

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING JAMES MONROE,
THE NATION'S FIFTH PRESIDENT

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2009

Mr. WITTMAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I am privileged to rise today to honor the birth and life of our nation's fifth president, James Monroe. Today, 251 years ago in 1758, James Monroe was born in a little farmhouse in Westmoreland County, Virginia.

Monroe, one of five children of Spence Monroe and Elizabeth Jones, was raised and educated in what is now the First District of the Commonwealth of Virginia. James Monroe entered the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia at the age of 16. He left the college in 1775 to go to war, fighting with George Washington at Valley Forge.

Monroe married Elizabeth Kortright on February 16, 1786. The couple had three children: Eliza Kortright Monroe (1786–1835), James Spence Monroe (1799–1800), and Maria Hester Monroe (1803–1850).

As an aide to Governor Thomas Jefferson, Monroe studied and practiced law in Fredericksburg, Virginia. Monroe was an astute politician, serving as a member of the Virginia State Legislature, Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia, Member of Congress and U.S. Senator, and Secretary of State and Secretary of War to President James Madison. Monroe served as Minister to France, under the first Jefferson administration, and assisted with the negotiation of the Louisiana Purchase.

James Monroe was elected the fifth President of the United States in 1817. During his early years in the White House, his administration was known as the "Era of Good Feelings". President Monroe went on two long national tours in order to gain the trust and faith of the American people. Monroe's strong opinions against foreign colonization or intervention in the Americas and his principles on foreign policy came to be known as the Monroe Doctrine, which he may be best remembered for. Monroe died there on July 4, 1831, the fifty-fifth anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

The citizens of the Commonwealth of Virginia and Virginia's First Congressional District express their appreciation to James Monroe in honor of his birthday 251 years ago. As the last American President of the "Virginia Dynasty", James Monroe was a loyal public servant, a President of the people, as well as an exceptional statesman. His ideals and leadership qualities left a lasting legacy in the Commonwealth of Virginia and across the nation.

JEREMY ALLEN MANLEY

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2009

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jeremy Manley of Kansas City, Missouri. Jeremy 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 260, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Jeremy has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities, such as white water rafting and hiking. Over the years Jeremy has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

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

**GREAT LAKES ICEBREAKER
REPLACEMENT ACT**

HON. CANDICE S. MILLER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2009

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1747, the Great Lakes Icebreaker Replacement Act, because it is so important to promoting commercial activity on the Great Lakes.

Over a billion dollars worth of commerce takes place on the Great Lakes during the winter months, despite the harsh conditions. Half of Lake Michigan, for example, is covered in ice during the winter months.

Especially in this economy, we cannot afford to have business shut down simply because ice-breakers are spread to thinly across the Great Lakes. My State of Michigan currently has the highest unemployment in the country at about 12 percent, and many counties in my district are already near 20 percent. We need every job we can get in our State, including jobs that are supported by commercial activity on the Great Lakes.

One of the other impacts of unbroken ice is property damage. In my district along the St. Clair River, we have regularly seen problems caused by ice jams lead to flooding for many of my constituents.

This year, we saw a fairly spectacular occurrence in the town of Linwood, Michigan, when literal mountains of ice were blown up from Saginaw Bay and into people's yards and homes. Chunks of ice were piled up to 10 feet high in some places and excavators had to be brought in to remove the ice so that people could go about repairing damage to their windows and homes.

Many of the ice-breaking ships that we do have in the Great Lakes are nearing the end of their useful lives and have become vulnerable to mechanical failure in these harsh winter conditions.

Last fall, I was very concerned about the approaching winter and whether the Coast Guard would have sufficient ice-breaking capabilities to keep critical channels open. In fact, I joined a number of members in writing to Admiral Allen at the Coast Guard and urging him to provide additional resources to the Great Lakes to deal with the coming winter.

Finally, after that incident in Linwood, the Coast Guard did respond and assigned an additional cutter from Maine to come over and assist with ice-breaking, which has been of great assistance to us as we get the lakes fully opened up for the summer shipping season.

But the need for this bill has already been well established. This bill will authorize the Coast Guard to design and construct a new replacement ice-breaker for the Great Lakes. In addition to assisting with ice-breaking problems we have had on the Great Lakes, this bill will also put Americans to work building this vessel.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I commend the chairman for putting this legislation forward.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JEFF FORTENBERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2009

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Madam Speaker, on Monday, April 27, 2009, I was unavoidably detained and thus I missed rollcall votes Nos. 207, 208, and 209. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on all three votes.

**A PROCLAMATION HONORING
DREW CANNON FOR WINNING
THE BOYS' DIVISION IV STATE
BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP**

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2009

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Drew Cannon showed hard work and dedication to the sport of basketball; and Whereas, Drew Cannon was a supportive team player; and

Whereas, Drew Cannon always displayed sportsmanship on and off of the court; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that along with his friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Drew Cannon on winning the Boys' Division IV State Basketball Championship. We recognize the tremendous

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

hard work and sportsmanship he has demonstrated during the 2008–2009 basketball season.

HONORING THE ACCOMPLISHMENT OF CAPTAIN VANESA GILBERT OF HENDERSON COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA, FOR COMPLETING FBI ACADEMY TRAINING

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2009

Mr. SHULER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable North Carolinian. On December 12, 2008, Captain Vanesa Gilbert became the first woman in Henderson County history to have completed FBI Academy training.

According to Henderson County Sheriff Rick Davis, only six local law enforcement officers, including Gilbert, have completed the intensive 11-week course at the academy in Quantico, Virginia. "Captain Gilbert is a superior leader by any measure," he said. "The FBI National Academy is the highest academic achievement in law enforcement. It is very challenging academically as well as physically. It was clear our agency and the county would benefit greatly by sending her."

While Captain Gilbert admitted that she was nervous when she arrived at the Marine base, she excelled during the course and ultimately completed a three-mile obstacle course called "the yellow brick road." For finishing the course, Gilbert received a plaque with a yellow brick on it and the dates she attended the academy.

Gilbert grew up in Hendersonville and graduated from Edneyville High School in 1992. In August of 1992, she moved to Greensboro to attain a two-year degree in law enforcement. In December of 1994, Gilbert completed her basic law enforcement training and moved back to Henderson County to work for the Sheriff's Office. At the Henderson County Sheriff's Office, she worked as the Civil Process Secretary before being promoted to Corporal, and later to Lieutenant of the Civil Process division.

Upon completion of the FBI Academy Training, Gilbert was promoted to Captain of the Detention Center, courthouse security and the ICE program. Sheriff Rick Davis says of Gilbert, "She is recognized by the whole department as a highly qualified thoughtful leader with exceptionally high standards. Don't let her size and charm fool you; if anyone fails to meet her work ethics, they will have awakened a giant they can't handle."

It is with great respect and gratitude that I commend Captain Vanesa Gilbert for her great accomplishment and for her ongoing service to Henderson County. She serves as a role model for all women and girls who aspire to careers in law enforcement. Her dedication and hard work are an inspiration to all.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE INCLUSION ACT (FMLA)

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2009

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, today I am pleased to reintroduce the Family and Medical Leave Inclusion Act, which amends the FMLA to permit leave to care for a domestic partner, same-sex spouse, parent-in-law, adult child, sibling, grandparent or child of a domestic partner, if that person has a serious health condition.

The landmark 1993 Family and Medical Leave Act allows qualified workers to take up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave a year to care for newborns or to care for himself/herself, parents, children under 18 or a legal spouse if that person has a serious health condition. Since becoming law over sixteen years ago, it has allowed many tens of millions of Americans to take unpaid leave without the risk of losing their jobs.

But, imagine if your domestic partner, same-sex spouse, adult child, parent-in-law, or grandparent was involved in a serious car accident and had no one to take care of him or her. Then imagine your employer telling you that you can't take a few unpaid days off work to care for your loved one because your relationship is not covered by FMLA. This situation sounds preposterous, but there is no protection for you in current law. That is why the FMLA Inclusion Act is so important.

This session, the bill was improved to permit leave to care for the child of a domestic partner. Often, domestic partners are not able to adopt their partner's child, even when that person is the only parent the child has ever known. The FMLA Inclusion Act would ensure those children can be cared for by the person they call "Mom" or "Dad."

I am pleased that the Human Rights Campaign has endorsed this legislation, and I am proud to introduce it with the support of original cosponsors Representatives BALDWIN, WOOLSEY, FRANK, POLIS, DELAHUNT, HIRONO, FARR, ISRAEL and NADLER.

The FMLA Inclusion Act represents simple fairness, and I look forward to working with my colleagues to ensure that this fairness prevails.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHRISTOPHER P. CARNEY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2009

Mr. CARNEY. Madam Speaker, on Monday, April 27, I was absent for three rollcall votes. If I had been here, I would have voted: "yea" on rollcall vote 207; "yea" on rollcall vote 208; and "yea" on rollcall vote 209.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING ASSISTANT COACH JIM SLONE FOR COACHING THE OAK HILL HIGH SCHOOL BOYS' BASKETBALL TEAM TO WINNING THE BOYS' DIVISION IV STATE BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2009

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Coach Jim Slone showed hard work and dedication to the sport of basketball; and

Whereas, Jim Slone was a leader and mentor for the Oak Hill High School Boys' Basketball Team; and

Whereas, Jim Slone has been a role model for sportsmanship on and off of the court; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that along with his friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Assistant Coach Jim Slone for leading the Oak Hill High School Boys' Basketball Team to winning the Boys' Division IV State Basketball Championship. We recognize the tremendous hard work and leadership he has demonstrated during the 2008–2009 Basketball season.

INTRODUCTION OF THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE DRUG POLICY COMMISSION ACT OF 2009

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2009

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, today, I am pleased to introduce the Western Hemisphere Drug Policy Commission Act of 2009, a bill that will create an independent commission to evaluate U.S. policies and programs aimed at reducing illicit drug supply and demand.

Billions of U.S. taxpayer dollars have been spent over the years to fight the drug war in Latin America and the Caribbean. In spite of our efforts, since the early 1980s, the number of U.S. lifetime drug users has steadily risen for marijuana, cocaine and heroin. Clearly, the time has come to reexamine our counter-narcotics efforts here at home and throughout the Americas. My bill will assess all aspects of the drug war—including prevention and treatment programs in the United States.

