issues such as the right of homeless individuals to gain and maintain access to the franchise, developing the process for compliance with the National Voter Registration Act, Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act, the support of the right of college students to register and vote, and the Help America Vote Act.

During his long tenure on the Board, he has led the expansion of voting precincts to provide greater voter accessibility for disabled and elderly voters leading the District of Columbia to be the first major jurisdiction in the United States to provide dual voting systems in the polling place allowing blind and other disabled voters to vote in privacy and secrecy without assistance.

He has also led the Office of Campaign Finance to successfully revive and stabilize programs which were formerly dormant and addressed a backlog of cases that existed at the time of his first appointment as Chairman regarding investigative matters.

He has insisted on education for voters, candidates, and the public at-large regarding campaign finance and conflict of interest laws and on imposing and collecting fines to enforce the ethics laws in the District of Columbia.

Mr. Wilson has done outstanding work at the District of Columbia Board of Elections and Ethics, sometimes under trying conditions. For example, the Board conducted a flawless election with new voting machines that had never been used before when the two leading candidates for Mayor of the city were write-in candidates. He successfully led the Board and its staff during an extremely difficult period.

In addition to his service on the District of Columbia Board of Elections and Ethics, Mr. Wilson has actively served the community by serving as the former Chairman of the Board of Directors of Healthy Babies, Incorporated; former Co-Chairman of the Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under the Law; former Chairman of the Board of the Dwight Mosley Foundation; and former Chairman of the Advisory Board of WAMU public radio.

I commend Mr. Wilson for his volunteer public service to the citizens of the District of Columbia.

HONORING THE DEDICATION OF MICAELA CONNERY

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 1, 2003

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary dedication of a young woman from West Hartford, Micaela Connery, who has been awarded the 2004 Prudential Spirit of the Community Award. This award program was created five years ago and is part of a broad initiative by Prudential to encourage young people to become involved in community service. This year's honorees received national recognition, a $1,000 cash award, and an engraved silver medallion.

Among the 20,000 applicants, Micaela is one of only 104 students who received the Prudential Spirit of the Community Award for her acts of volunteerism. As a sophomore at Conard High School, Micaela was inspired by her cousin with special needs and single-handedly created a program that showcases the talents of students with and without special needs in theatrical performances. The first production of Micaela's Unified Theater, consisting of 20 students, half with special needs and half without, raised over $500 in donations. The success of Micaela's hard work has spread throughout Connecticut and lead to the formation of Unified Theater, Inc. which provides start-up assistance to other schools.

Micaela demonstrates the highest level of compassion, dedication and achievement among the youth today. As a young adult, she already understands the positive nature of community as she describes through her work in the program, "every member is an equal. Every member works together in equal collaboration. What makes Unified Theater different is that we see ability where others see disability."

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in thanking and honoring Miss Micaela Connery for her inspiration and dedication to the West Hartford Community.

THANKING THE STUDENTS OF ALCOTT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FOR SUPPORTING OUR TROOPS

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 1, 2004

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my gratitude to three classrooms at Alcott Elementary School in San Diego: Mrs. Dee Murphy's class in Room B–4, Ms. Natalie Crain's class in Room 9, and Ms. Cindy Weiss' class in Room 20. All of the children in these three classes sent letters of support to my District Director, Nathan Fletcher, who is a Marine Corps reservist currently deployed in Iraq.

The students' letters included words of support, and reminders of San Diego for Nathan and his unit who are deployed out of Camp Pendleton. Their letters included funny jokes, anecdotes about the students' families and pets, praise for our armed forces for their efforts to keep America safe, and thanks for their work to liberate the children and people of Iraq.

Mrs. Murphy's class also sent "Flat Stanley" to visit with Nathan in Iraq. In the book, Flat Stanley, by Jeff Brown, Stanley is squashed flat by a falling bulletin board. One of the many advantages is that Flat Stanley can now visit his friends by traveling in an envelope. Flat Stanley has joined Nathan on patrols, and has sent pictures back to Mrs. Murphy's class from his many adventures. The students also sent books and newspapers, and some small snacks and treats.

I am so proud and appreciative of the students from Alcott Elementary. Their simple act of sending a letter has lifted the spirits of Nathan's Unit. In the midst of many long monotonous days, while our troops are missing their families and loved ones at home, these letters reminded our marines from Camp Pendleton of the wonderful things that wait for them when they arrive back home. At the same time, the students are learning about events in the world. I also hope that this exchange will help the students to better understand how very fortunate they are to live in America. Many of the children in Iraq have no shoes, and poor medical care (if any). There isn't enough room for everyone to attend schools, so often the girls go to school in the morning and the boys go to school in the afternoon. Through their interaction with Nathan, the students of Alcott Elementary are catching a glimpse of the lives of a handful of Iraqi children.

I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking the students of Alcott Elementary for their support of our troops. Their letters and gifts have helped to remind our troops that America stands firmly behind them and anxiously awaits their safe return home.

HONORING LANCE CORPORAL JAMES A. CASPER

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 1, 2004

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, throughout our history, when our country called, millions of American men and women have made the ultimate sacrifice so that our Nation could enjoy peace and prosperity. From Bunker Hill to Baghdad, many of America's best and brightest have paid the price of our freedom with their lives, leaving behind their friends, their families and their futures.

Recently, the Fifth Congressional District of Texas lost one of our best. Lance Corporal James A. Casper of Coolidge, Texas, was a twenty-year-old Marine assigned to 2nd Battalion, 11th Marines, 1st Division, who lost his life near Al Asad, Iraq, while serving his country in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Lance Corporal Casper served this country well, as did the other brave men and women who have lost their lives in Iraq, helping to fight our enemies far away in order to prevent them from attacking us again here at home. Undoubtedly, it is through their sacrifice that future generations of Americans and others will enjoy freedom from terror.

As our families and friends gather together this Memorial Day to enjoy barbeques and baseball games, let us not forget the solemn purpose for this national day of remembrance.

Freedom is not free—it comes at an incredible cost. Today, let us show our deep appreciation for those who fought for our freedom and let us honor those, like Lance Corporal Casper, who died defending it. Let us commend their courage, their patriotism, their service and their sacrifice.

In the words of President Ronald Reagan, "We will always remember. We will always be proud. We will always be prepared, so we may always be free."

IN HONOR OF M.R.C. GREENWOOD

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 1, 2004

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of both Members representing Santa Cruz County, California, myself and Representative ANNA G.