

world to commemorate the tragic and horrific events of the Holocaust as we observe Yom HaShoah. It has been 59 years to the day since the Jews of the Warsaw Ghetto rose in revolt against the Nazis. Perhaps now more than ever, the courage of these individuals to fight against anti-Semitism, racism, and prejudicial discrimination is to be honored and remembered.

On April 23, 1943, Jewish resistance fighters in the Warsaw Ghetto made their final appeal to the international community for assistance in their struggle against the Nazis. They wrote, "A battle is being waged for your freedom as well as ours. For you and our human, civic, and national honor and dignity." Indeed, these brave and courageous men, women, and children were correct, and we were wrong for allowing their appeals to go unanswered.

Sadly, the fight against bigotry is an ongoing struggle, as I well know from my own personal experience. I have experienced racism all over the world—in Europe, in the Middle East, in Asia and, of course, here in the United States. Today, anti-Semitism, racism, and xenophobia continue to plague humanity. Those of us who preach and practice tolerance recognize that the fight for equality and acceptance continues in the 21st century.

Jews throughout the world, more than 50 years after the Holocaust, are forced to combat insidious acts of anti-Semitism on a regular basis. Likewise, here in the U.S., we have come a long way since the blatant and institutionalized discrimination that was the norm for African-Americans a generation ago. However, in each case, we are certainly not home yet.

A few years ago, many believed that anti-Semitism was gradually declining and restricted to fringe elements of our society. However, recent developments suggest that there is a resurgent anti-Semitism with a much broader base that includes elements of the far right, the far left, and components of immigrant communities from North Africa and the Middle East.

In the Middle East itself, it appears that the stalled peace process has been a convenient excuse to allow anti-Semitism to become a staple of the media and mainstream politics. Also, in Europe, there has been a resurgence of anti-Semitic and race-based attacks and murders. While European governments have begun to crack down on this unfortunate reality, their initial smugness toward the problem was quite troubling. Now is not a time for us to be silent, and Europe and the Middle East are not places where we can afford to be complacent.

Mr. Speaker, we shall never forget the horrific crimes of murder and destruction committed by the Nazis; and we must commit ourselves to ensuring that future generations shall never be forced to endure the suffering, humiliation, and ultimate death experienced by the victims of the Holocaust. As this body honors these memories, we must commit ourselves—as a country and as human beings—to never allow the pleas of those in need to ever again go unanswered.

We have but one world, and we have been given the great responsibility to make it ours. People of all shapes and sizes, colors and religions have been placed here by powers far beyond us to live together. It is up to us to decide what we make of our time and our world. Thus, as we craft a world in which our children and grandchildren will grow up, the days of re-

ligious and racial intolerance must be left behind. For I refuse to live in a day and age where it is acceptable for bigotry and intolerance to trump acceptance and coexistence. We shall never forget.

GAY AND LESBIAN ACTIVISTS ALLIANCE OF WASHINGTON, DC
32ND ANNIVERSARY RECEPTION
HONORING DISTINGUISHED
SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 29, 2003

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a Washington, DC institution that has been in the forefront of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered civil rights movement, and that I have the distinct honor and pleasure of representing in this body: the Gay and Lesbian Activists Alliance of Washington, DC (GLAA), the oldest continuously active gay and lesbian rights organization in the United States.

Since its founding in April 1971, GLAA has been a respected and persistent advocate in District politics tirelessly asserting equal rights and social equality for lesbians and gay men living in the city.

GLAA has long fought to improve relations among the District's gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered communities and DC's public safety agencies. GLAA also has long been at the forefront of the efforts to strengthen enforcement of the DC Human Rights Act of 1977.

On April 15th, GLAA held its 32nd Anniversary Reception honoring the 2003 recipients of its Distinguished Service Awards: Councilmember Kathy Patterson; the Gay and Lesbian Liaison Unit of the Metropolitan Police Department; longtime District activist Karen Armagost; the Gay Men's Chorus of Washington, DC; and former GLAA President Bob Summersgill.

Councilmember Kathy Patterson has been an ally of gay citizens and a leading force for government reform and accountability. Councilmember Patterson wrote and secured passage of the law that established the DC Office of Human Rights as a separate, independent agency. She has supported strengthening diversity and sensitivity training in the police and fire departments and establishing an effective Office of Citizen Complaint Review.