Let me be absolutely clear that this bill has not been introduced to support the legalization of illegal drugs. That is not something that I would like to see, nor is it my intent to have the Western Hemisphere Drug Policy Commission come to that conclusion.

While the United States accounts for approximately 5 percent of world population, in 2007, an estimated 17.2 percent of the world's users of illegal drugs were from the United States. 100 percent of the United States cocaine supply and 90 percent of the United States heroin supply originates in South America. In addition, the countries of Central America, the Caribbean and Mexico are key transit countries for drugs entering the U.S.

The Western Hemisphere Drug Policy Commission will be charged with conducting a

comprehensive review of U.S. illicit drug supply and demand reduction policies and will be required to submit recommendations on future U.S. drug policy to Congress, the Secretary of State, and the Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP).

To tackle our nation's horrific drug problem once and for all, we must have a better sense of what works and what does not work. Our partners in the Americas, who have worked closely with us in fighting the drug war for years, and the citizens of our great country, who deal every day with illegal drugs on their streets, deserve no less.

SMA TREATMENT ACCELERATION ACT

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2009

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam Speaker, today, along with my colleague Representative ERIC CANTOR, I am introducing the SMA Treatment Acceleration Act, in an effort to help find a treatment or cure for Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA), the number one genetic killer of children under the age of two.

SMA is an inherited disease that destroys the nerves controlling muscle movement, which affects crawling, walking, head and neck control, swallowing, and even breathing. The gene mutation that causes SMA is carried by one in every 40 people, or approximately 7.5 million Americans. Each child born of two carriers of the mutant gene has a one in four chance of developing SMA.

Among more than 600 neurological disorders, SMA has been singled out by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) as the disease closest to treatment. This priority status is based on scientists' advanced genetic understanding of the disease and a strong collaboration between families, federal agencies, and patient advocacy groups.

Researchers have identified the gene responsible for SMA, as well as a disease modifying "back-up" gene that has opened the door to promising new treatment pathways. This research is providing groundbreaking data for SMA and other neurodegenerative disorders, including the muscular dystrophies, Friedreich's Ataxia, Fragile X syndrome, and Huntington's disease.

This legislation will upgrade and unify SMA clinical trial sites and establish a national clinical trials network for SMA. It will also establish a Data Coordinating Center, expand and intensify federally supported research programs, and promote collaborative research at NIH. Additionally, the bill will enhance and provide support for the SMA patient registry, establish an Interagency SMA Research Coordinating Committee, and establish and implement a program for providing information and education on SMA to health professionals and the general public. These provisions will advance our research and understanding of SMA and lead towards effective treatments. I am proud to be reintroducing this legislation, and I urge your full consideration of this important legislation.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING TRAVIS BLEVINS FOR WINNING THE BOYS' DIVISION IV STATE BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2009

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Travis Blevins showed hard work and dedication to the sport of basketball; and Whereas, Travis Blevins was a supportive team player; and

Whereas, Travis Blevins always displayed sportsmanship on and off of the court; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that along with his friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Travis Blevins on winning the Boys' Division IV State Basketball Championship. We recognize the tremendous hard work and sportsmanship he has demonstrated during the 2008–2009 basketball season.

65TH ANNIVERSARY OF NORMANDY INVASION

HON. ROBERT WEXLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2009

Mr. WEXLER. Madam Speaker, as we approach the 65th Anniversary of the Invasion of Normandy, it is important to take a moment to remember all of the men and women who bravely served our country in World War II. We all owe an enormous debt of gratitude to these veterans and their families. I am honored to have one such veteran in my district, Corporal Elliott M. Herring. Corporal Herring bravely served in the Battle of Normandy and in the battle which took place in St-Lo. He fought in five major battles in the 3rd Army under General Patton. Throughout his service, he was awarded the Bronze Star Medal, Good Conduct Medal, Presidential Unit Citation, Meritorious Unit Commendation, American Campaign Medal, European Africa Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with one Silver Service Star, WWII Victory Medal, Army of Occupation Medal with the Germany Clasp, Combat Infantryman Badge, Honorable Service Lapel Button, Marksman Badge with Rifle Bar WWII and Five Battle Stars. Additionally, he was awarded the Légion d'honneur from France.

Corporal Herring is looking forward to an upcoming visit to the National WWII Memorial, which is celebrating its fifth anniversary this year. I encourage all veterans, their families, and all Americans to visit the World War II Memorial on the Mall in Washington, D.C. where the announcement stone reads:

Here in the presence of Washington and Lincoln, one the eighteenth century father and the other the nineteenth century preserver of our nation, we honor those twentieth century Americans who took up the struggle during the Second World War and made the sacrifices to perpetuate the gift our forefathers entrusted to us: a nation conceived in liberty and justice.

May we never forget their sacrifices as we stand here today. Let us continue to honor

these brave men and women who fought so bravely to preserve our freedom.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2009

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, unfortunately last night, April 27, 2009, I was unable to cast my votes on H. Res. 329, H.R. 1746, and H. Res. 335 and wish the RECORD to reflect my intentions had I been able to vote.

Had I been present for rollcall No. 207, on suspending the Rules and passing H. Res. 295, Recognizing the anniversary of the tragic accident of the steamboat ship SS Sultana, I would have voted "yea."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 208, on suspending the Rules and passing H.R. 1746, the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Act of 2009, I would have voted "yea."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 209, on suspending the Rules and passing H. Res. 335, Supporting the goals and ideals of National Volunteer Week, I would have voted "yea."

A PROCLAMATION HONORING RYAN BORDEN FOR WINNING THE BOYS' DIVISION IV STATE BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2009

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Ryan Borden showed hard work and dedication to the sport of basketball; and Whereas, Ryan Borden was a supportive team player; and

Whereas, Ryan Borden always displayed sportsmanship on and off of the court; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that along with his friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Ryan Borden on winning the Boys' Division IV State Basketball Championship. We recognize the tremendous hard work and sportsmanship he has demonstrated during the 2008–2009 basketball season.

ARMENIAN GENOCIDE ANNIVERSARY

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2009

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, last week marked the 94th anniversary of the Armenian genocide.

I have long been a cosponsor of a resolution introduced in multiple sessions of Congress which reaffirms the United States Record on the Armenian genocide.

The Armenian genocide, in which 1.5 million perished, is widely recognized as the 20th

century's first genocide. Raphael Lemkin, the Jewish legal scholar who coined the word genocide and tirelessly advocated for international law defining it and preventing it, was driven largely by what happened to the Armenians.

Since that time the world has witnessed unfathomable horrors during the Nazi-perpetrated Holocaust and subsequent genocides in Bosnia, Cambodia, Rwanda and still today Darfur. And too often, the world has been silent in the face of such brutality.

Adolph Hitler, in describing his murderous plans and seeking to silence those with reservations, famously said, "Who, after all, speaks today of the annihilation of the Armenians?"

There is power in speaking the truth, even about atrocities that occurred nearly a century ago, so that other men with evil aims might not be empowered by our silence.

A POEM BY MR. ROBERT DANA

HON. DAVID LOEBSACK

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2009

Mr. LOEBSACK. Madam Speaker, as mentioned in my one-minute speech regarding Robert Dana, I submit one of his poems.

A SHORT HISTORY OF THE MIDDLE WEST

(By Robert Dana)

Under this corn,
these beans,
these acres of tamed grasses,
the prairie still rolls,
heave and trough,
breaker and green curl,
an ocean of dirt tilting and tipping.
Its towns
toss up on the distance, your distance,
like the wink of islands.
And the sky
is a blue voice
you cannot answer for.
The forked and burning wildflowers
that madden
the ditches
nod without vocabulary.
Your neighbor
is out early this morning—the air
already humid as raw diamond.
Drunk or lonely,
he's scattering large scraps of white
bread for the birds
as if it were winter.
He'd give you the sour undershirt off
his back—
sweet, bad man.
Does he remember
rain salting down from that flat, far shore
of clouds
slowly changing
its story?

HONORING THE CENTENARIANS OF
BRENTWOOD HEALTHCARE FACILITY
ALLIE M. DAVIS,
CORNELIUS MONTGOMERY,
MARIE DUKE, ANNIE LAURIE
TAYLOR, VIOLA D. PAGE, AND
GUADALUPE G. CORTEZ

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2009

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the six residents of Brentwood Healthcare in the Southeast Dallas Community of Pleasant Grove who have reached 100 years old. They are:

Allie M. Davis—100 years old, Cornelius Montgomery—104 years old, Marie Duke—100 years old, Annie Laurie Taylor—102 years old, Viola D. Page—102 years old, and Guadalupe G. Cortez—106 years old.

National Nursing Home Week will take place from May 10, 2009, to May 16, 2009, and Brentwood Healthcare will celebrate the long lives of these six individuals by having Centenarian Day at their facility on May 15, 2009. These residents have witnessed an extraordinary amount of history, and their long lives are an inspiration to all of us.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring these centenarians, and I wish them continued life, good health, and strength.

A PROCLAMATION DECLARING
APRIL 24TH TO THE 26TH TO BE
TUSCARAWAS COUNTY PAY IT
FORWARD WEEKEND, AND COM-
MENDING THE LEADERSHIP
TUSCARAWAS CLASS OF 2009 FOR
THEIR WORK AT THE FORE-
FRONT OF COMMUNITY SERVICE

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2009

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, the 2009 class of Tuscarawas Leadership seeks to encourage community service among the county's youth; and

Whereas, the Pay It Forward Challenge is being held in conjunction with Global Youth Services Weekend and the Tuscarawas County United Way's Day of Caring; and

Whereas, the Tuscarawas Leadership has found willing participants in each of the county's public school superintendents to allow students to take part; and

Whereas, both adults and youth will be participating in many different community service projects across the county throughout the weekend; and

Whereas, research has shown that volunteerism plays an important role in shaping skills, social development and a sense of empowerment in young people everywhere; now, therefore, be it

Resolved that, along with the friends and family of the Tuscarawas Leadership Class of 2009, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I commend the Tuscarawas Leadership for leading the way in encouraging youth community service involvement, and de-

clare April 24, 2009 to April 26, 2009 to be "Tuscarawas County Pay It Forward Challenge Weekend."

COMMEMORATING WORKFORCE MEMORIAL DAY

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2009

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Workforce Memorial Day. As a Nation built on the strength of our workforce, it is important that we honor those who have lost their lives while struggling to support themselves and their families.

