Pat Boone of Nashville, Tennessee, for his 75th birthday on June 1. I want to take a moment to recognize his tremendous accomplishments and thank him for all he has contributed to Tennessee, our country and across the world.

Pat continues to give back to the community through charitable and educational organizations. For 32 years, he has played a significant role in the growth and success of Bethel Bible Village, a residential group home in my hometown of Chattanooga, Tennessee, that provides a happy, healthy and godly environment for children of families in crisis. Through golf tournaments, banquets and auctions, Pat has helped raise more than $2.7 million for this ministry and the families it serves.

Before graduating from Columbia University in 1958, Pat had already signed a multi-million dollar recording contract and had various television and movie deals, including hosting The Pat Boone Chevy Show. Through the course of his successful career, Pat started two record companies and released more than 30 Gold Record albums, including ''Ain't That a Shame,'' which climbed the charts to number one in 1955. He is the Billboard number ten all-time top record artist and a member of the Gospel Music Hall of Fame.

Pat's writings are as well known as his entertainment and have been translated into multiple languages, allowing people across the world to read his works. His first book, Twixt Twelve and Twenty, was a number-one bestseller in the 1950s and can now be found in school and church libraries across the nation. Pat Boone has proven himself an inspiring and successful writer, authoring more than 15 books.

Pat has served as the National Spokesman for the March of Dimes, the National Association of the Blind and other worthy charities. As the Entertainment Chairman of the National Easter Seal telethon, Pat helped raise over $600 million dollars to help handicapped children and adults. He currently is helping build a worldwide Internet ''blood bank'' to help solve the recurring blood shortages in certain parts of the world.

Pat and his wife of 55 years, Shirley, initiated Mercy Corps, one of the most respected humanitarian relief organizations in the world. What started as a small relief effort in Cambodia, now operates in more than 22 countries and delivers millions of dollars in food and basic necessities to those in need.

Pat Boone is an accomplished man of integrity, loyalty and outstanding leadership. He has positively shaped our community in Chattanooga, providing hope and encouragement to a generation of children at Bethel Bible Village and I am proud to recognize his accomplishments.

IN HONOR OF MAYOR GENE CAREY

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the former Mayor Gene Carey for his years of service to the City of Lewisville and the North Texas Region.

Gene Carey has a long tenure of public service in Lewisville where he served as Mayor for nine years, a City Councilman for seven years and a member of the city's Park Board for four years. His experience supported his philosophy that Mayor is not a position you start at, rather a position you work up to. Carey is known as a principled and ethical leader with a calming effect on the community.

Although he is leaving his position on the City Council, his hard work has resulted in projects that will serve as a reminder of his work for years to come. Under his leadership, Lewisville has seen the securing of new funding for infrastructure and neighborhood improvements, and the revitalization of Old Town Lewisville. Mayor Carey has offered strong guidance at a time when the city saw valued economic developments. He, along with his fellow City Council members also worked hard to provide a new jail facility.

During Mayor Carey's tenure, Lewisville saw major efforts to improve the overall quality of life for its citizens with passage of parks and library funding that has resulted in a new library and several areas where families can safely gather to enjoy a day away from hectic schedules. He was a strong advocate for a cultural arts center that will soon break ground.

His work has earned him the respect of fellow public servants. Council members will be quick to tell you that Carey always made sure all citizens had their voice heard, whether the issue be large or small. A fellow Council Member stated, ''For 20 years, Gene Carey served with honor and integrity. With his quiet humility he has led the City Council and staff in making Lewisville one of the best places to live in North Texas''.

Gene Carey is also respected for his deeds beyond city government. He is family man and a member of Lakeland Baptist Church. He served as President of Christian Community Action in Lewisville and is a graduate of the Lewisville Citizen's Police Academy. He also has the distinction of Honorary Police Officer. He is a professional with a well known sense of humor.

It is with great honor that I recognize Mayor Gene Carey for his years of hard work and dedication given to the citizens of Lewisville and North Texas. I am proud to represent him in Washington. His service sets a standard of devotion and true leadership, one that will endure.

INTRODUCTION OF THE AFFORDABLE GAS PRICE ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce the Affordable Gas Price Act. This legislation reduces gas prices by reforming government polices that artificially inflate the price of gas. While the price of gas has not yet reached the record levels of last year, over the last 2 months the average price of gas has risen approximately 16 percent. In some areas, the price of gas is approaching $3.00 per gallon. There is thus a real possibility that the American people while soon by once again hard hit by skyrocketing gas prices.

