on a new book about the bohemians of Big Sur.

Madam Speaker, I know that I speak for the whole House in extending my condolences to

Jeff's family and friends. He will be greatly missed. He had mastered the art of a life well lived. So while we mourn his passing we are grateful for the spark of wonder and stewardship that he ignited in all of us.

RECOGNIZING THE UNI-CAPITOL
WASHINGTON INTERNSHIP PRO-
GRAM

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2008

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Program. Since the inception of the Uni-Capitol program, I have participated in this relationship building program that brings some of Australia's best and brightest future leaders to Washington. I have benefited greatly by the work of unique and talented individuals that produced top-notch work to both of my offices. In my personal office I have participated in the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Program for the last nine years. This is the first year that I have also hosted an intern at the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe in my capacity as Chairman.

I have been pleased to host two amazing young women, Siobhan Coughlan and Katrina Mae.

Siobhan Coughlan, who is in her third year at the University of Queensland, first arrived in the Helsinki Commission's office on January 3, 2008, and since then has provided able, thorough, and important assistance to the professional staff of the Commission. Over the past two months with the Commission, Siobhan has demonstrated her honorable personal character and integrity in the way she confronted the topic of human rights and democratic principles and the manner in which she interacted with staff on economic development and tolerance issues in a domestic and international context. Siobhan has served our organization in a number of capacities, and at each stage has proven to be valuable because of her professionalism, her drive to succeed, and her ability to work well within a group dynamic. Siobhan always demonstrated the highest level of conscience in keeping the respectability of our program as she sought to achieve our common goals. Siobhan brought her courteous and positive demeanor to hearings, briefings and events that the Commission held and events she attended on behalf of the staff here at the Commission. Much as been gained by having an international student at our side and Siobhan has greatly contributed her experiences, ideas, and thoughts that are shared by our good Australian friends across the water. I am delighted that she's able to extend her internship for another two months.

In her short time here, Katrina Mae has become an indispensable asset to my office. An undergraduate law student at the University of Wollongong, Katrina came to my office with an ardent interest in civil rights and a desire to work with individuals who support policies that encourage tolerance and cooperation across racial and cultural lines. Over the course of her two months, she has attended hearings and briefings on a myriad of policy issues,

drafted countless constituent correspondence, assisted visitors and callers in her always patient and thoughtful manner, and helped several staffers with legislative research and special projects. While her professional skills and academic credentials are certainly impressive, Katrina is also an absolute pleasure to work with. No matter the assignment, she is always eager to help and approaches every new task with a smile. The anecdotes of her adventures as a first-time visitor to the United States were a constant source of entertainment, and her tales of life in Australia gave our office a greater understanding of her country's rich history, culture, and values. Katrina arrived on Capitol Hill hoping to acquire a better understanding of the U.S. legislative process, and it is my sincere hope that she benefited as much from this experience as we did from having her with us.

Madam Speaker, in addition to Siobhan and Katrina, I am delighted to recognize our colleagues here in the House and other colleagues in the Senate who have been congressional hosts in 2008:

James Paterson of Melbourne University, interning with Rep. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART; Monique Salm of Griffith University, interning with Sen. CHUCK HAGEL; Madelene Fox of Deakin University, interning with Rep. JERROLD NADLER; Lucas Robson of Melbourne University, interning with Sen. CHRISTOPHER DODD; Clare Anderson of Griffith University, interning with Rep. JOHN TIERNEY, Stephanie Lyons of the University of Canberra, interning with Rep. SAM FARR; Suzanne Allan of the University of Canberra, interning with Sen. MIKE CRAPO; Katrina Mae of the University of Wollongong, interning with Rep. ALCEE HASTINGS; Stella Rieusset of Melbourne University, interning with Rep. MIKE CASTLE; Anthony Bremner of the University of Queensland, interning with Rep. JAMES CLYBURN and the Majority Whip's office; Tim Goyder of the University of Western Australia, interning with Del. ENI FALEOMAVEGA; and Ally Foat from the University of Queensland, interning with Rep. JAMES CLYBURN.

