

that assignment, he began his seagoing career as a sailor aboard the PC 1264, one of only two World War II ships with a predominantly African-American crew.

In April 1946 he left active duty, but remained in the Naval Reserve. He returned to his hometown of Richmond, Virginia, and completed his bachelor's degree in history. Soon after obtaining his degree he was recalled to active duty during the Korean war. His service during that time earned him a Legion of Merit Award, Bronze Star, and the Meritorious Service Medal.

In the 1960's, Admiral Gravely became the first African-American to command a navy warship when he was appointed executive officer, and later, acting commanding officer of the destroyer *Theodore E. Chandler*. That momentous milestone was just one of many in Admiral Gravely's career.

Some historic firsts that he has achieved include: the first African-American to command an American warship under combat conditions since the Civil War, USS *Taussig*; the first African-American to command a major naval warship, USS *Jouett*; the first African-American admiral; the first African-American to rise to the rank of vice admiral; and the first African-American to command a U.S. fleet, commander, Third Fleet.

Admiral Gravely belongs to a group of African-American military heroes whose belief in self and country gave them strength to overcome incredible obstacles and reach unprecedented heights. In so doing they have given hope and pride to the generations that have proceeded them.

Known as a quiet and unassuming man, his life exemplified the words of the politician Adlai Stevenson, who once said "Patriotism is not short, frenzied outbursts of emotion, but the tranquil and steady dedication of a lifetime." If this is the measure of a patriot, then Admiral Gravely was one of our greatest.

I find it appropriate to end with Admiral Gravely's own words: "Perseverance is the ability to steadfastly proceed to your goal despite all obstacles. It is the ability to overcome." The spirit of Admiral Gravely will always be with us, just as his words will forever ring true.

HONORING DR. TAMMIE LEE
DEMLER

HON. THOMAS M. REYNOLDS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 7, 2004

Mr. REYNOLDS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise to pay tribute to Dr. Tammie Lee Demler of Wheatfield, NY, for recently being honored as both a New York State Senate "Woman of Distinction" and the "2004 Pharmacist of the Year."

Since receiving a Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University at Buffalo School of Pharmacy, Dr. Demler has received a number of accolades. She became the President of the Pharmacists' Association of Western New York (PAWNY), and this year was named "2004 Pharmacist of the Year" by the association. Dr. Demler currently serves as the Director of the University's Psychiatric Pharmacy Post Doctoral Residency Program where she mentors graduate students. She has made nu-

merous contributions to both the association and the pharmacology profession.

Dr. Demler received another prestigious award from the New York State Senate this past June, being named a "Woman of Distinction." The award was created to honor women throughout New York that have played an important role in "adding strength, understanding, and inspiration to the diversity and quality of life" in the state; I can think of no one more deserving of this award than Dr. Demler.

Dr. Demler spends much of her free time working for the betterment of the community, such as helping organize the "Taste of Buffalo," a very important annual event. Dr. Demler has made a considerable and lasting contribution to both her profession and our community, and for that she deserves our deepest gratitude.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that this Congress join me in congratulating Dr. Tammie Lee Demler for being named as both a "Woman of Distinction" and the "2004 Pharmacist of the Year."

IN HONOR AND IN MEMORY OF
LCPL BRAD FAIRCLOTH OF MOBILE, AL

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 7, 2004

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a young man from the First Congressional District of Alabama who recently made the ultimate sacrifice in the defense of freedom abroad.

Lance Corporal Brad Faircloth, a native of Mobile, Alabama, was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 8th Marines, based at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. In July of this year, Brad's unit was deployed to Iraq in support of ongoing military operations in that country. It was there that, on November 25, 2004, he was killed while he and other members of his unit conducted house-to-house searches in Fallujah, Iraq, looking for members of that country's insurgent movement.

Brad set a standard of excellence and displayed the qualities of discipline, devotion, and dedication to country that are hallmarks of men and women throughout the long and distinguished history of the American military. Following his 2002 graduation from Murphy High School in Mobile, Alabama, and after one year as a student at Delta State University in Mississippi, Brad chose to join the Marine Corps. In recent days, many members of his family said he did so in large part in response to the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, because he felt he should do his part in the fight to protect his country. Brad was an extremely conscientious and dedicated marine, and he was honored recently with the presentation to his family of three Purple Hearts and the Distinguished Service Medal.

Mr. Speaker, I feel certain his many friends in Mobile County and his comrades in the United States Marine Corps, while mourning the loss of this fine young man, are also taking this opportunity to remember his many accomplishments during his brief 20 years, and to recall the fine gift they each received simply from knowing him and having him as an integral part of their lives.

I urge my colleagues to take a moment and pay tribute to Lance Corporal Brad Faircloth and his selfless devotion to not only our country and the freedoms we enjoy, but to a people who are but now in the infancy of a new life—a new freedom—in their own land.

We should also remember his mother, Kathleen Faircloth-Smith; his stepfather, Paul Smith; his grandparents, Dewey and Helen Faircloth; his uncle, Tim Faircloth; and his other family members and many friends. Our prayer is that God will give them all the strength and courage that only He can provide to sustain them during the difficult days ahead.

It was Joseph Campbell who said, "A hero is someone who has given his or her life to something bigger than oneself." Make no mistake, young Brad Faircloth was not only a dedicated marine who made the ultimate sacrifice serving in the uniform of his country, but he was also a true American hero.

TRIBUTE TO LA HABRA HIGH SCHOOL AS THEY CELEBRATE THEIR GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 7, 2004

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to La Habra High School in La Habra, California as they celebrate their Golden Anniversary.

For the past 50 years, La Habra High School has been more than just an institution for learning; it has become the pride and joy of a community. The teachers and administration work together to inspire students to become life long learners. The school boasts alumni that are not only productive members of society, but have paved a path for future generations to follow. Most importantly, the students of La Habra High School understand the importance of learning and the value of a proper education. Over the years the school has earned many distinctions including the coveted Blue Ribbon Award by the U.S. Department of Education.

Mr. Speaker, La Habra High School has proven to be a first rate educational institution that fosters a positive learning environment for the future of our children. I ask my fellow colleagues in Congress to join me in congratulating the teachers, administrators, alumni, students and parents as they celebrate the school's 50th Anniversary.

IN HONOR OF HENRY MELLO

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 7, 2004

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, Congresswoman ANNA ESHOO, Congresswoman LOIS CAPPAS, Congresswoman BARBARA LEE, Congressman GEORGE MILLER, Congressman MICHAEL HONDA, Congressman JOE BACA, Congressman MIKE THOMPSON, Congressman TOM LANTOS, Congressman PETE STARK, Congressman BOB FILNER, Congresswoman ZOE LOFGREN, Congresswoman DIANE WATSON, Congresswoman LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD, Congressman HOWARD BERMAN and Congresswoman