

Thompson who has served through several conflicts and crises, or a host of others I do not know or have the room to remember here, the members of the United States Armed Forces are just regular people who in normal everyday life are mothers, fathers, neighbors, friends, businessmen, teachers, or just plain old folks like me.

These ordinary folks are called upon to do extraordinary duties during a time of war or crisis. They are not allowed the luxury of protesting a war. In fact, they are called upon to put their very life on the line in order to protect the right of the protester or to bring that right to the oppressed.

Attending the National Security Forum was a very humbling and very rewarding experience. If I learned anything while there, I learned that those serving in our military are an extremely impressive group of people. They do not take their duty lightly and they are very aware of all the costs of war and conflict. I also learned that our elected and military leaders know a lot more about our world and the perils we face than I do.

Wars have probably always been debated. While I believe the United States has a responsibility to the global community, I am not absolutely sure of what that responsibility should be. However, I trust our leaders to make the correct decisions based upon the evidence they face. I realize that I know little about world affairs or the evidence that brings our leaders to a decision to take military action. Only as our present circumstance with Iraq becomes history will we know the outcome. While I hope that history will show that the outcome was very positive, I cannot know that to be the case today.

This, however, I do know: I am certain that once a military action ensues, our leaders and the men and women of our military deserve our prayers, not our protests. There will always be time to debate the war. Now, however, more than ever, our leaders and especially those serving in the military deserve our prayers. But for the extraordinary circumstance they have been put into, these great Americans who are serving our country in the combat zone are just regular folks like us. They need us to lift them up in our thoughts and our prayers. In my opinion, through their personal sacrifice and service, these servants have earned it and they deserve it.

TRIBUTE TO AMERICAN LEGION
AUXILIARY UNIT NO. 44 OF MAR-
QUETTE, MI, RECOGNIZING THE
SUCCESS OF THEIR POPPY SALE
FUNDRAISING

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2003

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize a group in my district whose volunteers put in hundreds of hours every year to raise money for local veterans while encouraging public remembrance of veterans on Memorial Day.

The Richard M. Jopling American Legion Auxiliary Unit No. 44 of Marquette recently donated \$3,500 in proceeds from its annual poppy sale to the D.J. Jacobetti Veterans Home in Marquette. This money—a truly remarkable sum—will let the Jacobetti Home purchase two portable WelchAllyn machines, used to monitor a patient's vital signs and provide an extra margin of safety for patients needing that support.

There could be no better time than the present, when the welfare of all our veterans and military personnel are in the minds of every American, to recognize the contributions of the Marquette American Legion Auxiliary No. 44. In these times of tight budgets, the efforts of these sterling volunteer service organizations are also critical to meeting the needs of our nation's veterans.

The sight of the Auxiliary's red crepe-paper poppies signals the arrival of spring in Marquette and also reminds the public of the sacrifices our veterans have made to protect our freedom.

Mr. Speaker, American Legion Auxiliary Unit No. 44 of Marquette also sponsors birthday parties for residents of the Jacobetti Home every month of the year.

In addition to the poppy sales and the birthday parties, the Auxiliary supplies gifts for the Jacobetti Home Christmas "Gift Shop" and sponsors a ladies friendship group at the veteran's facility.

Mr. Speaker, the world is a better place thanks to groups like American Legion Auxiliary Unit No. 44 of Marquette. I ask you and our colleagues to join me in recognizing and applauding their efforts.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MAINE
SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL CONSTITU-
TION TEAM

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2003

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, 24 exceptional students from the 9th Congressional District are ready to compete against the smartest and the brightest from around the country in the National finals of the We the People...The Citizen and the Constitution. The 24 students, all seniors from Maine South High School in Park Ridge, IL, have recently won the Illinois State competition and will represent our great State in the national finals.

What does it take to make it into the finals of this prestigious contest? What does it take to make it this far? The answer is clear: Dedication, hard work, and countless hours reading, researching, and studying the great document that is the foundation of our democracy: the Constitution of the United States of America—the symbol of personal freedom and protection.

Each year, the "We the People" foundation hosts district, state and national level congressional-style hearings on the history and principles of Constitutional democracy in the United States. Participants are tested on their knowledge of the Constitution and its foundations and applications to our country.

The "We the People" contest is an invaluable learning experience for Maine South high school students and other students from around the country. The program helps promote democracy and encourages civic participation in the issues of critical importance to our freedoms by young men and women and I am hopeful they will carry those lessons with them into the future.

I would like to commend the students of Maine South High School's Constitution Team and their academic advisor Dan States for their hard work and great scholastic achieve-

ment, and I wish them the best of luck in the National Finals.

TRIBUTE TO THE CITY OF PLEASANT
RIDGE, MICHIGAN ON THEIR
75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2003

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to offer my congratulations to the City of Pleasant Ridge, its residents and its elected leadership, on the anniversary of the city's 75th year of incorporation.

The City of Pleasant Ridge is a beautiful bedroom community located, just north of the City of Detroit, in south Oakland County. With tree-lined streets, warmly cared for yards, and historic brick homes, the City of Pleasant Ridge is truly a "jewel" in the metropolitan area.

This settlement began in 1913 when Burt Taylor subdivided the Mayday farm. The settlement was incorporated as a village in 1921 and as a city in 1927. This city is now home to over 2,500 individuals and 1,000 families.

The City of Pleasant Ridge has a sense of community that can be seen at the bustling community center where they hold a variety of community events and classes, through the numerous community organizations and wide-ranging activities like the garden tours, auctions, scholarship grants to graduating high school students, active participation in the Woodward Avenue Dream Cruise and so many other wonderful community-wide activities.

The city has also had an impact beyond its borders in the Michigan community. Ashton Berst, an early City Administrator, was one of a dozen local government officials instrumental in forming the Michigan Municipal League. Pleasant Ridge is also the hometown of a former Member of Congress, and Governor of the State of Michigan, James Blanchard.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in sending every good wish to the City of Pleasant Ridge on their 75th anniversary. Indeed, they have much to be proud of. My heartiest congratulations to the residents, the community activists, and all of the members of the city administration. I look forward to many more years of working together, and being part of the fabric of this important community.

HONORING TERI JACKSON FOR
HER 17 YEARS OF SERVICE TO
THE GRAND PRAIRIE CITY COUNCIL

HON. MARTIN FROST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2003

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Teri Jackson of Grand Prairie. Teri has exemplified the finest qualities of leadership and service and today I wish to honor her for her 17 year commitment to the City Council and the citizens of Grand Prairie.

A life long resident of Grand Prairie, Teri began her service on the City Council in the