For many Americans, going to work can be a dangerous activity, and one in which many of the harms could potentially be mitigated with the enhancement and enforcement of strong workplace health and safety protection laws.

Each year over 5,000 deaths result from occupational hazards. In 2007, 81 of these deaths occurred in New York City alone. Many of these might have been prevented by the enforcement stronger workplace safety standards.

Today, on Workforce Memorial Day, I urge my fellow Members of Congress to join me in commemorating our workforce, their dedication, and their perseverance, while resolving to create a safer and healthier work environment for all.

HONORING ANTHONY ALAMPI

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2009

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Anthony Alampi, of Sussex County, who passed away unexpectedly on January 28, 2009.

A small businessman for many years, Anthony owned Alampi's Deli in Paramus and Alampi's Luncheonette in Bergenfield. Later, along with his wife Maria, Anthony owned Stir and Shoot in Sussex County, where they taught shooting and gun safety courses along with traditional Italian cooking lessons.

A strong defender of the 2nd Amendment, Anthony served as a NRA Benefactor Life Member, NRA Senior Training Counselor and NRA 2nd Amendment Task Force Member. He also contributed his time as a Regional Vice President of the Association of New Jersey Pistol and Rifle Clubs.

It was a pleasure to get to know Anthony and be a guest in his house. His gregarious nature, quick smile and open hearted laugh were well known by both his friends and customers alike. It is with great sadness that we learned of his untimely death.

Anthony will be greatly missed by many throughout northern New Jersey. I extend my sympathies and prayers to the Alampi family and those close to him.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING COACH NORM PERSIN FOR COACHING THE OAK HILL HIGH SCHOOL BOYS' BASKETBALL TEAM TO WINNING THE BOYS' DIVISION IV STATE BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2009

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Coach Norm Persin showed hard work and dedication to the sport of basketball; and

Whereas, Norm Persin was a leader and mentor for the Oak Hill High School Boys' Basketball Team; and

Whereas, Norm Persin has been a role model for sportsmanship on and off of the court; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that along with his friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Coach Norm Persin for leading the Oak Hill High School Boys' Basketball Team to winning the Boys' Division IV State Basketball Championship. We recognize the tremendous hard work and leadership he has demonstrated during the 2008–2009 Basketball season.

CELEBRATING JUDGE RON HURST'S 30 YEARS OF SERVICE TO HIGHLAND VILLAGE, TEXAS

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2009

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the contributions of Judge Ron Hurst and his 30 years of distinguished service. As a Member of the State Bar of Texas, Judge Hurst has served his community of Highland Village with acute clarity of the law and a stringent application of justice. His reputation is one of impartiality and fairness.

Judge Ron Hurst is an alumnus of Loyola University School of Law. In 1977, he moved to Texas from Louisiana and found his home within the Highland Village community. He accepted the position of Corporate Attorney with the Placid Oil Company of Dallas, Texas and joined the Texas Bar. Judge Hurst claims the distinct honor of being the first judge of the Highland Village Municipal Court. Having served as the presiding judge for the past 30 years, he is the city's longest tenured employee.

Judge Hurst moved to the Highland Village area when it was home to 800 families. As the city grew, Hurst continued to dedicate his time to the development of the community. Aside from being a loving husband and father, he served on the Highland Village Planning and Zoning Commission, the Board of Ethics and his work as a Court Appointed Special Advocate volunteer. Hurst is also involved in his church where he has served as a teacher, youth group facilitator and Financial Committee member.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to recognize Judge Ron Hurst for his 30 years of legal service and contributions to the Highland Vil-

lage community. His devotion serves as an example to others and it is an honor to represent him in the 26th Congressional district of Texas.

TRIBUTE TO LCDR JAMES DEMOTT

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2009

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my constituent, LCDR James Demott, who will be retiring in June 2009, following a distinguished career serving our country in the United States Navy.

LCDR James E. Demott, whose home of record is Westwood, KS, is a 1989 graduate of the United States Naval Academy. He was designated a Naval Flight Officer in August 1991 and reported to Tactical Electronic Warfare Squadron 140, Whidbey Island, WA, flying the EA-6B on worldwide missions. In January 1997, after receiving an NFO to pilot transition, he was designated a Naval Aviator.

LCDR Demott's flying tours included duty with Fleet Air Reconnaissance Squadron FOUR, Oklahoma City, OK, from 1997–2000 where he was qualified as an E-6A Aircraft Commander and Deputy for Safety and Training. From 2001–2002 he was assigned to Fleet Air Reconnaissance Squadron THREE as an Aircraft Commander. In 2002, he transferred to Training Squadron TWENTY-SEVEN in Corpus Christi, TX, where he served as an Instructor Pilot, flying the T-34C Mentor, training the finest combat aviators in the world. His leadership helped the squadron garner the prestigious Chief of Naval Operations Safety Award in 2004. From 2005–2007, LCDR Demott was assigned overseas to Commander U.S. Naval Forces, Korea HQ Seoul, South Korea, working Future Plans Operations. In 2007, he moved to Corpus Christi, TX, and was assigned to Training Air Wing FOUR as the Aviation Safety Officer. He has logged over 3000 flight hours in various naval aircraft.

LCDR Demott's awards include the Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal, 2 Navy Marine Corps Commendation Medals, 4 Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals and various other unit, campaign and personal awards.

Madam Speaker, LCDR Demott's service to his country reflects the best of America, and we are grateful and are honored to recognize him and his family for the sacrifices made over his 20 years of naval service.

HONORING COUNTY COLLEGE OF MORRIS

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2009

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize County College of Morris (CCM) in Randolph Township, Morris County, New Jersey, a distinguished institution of higher education I am proud to represent! On April 24, 2009, the college will celebrate its Fortieth Anniversary.

CCM was founded in 1968 to provide challenging, yet affordable, education opportunities for local students. This ideal is still upheld today, as CCM continues to maintain high academic standards, as well as low tuition costs.

At the time of its inception, CCM had only one building and less than 1,300 students. Under the direction of Dr. Sherman H. Masten, the college's first president, CCM expanded to include an additional five buildings and an enrollment that peaked at 12,012 students in 1982. President Dr. Edward Yaw has continued the expansion and renovation of the campus, and under his guidance, CCM has become the state-of-the-art educational facility it is today.

The college currently offers 87 degree and certificate programs and has over 8,500 students enrolled in undergraduate studies. CCM has a true tradition of excellence which, thanks to its outstanding leadership, superior faculty and staff and motivated students. CCM is one of the foremost community colleges in New Jersey and the nation.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating the County College of Morris on the celebration of 40 years of service to the State of New Jersey and Morris County.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING RYAN BOGGS FOR WINNING THE BOYS' DIVISION IV STATE BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2009

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Ryan Boggs showed hard work and dedication to the sport of basketball; and Whereas, Ryan Boggs was a supportive team player; and

Whereas, Ryan Boggs always displayed sportsmanship on and off of the court; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that along with his friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Ryan Boggs on winning the Boys' Division IV State Basketball Championship. We recognize the tremendous hard work and sportsmanship he has demonstrated during the 2008–2009 basketball season.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE THEODORE BURR COVERED BRIDGE SOCIETY

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2009

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I acknowledge the efforts of the Theodore Burr Covered Bridge Society as they approach their 50th anniversary.

The Theodore Burr Covered Bridge Society's mission of promoting interest and active participation in the preservation and restoration of the remaining historical covered bridges in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania serves to ensure that important aspects of our community's rich history remain intact. In doing so

future generations will be afforded the opportunity to see first hand the beauty and efficiency that is associated with early Pennsylvania architecture.

Named after Theodore Burr, the early American engineer, the Theodore Burr Covered Bridge Society's efforts honor the life and works of Mr. Burr, while simultaneously bettering our community as a whole. For this I congratulate them on their 50th anniversary.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JEFF FORTENBERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2009

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Madam Speaker, on Thursday, April 23, 2009, I was unavoidably detained and thus I missed rollcall votes Nos. 201 and 202. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on both votes.

HONORING COLONEL JIM AYERS ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2009

Mr. SHULER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the sterling career of Colonel Jim Ayers of McDowell County. Colonel Ayers is retiring on September 1, 2009 from the United States Air Force after 26 years of dedicated service.

Colonel Ayers, a graduate of the University of North Carolina, was commissioned in 1983 through the ROTC program. He has served his country through a variety of assignments in acquisitions, mobility operations, and doctrine development. Colonel Ayers is a Command Pilot with more than 3,500 flight hours in the C-141, KC-10, and C-32. As an operational commander, he led the First Airlift Squadron at Andrews Air Force Base where his unit was responsible for the transportation of the Vice-President, First Lady, Members of Congress and senior cabinet officials. He also helped shape our military's doctrine and policy while serving as an analyst at the Headquarters Air Force Doctrine Center and as a research staff member at the Institute for Defense Analyses. Most recently, Colonel Ayers led the Washington Operations section of United States Joint Forces Command.

Colonel Ayers has admirably served his country without question or reservation and, in doing so, has set standards of honor, respect, duty and country for his fellow soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines. On behalf of myself and my constituents, I extend to Colonel Jim Ayers my gratitude, deep appreciation and well wishes for a good retirement.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING OAK HILL HIGH SCHOOL FOR THEIR SUPPORT OF THE OAK HILL HIGH SCHOOL'S BOYS' BASKET- BALL TEAM

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2009

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker: Whereas, Oak Hill High School has displayed incredible dedication to creating well-rounded students; and Whereas, the Oak Hill High School has been supportive of their athletes; and Whereas, the Oak Hill High School has broadened the abilities and skills of their athletes in the sport of basketball; and Whereas, the Oak Hill High School has always promoted sportsmanship on and off of the court; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that along with their friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate the Oak Hill High School on supporting their Boys' Basketball team in winning the Boys' Division IV State Basketball Championship. We recognize the tremendous amount of support they have given to their athletes.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF MI- CHAEL WURTH ON HIS APPOINT- MENT TO ATTEND THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2009

Mr. LATTA. Madam Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to an outstanding young man from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. I am happy to announce that Michael Wurth of Perrysburg, Ohio has been offered an appointment to attend the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Mike's offer of appointment poises him to attend the United States Air Force Academy this fall with the incoming cadet Class of 2013. Attending one of our Nation's military academies is an invaluable experience that offers a world-class education while placing demands on those who undertake one of the most challenging and rewarding experiences of their lives.

