

celebrated by Americans, Mexicans, and many others around the world.

The victory of the Mexican army over the French at the Battle of Puebla on May 5, 1862, came to represent unity and patriotism for the Mexican people, which is now celebrated today as Cinco de Mayo. That same spirit of unity and patriotism exists in this country, and sharing it with as many as possible is an honorable and notable goal.

Millions of Hispanic Americans thrive and contribute in our country, with over 18 million residing in the Western United States, 65 percent of them of Mexican descent. These citizens bring their unique culture to communities throughout the United States. This is the epitome of what this Nation is all about—having the freedom to come together and celebrate so many different cultures.

On Cinco de Mayo, we reflect on the contributions of the country of Mexico, the battle for unity and patriotism, and that our freedom to celebrate is not something we can take for granted.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 5, 2008

Mr. ANDREWS. Madam Speaker, I was not present on April 30, 2008. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on the following rollcall votes: rollcall 227, rollcall 228, rollcall 229, rollcall 230, rollcall 233.

I would have voted “nay” on the following: rollcall 232.

CONSOLIDATED NATURAL RESOURCES ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2008

Mr. SHULER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support S. 2739, the Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008. S. 2739 includes the text of many important House-passed Federal lands bills, including H.R. 1100, my legislation to ensure the preservation of the beautiful natural surroundings at the Carl Sandburg Home Historic Site in Western North Carolina.

Carl Sandburg is one of America's finest and favorite poets. In 1945, Sandburg moved to Flat Rock, North Carolina, where he would spend the rest of his life.

The Sandburg Home is an important part of both our heritage and our economy in Western North Carolina. It is imperative that we protect the integrity of the Sandburg Home Site so future generations can fully appreciate its tremendous natural beauty. Expanding this site will also allow Western North Carolina to attract more tourists to the area, further driving the economy of the region.

I thank my colleagues in the House for the overwhelming bipartisan support they demonstrated in passing H.R. 1100 last year, and I thank Senators DOLE and BURR for their support of this legislation in the Senate.

I ask my colleagues to join me once again in preserving this national treasure.

HONORING JENNIFER AND JAMES GRIFFIN ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR MARRIAGE

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 5, 2008

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor two of my constituents who were married Saturday, March 8, 2008. Jennifer Lewis Fowlkes and James Sean Griffin celebrated their commitment to each other at a wedding ceremony held at the Griffin home in Land O'Lakes, Florida. A couple firmly dedicated to the Pasco County region, Jennifer works for Verizon and James is an entrepreneur.

As George Eliot once said, “What greater thing is there for two human souls than to feel that they are joined together to strengthen each other in all labour, to minister to each other in all sorrow, to share with each other in all gladness, to be one with each other in the silent unspoken memories?” Having known the Griffin family for many years, Jennifer and James will have a lifetime of wedded joy ahead of them. I can only hope that their marriage is as long-lasting and full of love as that of James' parents, Danielle and Jeff Griffin.

Madam Speaker, we should all be jealous of newlyweds like Jennifer and James. Their lifelong journey began with the first step of a marriage ceremony, and they have yet to see the ups and downs and joys and sorrows that come with every union of man and woman. Their commitment to each other is one to be celebrated and commended and one in which I offer my congratulations and wish them well as they begin their new life together.

HONORING RYAN HOPKIN AND JAMES ETIER

HON. BARBARA CUBIN

OF WYOMING

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 5, 2008

Mrs. CUBIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Ryan Hopkin and James Etier, Wyoming's State Honorees for the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards. These students were selected in a highly competitive, nationwide program, recognizing their outstanding acts of volunteerism.

Ryan Hopkin, a senior at Powell High School, installed crosswalk flags for younger children at dangerous intersections around the town's elementary schools. This innovative idea placed canisters on either side of the street, with cans provided for picking up and depositing the flag after use. That way, each student has a neon orange flag to carry, alerting drivers of their presence, and increasing their safety on the trip to school.

James Etier, an eighth-grader at Rock Springs East Junior High School, did a variety of volunteer activities at an after-school program. He helped out at the Humane Society shelter, worked at an elementary school with young children, and volunteered with the Salvation Army. James also assisted a group of senior citizens with yard work, in addition to visiting the local nursing home to meet residents.

Volunteerism is a community activity that is important to instill in our youth and these two individuals embody the spirit of service. I applaud them for their hard work and dedication to helping others. I hope they serve as role-models for their fellow students, leading by example.

