

demonstrate American business at its very best. I am truly honored to call Bob Beyster my friend.

#### HONORING OUR FALLEN HEROES

### HON. DEVIN NUNES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 25, 2004*

Mr. NUNES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to pay tribute to three soldiers from the 21st Congressional District who gave their lives during combat in Iraq.

It is for the greater good that they joined the military, serving their country with honor and distinction. These native sons of ours played an integral part in securing peace in Iraq and giving freedom to an oppressed people.

They represent the best of our community and of our military. All three men grew up from humble means, working hard to achieve in school, sports, and work. They were of good moral character, quick to stand up for what is right and to defend those who needed it—friends and strangers alike.

Army 1st Lt. Osbaldo Orozco, 26, of Earlimart died when his Bradley Fighting Vehicle rolled over as his unit rushed to help others under attack near Tikrit on April 25, 2003. Lt. Orozco was a true leader and role model for those around him. He excelled in everything he did—school, sports, and life itself—inspiring those around him along the way.

Army Sgt. Michael W. Mitchell, 25, who grew up in Porterville, was shot by a sniper April 4, 2004, in Iraq as he stood in the open hatch of a tank. He was a bright young man with tremendous determination who was gifted athletically and who excelled at being a soldier.

Army Spc. Daniel Paul Unger, 19, was killed by shrapnel from a rocket-propelled grenade as he helped Iraqi civilians take cover during an attack May 24, 2004. He loved being a soldier. He also loved to share with others the love for God he kept in his heart. He was a compassionate young man whose ambition drove him to achieve in every arena in life.

Theirs was a sacrifice we cannot repay. We will cherish their memory. We will point to their selfless example. We will aspire to their bravery, and we will carry on under the liberty they defended. May God bless their souls and the families they left behind.

#### CONGRATULATING THE DESIGNERS, SPONSORS, AND PILOT OF SPACESHIPONE ON BEING THE FIRST PRIVATELY-FINANCED VEHICLE TO LEAVE THE EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE

### HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 25, 2004*

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate and commend the designers, builders, sponsors, and pilot of SpaceShipOne on the occasion of its successful flight out of earth's atmosphere on June 21, 2004. What is most remarkable about SpaceShipOne, of course, is that it is the first privately-financed and pri-

vately built vehicle to leave the Earth's atmosphere.

SpaceShipOne was designed and built by Burt Rutan and piloted by test pilot Michael W. Melvill. It was launched successfully from Mojave California, reaching a height of 100 KM (62 miles) above the Earth's surface. Remarkably, SpaceShipOne is entirely privately-financed, chiefly by Microsoft co-founder Paul G. Allen.

According to the designers and financiers of SpaceShipOne, the mission of this project is to demonstrate the viability of commercial space flight and to open the door for private space tourism. The successful completion of SpaceShipOne's maiden voyage demonstrates that relatively modest amounts of private funding can significantly increase the boundaries of commercial space technology. It constitutes a major leap toward their goal and demonstrates that private capital and private enterprise can be applied to enormous success all on its own. Those associated with this project represent the best of our American traditions, embodied in our enterprising and pioneering spirit.

Their success should also be read as a cautionary tale for all of us in government. If only the United States had a taxation policy that limited government and thereby freed up more private capital, there is no telling how many more like Burt Rutan, Paul Allen, and Michael Melvill would be able to do great things to the benefit of all of mankind. This not just in space exploration, but in medical research, alternative energy research, and any number of the problems that continue to perplex mankind. Private enterprise depends on results and success and therefore private capital is always targeted much more wisely than is monies confiscated by governments.

With this successful maiden voyage, SpaceShipOne is now the leading contender for the \$10 million Ansari X Prize, which is to be awarded to the first privately financed three-seat aircraft that reaches an altitude of 62 miles and repeats the feat within two weeks. I wish all those involved in this remarkable project the best of luck.

#### HONORING JAY LOVELL ON THE COMPLETION OF HIS INTERNSHIP

### HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 25, 2004*

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Jay Lovell for his service during his internship this summer. Jay is a fellow Middle Tennessean, and he has been a great help and service to my constituents in Tennessee's Sixth Congressional District.

Jay just finished his sophomore year at the University of Missouri. Despite his youth, he has already shown himself to be dedicated to public service. While attending high school at Nashville's Montgomery Bell Academy, he worked in a soup kitchen and was a member of Habitat for Humanity. He is always ready to lend a hand and a kind word to others.

Jay has experienced the many facets of Congress first-hand. He has been very helpful in answering constituent concerns, guiding schoolchildren through the U.S. Capitol and assisting me and my staff with countless projects.

