

Committee. During her years on the committee she has worked on the Personnel Subcommittee, and directly with the General Counsel and the Staff Director. For the past 20 years she has held the position of Professional Staff Member and served as the committee's senior administrator, managing a multi million-dollar annual budget, and organizing Congressional travel, among many other duties. As a result of her position and responsibilities, Rita has regularly interacted not only with Members of Congress, but also with Senators, foreign dignitaries, and high ranking military officials.

Rita's committee service has spanned six presidents, seven committee chairmen, and seven staff directors. I speak for myself, past chairmen and ranking minority members, and any and everyone who has had the privilege of working with Rita, in thanking her for her tireless work and dedication to the House Armed Services Committee.

Rita's charm has always been a trademark of her personality. In a place where many people come and go, Rita has been a symbol of commitment and dedication from which many of us could learn. I congratulate her on her retirement and thank her for over three decades of honorable service to this Congress and her country. On behalf of the House Armed Services Committee and the United States Congress, I wish you the best of luck as you begin this new chapter of your life.

#### TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM NEIDIG

#### HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 7, 2004*

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor William Neidig, who was recently honored with the prestigious St. Madeleine Sophie Medal by the Schools of the Sacred Heart in Atherton, California.

Bill grew up on the east coast and graduated from Princeton University with an engineering degree before coming West to attend the Business School at Stanford University. After graduation, Bill and his wife Christy settled in Palo Alto because of the city's outstanding public school system, and Bill began in the real estate business.

Fate intervened and the Neidig's enrolled their daughter Stephanie in the kindergarten at St. Joseph's. Bill says that growing up he had never really known a nun. But after meeting the Religious of the Sacred Heart he came to appreciate the well educated women who have devoted themselves to educating his children, and he was sold on the school and wanted to help out.

Bill joined the Building and Grounds Committee in 1990 and joined the board of trustees in 1991, where he has continued to serve ever since, except for a mandatory one year sabbatical. In this capacity, Bill worked diligently to maintain and upgrade the facilities and grounds at Sacred Heart. He has been involved in upgrading St. Joseph's classrooms, offices, and science lab. He developed Spieker Pavilion, the Main Building, the Aquatics Center, the West Wing and the library, the football field, the track and tennis facilities, and most recently the Performing Arts Center. At no other time in the history of Sa-

cred Heart Schools Atherton has so much been accomplished in such a short time period.

Bill has also served on the Finance Committee, where his familiar cry, "Less is more, but will it do everything you need?" has been a guiding principle in the financial decisions of the school.

Bill knows how to ask the right questions and get the right answers. Whenever something needs to be done, he can be counted on to make sure it gets done. He has been extraordinarily giving of his time and talent, and his support for Sacred Heart Schools is an inspiration to all.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this great and inspiring man, William Neidig, as he is honored with the St. Madeleine Sophie Medal.

#### RECOGNIZING CHRISTOPHER EARLEY

#### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 7, 2004*

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Christopher Earley, 2004 graduate of Chillicothe High School.

This year Christopher completed a distinguished career as a wrestler at Chillicothe High School, under the tutelage of coaches Dave Kinnen and Ken Stull. Christopher was named to the All District Wrestling Team in 2003, and a State Wrestling Qualifier in 2003 and 2004. During his senior season Christopher enjoyed a great deal of success, as he won the Coach's Award, was named to the Midland Empire All-Conference, and won the District Wrestling Championship. Christopher was also a four-year letterman in wrestling. His academic achievements are equally impressive, as he was the recipient of four consecutive academic letters at Chillicothe High School as well.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in congratulating Christopher Earley and wishing him continued success. Christopher is a great role model for student-athletes in our state, and I am proud to serve him in the United States Congress.

#### IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF PETER V. KILBANE

#### HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 7, 2004*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Peter V. Kilbane—United States Veteran of WWII, thirty-six year member of the Cleveland Police Department; and most significantly, devoted family man; and friend and mentor to many.

Mr. Kilbane's life centered around his unwavering commitment to his family, to community, and to our nation. He embraced his Irish heritage, and embraced the values, traditions and ethics taught to him by his parents, Mihal Moor and Honora Joyce. Together, Peter and his beloved wife of sixty-two years, Margaret Mary, offered these vital life lessons to their

children: Karen, Grace Ann, Peter G., Peggy, and Mary. He will also be remembered as a loving father figure to Mary Lou Wallish, and to the memory of Harry Spencer.

Mr. Kilbane served our country with honor and courage. His decorated service during WWII reflected his heroic actions in France, Belgium, Holland and Germany, including the Battle of the Bulge. From the front lines fighting for liberty during the war, to the front lines fighting crime along the streets of Cleveland, Mr. Kilbane exhibited the same unyielding dedication and concern for others. He worked in every district within the Cleveland Police Department, and held the position of Lieutenant of Special Operations, Detective Bureau, when he retired in 1987. Beyond his professional commitments, Mr. Kilbane consistently reached out into our community. He held board positions and was an active member of many civic organizations, including St. Malachi Parish, the Holy Name Society, the Fraternal Order of Police, the Emerald Society, and the Retired Irish Police Society. In 2000, the Retired Irish Police Society named him the Retired Irish Police Officer of the Year.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor, gratitude and remembrance of Mr. Peter V. Kilbane—a man of heart, courage and integrity, who lived life with a joyous focus on family, friends and helping others. I extend my deepest condolences to his beloved wife, Margaret Mary, to his children, grandchildren, great-children and to his extended family members and many friends. His kindness, heart and courageous service has served to uplift our Cleveland community, and his shining legacy, spirit and memory will live on forever within the minds and hearts of all whom knew and loved him well.

#### IN HONOR OF ADM SAMUEL LEE GRAVELY

#### HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 7, 2004*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of an extraordinary American, ADM Samuel Lee Gravelly, Jr.

Admiral Gravelly passed away recently, but he leaves behind a legacy of stunning accomplishment, which undoubtedly renders him as one of the most significant figures in American military history.

Admiral Gravelly was born in Richmond, Virginia on June 4, 1922. After attending Virginia Union University for 2 years, he enlisted in the Navy Reserve in 1942 and was trained as a fireman apprentice.

In 1943, he participated in a Navy program known as V-12, which was designed to select and train highly qualified men for commissioning as officers in the Navy. As part of his V-12 training, he attended the University of California in Los Angeles and the Midshipmen School at Columbia University in New York City.

On December 14, 1944 Admiral Gravelly successfully completed midshipman training, becoming the first African American commissioned as an officer from the Navy Reserve Officers' Training Course, ROTC.

As a newly commissioned ensign, his first duty assignment was at a naval training station in Illinois, where he was assistant battalion commander for new recruits. Following