

amazing progress toward democratization has created a unique opportunity to further strengthen the ties between Eastern Europe and America's heartland. I believe this new local consul's office can be the catalyst for further interaction, understanding and mutual appreciation.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate and thank Sharon K. Valášek, the honorary consul of the Czech Republic to Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska, for helping to establish an official Consulate of the Czech Republic in Kansas City.

I also wish to thank the distinguished ambassador from the Czech Republic, Mr. Martin Palouš, and welcome him to Kansas City. I hope that our two nations can continue to cooperate and thrive while strengthening our bonds of friendship and commerce.

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR GENERAL
JAMES P. CZEKANSKI

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 4, 2003

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to our country and the community of Riverside, California are exceptional. This country has been fortunate to have dedicated individuals who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent and make this country a safer and better place to live. Major General James P. Czekanski is one of these individuals. On Saturday, August 23, 2003, he will be honored as he departs from March Air Reserve Base in Riverside, California.

In 1968, Major General Czekanski, after receiving his Bachelor's Degree in history from the University of Massachusetts, attended undergraduate pilot training at Williams Air Force Base in Arizona. After completing school he attended Sewart Air Force Base in Tennessee for C-130 combat crew training and then became a tactical airlift pilot for three years at Pope Air Force Base in North Carolina in 1969. He served at Ubon Royal Thai Air Force Base in Thailand as an AC-130A Gunship aircraft commander from 1972 to 1974 at which time he attended Squadron Officer School. Over the next 4 years he would serve in various positions before obtaining his Master's degree in counseling and human development from Troy State University. In 1981 he completed Air War College.

Over the next 20 years Major General Czekanski served in numerous commands throughout the country as Chief of Tactical Airlift Operations, Commander, Vice Commander and Senior Air Reserve Technician, Inspector General, and Director of Operations. In August of 2000 he was assigned to March Air Reserve Base in Riverside, California as Commander of the 4th Air Force, Air Force Reserve Command. He has accumulated more than 7,500 hours of flight time and has flown numerous aircraft including the C-5A, C-141A/B/E/H, AC-130A, HC-130H/N/P, and KC135R.

Throughout his distinguished career Major General Czekanski has received over 20 major awards and decorations including the Legion of Merit with two oak leaf clusters;

Meritorious Service Medal with oak leaf cluster; Air Force Outstanding Unit Award; National Defense Service Medal with service star; Vietnam Service Medal; and Kuwait Liberation Medal from both Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. In addition to his dedication to his military career, Major General Czekanski is a member of the Air Force Association, the Reserve Officer Association, the Order of the Daedalians and the Airlift and Tanker Association.

Major General Czekanski's tireless passion for service to country and community has contributed immensely to the betterment of our nation and to the community of Riverside, California. I am honored and proud to call him a fellow community member, American and friend. I know that many community members are grateful for his service and salute him as he moves on to the next chapter of his life.

IN RECOGNITION OF INSPECTOR
HENRY KADEN ON HIS RETIREMENT
FROM THE UNION CITY
POLICE DEPARTMENT

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 4, 2003

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Inspector Henry Kaden on his retirement from the Union City Police Department after 27 years of serving and protecting the public.

Inspector Kaden began his career with the Union City Police Department in 1976. In 1984, he was promoted to detective in the Crime Prevention Bureau, where he served until he became sergeant in 1985. In 1988, Inspector Kaden became commander of the Crime Prevention Unit, and, in 1989, he was promoted to lieutenant. After serving as lieutenant for eight years, he was promoted to captain in 1998, and finally, earned the rank of inspector in July, 2002.

Before his service with the Department, Inspector Kaden served in the United States Army from December 1966 to December 1968. From May 1967 until May 1968, during the Tet Offensive, Henry Kaden served in Vietnam.

Inspector Kaden has been the recipient of a number of awards and recognitions for his outstanding service to the public. In 1989, he received the McGruff Award for the National Night Out Program; in 1990, he was named Police Officer of the Year by the Knights of Columbus; in 1991, he was named a National Night Out "All Star"; and, from 1991 to 1993, his National Night Out Committee was awarded National Honors for representing a top state in the country for neighborhood safety.

Inspector Kaden has received four Medals of Valor and two Life Saving Awards from the Union City Police Department; seven Excellent Police Service Awards; two Honorable Service Awards; a Wound Medal, and two Unit Citations for his work on the Crime Prevention Bureau and as Detective Bureau Commander. The State of New Jersey awarded him with a Distinguished Service Medal and the Vietnam 25th Anniversary Commemorative Medal in 2002.

Inspector Kaden is a graduate of Emerson High School in Union City, New Jersey.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Inspector Henry Kaden for his 27

years of service with the Union City Police Department.

RECOGNITION OF THE 13TH ANNI-
VERSARY OF THE SIGNING OF
THE AMERICANS WITH DISABIL-
ITIES ACT INTO LAW

HON. KATHERINE HARRIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 4, 2003

Ms. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate a landmark civil rights anniversary in American history, which passed after we had adjourned for the District Work Period in July. Thirteen years ago, the first President Bush signed the Americans with Disabilities Act into law, launching a new era in our nation's everlasting journey towards equal opportunity for all.

This long-overdue legislation finally breathed life into the principle that every American has the right to be a full and equal participant in our society.

As Florida's Secretary of State, I was blessed to have the opportunity to apply the mission of the ADA to the cause of election reform. Beginning with my appointment of a Select Task Force in 2001, we worked to remove the obstacles that prevented persons with disabilities in Florida from enjoying the sanctity of the secret ballot and the civic majesty of going to the polls on Election Day.

Thanks to powerful advocates from Florida's disabilities community like Pam Dorwarth, Doug Towne, and Richard LaBelle as well as the skilled leadership of Colonel Charley Price in mobilizing our veterans with disabilities, Florida became the first state in the nation to pass wide-ranging legislation vindicating the voting rights of persons with disabilities.

As we celebrate how far we have come, we must not forget how many miles we still must travel to truly secure for every American the rights and privileges that most of us take for granted.

SARGE FRYE OBITUARY

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 4, 2003

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today many South Carolinians mourn the loss of Sarge Frye, who died yesterday of heart failure at the age of 90. I ask that his obituary be included in the RECORD, as printed today in the State newspaper.

[From the State, Sept. 4, 2003]

COLUMBIA.—Mr. Frye died Wednesday, September 3, 2003. Born in Medon, Tennessee, he was a son of the late Leonard A. Frye and Pearl Daniel Frye Allin. A combat veteran of World War II and Korea, he landed at Utah Beach on D-Day. He was decorated with two Bronze Stars, a Purple Heart, and Combat Infantry Badge. He retired in 1953 as a master sergeant after 23 years of service in the U.S. Army. While serving in the Armed Forces, Sarge was an outstanding athlete, participating in basketball, baseball, softball and track as a player and coach. He met his wife, Ruby, while stationed in Alabama. The