

amazing progress toward democratization has created a unique opportunity to further strengthen the ties between Eastern Europe and America's heartland. I believe this new local consul's office can be the catalyst for further interaction, understanding and mutual appreciation.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate and thank Sharon K. Valášek, the honorary consul of the Czech Republic to Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska, for helping to establish an official Consulate of the Czech Republic in Kansas City.

I also wish to thank the distinguished ambassador from the Czech Republic, Mr. Martin Palouš, and welcome him to Kansas City. I hope that our two nations can continue to cooperate and thrive while strengthening our bonds of friendship and commerce.

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR GENERAL
JAMES P. CZEKANSKI

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 4, 2003

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to our country and the community of Riverside, California are exceptional. This country has been fortunate to have dedicated individuals who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent and make this country a safer and better place to live. Major General James P. Czekanski is one of these individuals. On Saturday, August 23, 2003, he will be honored as he departs from March Air Reserve Base in Riverside, California.

In 1968, Major General Czekanski, after receiving his Bachelor's Degree in history from the University of Massachusetts, attended undergraduate pilot training at Williams Air Force Base in Arizona. After completing school he attended Sewart Air Force Base in Tennessee for C-130 combat crew training and then became a tactical airlift pilot for three years at Pope Air Force Base in North Carolina in 1969. He served at Ubon Royal Thai Air Force Base in Thailand as an AC-130A Gunship aircraft commander from 1972 to 1974 at which time he attended Squadron Officer School. Over the next 4 years he would serve in various positions before obtaining his Master's degree in counseling and human development from Troy State University. In 1981 he completed Air War College.

Over the next 20 years Major General Czekanski served in numerous commands throughout the country as Chief of Tactical Airlift Operations, Commander, Vice Commander and Senior Air Reserve Technician, Inspector General, and Director of Operations. In August of 2000 he was assigned to March Air Reserve Base in Riverside, California as Commander of the 4th Air Force, Air Force Reserve Command. He has accumulated more than 7,500 hours of flight time and has flown numerous aircraft including the C-5A, C-141A/B/E/H, AC-130A, HC-130H/N/P, and KC135R.

Throughout his distinguished career Major General Czekanski has received over 20 major awards and decorations including the Legion of Merit with two oak leaf clusters;

Meritorious Service Medal with oak leaf cluster; Air Force Outstanding Unit Award; National Defense Service Medal with service star; Vietnam Service Medal; and Kuwait Liberation Medal from both Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. In addition to his dedication to his military career, Major General Czekanski is a member of the Air Force Association, the Reserve Officer Association, the Order of the Daedalians and the Airlift and Tanker Association.

Major General Czekanski's tireless passion for service to country and community has contributed immensely to the betterment of our nation and to the community of Riverside, California. I am honored and proud to call him a fellow community member, American and friend. I know that many community members are grateful for his service and salute him as he moves on to the next chapter of his life.

IN RECOGNITION OF INSPECTOR
HENRY KADEN ON HIS RETIREMENT
FROM THE UNION CITY
POLICE DEPARTMENT

HON. ROBERT MENEDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 4, 2003

Mr. MENEDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Inspector Henry Kaden on his retirement from the Union City Police Department after 27 years of serving and protecting the public.

Inspector Kaden began his career with the Union City Police Department in 1976. In 1984, he was promoted to detective in the Crime Prevention Bureau, where he served until he became sergeant in 1985. In 1988, Inspector Kaden became commander of the Crime Prevention Unit, and, in 1989, he was promoted to lieutenant. After serving as lieutenant for eight years, he was promoted to captain in 1998, and finally, earned the rank of inspector in July, 2002.

Before his service with the Department, Inspector Kaden served in the United States Army from December 1966 to December 1968. From May 1967 until May 1968, during the Tet Offensive, Henry Kaden served in Vietnam.

Inspector Kaden has been the recipient of a number of awards and recognitions for his outstanding service to the public. In 1989, he received the McGruff Award for the National Night Out Program; in 1990, he was named Police Officer of the Year by the Knights of Columbus; in 1991, he was named a National Night Out "All Star"; and, from 1991 to 1993, his National Night Out Committee was awarded National Honors for representing a top state in the country for neighborhood safety.

