

With the goal of helping individuals toward becoming strong, independent and contributing members of their family and community, Bethlehem Centers provide Nashvillians with life skills training, tutoring, nutrition counseling, senior outreach programs, business and career training, GED preparation, mentoring, and even daily hot lunches.

In addition to these community programs, Bethlehem Centers have earned a three-star rating for their high quality child care services from the Tennessee Department of Human Services. This is their fourth year to receive the highest rating awarded by the State and to be placed among the top rated child care centers in the Nation.

I am proud to send my heartiest congratulations to Bethlehem Centers' Joyce Searcy and all the dedicated staff members who have committed themselves to bettering Nashville's communities.

I join with everyone in Tennessee's Fifth District in applauding the Bethlehem Centers of Nashville for all that they do for the community and I commend everyone at Bethlehem Centers of Nashville who make it a special place to learn, play and grow.

HONORING THE ALPHA PHI ALPHA
FRATERNITY ON THE OCCASION
OF ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 25, 2006

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Con. Res 384, recognizing and honoring the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated, the first intercollegiate fraternity established for African-Americans.

From the first literary fraternity, Phi Beta Kappa, founded in 1776 at the College of William and Mary through the subsequent development of social fraternities starting with Kappa Alpha in 1825, college fraternities have sought to foster close friendship and personal development.

In the early 20th century, Black students were often excluded from the social organizations at many colleges and universities. Alpha Phi Alpha was founded in 1906 at Cornell University in Ithaca, NY, to provide associations and support among African-American students. With its cardinal principles of "Manly Deeds, Scholarship and Love for All Mankind," over 175,000 men have been initiated into the fraternity and there are now over 700 chapters worldwide. Among its membership are a number of prominent figures such as Martin Luther King, Jr., Jesse Owens, Thurgood Marshall and our colleague CHARLES RANGEL.

Aside from the lasting friendships that many young men have found within the fraternity, Alpha Phi Alpha has dedicated itself to a number of philanthropic programs. Alpha works closely with organizations such as Head Start, Big Brothers Big Sisters of America, the NAACP and Habitat for Humanity. Alpha Phi Alpha has also created a number of its own programs such as the Go-To-High-School, Go-To-College program and "A Voteless People is a Hopeless People." Alpha Phi Alpha also submitted the request for The Washington,

D.C. Martin Luther King, Jr. National Memorial Project Foundation which was authorized by President Clinton in 1998.

Alpha Phi Alpha has two chapters in and around my district in central New Jersey, the Sigma Xi Chapter at Monmouth University and the Delta Iota Chapter at Rutgers University. I am proud of the role they play in enriching their surrounding communities.

From its origins as a social network for African-American college students to its continuing philanthropic efforts, Alpha Phi Alpha is indeed worthy of recognition and I am proud to stand in support of this resolution.

TRIBUTE TO NATIONAL
RECREATION AND PARKS MONTH

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2006

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the essential contributions of employees and volunteers across the country and abroad who maintain our nation's public parks and recreation facilities. In addition, I would like to commemorate National Recreation and Parks Month, celebrated annually since 1984 throughout the month of July. The purpose of National Recreation and Parks Month is not only to celebrate the start of summer programs but also to advocate for parks and recreation by encouraging communities to engage in outdoor physical activities and volunteering.

Recently, I have undertaken a bipartisan proposal to stop the dumping of sewage into the Great Lakes. Initiatives like these are only the beginning. Through the efforts of Congress and the National Recreation and Park Association, America moves toward a brighter horizon in environmental policy. National Recreation and Parks Month is an important occasion to remind us of our dedication to the preservation of the environment, and serves as an aide-memoire for all Americans to enjoy the natural wonders of our nation.

As a member of the National Parks Caucus, it is my honor to recognize the collective efforts of volunteers and staff alike whose contributions and involvement with the nation's public parks and recreation facilities continue to shape American communities as well as the environment. Today, we celebrate the National Recreation and Park Association's accomplishments and persistent efforts to preserve our environment and show appreciation for the nation's public parks and recreation facilities. The NRPA's initiative, along with support provided by volunteers and staff, truly sow the seeds for communal growth. Such achievements deserve recognition not just during this month, but at every opportunity throughout the year.

DISASTER RECOVERY PERSONAL
PROTECTION ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. RICK BOUCHER

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 25, 2006

Mr. BOUCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5013, the Disaster Recovery Per-

sonal Protection Act. This legislation would ensure that gun owners' second amendment rights are not compromised in times of natural disaster. I am pleased to lend my strong support to this measure as it is considered today.

The Disaster Recovery Personal Protection Act addresses a problem brought to light in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. In the wake of Hurricane Katrina and the resulting flood, federal and local law enforcement officials confiscated the firearms of numerous law-abiding individuals. Those actions were entirely unjustified. This injustice must not be repeated elsewhere.

By prohibiting federal, state, or local law enforcement officers from seizing legally-owned firearms which have in no manner been misused during national emergencies, this legislation would prevent a repeat of the abuse of emergency powers that followed Hurricane Katrina.

The government should never confiscate legally-purchased and properly used firearms from law-abiding citizens. Whether natural disasters occur or not does nothing to alter this reality: lawful gun owners have the unalienable right to possess and transport their firearms.

H.R. 5013 would not restrict the ability of law enforcement officials to confiscate stolen firearms or to act when firearms are used in an unlawful manner.

In the aftermath of the hurricane, the absence of an established policing force allowed criminals to loot business and threaten rescue workers and residents of the city. Many individuals looted gun stores and other places of business which sell firearms. As with any stolen property, these stolen firearms should be confiscated, and the individuals who stole them and misused them for crimes should be punished.

Law enforcement officials, however, seized thousands of firearms from law-abiding citizens. During the lawlessness and disorder of the disaster, the law-abiding citizens of the region needed to be able to arm themselves and defend their families and property against criminals. The seizing of these individuals' firearms left them defenseless in the chaos following the hurricane. This legislation protects the second amendment rights of citizens when that right to self-defense is needed most.

The Disaster Recovery Personal Protection Act is a common sense measure to prevent the confiscation of firearms from citizens who have committed no crime, and I strongly urge my colleagues to approve it.

TRIBUTE TO CORA T. WALKER

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2006

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor the life and legacy of Ms. Cora T. Walker. Cora Thomasina Walker was born on June 20, 1922, in Charlotte, N.C., one of nine children of William and Benetta Jones Walker. The family moved to the Bronx when she was a child. When she was an adolescent, her parents separated, leaving her, her mother and her siblings dependent on public assistance.

After graduating from James Monroe High School in the Bronx, Ms. Walker promptly informed the Welfare Department that their help