Mike brings an enormous amount of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming class of Air Force cadets. While attending Perrysburg High School in Perrysburg, Ohio, Mike was a member of the National Honor Society and High Honor Roll.

Outside the classroom, Mike was active in Boy Scouts, serving as a Patrol Leader, Chaplain's Aide, and Order of the Arrow Brotherhood Member. He obtained the rank of Eagle Scout and served as a Junior Assistant Scoutmaster. Mike participated on Perrysburg High School's cross country, track, and wrestling teams, earning varsity letters in each and serving as captain of the cross country and wrestling teams. Mike also organized community track meets. I am confident that Mike will carry the lessons of his student leadership to the Air Force Academy.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Michael Wurth on his acceptance of appointment to the United States Air Force Academy. Our service academies offer the finest military training and education available. I am positive that Mike will excel during his career at the Air Force Academy and I ask my colleagues to join me in extending their best wishes to him as he begins his service to the Nation.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING AUS- TIN BROWN FOR WINNING THE BOYS' DIVISION IV STATE BAS- KETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2009

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker: Whereas, Austin Brown showed hard work and dedication to the sport of basketball; and Whereas, Austin Brown was a supportive team player; and

Whereas, Austin Brown always displayed sportsmanship on and off of the court; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that along with his friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Austin Brown on winning the Boys' Division IV State Basketball Championship. We recognize the tremendous hard work and sportsmanship he has demonstrated during the 2008-2009 basketball season.

HONORING MICHAEL BRUEN WOOD

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2009

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Michael Bruen Wood 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 418, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Michael has been very active with his troop participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Michael has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

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

CONGRATULATING DEPUTY KEVIN VICE, MARION COUNTY SHER- IFF'S DEPUTY OF THE YEAR

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2009

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Deputy Kevin Vice for

being recognized as Marion County's Sheriff's Deputy of the Year. Deputy Vice received this prestigious award for his courageous response to a gun shooting that took place while he was off-duty. Without any back-up support he deftly maintained his composure as he helped a wounded victim, reported a run-away vehicle, called for emergency help and detained two individuals who had been near the scene of the crime. Due to his heroic actions, a suspect was later arrested.

Deputy Vice has worked with the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department and the Marion County Sheriff's Department, proudly serving the city of Indianapolis, Indiana as a law enforcement officer since 2001. In addition to his extensive experience, it was his training that made the greatest difference last June in contributing to his heroic efforts.

In going above and beyond the call of duty, Deputy Vice has personified the best that Marion County law enforcement has to offer. I would like to extend my most sincere thanks to Deputy Vice for his courageous dedication to the safety of our community.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring Deputy Vice for his outstanding service and wish him continued success in his work as one of Indianapolis' finest public servants.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF MATTHEW DEMICHIEI ON HIS OFFERS OF APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY AND THE UNITED STATES MERCHANT MARINE ACADEMY

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2009

Mr. LATTA. Madam Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to an outstanding young man from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. I am happy to announce that Matthew DeMichiei of Napoleon, Ohio has been offered appointments to attend the United States Air Force Academy and the United States Merchant Marine Academy. Matt has accepted the offer to attend the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Matt's offer of appointment poises him to attend the United States Air Force Academy this fall with the incoming cadet Class of 2013. Attending one of our Nation's military academies is an invaluable experience that offers a world-class education while placing demands on those who undertake one of the most challenging and rewarding experiences of their lives.

Matt brings an enormous amount of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming class of Air Force cadets. While attending Napoleon High School in Napoleon, Ohio, Matt attained a grade point average that placed him among the top of his class. While a gifted athlete, Matt has maintained the highest standards of excellence in his academics, choosing to enroll and excel in Advanced Placement classes throughout high school. Matt is a member of the National Honor Society, Honor Roll, and has earned varsity letters in soccer each of his four years.

Outside the classroom, Matt was a member of the Quiz Team, French Club, Youth Soccer Club, Camp Palmer Counselor, Prom Committee, and Student Advisory Board. Matt participated on Napoleon High School's soccer, swimming, and tennis teams. I am confident that Matt will carry the lessons of his student leadership to the Air Force Academy.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Matthew DeMichiei on his acceptance of appointment to the United States Air Force Academy. Our service academies offer the finest military training and education available. I am positive that Matt will excel during his career at the Air Force Academy and I ask my colleagues to join me in extending their best wishes to him as he begins his service to the Nation.

IN HONOR OF EQUAL PAY DAY

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2009

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I wish to acknowledge and honor Equal Pay Day, a national day of recognition instituted by President Clinton in 1998 to raise awareness about the wage disparity and discrimination between men and women.

America has made some strides in narrowing this discrepancy in the workplace, but the fight for equal pay for equal work still remains prevalent and pertinent today. Thirty-five years ago, when President Kennedy signed the Equal Pay Act of 1963, women who worked full-time, year-round made 59 cents on average for every dollar earned by their male counterparts. In 2006, women earned 77 cents for every dollar earned by men; the figures are even more unsettling for women of color. This data demonstrates that the wage gap has narrowed by less than half a cent per year. An 18 cent increase over 35 years indicates a significant wage discrepancy between working men and women that leaves a great deal of work for the employers and decision makers of today. The day on which Equal Pay Day falls represents how far into the year on average a women must work to receive the same amount of pay that a man earned during the previous year.

In the state of Texas, between 2004 and 2006, the average annual salary of men with a college degree or more was \$63,000, while their female counterparts only received an average annual salary of \$45,000 with the same credentials. In comparison, during that same time frame, the national average annual salary for men with a college degree or more was \$66,000, while their female counterparts received only \$50,000. In fact, the state of Texas is about 5% below the national average in narrowing the wage disparity between men and women.

A great woman and former congresswoman from Texas, Barbara Jordan, once said that, "If the society of today allows wrongs to go unchallenged, the impression is created that those wrongs have the approval of the majority." To take the late Ms. Jordan's advice: we who live in today's society must not allow the wrongs created by wage discrimination to continue to undermine the civil liberties of minorities and women. On January 29, 2009, Presi-

dent Barack Obama signed into law the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act to ensure that victims of pay discrimination can effectively challenge unequal pay, marking a significant step forward in the struggle for equality in pay and fair treatment in the workplace for all Americans. Though great progress is being made, significant challenges remain in the struggle against gender-based pay discrimination.

I urge my colleagues and employers nationwide to take up the fight to eliminate the unfair wage discrepancy between men and women as we all honor Equal Pay Day.

WORKERS' MEMORIAL DAY

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2009

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Workers' Memorial Day. Every day, working people across our Nation are putting their lives on the line, just by getting up and going to work. In a perennially underreported tragedy, more than 5,000 Americans die each year on the job, and millions more experience occupational injuries and illnesses.

That means about 16 workers in the U.S. die each day at work. And those who die are not only those in professions seen as dangerous, like law enforcement or firefighting—they are also mechanics, store clerks, bus drivers, and landscapers. And the deaths are often close to home. Earlier this month, a 38-year-old construction worker was killed back home in the southern Los Angeles area when a garage collapsed on him while he worked on a remodeling project.

To honor those who have died, and to draw attention about the need for better enforcement of our workplace health and safety laws, I join with Rep. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON and Rep. BRUCE BRALEY today to introduce a resolution recognizing the importance of Workers' Memorial Day.

Workers' Memorial Day is a reminder that each death is a life cut short—a worker who left behind a family and friends.

I encourage everyone to take a moment today to recognize the needless sacrifice that these workers' and their families made this year and in years past.

Going to work should not be a life and death proposition. Workers' Memorial Day is a reminder that we can do better.

HONORING RYAN JAMES

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2009

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Ryan James 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 75, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Ryan has been very active with his troop participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Ryan has been involved with

scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

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

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF
JARED LEININGER ON HIS AP-
POINTMENT TO ATTEND THE
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
ACADEMY

HON. ROBERT E. LATTI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2009

Mr. LATTI. Madam Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to an outstanding young man from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. I am happy to announce that Jared Leininger of Archbold, Ohio has been offered an appointment to attend the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Jared's offer of appointment poises him to attend the United States Air Force Academy this fall with the incoming cadet Class of 2013. Attending one of our Nation's military academies is an invaluable experience that offers a world-class education while placing demands on those who undertake one of the most challenging and rewarding experiences of their lives.

Jared brings an enormous amount of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming class of Air Force cadets. While a gifted athlete, Jared has maintained the highest standards of excellence in his academics, having been on the alpha honor roll and honor roll each year, and earned varsity letters in wrestling and football.

Outside the classroom, Jared was a member of Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Hand Bell Choir, Senior Lutheran Youth Fellowship, serving as both Vice President and President, and served as an elementary tutor and teachers' aide. Jared participated on Archbold High School's football, wrestling, and baseball teams. Jared's dedication and service to the community and his peers has proven his ability to excel among the leaders at the Air Force Academy. I have no doubt that Jared will take the lessons of his student leadership with him to Colorado Springs.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Jared Leininger on his acceptance of appointment to the United States Air Force Academy. Our service academies offer the finest military training and education available. I am positive that Jared will excel during his career at the Air Force Academy and I ask my colleagues to join me in extending their best wishes to him as he begins his service to the Nation.

IN HONOR OF CAPTAIN JOHN
"MUD" MEDVESCEK, INDIANAPOLIS
FIREFIGHTER OF THE
YEAR

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2009

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Captain John "Mud" Medvescek with the Indianapolis Fire Department. On April 16, 2009, he was recognized as Indianapolis' 2008 Firefighter of the Year for his outstanding service to the city of Indianapolis.

With thirty years of service with the Indianapolis Fire Department, Captain Medvescek has exemplified himself through his commitment to ensuring the safety of our community. As a member of the advanced rescue squad he has worked tirelessly and bravely to provide emergency response support to those in need. Through these experiences, Captain Medvescek has been able to generously share his wealth of knowledge, which has allowed him to play an invaluable role in training the next generation of firefighters.

For decades he has bravely served on the front lines, selflessly fighting to save the lives of countless Hoosiers in the face of great danger. As a former law enforcement officer, I understand the true value of Captain Medvescek's dedication to our city and to the people of Indianapolis.

Madam Speaker and distinguished colleagues, I urge you to join me in thanking Captain Medvescek for his tremendous contributions. He is a devoted public servant whose mentorship has served as a lasting legacy for those aspiring to pursue careers dedicated to protecting the lives of others.