Let it not go unnoticed the hard work that goes into the Uni-Capitol Internship Program is done by founder Eric Federing. Eric is a former senior House and Senate staffer of a dozen years, who successfully combined his experience in Washington with his extensive travels and lectures throughout Australia into an ingenious program of diplomatic exchange through cultural appreciation and understanding. I have said in the past that I heartily congratulate him on making his vision a reality. This program is a step in the right direction of supporting our young people who have a passion for and commitment to civic engagement and public service.

Over the last nine years, my staff and I have greatly benefited from the relationships that have been made from the result of this program as it continues to provide all of us an extraordinary experience with our friends on the other side of the ocean. It has been a great privilege to host Siobhan and Katrina and I ask all my colleagues to extend their open arms to the Uni-Capitol Internship Program and to our Australian friends in the future.

A TRIBUTE RECOGNIZING THE
47TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
PEACE CORPS

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2008

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend the 190,000 former and current volunteers of the United States Peace Corps, as we celebrate the 47th Anniversary of this extraordinary agency.

In a 1960 speech to students at the University of Michigan, President Kennedy issued one of his most historic challenges. He asked Americans to trade the comforts of home for the adversities of volunteer work overseas and, in doing so, serve our country by serving the rest of the world.

President Kennedy's original mission for the Peace Corps remains unchanged today. The Peace Corps volunteers—who range from college graduates to retirees with decades of experience—help the people of host countries by sending trained men and women with expertise in a variety of professional fields. The volunteers also promote a better understanding of Americans abroad and create bonds of friendship that last a lifetime.

More than 8,000 Peace Corps volunteers currently serve in 74 countries. In some of the most deeply impoverished regions of the world, the volunteers are often the first glimpse of America that the people have ever encountered. These volunteers make significant and lasting contributions in each host country through their work in agriculture, business development, information technology, education, youth, environment, health and HIV/AIDS.

Through the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, PEPFAR, Peace Corps volunteers continue to meet the challenges of the HIV/AIDS pandemic working both formally and informally in 10 of the 15 focus countries. In 2007, approximately 93 percent of all Peace Corps posts contributed to HIV/AIDS activities. These volunteers assisted more than 1 million people.

I am especially proud of the seven volunteers from the 34th District currently in service with the Peace Corps. These remarkable men and women from my Los Angeles district and the countries they are currently serving in are as follows: Jennifer Baez, Ecuador; Roberto Dubon, Paraguay; Anna Frumes, Ukraine; Joyce Hahn, Azerbaijan; Roanel Herrera, Panama; and Christina and Justin Senter, Mauritania in North-West Africa. I congratulate them and all of the 821 Californians currently serving around the globe as Peace Corps volunteers.

I also thank Peace Corps Director Ron Tschetter, himself a former volunteer in India, for his service at the Corps's helm since September 2006. Mr. Tschetter is the latest in a long line of distinguished Peace Corps Directors that includes Jack Vaughn, Carol Bellamy and, of course, Sargent Shriver, who served as the organization's first leader under President Kennedy.

Peace Corps volunteers each cross the borders of language and culture to inspire new perspectives, provide real assistance in their host countries, and extend American values

and friendship around the world. They are a unique and effective corps of informal ambassadors for this country.

Madam Speaker, as the organization observes its 47th Anniversary, please join me in congratulating Ron Tschetter and the Corps's thousands of volunteers on a job well done. They truly represent the best of what our great Nation has to offer.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CHESAPEAKE
GATEWAYS AND
WATERTRAILS NETWORK REAUTHORIZATION

HON. JOHN P. SARBANES

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2008

Mr. SARBANES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation to reauthorize the Chesapeake Bay Gateways Network (CBGN), which will otherwise expire at the end 2008. The CBGN provides grants to parks, volunteer groups, wildlife refuges, historic sites, museums, and water trails throughout the Chesapeake Bay watershed. The Network ties these sites together to provide meaningful experiences and foster citizen stewardship of the Chesapeake Bay. Since 2000, it has grown to include 156 Gateways in six States and the District of Columbia, and over 1500 miles of established and developing water trails.

