

continuing to stress academic excellence among its members, Alpha also recognized the need to help correct the educational, economic, political, and social injustices faced by African-Americans and persons of African descent around the world.

The Jewel founders and early leaders of the fraternity succeeded in laying a firm foundation for Alpha Phi Alpha's principles of scholarship, fellowship, good character, and the uplifting of humanity. These principles of this organization hold true to this very day.

Alpha Phi Alpha has long stood at the forefront of the African-American community's fight for civil rights through leaders such as: W.E.B. DuBois, Adam Clayton Powell, Jr., Edward Brooke, Martin Luther King, Jr., Thurgood Marshall, Andrew Young, William Gray, and Paul Robeson.

For almost a century, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, and all the "Brothers of the Black & Old Gold," the official colors of the fraternity, have continuously served their community, country, people, and each other in a manner that is befitting of an organization of such character, dignity, and commitment. I, too, am a proud member of Alpha Phi Alpha, and it is an honor to be a part of an organization with such a rich legacy.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution recognizing and honoring the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated, the first intercollegiate Greek-letter fraternity established for African Americans. Please vote in support of H. Con. Res. 384.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO ALISON  
KASNER

**HON. JON C. PORTER**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 26, 2006*

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my dear friend Alison Kasner for her dedication to education and for her outstanding service to southern Nevada.

Alison has served as the principal of Helen J. Stewart School for the past 5 years and is retiring this summer from a distinguished career with the Clark County School District. She began teaching school in southern Nevada at the age of 20. During her career, Alison served the school district in a variety of capacities. She has taught elementary through high school age students and also served as a transitional counselor before becoming principal at Helen J. Stewart School.

Although Alison Kasner has devoted a great deal of her life to education, what is perhaps most impressive about her is her dedication to special needs students. Helen J. Stewart School is a very special school within the Clark County School District that serves the educational needs of students between the ages of 6 and 22 who have significant mental and developmental challenges. The school's mission is to provide an education specifically tailored to the needs of its students so that all students have the opportunity to reach optimum development and become as self-sufficient as possible.

Alison first became acquainted with Stewart School and its mission after visiting the campus on a field trip her freshman year of high

school. As a result of that experience, Alison volunteered at Helen J. Stewart throughout high school and remained involved with the school throughout her career. Since becoming principal of the school, Alison has served her students and her colleagues with vision, determination and a commitment to achieving excellence. Her compassion for others, her desire to serve and her enthusiasm for special education has made an indelible impact on our community.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Alison Kasner for her service as an educator and for her dedication to special needs students. Although she will certainly be missed at Helen J. Stewart School, I know that she will continue to contribute her time, talent, and perspective in ways that will benefit and enrich the world around her. I wish Alison the very best in her retirement and in all her future endeavors.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION  
OF H.R. 5684, UNITED STATES-  
OMAN FREE TRADE AGREEMENT  
IMPLEMENTATION ACT.

SPEECH OF

**HON. RUSH D. HOLT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 20, 2006*

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I oppose the Oman Free Trade Agreement (OFTA).

The Bush administration has again presented the Congress with a flawed trade agreement. I support vigorous international trade, but it should also be fair trade.

The inadequate labor provisions in this agreement are almost identical to those contained in the flawed Dominican Republic-Central American Free Trade Agreement (DR-CAFTA), which I opposed. After the contentious vote on DR-CAFTA, the United States Trade Representative said he would address the concerns we raised in future agreements. Unfortunately nothing has changed.

OFTA does little to improve the poor protection for workers in Oman. The labor provisions in this trade agreement are lackluster, and will be very hard to enforce. This trade agreement asks Oman only to meet the lowest possible dominator of labor law. We can and we must do better.

Currently, Oman labor laws do not provide for the freedom to associate or the rights to organize and bargain collectively, the most fundamental of workers rights. There are no protections for workers who want to strike in Oman, and there are no independent unions. Oman has said it will change, but it does not have to. These promises should be included as requirements in this agreement, not in unenforceable side letters.

As I have said before, international trade is not just inevitable, it is a good thing. It has enormous potential to raise standards across the globe, disseminate technology and encourage economic growth. But lowering the cost of goods and increasing their availability is not the single goal of trade. Trade should also lift the global standard of living. Trade agreements are not just about goods and commodities; they are also about what constitutes acceptable behavior in workers' rights, environmental matters, intellectual property, and so forth. We should make sure we export the

goods we produce and not the workers who produce them. Like the DR-CAFTA and Bahrain Free Trade Agreements, the Oman Free Trade Agreement does not pass these tests. The agreement before us fails both parties: it will not help either America's or Oman's workers.

Each new trade agreement entered into by the United States ought to be closely scrutinized, and ought to include the strongest enforceable worker rights and environmental safeguards attainable. We know how to craft such agreements, for example the U.S.-Jordan Agreement of 2000 was a fair and good agreement. Unfortunately, the Bush Administration has abandoned that successful format and pushed ahead with a trade policy that only looks at the bottom line, rather than the workers who produced the goods or the environment they live in and rely upon for sustainable growth.

We need to go back to the successful format that incorporates American values into our trade agreements. This would ensure that U.S. companies and employees are not forced to compete with countries that have no or weak labor laws, poor working conditions, and a willingness to debase the environment for the short term. The people of all countries lose in such a "race to the bottom".

Mr. Speaker, I cannot support OFTA or other flawed trade agreements.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO CHARLES  
KENNY LEAVITT

**HON. JON C. PORTER**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 26, 2006*

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my good friend for more than 20 years, Charles "Charlie" Leavitt. Charlie will be retiring from a career in general engineering contracting on August 15, 2006.

Charlie was born on "the old Stewart Ranch" in Las Vegas, Nevada, on August 24, 1942. His class of 1960 was Rancho High School's first graduating class. After graduation, he worked as a parking attendant for many of the hotel and casinos up and down the Las Vegas Strip, including the Stardust Hotel and the Dunes Hotel and Casino, which is now the Bellagio Hotel and Casino. He then went to work on the Virgin River Gorge Project as an engineer. This project provides a transportation route from Las Vegas, through Arizona, and into Utah.

In 1974, Charlie joined the Warrants Division of the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department and served until 1979. He then went to the Caesar's Palace Hotel and Casino as a doorman and parking attendant. After running the front of that hotel for many years, he, along with his brother and nephews, moved to the Tropicana Hotel to help with their failing parking situation.

After marrying the love of his life Margaret "Peggy" on March 16, 1984, he started his own excavation company called Charles K. Leavitt Excavation in 1987, now known as CLK Incorporated. CLK Inc. serves the Las Vegas, Henderson, and Boulder City areas.

Charlie is very active in the community, serving in the Sunrise Rotary, and has served in many leadership positions in the Church of