

willingness to fight for his country. Specialist Harting was assigned to the 3rd Battalion 69th Armor Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 42nd Infantry Division, Fort Stewart, GA. Specialist Harting lost his life on Monday, July 25, 2005, in Samarra, Iraq. His sacrifice will be remembered by a community that has been struck hard by the devastating loss of one of its own.

A native of Portage, IN, Specialist Harting graduated from Portage High School. It came as no surprise to those who knew Specialist Harting that he would serve his country. A true patriot, his love for his country was evident from the time that he was a child. He wanted to help make a difference in the world. At a young age Adam and his twin brother, Alex, wrote contracts to their father promising they were going to join the military.

Specialist Harting wanted to be a hero. He began speaking to recruiters about joining the military. The terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001 made his decision final. Specialist Harting felt tremendous pride for his country, and he was willing to endanger his own life to protect the lives of his fellow citizens. Soon after graduation he joined the military. In January 2003, at the age of 19, he was featured in Time magazine for being one of the youngest soldiers to arrive in Kuwait to serve in the conflict. He helped take a bridge over the Tigris River, and overran the airport in Baghdad. On July 25, 2005, less than 2 weeks after returning to the country for his third tour, Specialist Harting was killed when an explosive device detonated near the Bradley Fighting Vehicle that he was driving. His courage and heroism will always be remembered, and his sacrifice will forever live in the hearts and minds of those for whom he battled. He gave his life so that the freedoms and values he treasured could be enjoyed by those around the world.

Mr. Speaker, Adam's sacrifice for his country is a tribute to his dedication and willingness to put others before himself. He died not only while defending his fellow soldiers, but also defending his country and the Iraqi people from an oppressive regime. He is survived by his parents Jim and Katherine; stepmother Brenda; his twin brother, Alex, who served in the United States Air Force; and his siblings Mark, Josh, Jimmy, Tiffany, Tabitha, Hanna, and Leslie. Those who knew him best describe Adam as a kind, fun-loving person who always wanted to help others. He ultimately gave his life while protecting his fellow Americans and his heroism will never be forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, at this time I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring a fallen hero, United States Army Specialist Adam Harting. He will forever remain a hero in the eyes of his family, his community, and his country. Let us never forget the sacrifice he made to preserve the ideals of freedom and democracy.

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING
MARC WEST

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, whereas, Marc West has devoted himself to serving others through his membership in the Eagle Scouts; and

Whereas, Marc West has shared his time and talent with the community in which he resides; and

Whereas, Marc West has demonstrated a commitment to meet challenges with enthusiasm, confidence and outstanding service; and

Whereas, Marc West must be commended for the hard work and dedication he put forth in earning the Eagle Scout Award.

Therefore, I join with the residents of Zanesville, the entire 18th Congressional District of Ohio, Marc's family and friends in congratulating Marc West as he receives the Eagle Scout Award.

TRIBUTE TO DR. RICHARD
SHOWERS

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Richard Showers and pay tribute to his thirty-six year educational career in North Alabama.

Dr. Showers has been an outstanding educator in North Alabama. Throughout his career, Dr. Showers has held many diverse positions. He has been an elementary technology teacher, a middle school earth science teacher, a middle school industrial teacher, a vocational education teacher, an adult education teacher, and an adult education coordinator.

Additionally Mr. Speaker, Dr. Showers has proudly served the Huntsville community as the District One City Council Member since October of 1988. In fact, he was the first African-American to be elected to the City Council since 1907. As a council member, Dr. Showers sponsored the first smoking ordinance in the city, he was successful in locating an industrial park in North Huntsville, and he supported efforts in naming the Northern bypass in honor of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Showers has had a tremendous effect on our community as a teacher and City Council member and I would like thank him for his lifelong commitment to inspiring our community's children and his encouragement of adults to continue their education. I rise today to join his fellow teachers, students, family members, and friends in celebrating his distinguished career and to congratulate him upon his retirement.

IN HONOR OF CAPTAIN SANDRA L.
DEGROOT

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and wish well in retirement Captain Sandra L. DeGroot of Lemoore, California. Captain DeGroot has diligently served her country for the past thirty years.

In September 1975 Sandra joined the United States Navy as a Nurse Corps Candidate and was commissioned an Ensign. It was there that Captain DeGroot committed

herself to ensuring proper care and recovery for the women and men who place themselves in harm's way in the effort to protect our freedom.

