

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

OUR MILITARY MUST BE ENVIRONMENTALLY RESPONSIBLE TOO

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 28, 2009

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, I have introduced the Military Environmental Responsibility Act (H.R. 672). The purpose of this bill is to require the Department of Defense to fully comply with Federal and State environmental laws.

Military exemptions from requirements and enforcement provisions under environment, public safety, and worker protection laws harm the environment and human health. Our constituents who border military bases should have the same protections as other municipalities.

This bill will not compromise military readiness. Environmental laws currently include exemptions for the military in the event of "paramount interest of the United States". These exemptions have only been used a handful of times, and the President would retain that authority over this legislation.

Americans believe that their government should be accountable to them and play by the same rules that they have to follow. Much of the cynicism and apathy of recent years can be traced directly to public perception that government officials and agencies are not accountable to anyone. We can only begin to restore faith in government and participation in democracy by ensuring that the federal government works under the same laws and regulations as private businesses and individuals.

CONGRATULATIONS JUDGE PAIGE GOSSETT

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 28, 2009

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I wish to congratulate my long time friend, Paige Jones Gossett, as she receives the Oath of Office and takes the bench as United States Magistrate Judge for the District of South Carolina.

Known by her nickname Cricket, she is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of the University of South Carolina Honors College, finished as the third highest rated graduate in her law school class, and received nearly every academic award available. Prior to her election as a South Carolina Administrative Law Judge in 2006, she had over ten years of private practice experience as a partner in the Willoughby & Hofer law firm in Columbia.

I also want to congratulate Chief Judge David C. Norton and the other District Judges

in South Carolina for selecting Judge Gossett from a large pool of highly qualified applicants. Her intelligence and temperament are the ideal qualities that we should seek in judicial candidates.

On a personal note, I am particularly grateful for her success which is complemented by the achievement of her husband, my former State Senate Chief of Staff, Jeff Gossett, who is the first Republican Clerk of the South Carolina Senate in over 100 years. They are raising three outstanding children: Jackson Keith Gossett, Ainsley Cooper Gossett, and Anna Katherine Gossett.

Congratulations, Judge Paige Gossett.

RECOGNIZING LIFESOUTH COMMUNITY BLOOD CENTERS IN HERNANDO COUNTY, FLORIDA

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 28, 2009

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor LifeSouth Community Blood Centers, Inc. in Hernando County for their work improving the lives and welfare of area residents.

In life and death emergencies, when every second counts, it is vitally important that healthcare providers and emergency responders have access to safe and ready supplies of blood for transfusions. LifeSouth Community Blood Center is currently the only blood provider for many of our area hospitals, including ones at Oak Hill, Brooksville Regional and Spring Hill. Their hard work ensures that medical professionals in Hernando County have the blood necessary to save lives and help our local community.

Throughout the country each year there will be almost five million Americans who need blood transfusions. In Hernando County alone, LifeSouth collects 13,000 units of blood annually, utilizing more than 300 blood drives with their Bloodmobiles to meet the demand. The local donor center is open 363 days a year and employs thirty people to collect, process and distribute the blood to area hospitals.

Whether you have ever needed a blood transfusion yourself, or just know someone who has, it is organizations like LifeSouth that help ensure you will be taken care of in an emergency. For area residents who donate blood, please know that all of the blood collected in Hernando County stays within the County, so your donation will help your friends and neighbors. When you donate blood it is not an exaggeration to say that you are truly giving the gift of life.

This January 31, I will be hosting my annual veteran benefit fair. LifeSouth has agreed to take part in the event and is bringing one of their Bloodmobiles to the site to collect much needed blood. With more than 105,000 vet-

erans in the 5th District, many of whom are in need of medical attention, it is important for the community to donate blood and help meet that need.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join me in recognizing LifeSouth Community Blood Centers for their commitment to the local community. Without their blood collection, processing and dissemination efforts, area hospitals would face severe shortages of life-saving blood. I commend LifeSouth for their efforts and thank them for helping the veterans of Hernando County at this year's veteran benefit fair.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

HON. MARK E. SOUDER

OF INDIANA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 28, 2009

Mr. SOUDER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 39, and especially in support of the work being done in Fort Wayne, Indiana, at Bishop Dwenger High School.

According to the 1972 statement by National Conference of Catholic Bishops: "The educational efforts of the Church, therefore, must be directed to forming persons-in-community; for the education of the individual Christian is important not only to his solitary destiny, but also the destinies of the many communities in which he lives."

Madam Speaker, Bishop Dwenger has been improving the Fort Wayne community since it welcomed over 200 students in the fall of 1963. They now enroll over 1,100 students and the school has accumulated an impressive list of both academic and athletic accomplishments.

In 2004, the Department of Education recognized Bishop Dwenger as a No Child Left Behind Blue Ribbon School, an accomplishment that places them among the top 10 percent of schools nationwide. Two years later, Bishop Dwenger was recognized as one of the top 50 Catholic schools in the nation.

The school's drive for excellence goes beyond the classroom. Madam Speaker, the students are involved in community service activities to fulfill the school's commitment "to social awareness through service to others." With over 80 percent of Dwenger students involved in at least one extracurricular activity, they have won state championships in football, gymnastics, Spell Bowl and more.

In an increasingly competitive economic environment, a quality education is a prerequisite for future success. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in support of Bishop Dwenger and Catholic schools across the country. These institutions are essential in preparing well-rounded individuals who will be among the future leaders of our country.

• 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.

TRIBUTE TO HARLAND MIESER

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 28, 2009

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, let me take this moment to recognize the career of Harland Mieser of Lafayette County, Missouri. Mr. Mieser served as Associate Commissioner of Lafayette County for 18 years.

Mr. Mieser has been an outstanding public official, serving as a member of the West Central Missouri Solid Waste Management District Region F, the Waverly Regional Youth Center Liaison Council, Inc., Lafayette County Inter-Agency, Prairie Rose Resource Conservation and Development Council, Pioneer Trails Regional Planning Commission, and the Highway 13 Coalition Committee. His public service culminated with position as Lafayette County Commissioner. From 1991–1994 he served as the Eastern Associate Commissioner in Lafayette County and then from 1997–2008 he served as Southern Associate Commissioner of Lafayette County.

As Mr. Mieser retires from his current post, I trust that the Members of the House will join me in thanking him for his outstanding leadership in the Missouri community.

CELEBRATING THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BOK TOWER GARDENS

HON. ADAM H. PUTNAM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 28, 2009

Mr. PUTNAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the upcoming 80th anniversary of the Bok Tower Gardens. President Calvin Coolidge first dedicated the Bok Tower Gardens for visitation on February 1, 1929.

Edward Bok, a Pulitzer Prize winning author, commissioned the building of the gardens and bird sanctuary in the early 1920s in Lake Wales, FL. The gardens were originally designed by Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., atop a 14-acre area on Iron Mountain, one of the highest points in Florida. The gardens have expanded to cover nearly 700 acres today.

Architect Milton Medary was commissioned to design and construct the tower in 1926. The tower stretches 205 feet into the sky and is intended to be the focal point of the gardens. It is primarily made of marble and includes a 60-bell carillon at the top.

Mr. Bok died on January 9, 1930, less than a year after the completion of the tower. He is now buried at the base of the tower. His dream of creating and preserving a place of beauty and peace is still alive today, a true and long-lasting gift to our State. It has played host to concerts, weddings, educational and charity events, as well as numerous other important community benefits. It is also a wonderful place for a family get together.

The Garden Sanctuary and Tower were designated as National Historic Landmarks on April 19, 1993. The Bok Tower Gardens serve as one of Florida's most beautiful natural settings. I urge my colleagues to join me in celebrating the anniversary of this great Florida landmark.

HONORING STATE REPRESENTATIVE TREY MARTINEZ FISCHER AND FAMILY

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 28, 2009

Mr. GONZALEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Texas State Representative Trey Martinez Fischer and his wife Elizabeth Provencio on the arrival of their first born, Francesca Maria Provencio Fischer. Francesca Maria was born on January 4th, 2009 at 6:01 a.m. and I'm proud to report that Francesca Maria and her mother are both healthy and doing well.

As both Trey and Elizabeth now know, words cannot quite describe the joy and thrill of being a new parent. I am certain that Francesca Maria will grow up in a loving environment and learn from the great example set by her parents of duty, responsibility, and compassion.

The journey they are embarking upon together will prove to be an unparalleled life experience, and I wish their entire family the best for a healthy and happy lifetime together.

IN TRIBUTE TO THEODORE BIKEI

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 28, 2009

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Theodore Bikel on receiving the Creative Leadership Award from the National Jewish Theater and the American Theater Festival. Throughout his life, Mr. Bikel has displayed an unwavering commitment to arts awareness, human rights, and Jewish activism, and his service to our nation is truly inspiring. No stranger to the Sunshine State, Theodore Bikel was the co-creator, co-author and co-star of the successful play Sholom Aleichem Lives, performed in early 1997 in several Florida theatres. He is also the writer and star of Sholom Aleichem: Laughter Through Tears, which recently had its world premiere in Washington, D.C. Additionally, on his long list of accomplishments, Mr. Bikel created the role of Baron Von Trapp in the original Broadway production of The Sound of Music and starred as Tevye in Fiddler on the Roof more than 2,000 times. Bikel's career began in Tel Aviv, Israel, where he co-founded the Cameri Theatre, and performed classical and modern drama in Hebrew. Some of his most prominent honors include receiving an Emmy Award in 1988, having held the position of senior vice president of the American Jewish Congress, and accepting both a Doctor of Humane Letters from Hebrew Union College and the title of MAGGID from the World Union for Progressive Judaism. As Mr. Bikel marks his 85th birthday this June with a celebratory concert at Carnegie Hall, I feel grateful for this talented individual whose artistic vision and civic activism have profoundly touched the lives of all Americans.

