

Despite a series of generous raises, the pay gap will not be eliminated by 2006. My legislation would do two things. Extend the mandate from 2006 to 2013, when the gap would be eliminated, and then ensure that raises keep pace with inflation.

As our military personnel consider the very personal decision to stay in the military or move to the private sector they do factor in future pay raises. From my own personal experience visiting with our service men and women I know that they don't choose to serve for financial gain. They serve because they believe in America and the freedoms that we all enjoy and are committed to service. Like all of us here in this House, they understand that a lifestyle of service entails a certain amount of sacrifice. In exchange for all their sacrifices, they have a simple request: that their nation make a commitment to them that parallels their commitment to the nation.

Today I ask my colleagues to join in that commitment and support my legislation to permanently eliminate the military pay cap.

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HONORING MELISSA MILLER

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**HON. BOB BARR**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 21, 2002*

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, there are a group of individuals who constantly sacrifice, give their time and love, and truly make the world a better place. These individuals are the mothers of the world, and they represent a constant source of kindness, advice, and reliability. These women play numerous roles, from nurse to teacher to counselor to chauffeur, and Melissa Miller of Georgia's 7th district is certainly a great example.

Mrs. Miller was recently named the 2002 Mother of the Year by Sixes Living Magazine. Mrs. Miller is a very busy mom, constantly on the road transporting her children from ballet lessons to baseball games. The time which she finds to devote to her kids is sure to contribute to their development into the type of Americans we all hope our children will become—kind, caring, smart, hard-working, and honest.

More women like Mrs. Miller are needed in our great country so that we can continue to instill morals and values in the next generation of Americans.

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

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**HON. JOHNNY ISAKSON**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 21, 2002*

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. Speaker, I was absent for roll call votes 239 and 240. Had I been present I would have voted yes for both votes.

OAK MIDDLE SCHOOL BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL AWARD CONGRATULATIONS

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**HON. EDWARD R. ROYCE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 21, 2002*

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my congratulations to the principal, faculty and students of Oak Middle School in Los Alamitos, California, on that school's receipt of the U.S. Department of Education's prestigious "Blue Ribbon School of Excellence" Award.

The Blue Ribbon Award is a highly competitive honor awarded to schools that are judged to be particularly effective in meeting local, state and national education goals. To qualify for the award, schools must undergo a rigorous selection process culminating in a decision made by a panel of educators from across the country selecting schools for recommendations to Secretary Paige.

I can think of no school more worthy of this award than Oak Middle School, which under the excellent leadership of Principal James Elsasser consistently produces well-educated and active students. Because of the vision and determination demonstrated by Mr. Elsasser and his committed faculty, Oak Middle School has been recognized by the Federal Government for its excellence—a recognition that I think is long overdue.

I congratulate Oak Middle School on its achievement, I encourage the students and faculty to continue their tradition of excellence.

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TRIBUTE TO MR. LEONARD HOFFMAN

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**HON. JERRY WELLER**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 21, 2002*

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Leonard Hoffman for his years of service in the educational system. Mr. Hoffman, who retires this year, has served the educational system since August 25, 1969. Leonard began his career at Channahon Elementary School and has taught every subject except Science. He has also served as Union President, Union Vice-President and building representative.

Always striving for excellence, Leonard initiated special school activities to keep the students active and interested in learning. One special activity is called the President's Test. The President's Test required students to be able to name the Presidents in order. Fifth grade students need to pass the President's Test to be "eligible to go into sixth grade." This involved many practice sessions for the students and time for encouragement and positive reinforcement from the teachers. The President's Test has become an important "rite of passage" for the students.

Other activities initiated by Mr. Hoffman include the Campbell's soup label saving program which provides funds to purchase new library books and audiovisual equipment. The students celebrated President Washington's birthday by making tri-cornered hats and making a button toy similar to those of that era. A

history lesson on the Boston Tea Party included drinking tea and eating biscuits. Arbor Day was celebrated by Mr. Hoffman giving each student seedling trees to take home and plant. There are adults in the community that still talk about "their trees".

Leonard Hoffman was born on February 25, 1947 in Morris, Illinois to Judge and Mrs. Leonard (Erb) Hoffman. He graduated from Illinois Wesleyan University in 1969 with a Bachelor of Science in Education. In 1973, Leonard received his Master's Degree in Education from Northern Illinois University. Leonard married Carol Collins Hoffman on March 9, 1974. They are the proud parents of Martha Hoffman.

Leonard has also given his time and energy to the whole community. He is a member of the board of directors of the First National Bank of Dwight and a charter member of the First Bank of Channahon. Currently serving as Vice President, Leonard is one of the original trustees of Three River's Library system. He is also a Life Loyal Member of Sigma Chi Fraternity and a member of the Channahon Methodist Church.

Leonard is best remembered for an oft-cited quotation he learned from his first grade teacher, Miss Canaday, "Directions are your friends, they tell you what to do". In fact, you would not be able to find a former student of Leonard's that would not be able to remember this statement. His daughter, Martha, is now using this statement with her students.

Mr. Speaker, I urge this body to identify and recognize others in their own districts whose actions have so greatly benefitted and strengthened America's communities.

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TRIBUTE TO THE UPPER PENINSULA VILLAGE OF BERGLAND ON THE OCCASION OF ITS CENTENNIAL

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**HON. BART STUPAK**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 21, 2002*

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to call your attention and that of our House colleagues to a ceremony that will take place in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan on July 3–6. On those days, with all the fanfare and activities that local residents have been planning for a year, the community of Bergland will celebrate its centennial.

As Bergland residents frequently note for distant acquaintances, this is a small community that's easy to find on a map of Michigan. Just find Lake Gogebic, a lake in the western end of the U.P. that looks like an upside-down boot, and Bergland is at the toe. On the map, it's just another black dot—you need to see Bergland as I have seen it so many times, passing through on my way west on M–28 to Ironwood or turning north on M–64 to go to Ontonagon. Then you would see a tidy village of wood-framed structures, tucked in the forest on the shore of a lake. It's the kind of friendly community that says, "Why are you rushing by? Stop here a while, and your life will be enriched and at peace."

Like so many northern Michigan communities, Bergland is a village created by the lumber industry. In 1902 Gunlek Bergland, then age 55, and his wife Hanna signed the