

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.

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

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**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.

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HONORING COLONEL JIM AYERS  
ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RE-  
TIREMENT

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**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' BASKETBALL 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.

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IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF MICHAEL WURTH 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 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.

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A PROCLAMATION HONORING AUSTIN BROWN 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, 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.

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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.

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CONGRATULATING DEPUTY KEVIN VICE, MARION COUNTY SHERIFF'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 DEMICHELIE 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