

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. 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 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,"