DC Metropolitan Police Department Chief Charles Ramsey created the Gay and Lesbian Liaison Unit (GLLU) in June 2000. The work of Sgt. Brett Parson, head of the GLLU, and Ofc. Kelly McMurry, its founder, along with community volunteers, active, auxiliary and reserve police officers, has resulted in a dramatic improvement in community-police relations; an increase in the mutual respect of gay people and the police; and a focus on previously ignored problems in the community.

Karen Armagost has been an activist in Washington, DC for over fifteen years. As a professional canvasser, GLBT activist, and past President of the Gertrude Stein Democratic Club, Karen has exemplified the dedication and hard work that makes grassroots organizing a powerful political force. Karen

works for the repeal of the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy through the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network.

This year marks The Gay Men's Chorus of Washington, DC's 22nd Season. The Chorus has performed at inaugurations of a mayor and a president, and most recently performed in tribute to Elizabeth Taylor at the Kennedy Center Honors Gala before President and Mrs. Bush.

Bob Summersgill is the immediate past President of GLAA. He has led efforts to secure legal protection against harassment in our schools and workplaces; to open the DC HIV/AIDS Administration to public accountability; and to ensure the full rights of transgender and intersex people under the DC Human Rights Act.

GLAA's thirty-two year fight to secure equal rights for the LGBT citizens of Washington, DC is more poignant because it is being celebrated on April 15th. It is a reminder to us all that United States citizens living in our Nation's Capital, who have fought in every American war, including the present war in Iraq, are taxed without representation.

I ask the House to join me in congratulating the Gay and Lesbian Activists Alliance and its honorees.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO EDGEWOOD
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 29, 2003

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Edgewood Elementary School in Okemos, Michigan for its 39 years of service to the community. This institution has continuously provided a nurturing atmosphere of learning and support for all the staff that serve there and the students who pass through its doors.

Edgewood Elementary School has a history of academic excellence. In both 2001 and 2002, it received the Golden Apple Awards for high achievement, an honor presented by the State of Michigan. Yet the school provides more than just a space to learn. It is a trusted pillar in the neighborhood, a place where students, staff, parents, and community members come together and build lifelong relationships.

Mr. Speaker, Edgewood Elementary School's dedication to promoting superior education while fostering an environment of care is an example to all institutions. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing its many achievements.

INTRODUCTION OF THE HARMFUL
ALGAL BLOOM AND HYPOXIA
RESEARCH AMENDMENTS ACT
OF 2003

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 29, 2003

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, today, I am pleased to introduce the Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research Amendments Act of 2003. Harmful algal blooms and hypoxia are a significant threat to human health, commercial

fishing, and recreational water use throughout the United States. My legislation will authorize funding for research to improve our response to this threat and to develop a deeper understanding of these problems.

Harmful algal blooms occur in both marine and freshwater environments, and are often referred to as red tides or brown tides. These dense mats of algae produce toxins dangerous to aquatic life and to humans, some of which are so potent that eating just one contaminated mussel could result in anything from mild nausea to paralysis, and even death in some cases.

Hypoxia occurs when an algal bloom dies and is decomposed by bacteria in the water. This process depletes oxygen to levels so low they cannot support aquatic life, which decreases fisheries production and can produce terrible odors that make the water undesirable for recreational use.

It is estimated that harmful algal blooms cost the U.S. \$50 million a year, while hypoxia causes severe conditions in many locations, including the Gulf of Mexico, where a "dead" zone the size of New Jersey develops each summer.

Harmful algal blooms and hypoxia are also causing problems closer to my home region, the Great Lakes, where these events are more frequently fouling the water. In the past 30 years, major advances were made to improve Great Lakes water quality, but recently scientists have observed an increase in both harmful algal blooms and hypoxia. The reasons for this are unclear, but may be related to invasive species changing the way nutrients are cycled in the lakes.

In 1998, Congress passed the Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Act. The Act created a Task Force to examine these problems and authorized \$19 million annually for research and monitoring activities related to harmful algal blooms and hypoxia. This March, the Subcommittee on Environment, Technology and Standards, of which I serve as chairman, held a hearing on this subject and found that we need to expand our research efforts to include freshwater blooms, update our assessments of these threats every five years, and improve communication with local resource managers about these efforts. The legislation I am introducing today seeks to address these findings.

More specifically, the legislation expands the authorization of funding to \$30 million annually (over the next three years) for research and monitoring efforts on harmful algal blooms and hypoxia. It also requires the Task Force to develop research plans on previously overlooked aspects of harmful algal blooms and hypoxia, such as: Great Lakes harmful algal blooms; and prevention, control and mitigation methods to reduce the impact of harmful algal blooms.

