

Cody has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the 8 years Cody has been involved with Scouting, he has earned 35 merit badges and held several leadership positions. Cody has served his troop as Assistant Patrol Leader, Chaplain's Aide, Librarian, and Assistant Senior Patrol Leader. Cody is a brave in the Tribe of Mic-o-Say, where he has taken the name "Red Eye Owl," and is also a brotherhood member in the Order of the Arrow. In addition, Cody has earned the World Conservation Award.

For his Eagle Scout project, Cody constructed a fence around 6 air conditioning units at First United Methodist Church to protect the units from damage.

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

HONORING DR. JOSEPH AND DR. ROSE MATTIOLI AS THEY ARE AWARDED THE FRANK SCHOELCH COMMUNITY COMMITMENT AWARD FROM THE POCONO MOUNTAINS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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 my very good friends Dr. Joseph and Dr. Rose Mattioli, of Monroe County, Pennsylvania, who have been honored by the Pocono Mountains Chamber of Commerce as recipients of the Frank Schoelch Community Commitment Award.

Both Mattiolis are graduates of Temple University, which is where they met. Dr. Joseph Mattioli practiced dentistry while Dr. Rose Mattioli pursued a professional career as a podiatrist. Both practiced in Philadelphia for about 10 years before they decided to embark on a complete change of careers.

The Mattiolis were determined to pursue a dream of bringing automobile racing to the New York and Philadelphia regions.

That dream became a reality in 1968 when they opened the Pocono International Raceway at Long Pond in Monroe County. They endured numerous obstacles and hardships during the early days of NASCAR, but they persevered.

Since then, the Mattiolis have developed the track into one of the best in the Nation. Today, that track hosts two NASCAR NEXTEL Cup series events each year. In 2002 they were inducted into the Stock Car Racing Hall of Fame.

Known as the driving force behind the growth of Pocono Raceway, Joe is credited by his peers for his incomparable knowledge of racing, drivers and, above all, people.

Rose is well-known as a gracious lady with an infectious smile. Rose is the "heart" of the Pocono Raceway. She was instrumental in providing an area at Pocono Raceway for religious services for race teams and their families.

Joe is also a strong supporter of countless charitable groups throughout Northeastern Pennsylvania. A veteran of World War II, Dr. Mattioli has been honored for helping the Veterans Coalition and Veterans of the Vietnam War.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Drs. Joseph and Rose Mattioli on this happy occasion. It is, indeed, fitting that this couple should be recognized for their community commitment since they have contributed so much to the greater Pocono Mountain community for so long. I am proud to consider them my friends. Pocono Raceway has hosted hundreds of thousands of guests over the years and has been responsible for generating significant amounts of revenue and jobs that have greatly improved the quality of life throughout the region.

CONGRATULATING RUSLAN WERTZ

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 2, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Ruslan Wertz of Coppell, Texas on his commitment, contribution and success in this year's Discovery Channel Young Scientist Challenge.

In 1999, Discovery created the Discovery Channel Young Scientist Challenge to increase and encourage middle school students' participation in science and math. The DCYSC identifies and honors America's top middle school student who demonstrates the best skills in leadership, teamwork and scientific problem solving. In addition, the ability to be an effective science communicator—a goal that reflects Discovery's philosophy that scientific knowledge is most valuable when it is communicated and shared—is a key component of the judging. More than 9,500 children have entered the DCYSC since its inception. Winners have received more than \$500,000 in scholarship awards, Federal Government recognition and participated in science-related trips that have taken them to the far corners of the globe. This year, nearly 75,000 students entered science fairs nationwide. Of those students, only 400 were chosen as semifinalists in the 2005 Discovery Young Scientist Challenge competition. The final 40 came from 19 States and Puerto Rico.

One of those finalists was Ruslan Wertz, a 16-year-old ninth-grader at Coppell High School. Ruslan's project was titled "The Truth and Lies of Blood Glucose Monitoring Systems." During a doctor's visit with his father, a diabetic, the doctor ran a glucometer test with a result of 130. This result concerned Ruslan because a few minutes earlier, his father's home test had read 160. The doctor said that home-use glucometers are not as accurate as the more expensive kind used by physicians. Ruslan wanted to confirm this disparity. For his efforts, Ruslan was awarded the TLC Science of Production Award.