61ST ANNIVERSARY OF ISRAEL

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2009

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to recognize the 61st anniversary of the founding of the modern state of Israel. Israel has been one of our strongest allies and I am thankful for the bond of friendship and cooperation that we share. After all, our two countries have many historic similarities. We both have faced war and fought for peace and freedom. We both continue to pursue liberty despite ongoing opposition.

For 2,000 years, most Jews had been scattered around the world, often enduring intense persecution and discrimination. After World War II, the Jewish people desired to return to their ancient homeland and live in the land that had once belonged to their forefathers. The Holocaust revived their desire to form a new state, even though the land of their ancestors was merely a dry, almost barren terrain.

After winning independence, the Israelis amazingly transformed the wilderness into a site of thriving agriculture production. One Jewish scientist developed the first surface drip irrigation system and this discovery has

transformed irrigation practices across the world. Scientists in Israel have also developed fruits and vegetables that are resistant to disease.

Not only has Israel been the source of agricultural improvements, but it has also partnered with the U.S. in several scientific initiatives. As the representative of New Jersey's Fifth District, which is home to many small farms that help make up the Garden State, I am grateful for how Israel has pioneered numerous agricultural initiatives.

I am also grateful for how Israel has been an example to other countries. I have many Jewish friends and I am always impressed by how they value freedom. It is free markets and free thinking that enable new inventions, and these inventions in turn help future generations to prosper. As Israel celebrates this 61st anniversary, I encourage my constituents to reflect on the achievements of the past as we work to better our children's future.

HONORING CLAYTON MATHER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2009

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Clayton Mather 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 75, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Clayton has been very active with his troop participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Clayton has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

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

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF JACQUELINE CRAWFORD ON HER APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND THE UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY PREPARATORY SCHOOL

HON. ROBERT E. LATTI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2009

Mr. LATTI. Madam Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to an outstanding young woman from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. I am happy to announce that Jacqueline Crawford of Waterville, Ohio has been offered an appointment to attend the United States Naval Preparatory School in Newport, Rhode Island.

Jackie's offer of appointment poises her to attend the United States Naval Preparatory School this fall, and after successful completion, will attend the United States Naval Academy with the incoming midshipmen Class of 2014. Attending one of our Nation's military academies is an invaluable experience that offers a world-class education while placing demands on those who undertake one of the

most challenging and rewarding experiences of their lives.

Jackie brings an enormous amount of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming class of midshipmen. During Jackie's high school career, she received honors in chemistry and chose to enroll and excel in Advanced Placement courses.

Outside the classroom, Jackie demonstrated her dedication and service to her community and peers by being active in the Race for the Cure, the Diabetes Research Walk, Meals on Wheels, and other fund raising and relief efforts to assist those less fortunate. Jackie utilized her leadership skills during her participation in Anthony Wayne High School's FCCLA, track, choir, theater, softball and as captain of the cheerleading squad.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Jacqueline Crawford on her acceptance of appointment to the United States Naval Preparatory School. Our service academies offer the finest military training and education available. I am positive that Jackie will excel during her career at the Naval Academy and I ask my colleagues to join me in extending their best wishes to her as she begins her service to the Nation.

ON THE INTRODUCTION OF THE FAIR PAY ACT OF 2009

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2009

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, the first bill that President Barack Obama signed was H.R. 11, the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act of 2009 to restore the Equal Pay Act (EPA) to its interpretation since it was enacted in 1963. That bill could not wait until today, Equal Pay Day. Equal Pay Day marks the day nearly four months into a new year—that women must work to earn as much as men did last year. However, although the EPA was highly successful for close to 20 years, the EPA had grown so creaky with age that the Ledbetter Act could do no more than resuscitate the old EPA. However, it is long past the time to amend the EPA to meet the changed economy, where women work as much as men, and in today's troubled economy women are increasingly supporting husbands, sons and families. My House colleague ROSA DELAURIO and I, and scores of other Members got the House to pass the Paycheck Fairness Act and on Equal Pay Day, we urge the Senate to pass the Paycheck Fairness Act. Congresswoman ROSA DELAURIO and I have long pressed for the passage of the Paycheck Fairness Act and both of us testified at its first hearing before the Committee on Education and Labor during the 110th Congress. My own experience as chair of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), when President Jimmy Carter moved the EPA and other civil rights statutes to the EEOC as parts of a historic reorganization, demonstrated to me both the strengths and the weakness of the EPA.

As important as the Ledbetter Act, was it is only a gate opener to the EPA. The Paycheck Fairness Act, passed in the House this session is also an important update of the EPA's basic procedures, giving them "the same mus-

cle" as other anti-discrimination statutes, including Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act and the age Discrimination in Employment Act, both of which I administered along with the Equal Pay Act. However, the Fair Pay Act (FPA) goes the next step, putting an end to wage discrimination against women and others by establishing equal pay for equal work. This bill recognizes that women earn significantly less than men for work, and amends the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, known as the Equal Pay Act, to provide more effective remedies to victims of wage discrimination on the basis of sex. The Paycheck Fairness Act instructs the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) and the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs to train EEOC employees and affected individuals and entities on matters involving wage discrimination and authorizes the Secretary of Labor to fund skills training programs for girls and women. The bill further directs the Secretary to provide studies, information, summits, guidelines, awards and assistance for employer evaluations of job categories based on objective criteria.

Therefore, with Senator TOM HARKIN, I am pleased again to introduce the FPA to pick up where the EPA leaves off, by bringing the EPA into the 21st century by taking on sex segregated jobs where gender influenced wages leave the average woman worker without any remedy.

The FPA sends a message to the average woman worker, who is often steered to and then locked into a job with wages that are deeply influenced by the gender of those who have traditionally held those jobs. Women often are used inconsistent with their qualifications today because of employer steering, and because of deeply rooted wage stereotypes that result in pay according to gender and not according to the skills, effort, responsibility and working conditions necessary to do the job. We introduce the FPA because the pay problems of many women today stem from sex segregation between the jobs that women and men traditionally do. Two-thirds of white women, and three quarters of African American women, work in just three areas: sales and clerical, service, and factory jobs despite women's superior education to men for several decades. Only a combination of more aggressive strategies, including the Paycheck Fairness Act and the Fair Pay Act can break through the ancient societal habits present throughout human time the world over, as well as employers steering women into "women's jobs" which is as old as paid employment for women itself.

The FPA recognizes that, if men and women are doing comparable work, they should be paid a comparable wage. For example, if a woman is an emergency services operator, a female-dominated profession, why is she often paid considerably less than a fire dispatcher, a male-dominated profession? Is this because each of these jobs has been dominated by one sex? The Fair Pay Act does not decide this issue, but the bill does allow women to show that some or all of the wage disparity is gender based. The burden is on the female plaintiff, a difficult case to make in a market economy, but women deserve the right to carry that burden in appropriate cases.

The FPA, no more than the EPA, tampers with our market system. As with the EPA, the burden will be on the plaintiff to prove discrimi-

nation. As with the EPA, she must show that the reason for the disparity is sex discrimination, not legitimate market factors.

Corrections to achieve comparable pay for men and women are not radical or unprecedented. State employees in almost half of the state governments, in red and blue states alike, have already demonstrated that the pay gap that is due to discrimination can be eliminated. Twenty states have adjusted wages for women state employees, raising pay for teachers, nurses, clerical workers, librarians, and other female-dominated jobs that paid less than men with comparable jobs. Minnesota, for example, implemented a pay equity plan when they found that similarly skilled female jobs paid 20% less than male jobs. There often will be some portion of the gap that is traceable to market conditions, but twenty states have shown that you can tackle the discrimination gap without interfering with the free market system. The states generally have closed the discrimination gap over a period of four or five years at a one-time cost no more than three to four percent of payroll.

In addition, routinely, many women workers achieve pay equity through collective bargaining. In addition countless employers on their own, as they see women shifting out of vital female-dominated occupations, the effects of the shortage of workers in vital occupations, and the unfairness to women, are raising women's wages with pay equity adjustments. The best case for a strong and updated EPA with at least the Paycheck Fairness Act occurred here in the Congress in 2003, when women custodians in the House and Senate won an EPA case after showing that women workers were paid a dollar less for doing the same and similar work as men. Had they not been represented by their skillful and dedicated union, they would have had an almost impossible task using the rules for bringing and sustaining an EPA class action suit today. The FPA simply modernizes the EPA to make such a suit more possible by women acting alone.

Start where we like, but Congress should be ashamed to let another year go by while working families lose more than \$200 billion annually—more than \$4,000 per family—even considering education, age and hours of works and location. Unequal pay has been built into the way women have been treated since shortly after Adam and Eve. To dislodge such deep seated and pervasive treatment, we must update old vehicles like the EPA with the Paycheck Fairness Act and create new laws, such as the Fair Pay Act I introduce today.

HONORING CHARLES WILSON
ANDREWS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2009

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Charles Wilson Andrews 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 205, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Charles has been very active with his troop participating in many scout activities. Over the

many years Charles has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

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

CONGRATULATING THE FIRST
GRADUATING CLASS OF THE
D.A.R.E. PROGRAM AT FOREST
HILL ELEMENTARY

HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2009

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise today to congratulate the first graduating class of the Drug Abuse Resistance Education program, or D.A.R.E., at Forest Hill Elementary.

I am truly proud of the 50 students who participated in this important class that equips our young people with the support and knowledge they need to say no to drugs, underage drinking and gang violence.

In 1983, D.A.R.E. began as a small program in Los Angeles. Today, it is implemented in more than 75 percent of our country's school districts and in more than 43 other nations.

To mark the success of these students, Forest Hill Elementary will hold a graduating ceremony on May 4, 2009. I am glad these students will be recognized for taking this step toward leading positive and productive lives.

Moreover, I applaud the efforts of the police officers, faculty and families who helped support this accomplished group as they worked to complete the D.A.R.E. program this school year.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the first graduating class of the D.A.R.E. program at Forest Hill Elementary. Your success is a true testament to the strong community values of Forest Hill.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF STEVEN
BILLMAIER ON HIS APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND THE
UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY

HON. ROBERT E. LATTI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2009

Mr. LATTI. Madam Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to an outstanding young man from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. I am happy to announce that Steven Billmaier of Bowling Green, Ohio has been offered an appointment to attend the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

Steven's offer of appointment poises him to attend the United States Naval Academy this fall with the incoming midshipmen Class of 2013. Attending one of our Nation's military academies is an invaluable experience that offers a world-class education while placing de-

mands on those who undertake one of the most challenging and rewarding experiences of their lives.

