

without the utmost caution to threats of danger. He died fighting a fire, which he understood was out of control, and needed containment. Allen is a hero in the true sense of the word and is survived by his wife, Vicky Wyatt; Evans; and Wells Wyatt, all of Oregon. Alan was a knowledgeable and skilled firefighter who will always be remembered as a man of character and a love of nature, his family, and God.

Mr. Speaker, it is with profound sadness that we remember the life of firefighter Alan Wayne Wyatt. His death highlights the great risks that firefighters encounter day in and day out while on the job and we will truly remember Alan as a brave man who died in defense of life. His sacrifice most certainly deserves the recognition of this body of Congress and this nation. I along with a grateful nation and a loving family will miss you, Alan.

TRIBUTE TO THE BUSINESS OWNERS, CITIZENS AND VOLUNTEERS OF CHARLES COUNTY, MARYLAND

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2002

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the tremendous community spirit shown by the people of Charles County, Maryland. As my colleagues may know, a devastating tornado ripped through Southern Maryland on April 29, 2002 destroying the town of La Plata and creating a 24 mile path of destruction. Not only were homes and businesses leveled, but farms and government buildings were heavily damaged. Under the circumstances, you would think that a tornado of this magnitude would cripple an area. Not in Southern Maryland and particularly not in La Plata.

Immediately following the tornado, the residents took to the streets to check on friends and neighbors. Once everyone was accounted for, the clean-up efforts began. Under the leadership of the Mayor of La Plata, William Eckman, and the Charles County Commissioners, directed by Board President Murray Levy, an immediate plan of action was put into place and countless hours were spent with residents and business owners, surveying each situation and assisting wherever possible. A "People's Place" was set up to offer a myriad of services ranging from food, water and shelter, to helping people find lost pets. Clothing and money poured into the area, but most of all people reached out to help their neighbors rebuild their lives.

Volunteers came from across the States of Maryland, Virginia and Pennsylvania, as well as the District of Columbia to assist in removing debris left behind by this vicious storm. SMECO, Verizon and Maryland Department of Transportation had staff working round the clock to restore electrical power, establish valuable communication systems and clear the roadways. The Amish communities of Maryland and Pennsylvania donated much-needed manpower to get the Town of La Plata up on its feet again.

The Charles County Chapter of the American Red Cross went into immediate action, once the tornado passed, even though their

own building was destroyed. Mr. Paul Facchina had a "mini business district" set up for the business owners to get back up and running. The Charles County Chamber of Commerce offered office space and business services to companies in need and for days following the disaster local churches and other civic organizations offered food to the hundreds of volunteers.

Mr. Speaker, it has often been said that the "worst of times, bring out the best in people" and on behalf of the many, many grateful residents and business owners in La Plata, I want to say Thank You to all the volunteers who gave of themselves so unselfishly. A disaster occurred, and people came from all walks of life to help in any way they could. It did not matter how big, or how small a job, volunteers were available to lend a helping hand. This is the true spirit of America and it was shining bright and continues to beam forward in Charles County, Maryland.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BOB CLEMENT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2002

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, I missed the votes on rollcall Nos. 324 and 325. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

RECOGNIZING THE OUTSTANDING SERVICE OF MR. GORDON VEAZEY

HON. JOHN S. TANNER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2002

Mr. TANNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of my friend Gordon Veazey for his 14 years of dedicated service to our nation's veterans. Now, Mr. Veazey begins a new chapter in his life as he retires from his position as Henry County veteran service officer. I ask that the United States House of Representatives thank him for his selfless service.

Mr. Veazey's father, the late Bailey Veazey, was gassed by German soldiers during World War I, causing him serious health problems the rest of his life. Witnessing his father's disability led Mr. Veazey to devote his entire life to veteran causes.

After serving in the Army during the Korean War, Mr. Veazey understands the struggles many of our veterans face. He says one of his greatest satisfactions has been in assisting aging veterans whose ability to earn were limited by disability.

Mr. Veazey was appointed to the office in 1987 after working at Paris Manufacturing Company. During his tenure, he has assisted more than 2,000 veterans in our community in receiving the veterans claim benefits they deserve and depend upon.

We care deeply about our veterans and their courageous service to this great nation. Through Mr. Veazey's leadership he has set an example for future veteran officers who will serve our friends, neighbors, and children whom are fighting in the war today. We should be proud and honored to have had such a dedicated man working for our nation's veterans.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to ask that you and our colleagues join me in applauding the selfless service and dedication Mr. Veazey has contributed to our nations veterans.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JEFF HAMMOND

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2002

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Jeff Hammond, an individual who has selflessly devoted countless hours towards the betterment of his community. In June of this year, Jeff was named "Volunteer of the Year," by the United Way Organization. Jeff is a hard working, determined, attentive individual whose selfless dedication certainly deserves the admiration of this body of Congress and this nation.

Jeff is an active participant in the Craig Youth Soccer program and in addition, he is an active community volunteer who donates his time to helping the community. This entirely volunteer league could not have made critical strides in the development of its youth, without Jeff's contributions. Jeff donates his time equally to supporting religious functions, fundraisers, car pools, and the Northwest Colorado All-Star Wildkat cheerleading squad.

Although Jeff's busy schedule envelopes most of his time, Jeff places first and foremost his devotion and loyalty to his family duties, as a father and husband do not interfere. He and his wife have been married for 12 years and are the proud parents of two children.

Mr. Speaker it is with great pleasure that I honor Jeff's accomplishments and achievements before this body of Congress and this nation. Jeff Hammond's service to our community has helped strengthen the foundation upon which our great nation was founded and it is with great anticipation I await further successes and achievements in all your endeavors.

HONORING CORINNE "LINDY" CLAIBORNE BOGGS ON OCCASION OF 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF FOUNDING OF CONGRESSIONAL WOMEN'S CAUCUS

SPEECH OF

HON. WILLIAM J. JEFFERSON

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 22, 2002

Mr. JEFFERSON. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to join the House in honoring Congresswoman Corrine "Lindy" Boggs. From her work here, in the halls of Congress, to her days as ambassador to the Vatican, Congresswoman Boggs has served our country and served as an inspiration to all of us who followed in her footsteps. As one who was privileged to succeed her in Congress in representing Louisiana's Second Congressional District, I have been particularly inspired by her work.

Congresswoman Boggs has enjoyed a well-deserved outpouring of love and gratitude in