In addition, I would like to recognize Wyoming's Distinguished Finalists, Elizabeth Whetstone of Cheyenne, Wyoming, and Walter Wilson of Albin, Wyoming, for their commendable efforts.

CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA HAWKEYES WRESTLING TEAM ON WINNING THE 2008 NCAA DIVISION I NATIONAL WRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIPS

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID LOESACK

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2008

Mr. LOESACK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate an amazing team from the 2nd District of Iowa, which I represent. I'm proud to stand before my colleagues today and commend the University of Iowa Hawkeyes wrestling team for winning the 2008 NCAA Division I National Wrestling Championship. As many wrestling fans know, the University of Iowa has a celebrated history of exemplary wrestlers and coaches that have allowed the University of Iowa, the city of Iowa City, and the entire State of Iowa to boast numerous Big Ten Titles and NCAA championships.

In total, the University of Iowa Hawkeyes wrestling team has won 32 Big Ten Conference Championships, and since 1975, a total of 21 NCAA Division I National Wrestling Championships. The current team has kept the Hawkeye record strong and it's my privilege to congratulate them on the 32nd Big Ten Title and 21st national championship for the school.

The University of Iowa Hawkeyes wrestling team is led by Head Coach Tom Brands who, in addition to this championship win, was named Big Ten Coach of the Year and the National Wrestling Coaches Association Coach of the Year. Under Coach Brands' leadership, along with his assistants and strength coaches, the team also had two individual national champions.

Mark Perry won his second national title while overcoming a knee injury during his match, and was also awarded his fourth all-American honor. Brent Metcalf won his first national title. He was also awarded his first all-American honor, the Dan Hodge Trophy, was named as the Big Ten Wrestler of the Year, was crowned a Big Ten Champion, finished the season with a 32-match winning streak, was named Outstanding Wrestler at the NCAA and Big Ten Championships, and was named Outstanding Wrestler at the Division I NWCA/Cliff Keen National Duals. Including the two individual national champions, the team had a total of seven all-Americans and six Academic All-Big Ten wrestlers.

With the wrestling program starting in 1911, the current University of Iowa Hawkeyes Wrestling Team has built upon past successes to continue the teams and schools winning tradition. As wrestling fans know, much of this

past success was made possible by the leadership of former head coach, and Olympic Gold Medalist, Dan Gable, who continues to provide guidance and leadership to the program.

Congratulations to the entire University of Iowa Hawkeyes wrestling team, the University of Iowa, the city of Iowa City, and to my home State of Iowa for this great victory.

A CELEBRATION OF LIFE: RAY-
BURN "RAY" KNABE PASSES AT
AGE 90

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 5, 2008

Ms. HARMAN. Madam Speaker, death pulls hard at our heartstrings, whether it comes after a long, full life or one cut tragically short. Rayburn "Ray" Knabe lived a life mature in length and rich in contribution.

Ray Knabe embodied the values and ambition of his generation, commonly referred to as the greatest in our Nation's history. His hard work, military service, and the large, loving family that survives him are testaments to a remarkable life.

Born and raised in Mackinaw, Illinois, with his five siblings, Ray married Lucille Hermann. The couple lived in Illinois, California, and finally Idaho, and produced three children—one of whom, Don, is a dear friend and Los Angeles County supervisor. The couple celebrated their 67th anniversary in November.

Ray served admirably in the United States Navy during World War II.

Ray had a knack for precise craftsmanship, a skill he honed during his career which began at the J.I. Case Tractor Company in Illinois through his tenure at Western Gear Corporation in Southern California, where he ultimately retired. Ray was a registered professional engineer, mason, and member of the American Society of Manufacturing Engineers.

In his later years, Ray finally decided to relax, and dedicated more time to golf, travel, and the occasional trip to the casino with Lucille. Sunday mornings in Idaho were spent at the Eagle Christian Church, where the pews now feel a little emptier.

My heart goes out to Lucille, Don, and the rest of Ray's wonderful family.

SUNSET MEMORIAL

HON. TRENT FRANKS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 5, 2008

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Madam Speaker, I stand once again before this House with yet another Sunset Memorial.

It is May 5, 2008, in the land of the free and the home of the brave, and before the sun set today in America, almost 4,000 more defenseless unborn children were killed by abortion on demand. That's just today, Madam Speaker. That's more than the number of innocent lives lost on September 11 in this country, only it happens every day.

It has now been exactly 12,887 days since the tragedy called *Roe v. Wade* was first

handed down. Since then, the very foundation of this Nation has been stained by the blood of almost 50 million of its own children. Some of them, Madam Speaker, died and screamed as they did so, but because it was amniotic fluid passing over the vocal cords instead of air, no one could hear them.

