

House of Representatives to pay tribute to Mr. Damian A. Braga, president of Sanofi Pasteur US, located in Swiftwater, Monroe County, PA. Mr. Braga has been named the recipient of the Pocono Mountains Chamber of Commerce "Chairman's Business Award."

Mr. Braga is head of the sole U.S.-based manufacturer of injectable influenza vaccines and other critical immunization products which, last year alone, protected more than 500 million people worldwide.

Responsible for operations nationwide, Mr. Braga oversees more than \$1.5 billion in revenue at Sanofi Pasteur in Swiftwater and has played a vital role in global strategic planning and implementation.

Mr. Braga joined the company in 1988 and moved seamlessly through senior level positions, ultimately reaching the top of the U.S. organization.

Well known for his ability to assess challenging issues and identify achievable solutions, Mr. Braga puts strong emphasis on working with organizations that promote the importance of vaccines, encourage economic growth and assist those in need on both a national and state level. Toward that end, Mr. Braga serves as representative of the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America for the Center for Disease Control's advisory committee on immunization practices. He is also a member of the executive committee of the Pennsylvania Business Roundtable and the state Advisory Council for the Pennsylvania Academy of Science.

Mr. Braga also remains active in the Pocono community. He and Sanofi Pasteur actively support the Pocono Services for Families and Children. A proponent of educational initiatives, Mr. Braga also serves as a member of Northampton Community College's Foundation Board and East Stroudsburg University's board of directors for the Center for Research and Economic Development.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mr. Braga on the receipt of this honor. Mr. Braga and Sanofi Pasteur continually demonstrate how business should contribute to the greater community through a spirit of commitment and service.

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF  
JOHN J. NICASTRO, SR.

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 2, 2005*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute and recognition of John J. Nicastro, Sr., upon his induction into the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame, Class of 2005.

Mr. Nicastro was one of twenty inductees selected by a 13-member executive committee comprised of veteran leaders from throughout Ohio. Mr. Nicastro holds the distinction as being one of the youngest Commission Combat Officers in the United States Air Force. By age 19, he had risen up the military ranks to Second Lieutenant. His assignment with the 8th Army Air Force, 303rd Heavy Bomb Group, known as the Hell's Angels, took him to the European Theater of Operations, where his exemplary service included the successful completion of 35 combat missions.

Following his service in WWII, Mr. Nicastro became an installer with the Ohio Bell Tele-

phone Company. Like his service in the military, he ascended the corporate ladder, attaining the position of Account Executive. During his tenure at Ohio Bell, Mr. Nicastro led the effort to upgrade communication systems throughout the county, including the implementation of the 911 emergency calling system. Aside from his professional career, Mr. Nicastro continues to reflect a life-long focus on service to his community. He served as a member of the Independence City Council for sixteen years, served as President of the Independence Board of Education, and has held numerous leadership positions in veterans and civic organizations. Mr. Nicastro was awarded the Legion of Honor Award for his forty-five years of exemplary service with Kiwanis International of Independence, OH.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of John J. Nicastro, Sr., as he is inducted into the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame. Mr. Nicastro's significant contribution to his country, and his focused dedication on family and community, continue to strengthen and uplift our community and our Nation.

RECOGNIZING THE OUTSTANDING  
EFFORTS OF ABERDEEN TEST  
CENTER

**HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 2, 2005*

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to commend the significant contributions of Aberdeen Test Center (ATC) located in Aberdeen, MD, for their outstanding efforts to protect American troops.

In August of 2003, the M1 tanks moving toward Baghdad were assailed by Rocket Propelled Grenades (RPG). This situation highlighted a potential vulnerability to the Abram M1 fleet of tanks.

Based on this concern, ATC was requested to provide modifications to the tanks to remedy the potential vulnerability. ATC employees developed the Slat Armor System designed to address the issue. Because of their diligence and motivation, the modifications were completed in only three days. The efficiency demonstrated by ATC enabled the vulnerability to be rectified in less than ten days.

As the initial Stryker brigade prepared to enter combat in Iraq, ATC was again contacted requesting similar modifications to the Strykers, addressing a potential vulnerability to RPGs. These modifications were designed, prototyped and tested in under 10 days for mass production and fielding. Each Stryker was outfitted with this slat armor solution prior to entering combat in Iraq.

In the course of one year the Stryker Brigade Commander reported one hundred fifteen incidents of RPG attacks on Stryker vehicles. Because of the modification to the Slat Armor System, there have been no fatalities as a result of these RPG attacks.

Mr. Speaker, please join with me to acknowledge the exceptional work Aberdeen Test Center has done on the Abram M1s and Strykers. The elite attention and enthusiasm shown in this matter has saved the lives of many soldiers fighting the War on Terror.

RECOGNIZING BRIAN KIDWELL

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 2, 2005*

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Brian Kidwell, son of Douglas and Teresa Kidwell. Brian will receive his Eagle Award on August 7, 2005 at a Court of Honor in Saint Joseph, MO.

Brian began his scouting career in 1995 as a Tiger Cub. In 1996, he joined Pack 218 and proceeded through the ranks of Bobcat, Wolf, Bear, and Webelo. While a Webelo, Brian earned all the activity badges and the Arrow of Light. He also received a Service Star for five years of active scouting and the God and me award.

Brian became a member of Troop 218 in 2000, where he earned the ranks of Tenderfoot, 2nd Class, 1st Class, Star, Life, and now Eagle. Brian received 27 merit badges, and served in numerous leadership positions including Librarian, Patrol Leader, Chaplain Aide, Troop Guide, and Junior Assistant Scout Master. He is also a Fire Builder in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say.

In June of 2003, Brian and his father Douglas went to Philmont Scout Ranch, where they earned the 50 Miler Award.

Aside from scouting, Brian is a lifetime resident of Country Club Village. He attended John Glenn Elementary School then Savannah Middle School. He is currently a junior at Savannah High School and has been involved in the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and FFA. He has been on High Honor Roll since 4th grade.

Brian is a member of Faith United Church, Hope Youth Group, and the Sons of the American Legion, which he joined through his late grandfather, Darryle Bartlett.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Brian Kidwell for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America, and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING ELIZABETH KOSTER AS  
SHE RECEIVES THE 2005 ATHENA  
AWARD FROM THE POCONO  
MOUNTAIN CHAMBER OF COM-  
MERCE

**HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 2, 2005*

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Elizabeth Koster, of Smithfield Township, Monroe County, PA, who was chosen by the Pocono Mountain Chamber of Commerce to receive its 2005 Athena Award.

Mrs. Koster is president and chief executive officer of Fitzmaurice Community Services, Inc., which has been serving the needs of special populations in the Pocono area for 30 years.

Founded by Mrs. Koster's mother, Johanna Fitzmaurice, in 1966, the business strives to create environments for persons with disabilities that support independence, productivity and