My own Congressional District includes several such Gateways sites. For example, the Annapolis Maritime Museum, which sits on the banks of Back Creek, promotes an understanding of the maritime heritage of Annapolis and how that history has influenced the evolution of the State of Maryland. The museum campus occupies the site of the old McNasby's Oyster Packing Company. For years, from the shores of the Back Creek and other tributaries, watermen came and went delivering their daily catch. Boatwrights and craftsmen ran boatyards to sustain the industry. Employees of McNasby's and other businesses shucked, canned, and shipped oysters and other seafood as far as the Rocky Mountains. The maritime and seafood industry made Annapolis a prosperous town—and they were all connected to and dependent upon the Chesapeake Bay. The Annapolis Maritime Museum teaches current residents and youth about this connection to the water and how it continues to influence our culture and economy to this day.

As reported in the Baltimore Sun late last year, the museum has established a program with Eastport Elementary School to connect students with the Chesapeake Bay through activities that fit into their studies in reading, math, and science. The students participate in activities such as "measuring water temperature, salinity and clarity; they observe, measure and document the museum's terrapins and oysters; and account for funds they're raising to support the upkeep of the terrapins." These kinds of programs have a profound and long lasting impact on students as evidenced by the feedback from one parent who said, "My child has become more excited and interested in the bay and what it means to the area where he lives."

By maintaining the Gateways network and providing access to sites such as the Annapolis Maritime Museum, we can help develop

the next generation of environmental stewards, which is one of the best ways to truly "Save the Bay." It is therefore critical that we act now to reauthorize the Gateways program so that the Network and its partners can continue to educate residents of the Chesapeake Bay watershed about how their communities relate directly to the health of our largest estuary and a national treasure—the Chesapeake Bay.

TEXAS INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2008

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, Sunday, March 2, 2008, marked Texas Independence Day. 172 years ago that day, the Texas Declaration of Independence was ratified by the Convention of 1836 at Washington-on-the-Brazos.

Driven by the same spirit of freedom that drove the patriots of the American Revolution to throw off the shackles of tyranny and oppression, the Texas Declaration of Independence was produced, literally, overnight. Its urgency was crucial, because while it was being prepared, the Alamo in San Antonio was under siege by Santa Anna's army of Mexico.

Immediately upon the assemblage of the Convention of 1836 on March 1, a committee of five of its delegates was appointed to draft the document. The committee worked long into the night to prepare the declaration. It was briefly reviewed, then adopted by the delegates of the convention the following day.

The declaration was an announcement to the world that all Texans would fight to protect their rights. The declaration stated that they would no longer live under the dictatorship of Santa Anna or a government that had been "forcibly changed, without their consent, from a restricted federative republic, composed of sovereign states, to a consolidated central military despotism."

It spoke of the numerous injustices inflicted upon the settlers of the state then known as Coahuila y Tejas: the elimination of the state's legislative body; the denial of religious freedom; the elimination of the civil justice system; and the confiscation of firearms, this last one being the most intolerable, particularly among Texans.

The declaration stated that Texas was 'a free, sovereign, and independent republic . . . fully invested with all the rights and attributes' that belong to independent nations; and a declaration that they 'fearlessly and confidently' committed their decision to 'the Supreme Arbiter of the destinies of nations.'

The Texan Army was ready to defend itself from the oppression of Santa Anna and his army. Outnumbered by the vastly larger Mexican army, approximately 200 Texans and Tejanos under the leadership of Lt. Colonel William Barrett Travis and Tennessee Congressman David Crockett made their stand in the defense of Texas at an old Spanish mission known as the Alamo.