HELP OUR BORDER COMMUNITIES

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 28, 2009

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker and colleagues, I rise today to speak about a very important bill that I just introduced, the Save Our Border Communities Act (H.R. 670). The bill would reimburse police, firefighters and other first responders for services associated with U.S. Ports of Entry.

Local law enforcement and first responders are bearing the brunt of protecting our borders. The federal government has not reimbursed border towns for border-related incidents and its drain on local police, firefighters and first responders is increasingly unbearable.

In Imperial County, California, the already strained local police department has announced that due to the high volume of border-related requests, it will no longer respond to most calls from the U.S.-Mexico Port of Entry. The local police department stated they cannot afford to process and transport the numerous individuals with out-of-county misdemeanor warrants to the local jail. Now, instead of being brought to justice, these individuals are set free.

It is about time the federal government pays its fair share. I urge my colleagues to join me in ensuring all our border communities are fully reimbursed for protecting our nation's borders by supporting the Save Our Border Communities Act.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION ALLOWING INTERSTATE SHIPMENT OF UNPASTEURIZED MILK

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 28, 2009

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce legislation that allows the shipment and distribution of unpasteurized milk and milk products for human consumption across state lines. This legislation removes an unconstitutional restraint on farmers who wish to sell or otherwise distribute, and people who wish to consume, unpasteurized milk and milk products.

My office has heard from numerous people who would like to obtain unpasteurized milk. Many of these people have done their own research and come to the conclusion that unpasteurized milk is healthier than pasteurized milk. These Americans have the right to consume these products without having the Federal Government second-guess their judgment about what products best promote health. If there are legitimate concerns about the safety of unpasteurized milk, those concerns should be addressed at the state and local level.

I urge my colleagues to join me in promoting consumers' rights, the original intent of the Constitution, and federalism by cosponsoring my legislation to allow the interstate shipment of unpasteurized milk and milk products for human consumption.

DTV DELAY ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 2009

Mr. MARKEY of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I want to commend you for quickly putting this Senate legislation (S. 328) before the House for immediate consideration. This is a bill that is responsive to the slate of digital television issues confronting consumers and the television industry.

In several weeks, without immediate action, millions of Americans may remain unprepared for the digital television transition. Mr. Speaker, as you know, I have had a long interest in the digital television transition. I held the very first hearing on "High Definition TV" in October of 1987—more than 20 years ago. In 1990, I battled hard and successfully as then-Chairman of the House Telecommunications and Finance Subcommittee to get the Federal Communications Commission to switch from pursuing an "analog" HDTV standard to a "digital" standard. Moreover, I fought to build into the Telecomm Act in 1996 the appropriate way in which broadcasters could utilize "spectrum flexibility" to multiplex the digital signal into several video programming channels or offer wireless interactive television or information services. And I pushed unsuccessfully in the context of the 1997 budget battles to prohibit the sale of "analog-only" televisions by the year 2000—an amendment that was opposed by every Republican in our Committee markup in 1997. The result was over a hundred million analog-only sets were sold into the marketplace even as the government was stipulating it intended to turn off the analog TV signal. The failure to mandate "dual tuner" TVs sooner has compounded the difficulty of this transition immeasurably by increasing the base of TV receivers that need converter boxes to receive digital TV signals.

Most recently, for the last two years as the Telecommunications and Internet Subcommittee Chairman, I convened six DTV hearings, requested and received three Government Accountability Office (GAO) reports, and wrote numerous oversight letters to the FCC, to NTIA, and to industry and consumer representatives in headlong pursuit of ensuring a successful digital television transition on February 17th.

At the last DTV hearing that we held the second week of September—just after the Wilmington, North Carolina switch-over test—the GAO testified:

"NTIA is effectively implementing the converter box subsidy program, but its plans to address the likely increase in coupon demand as the transition nears remain unclear. . . . With a spike in demand likely as the transition date nears, NTIA has no specific plans to address an increase in demand; therefore, consumers might incur significant wait time before they receive coupons as the transition nears and might lose television service during the time they are waiting for the coupons."

In response, I asked the Acting NTIA Administrator to give the Subcommittee a contingency plan for dealing with the expected surge in coupons within 30 days. Now, that contingency plan did not arrive in 30 days. Instead, it arrived to us on November 6th—just after

Election Day. The NTIA's "Final Phase" plan did not echo the GAO's alarm bells, but rather stated the following:

"This Plan demonstrates that the Coupon Program has both sufficient funds and system processing capabilities to achieve this goal . . . and to do so without the creation a large backlog. Also, NTIA has built flexibility into the Program to respond to various or unexpected events. Moreover, based on actual, cumulative redemption data, NTIA would not exhaust the authorized \$1.34 billion in coupon funding despite increased demand leading up to the analog shut-down on February 17th, and, in fact, may return as much as \$340 million to the U.S. Treasury."

That's from the NTIA just over two months ago. "No problem," the agency is saying. In essence the agency is telling Congress, "We have a plan to deal with the surge and we don't need any more money. No large backlog. And we'll have hundreds of millions of dollars left over."

Now, why is this important? It is important because we were actually in session in November. We could have acted during the "lame duck" session if the Bush Administration had said, "yes, we will likely have a short-fall", or "please, Congress, let's err on the side of caution and budget a couple hundred million more just in case . . .". Yet NTIA told us all just the opposite. The agency said everything was fine and they didn't need additional money for coupons.

In late December, I asked for an urgent status update on the program. That's when NTIA wrote back to me—on December 24th—stating that a waiting list was going to begin in January of this year because the coupon program was hitting its funding ceiling. The agency indicated that to solve this issue and spend up to the \$1.34 Billion in the underlying statute for coupons that another 250 million dollars at a minimum might be needed. And that amount would not necessarily reflect the actual demand for coupons the agency was newly projecting. The waiting list now represents approximately 3 million coupons.

In an attempt to respond quickly, I reached out the first week we returned here in January to Ranking Member JOE BARTON (R-TX) and said if we work together on an accounting fix we could start to address the waiting list issue and get the coupons flowing to consumers again and buy some time. I want to thank Rep. BARTON for his willingness to proceed on such a bill.

But that effort has simply become overtaken by events. If we passed it and also gave NTIA a couple hundred million dollars for additional coupons in a measure that passed through the House and through the Senate today, and arrived to the President's desk this evening, we simply wouldn't be able to address the backlog and get coupons out to people who have requested them by February 17th.

Not every media market will be as unprepared as others on February 17th. I know that in the Boston market, our local commercial and noncommercial broadcasters, as well as our local cable operators, have worked diligently to be ready on February 17th and I commend them for their model efforts. Yet even in Boston, it is important to note that a recent test brought a flood of calls to consumer call centers from citizens confused about or unprepared for the switchover. Many other media markets, in part due to the demographic makeup of such markets, will have an

even greater risk of significant dislocation without immediate action. The Bush Administration has simply left us with so little time to make the needed adjustments on a national basis absent a short, one-time delay.

So, although this is the last place we all wanted to be, and in spite of the fact that we toiled mightily to make this effort work, it is my judgment that a short delay is in the public interest in order to protect consumers. I urge passage of this emergency DTV legislation.

LAW ENFORCEMENT STATUS FOR
LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS**HON. BOB FILNER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 28, 2009

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, I recently reintroduced, along with my colleague JOHN MCHUGH, The Law Enforcement Officers Equity Act (H.R. 673). The purpose of this bill is simply to give law enforcement status to all federal law enforcement officers!

Many federal officials—for example, the Border Patrol—are classified as "law enforcement officers," for the purposes of determining salary and retirement benefits. But many other officers—such as Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Inspectors, Veterans' Affairs Police Officers, U.S. Mint Police Officers, Internal Revenue Officers, Customs and Border Protection Seized Property Specialists, and police officers in about two dozen other agencies—do not have equal pay and benefits status.

The tragic irony, Madam Speaker, is that the only time these officers are classified as law enforcement officers is when they are killed in the line of duty. Then their names are inscribed on the wall of the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial right here in Washington.

Let me say that again. It is only when they are killed that they are called law enforcement officers, and that is a tragic irony.

My district encompasses the entire California-Mexico border and is home to two of the busiest border crossings in the entire world, so I am very familiar with the work of our nation's border inspectors. They wear bulletproof vests, they carry firearms, and, unfortunately, have to use them. Most importantly, these inspectors are subject to the same risks as other officers with whom they serve side-by-side. However, they are not eligible for early retirement and other benefits, which are designed to maintain a young and vigorous law enforcement workforce that we need to combat those who pose life-threatening risks to our society.

The Law Enforcement Officers Equity Act will provide well-deserved pay and retirement benefits to the officers protecting our borders, our ports of entry, our military and veterans' installations and other sensitive government buildings. The costs of these benefits would likely be off-set by savings in training costs and increased revenue collection. The bill will also reduce turnover, increase yield, decrease recruitment and development costs and enhance the retention of a well-trained and experienced workforce.