Steven brings an enormous amount of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming class of midshipmen. While attending Central Catholic High School in Toledo, Ohio, Steven attained a grade point average which placed him fourth in his class of 257 students. During Steven's high school career, he was inducted into the National Honor Society and the Insignis Society; distinguished as a Regents Scholar; and received a National Merit Commendation.

Outside the classroom, Steven demonstrated his dedication and service to his community and peers by being active in the Boy Scouts of America in which he obtained the rank of Eagle Scout, in addition to earning four Eagle Palms. Steven utilized his leadership skills during his participation in Central Catholic High School's German Club, Environmental Club, Spiritual Commission, and he was a class officer. Athletically, Steven has been an active member of Crew, participating in both the fall and spring sessions during the past four years. I am confident that Steven will carry the lessons of his student leadership to Annapolis.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Steven Billmaier on his acceptance of appointment to the United States Naval Academy. Our service academies offer the forest military training and education available. I am positive that Steven will excel during his career at the Naval Academy and I ask my colleagues to join me in extending their best wishes to him as he begins his service to the Nation.

HONORING THE LOUISIANA
HONORAIR VETERANS

HON. JOHN FLEMING

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2009

Mr. FLEMING. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor a very special group from Northwest Louisiana.

On April 11, 2009 a group of 104 veterans and their guardians flew to Washington with a very special program. Louisiana HonorAir is providing the opportunity for these Louisiana veterans to visit Washington, DC on a chartered flight, free of charge. For many, this will be the first and only opportunity to visit the memorials created in their honor. These brave men and women, from my home state of Louisiana, deserve the thanks of a grateful nation for everything they have sacrificed for our freedom.

Today I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring these great Americans and thank them for their unselfish service.

Dan D. Adcock, John R. Alexander, Bennie R. Alley, John T. Anderson, Dempsey D. Bankus, Charles R. Bedgood, Henry J. Bird, Edd J. Bordelon, Arnold L. Braddock, Robert I. Brown, Cecil H. Brumley, Charles L. Bryant, James Buggs, Aubra T. Bunn, Curtis E. Chaffin, James Eugene Chowns, Jack Coursey, Jack Creighton, Howard A. Curtis, Edward D. Dark, John Duco, Albert J. Dunn, Merrille D. Dunn, Robert M. Duvall, Orlando A. Easterling, Kenneth B. Eaves, Guy M. Farley,

John P. Fields, Edward R. Franks, William D. Franks, Dellon K. Fulton, William M. Gaston, Frank A. Genova, Ethan Allen Gillispie, Oben D. Greer, Garland D. Gregory, Walter H. Harbour, Eugene Harvey, James M. Henderson, Roy Gene Hicks, William V. Hines, John L. Hinton, Robert E. Holladay, Loin F. Jacob, Orville H. Jensen, Alton B. Kay, William B. Kinman, Anton Koloc, Andrew J. LeBlanc, Thomas B. Ledford, Ottis Littlejohn, Marshall H. Lyles, Rudolph E. Lyon, Paul H. Madden, Norman L. Mauroner, Lucius D. McGehee, Edgar C. Morris, Raymond L. Owens, Raymond K. Pecanty, Danny L. Phillips, Joe A. Phillips, Arthur R. Pietsch, Alfred B. Potter, Aubie L. Powell, James A. Powell, Melvin A. Powell, Kindred C. Priest, Robert C. Rinehart, Robert D. Roach, Robert G. Robertson, Floyd Cecil Robinson, Carol Wilson Rogers, Rollins B. Rosenzweig, Frank A. Serio, Melvin L. Shirey, Donald C. Sidak, Orvis U. Sigler, James C. Smith, Ernest L. St. John, Edward E. Stevenson, Clyde T. Stovall, Otis L. Strong, Jack F. Taylor, Tiny A. Temple, William M. Temple, Oscar Thornton, Dewey C. Thurmon, Floyd R. Turley, Coy E. Upshaw, Ray U. Urban, Thomas H. Vincent, Emmitt W. Walker, Dillon D. Wallace, Thomas A. Watson, Jack L. Whitfield, William C. Wilkins, Kenneth C. Wood, and Neill A. Yarborough.

HYDROCEPHALUS AWARENESS
MONTH

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2009

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, hydrocephalus, or water on the brain, is a medical condition that results in an abnormal accumulation of cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) in the ventricles, or cavities, of the brain. Sadly, the prognosis for individuals afflicted with hydrocephalus is difficult predict and often fatal. Moreover, while this condition affects approximately 1 in every 500 births, very few people are aware of it.

Indeed, the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS) is currently conducting research related to hydrocephalus prevention and treatment. However, more must be done at the community level to educate individual Americans about this surprisingly prevalent disorder. Recognizing September as National Hydrocephalus Awareness Month will bring this disease to the public's attention and encourage the discussions necessary to more effectively address the devastating effects of this disease and provide support to families who live with it each day.

For example, currently, the most common form of treatment for hydrocephalus involves the insertion of a shunt in order to maintain the flow of CSF from the brain. This outdated practice often results in complications that can jeopardize the life of the, often very young, patient. Through increased awareness and education, we will take the steps needed to modernize the treatment of hydrocephalus and move toward a cure. As one parent summarized, "My son, and all the other children who suffer from Hydrocephalus, are literally 12–15 hours from irreversible damage, if not death, if a shunt failure was to go undetected or left

untreated. There has got to be a better treatment out there, if not an outright cure, we just have to find it."

I'd like to share the thoughts of a father whose toddler son suffers from Hydrocephalus, Michael Illions: "Our son Cole was born on July 25, 2005. We were prepared for his diagnosis of hydrocephalus since March of that year when we learned about it at a routine ultrasound. We interviewed Neurosurgeons and discussed our options for the treatment of the hydrocephalus for Cole which in his case would mean brain surgery at 1 day old. The most common treatment for hydrocephalus is the placement of a shunt into the ventricles of the brain to drain excess Cerebral Spinal Fluid. Cole had his first shunt surgery on July 26, 2005 at just one day old. 10 more brain surgeries and hospitalizations would follow in the next year, including 2 major shunt infections.

Life with a child living with hydrocephalus is very unpredictable. We have had to alter our lives in many ways. For the first year, we literally slept with a change of clothes right near the bed and the car keys on the night stand, just in case we had to make a late night visit to the ER. As parents, you are constantly observing your child for shunt failure and things that regular parents go through like stomach viruses and fevers could mean death for your child if not acted on immediately. We never travel to far from home for fear that we will need our hospital and Neurosurgeon in an emergency and when we do venture away, we always know where the closest hospital is.

Cole has experienced development delays due to his hydrocephalus, multiple surgeries and so much time spent in the hospital during his first year of life. He didn't walk till he was nearly 3 years old and he still doesn't talk. However, he started Preschool in September and is doing amazingly well. He runs, plays, laughs, and plays with other children just like any other 3 1/2 year old boy. Yet, as common as hydrocephalus is; 1 in 500 births, there are still so many people who have no idea what it is. The experience of having a child with this condition has enriched our lives beyond measure. We have met hundred of wonderful people, started our own support group in our state, and just recently started the Pediatric Hydrocephalus Foundation, Inc. It is our goal to educate the rest of the United States about this condition and the millions of people living with it."

PRE-DISASTER MITIGATION ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2009

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, the reauthorization of the Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) program sends an important signal about the effectiveness of hazard mitigation in ensuring public safety and reducing financial losses in the event of a natural disaster. I am pleased that the House is reauthorizing the program for an additional three years and increasing the minimum amount that each State can receive from \$500,000 to \$575,000.

I have been a longtime supporter of pre-disaster mitigation and the approach adopted in

the 1990's by former FEMA Administrator James Lee Witt as illustrated in the 'Project Impact' pilot program. The City of Portland, Oregon and Multnomah County, areas I represent, were early partners in the Project Impact program which helped to establish a flood hazard Community Rating System. By taking steps to mitigate potential flood damages in excess of FEMA standards, some area floodplain residents were able to qualify for reductions in their flood insurance premiums. On a national scale, Project Impact helped communities large and small across the country make much needed investments in hazard mitigation.

In 2005, the Multihazard Mitigation Council, on behalf of FEMA, found that on average, a dollar spent by FEMA on hazard mitigation provides the nation in about \$4 in future benefits. In that regard, the Pre-Disaster Mitigation program is a leading example of how the federal government can be a better partner to local communities by helping to improve public safety and reduce disaster related financial losses. It is the right thing to do for communities that are rebuilding after disasters, like New Orleans, and for those trying to avoid becoming the next victims.

HONORING SERGEANT GLEN RUEGSEGGER, INDIANAPOLIS POLICE OFFICER OF THE YEAR

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2009

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Sergeant Glen Ruegsegger for being named Police Officer of the Year by the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department. Earlier this month, he was honored as one of Indianapolis' finest officers in 2008 for the tremendous contributions he has made to his department.

Under the leadership of Sergeant Ruegsegger, the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department has been able to advance the use of technology so that law enforcement officers are better equipped with information while they are patrolling the streets. By utilizing his expertise as the director of the police technology department, Sergeant Ruegsegger has led the effort in developing a mechanism of sharing case information with other departments. The goal is to allow for effective and timely communication among law enforcement officers so that they can fulfill their duty to protect citizens.

As a former law enforcement officer, I understand the importance of utilizing innovative systems that will have a positive impact on the lives of Indianapolis residents. I applaud Sergeant Ruegsegger on this significant achievement and wish him the best in his continued service to our city.

I urge my colleagues to join me in thanking Sergeant Ruegsegger for his exceptional service and congratulate him on this distinguished award.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF
MARK BRAKE ON HIS APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND THE UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2009

Mr. LATTA. Madam Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to an outstanding young man from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. I am happy to announce that Mark Brake of Ohio City, Ohio has been offered an appointment to attend the United States Military Academy in West Point, New York.

Mark's offer of appointment poises him to attend the United States Military Academy this fall with the incoming Class of 2013. Attending one of our Nation's military academies is an invaluable experience that offers a world-class education while placing demands on those who undertake one of the most challenging and rewarding experiences of their lives.