I hope Jay has enjoyed this learning experience as much as we have enjoyed having his help in the office. I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF REV. DR. JOSEPH E. LOWERY ON THE EVE OF THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1964

### HON. JULIA CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 25, 2004*

Ms. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, on the 40th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, now is an especially appropriate time to acknowledge and commend the historic contributions of a great civil rights fighter, The Reverend Doctor Joseph E. Lowery.

Dr. Lowery is the Co-founder, President Emeritus, Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), Chairman Emeritus, Black Leadership Forum, Inc. and Convener of the Georgia Coalition for the People's Agenda (GEPA).

As co-founder with Martin Luther King, Jr., of the SCLC in 1957; Dr. Lowery served as vice president (1957–67); chairman of the board (1967–77); and as president and chief executive officer from Feb. 1977–Jan. 15, 1998. Dr. King named him chairman of the delegation to take demands of the Selma-to-Montgomery March (1965) to Gov. George Wallace. Wallace had ordered the marchers beaten ("Bloody Sunday") but apologized to Lowery in 1995 as he led the 30th anniversary re-enactment of the historic march, which led to the passage of the Voting Rights Act.

His genesis as a civil rights advocate was in the early '50s in Mobile, AL where he headed the Alabama Civic Affairs Association, which led the movement for the desegregation of buses and public accommodations. While in Mobile, his property was seized by the Alabama courts in an historic libel suit: Sullivan v. NYTimes, Abernathy, Lowery, Shuttlesworth, & Seay. The U.S. Supreme Court vindicated the ministers in a landmark ruling on libel (Read Make No Law by Anthony Lewis, 1964).

Lowery led the historic Alabama to Washington pilgrimage (1982) to free Maggie Bozeman and Julia Wilder, falsely convicted of voter fraud. This march helped gain the extension of provisions of the Voting Rights Act to 2007. Nationally recognized as a strong proponent of affirmative action, he also led the movement in Nashville to desegregate public accommodations. In Birmingham, he served as president of the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance, which spearheaded the hiring of Birmingham's first black police officers, etc. As a United Methodist minister, he was elected as delegate to three General Conferences, and presided over an Annual Conference (acting bishop in 1966).

He is co-founder and chairman emeritus of the Black leadership Forum, a consortium of national black advocacy organizations, and served as third president following Vernon Jordan and Benjamin Hooks. As president of SCLC, he negotiated covenants with major corporations for employment advances and business contracts with minority companies. One of the first protest campaigns he led was against the Atlanta based Southern Company

for contracting to purchase ten million tons of coal from South Africa (12977). He was among the first five persons arrested at the South African Embassy in Washington, D.C. in the "Free South Africa" campaign (1984). He co-chaired the 1990 Nelson Mandela visit to Atlanta following his release from prison and awarded Mandela the SCLC/Martin Luther King, Jr. Human Rights Award. He was keynote speaker at the African Renaissance Dinner in Durban in 1998 honoring Mandela's retirement. He was invited to keynote the dedication of a school and hospital in East Germany honoring Martin Luther King, Jr. He led a peace delegation to the Middle East and met with the president of Lebanon and Yassir Arafat to seek justice in the Middle East by non-violent means. He led protests against the dumping of toxic waste in Warrenton County, N.C., and was arrested twice in this campaign which gave birth to the environmental justice movement.

He served on the board of directors of MARTA (Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority) for 23 years and was chairman for three years (during the '96 Olympics), and was instrumental in securing millions in contracts for minority businesses. Since retiring from the pulpit in 1997 and SCLC in January 1998, he has helped black farmers secure a federal court decree valued at \$2 billion against the Department of Agriculture for discrimination. He assisted black auto dealers to seek redress from discrimination claims against auto manufacturers. He has supported black concert promoters in their fight against exclusionary policies of talent agencies. As convener of the Georgia Coalition for the People's Agenda (CPA), he is active in election reform and voter empowerment, economic justice, criminal justice reform, including alternative sentencing and a moratorium on the death penalty.

He is married to Evelyn Gibson Lowery, an activist in her own right, founder of SCLC/WOMEN and is the father of five children.

Lowery has received numerous awards, including an NAACP Lifetime Achievement Award and the Martin Luther King Center Peace Award. Essence has twice named him as one of the Fifteen Greatest Black Preachers. Lowery is married to Evelyn Gibson Lowery, an activist in her own right.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. RUBÉN HINOJOSA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 25, 2004

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I regret that I was unavoidably detained in meetings with the regional leaders of my Congressional district. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcalls 282, 283, 284 and 285.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE LITERACY, EDUCATION AND REHABILITATION ACT (LERA)

### HON. ROBERT C. SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 25, 2004

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Literacy, Education and

Rehabilitation Act (LERA). The purpose of LERA is to reduce recidivism and the victimization and costs, fiscal and social, associated with such recidivism. Studies have shown that inmate participation in education, vocational and job training, prison work skills development, drug abuse, mental health and other treatment programs, all reduce recidivism, significantly.

