

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 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 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. 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 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