High gas prices threaten our fragile economy and diminishes the quality of life for all Americans. One industry that is particularly hard hit is the trucking industry. The effects of high gas prices on the trucking industry will be reflected in increased costs for numerous consumer goods, thus further harming American consumers.

Unfortunately, many proposals to address the problem of higher energy prices involve increasing government interference in the market through policies such as price controls. These big government solutions will, at best, prove ineffective and, at worst, bring back the fuel shortages and gas lines of the seventies.

Instead of expanding government, Congress should repeal Federal laws and polices that raise the price of gas, either directly through taxes or indirectly though regulations that discourage the development of new fuel sources. This is why my legislation repeals the Federal moratorium on offshore drilling and allows oil exploration in the ANWR reserve in Alaska. My bill also ensures that the National Environmental Policy Act's environmental impact statement requirement will no longer be used as a tool to force refiners to waste valuable time and capital on nuisance litigation. The Affordable Gas Price Act also provides tax incentives to encourage investment in new refineries.

Federal fuel taxes are a major part of gasoline's cost. The Affordable Gas Price Act suspends the Federal gasoline tax any time the average gas prices exceeds $3.00 per gallon. During the suspension, the Federal Government will have a legal responsibility to ensure the Federal highway trust fund remains funded. My bill also raises the amount of mileage reimbursement not subject to taxes, and, during times of high oil prices, provides the same mileage reimbursement benefit to charity and medical organizations as provided to businesses.

Misguided and outdated trade polices are also artificially raising the price of gas. For instance, even though Russia and Kazakhstan allow their citizens the right and opportunity to emigrate, they are still subject to Jackson-Vanik sanctions, even though Jackson-Vanik was a reaction to the Soviet Union's highly restrictive emigration policy. Eliminating Jackson-Vankik's threat of trade-restricting sanctions would increase the United States' access to oil supplies from non-Arab countries. Thus, my bill terminates the application of title IV of the Trade Act of 1974 to Russia and Khazaskin, allowing Americans to enjoy the benefits of free trade with these oil-producing nations.

Finally, the Affordable Gas Price Act creates a Federal study on how the abandonment of the gold standard and the adoption of freely floating currencies are affecting the price of oil. It is no coincidence that oil prices first became an issue shortly after President Nixon unilaterally severed the dollar's last connection to gold. The system of fiat money makes consumers vulnerable to inflation and to constant fluctuations in the prices of essential goods such as oil.

In conclusion, Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the Affordable Gas Price Act and end government polices that increase the cost of gasoline.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF THE SESQUICENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF THE VILLAGE OF OTTAWA, OHIO

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Mr. LATTA. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Congressman ROBERT E. LATTA extends his congratulations on the occasion of the One-Hundred Seventy-Fifth Anniversary of the Village of Ottawa, Ohio; and

Whereas, Ottawa, Ohio has been a proud member of the Northwest Ohio community since 1833; and

Whereas, the citizens of Ottawa, Ohio provide friendship and tradition to all those in Northwest Ohio; and

Whereas, Ottawa, Ohio has a long history of fostering business, education, and community relationships; therefore, be it

Resolved, The people of Northwest Ohio are grateful for the service of the citizens and employers of Ottawa, Ohio. Ohio's Fifth Congressional District is well served by their dedication and support. We wish Ottawa, Ohio all the best during its celebration the One-Hundred Seventy-Fifth anniversary.

HONORING SILVIO J. PICCINOTTI

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise with sadness today to honor Silvio J. Piccinotti of Petaluma, California, who passed away April 19, 2009, at the age of 100. Silvio was a fixture of the community for most of those years as it developed from an agricultural center to a small city with a variety of businesses but true to its rural roots.

Like many of their contemporaries in the area, Silvio's parents emigrated from the Italian-speaking area of Switzerland to the dairy ranching area of nearby Marin County where Silvio was born. They moved to Two Rock near Petaluma when he was an infant, and he worked on the local ranches as he grew up. In 1930 he purchased a ranch with his brother Americo, retiring from that business in 1975.

But Silvio is most known for his lifelong passion for draft horses, a passion he shared with the community. He was a founding member of the Northbay Draft Horse and Mule Club and tutored many young enthusiasts. He participated with his horse team and wagon in the Sonoma County Fair and the Harvest Fair and was especially appreciated at events in Petaluma, such as the annual Butter and Eggs Day parade. For 25 years he also sponsored an annual draft horse Wagon Train through Sonoma and Marin Counties.