Madam Speaker, the simple fact is that these officers have dangerous jobs and deserve to be recognized as law enforcement officers, just like others with whom they serve,

side by side, and who share the same level of risk. I encourage my colleagues to join me and Mr. McHUGH in co-sponsoring, the Law Enforcement Officers Equity Act. The valiant officers who protect us deserve no less.

IN TRIBUTE TO JEWEL PEDI

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 28, 2009

Mr. GALLEGLY. Madam Speaker, I rise in tribute to my longtime friend Jewel PEDI, a person of enormous intelligence and drive, who is retiring at the tender age of 83 to spend well-earned time with her family.

More than 30 years ago, Jewel founded FOOD Share with a small group of like-minded members of the Ventura County, CA, community. The structure she built should ensure its survival for many years to come.

Jewel's dedication comes from a compassion rooted in her faith. That faith led her to work 3 years with state lawmakers on farm bills; to build coalitions with some 200 other non-profit agencies; and to step up to help those in need during the Northridge earthquake, southern California's numerous wildfires, the La Conchita landslide, and hurricanes across the Nation.

Along the way she has been honored with the American Red Cross 4th Annual Clara Barton Award; the city of Ventura Humanitarian of the Year Award; the P.W. Gillibrand Company, Inc., Humanitarian of the Year Award, among others.

Jewel is moving to Bullhead City, AZ, to be closer to her children. While retiring from her current calling, her faith is leading her to another. A pastor, Jewel will perform weddings; and, she said, she will see if another calling awaits her.

Madam Speaker, I know my colleagues will join my wife, Janice, and me in thanking Jewel for making Ventura County a stronger and more compassionate community and in wishing her Godspeed in her retirement.

NATIONAL BLOOD DONOR MONTH
HONORS FLORIDA BLOOD SERVICES
VOLUNTEERS AND STAFF

HON. C. W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 28, 2009

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Madam Speaker, The foundation of our nation is built upon one person helping another in their time of greatest need. This month we honor those volunteers who "Give the Gift of Life" during National Blood Donor Month.

Florida Blood Services, which I have the privilege to represent in St. Petersburg, Florida, provides life-saving blood products for the 14 counties of the Tampa Bay, Northwest Florida and Southern Alabama areas, supplying 61 hospitals and ambulatory care centers. This fine organization also tests and screens blood for 30 East Coast blood centers

and medical facilities from Maine to the north all the way to Puerto Rico to the south.

The heart of Florida Blood Service's operations is its volunteers. Last year, 100,000 blood and platelet donors rolled up their sleeves to donate one pint at a time to save the life of complete strangers near and far away. This includes some remarkable individuals who have made blood donation their passion. Frank Knight, III has donated 96 gallons of blood, Bobbie Bernstein 86 gallons, and my former District Director and now the Vice Mayor of Clearwater, George Cretokos, has donated 36 gallons of blood.

Florida Blood Services has an outstanding staff and Board of Directors that manages donor recruitment, collection, distribution and quality control programs. Don Doddridge is the Chief Executive Officer and this year also serves as President of America's Blood Centers. He has devoted his entire working career to promoting the need for blood donation and to ensure the safety of the procedure and the quality of the products. It has been a pleasure to work with Don and his staff over the years on a number of federal issues related to blood collection. This includes Don's work to focus national attention on ensuring that blood collection is a key part of our nation's disaster contingency planning and that plans are in place to be able to distribute blood products to areas in crisis. He has also seen that Florida Blood Services and other national blood banks are available to provide critical blood products to those serving in uniform here and abroad.

Finally, Madam Speaker, I want to commend Florida Blood Services for instilling in our nation's youth the need to serve others, in this case as blood donors. Through its unique high school leadership program, Florida Blood Services recruits high school students to organize and sponsor blood drives in high schools throughout the four-county Tampa Bay area. It was a real honor for me last April to be asked to speak to its High School Leadership Conference where they brought together more than 400 students who had led efforts in their schools. Together, students at these school-based drives donated 27,000 units of blood.

Madam Speaker, I would ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Florida Blood services and their volunteer donors of all ages. Like blood donors all across America, they "Give the Gift of Life" every day to complete strangers out of a sense of service and compassion. We honor all these heroes during this National Blood Donor Month.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS
OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK E. SOUDER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 21, 2009

Mr. SOUDER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 39, and specifically in support of the work being done at St. Charles Borromeo in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

According to the 1972 statement by National Conference of Catholic Bishops: "The educational efforts of the Church, therefore, must

be directed to forming persons-in-community; for the education of the individual Christian is important not only to his solitary destiny, but also the destinies of the many communities in which he lives."

Madam Speaker, since its founding the St. Charles Borromeo school has been enriching the lives of individuals across Northeastern Indiana. With its emphasis on the traditions and principles of the Catholic faith, the school seeks to infuse in its students a sense of obligation to their community.

Elementary and Middle School are the early steps many individuals take on their way to academic achievement and lifelong learning. With its focus on math, computer training and science, St. Charles Borromeo equips students with the skills needed to thrive in a 21st century economy. Furthermore, by requiring all seventh and eighth grade students to study a foreign language, the school helps prepare students for the globalized marketplace.

As the mission of St. Charles Borromeo states, "all children deserve a safe, loving, and respectful environment where children and faculty can grow spiritually and academically." Madam Speaker, I second these thoughts and am grateful for the contributions the faculty and staff at St. Borromeo make in the lives of young people. I urge my colleagues to join me in support of this resolution and the efforts of Catholic schools across the country.

HONORING REVEREND CLAUDE
BLACK JUNIOR

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 28, 2009

Mr. GONZALEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today just days after the historic inauguration of our country's 44th President to honor a similarly honorable and trailblazing individual, Reverend Claude Black Jr. of San Antonio. On Sunday, January 18th, 2009, Rev. Black will be honored at Realizing the Dream's second annual Holiday Commemoration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. with the organization's Testament of Hope Award. I join the organization in offering my congratulations for all his achievements and contributions to our country.

Born in a segregated San Antonio in 1916, Rev. Black's lifelong commitment to civil rights, justice, and equality is well-deserving of this recognition and honor. From leading marches for civil rights to attending the White House's Conference on Civil Rights in 1966 with President Lyndon Johnson, he has always been at the forefront of the fight for equality. And as the first African American Mayor Pro Tem of San Antonio in 1974, he paved the way for future African Americans to seek elected office and rightfully participate in our democracy.

Rev. Black is a hero and inspiration to all Americans. His efforts to better our society are not only worthy of this recognition but also our sincere gratitude. I am honored to call him a constituent, congratulate him for this recognition, and thank him for all he has done on behalf our community and our country.

LET DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
AND CIVILIAN POLICE COORDI-
NATE

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 28, 2009

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, I recently introduced the Department of Defense and Civilian Law Enforcement Coordination Act of 2009 (H.R. 675). My bill would amend federal law to permit Department of Defense law enforcement officers to better coordinate and cooperate with civilian law enforcement agencies. I drafted this legislation in cooperation with the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) because many DOD law enforcement officers in my district have informed me that they are prohibited from basic coordination and cooperation with civilian agencies near DOD facilities. We need to ensure that federal, state, and local law enforcement are able to work together to apprehend criminals and to prevent and solve crimes. I hope that my colleagues will join me in co-sponsoring this important legislation.

CONGRATULATING THE GRAM-
BLING STATE UNIVERSITY FOOT-
BALL TEAM

HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 28, 2009

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Grambling State University (GSU) Tiger Football Team for becoming the State Farm Bayou Classic Champions, the Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC) Champions and the Sheridan National Black College Champions for 2008.

By defeating Southern University 29–14 in the 35th Annual State Farm Bayou Classic on November 29, GSU won the SWAC West Division and earned the opportunity to meet Jackson State University (JSU) in the SWAC Championship Game. This battle provided the Tigers a rematch against the victors of last year's game.

On December 13, GSU secured their 10th consecutive win of the 2008 football season, making the Tigers the new champs of this competitive conference. This win marked the Tigers 22nd time to capture the SWAC Football Championship. In addition, GSU head coach Ron Broadway was named the SWAC Coach of the Year.

Shortly following this victory, the Tigers were crowned the Sheridan National Black College Champions—marking their 14th time to win this national title in the school's history. This outstanding recognition is the second earned by Broadway in three years.

The Tigers finished the season with an impressive 11–2 record—matching the record of the 2005 GSU Football Team, which also earned these titles.

I would like to recognize the accomplishments of the players, coaches, students and staff that were instrumental in these triumphs.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the 2008 GSU Tiger Football Team for all of their successes achieved during this season.

HONORING THE HEROIC ACTIONS
OF THE PILOT, CREW, AND RES-
CUERS OF US AIRWAYS FLIGHT
1549

SPEECH OF

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 26, 2009

Mr. ROTHMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 84, legislation to honor the heroic efforts of Flight 1549's Captain Chesley B. Sullenberger III, his flight crew, the First Responders and private citizens that prevented a catastrophic engine failure on a commercial aircraft from resulting in a single loss of life.

Just five minutes after lifting off on January 15, 2009, Captain Sullenberger's aircraft was struck by a flock of birds, resulting in the loss of two of his engines. The instant those engines failed, Captain Sullenberger, his crew, the passengers entrusted to his care, and residents of the 9th Congressional District of New Jersey who were in the plane's potential flight path were at grave risk. And yet, rather than give in to panic, Captain Sullenberger wrestled his damaged aircraft into a controlled water landing—an act described in the Wall Street Journal as “one of the rarest and most technically challenging feats in commercial aviation.”

