

Margaret's commitment to her community is not limited to the political arena. As founder of the Gothic Guild, she has served as their President and on their Board of Directors. She has also contributed her time and manifold talents to the Historic Huntsville Foundation, the Huntsville Press Club and Trinity United Methodist Church.

I believe this is a fitting honor for one who has given so much to the betterment of our community and our nation. I commend Margaret for her lifetime of achievement and I want to express my sincere gratitude for her bold work for the Democratic party and the patriotic ideals she believes in.

A TRIBUTE TO PETTY OFFICER  
SYLVESTER MICHAEL SIKON

**HON. FRANK MASCARA**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 4, 2000*

Mr. MASCARA. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to one of our unsung heroes, Petty Officer Sylvester Michael Sikon. On February 16, 1945, Petty Officer Sikon made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of his country during World War II—he gave his life.

On Friday, May 5, 2000, a long overdue tribute will be given to this distinguished individual—a Memorial service will be held at the Arlington National Cemetery. Petty Officer Sikon will finally take his rightful place among the other heroes of this great nation.

This day would not be possible without the dedication of one person—Mr. Leo Sikon, Sylvester's cousin. Leo's tireless determination to make sure this country does not forget his cousin's sacrifice will not go unnoticed.

Leo said that a tear would come to his eye every Memorial Day because, on that day, tribute was paid to all our fallen soldiers, except his cousin. This Memorial Day, he will again shed a tear, but his tears will be for the pride he feels for a cousin who lost his life to protect freedom.

2000 NATIONAL FINALS FOR THE  
WE THE PEOPLE . . . THE CITIZEN  
AND THE CONSTITUTION  
PROGRAM

**HON. MICHAEL G. OXLEY**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 4, 2000*

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the outstanding achievements of a group of student scholars from my hometown high school in Findlay, Ohio.

On May 6–8, 2000 more than 1200 students from across the United States will be in Washington, D.C. to compete in the national finals of the We the People . . . The Citizen and the Constitution program. I am proud to announce that the class from Findlay High School will represent the state of Ohio in this national event. These young scholars have worked diligently to reach the national finals and through their experience have gained a deep knowledge and understanding of the fundamental principles and values of our constitutional democracy.

The We the People . . . The Citizen and the Constitution program is the most extensive educational program in the country developed specifically to educate young people about the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. The three-day national competition is modeled after hearings in the United States Congress. These hearings consist of oral presentations by high school students before a panel of adult judges. The students testify as constitutional experts before a panel of judges representing various regions of the country and a variety of appropriate professional fields. The students' testimony is followed by a period of questioning by the simulated congressional committee. The judges probe students for their depth of understanding and ability to apply their constitutional knowledge. Columnist David Broder described the national final as "the place to have your faith in the younger generation restored."

Administered by the Center for Civic Education, the We the People . . . program has provided curricular materials at upper elementary, middle, and high school levels for more than 26.5 million students nationwide. The program provides students with a working knowledge of our Constitution, Bill of Rights, and the principles of democratic government. Members of Congress and their staff enhance the program by discussing current constitutional issues with students and teachers and by participating in other educational activities.

Findlay High is currently researching and preparing for the upcoming national competition in Washington, D.C. I wish these young "constitutional experts" the best of luck at the We the People . . . national finals. It is always my pleasure meeting with these students and their instructors. Their quest for knowledge coupled with their interest in our government is to be applauded.

HONORING THE CARRAWAY  
METHODIST HEALTH SYSTEMS

**HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 4, 2000*

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, today I commend the Carraway Methodist Health Systems for their leadership and vision in providing rural health care for residents of Alabama. Today I am especially mindful of the tremendous contribution of Carraway to the high quality of life enjoyed by the citizens of Winfield, Alabama. The dedication and vision begun by Doctor Ben Carraway is continued by his son Doctor Robert Carraway and the staff of the Carraway Methodist Health Care System. By investing time and money to provide health care services to Winfield beginning in 1981, Carraway has been a pillar of stability and a witness to the importance of community. Winfield Hospital, established in 1949, became Rankin Fite Memorial Hospital in 1964. Rankin Fite became part of the Carraway system in 1981 and under their leadership has enjoyed steady progress in the range of health care services available to the citizens of Winfield. The facility was renamed Winfield Carraway Hospital in 1985, and then Carraway Northwest Medical Center in 1993, and is currently serving Winfield with the help of a multi-million dollar expansion in 1998. What began as a fa-

cility of four doctors and one surgeon is now a campus of state-of-the-art care centers, including the Northwest Regional Cancer Center, and employs over three hundred fifty persons, including nineteen doctors. I thank the Carraway family and their staff for recognizing the importance of providing the highest quality health care not just for those who live in large cities but for smaller communities as well.

IN HONOR OF PRIVATE FIRST  
CLASS GEORGE SANTOS

**HON. STEPHEN HORN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 4, 2000*

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, next week committees in Congress will continue crafting the defense authorization and appropriation bills that will fund our national security needs for another year and set policies that will determine longer-term defense priorities.

Much of the attention these bills receive will focus on weapons programs and the budgetary minutiae necessary to provide for our national defense. These issues are critically important to ensure our common defense. Our men and women in uniform need the best equipment to do their jobs.

However, we must not lose sight of the personal risks and sacrifices the men and women behind this equipment face every day. The technical advances present in today's military have done much to reduce these risks, but Americans still put their lives on the line every day around the world. These brave individuals choose to serve our country for many reasons, but all share the risk and sacrifice this service brings.

Recently, the district I represent lost a young man who made the ultimate sacrifice for all of us. Private First Class George Santos was one of 19 Marines who were killed on April 8th in an accident on a routine training mission in Arizona.

Private Santos dreamed of becoming a Long Beach police officer, but first joined the Marines because it represented both a challenge and an adventure. Santos and 18 other Marines died when their Osprey aircraft crashed near Yuma, Arizona. At age 19, George Santos gave his life in service to our country. We will remember and honor that sacrifice.

Each year is filled with memorials of battles recent and not so recent. We tend to focus on particular numbers, such as the 25th anniversary of the fall of Saigon or the 50th anniversary of our victory in the Second World War. Apart from these memorials are the private ones shared by families across this land who remember children, siblings, grandparents, or friends lost in service for every one of us. As we reflect on these heroic individuals, we must remind ourselves that freedom comes with a cost. But we can take solace in knowing that people like George Santos defend our freedom every day. All of us owe a great debt of gratitude to the brave members of our armed forces who purchase our peace of mind with their sacrifice.