Silvio was predeceased by his wife Alice and is survived by his son Vernon S. and his grandson Vernon J. Piccinotti as well as his dear friend Ellen Wight.

Madam Speaker, in 2005 the Sonoma County Horse Council appropriately inducted Silvio into its Equus Hall of Fame. His true fame lies with the generations of locals who will remember the wagon rides and the teams of draft horses that brought them joy and represented the spirit of the community.

RECOGNIZING MAURO LUNA'S SERVICE TO THE U.S. PROBATION SERVICE

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I am proud to have this opportunity to celebrate the retirement of Mauro Luna from the U.S. Probation Service. His 22-year career in Laredo exhibits his native and lifelong dedication to the city and its people.

It was at Mary Help of Christians School that Mr. Luna developed his high standard of morals and ethics that he later exhibited as an officer and supervisor. He brought this leadership to his job everyday, and positively impacted those he interacted with through the course of a day.

Mauro Luna found education to be the cornerstone to any successful life and career, so after graduating from J.W. Nixon High School he went on to earn his degree from the University of Texas-Austin and his MBA from Laredo State University. During this time Mr. Luna married Maria Martinez and had two children, Marcos and Massiel Melinda.

Madam Speaker, now after 11 years with the Juvenile Department and 22 years with the U.S. Probation Office I find great pleasure in wishing Mauro Luna a long deserved retirement so he may spend more time with his family and hunting.

EXTENDING THE SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME BENEFITS PROGRAM TO AMERICAN SAMOA, GUAM, PUERTO RICO, AND THE U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I have introduced today legislation that will extend the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits program to American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Specifically, this legislation would amend Section 303 of the Social Security Amendments of 1972 to make qualified residents of American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands eligible to receive supplemental security income.

The Supplemental Security Income program assures a minimum cash income to all aged, blind, or disabled persons. Section 301 of the Social Security Amendments of 1972 established the Supplemental Security Income benefits program and ended matching grant programs to the 50 states and the District of Columbia for assistance to aged, blind, and disabled individuals. It is important to note that the House bill in 1972 included the territories under the proposed SSI program, but the final bill did not include that provision. SSI was extended to the Northern Mariana Islands in 1976, while American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands remain under the old matching grant programs with limited Federal funding.

Territorial governments currently receive non-entitlement, federal-state grants under Title I (Grants to States for Old-Age Assistance for the Aged); Title X (Grants to the States for Aid to the Blind); Title XIV (Aid to the Permanently and Totally Disabled); and Title XVI (Grants to the States for Aid to the Aged, Blind and Disabled) of the Social Security Act for programs designed to assist the needy, aged, blind, and disabled. Residents of American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands who would otherwise qualify for SSI benefits are shortchanged under the current Aid to the Aged, Blind, or Disabled (AABD) Program where the federal payment is $637 per individual compared with an average payment under the AABD program on Guam being $100. American Samoa is at a greater disadvantage, receiving no AABD funds.

The legislation which I have introduced today would bring uniformity and fairness in annual payments by the federal government for all eligible persons residing in the 50 states, the District of Columbia and the territories under the SSI program and is one step in ensuring equity in Federal health programs for the territories.

I look forward on working with my colleagues to advance this bill.

INTRODUCTION OF THE REAFFIRMATION OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE RESOLUTION

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Mr. GOODLATTE, Madam Speaker, Article VI of the U.S. Constitution declares that "this Constitution, and the laws of the United States which shall be made in pursuance thereof . . . shall be the supreme law of the land." Since its beginning, our nation has operated under the fundamental principle that the people of the United States should determine their own destiny.

However, recently there has been a deeply disturbing trend in American jurisprudence. The Supreme Court, the highest court in the land, has begun to look abroad, to international laws, regulations and opinions to interpret the U.S. Constitution. This is a very frightening prospect considering these materials are crafted by bureaucrats and non-governmental organizations with virtually no democratic input.

This new trend is a threat to both our Nation's sovereignty and the democratic underpinnings of our system of government. Our Nation's founders acknowledged this very danger when they decried in the Declaration of Independence that King George had "combined to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our constitution and unacknowledged by our laws."

The contrast between this language in the Declaration of Independence and that of many of our Supreme Court justices could not be clearer. Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg told the New York City Bar Association in 2005, "I will take enlightenment wherever I can get it. I don't want to stop at a national boundary."