

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

compounded by human ineptitude, as FEMA, State officials and the President all reacted slowly and without adequate concern for their fellow Americans.

We rightly witnessed their inaction and un-concern on our television sets.

But there is another America, an America which responds to distress with generosity and a willingness to pitch in. An America which provides an outpouring of funds for the Red Cross and countless truckloads amounts of donated supplies.

I want to tell you a story about what is best in America.

When they learned of the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina, two members of the Vermont's South Burlington Fire Department, Lieutenant Micah Genzlinger and Firefighter Trevor Poor, volunteered to help their fellow firefighters on the hard-struck gulf coast. They went to areas devastated by the hurricane and helped other fire companies fight fires. They also helped citizens rebuild and recover from the destruction wrought by the storm. And, in the spare time they could muster, they helped their fellow firefighters take care of the damage to their own homes.

And the fire company they left behind? According to their union contract, firefighters must be given notice of shift changes two weeks in advance. Generously, all their colleagues waived this requirement, so that they could cover all shifts, without charging massive overtime to the city of South Burlington. They changed their work schedules to make sure the city was protected and that Genzlinger and Poor's trip to help others did not undercut local fire protection, all at no additional cost.

This story was repeated all over America. In Vermont, firefighters from Barre and Hartford also headed south to help their firefighting brothers and sisters. In other states, firefighters responded to the call to protect and rebuild—as they always do, not only for their own cities and towns, but for Americans everywhere.

This kind of generous solidarity is what makes America a great and wonderful Nation.

PRIVATE PROPERTY PROTECTION

HON. CLIFF STEARNS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 2, 2005

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, back in June, the Supreme Court handed down a ruling in *Kelo* versus City of New London that states that the Government can seize personal property for the purpose of economic development. Mr. Speaker, this ruling embodies everything for which our Founding Fathers did not want this country to stand.

Mr. Speaker, the *Kelo* ruling is a gross misinterpretation of the Fifth Amendment. The Fifth Amendment allows for the government to obtain private property for public use, meaning this property can be obtained for the government to build something such as a school or a road. However, the *Kelo* ruling allows the government to take property owners' farms, private businesses, or even our homes so that big-time investors and businessman can come in to our towns and cities and build shopping malls and supermarkets on the property that is rightfully owned by our constituents.

I support H.R. 4128, The Private Property Rights Protection Act, and urge all members to do so. This piece of legislation will allow us as Members of Congress to protect our constituents against the loophole created in *Kelo* by the Supreme Court, and will allow us to punish those state and localities that take advantage of their citizens and of this ruling.

CONGRATULATIONS TO GALILEE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 2, 2005

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor and enthusiasm that I congratulate Galilee Missionary Baptist Church as they join together in celebration of the 5th Pastoral anniversary of their esteemed Pastor Reverend Charles M. Morgan. They will be celebrating this very momentous and special occasion November 18–20, 2005.

Reverend Morgan was born to the late James and Lillie Morgan in Kansas City, Missouri. He completed his undergraduate studies at Ottawa University and Calvary Seminary. He is presently matriculating in the McCormick Theological Seminary. Reverend Morgan is an active member of the Baptist Minister's Conference of Gary and Vicinity, and he is the 2nd Vice Moderator of the Northern Indiana Missionary Baptist District Association. He is a regular participant at the Stephen Olford School for Expository Preaching in Memphis, Tennessee. Reverend Morgan has also been an instructor for the Baptist Minister's Seminar for the past two years.

From its modest beginning, Galilee Missionary Baptist Church has emerged as a cornerstone of the community. Under Pastor Morgan's guidance, Galilee continues to thrive, both in terms of spiritual growth as well as practical improvements. The proud members of the church are thankful for the spiritual and emotional leadership he and the previous pastors have provided during the years.

Though Reverend Morgan is dedicated to the Galilee Family, he has never limited his time and love for his family. Reverend Charles Morgan and his wife Francine have three daughters, Natasha (deceased), LaRonda Lindsey, and Rasheeda; one son, Johan; and two grandchildren, Manuel and Jackson.

The celebration weekend begins on Friday, November 18, 2005, with the Pilgrim Missionary Baptist Church Family and Pastor Charles L. Emery. On Saturday, November 19, 2005, there will be an evening of love and appreciation at the Turkey Creek Country Club Banquet in Merrillville, Indiana. The celebration banquet will conclude the festivities on Sunday, November 20, 2005, when the church honors Pastor Morgan and his family with special guests, including Pastor Mike Nicholson and the Mount Calvary Baptist Church Family of Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring and congratulating Reverend and Mrs. Charles M. Morgan and the Galilee Missionary Baptist Church on their 5th Pastoral anniversary. Their constant dedication and commitment is worthy of the highest commendation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 2, 2005

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, October 27, 2005 I was unavoidably detained and thus missed rollcall vote No. 553. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote No. 553, the Lawsuit Abuse Reduction Act of 2005.

RECOGNITION OF UNPARALLELED CIVIL SERVICE BY MR. STEPHEN WHITMORE

HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 2, 2005

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to highlight the extraordinary service of Mr. Stephen Whitmore, who is currently the operations officer for the Department of Public Works at Fort Dix, New Jersey. Born on July 16, 1923, Steve has selflessly served the Nation, the Army and Fort Dix for more than 60 of his 82 years.

Mr. Whitmore's service began during World War II when he enlisted in the Army on July 19, 1943. As a soldier assigned to the 1st U.S. Army, he served as a participant in many of the major battles fought in central Europe from November 1944 until April 1946. On April 29, 1946, Steve completed his Army out-processing procedures and immediately began working as a Fort Dix Civil Service Employee.

Since then, Mr. Whitmore has worked for the Directorate of Public Works, DPW, in a variety of capacities. As you would expect, Mr. Whitmore's impact on the facilities and infrastructure of Fort Dix has been enormous. The majority of the buildings currently utilized on Fort Dix were built after he arrived in 1945. Consequently, he participated in some manner in the construction of almost all of the facilities in use today and has continued to maintain and repair them throughout his 60-year tenure. Furthermore, all of the utility systems on Fort Dix were either installed or expanded under his personal guidance. In fact, the current electrical grid system for the Installation is one that he designed and either helped construct with a crew of high-tension electricians or oversaw the construction in a supervisory capacity. Also occurring under his watch was the conversion of the Installation's heating systems from coal to oil to natural gas.

In addition to Mr. Whitmore's consistent and exceptional execution of his core DPW responsibilities, he has been a key factor in ensuring the successful implementation of non-traditional missions. One of those events concerned a mission assigned to Fort Dix in 1999 entitled Operation Provide Refuge. In short, Fort Dix was tasked to provide temporary housing for over 4,000 Kosovar refugees. Therefore, in addition to performing his duties as Chief of the Public Works Division, Steve assumed responsibility for providing utilities for all of the temporary facilities, installing almost five miles of temporary fencing, constructing playgrounds, maintaining the grounds in all the areas of operation, constructing and