She graduated from Keuka College with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing in 1976 and reported for Officer Indoctrination School in Newport, Rhode Island. Upon completion of her Officer training, Sandra began her career at the Naval Hospital in Jacksonville, Florida in the Intensive Care unit.

Captain DeGroot's profession brought her to a variety of places. She was assigned to Naval Hospital Pensacola, Florida as the charge nurse of the medicine ward. Shortly thereafter Sandra became head nurse of the Pediatric Clinic at Naval Hospital, Guam and after a brief return to Florida, she joined the ranks in California at Naval Hospital San Diego. At San Diego Captain DeGroot filled many roles; she served as the staff nurse on Labor and Delivery, Division Officer OB/GYN clinics and Perinatal Clinical Nurse Specialist. Ever the avid learner, Sandra transferred to Utah where she completed her Master of Science Degree in Nursing, with a major in Nurse-Midwifery. Her dedication to work and school brought great rewards and in 1996 Captain DeGroot reported to Naval Hospital Jacksonville where she was the Navy's first Director of Women's Health Services. A few years later Sandra was assigned to U.S. Naval Hospital Keflavik, Iceland before returning to California at Naval Hospital Lemoore as the Commanding Officer.

On top of her successful career Captain DeGroot has also made time for membership in various organizations. The American College of Nurse Midwives, the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners, the American Holistic Nurses Association and the Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses are just some of the organizations with which she is involved. Her hard work has not gone unnoticed because Captain DeGroot has received the Meritorious Service Medal with Gold Star, Navy Commendation Medal with Gold Star, Navy Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal with Bronze Star and the Overseas Service Ribbon.

For us, her retirement is bittersweet—although it is well deserved Captain DeGroot's efforts will be greatly missed. I congratulate Captain Sandra L. DeGroot, and wish her and her family all the best.

HONORING MR. GARY NEALE

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to honor Mr. Gary Neale on the occasion of his retirement as Chief Executive Officer of NiSource, where he has served the people of Northwest Indiana since 1989 and who I am proud to call a friend.

Mr. Neale guided the Northern Indiana Public Service Company, a mid-sized utility provider, to become NiSource, one of the Nation's leading energy companies. Today, NiSource is a Fortune 500 company—the only one headquartered in Northwest Indiana, and one of the few located in the State of Indiana. Because of Mr. Neale's work, NiSource is now

the largest natural gas distributor east of the Rocky Mountains. This incredible growth came under the talented leadership of Mr. Neale, as he has brought an unparalleled level of vision and energy to NiSource. Because of his commitment to the community and his company, he will continue to serve NiSource as Chairman of the Board of Directors after his retirement.

Upon his retirement, Mr. Neale will have nearly 40 years of experience in the energy industry. He has become one of the most well-respected leaders in the industry over the years. Mr. Neale has served as the chairman of the American Gas Association and the North American Electric Reliability Council. He was also appointed by former U.S. Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham to serve on the U.S. Department of Energy's Electricity Advisory Board and was selected by former U.S. Energy Secretary Bill Richardson to serve on the National Petroleum Council.

His contributions to the economy of Northwest Indiana are only eclipsed by his commitment to community service. The NiSource Charitable Foundation contributes more than \$5 million per year to non-profit organizations in the communities served by NiSource. Under his guidance, NiSource developed its Environmental Challenge Fund to support wildlife enhancement projects. To date, the fund has awarded more than \$850,000 in support of wildlife projects. Mr. Neale himself is personally committed to public service, serving on the boards of the Northwest Indiana Symphony Society, the Lake County United Way Campaign, and the Northwest Indiana Americans With Disabilities Act Advisory Board. A leader in economic development and a man of foresight, Mr. Neale has worked to improve the efficiency of local government services through his involvement with the Good Government Initiative in Northwest Indiana. Additionally, he has invested great amounts of personal time and energy in the Indiana Dunes Environmental Learning Center. He is also committed to higher education in Northwest Indiana, serving as a Trustee of Valparaiso University.

Mr. Neale has accomplished much since coming to Northwest Indiana from his home state of Washington, where he received his B.A. and M.B.A. from the University of Washington. I wish him, his wife Sandy, his two children, Julie and David, and his five grandchildren the best of luck in his retirement.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in commending Gary Neale for his outstanding contributions to the community of Northwest Indiana. His commitment to improving the quality of life for the people of the First Congressional District of Indiana is truly inspirational and should be recognized and commended. Over the years, I have sought out Gary for his advice and counsel on energy issues and to seek his assistance on matters affecting Northwest Indiana. I have always found him to be conscientious, deliberate, and innovative in his guidance. As James Joyce said, "not in time, place, or circumstance but in the man lies success;" or, as my father would say, "he's a 100% guy."

