

even their homes—while they wait for their government to act.

I support responsible proposals to reform the disability appeals processing system. I have urged congressional appropriators to provide appropriate funding to help the Social Security Administration reduce the appeals backlog and reduce the wait for disabled Americans.

Disabled Americans have a huge stake in the fight to strengthen Social Security's solvency. Plans to privatize Social Security put the income security of American workers at risk—especially workers whose careers are cut short by a disabling illness or injury.

With more than 230,000 Ohioans currently receiving Social Security disability benefits, there is too much at stake to play games with Social Security's future.

It's appropriate for us to gather to celebrate the ADA—an important first step. Working together, we can fix these and other roadblocks for the millions of Americans who live full lives every day with disabilities.

RESOLUTION TO COMMEMORATE
22ND ANNUAL NATIONAL NIGHT
OUT

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2005

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Stupak/Brady resolution. Our resolution will commemorate the 22nd annual National Night Out event which is sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch.

I would like to thank my friend Congressman BRADY for cosponsoring this legislation with me once again this year. This bipartisan resolution has been supported by dozen of House Members for several years running and I am pleased we have another opportunity to highlight this important event again this year.

National Night Out, a nationwide grassroots crime prevention event, will take place on Tuesday, August 2. The event brings together involved citizens, law enforcement agencies, and civic groups throughout the U.S. to heighten crime and drug prevention awareness and to strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships.

This has been a key part of America's community crime prevention success over the past two decades.

Community crime prevention is one of the most proven and effective ways to help law enforcement officials win the battle against crime. Whether it is stopping illegal drug sales, making schools safer, locating missing children, or remaining vigilant against terrorism, local law enforcement officials depend on the support of community networks to succeed.

The active involvement of citizens and the presence of local law enforcement in communities is a winning combination that makes and keeps neighborhoods safe.

Our resolution expresses Congress' support for community crime prevention and asks that the President focus Federal attention on the issue.

With this in mind, we hope that you will show your support for the community crime prevention efforts of citizens and police in your district and across the nation. Vote for the Stupak/Brady National Night Out Resolution.

COMMENDING PROGRESS IN
LEBANON

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2005

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice for her visit to Lebanon last week, which recently held elections for a new Parliament. During her brief stay, Secretary Rice asserted the necessity for the uninhibited growth of democracy in that region and demanded the complete removal of foreign occupiers.

Lebanon carries in its history a long tradition of foreign occupation. After plunging into civil war in 1975, Syrian troops forcefully occupied Lebanon. Throughout subsequent decades, the Syrian military unjustly held Beirut, with their tenure characterized by violent bombings and raids on the Lebanese people. The United States has long opposed this occupation of Lebanon, and Congress has continually insisted on their removal.

Syrian and Iranian sponsorship of terrorist ally Hezbollah threatens the emerging Lebanese democracy. I praise the heroic Lebanese citizens on their insistence for the Syrian exodus in early 2005, despite the Hezbollah security threats. I also laud them on their fair elections for their first National Assembly after the termination of the Syrian presence. Accordingly, this provides an opportune time for self-determination and democratic changes in the region.

It is imperative that the U.S. continues to support Lebanon's desire for full security control and territorial autonomy so this budding democracy can materialize. Yet as Lebanon gains control over their country, they should simultaneously avoid isolating themselves from their neighbors. Israel and Lebanon share a number of parallel interests and could markedly benefit from stronger relations with the other. Syria has strangled trade with Lebanon since their withdrawal; additionally, trade between all three nations has essentially come to a standstill recently. There should be a push for increased commercial exchanges between Israel and Lebanon, especially with the United States through the Qualifying Industrial Zone. I recommend that as Lebanon stabilizes and secures itself as a viable democracy, we consider their addition to the QIZ, which would encourage the Middle East peace process via economic integration.

Assuring that emerging democracies in the Middle East are safe and stable should be a top priority of the U.S. With respect to Iraq, much work still remains. This administration, through Operation Iraqi Freedom, has presented a poorly executed plan to instill democracy in Iraq. I believe that what America, Iraq, and the Middle East at large need is a plan for success. My amendment to the State Department Authorization Act called for a plan for a success in Iraq, this accepted bipartisan amendment calls on the President to present a strategy indicating how we would provide for a stable Iraqi government and strong Iraqi police force, hence allowing for a lessened US presence there. This could be done by mobilizing an international effort through increased presence of NATO forces in Iraq. NATO participation in Iraq would open up the doors for other non-NATO countries to share the burden

of the war. Furthermore, we should also better train the Iraqi military police, hence providing real security to the communities of Iraq.

HONORING SERGEANT MAJOR
EDWARD BROWN, JR.

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2005

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Sergeant Major Edward Brown, Jr., who has distinguished himself with extraordinarily meritorious service during his 30-year career in the United States Army, leading up to a commendable tenure at Letterkenny Army Depot, Chambersburg, Pennsylvania. A long-standing track record of superior and dedicated leadership proves that Sergeant Major Brown is the kind of leader that other soldiers try to emulate and that the Army recognizes as the exemplary soldier.

Throughout his career, Sergeant Major Brown has been an exceptional, active, and inspiring leader. His positions of leadership include those of squad leader, platoon sergeant, battalion motor sergeant and maintenance non-commissioned officer in charge, multiple tours as company sergeant, and most recently Sergeant Major at Letterkenny Army Depot.

In the past 10 years Sergeant Brown has served in extraordinary places, such as Germany, Bosnia, Ft. Campbell, Ft. Huachuca, and Letterkenny, and has made significant contributions to each. In each location he held positions of leadership, with a responsibility for the welfare of soldiers, units, installations, and civilian members of the defense workforce.

Notable in Sergeant Major Brown's career is his tour of duty at Letterkenny Army Depot. He served 4 years there, and personally made tremendous and direct contributions and changes to the Depot. When Sergeant Major Brown arrived on July 1, 2001, the Depot was in a state of decline and malaise due to the fact that it had already undergone three rounds of the Base Realignment and Closing (BRAC) process. Sergeant Major Brown was instrumental in the mission of turning the depot around, bringing renewed vigor and a sense of purpose into the workplace.

Sergeant Major Brown began his tenure at Letterkenny at a most inauspicious time, just prior to the tragic events that took place on September 11, 2001. He immediately increased the Force Protection posture required by the attacks on the United States. Because of the open terrain and layout that characterize the Depot, the task of securing the mission and personnel at Letterkenny was made even more difficult. However, Sergeant Major Brown worked tirelessly with the organic guard assets of the Depot and with newly assigned troops from the National Guard and Reserve to ensure that Letterkenny remained secure until all immediate danger had passed.

Sergeant Major Brown, working as part of the Command Team, inspired and moved the workforce forward through post-modernization and beautification programs, LEAN implementation, and proactive leadership. As a result of his guidance, Letterkenny improved so much that the Depot has been selected to grow in the next BRAC round, an accomplishment that may be traced directly to his personal efforts.