

the Albrecht Kemper Museum of Art, the PEO, and is a member of the Wyatt Park Baptist Church.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Barbara Sprong. She has made an amazing impact on countless individuals in the St. Joseph community. I am honored to represent her in the United States Congress.

BECKY SHELLITO

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 11, 2009*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Becky Shellito of Saint Joseph, Missouri. Becky is active in the community through her work and has been chosen to receive the YWCA Women of Excellence Award for Woman in Support Services.

Becky Shellito married after attending Missouri Western State University; nevertheless, this high school valedictorian lived up to the expectations of that designation in her life. While raising two young daughters, she was active in the Parent Teacher Association and was elected as president of that organization. She went to work part-time for the Grace Evangelical Church while her youngest daughter was in middle school and today serves as Office Manager, handling all administrative functions for a staff of six pastors, four secretaries and two custodians. Becky is a great coach and strong administrator. She has assisted families who have faced tragedy, knowing all too well the challenges faced by families who have lost loved ones. Seventeen years ago, Becky and her family lost their two daughters in a tragic automobile accident. It is not simply her testimony, but her life that brings hope to individuals who face the most difficult circumstances. Her leadership and professionalism are shadowed only by her strong resolve and perseverance.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Becky Shellito. She has made an amazing impact on countless individuals in the St. Joseph community. I am honored to represent her in the United States Congress.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 11, 2009*

Mr. McDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, I would like to state for the record that I inadvertently voted against a bill which I had cosponsored and intended to support.

H.R. 1886, the Pakistan Enduring Assistance and Cooperation Enhancement Act, provides for a new framework for U.S. assistance to Pakistan in a relationship characterized by commitment. It is especially urgent that the United States and Pakistan pull together during these critical times in Pakistan. As co-Chair of the India Caucus, I was pleased to see provisions that would focus American assistance to Pakistan on the threats it faces from various terrorist groups, instead of allow-

ing for military aid that could inflame tensions with India. It is vital that our assistance demonstrates that we support the people of Pakistan and contributes to stability and the rule of law—this will be a help to all the people of the region.

I encourage the continued progress of H.R. 1886 through the remainder of the legislative process, and I regret losing the opportunity to demonstrate my support for the measure with my vote in the House.

JULIA RUPP

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 11, 2009*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Julia Rupp of Saint Joseph, Missouri. Julia is active in the community through work and in her spare time and she has been chosen to receive the YWCA Women of Excellence Lifetime Achievement Award: Woman in the Workplace.

Julia Rupp has devoted much of her life toward bettering the St. Joseph community. Following her marriage to John Rupp, the two started Rupp Funeral Home in 1939. Julia was instrumental in the formation of the South Side Fall Festival and was the First Grand Marshall of the event, which has grown each year since its beginning in 1989. Julia is a charter member, past president, and treasurer of the South Side Business Woman's Association. For 21 years, she has been a member of the South St. Joseph Progressive Association, which seeks funding for projects to better St. Joseph. Julia served as a member of the InterServ Community Housing Board, and gave leadership in the development of King Hill Apartments, the first senior housing in South St. Joseph.

She is a past member of the Board of Regents of Missouri Western State University, a member of the Missouri Funeral Directors and Embalmers Association, and the National Funeral Directors Association. Julia is also a member of the St. James Catholic Church. She is active in the Altar Society and is a member of the Daughters of Isabella. At the Fourth annual Winter Splendor, hosted by Catholic Charities, she was honored for her work in the business community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Julia Rupp. She has made an amazing impact on countless individuals in the St. Joseph Community. I am honored to represent her in the United States Congress.

JODI BLOEMKER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 11, 2009*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jodi Bloemker of Missouri. Jodi is active in the community through her work and has been chosen to receive the YWCA Women of Excellence Emerging Leader Award.

Jodi Bloemker has accomplished much in the ten years since graduating from Central

High School. She graduated from Missouri State University in 2002 and received a Master of Public Administration from American University in Washington, D.C. in 2005. While in graduate school, Jodi worked for a U.S. Congressman as a Legislative Correspondent and later as Director of Research and Firm Administrator for U.S. Strategies Corporation.