This legislation also provides a mechanism for regional and local assessments of harmful algal blooms and hypoxia, because the causes of harmful algal blooms and hypoxia vary with regional water use, land use, and environment. Additionally, it increases the participation of local resource managers in this process, ensuring that our investment in research produces useful tools for the people dealing with the problems on a day-to-day basis.

The bill reauthorizes funding for programs that have been effective in improving our sci-

entific understanding of harmful algal blooms and hypoxia, namely the Ecology and Oceanography of Harmful Algal Blooms (ECOHAB) program and the Monitoring and Event Response to Harmful Algal Blooms (MERHAB) program. It also requires scientific assessments of harmful algal blooms and hypoxia on a regular basis, providing a means to continuously target our resources in an effective manner.

In conclusion, my legislation provides a research framework for addressing the nationwide problem of harmful algal blooms and hypoxia. It improves our ability to understand and predict harmful algal bloom events, adds the Great Lakes as an important area for harmful algal bloom and hypoxia research, and ensures the participation of local resource managers in developing research plans so that the research can be fully utilized by everyone concerned with these important issues. I have been working with my colleague from Ohio, Senator GEORGE VOINOVICH, who is introducing companion legislation in the Senate today. I look forward to working with all of my colleagues to pass this important bill.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MOUNTAIN
CREST HIGH SCHOOL ADVANCED
PLACEMENT AMERICAN GOVERNMENT
AND LAW CLASS

HON. ROB BISHOP

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2003

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mountain Crest High School's Advanced Placement American Government and Law class, in Hyrum Utah, for their achievement in the "We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution" competition. The class won their state competition in February and is currently preparing to participate on the National level soon.

In order to compete, the students had to establish a base knowledge of the Constitution and the workings of our government. They then prepared speeches concerning different aspects of the Constitution, the amendments, and significant Supreme Court cases. The topics range from the founding ideals of the young nation, to the values and principles embodied in the Constitution, Civil Rights, and the evolution of our current republican democracy.

In addition to acknowledging the hard work and dedication of these students, I would also like to recognize the work of their teacher Margaret Obry. She is an exemplary teacher who is devoted to educating all of her students. Together they represent Utah well.

As I believe the Constitution is a divinely inspired document I feel it is important for all Americans to know and defend its principles. The "We the People" program is an excellent way to get students involved in the Constitution and compete with others from around the country. Again, congratulations to the students of Mountain Crest.

VOLUNTEER SPIRIT IN COLUMBIA,
TENNESSEE

HON. LINCOLN DAVIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2003

Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, the backbone of a strong community is the people. I am proud to say that the volunteer spirit is alive and well in Columbia, Tennessee.

It was back in 1919 when Post 19 of the American Legion was established in Columbia. The following year Legion Auxiliary Unit 19 was chartered. Since their establishment both organizations have provided the city of Columbia, in Maury County, and many of the local citizens with a true sense of pride. Unit 19 was recently honored at the National Convention for their outstanding work in providing care to veterans.

The priorities of both organizations are not just associated with assisting our veterans. They also have a long history of providing services that directly benefit many youths. In the summer they sponsor different athletic events which helps foster teamwork and sportsmanship all while giving them a sense of self worth. They send individuals to attend Boy's State and Girl's State, which teaches leadership skills. They also award scholarships to individuals using funds they raise through bake sales, breakfasts, yard sales and so on.

During the 50th Anniversary of World War II legionnaires and auxiliary members made up a committee, appointed by the County Executive, to help celebrate the anniversary. They helped bring the history of those who served abroad and in the states to those generations who weren't alive during that period in our history. They are now doing the same to highlight the 50th Anniversary of the Korean War.

Recently, when the National Guard was called up for active duty these two organizations made sure they let the troops know they supported them. On the weekend before the Guard departed they hosted a breakfast and a lunch, and on the day of departure the members were at the armory to give them a proper sendoff.

I am proud to be a witness to the actions of Post and Unit 19 in Columbia, Tennessee. They are selfless in their pursuit of making our communities stronger and improving the lives of others.

HONORING SERGEANT FIRST
CLASS RANDY REHN

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I stand before you today to honor a man tragically taken from us while in the service of his country. Sergeant First Class Randy Rehn, a graduate of Niwot High School in Colorado, was killed while serving in the conflict in Iraq. In the Army, Randy directed a crew that operated a Multiple Launch Rocket System. I am truly humbled to honor him before this body of Congress and this nation. The sacrifice of Randy and his fellow soldiers will be long remembered by our grateful Nation.