When his plane hit the water Captain Sullenberger and his flight crew—including First Officer Jeffrey Sikes and Flight Attendants Doreen Welsh, Donna Dent, and Sheila Dail—worked quickly and calmly to evacuate their passengers, not stopping until every man, woman and child was out of harm's way. Outside, they were aided by a growing flotilla not just of Coast Guard and police boats, but civilian ferries as well.

Once Flight 1549 was emptied of passengers, Captain Sullenberger walked up and down the aisles of the sinking aircraft twice, only exiting when he was absolutely certain that he had discharged his duty to completely evacuate the plane. His grace under pressure, as well as that of the rescue workers and flight crew, ensured that an emergency in the air did not become a disaster on the ground.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting House Resolution 84. The courage, level-headed professionalism and sheer heroism of the Captain and crew of Flight 1549 are an inspiration to all Americans.

HONORING DEBRA JORDAN

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 28, 2009

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to mark the passing of a true champion for the working families of eastern Connecticut. Debra Jordan of Plainfield, beloved daughter, wife and mother, passed away on January 25, 2009 after a long and courageous battle with cancer.

Debra was a consummate professional who cared deeply about the rights of working men and women. She was an active member of UNITE HERE, serving as local 217's sec-

retary-treasurer for more than 15 years. She fought tirelessly for the people with whom she worked, always believing that no matter what one's station in life might be, that everyone deserved to be treated fairly and justly.

Although her professional career was marked by her commitment to working families, it was the love of her own family that defined her life. Whether it was caring for her grandson Lucien Dube, or at the track watching her son Tim race, anyone who knew Debra could tell you that these were the moments that brought joy to her life and that great smile to her face. While we lament her passing, we know that her memory will live on in her beloved family, including her husband Patrick, to whom she was married for 25 years.

This has been a trying week for those of us who had the privilege to call Debra our friend. She left us too early, but as we grieve her we must remember the joy that she brought to the lives of all she touched. I ask my colleagues to join me in mourning the loss of Debra Jordan.

HONORING PURPLE HEART
RECIPIENT FRANCIS J. SEYFRIED

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 28, 2009

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an American hero and Purple Heart recipient, Mr. Francis J. Seyfried. A proud member of our Nation's military during World War II, Staff Sergeant Seyfried was killed over the North Atlantic when his plane evaded enemy fire, crashed into another aircraft, and his parachute landed in the frigid Atlantic waters below.

Born on November 22, 1921 in Brooklyn, New York, Mr. Seyfried joined the Army Air Corps on January 30, 1943. Stationed in Europe, he and his fellow soldiers were assigned to perform bombing runs over enemy lines. It was during his 43rd such attack on December 31, 1944 that Mr. Seyfried lost his life in battle.

Commonly known as the Piggyback incident, the midair collision of two military planes caused a sensation amongst military members at the time. Returning from a bombing run over Hamburg, Germany, Staff Sergeant Seyfried's aircraft was evading enemy fire when his plane collided with another Allied aircraft. The two planes stuck together, with the engine of one plane dug completely into the engine of the other. Instead of separating and crashing separately, the two planes continued flying together in piggyback fashion. While ten of the crew members from the two planes did manage to escape safely, Staff Sergeant Seyfried was lost in the frigid North Atlantic waters off the German coast.

Madam Speaker, soldiers like Francis J. Seyfried should be recognized for their service to our Nation and for their commitment and sacrifices in battle. I am honored to present Mr. Seyfried's family with his long overdue Purple Heart. While he has passed on from this life, his family, friends and loved ones should know that we truly consider him one of America's heroes.

LET'S REMEMBER OUR VIETNAM
HEROES

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 28, 2009

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, I have just re-introduced legislation intended to honor the service and sacrifice of many of the members of the United States Armed Forces who fought in Vietnam, the "In Memory Medal for Forgotten Veterans Act" (H.R. 671).

Those so recognized are veterans who have died as a result of their service in the Vietnam War but who do not meet the criteria for inclusion on The Wall of the Vietnam War Memorial in Washington, D.C. The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund has a program called "In Memory" which has raised money for a plaque that has been placed near The Wall. The plaque honors "those who served in the Vietnam War and later died as a result of their service". No names are on the plaque, but all names are kept in the "In Memory Book" at a kiosk near The Wall, and families can order a copy.

My bill adds to this recognition by presenting the families of these veterans with a medal, to be known as the "Jesus (Chuchi) Salgado Medal" to be issued by the Secretary of Defense. Chuchi Salgado was an outstanding individual who lived in my Congressional district, whose exposure to Agent Orange ultimately led to his death. His relatives continue to live in my district.

Because of the boundaries that have been set for the names to be placed on The Wall, Chuchi and many, many other Vietnam veterans are not honored in this manner. Now, with new veterans coming back from Iraq and Afghanistan, we are all taking a second look and a closer look at how veterans from past wars have been treated. While we must care for the newer veterans, we must also take this opportunity to do right by veterans of Vietnam, along with those of other past wars and conflicts.

I invite my colleagues to join with me in honoring these veterans. It is critical that we remember those who have fought so gallantly and sacrificed their lives for our freedom.

COMMEMORATING THE 50TH ANNI-
VERSARY OF THE BRANDON
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. ADAM H. PUTNAM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 28, 2009

Mr. PUTNAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud the Brandon Chamber of Commerce as it celebrates its 50th anniversary.

Since its establishment in 1959, the Brandon Chamber of Commerce has contributed greatly to economic growth and development in the Brandon area and has served as a valuable resource for local businesses.

The Brandon Chamber of Commerce offers programs and services that foster meaningful partnerships between businesses as well as between businesses and educational facilities. It also monitors developments in local, State,

and federal government and helps coordinate member advocacy efforts.

The Chamber of Commerce provides a forum for future leaders from the Brandon area to grow and develop. It is also a great advocate for minority and women-owned businesses in the Brandon community.

In the past 10 years, membership in the Brandon Chamber has almost doubled, which is a tribute to both the employees at the Chamber and the economic vitality of the community. As Brandon has grown in size and flourished as a thriving metropolitan area, the Brandon Chamber has kept pace and helped facilitate the city's transition into a bustling commercial center.

During these challenging economic times, I know the Brandon community will look to and benefit from the guidance and expertise of the folks at the Chamber.

Under the skillful leadership of Chamber President Tammy Blackwell and the hard work of her team, I am confident the Chamber will continue to effectively serve, protect, and promote the businesses and economic interests of the Brandon community. Congratulations and best wishes on reaching this historic milestone.

DTV DELAY ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JIM MATHESON

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 2009

Mr. MATHESON. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to thank Chairman WAXMAN for addressing problems with the transition to digital television which was due to happen next month.

The simple fact is that millions of Americans are not prepared for the digital switch.

In Salt Lake City, Nielsen Media Research reports that nearly 9 percent of households are completely unprepared. Salt Lake ranks as the sixth least-ready out of 56 surveyed.

The coupons authorized by Congress 4 years ago—to help families acquire the hardware they need to view programs once the digital change is made—aren't getting to the customers.

Millions of Americans are currently waiting to receive the coupons. The agency charged with distributing them has fallen behind.

My office has been attempting to assist constituents with the program for several months. I know of cases where coupons have expired before they even reach consumer mail boxes. That's ridiculous.

I'd like to thank Chairman WAXMAN for working with the Senate to address concerns I raised about the coupon program. This is a Senate bill, but it is important to acknowledge the work of the Energy and Commerce Committee in trying to fix DTV problems.

The last thing families need right now is the prospect of additional monthly bills in order to watch television.

Finally, I am pleased to see that this bill allows for emergency services to begin using some analog space. It also provides flexibility by allowing broadcasters who are ready-to-go to switch to digital service earlier than June, which is a good idea.

DTV DELAY ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 2009

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to S. 328, the DTV Delay Act.

Since 1996, our nation's first-responders have been calling for more broadcast spectrum to be made available for better and more effective communication among emergency services. Tragically, the lack of such spectrum was cited by experts as partially leading to many unnecessary deaths among those responding to the 2001 terrorist attacks in New York City. In fact, completing the digital television transition so that this spectrum may be used by police, firefighters, and emergency personnel was the main communications-related recommendation of the 9/11 Commission.

In 2005, after years of delay, Congress finally established February 17, 2009 as the date when the country will switch to all-digital broadcasting and eliminate the disruptions to public safety communications. Unfortunately, after more than a decade of preparing for the transition, the bill before us today would delay the digital transition for another three months.

Like many Delawareans, I am concerned about the management of the digital transition process and the shortfall in the number of converter box coupons available. It is critical that we act quickly to provide additional resources to address these complications and ensure our constituents are prepared for the transition date. Still, public safety services and broadcasters have spent millions of dollars preparing for the February 17th transition date and postponing the deadline again will only create more confusion and delay the implementation of this vital 9/11 Commission recommendation.

IN MEMORY OF BETH SHARON
SAMUELS

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 28, 2009

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, this month marks the second anniversary of the passing of Beth Sharon Samuels, an extraordinary Angelino who lost her life to cancer in January 2007 at the age of 31.