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING
NANCY BELL

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, whereas, Nancy Bell received the Spirit of Democracy Award in recognition for her accomplishments as the Director of the Ross County Board of Elections; and

Whereas, Nancy Bell has been acknowledged by Secretary of State J. Kenneth Blackwell; and

Whereas, Nancy Bell should be commended for her outstanding dedication to the Ross County Board of Elections and for her exceptional knowledge of the elections process.

Therefore, I join with the residents of the entire 18th Congressional District of Ohio in honoring and congratulating Nancy Bell for receiving the Spirit of Democracy Award.

HONORING THE 200TH BIRTHDAY
OF THE CITY OF HUNTSVILLE,
ALABAMA

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the City of Huntsville, Alabama on its 200th birthday. Huntsville is a part of my Congressional District and also my birthplace and hometown.

The City of Huntsville, named after Pioneer John Hunt, was founded in 1805. By 1819, it was the largest city in the Alabama Territory and was soon named the State of Alabama's first capitol.

Over the last two centuries, Huntsville has played a significant role in the development of our Nation and has established itself as a leader in science and technology development. Today, technology, space, and defense industries have a major presence in Huntsville with the Army's Redstone Arsenal, NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center, and Cummings Research Park. The City is home to several Fortune 500 companies and also offers a broad base of manufacturing, retail and service industries. In fact, Huntsville was recently named by CNN and Money Magazine as one of the best cities in the nation to live and work.

Huntsville is most well known as America's Space Capitol. In the 1950s, German Rocket Scientist Werner von Braun and his team came to Redstone Arsenal to develop rockets for the U.S. Army. The von Braun team eventually developed the rockets which put the first American in space and transported the first astronauts to the moon. Huntsville's space legacy continues today at NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center and the U.S. Space and Rocket Center.

Mr. Speaker, in honor of the City's bicentennial, the City is constructing a large Bicentennial park. Once completed, the park will incorporate a wide variety of symbols that represent the first 200 years of the City.

Mr. Speaker, the City of Huntsville has been honoring its proud history through 2005 and will culminate its celebration during the first week of August with parades and the lighting

of the Unity Candle on the City's birthday cake. I rise today to join the celebration and to congratulate Huntsville Mayor Loretta Spencer, City Council Members, Dr. Richard Showers, Sr., Mark Russell, Sandra Moon, Bill Kling, Jr., and Glenn Watson, and the Executive Director of the Bicentennial Commission, Mary Jane Caylor on a job well done.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC-CENTRAL
AMERICA-UNITED STATES FREE
TRADE AGREEMENT IMPLEMEN-
TATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 27, 2005

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to encourage my colleagues to vote against the Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA). I would like to be clear that I support increasing fair and free trade with our allies in Central America, and I appreciate the steps these nations have taken to improve business relations with the United States, especially among small businesses in my home State of Rhode Island. Fair trade between our nations could also help to bridge the relationship of our governments, leading to more stability in the region. There are several sociological and economic benefits that could be achieved through fair trade; unfortunately, those who drafted CAFTA did not aim to use this agreement as a vehicle for change, but rather chose to honor special interests before addressing the needs of the families and children living in those nations that will be most affected.

At a time when our Nation is preparing to pass sweeping trade legislation, the Administration has not only cut corners within the agreement, but also within the Federal agencies we rely on to regulate our global policies. I think this fact is best illustrated by the President's funding priorities in this year's budget. He requested, and his party's leader's agreed, to cut the International Labor budget by 86 percent. This funding helps to save children from spending their childhoods working in factories with deplorable conditions. I find it hard to believe that we can stand here and pass such a sweeping trade agreement as we continue to obliterate our ability to protect the children and low-wage employees that will be most affected.

Don't be fooled by those who tell you that there are protections for labor in this bill. The fact remains that this agreement simply permits Central American nations to "enforce their own laws." Should they change their laws, or weaken them in any way, the United States will have no recourse to protest this change. In fact, two CAFTA nations have already weakened or proposed weakening their basic labor laws since the signing of this agreement.

My colleagues from across the aisle talk about providing increased funding for labor protection and enforcement. But that's all it is—talk. There is absolutely nothing written in this agreement that requires the Congress to put money behind their promises, and after passing a budget with an 86 percent cut to the program that stops child labor, I am not confident that this funding will be present in the