Mark brings an enormous amount of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming class of West Point cadets. While attending Lincolnview High School in Van Wert, Ohio, Mark attained a grade point average which placed him in the top third of his class. During Mark's high school career, he earned several Scholar Athlete Awards and tutored other students. He was active in Spanish Club, Science Club, and Marching Band, serving as field commander his senior year.

Outside the classroom, Mark demonstrated his dedication and service to his community and peers by being active in many church activities and excelled on the violin. He was also a representative at Buckeye Boys State. On the fields of competition, Mark was a varsity wrestler and participated in track and field events. I am confident that Mark will carry the lessons of his student leadership to West Point.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mark Brake on his acceptance of appointment to the United States Military Academy. Our service academies offer the finest military training and education available. I am positive that Mark will excel during his career at the Military Academy and I ask my colleagues to join me in extending their best wishes to him as he begins his service to the Nation.

HONORING AMELIA LEUER FOR RECEIVING NATIONAL LETTERS ABOUT LITERATURE AWARD

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2009

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Miss Amelia Leuer of Albertville, Minnesota, for being chosen as a national winner in the Letters about Literature Reading Contest.

Miss Leuer, a senior at St. Michael-Albertville High School, was chosen as one of six winners in a national competition with 55,000 students for her letter to poet Linda Paston. After studying the piece, "Caroline,"

Miss Leuer chose to write a letter to the author expressing the positive impact the poem provided as she dealt with the tragedy of losing her sister in an accident.

"I personally attribute a great deal of that peace to your poem, 'Caroline,'" Miss Leuer wrote. "I realize we can endure this pain only because of small miracles we experience every day. 'Caroline' is one of those miracles."

The panel of judges gave Miss Leuer a perfect score for her "original, emotional, genuine, and inspiring response," and Target donated a \$10,000 grant to St. Michael Catholic Library on her behalf.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the Sixth District of Minnesota, I want to congratulate Amelia Leuer for her talent and national achievement. I wish her the very best as she graduates high school and pursues what are sure to be bright endeavors in her future.

TRIBUTE TO WORKERS MEMORIAL DAY

HON. KURT SCHRADER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2009

Mr. SCHRADER. Madam Speaker, I am humbled today to recognize my fellow Oregonians killed on the job or at war in 2008. This nation has made great strides in protecting Americans from all walks of life in all different types of jobs, but any death, or injury, resulting from an on-the-job accident or injury is one too many.

So as we recognize these men and women on this Workers Memorial Day, let us also pledge to do better to provide safe and productive work environments for our nation's workers. Let us remember the ultimate sacrifice of these men and women and honor their legacies.

William Adams, Cecil Alberts, Joshua Amos, Eugene Ardisson, Jeffrey Baker, Robert Betz, Shawn Blazer, Kerry Boatman, Lance Corporal Dustin Canham, Scott Charleson, Randy Chipman, Edward Clarke, Mike Dennison, Captain Bruno de Solenni, Michael Dewey, and Coner Duty.

Private First Class Cody Eggleston, Corporal Jessica Ellis, James Exline, Jene Fitzgerald, Robert Ford, James French, Edrik Gomez, Nathan Gourley, William Hakim, Matthew Hammer, Thomas Holliday, Kevin Ivey, Lance Corporal Robert Johnson, Christopher Judah, and Stephen Kaufman.

Jason Ketcheson, Matthew Kohanes, Robert Kramer, Roger Kruizenga, Kevin Leader, Timothy Leake, Kelly Linhart, Jeffrey Little, Miguel Martinez-Perez, Sergeant Zachary McBride, David McKay, John Miller, Sergeant Mikeal Miller, Joseph Montero, and Joshua Moughler.

Private Tan Ngo, Mark Phares, Dale Pickett, Paul Reiter, Steven Renno, Bryan Rich, Robert Rolph, Jesse Savage, Roark Schwanenberg, George Shaw, Aaron Simmons, Terry Smith, Gurdev Sohi, Darrell Souza, and David Steele.

Gerald Stierwalt, Brian Swenson, Thomas Tennant, Hector Terriquez-Chavez, Chad Thompson, Frank Toohey, Sergeant James Treber, Tommy Walker, Lieutenant Colonel James Wiley, William Woodruff, John Wor-

thington; and Private First Class Joshua Young.

INTRODUCTION OF THE INITIATING FOREIGN ASSISTANCE REFORM ACT OF 2009

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2009

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, today I introduced the Initiating Foreign Assistance Reform Act of 2009. This legislation is an important first step in reforming and improving the U.S. foreign assistance program, particularly with respect to developing countries. I call it a first step, because I intend to work with my House and Senate colleagues later this year on a broader reform effort that will include a comprehensive rewrite of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961.

There is broad consensus that the U.S. foreign assistance program is in need of a significant overhaul. Currently, foreign assistance programs are fragmented across 12 departments, 25 different agencies, and nearly 60 government offices. The current foreign assistance structure is characterized by duplication, fragmentation, and conflicting purposes and objectives. As a result, the United States lacks a clear and consistent strategy toward developing countries. Last week, the Government Accountability Office issued a report detailing the urgent need for developing such a strategy.

Over the years, there have also been criticisms about the accountability, effectiveness, and transparency of U.S. foreign assistance. While some of these criticisms have merit, in the vast majority of cases our assistance is being used to help lift people out of poverty, combat food insecurity, and promote stability and good governance all over the world. Yet without an effective and transparent system that tracks our assistance, it is difficult to document our successes.

In order to begin addressing these issues, this bill requires the President to develop and implement a comprehensive National Strategy for Global Development, which will define and streamline the roles of each department and agency engaged in development policies, programs and activities overseas. In addition, the strategy will establish a process to review and improve coordination among the various departments and agencies involved. The strategy will also establish objectives for our development programs, with the goal of reducing poverty and contributing to broad-based economic growth in developing countries. Most importantly, it will spell out the connection between reducing poverty in the developing world and advancing U.S. national security and foreign policy interests.

To improve the accountability and transparency of foreign aid, the legislation requires each U.S. department and agency carrying out foreign assistance to develop a system to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness and efficiency of assistance programs. It also requires the President to publish and make pub-

licly available comprehensive information on U.S. foreign assistance on a program-by-program and country-by-country basis. Upon enactment of this legislation, every American and all recipients of U.S. foreign aid will be able to see where and how U.S. foreign assistance is being used.

Madam Speaker, overhauling our foreign assistance apparatus is critical to safeguarding America's long-term national security, confronting transnational threats, stimulating global economic growth and ensuring that U.S. foreign assistance reflects the values and priorities of the American people. This legislation is a critical first step in achieving these objectives, and I look forward to working with my House and Senate colleagues and the Obama Administration on the broader U.S. foreign assistance reform effort.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF ALLISON REEDY ON HER APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2009

Mr. LATTA. Madam Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to an outstanding young woman from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. I am happy to announce that Allison Reedy of Tiffin, Ohio has been offered an appointment to attend the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Allison's offer of appointment poises her to attend the United States Air Force Academy this fall with the incoming cadet Class of 2013. Attending one of our Nation's military academies is an invaluable experience that offers a world-class education while placing demands on those who undertake one of the most challenging and rewarding experiences of their lives.

Allison brings an enormous amount of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming class of Air Force cadets. While attending Tiffin Columbian High School in Tiffin, Ohio, Allison attained a grade point average which placed her in the top ten percent of her class. Allison participated in Tiffin Columbian High School's marching, concert, and symphonic bands; she was a member of the Quiz Bowl, and was active in TC Crew. Allison was also inducted into the National Honor Society.

Outside the classroom, Allison was a member of the cheerleading and swim teams. Allison utilized her leadership skills as President of the Spanish Club and leader of the Band Dance Committee. I am confident that Allison will carry the lessons of her student leadership to the Air Force Academy.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Allison Reedy on her acceptance of appointment to the United States Air Force Academy. Our service academies offer the finest military training and education available. I am positive that Allison will excel during her career at the Air Force Academy and I ask my colleagues to join me in extending their best wishes to her as she begins her service to the Nation.

NEW EDITION OF THE GPO STYLE
MANUAL

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2009

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, the GPO is currently distributing copies of the latest edition of the U.S. Government Printing Office Style Manual, the first revision to this authoritative style guide since 2000.

The GPO Style Manual, as it is popularly known, is issued under the authority of section 1105 of Title 44 of the U.S. Code, which requires the Public Printer, as head of the GPO, to "determine the form and style in which the printing . . . ordered by a department is executed . . . having proper regard to economy, workmanship, and the purposes for which the work is needed." The Manual is prepared by the GPO Style Board, composed of proofreading, printing, and Government documents specialists from within GPO, where all congressional publications and many other key Federal Government documents are produced.

The first GPO Style Manual appeared in 1894. It was developed originally as a printer's stylebook to standardize word and type treatment and remains so today. Through successive editions, however, the GPO Style Manual has come to be widely recognized by writers and editors both within and outside the Federal Government as one of the most useful resources in the editorial arsenal.

The new edition of the GPO Style Manual has been thoroughly redesigned to make it more modern and easier to read, and the content has been updated generally throughout in keeping with current usage. In addition, a variety of suggestions offered by users since the last edition was published have been incorporated. In addition to Members of Congress, copies are being distributed to Federal agencies and Federal depository libraries, and are being offered for sale to the public. There is also a free online version of the Manual at <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/stylemanual/index.html>.

As Chairman of the Joint Committee on Printing during the 110th Congress, when the new edition of the Style Manual was prepared, I commend the staff of the GPO for the production of this handsome volume, and I commend its use to my colleagues and their staffs in both this House and the Senate.

INTRODUCTION OF THE MARINE
RENEWABLE ENERGY PRO-
MOTION ACT OF 2009

HON. JAY INSLEE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2009

Mr. INSLEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Marine Renewable Energy Promotion Act of 2009, a bill to promote the development of renewable energy from our oceans and rivers, using the tides, currents, waves and even the thermal properties of our oceans to generate electricity. I thank Senator MURKOWSKI for introducing a Senate companion to this important measure.

Marine and hydrokinetic devices offer the potential to capture energy from waves, tides, ocean currents, and the natural flow of water in rivers, as well as marine thermal gradients, without building new dams or diversions. The potential for this energy is tremendous. The Electric Power Research Institute has estimated that ocean resources in the United States could generate 252 million megawatt hours of electricity, which given as much support as other types of renewable energy, could be equivalent to 6.5 percent of America's entire electricity generation.