Beth grew up in Los Angeles, attending the Yeshiva University High School of Los Angeles and graduating as valedictorian. She went on to study at a women's seminary in Israel before graduating from Columbia University with a degree in mathematics. She then completed a three-year program at the Drisha Institute in Bible and Talmud, a Ph.D. in math at Yale, and earned an assistant professorship at the University of California, Berkeley. In the meantime, she gave birth to a daughter Danelle and later to daughter Natalia while undergoing intensive chemotherapy treatments.

Beth remains with us, even with increasing distance from her passing. We remember her passion for learning and zealous commitment to charity, her open spirit and fierce dedication

to women's Torah study. Beth's legacy will continue to grow through her students, friends, and, of course, her beautiful daughters.

I give my condolences to her parents, Elana and Zachary, her husband, Ari, her daughters, Danelle and Natalia, and her extended friends and family on this solemn occasion.

HOBART CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
AWARD WINNERS

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 28, 2009

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I stand before you today to recognize the Hobart Chamber of Commerce award winners for 2008 and to congratulate one of its member businesses, Burns Funeral Home, as they celebrate a momentous milestone, 100 years of excellent service. These outstanding recipients will be honored during the Chamber's annual awards and installation banquet, which will take place on Thursday, January 29, 2009, at the Avalon Manor in Merrillville, Indiana.

The Hobart Chamber of Commerce utilizes members of the community in order to improve and develop business, industry, and the professions. Each year, the Chamber members and friends gather together to honor the Business Award Winners, Volunteers of the Year, and to commemorate specific accomplishments within the community.

Continuing a tradition that goes back well over 50 years, the Chamber will honor its 2008 Business Award Winners. The Large Business of the Year award recipient is Saint Mary's Medical Center. The hospital continues to be a leader in providing outstanding health services to the community. For the fourth consecutive year, Saint Mary's Medical Center has also won the 2008 Distinguished Hospital for Patient Safety. The Small Business of the Year award recipient is Sebo's Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. This outstanding facility has grown into a 138-bed facility offering clinical services, specialty programming for Alzheimer's and Dementia patients, rehabilitation services, and many other amenities. The New Business of the Year award is being presented to 54 Main Bistro. The owners, Dave and Linda Papp, renovated an 1895 Victorian home and turned it into a local favorite that is known for its weekly changing menu. Each business is dedicated to providing excellent business to the community and for that reason, they are to be commended.

The Hobart Chamber of Commerce will honor the Herrick Family with the Volunteers of the Year award. Dr. James Herrick, his wife Janet Herrick, and their daughter Cheryl Herrick have been dedicated volunteers in Hobart for many years. The family continues to be a staple in the community, donating their time and effort to numerous special events, fundraisers, the Kiwanis Club, Little League, and the community's school system, to name a few. For their selfless commitment to their community, I congratulate the Herrick family on this prestigious award.

The Hobart Chamber of Commerce will also congratulate Burns Funeral Home as they celebrate their 100th anniversary. In 1908, James E. Burns opened his first funeral home in

Hammond, Indiana. His business was founded on providing compassionate care to the friends and families of the departed during their time of need. It was this principle that allowed the Burns family to expand to Gary, Hobart, and finally to Crown Point in the 1980s. Today, the family owned and operated business provides the same exceptional services, and I commend Terry, Sally, Jim, Patrick, and Jimmy Burns, and their entire staff on continuing the legacy of Mr. Burns.

Madam Speaker, at this time, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring the Hobart Chamber of Commerce 2008 Business Award Winners, Volunteers of the Year, and also in congratulating the Burns family and their team on the 100th anniversary of Burns Funeral Home. For their dedication and commitment to the community of Hobart as well as Northwest Indiana, they are all worthy of the honors bestowed upon them.

FAIR TAXES FOR SENIORS

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 28, 2009

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, I recently reintroduced my bill, the "Fair Taxes for Seniors Act" (H.R. 674), which will provide a one-time increase in the capital gains tax exemption on the sale of a home for citizens who are 50 years of age or older. Passing this bill will give many seniors the additional money they need for nursing home care, medical costs, and other retirement expenses.

The Fair Taxes for Seniors Act doubles the current exemption by providing a one-time increase to \$500,000 for a single person and \$1 million for a couple that can be excluded from the sale of a principal residence for taxpayers who have reached the age of 50. Because they will be able to keep more, an added benefit is that family members and perhaps the government will be relieved of the burden of caring for these individuals as they grow older.

I hope that my colleagues will join me in co-sponsoring this important legislation.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF THE
HONORABLE WILLIAM JEREMIAH
TOLTON, JR.

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 28, 2009

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Honorable William Jeremiah Tolton, Jr., known to his friends as "Jere," who passed away on Friday, January 23, 2009. Judge Tolton's lifetime of service in both the civic and social realm set a precedent of excellence in the Northwest Florida area and he will be greatly missed.

Throughout most of his 71 years, Judge Tolton's life was spent bettering the civic and social realm. After earning a B.A. and J.D. from Washington and Lee University in Lexington, Virginia, Judge Tolton moved to Fort Walton Beach, Florida where he began practicing law. The succeeding years were marked with frequent promotions as Judge Tolton be-

came the attorney for the Okaloosa County Commission and the City attorney to the City of Valparaiso, Florida. In 1972, Judge Tolton was elected to the Florida House of Representatives where he served for 4 years before resigning to accept yet another job in public service: Circuit Judge for the First Judicial Circuit of Florida.

When he retired on January 1, 2007, at the age of 69, Judge Tolton's 30 years on the bench made him the longest-tenured judge in the history of Florida's First Judicial Circuit. The 30 years encompassed some of the biggest trials in Florida, including the conviction of former Florida Senate President W.D. Childers. Additionally, Judge Tolton served as President of the Blue Ridge Institute for Juvenile and Family Law Judges and was Chairman of the Judicial Ethics Advisory Committee.

Judge Tolton is survived by his wife, the former Shari Deason, as well as his children, William Jeremiah Tolton III, Elizabeth Tolton Silk, and Timothy Tolton and his grandchild, Liam Silk. My wife Vicki and I send our most sincere condolences to the family as they grieve the loss of this exceptional father, judge, and civic leader.

Judge Tolton's longstanding career in public service will benefit the Northwest Florida community for many years to come. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to recognize the exceptional life of the Honorable William J. Tolton, Jr.

TEXAS FIGHT

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 28, 2009

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, Coach Mack Brown and the Texas Longhorn football team had a great football season. The Longhorns played tough all year, winning 12 games, and losing only once. Among their wins, I would like to especially congratulate them on their victory on a neutral field over Oklahoma; a rivalry that has existed since 1900. With Texas beating Oklahoma again, it further extends the all-time series lead to 58 wins for UT to only 40 for OU.

For the University of Texas winning titles, championships, and individual awards are nothing new. The Longhorns have a rich tradition of conference titles, National Championships, and Heisman trophy winners. You can ask any player and they will tell you that just having the opportunity to play for the University of Texas is the dream of every football player in the great state of Texas. UT players are almost all from Texas, but occasionally an out of state player has the privilege of making his way onto the Longhorn team.

This year there was once again controversy surrounding the BCS. There were several teams including Texas that had legitimate claims to be the team playing for a National Championship. I personally think Texas and the "BCS National Champion Florida Gators" should have a real national playoff game and determine the National Championship. Only through a playoff system can we have a true National Champion every year. NCAA Division II and Division III have a football playoff system that works quite well.

While Texas beat Oklahoma, they were snubbed for the Big 12 Conference title game, which meant they had no chance to play for the National Championship. In addition to this, many felt Colt McCoy should have been given more consideration for the Heisman trophy. With everything that the Longhorns had to endure, it could have been enough for any team to just throw in the towel and give up. However, Coach Mack Brown kept his team focused and committed to their motto, "Texas Fight." UT went on to play a very good Big 10, Ohio State team in the Tostitos Fiesta Bowl. In a thrilling game, Colt McCoy led a "Heismanesk" last minute drive and connected with Senior Quan Cosby for a 26-yard touchdown that gave Texas the win, 24–21.

You need to only look at the upbringing of quarterback Colt McCoy and receiver Jordan Shipley to see the character the Longhorns are made of. Both Colt and Jordan's fathers were teammates and roommates while playing football at my Alma Mater, Abilene Christian University. Brad McCoy was a receiver and Bob Shipley was a running back. After Bob and Brad graduated from ACU they kept in touch, raising their two families together. The two families regularly attended church together, went fishing, and other family activities. Both Brad McCoy and Bob Shipley instilled work ethic, faith in God, and leadership qualities into their two boys.

The character of these two resonates through the whole Longhorn team. They are Texas—a team committed to each other, their coaches, and the University.

Madam Speaker, University of Texas football is as much of a part of America as the flag and apple pie. It is almost a religion in the burnt orange state of Texas.

I commend the Longhorns and coaches for a great season. I look forward to another successful year in '09 along with the 59th win over Oklahoma. Hook'em Horns!

And that's just the way it is.

HONORING THE FOUR IMMORTAL CHAPLAINS

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 28, 2009

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker and colleagues, I rise today to speak about an important resolution that I have reintroduced that honors the legacy of the Four Immortal Chaplains who sacrificed their lives over 65 years ago. (H. Res. 86)

On February 3, 1943, the U.S. Army Transportation Service troopship *Dorchester* was torpedoed in the North Atlantic by a German submarine. Of the 900 passengers and crew, 597 were military personnel, and four of those men were the ship's chaplains—Methodist chaplain George Lansing Fox, Rabbi Alexander Goode, Dutch Reformed minister Clark V. Poling and John P. Washington, a Roman Catholic priest. Each chaplain distributed life vests as the ship went down and then gave up their own when supply ran out. As the ship went down into the icy waters, survivors in the nearby rafts could see the four chaplains with their arms linked and braced against the slanting deck. According to eyewitnesses, the chaplains were heard offering prayers for the soldiers who had died in the wreckage.