I extend my sincere congratulations to Mr. Ruslan Wertz for his efforts and for receiving this commendable award given by the Discovery Channel Youth Scientist Challenge. His commitment to science and to helping others serves as an inspiration to all.

RECOGNIZING MR. SAM MOORE

HON. ED WHITFIELD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 2, 2005

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize one of my constituents, Mr. Sam Moore of Butler, Kentucky. Mr. Moore has been actively involved in agriculture in my Congressional District serving as a member of the Kentucky Farm Bureau Federation Board of Directors for the last 30 years. I have known Mr. Moore for several years and have found him to be a man of incredible integrity who is devoted to helping others. He is an active member of the community as well as a forceful leader in the agriculture field.

Mr. Moore hails from Butler County, where he farms more than 4,300 acres producing corn, soybeans, and wheat. He and his wife, Helen, have 6 children that frequently contribute to the family farm, teaching them time-honored values of hard work and respect for the farmer. While Mr. Moore has been active in production agriculture, he has also been involved with many other important agribusinesses making him an incredible asset to his community. He is the recipient of numerous awards, having been recognized as the Outstanding Young Farmer by the Kentucky Jaycees in 1973 as well as being named the 2003 Man of the Year in Kentucky Agriculture by Progressive Farmer Magazine. He has also been very active in the American Farm Bureau, the American Soybean Association, the Kentucky Beef Cattle Association, and the Kentucky Corn Grower's Association.

Because Mr. Moore will soon retire from his tenure as President of the Kentucky Farm Bureau, I would like to recognize his service at the Bureau and his dedication to improving agricultural interests in my home State. Without his personal connections with many influential agriculture leaders, not to mention his tireless efforts on behalf of farmers in the Commonwealth, Kentucky would not be excelling in this industry. I am sure the Kentucky Farm Bureau is sorry to see him leave, but I am confident that Mr. Moore will continue to stay active and be relied upon as a leader for Kentucky farming for many years to come.

RECOGNIZING DANE K. HAGEN FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 2, 2005

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Dane K. Hagen, son of Susan and Mike Hagen, of Kearney, Missouri. Dane is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 397, and by earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Dane has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the 8 years Dane has been involved with Scouting, he has earned 39 merit badges and held several leadership positions. Dane has served his troop as Patrol Leader, Quartermaster,

Troop Bugler, and Senior Patrol Leader. Dane is a brave in the Tribe of Mic-o-Say, where he has taken the name "Mighty Wolf Stalking Prey," and is also a brotherhood member in the Order of the Arrow. In addition, Dane has earned the God and Church Award, World Conservation Award, Eagle Bronze Palm, and H. Roe Bartle Heritage Award.

For his Eagle Scout project, Dane constructed a fence around the City of Kearney's water tower and variform pump house, and planted evergreens and shrubbery around the new fence.

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

RECOGNIZING ANTHONY PECONE AS HE RETIRES AS PENNSYLVANIA STATE DIRECTOR OF THE U.S. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION

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 Anthony Pecone who is retiring as Pennsylvania State director of the U.S. Economic Development Administration following 39 years of service with the agency.

Mr. Pecone has had a distinguished career and has guided the investment of nearly \$2 billion in Federal funding throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, which has had the effect of creating or retaining tens of thousands of jobs.

Mr. Pecone came to the EDA after 11 years of working in the private sector, 2 years of service with the U.S. Army in Germany, 9 months with the Central Intelligence Agency and 16 months with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Goddard Space Flight Center.

As State director of the EDA, Mr. Pecone was an invaluable ally for local communities and economic development organizations, guiding them through the economic development process for planning, technical assistance, business loans, construction and special programs for assistance related to natural disasters, base closings and severe industrial dislocations or curtailments.

Noteworthy Pennsylvania EDA investments achieved during his tenure include brownfield restorations, creation of a statewide revolving loan fund, base closing assistance, restoration of areas impacted by hurricanes and tornadoes, construction of several technology incubators, workforce development initiatives, construction of many industrial, business and commercial parks, initiatives to combat the effects of job losses in the coal and steel industries and construction of roads, sewage and water systems and bridges.