The Federal prison population has increased more than 7-fold over the past 20 years. In 1984, the population was about 25,000 prisoners. Today, there are more than 175,000 prisoners, and the population is growing. According to the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP), the primary reasons for this tremendous growth has been longer sentences resulting from the 1984 Sentencing Reform Act and mandatory minimum sentences. The Sentencing Reform Act established determinate sentencing, abolished parole, and dramatically reduced good time credits. Other sentencing policy by Congressional or administrative action has increasingly limited the discretion of judges and prison officials to impact sentence lengths or confinement options.

During the same period, the annual number of prisoners returning to communities has also increased several fold. Currently, about 40,000 prisoners leave Federal prisons each year. The question is whether they leave prison better prepared to lead law-abiding lives, or in a worse position to do so. The addition of a felony record and a Federal prison stay is not, in and of itself, likely to add to a person's job or social development prospects.

Unfortunately, the elimination of incentives such as parole, good time credits and funding for college courses, means that fewer inmates participate in and excel in literacy, education, treatment and other development programs. LERA provides incentives and recognitions for achievement by giving the BOP Director the discretion to grant up to 60 sentence credit days per year to an inmate for successful participation in literacy, education, work training, treatment and other development programs. LERA will not only prevent crime victimizations, but also save taxpayers money. Many sentences are excessively long because mandatory sentencing policies do not allow sentencing judges the discretion to distinguish between hardened criminals and those amenable to rehabilitation and preparation for successful re-entry. LERA allows offenders to distinguish themselves.

#### FREEDOM FOR FABIO PRIETO LLORENTE

### HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 25, 2004

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about Fabio Prieto Llorente a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Prieto Llorente is an independent journalist for the independent press agency of Isla de Pinos. Instead of the false propaganda mandated by the regime, he writes about the reality of the reprehensible repression inflicted on the Cuban people by the dictatorship. Because of his belief in truth in print, truth for the people of Cuba and truth to enable the world

to better comprehend the daily horrors of totalitarian Cuba, Mr. Prieto Llorente was a target of the totalitarian regime.

According to Amnesty International, Mr. Prieto Llorente received threats and warnings from Castro's thugs in order to prevent him from pursuing his career as a truthful journalist. He was detained in January 2002 simply because he reported on an opposition demonstration. On March 19, 2003, Mr. Prieto Llorente was arrested because he published the facts about the tyrannical regime.

He was arrested as part of the despicable island wide crackdown of that month on peaceful pro-democracy activists. In a sham trial, Mr. Prieto Llorente was sentenced to 20 years in the infernal totalitarian gulag. While incarcerated in the grotesque squalor of the atrocious gulag, he has been held in solitary confinement, confined with common criminals, suffered from violent headaches and lack of medical care. Let us be very clear, Mr. Prieto Llorente is languishing in unspeakable squalor because he published the truth.

Mr. Speaker, it is unconscionable that journalists such as Mr. Prieto Llorente are locked in dungeons for writing and publishing the facts about the nightmare that is the Castro regime. At the dawn of the 21st Century, it must no longer be acceptable for anyone in the world, anywhere in the world, to be locked in a gulag for writing the truth. My colleagues, we must demand the immediate release of Fabio Prieto Llorente and every prisoner of conscience languishing in the Cuban dictatorship's abhorrent gulag.

#### WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL DEDICATION A SUCCESS; WEEKEND OF MAY 29, 2004

### HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 25, 2004

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize the staff of the American Battle Monuments Commission and the World War II Project for all their efforts in ensuring a very successful dedication of the World War II National Memorial: General P.X. Kelley, Chairman, American Battle Monuments Commission; Major General John Herrling, Secretary, American Battle Monuments Commission; Mr. Kenneth Pond, Executive Director, American Battle Monuments Commission; Mr. Mike Conley, Associate Executive Director, National World War II Memorial Project; Mr. Bob Patrick, Director, National World War II Memorial Dedication; Mr. Dick Couture, Director, Marketing and Member Services, National World War II Memorial; Ms. Betsy Glick, Director, Communications, National World War II Memorial Project; and Mr. Barry Owenby, Project Executive, National World War II Memorial Project.

These individuals, along with their staffs, worked untold months to ensure that the weekend of May 29, 2004, will live on in the hearts of the veterans and families of the "Greatest Generation."

More than 150,000 people attended the May 29, 2004, dedication ceremony of the first national memorial built to honor all of the Americans who served their country during World War II. Millions more were able to watch the