They bravely held their position for 13 days, enduring wave after wave of attack, and on the morning of March 6, 1836, they made the ultimate sacrifice for freedom as they were killed in action defending Texas at the Alamo.

Two weeks later on March 27, 1836 Colonel James W. Fannin and 300 men under his command were massacred by Santa Anna's army at Goliad.

The sacrifices made at the Alamo and Goliad would not be forgotten as they became the battle cry of the Texan Army: "Remember the Alamo. Remember Goliad!"

On April 21, 1836 a much smaller Texan Army led by General Sam Houston launched a surprise attack on the much larger Mexican force at San Jacinto. After only 18 minutes the Battle of San Jacinto was over, and Texas had won its independence.

That battle is memorialized along the San Jacinto River with the San Jacinto Monument in Baytown, Texas in the 29th district, the district I represent.

Texas Independence Day is important to all Americans because the events show that the brotherhood of freedom can be stronger than the brotherhood of ethnicity or nationality, as Tejanos proved at Gonzalez, Bexar, Goliad, the Alamo, along the banks of the San Jacinto River, and in the government of the Republic of Texas.

People sometimes wonder what makes Texas and Texans so different, and I believe part of that answer is that the desire for freedom that gave us the first Texas Independence Day is still alive today.

Madam Speaker, I hope that Congress and this whole country join all Texans in honoring these brave men who stood up for liberty and freedom 172 years ago. God Bless Texas and God Bless America.

TO COMMEND RIPON COLLEGE
FOR ITS INNOVATIVE APPROACH
TO PROMOTING THE USE OF BI-
CYCLING ON CAMPUS

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2008

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Ripon College for the exciting, innovative approach it is implementing to tackle transportation needs on their campus. Ripon College, a liberal arts college in Wisconsin, last year faced for the first time a greater number of applications for parking permits than they had available spaces. In today's car-centric society, most people would have addressed this problem by laying more asphalt.

But the Ripon College president, David Joyce, refused to consider the idea of paving over any more of Ripon's beautiful and historic campus. Instead, he championed the school's new "Velorution" program, which provides free bicycles for incoming freshman who pledge not to bring a car to campus.

With contributions from trustees and alumni, the university teamed up with several bike retailers to provide each car-free freshman with a Wisconsin-built Trek 820 mountain bike, a helmet, and a bicycle lock.

For too long, our transportation planning and decision-making have focused solely on the automobile. It's time we support non-motorized transportation for the many benefits it can bring. This program provides a fun and easy way for students to incorporate exercise into their daily routines, and can encourage a

lifetime of healthy, active transportation choices. The program will also take cars off the road, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and the negative impact our transportation system has on the environment.

Ripon College is following in the footsteps of their representative, the gentleman from Wisconsin, Mr. PETRI, who is a leading cycling advocate in Congress. Mr. PETRI co-chairs the Congressional Bicycle Caucus, previously served as Chairman of the Subcommittee on Highways and Transit of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and has been a leader in the development of the Non-motorized Pilot Program, which has shown early success in promoting walking and cycling as important modes of transportation in his district. Ripon College is fortunate to be led by the gentleman's vision and understanding of the necessity of making sustainable transportation choices.

I commend President Joyce and Ripon College for their fresh vision for meeting the transportation needs of students, and hope that their program will be an inspiration for colleges and universities across the country to develop sustainable communities.

HONORING KNOXVILLE COLLEGE

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2008

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Knoxville College, a predominantly African-American institution in my hometown.

On March the 6th, Knoxville College will hold its 110th Founder's Day Celebration.

The school was founded by Reverend Joseph Gillespie McKee, a Presbyterian minister who came to the United States from Ireland in 1852.

It was during the American Civil War that Mr. McKee settled in Nashville, Tennessee and organized the school for black people.

East Tennessee was settled primarily by very poor Irish and Scots-Irish immigrants and in 1875 the school was moved from Nashville to Knoxville, Tennessee, where it stands today.

Thousands of graduates have gone on to serve our country and communities well in their chosen fields.