And all of them had at least four things in common. First, they were each just little babies who had done nothing wrong to anyone, and each one of them died a nameless and lonely death. And each one of their mothers, whether she realizes it or not, will never be quite the same. And all the gifts that these children might have brought to humanity are now lost forever. Yet even in the glare of such tragedy, this generation still clings to a blind, invincible ignorance while history repeats itself and our own silent genocide mercilessly annihilates the most helpless of all victims, those yet unborn.

Madam Speaker, perhaps it's time for those of us in this Chamber to remind ourselves of why we are really all here. Thomas Jefferson said, "The care of human life and its happiness and not its destruction is the chief and only object of good government." The phrase in the 14th Amendment encapsules our entire Constitution; it says, "No State shall deprive any person of life, liberty or property without due process of law." Madam Speaker, protecting the lives of our innocent citizens and their constitutional rights is why we are all here.

The bedrock foundation of this Republic is the clarion declaration of the self-evident truth that all human beings are created equal and endowed by their Creator with the unalienable rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Every conflict and battle our Nation has ever faced can be traced to our commitment to this core, self-evident truth.

It has made us the beacon of hope for the entire world. Madam Speaker, it is who we are.

And yet today another day has passed, and we in this body have failed again to honor that foundational commitment. We have failed our sworn oath and our God-given responsibility as we broke faith with nearly 4,000 more innocent American babies who died today without the protection we should have given them.

Madam Speaker, let me conclude in the hope that perhaps someone new who heard this Sunset Memorial tonight will finally embrace the truth that abortion really does kill little babies; that it hurts mothers in ways that we can never express; and that 12,887 days spent killing nearly 50 million unborn children in America is enough; and that the America that rejected human slavery and marched into Europe to arrest the Nazi Holocaust is still courageous and compassionate enough to find a better way for mothers and their unborn babies than abortion on demand.

So tonight, Madam Speaker, may we each remind ourselves that our own days in this sunshine of life are also numbered and that all too soon each one of us will walk from these Chambers for the very last time.

And if it should be that this Congress is allowed to convene on yet another day to come, may that be the day when we finally hear the cries of innocent unborn children. May that be the day when we find the humanity, the courage, and the will to embrace together our human and our constitutional duty to protect these, the least of our tiny, little American

brothers and sisters from this murderous scourge upon our Nation called abortion on demand.

It is May 5, 2008, 12,887 days since *Roe versus Wade* first stained the foundation of this Nation with the blood of its own children, this in the land of the free and the home of the brave.

STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF H.R.
493, "THE GENETIC INFORMATION
NONDISCRIMINATION ACT
(GINA)"

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2008

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 493, "The Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act (GINA)". I would like to thank my colleague Congresswoman LOUISE MCINTOSH SLAUGHTER, from New York, for introducing this important legislation. I would also like to thank my colleagues on the Energy and Commerce, Ways and Means, Education and Labor committees for their leadership in this highly contentious and complex health issue.

The Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act (GINA) would restrict health insurers' Title I, and employer's Title II, acquisition and use of genetic information in several ways. It is also supported by consumer groups, the medical profession, researchers, the medical products industry and pharmaceutical companies.

Since the first bills were introduced in the 103d Congress, many of the arguments and positions supporting and opposing genetic nondiscrimination legislation have remained largely unchanged. The simple fact is without protection, people are apprehensive about seeking potentially beneficial genetic services or participating in much needed clinical research.

Alex Haley, the gifted author of *Roots*, stated on the front page of his book that "In all of us there is a hunger, marrow deep, to know our heritage—to know who we are and where we have come from. Without this enriching knowledge there is a hollow yearning. No matter what our attainment in life, there is still a vacuum, an emptiness and the most disquieting loneliness."

When author Alex Haley revealed his *Roots* in the late 1970s, everyone in the Nation, it seemed, wondered about their own great-great-grandparents. As a result, the genealogical quest fever spread, particularly among African Americans.

It took Haley more than a decade to trace back several generations, but as most Black people realize, not many of similar heritage will be able to unearth their lineage even that soon. That's because few, if any, reliable records of the centuries-long Atlantic slave trade remain to help in the search. That's what became all too apparent to rheumatologist Dr. Paul Plotz in 1992, when "a chance occurrence" pointed his research on a rare muscle disorder to West Africa and "the greatest undocumented migration of modern times."

As Haley pointed out, people have an inherent interest in knowing their heritage. Our investment in modern science, specifically the