In 1948, a stamp was issued honoring these four chaplains as true examples of "Interfaith in Action." They were recognized by Congress and the President with a special Medal of Honor for their selfless acts of courage, compassion and faith.

The heroism of these brave men should serve as an example of love for others without regard to race, religion or creed, and an acknowledgment of the potential for human compassion. This message rings true today more than ever!

That is why I have reintroduced a resolution, which remembers the Four Immortal Chaplain and requests the President issue a proclamation calling on the Federal Government, States, localities, and the people of the United States to observe a day in their honor with appropriate ceremonies, programs, and activities.

It is important their story of extraordinary faith, courage, and selflessness is heard and should guide the way we live out lives with compassion for others, in the spirit of the four Chaplains. I invite my colleagues to join with me in honoring the Four Immortal Chaplains by supporting this important resolution.

IN HONOR OF THE REV. DR.
FRANK WITMAN

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 28, 2009

Mr. GALLEGLY. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of my longtime friend, the Rev. Dr. Frank Witman, who is being honored this week with the prestigious Simi Valley, California, Chamber of Commerce Strathearn Lifetime Achievement Award.

None are more deserving of this recognition than Dr. Witman.

Dr. Witman planted himself in Simi Valley when he arrived in the summer of 1969 to assume the post of senior pastor of the United Methodist Church of Simi Valley. The third-generation United Methodist Church minister immediately anchored his roots, which grew and spread with every year.

Dr. Witman served on the board of directors of the Simi Valley Rotary Club, which he joined in mid-1969, and was the recipient of the Paul Harris Award, one of the highest honors Rotary bestows upon an individual.

In 1972, he led the Simi Valley Ministerial Association to join with the Businessmen Against the Card Club Ordinance to defeat organized gambling in Simi Valley.

Six years later, Dr. Witman founded the chaplain program for the Simi Valley Police Department and, for more than 30 years, he has served as the department's senior chaplain. Dr. Witman has provided comfort, counseling, prayers, and support during most of the city's traumatic and tragic events, including the untimely death of Officer Michael Clark. His support of the city and its police officers earned him the department's Volunteer of the Year Award in 1997, the department's Lifetime Service Award in 2007, and recognition from the Simi Valley City Council in 2008.

Dr. Witman also was a charter member of the Steering Committee for Leadership Simi Valley; a charter member of the Simi Valley Hospital Board Strategic Planning Committee; Simi Valley Hospital's 1995 Volunteer Chap-

lain of the Year; and an 8-year president of the Samaritan Center for the homeless.

In 1990, I had the honor of nominating Dr. Witman to offer a prayer to open a session of the House of Representatives as guest Chaplain, which he did on May 2, 1990.

Dr. Witman retired as Senior Pastor of the Simi Valley Unified Methodist Church in 1997, but he never ended his ministry, fellowship, service, and friendship to the people of the city.

Madam Speaker, I know my colleagues will join my wife, Janice, and me in thanking the Rev. Dr. Frank Witman for his nearly four decades of selfless service to the community, and will join the Simi Valley community in congratulating him for earning the Strathearn Lifetime Achievement Award.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK E. SOUDER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 21, 2009

Mr. SOUDER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 39, and especially in support of Bishop Luers High School in Fort Wayne, IN.

Madam Speaker, Catholic schools are an incredible asset to our country. Throughout much of our history, Catholic schools have provided a solid moral and intellectual education to millions of students, and served as a crucial stabilizing force for many immigrants to our great Nation. Catholic schools have been able to build communities of character in a way unique to much of the rest of our educational system, testified to by the untold amounts of service that have been performed by their graduates.

Bishop Luers is no different. In its mission statement, Bishop Luers pledges to equip each graduate with the spiritual, academic, and social tools they need to serve God and others—that they may be light to the world, so that, in the words of Matthew, others "may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father."

Madam Speaker, Bishop Luers does this incredibly well. The school has many successful graduates, an excellent graduation rate, and impressive athletic achievements. In fact, Bishop Luers has been named one of the Nation's leading Catholic high schools by the national Catholic High School Honor Roll. The men and women of Bishop Luers who each day serve students and families deserve our deep gratitude.

Let me also take a moment briefly to note the incredible work Catholic schools have done and continue to do for minorities, often non-Catholic, and often for very low cost. Indeed, in many poor neighborhoods, the Catholic school is the only good option available to parents. In this way, Catholic schools play a crucial role in the pursuit of justice by building communities that respect the dignity of all people. They deserve our support.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join with me in honoring Bishop Luers and other Catholic schools across the country. It is no exaggeration to say that such schools are critical to the future of our country.

THE INTRODUCTION OF CENTER TO ADVANCE, MONITOR, AND PRESERVE UNIVERSITY SECURITY ACT OF 2009 (H.R. 748)

HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 28, 2009

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, today I rise to introduce the Center to Advance, Monitor and Preserve University Security ("CAMPUS") Safety Act of 2009. The purpose of this legislation is to enable our institutions of higher education to easily obtain the best information available on how to keep our campuses safe and how to respond in the event of a campus emergency. The bill creates a National Center for Campus Public Safety ("Center"), which will be administered through Department of Justice. The Center is designed to train campus public safety agencies in state of the art practices to assure campus safety, encourage research to strengthen college safety and security, and serve as a clearinghouse for the dissemination of relevant campus public safety information. The Director of the Center will have authority to award grants to institutions of higher learning to help them meet their enhanced public safety goals.

Over the past few years we have seen numerous tragedies occur at colleges and universities, including the disastrous events that occurred at Virginia Tech and Northern Illinois University. Unfortunately, because these events were the first of their kind for the schools, the Administrators were not fully knowledgeable on the best practices to prevent the tragedies and how to respond in the aftermath. We therefore must assist our institutions of higher learning to keep campuses safe.

The CAMPUS Safety Act will help institutions of higher learning understand how to prevent such tragedies from occurring, and how to respond in case they do.

I urge my colleagues to cosponsor and support this important legislation to ensure that the institutions of higher education have access to information on how to keep their schools safe.

RECOGNIZING JULIAN BOND

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 28, 2009

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate Julian Bond, who will be recognized as the 2009 Humanitarian of the Year by the North Carolina State Conference of the NAACP. I am proud to be among those honoring him at the organization's 25th Annual Humanitarian Awards Banquet on January 31, 2009.

From his student days to his current chairmanship of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), Julian Bond has been at the forefront of movements for civil rights and economic justice. As an activist jailed for his convictions, a veteran of more than 20 years in the Georgia General

Assembly, and a university professor and writer, he has been on the cutting edge of social change since 1960.

Bond has experienced firsthand overt discrimination and racial prejudice, and he has spent a lifetime standing up against those who would deny him and others equal opportunity because of the color of their skin. He was a founder of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) and was active in protests and registration campaigns throughout the South. He overcame opposition from members of the Georgia House of Representatives, and fought all the way to the United States Supreme Court in order to take his rightful seat. And he led a challenge delegation from Georgia to the 1968 Democratic Convention that successfully unseated Georgia's regular Democrats.

Bond has served since 1998 as Chairman of the Board of the NAACP, the oldest and largest civil rights organization in the United States. In 2002, he received the prestigious National Freedom Award. The holder of twenty-five honorary degrees, Bond is a distinguished professor at American University in Washington, DC, and a professor of history at the University of Virginia.

Bond currently serves as Chairman of the Premier Auto Group PAG (Volvo, Land Rover, Aston-Martin, and Jaguar) Diversity Council and is on the boards of People for the American Way, the Southern Poverty Law Center and the Council for a Livable World, and the advisory board of the Harvard Business School Initiative on Social Enterprise, among others.

Throughout his life and career, Dr. Bond has effected change and remained steadfast as an activist for social justice and civil rights for African-Americans and other minorities. He has led the nation by example, and I congratulate him for the honor he will receive in North Carolina on January 31.

THE TAX FREE TIPS ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 28, 2009

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I rise to help millions of working Americans by introducing the Tax Free Tips Act. As the title suggests, this legislation makes tips exempt from federal income and payroll taxes. Tips often compose a substantial portion of the earnings of waiters, waitresses, and other service-sector employees. However, unlike regular wages, a service-sector employee usually has no guarantee of, or legal right to, a tip. Instead, the amount of a tip usually depends on how well an employee satisfies a client. Since the amount of taxes one pays increases along with the size of tip, taxing tips punishes workers for doing a superior job!

Many service-sector employers are young people trying to make money to pay for their education, or single parents struggling to provide for their children. Oftentimes, these workers work two jobs in hopes of making a better life for themselves and their families. The Tax Free Tips Act gives these hard-working Americans an immediate pay raise. People may use this pay raise to devote more resources to their children's, or their own, education, or to

save for a home, retirement, or to start their own businesses.

Helping Americans improve themselves by reducing their taxes will make our country stronger. I, therefore, hope all my colleges will join me in cosponsoring the Tax Free Tips Act.