Upon returning to St. Joseph, Jodi has worked with the Community Action Partnership as a Community Development Specialist and with the United Way of Greater St. Joseph as Director of Community Investment. Jodi has lent considerable time and talent to several projects bringing education and career opportunities to students in our community. She has served with the Heartland Foundation's Healthy Communities Investor Council, the St. Joseph Employment Coalition. She has served on the Preschool-20 Education Council-Northwest Missouri, and the My Success Event Steering Committee. Jodi is a member of the 2009 class of Leadership St. Joseph and is a member of Rotary Club #32 Downtown St. Joseph.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Jodi Bloemker. She has made an amazing impact on countless individuals in the St. Joseph Community. I am honored to represent her in the United States Congress.

TRANSPORTATION SECURITY ADMINISTRATION AUTHORIZATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 4, 2009*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration of the bill (H.R. 2200) to authorize the Transportation Security Administration's programs relating to the provision of transportation security, and for other purposes:

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Chair, there are many worthy and needed provisions in this legislation. It authorizes a tripling of surface transportation security funding, to \$15.6 billion. It requires the Transportation Security Administration to field at least 100 canine teams, which are absolutely critical to our bomb detection efforts. The bill creates a \$10 million grant program for improving security measures at general aviation airports. These and many other provisions in the bill are laudable.

Unfortunately, the bill includes a provision that would allow TSA at least two more years to achieve the congressionally-mandated goal of screening 100 percent of air cargo on passenger jets. Mr. Chair, we can't keep kicking this can down the road. The traveling public has been demanding for years that we close this major airline security gap. We said we would fulfill all the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission. We haven't.

If we give TSA two more years, two years from now TSA will say "We need more time." Congress has supplied the money to achieve this goal. What we need from TSA is results-oriented leadership to get the job done. The best way to finish this job is to keep the existing deadline in place, which is why I could not

support this bill. I hope that we can improve this bill during any conference with the Senate or if it is included in a larger Homeland Security authorization bill by removing this two-year extension on meeting the cargo screening requirement.

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KAREN WOODBURY

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 11, 2009*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Karen Woodbury of Saint Joseph, Missouri. Karen is active in the community and she has been chosen to receive the YWCA Women of Excellence Award for Woman in Volunteerism.

Karen Woodbury is the Master of Social Work Off-Campus Coordinator in Northwest Missouri for the University of Missouri School of Social Work. As a social worker, Karen has translated her professional commitment to community advocacy into meeting many needs of the St. Joseph community through countless hours of volunteerism. Karen was a pioneer in establishing the Choices program in the St. Joseph School District middle schools for the YWCA. She served on the YWCA St. Joseph Board of Directors for several years and is a past co-chair of the steering committee of Women of Excellence.

Karen has assisted several organizations to develop programs to meet community needs. She helped the Buchanan County Juvenile Office to create a program for young teen women to divert them from the juvenile justice system and was awarded the Missouri Juvenile Justice Award of Excellence in 1998 for this program. She has served on the St. Joseph Safety Council, the United Cerebral Palsy Board of Board of Directors and on the Buchanan County Social Welfare Board. Karen also helped to establish the Social Welfare Board's counseling program for indigent clients. She was awarded the Roy Blunt Citation for Literacy in 1998 for her work with middle school age girls.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Karen Woodbury. She has made an amazing impact on countless individuals in the St. Joseph Community. I am honored to represent her in the United States Congress.

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LAURA BAKKEN

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 11, 2009*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Laura Bakken of Saint Joseph, Missouri. Laura is active in the community through her work and has been chosen to

receive the YWCA Women of Excellence Award for Woman in the Workplace.

Laura Bakken serves as the Spanish interpreter for the Head Start at Community Action Partnership, and is certified in "Los Ninos Bien Educados," a nationally acclaimed curriculum for strengthening Hispanic families and enhancing parenting success. Laura recruits low income Hispanic families to participate in the Head Start program. She was nominated by her peers for excellence in performance and is currently training colleagues about cultural diversity. Laura uses her interpretation skills throughout the community to assist children and families. "To make a community better, it starts with the people. If everyone can adopt one family, and help that one, and get them on their feet, then it'll be a chain reaction." Laura has faced the challenge of overcoming an abusive childhood, homelessness as a teenager, breast cancer, and physical disability to become a survivor and a nurturer. As her nominator describes her, "She defies the odds and simply gets the job done, making the world a brighter, prettier place just by the doing."

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Laura Bakken. She has made an amazing impact on countless individuals in the St. Joseph Community. I am honored to represent her in the United States Congress.