

Mr. Speaker, the roots of Dominican New Yorkers lie in a country with a fascinating history and arresting beauty. The Dominican Republic is the home of a number of people from various heritages. As a result, the culture is charged with strong Taino, African, and European influences. One visit to the Dominican Republic will put to rest any questions one might have as to why Dominicans in America retain such a strong sense of pride in their homeland and never stop missing it.

The achievements and contributions made by Dominican-Americans and Dominican residents have spanned the realms of politics, science, the Armed Forces, literature, public service, and the arts, and undoubtedly make them an integral part of American society. The Dominican Day Parade and Festival of the Bronx is a great opportunity to celebrate the Dominican people's culture, history, and bright future.

I ask my colleagues to please join me in honoring the Dominican Day Parade and Festival of the Bronx.

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HONORING THE TOWN OF  
AINSWORTH

**HON. MARK GREEN**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 30, 2005*

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to recognize before this body the Town of Ainsworth as it celebrates its 100th Anniversary this year.

Named for a young immigrant from Dorchester, England, "Uncle Tom" Ainsworth, the Ainsworth name has long been a fixture of my district.

Uncle Tom Ainsworth and his brothers played a key role in the agricultural development of the area, which included tending dams on the Wolf River. His descendants over the years have held several leadership positions to help continue the pride Uncle Tom had for his new home.

Today, the Town of Ainsworth continues to hold tight to its agricultural roots with abundant natural resources and farming opportunities that keep its economy solid.

Mr. Speaker, though the official anniversary date was April 4, 2005, I would like to extend congratulations on the past 100 years of success as the Town of Ainsworth holds its centennial celebration on July 2. And I wish the town and its citizens the best of wishes in the next 100 years.

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100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
VILLAGE OF CURTIS

**HON. BART STUPAK**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 30, 2005*

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a community in my district that is celebrating its 100th anniversary as a village. On Sunday, July 3, 2005, the residents of the village of Curtis, Michigan, will host a parade to honor their history that 100 years ago began with the establishment of a post office. The official Centennial Celebration will take place September 2nd through 4th.

Local historians have documented evidence of human civilization in the area dating back more than 13,000 years. Explanations suggest that native tribes moved with the gradual northern movement of the glaciers that sculpted the region and helped structure the forest and copper rich area, now known as the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Excavation sites dating back as early as 3500 B.C., show evidence that seven spots were used to extract copper.

As time went on, Native American Indian tribes visited Curtis as a favorite camping site while early historical references indicate explorers traversed nearby waterways in search of resources and western passages from the 1600s to the late 1800s. However, settlement and population growth began in 1881 when the Detroit, Mackinac and Marquette Railroad was built bringing lumber workers to the area. A township board was elected in 1887 to locally govern Portage Township with just over 150 people residing in its borders.

In 1905, the Manistique Railroad that ran from Grand Marais to Seney and Germfask was extended to Curtis and a post office was established. The first postmaster facilitating the operation was Mark Howard Miller. A sawmill started by Jesse Sherbrook later that year in Saw-wa-qua-to-beach on South Manistique Lake gave the town the resources they needed to establish itself.

What began as a town of roughly 75 people, Curtis and the surrounding township now make up approximately 1,000 residents. Through the years, this close knit community has thrived as the tourist, fishing and logging industries have flourished in the area. Nestled between the two beautiful, large, pristine Manistique Lakes, the people of Curtis have grown to be nothing short of a family. Many of the names of original settlers can still be found among the rosters of the 13 civic and fraternal organizations including the Lions, Fireworks Committee, Ladies Aid, The Fish Coop, and the Curtis Community Arts Council. Curtis's four churches, library, school, medical clinic, post office, bank and public housing facility make the town completely self-sufficient and an attraction for families and businesses looking to move into an All-American community.

The history of Curtis contains many interesting facts and figures as well as tales of its growth as an area inhabited for over 1,000 years by early mankind. As a small town tucked between waterways and engulfed in thick forests in the middle of Michigan's eastern Upper Peninsula, the people of Curtis were able to build their community with their own resources and based on their own value driven standards to create an amazing town. Mr. Speaker, I ask the United States House of Representatives to join me in congratulating the village of Curtis and its residents on their first 100 years and in wishing them well through the next century.

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MILITARY PERSONNEL FINANCIAL  
SERVICES PROTECTION ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. JIM DAVIS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 28, 2005*

Mr. DAVIS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, earlier this week, the House passed H.R. 458, the

Military Personnel Financial Services Protection Act. This important piece of legislation prevents the sale of abusive insurance and investment products, such as contractual plans, to military personnel.

Contractual plans, which have all but disappeared from civilian markets, offer individuals the opportunity to invest small amounts of money on a regular basis over an extended period of time. Generally, these contractual plans require that investors make monthly installments for a period of 15 to 20 years and charge up front the commission that would be expected over the life of the contract. Because these plans require that commission fees be paid in the first few years of the contract, the investor's account is not fully credited during this period. Furthermore, investors who drop out of these plans before the designated end of the contract sacrifice all the prepaid commission and often find that the number of shares they own is considerably less than what they could have purchased directly.

A series of articles in the New York Times highlighted the abusive sale of these financial products to members of the Armed Services. While most financial service providers supply their military customers with honest and accurate information, some have engaged in unfair and deceptive practices in an effort to increase their own profits. The men and women who defend our country deserve better.

I supported H.R. 458 because it ensures that our troops are protected from the potentially abusive sales of certain financial products. By enacting new regulations and prohibiting the sale of mutual funds sold through contractual plans, H.R. 458 provides military personnel with the proper assurances they need to make informed financial decisions.

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THE IMMIGRANT VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE PROTECTION ACT OF 2005:  
PROTECTING ALL BATTERED IMMIGRANT WOMEN AND CHILDREN

**HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 30, 2005*

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, today I'm introducing the Immigrant Victims of Violence Protection Act because there is a perverse incentive in U.S. law for immigrant women to stay with their abusive spouses in order to preserve their immigration status. My legislation will help immigrant women who need to leave their abusive spouses by preventing their deportation and providing them access to work permits and legal and social services.

Violence against women is a profound and extremely pervasive problem, striking across economic, cultural and ethnic backgrounds, and across all age groups. If we are to stop violence against women, all victims need protection and assistance without regard to their immigration status. Escaping domestic violence can be especially difficult for immigrant women and their children. The threat of deportation, cultural and language barriers, lack of a work permit and limited access to legal and social services may make immigrant victims of domestic violence more dependent on their abusive spouses.

That is why including the Immigrant Victims of Violence Protection Act as part of VAWA