CLEAN AIR FOR OUR BORDER

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 28, 2009

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, I have introduced The Foreign Air Impact Regulation (FAIR) Air Act (H.R. 677). The purpose of this bill is to combat air pollution along our borders and to ensure that our communities are not unfairly penalized.

Our border communities are being besieged by toxic pollutants from neighboring countries. This is making the air quality along our border worse than ever—and leaves our communities with little recourse to improve the situation.

The FAIR AIR Act says that if pollution from another country causes non-attainment of air pollution regulations, then the EPA and the Secretary of State should work together to lower it! Furthermore, the effective date of reclassification should be delayed until the Secretary of State and local leaders develop a plan with the neighboring country to improve the air quality.

We cannot put this international problem on the backs of those who simply happen to live along the border. There truly needs to be a bi-national cooperative solution to address this important issue. We all breathe the same air and it is only with bi-national cooperation and working together to achieve better air quality standards for all!

IN HONOR OF SHERBURNE COUNTY SHERIFF BRUCE ANDERSON ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 28, 2009

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Bruce Anderson, who retires as Sheriff for Sherburne County, Minnesota, on Friday, January 30th. As County Board Chairman Arne Engstrom has said, Bruce Anderson "raised the bar so high for sheriffs in our state."

Bruce Anderson, raised in Elk River, Minnesota, first started with the Sheriff's Office in 1975, when he forfeited a football scholarship to the University of Minnesota to take a job as a dispatcher-jailer with Sherburne County. He was just 19 years old, but he knew he wanted a career serving his community in law enforcement.

Fourteen years ago, he took his experience with the office to a new level when he was elected to serve as the County's Sheriff. His professionalism and dedication earned him reelection three more times, without any opposition. When he told the County Board that he would be retiring, his announcement was

marked with the same humility and commitment that Sherburne residents have come to expect of his service. In fact, he thanked the Board for their support, thanked the citizens for the privilege to serve them, and thanked his staff—calling them “unsung heroes.”

Bruce Anderson’s tenure as Sheriff was marked by a number of enormous advances in the Office’s operations. He oversaw an expansion of the County jail and worked out an arrangement to house federal inmates there as well. He brought extraordinary technological advances, including updating their radio system to digital to better enable Sherburne sheriffs to communicate with neighboring jurisdictions. And, he solved some real mysteries and crimes, including a high-profile 1992 murder.

Bruce’s successor will be Captain Joel Brott, who has served in Sherburne County law enforcement for 12 years. Captain Brott has said that he considers Sheriff Anderson a mentor and with such tutelage, Sherburne is sure to be in good hands.

In the meantime, we look forward to seeing what next wonderful adventure in public service awaits Bruce Anderson. Sherburne County Commissioner Felix Schmiesing called Anderson’s retirement “the end of an era” but I believe it is the start of a wonderful new chapter both for Bruce Anderson and for the people of Sherburne County, who I am certain he will continue to serve in some new way.

TRIBUTE TO PRIVATE GRANT A.
COTTING

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 28, 2009

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a hero from my congressional district, Army Private Grant A. Cotting. Today I ask that the House of Representatives honor and remember this incredible young man who died in service to his country.

Grant grew up in Corona, California and attended Santiago High School for three years before graduating from Buena Vista High School in 2007. During his senior year, Grant was part of the ROTC program and hoped to have a career in the military. School officials and counselors remember Grant fondly—he was a quiet student who never hesitated to lend a hand to fellow students.

Private Cotting enlisted in the Army after graduation and was assigned to the 515th Sapper Company, 5th Engineer Battalion, 4th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade based at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. A sapper company handles demolitions, laying and disarming mines, and other combat engineering tasks. On January 24, 2009, Grant was killed in Kut, Iraq, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Grant leaves behind his parents, Craig and Amanda, and four younger brothers, Branden, Nick, Scott and Lucas.

As we look at the incredibly rich military history of our country we realize that this history is comprised of men, just like Grant, who bravely fought for the ideals of freedom and democracy. Each story is unique and humbling for those of us who, far from the dangers they have faced, live our lives in relative comfort and ease. The news of Grant’s death was probably the hardest day the Cotting family

has ever faced and my thoughts, prayers and deepest gratitude for their sacrifice goes out to them. There are no words that can relieve their pain and what words I offer only begin to convey my deepest respect and highest appreciation.

Private Cotting’s family have all given a part of themselves in the loss of their loved one and I hope they know that their son and brother, the goodness he brought to this world, and the sacrifice he has made, will always be remembered.

TRIBUTE TO KATHLEEN CALLAN

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 28, 2009

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask the House to join me in honoring a great Western New Yorker—one of many who are intentional Western New Yorkers, those who have chosen to live in our region as opposed to natives like myself. I rise today to honor Kathleen Callan as she ends her tenure as Executive Director of the Erie County Democratic Committee.

Kathy is a New Jersey native; a product of the Philadelphia, PA suburbs, educated first in local schools and later at American University in Washington, DC, where she earned her undergraduate degree. After high school experiences that included internships with then-Senator Bill Bradley and Congressman Rob Andrews, Kathy and her husband Tim moved to Western New York in 1995, as Tim studied for his PhD at the University at Buffalo.

Following a lengthy stint at the Western New York chapter of the American Lung Association which was marked by successful lobbying for passage of clean indoor air and anti-smoking legislation at the county and state levels, Kathy assumed the Executive Director’s position upon the election of Chairman Len Lenihan in 2002.

From January 2003 to just a few days ago, Kathy served tirelessly as Executive Director, managing the day to day operations of the busiest and most successful county Democratic Party organization in upstate New York. Kathy’s record of successful contributions to candidates for public office runs the gamut of offices in New York State. From trustee positions in the smallest villages of Erie County, to countywide offices like Comptroller and County Clerk, to state legislative and congressional officeholders and Justices of the State Supreme Court, several dozen public officeholders—myself included—owe Kathy a tremendous debt of gratitude for her intellect and instinct, her dedication and loyalty, and her tireless commitment to public service.

For that latter point, Madam Speaker, I do not wish to belabor, but instead to amplify. Over the past six years, Kathy worked literally scores of 80, 90 or 100-hour workweeks, dependent of course upon the time of year and the political calendar’s requirements, in order to ensure that candidates for public office had the services they needed. As myself a former Secretary—a lifetime ago, it seems—of the very party she served so proudly, I can honestly say that no staff member of our local organization ever worked as hard, or as effectively, as Kathy Callan has.

So, Madam Speaker, it is with a somewhat heavy heart that we bid farewell to Kathy as Executive Director of the Erie County Democratic Committee, although I am certain that we will see her often. I hope the House will join me in wishing Kathy and her husband Tim good luck and Godspeed in all of their future endeavors, and again congratulate Kathy on a job superbly done.

DISABILITY BENEFITS FOR PEOPLE WITH HUNTINGTON’S DISEASE

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 28, 2009

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, I have introduced the Huntington’s Disease Parity Act of 2009 (H.R. 678). The purpose of this bill is to improve Social Security Disability Benefits and Medicare coverage for people affected by Huntington’s Disease.

Huntington’s Disease (HD), is a genetic neurodegenerative disease (like Alzheimer’s) that causes total physical and mental deterioration over a 10 to 25 year period. Eventually, every person diagnosed with HD will lose the ability to live independently. It is a rare disease, affecting 30,000 Americans, while another 200,000 are considered “at risk” of inheriting it from an affected parent.

Many people with HD who apply for Social Security disability benefits experience delays and denials due to the continued use of outdated and insufficient medical criteria. Often, by the time persons affected by HD are “under review” for SSA disability, many have already lost their employer-provided health insurance benefits. This legislation would address this problem by directing the Social Security Administration to revise its medical criteria for determining disability for people with HD.

The legislation would also remove the two-year waiting period for people living with HD to receive Medicare benefits after receiving Social Security disability benefits. Eliminating this waiting period will ensure individuals will get crucial care they need in the early stages of the disease. In 2000, the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services waived this waiting period requirement for people disabled by ALS (Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis or Lou Gehrig’s disease), another degenerative neurological condition similar to HD.

IN APPRECIATION OF SPECIAL AGENT SCOTT SAMMIS OF THE BUREAU OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, FIREARMS AND EXPLOSIVES

HON. ALAN B. MOLLOHAN

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 28, 2009

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the valuable contributions that Special Agent Scott Sammis of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) has made to the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies this past

year specifically, and to Members of the Congress and the American people more generally.

Special Agent Scott Sammis came to the Subcommittee in February of 2008 on a professional detail from the ATF. At that time, Special Agent Sammis was Acting Division Chief of the Liaison Division within the Office of Public and Governmental Affairs. Special Agent Sammis joined the ATF nearly 20 years ago, and was first assigned to the Buffalo, New York field office. Soon after being assigned to that field office, Scott was the sole case agent on the Love Canal Bomber investigation. That investigation involved individuals who detonated two pipe bombs and set several fires in the vacant homes around the contaminated area, which had recently been declared habitable again. The individuals were arrested by Special Agent Sammis and ultimately convicted in U.S. District Court.

