For the past 15 years, Kevin has also served as the President of UCPEA.

Madam Speaker, the success of our education systems relies on the strength and passion of our academic leaders. I can personally attest to Kevin's passion for education, the UConn community, and the students he advises, which has led many to conclude that he "bleeds husky blue". While his leadership with the UCPEA will certainly be missed, he will continue to enrich the UConn community and energize its students. I ask my colleagues to join with me and the UConn community in recognizing his decades of service.

BRITTANY SMITH

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 18, 2009

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Brittany Smith who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Brittany Smith is a senior at Wheat Ridge High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Brittany Smith is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Brittany Smith for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication she has shown in her academic career to her future accomplishments.

TRIBUTE TO JEFFREY M. COHEN

HON. CONNIE MACK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 18, 2009

Mr. MACK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor one of my most trusted advisors and closest friends, Jeffrey M. Cohen.

Jeff has a long history with the Mack Family, going back almost 20 years. He interned for my father, U.S. Senator Connie Mack III, and later served as his press secretary for several years. After working in a variety of public relations and management positions in the private sector and on political campaigns, Jeff agreed to serve as my campaign manager during my first run for Congress in 2004.

Since then, Jeff has been my right-hand man, effectively and efficiently managing my congressional office as well as my 2006 and 2008 campaigns. He is my sounding board, a dedicated public servant, and a strong advocate for the ideals of freedom and free markets. Jeff is passionate about what he does and his work and management style reflect this.

A professional with Jeff's talents and expertise would be an attractive candidate for any firm, and I've been fortunate to have him by my side for so many years. But Jeff has been afforded a wonderful opportunity that will allow him to grow in his career.

After 5½ years as my chief of staff, Jeff is moving on to take a position in the private sector.

Jeff has been named executive vice president of Alexandria, Virginia-based Direct Impact, a leading national grassroots, public affairs, public education and corporate reputation firm, and a subsidiary of Burson-Marsteller.

While I am happy for Jeff to begin this next phase of his professional career, make no mistake about it, he will be greatly missed. He has been a valuable member and irreplaceable part of my team, but I will continue to count on his advice and friendship in the years ahead.

Madam Speaker, I would not be where I am today were it not for Jeff's dedication, service and hard work. On behalf of the people of Florida's Fourteenth Congressional District, I want to thank Jeff for his years of service to the people of Florida and the Nation. He is my friend, he is a true public servant in every sense of the word, and I wish him all the best as he begins this new and exciting chapter of his life.

HONORING 43 YEARS OF MILITARY SERVICE OF ROBERT WAYNE WILCOX

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 18, 2009

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 43 years of military service of Robert Wayne Wilcox, a farmer from Moberly and Randolph County Eastern District Commissioner. I want to commend Mr. Wilcox for his two combat tours in Vietnam and two tours in Iraq, and I would also like to draw special attention to the fact that Mr. Wilcox volunteered for multiple tours of duty in both Vietnam and Iraq.

Mr. Wilcox began his military career by entering active duty on March 21, 1966 and served proudly until this past March 23, 2009. Mr. Wilcox accumulated more than 4,000 hours of flight time as a military pilot and during his last tour of duty in Iraq, he flew Black Hawk helicopters in over 400 hours of combat.

Mr. Wilcox has attained numerous awards, including: three Bronze Stars for meritorious service, one Meritorious Service Medal, one Army Commendation Medal, 18 Air Medals, the Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal, a Vietnam Service Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, a Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Armed Forces Reserve Medal with "M" device, one Army Service Ribbon, an Army Reserve Component Overseas Training Ribbon, the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, and the Vietnam Gallantry Cross with bronze star attachment.

Our soldiers, sailors, and pilots sacrifice everything they have in service to America and will serve as a permanent reminder of the bravery, loyal patriotism, and love of country.

In closing, Madam Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to join me in wishing Robert Wayne Wilcox our sincerest thanks and appreciation for his commitment, dedication, and service to our nation. It is an honor to represent him in the United States Congress.

IN MEMORY OF MAYOR BOB WASSON

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 18, 2009

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, it is with deep sadness that I inform the House of the death of Mayor Bob Wasson of Sedalia, Missouri. Bob was a lovely man and a dedicated servant to the city of Sedalia, his family, and his friends.

Bob was born on October 20, 1933, in Las Vegas, Nevada. He was raised in Sedalia, Missouri, and graduated from Hughesville High School. In 1953, Bob dedicated his services to the country by volunteering for the army during the Korean War. He spent his time in Korea as a typist and played a pivotal role in hiring KATUSA soldiers, Korean Augmentation Troops to the United States.

In 1962, Bob married his wife, Eleanor. In 1974, they moved back to Missouri, where Bob spent the remainder of his years dedicating his time and efforts to the community. He began his service as owner of his local grocery store, Bob's AF Super. It was through his store that Bob began to meet and interact with residents of Sedalia. In addition, Bob also spent several years as the director of the Sedalia Senior Center. In 1994, he began to reach out to the community by preaching at the Broadway Baptist Church. He was ordained in 1997 and spent time preaching at the Dresden Baptist Church and the Lamine Baptist Church before becoming the pastor at Mt. Herman Baptist Church, where he remained pastor up until his death. As Bob steadily became a noticeable figure in the Sedalia area, the decision was made to run for public office in 2002. Having no previous political experience, Bob was victorious in his first mayoral election, defeating the 11-year incumbent, winning more then 70 percent of the votes.

As a politician, Bob is noted for starting the new recycling program, building a new community center, supporting Whiteman Air Force Base, and developing the economy. However, he is most known for his visibility in the community and his interaction with Sedalia citizens. Councilwoman Wanda Monsees framed it well when she said, "When I think of Mayor Wasson, the image I get, is of how he would be in the parades, and he would have his young grandsons with him. That just personifies the kind of guy he was to me."

In 2008, Bob was diagnosed with a brain tumor and in April he underwent surgery to remove it. In May, he underwent a second surgery to remove a tumor discovered in his colon. However, even while battling cancer, Bob continued to serve Sedalia as Mayor. I admire the tenacity he displayed as he battled cancer and the courage it took to continue working and providing sound advice during difficult times.

Madam Speaker, Bob Wasson was a great man. It was a pleasure to work with him on issues that affected Sedalia and central Missouri because he fought hard to make it a better area. I will miss him terribly and I hope the