More than 30 years have passed since I first met Tony during the aftermath of Hurricane Agnes, which devastated the Wilkes-Barre area in 1972. His can-do spirit and practical approach to stimulating economic activity shaped my overall impression of the EDA and

made me a life-long fan of both Tony and his agency. Always courteous, Tony was also tough and fair in his determination of which projects were worthy of Federal funds. Every applicant seeking EDA funds learned to expect hard questions but also wise guidance as Tony worked to make sure that every EDA project was a successful project. Although few of them know his name or even the name of his agency, thousands of Pennsylvanians have jobs because of Tony's hard work. He will be missed.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mr. Pecone upon the completion of a career that has helped so many people achieve a better quality of life. Mr. Pecone's singular dedication to improving communities deserves special recognition and I am pleased to be able to enter a tribute to him in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

THANKING AMERICA'S DIPLOMATS FOR SUKKOT ASSISTANCE

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 2, 2005

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my sincere thanks to the men and women of our Embassy in Egypt and, particularly, to Ambassador Francis J. Ricciardone. I also want to commend Assistant Secretary David Welch, Deputy Assistant Secretary Liz Dibble and a host of their colleagues in the State Department's Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs. I am pleased to report to the House that through vigorous behind-the-scenes engagement with the Government of Egypt, America's diplomats made a critical difference for millions of Jews across America and around the world celebrating the Jewish holiday Sukkot.

Mr. Speaker, earlier this month, I began to receive reports that merchants purchasing the palm fronds used for ritual celebrations of the holiday, were discovering that their historic supply in Egypt was in jeopardy. In previous years, Egyptian palms had provided the overwhelming proportion of the roughly one million palm fronds used for the holiday. As commanded in the Bible, Jews celebrate Sukkot with "the four species"—a lulav, composed of palm, myrtle, and willow branches, and a citron, an aromatic but inedible citrus fruit called an etrog—that are used to sanctify the holiday.

This year, however, Egyptian agriculture officials, reportedly concerned about the health of Egypt's orchards of date palms, ordered a cessation of the harvest and export of palm fronds expected by Jewish communities around the world.

For those unfamiliar with the holiday, a sudden palm frond shortage may have seemed a bit odd, if not downright absurd. I would compare it, however, to a situation where 2 weeks before Christmas, people began to suddenly discover that there were no Christmas trees available for sale, or that those few trees on the market were undersized, illegally cut and only available for triple the normal price.

I am proud to say that once informed of the situation, our diplomats acted swiftly, speaking forcefully on behalf of the entire United States and drawing upon the strong and deep ties

between our government and Egypt's. Again and again over a 2 week period, our diplomats pressed officials in the Egyptian government to increase the number of cuttings available and to ensure their successful export. And here, I also want to express my thanks to Egypt's ambassador, Nabil Fahmy and his staff at the Egyptian embassy for their very important role in conveying the seriousness of this problem to their colleagues in Cairo.

In the end, I believe there was enough. The Egyptian government heard our concerns and did the best it could to accommodate our needs. Ultimately, I'm told the restrictions on cuttings were effectively lifted in the last hours. There were shortages in some places, some people had to pay more than usual, and more people had to share than in years past, but no one, to my knowledge, was unable to fulfill the religious requirements of the holiday.

Mr. Speaker, the week-long festival of Sukkot celebrates the fall harvest and is often referred to in Hebrew as z'man simchataynu, "the season of our rejoicing." I can tell you, there would have been a lot less rejoicing absent a lot of hard work by America's diplomats. I know the whole House will join me in thanking them for this extraordinary effort.

RECOGNIZING CHRISTOPHER B. HEARNE FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 2, 2005

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Christopher B. Hearne, son of Sue and Jerry Hearne, of Kearney, MO. Chris is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 397, and by earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Chris has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the 8 years Chris has been involved with scouting, he has earned 36 merit badges and held several leadership positions. Chris has served his troop as patrol leader, librarian, chaplain's aide, and den chief. Chris is a brave in the tribe of Mic-o-Say, where he has taken the name "Last Son of Silent Snow Goose." In addition, Chris has earned the World Conservation Award, H. Roe Bartle Heritage Award, and Mile Swim Award.

For his Eagle Scout project, Chris removed litter and rubbish from the half-mile entry road into Kearney's Mack Porter Park. He also constructed "No Littering" signs along the road.

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

WHY AMERICA IS A GREAT NATION

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 2, 2005

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, Hurricane Katrina was a natural disaster. Its effects were