Then in December of 1993, four package bombs detonated throughout New York State, killing five people and injuring two. Two other packages were intercepted and rendered safe by local law enforcement. Special Agent Sammis had been investigating a large recovery of dynamite from three months earlier, and was able to connect the two investigations on the night of the bombings. He subsequently identified a suspect and obtained a 44-page signed confession within 18 hours of the bombings. The two suspects were convicted in U.S. District Court. Sammis received ATF's Johnny Masengale Memorial Award for his work on this investigation. This annual award was established in memory of Special Agent Johnny A. Masengale to recognize ATF employees involved in a special effort or special achievement in an explosives investigation or an explosives-related support activity. Special Agent Sammis and his impressive work leading to these arrests were featured on American Justice.

In October 1997, Special Agent Sammis was assigned to the Intelligence Division; specifically, the National Church Arson Task Force. As a project officer in this group, Special Agent Sammis utilized his computer skills to set up a database to track the hundreds of church fires occurring in the late 1990s. The honing of these computer skills would prove particularly invaluable to the Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies.

Over the following ten years, Special Agent Sammis would be assigned various positions within the ATF, including a position within the Resource Management Branch (RMB) of ATF's Financial Management Division and as the Resident Agent in Charge of the Richmond, Virginia Field Office.

Upon joining the Subcommittee, Special Agent Sammis was responsible for managing the sizable and complex database of congressional requests made of the Subcommittee. The database included several thousand individual requests made by members of Congress. His tenacity, ingenuity and thoroughness brought clarity and order to the cumbersome and time-consuming process of reviewing and tracking the myriad annual requests. He worked tirelessly into the early morning hours to ensure that the tabular material for inclusion in the Committee reports was complete and accurate and that certification letters were correct and submitted in accordance with the Rules of the House. During con-

ference deliberations with the Senate, Scott ensured that the House and Senate tables merged correctly—a difficult task given that the House and Senate Subcommittees use different databases. Scott, as always, rose to the occasion and volunteered to take on this extremely important, time-consuming task.

In addition, Special Agent Sammis reviewed the congressional budget submissions of several independent agencies, and, at only the appropriate times, offered his impressions and observations based on his unique, personal experience in the field when questions related to law enforcement arose. When the work of the Subcommittee required late-night or extended hours, Special Agent Sammis ensured that the Subcommittee staff did not go without proper nourishment, offering suggestions from the menus of neighborhood eateries. He kept a catalog of quotable quips, day-to-day musings that brought him private amusement. His nail pin compressor, electric drill and hammer were always ready at hand, and for the sake of expediency, he insisted on moving office furniture in his suit and tie. There was little he would not do gladly. He performed his job admirably, with good humor and patience. Simply, Special Agent Sammis covered all the bases, and exceeded everyone's expectations.

It is with regret that the Subcommittee returns Special Agent Sammis to the ATF today. He has represented the law enforcement agents of the ATF with distinction and honor. I personally want to extend my appreciation, and that of Ranking Member RODNEY FRELINGHUYSEN, Senators BARBARA MIKULSKI and RICHARD SHELBY, and the Subcommittee staff for a job very well done. Once again, Scott, you have served the Congress and the American people well.

NATIONAL DATA PRIVACY DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. MARY JO KILROY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 26, 2009

Ms. KILROY. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 31. In this digital age, people from all walks of life are affected by data privacy issues, from teenagers who maintain profiles on social networking websites to business professionals who schedule meetings and place orders online. Instant electronic communications have brought us closer together and made us prosperous in many ways, but they have also created threats to the privacy of our personal information.

As personal information becomes readily accessible online, those who endeavor to use our personal data to their own advantage are becoming increasingly sophisticated in their attempts to obtain it: the harvesting of personal information from public profiles of social networking websites, phishing and scamming e-mails, and passive monitoring of unsecured wireless networks all provide very real dangers to our personal information. The threat of identity theft, which can have devastating consequences that can take years to undo, remains very real to many people across the country as they use the Internet and go about their everyday lives.

These threats can be mitigated if individuals are vigilant in protecting their privacy, but few

people are fully aware of all of the sources of potential danger to their personal information. Online security and computer security are broad subjects that encompass simple security measures such as using strong passwords as well as more complicated subjects such as the dangers of unsecured wireless networks. Increasing the awareness of these threats would greatly benefit individuals whose personal information is at risk online.

H. Res. 31 marks January 28, 2009, as "National Data Privacy Day". Our effort to establish this date as National Data Privacy Day would be in conjunction with numerous other organizations and institutions that are acting to encourage awareness of data privacy issues on this day. The Ohio State University in my district, for example, is strongly concerned with data privacy and will be printing articles, offering daily tips, distributing posters, and actively working with students, faculty and staff to raise awareness of personal information privacy issues.

Commendable efforts such as these encourage the discussion of data privacy in classrooms and living rooms across our country and will help individuals better protect themselves against the misuse of their personal information online and help them develop good security habits overall. I'm proud to be a co-sponsor of this resolution and will work with my colleagues to continue to raise awareness of digital privacy, and safeguard ourselves in the digital age.

TRIBUTE TO THE APOLLO THEATER'S 75TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON AND THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF MR. PERCY SUTTON

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 28, 2009

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Apollo Theater on kicking off its 75th Anniversary Season and its long-time success in showcasing many of the world's greatest entertainers. Additionally, I want to pay tribute to my dear friend Percy Sutton who saved the Apollo Theater and made this moment possible.

I also congratulate the Apollo Theater Foundation president & CEO Jonelle Procope and board chairman Richard D. Parsons for their leadership and their efforts in putting together this anniversary celebration.

Before there was American Idol, there was Amateur Night at the Apollo which launched the dreams of stardom for many of America's greatest entertainers. Among them are some of the legends: Ella Fitzgerald, Stevie Wonder, and James Brown.

Located in the heart of Harlem on 125th Street, the Apollo is the musical soul of our community. For the past 74 years, it has thrilled Americans of every race and religion who have enjoyed unforgettable performances by new and established artists. This year continues and celebrates that tradition.

I truly wish I could be there to celebrate this historic event. However, my work on the House Ways and Means Committee focusing on President Obama's economic recovery plan requires me to be in Washington.

The Apollo is special place in the entertainment world where many celebrities who started here come home and "look back." That is

the case with Dionne Warwick and Chuck Jackson who starred at the Apollo years ago and will be with us this week participating in the 75th Anniversary Season Kick-Off.

Once again, I congratulate the Apollo Theater and join in its celebration. Our district is proud to serve as the home of the Apollo and deeply appreciates all it has done for the community. We look forward to a 75th season filled with amazing talent and memorable performances.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE INSPIRATIONAL LIFE OF LAHORI RAM

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 28, 2009

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, our nation lost a shining light when Mr. Lahori Ram passed away earlier this month.

Mr. Ram was born in 1944 in the village of Lalwan, Punjab, India and came to America in 1972 with \$308 in his pocket. He toiled in the fields of the Central Valley, picking almonds and peaches for seventy-five cents an hour while putting himself through school, eventually earning a Master's Degree in Economics and landing a job with the United States Postal Service at San Francisco International Airport.

When Lahori Ram arrived in America, he didn't know a single person. When he left us—far too soon—his friends were legion. Known as Uncle Ji to his extended family of Indian immigrants and their children, Lahori built a real estate empire in the Bay Area by buying and renovating rental properties.

A staunch supporter of his adopted country, Lahori and his beautiful wife, Pritam Kaur, raised three delightful children and saw to it that they received a stellar education and embraced their parents' dual affection for both America and the "old country" of India. His two sons, Jagdev (Jack) and Ajaipaul (Paul), are practicing attorneys and daughter Jagdish (Jackie) is on her way to an MBA. In addition, he always had time for his daughters-in-law, Ramitpal and Nelam and doted on his only grandchild, Jasmyne.

Madam Speaker, Lahori Ram was a passionate and progressive leader of the Indo-American community. He founded North America's first Sri Guru Ravidass Temple in Pittsburg, California in 1984. He tirelessly spread his message of equality for all humankind and encouraged education, hard work and love of family, community and country.

Lahori Ram was a mentor for Indians wanting to get involved in the American political process and was the first Indo-American to be appointed to a statewide commission in California. At the time of his passing, he served on California's Economic Development Commission. Previously he served on the state's Technology, Trade and Commerce Committee and the Transportation Commission.

Lahori and Prito Ram bought their first home in San Bruno in 1979. While he built a fortune—eventually owning more than 100 apartment units in the Bay Area—the family remained in their adopted community. His unexpected and sudden passing leaves many mourning the loss, but soon the mention of his name will bring only smiles as his many friends and relatives remember this good man, known worldwide for his grace, hard work and kindness. I am proud to have represented Lahori Ram and prouder still to have been his friend.

LILLY LEDBETTER FAIR PAY ACT
OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 2009

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 181, the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act.

The Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act is critical in the struggle for financial equality. Even in 2009 women still on average earn 78 cents for every dollar earned by their male counterparts in a nation where 41 percent of women are the sole income providers for their families. Economic equality is not an issue that should be based on gender but on fairness and the quality of one's hard work. The Supreme Court

Case of Ledbetter v. Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co., by the narrow 5–4 vote, greatly impaired the ability of women and others to challenge pay discrimination. The passage and enactment of this act will restore prior longstanding law which will enable women and others to challenge instances of pay discrimination within 180 days of a discriminatory pay check. For too long women have performed the same tasks and have been unequally compensated. Unequal pay is not merely a women's issue but a disparity that affects all of us.

Though there is still more work to be done in the fight for equality this legislation is an important step.

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, January 29, 2009 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

FEBRUARY 3

10 a.m.

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold hearings to examine modernizing the United States financial regulatory system.

SD-538