Today, many young people come from all over the United States and several other countries to receive the special attention that Knoxville College can give.

I am very proud to have this College in my hometown, and I am sure they will continue to serve its students well for many years to come.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. BETTY
SEMBLER

HON. ADAM H. PUTNAM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2008

Mr. PUTNAM. Madam Speaker, I am honored to congratulate Mrs. Betty Sembler as she receives the Drug Enforcement Agency Museum Foundation "2008 Lifetime Achievement Award." It is certainly well-deserved as

she has dedicated her life to helping prevent and mitigate drug use among our Nation's younger generation.

Most notably, Mrs. Sembler helped found the Drug Free America Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to developing, promoting and sustaining global strategies, policies and laws that will reduce illegal drug use, drug addiction, drug-related injury and death.

Through her efforts, the Drug Free America Foundation has helped raise awareness about drug use and its harmful effects to kids across Florida, our Nation and the world. Having received Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, Mrs. Sembler has worked collaboratively with other non-governmental organizations globally to support international efforts to sustain sound drug policy. In fact, the Foundation convened the International Task Force on Strategic Drug Policy in 2001 which is now composed of more than 20 member nations who help advise governments to effect change in their nations.

Her accomplishments do not stop there. Mrs. Sembler helped re-launch the "Students Taking Action Not Drugs," or STAND, which has launched several public-service campaigns regarding drug use and help youth with addiction problems find help. Their mission is to use science-based principles to educate college students about the danger of drugs and reduce drug use among 18- to 25-year olds. She has also been instrumental in working with and combining forces with other related organizations, including the National Drug-Free Workplace Alliance, which was merged with the Drug-Free Workplaces if Tampa Bay project in 2006.

In short, Mrs. Sembler has led an active life of public service that has greatly benefited her state and Nation, and I am so pleased she is receiving this prestigious award. Congratulations Betty, I wish you and your family continued success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2008

Ms. LEE. Madam Speaker, on October 23, 2007 the House passed H.R. 1955, the Violent Radicalization and Homegrown Terrorism Prevention Act of 2007. My vote in support of this bill was an error. I am concerned that this legislation creates the appearance that our constitutional rights could be undermined or that peaceful dissent and protest could be discouraged. I would like the RECORD to reflect that I stand in opposition to this legislation.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING MATTHEW SEGAL FOR HIS SELECTION AS REPRESENTATIVE FOR OHIO'S 18TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT IN MOBILIZE.ORG'S PARTY FOR THE PRESIDENCY

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2008

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Matthew Segal is a sociology major at Kenyon College and resident of Gambier, Ohio; and

Whereas, he is the founder and executive director of the Student Association for Voter Empowerment (SAVE), a student-led, non-profit, non-partisan organization aimed at increasing young voter participation and increasing civic awareness for young people; and

Whereas, Mr. Segal is a senior fellow and national challenge coordinator with the Roosevelt Institution, the nation's first student think-tank; and

Whereas, representatives at the Party for the Presidency will develop and implement strategies to inspire a stronger connection between elected officials and underrepresented American citizens; and

Whereas, Matthew Segal will honorably represent Ohio's 18th Congressional District in the Party for the Presidency; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That along with his friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I commend and thank Matthew Segal for his service to Kenyon College and the 18th District of Ohio. Congratulations to Matthew Segal on his selection as the 18th Congressional District of Ohio's representative for the Party for the Presidency.