Currently, Washington State companies, universities, research institutions and public utilities are working to bring affordable, reliable and abundant electricity to major urban load centers located near Puget Sound.

For example, the Department of Energy designated the Northwest National Marine Renewable Energy Center, run by the University of Washington and Oregon State University, to develop tidal and wave research projects. Additionally, the Department of Energy's Marine Sciences Laboratory on the Olympic Peninsula assesses waterpower resource potential to address and remove environmental roadblocks to deployment, testing to accelerate the integration of large-scale waterpower electricity generation into the Northwest power grid, and is essential to establishing a robust basis for industrial investment based on verifiable technology performance, assured cost basis, and environmental performance. Furthermore, two entities in Washington State are further along in deploying tidal energy turbines than anyone else in the United States. Both Verdant Power, in partnership with the U.S. Navy, and the Snohomish County Public Utility District, in partnership with the U.S. Department of Energy, are well underway in their research and development of tidal energy in the Puget Sound and should be seen as test beds for the nation.

The Marine Renewable Energy Promotion Act will accelerate these efforts by establishing a research, development and demonstration program at the Department of Energy that is specifically devoted to marine and hydrokinetic renewable energy. This office will help to develop new marine renewable energy technologies, increase reliability and durability of facilities, reduce manufacturing and operating costs of the devices, help identify and address environmental impacts of marine renewable energy and make sure that such power can be integrated into the national electricity grid.

Importantly, the bill authorizes federal funding for a Marine-based Energy Device Verification Program, which will bridge the gap between design and development efforts and the commercial deployment of marine renewable energy devices. Funds would facilitate the installation and evaluation of marine renewable energy projects in partnership with appropriate federal research institutions and organizations. Information learned will be available for the benefit of utilities, independent power producers, generators, and others in the marine renewable energy development community.

Further, the bill establishes an Adaptive Management and Environmental fund to provide grants for entities to help pay for the regulatory permitting and development of new marine technologies.

Finally, the bill would allow marine energy to qualify for the existing accelerated deprecia-

tion tax benefit, which essentially allows marine projects to accelerate the depreciation of their project costs over five years and will help enhance project economic returns for private developers.

I urge my colleagues to consider this important bill.

"IN CONCERT": A POEM BY ALBERT CARY CASWELL IN HONOR OF THE COLBERT FAMILY, THE NATIONAL SYMPHONY, OUR MILITARY BANDS, AND PBS

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2009

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I submit the following:

IN CONCERT

In the home of The World's Greatest Democracy . . .

Up upon a hill, our nation gathers as one twice yearly . . .

In Concert, on Memorial weekend . . .
And on The Fourth, as her birthday begins . . .

For treasured moments, which now live on . . .

All in our hearts, which are now born . . .
As when, upon Capitol Hill . . . one family . . .

The Colbert's, have brought such moments to instill . . . you and me . . .

All, In Concert . . . The Colbert family . . .
And PBS, have so entertained us on TV . . .

As all of our hearts are so thrilled . . .
With such laughter and joy, and such tears so filled . . .

With some of our nation's, and the world's greatest talent billed . . .

As a city gathers on her west lawn . . .
As before the world's greatest dome, a masterpiece soon dawns . . .

As The United States Capitol, shining moments on a hill!

Beamed across our nation, to give to all such a thrill . . .

When, on a Memorial Day weekend . . .
As a national, we are all so moved to tears . . .

As we so see, the true meaning of courage so here . . .

As we watch our Armed Forces, most selfless stories appear . . .

For no greater glory, or gift could be!
Then Arms and Legs, and precious Lives indeed . . .

All so we may be free, as we fall to our knees!

As out across this great nation, we are all brought to tears . . .

Reminding us all, the true cost of freedom so very dear . . .

And then, on The Fourth of July . . .
As our Nation's birthday party, so fills the skies . . .

With fireworks exploding on, and off the stage . . .

As we see Jerry's, Yankee Doodle Dandy talent made . . .

All there in the glow of our nation's beloved Dome, it plays . . .

As we're all so reminded to celebrate . . .
And why we're so blessed . . .

To but live in these here United States!
As all "In Concert," as they create!

As children, babies, men and women get up to dance . . .

All in Freedom's beloved stance!

Whether, country . . . or rock and roll . . .

These giants up upon that stage, touch all of our very souls . . .
 And that most magnificent National Symphony,
 And those Military Bands and Choirs continually . . .
 Take our hearts even higher!
 For in this city, surrounded by consequence . . .

There, is no greater place . . . on these holidays to be so hence!
 Then, up there upon Jenkins Hill . . .
 On The West Front of The Capitol, letting all of your hearts be thrilled.
 In Concert . . .

Dedicated to A Great American Family, The Colbert Family . . . Jerry and his son Michael . . . The Talent, The National Symphony, The Military Bands, The Choirs, The Crew, and PBS who have given so much to our nation.—Written by Albert Cary Caswell, 2009.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF BENJAMIN VAN HORN ON HIS APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2009

Mr. LATTA. Madam Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to an outstanding young man from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. I am happy to announce that Benjamin Van Horn of Whitehouse, Ohio has been offered an appointment to attend the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Ben's offer of appointment poises him to attend the United States Air Force Academy this fall with the incoming cadet Class of 2013. Attending one of our Nation's military academies is an invaluable experience that offers a world-class education while placing demands on those who undertake one of the most challenging and rewarding experiences of their lives.

Ben brings an enormous amount of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming class of Air Force cadets. He was a member of the National Honor Society, received the Anthony Wayne Academy Award in grades 9–11, received the Presidential Physical Fitness Award and the National Physical Fitness Award, among numerous other academic awards.

Outside the classroom, Ben was a member of Brailley Union Church Youth Group, serving as vice president, was a student leader for Campus Life. He was President of the German Club and active in marching, concert, and jazz band. Ben participated on Anthony Wayne High School's cross country and track teams, earning varsity letters in both and serving as captain of the cross country team. He has taught hunter safety courses, fire safety courses, and obtained his student pilot license. He has been extremely involved in community service projects. I have no doubt that Ben will employ the lessons of his student leadership as he excels among the leaders at the United States Air Force Academy.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Benjamin Van Horn on his acceptance of appointment to the United

States Air Force Academy. Our service academies offer the finest military training and education available. I am positive that Ben will excel during his career at the Air Force Academy and I ask my colleagues to join me in extending their best wishes to him as he begins his service to the Nation.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR
 "LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT
 HATE CRIMES PREVENTION ACT
 (LLEHCPA)/MATTHEW SHEPARD
 ACT"

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2009

Mr. HONDA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my strong support to the Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention/Matthew Shepard Act (H.R. 1913). On the night of October 6, 1998, Matthew Shepard was brutally tortured and murdered by two assailants because he was a gay man. It has been over ten years since America was shocked by that despicable hate crime, and the time for action is long overdue. Today we take a significant step towards protecting Americans from being violently attacked simply for being who they are.

Hate crimes continue to spread fear throughout targeted communities to this day. Last year, 18-year old Angie Zapata, a transgendered woman, was murdered by an assailant who defended himself by saying "it's not like I killed a straight, law-abiding citizen." While Angie's murderer was recently convicted for this hate crime, Colorado is the exception in hate crime laws. Most states do not extend hate crime legislation to protect transgendered Americans, leaving some of the most vulnerable members of society with inadequate protections.

Protecting citizens from violence is one of the fundamental roles of government. This legislation is necessary to ensure that no American has to live in fear of violence simply because of who they are. In 2008, the FBI reported a 6% increase in violent crimes against lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) Americans, despite a 1% overall decline of hate crimes in the U.S. As we mark the ten year anniversary of Matthew's horrific death, and the one year anniversary of the brutal murder of Angie, we must commit ourselves to decide that now is the moment when we push back against the forces of hate.

Opponents of the Matthew Shepard Act have claimed that its passage will result in the criminalization of protected speech—even the imprisonment of preachers for condemning homosexuality. This could not be further from the truth. The Act expressly states that it does not prohibit "any expressive conduct . . . , or any activities protected by the free speech or free exercise clauses of, the First Amendment to the Constitution." This means that nobody can be prosecuted under the law for expressing their beliefs about homosexuality. The Act specifically targets people who commit violent acts motivated by the actual or perceived race, color, religion, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability of another. It also affirmatively protects free speech ensuring that Americans remain free to engage in moral debate, without fear of retribution.

The Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act will help guard against groups and individuals who seek to terrorize entire communities through brutal violence against targeted individuals. With its passage, we will bring about the changes needed to make clear, once and for all, that hatred of LGBTs and other minorities is no longer a conceivably legitimate excuse for violently attacking another person.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF JANELLE RUNION ON HER OFFERS OF APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND THE UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY AND THE UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2009

Mr. LATTA. Madam Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to an outstanding young woman from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. I am happy to announce that Janelle Runion of Tiffin, Ohio has been offered appointments to attend the United States Military Academy and the United States Naval Academy. Janelle has accepted the offer to attend the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York.

Janelle's offer of appointment poises her to attend the United States Military Academy this fall with the incoming cadet Class of 2013. Attending one of our Nation's military academies is an invaluable experience that offers a world-class education while placing demands on those who undertake one of the most challenging and rewarding experiences of their lives.

Janelle brings an enormous amount of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming Class of 2013. While attending Tiffin Columbian High School in Tiffin, Ohio, Janelle attained an impressive grade point average; was inducted into the National Honor Society and the National Technical Honor Society; participated in Tiffin Columbian's Student Forum, and was active in the Spanish Club.

Throughout high school, Janelle was a member of the track, basketball, and soccer teams. Janelle demonstrated her dedication and service to her community and peers by being active with the TC Crew Club and by serving as a Tech Center Ambassador. In addition, Janelle utilized her leadership skills by being the secretary of her class for three years and coaching in Tiffin City Schools' elementary league basketball program. I am confident that Janelle will carry the lessons of her student leadership to West Point.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Janelle Runion on the acceptance of her appointment to the United States Military Academy at West Point. Our service academies offer the finest military training and education available. I am positive that Janelle will excel during her career at West Point and I ask my colleagues to join me in extending their best wishes to her as she begins her service to the Nation.