field, and I am proud to say that the ''Iron Man'' has always come through.

TRIBUTE TO DENNIS PETRY

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 24, 2007

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dennis Petry for 30 years of service on the Triad School Board. He has served on the school board since 1977.

Mr. Petry served as secretary of the Triad School Board from 1981–1983 and served as president from 1983–1991. He was also named the recipient of the Those Who Excel Award by the Illinois State Board of Education.

A 1962 graduate of Triad High School, Mr. Petry earned a bachelor of science in business from Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville. He is married to his wife, Linda, and has three children, Jeff, Joel and Gina, and four grandchildren. Dennis is a mail carrier for the United States Postal Service. Aside from his duties with the Triad School Board, he volunteers his time with Knights of Columbus Council 9266 and the Saint Jerome Pastoral Council and Literacy Committee.

It is my honor to thank Dennis for his many years of service to the students of the Triad School District. May God bless him for his work.

IN HONOR OF STAFF SERGEANT JAMES WOSIKA

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 24, 2007

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the life of SSG James Wosika. Sergeant Wosika was killed on January 9, 2007 while on foot patrol in Fallujah, when an improvised explosive device detonated near him. Due to his bravery and self-sacrifice, the nine other soldiers in proximity to Sergeant Wosika were not injured.

Sergeant Wosika was serving his 10th month in Iraq with the Minnesota National Guard. He graduated from Highland Park High School in St. Paul in 2000. In school, he was a State champion wrestler and football player and he is remembered by his loved ones as a wonderful young man who would do anything for his friends and family.

Sergeant Wosika was warm, brave, and dependable. He loved his country and honored his family, many whom served in the military before him, when he enlisted in the National Guard after high school graduation. To his fellow soldiers, his friends, family and all Americans, Sergeant Wosika was a hero.

Madam Speaker, Minnesota has lost 49 soldiers since the beginning of this war. The Minnesota National Guard has also just been informed that their tour in Iraq has been extended by 4 months.

It should be the top priority of Congress to keep our families safe—in our communities, while serving our government, and while serving our country overseas. I will continue working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to ensure this remains our focus throughout the 110th Congress.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring the life of this brave and honorable young man. Along with all Americans, I extend my prayers and deepest condolences to the friends and family of SSG James Wosika.

IN RECOGNITION OF ALAMEDA COUNTY'S TOP COP, SHERIFF CHARLES PLUMMER

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 24, 2007

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Alameda County Sheriff Charles Plummer who spent his last day on the job as Alameda County's top cop on January 8, 2007. His retirement ceremony included helicopter flyovers, bagpipes and literally hundreds of handshakes. It was a fitting ceremony to a stellar 50-plus years in law enforcement.

A native of Fort Bragg, on the Mendocino coast, Charley Plummer worked as a teen in a shingle mill and as a lumberjack. One evening, hitchhiking back to Fort Bragg, a California Highway Patrol officer picked him up. The officer told him he had the right build and a good personality and should become a cop. Soon thereafter he left Santa Rosa Junior College and took an exam to become a Berkeley police officer and joined the force in 1952.

In 1973, Charley was named acting chief in Berkeley, a post he held for 9 months. He left Berkeley to become police chief in Hayward. He held this position for 10 years before friends convinced him to run for sheriff. He won the race for sheriff and the rest is history.

He changed the Alameda County Sheriff Department's culture by bringing a high level of discipline to the department. Under his leadership, the department has become the only law enforcement agency west of the Mississippi to gain accreditations in five different functions: bomb squad, health care, law enforcement, corrections and crime lab. He also entered the department into lucrative law enforcement contracts with AC Transit and BART.

Although Charley Plummer will no longer hold the title of Alameda County Sheriff, he will be known as Sheriff Emeritus and will devote his time to charity. He serves as a director or trustee on numerous boards and will continue his exemplary commitment and devotion to making a difference in the community.

Charley has never minced words nor failed to step up to the plate to take responsibility for activities or implementation of programs for the safety and welfare of residents in Alameda County. He leaves a legacy of commitment, straight-talk and no-nonsense service. He has cut to the chase and his accomplishments are beyond measure. I join his friends, colleagues and admirers in thanking Sheriff Emeritus Plummer for his exemplary track record and marathon of service.

SUPPORT A DISABLED VETERANS MEMORIAL

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 24, 2007

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, today Representative DENNIS MOORE and I introduced the American Veterans Disabled for Life Commemorative Coin Act, H.R. 634. This legislation seeks to recognize the sacrifices made by America's more than three million disabled veterans by building a memorial for them here in Washington, DC.

In 2000, Congress authorized the construction of the American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial just south of the Rayburn Building. Last December President Bush signed into law a bill transferring control of the land for the memorial from the District of Columbia to the National Park Service. Now the American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial Foundation needs to raise approximately $65 million to cover the cost of construction.

This legislation will authorize the Secretary of the Treasury to mint commemorative silver dollars that will be sold with a surcharge that will help the American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial Foundation raise the money needed to construct the memorial. Not only will these coins be collector's items, they will benefit a worthy cause.

With more than 3 million disabled veterans in the United States today, it is fitting that a memorial to their sacrifice be erected in Washington, DC. It is my hope that all my colleagues will join Congressman MOORE and me in supporting this legislation to help make the American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial a reality.

THE CLEAN ENERGY ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 18, 2007

Mr. CAMP of Michigan. Madam Speaker, we all agree that reducing America's consumption of foreign oil and gas is important. But, sadly this legislation is a missed opportunity. In fact, it will likely increase the country's dependence on foreign fossil fuels.

H.R. 6 will increase taxes on domestic oil and gas producers and place the additional Federal revenues in a fund that will pay for future legislation to subsidize alternative energy programs. Imposing higher taxes one sector of the economy that is responsible for creating millions of jobs and accounts for 3.5 percent of total national employment is nothing short of terrible economic policy. H.R. 6 is a recipe for layoffs, lowered U.S. investment, and higher prices at the pump.

One of the main provisions in the bill is to deny tax benefits enacted in 2004 to oil and gas companies. The tax benefits in the 2004 bill did not single out the oil and gas industry. In fact, the 2004 legislation lowered the corporate tax rate for all domestic manufacturers. The goal of the bill was to encourage companies, from tool and die manufacturers to the film industry, to remain in the United States instead of moving operations to lower-taxed