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, March 6, 2008 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

MARCH 7

9:30 a.m.
Joint Economic Committee
To hold hearings to examine the current employment situation of 2008.
SD-628

MARCH 11

9:30 a.m.
Armed Services
To hold hearings to examine the defense authorization request for fiscal year 2009 for U.S. Pacific Command and U.S. Forces in Korea, and the future years defense program.
SH-216

Veterans' Affairs
To hold an oversight hearing to examine Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense cooperation and collaboration, focusing on caring for families of wounded warriors.
SR-418

10 a.m.
Environment and Public Works
To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2009 for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Civil Works Program, and the implementation of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2007 (Public Law 110-114).
SD-406

Appropriations
Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2009 for the Department of the Interior.
SD-124

Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Science, Technology, and Innovation Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2009 to support U.S. basic research.
SR-253

10:15 a.m.
Foreign Relations
African Affairs Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine evaluating United States policy options on the Horn of Africa.
SD-419

10:30 a.m.
Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
To hold hearings to examine the condition of the nation's infrastructure, focusing on proposals for needed improvements.
SD-538

11 a.m.
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
To hold hearings to examine the broken pipeline, focusing on losing opportunities in the life sciences.
SD-430

2:30 p.m.
Commerce, Science, and Transportation
To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Department of Transportation's Cross-Truck pilot program.
SR-253

Foreign Relations
To hold hearings to examine the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), focusing on enlargement and effectiveness.
SD-419

Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Grace C. Becker, of New York, to be Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division, Department of Justice.
SD-226

Intelligence
To hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters.
SH-219

MARCH 12

9:30 a.m.
Armed Services
Readiness and Management Support Subcommittee
To receive a briefing on the current readiness of the armed forces of the United States.
SH-219

10 a.m.
Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2009 for the Department of Housing and Urban Development and conduct oversight.
SD-538

Rules and Administration
To hold hearings to examine issues relative to in-person voter fraud and voter disenfranchisement.
SR-301

Armed Services
Strategic Forces Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine strategic forces programs in review of the defense authorization request for fiscal year 2009 and the future years defense program.
SR-232A

10:30 a.m.
Aging
To hold hearings relative to doctors and prescription drug information and reviews.
SD-562

1:30 p.m.
Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Interstate Commerce, Trade, and Tourism Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine the gross domestic product as a measurement of national strength.
SR-253

2 p.m.
Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine Generation Rx, focusing on the abuse of prescription and over-the-counter drugs.
SD-226

Armed Services
SeaPower Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine the defense authorization request for fiscal year 2009, for the strategic lift programs, and the future years defense program.
SR-222

2:15 p.m.
Energy and Natural Resources
To hold hearings to examine hardrock mining, focusing on issues relating to abandoned mine lands and uranium mining.
SD-366

2:30 p.m.
Foreign Relations
East Asian and Pacific Affairs Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine the United States and Vietnam, focusing on the bilateral relationship.
SD-419

Armed Services
Emerging Threats and Capabilities Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine technologies to combat weapons of mass destruction.
SD-106

Armed Services
Readiness and Management Support Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine the defense authorization request for fiscal year 2009, the future years defense program, and military installation, environmental, and base closure programs.
SR-232A

Intelligence
Closed business meeting to consider pending calendar business.
SH-219

3 p.m.
Appropriations
Financial Services and General Government Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2009 for the Federal Judiciary.
SD-138

MARCH 13

9:30 a.m.
Armed Services
To hold hearings to examine the defense authorization request for fiscal year 2009 for the United States European Command and the United States African Command, and the future years defense program.
SH-216

2 p.m.
Armed Services
Readiness and Management Support Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine the defense authorization request for fiscal year 2009 for the current readiness of the armed forces, and the future years defense program.
SR-232A

2:30 p.m.
Armed Services
Emerging Threats and Capabilities Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine the defense authorization request for fiscal year 2009 for the Cooperative Threat Reduction Program and the Proliferation Security Initiative at the Department of Defense, and nuclear nonproliferation

programs at the National Security Administration, and the future years defense program.

SR-222

Commerce, Science, and Transportation Fisheries and Coast Guard Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget request for fiscal year 2009 for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

SR-253

Energy and Natural Resources
Public Lands and Forests Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine old-growth forest science, focusing on policy and management in the Pacific Northwest region.

SD-366

Intelligence

To hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters.

SH-219

APRIL 8

10 a.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation
To hold hearings to examine the Federal Trade Commission reauthorization.

SR-253