Inspector Kaden has received four Medals of Valor and two Life Saving Awards from the Union City Police Department; seven Excellent Police Service Awards; two Honorable Service Awards; a Wound Medal, and two Unit Citations for his work on the Crime Prevention Bureau and as Detective Bureau Commander. The State of New Jersey awarded him with a Distinguished Service Medal and the Vietnam 25th Anniversary Commemorative Medal in 2002.

Inspector Kaden is a graduate of Emerson High School in Union City, New Jersey.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Inspector Henry Kaden for his 27

years of service with the Union City Police Department.

RECOGNITION OF THE 13TH ANNI-
VERSARY OF THE SIGNING OF
THE AMERICANS WITH DISABIL-
ITIES ACT INTO LAW

HON. KATHERINE HARRIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 4, 2003

Ms. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate a landmark civil rights anniversary in American history, which passed after we had adjourned for the District Work Period in July. Thirteen years ago, the first President Bush signed the Americans with Disabilities Act into law, launching a new era in our nation's everlasting journey towards equal opportunity for all.

This long-overdue legislation finally breathed life into the principle that every American has the right to be a full and equal participant in our society.

As Florida's Secretary of State, I was blessed to have the opportunity to apply the mission of the ADA to the cause of election reform. Beginning with my appointment of a Select Task Force in 2001, we worked to remove the obstacles that prevented persons with disabilities in Florida from enjoying the sanctity of the secret ballot and the civic majesty of going to the polls on Election Day.

Thanks to powerful advocates from Florida's disabilities community like Pam Dorwarth, Doug Towne, and Richard LaBelle as well as the skilled leadership of Colonel Charley Price in mobilizing our veterans with disabilities, Florida became the first state in the nation to pass wide-ranging legislation vindicating the voting rights of persons with disabilities.

As we celebrate how far we have come, we must not forget how many miles we still must travel to truly secure for every American the rights and privileges that most of us take for granted.

SARGE FRYE OBITUARY

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 4, 2003

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today many South Carolinians mourn the loss of Sarge Frye, who died yesterday of heart failure at the age of 90. I ask that his obituary be included in the RECORD, as printed today in the State newspaper.

[From the State, Sept. 4, 2003]

COLUMBIA.—Mr. Frye died Wednesday, September 3, 2003. Born in Medon, Tennessee, he was a son of the late Leonard A. Frye and Pearl Daniel Frye Allin. A combat veteran of World War II and Korea, he landed at Utah Beach on D-Day. He was decorated with two Bronze Stars, a Purple Heart, and Combat Infantry Badge. He retired in 1953 as a master sergeant after 23 years of service in the U.S. Army. While serving in the Armed Forces, Sarge was an outstanding athlete, participating in basketball, baseball, softball and track as a player and coach. He met his wife, Ruby, while stationed in Alabama. The

family later moved to Columbia's Fort Jackson, where he was responsible for athletic facilities. Mrs. Frye died in 1997.

It was in 1953 that he came to work for the University of South Carolina and was placed in charge of athletic facilities. His duties were expanded to include supervision of grounds for the entire university. South Carolina named its baseball facility, "Sarge Frye Field" in 1980 to honor its groundskeeper. The American Baseball Coaches Association named Frye National Groundskeeper of the Year in 1993. Sarge retired in 1977, but continued to supervise operations through mid-1997. In addition to groundskeeping and landscaping duties, Sarge operated the game clock for men's and women's basketball games at the Carolina Coliseum for many years.

Sarge Frye was inducted into the USC Athletic Hall of Fame and the South Carolina Athletic Hall of Fame. He was an honorary member of the USC Association of Lettermen and the USC Alumni Association.

Surviving are his daughter, Nancy Frye Stiehr of Columbia; son, Jerry L. Frye and his wife, Jayne, of Greenville; sister, Norma Pope of Dallas, Texas; brothers, Kenneth Frye of Jackson, Tenn., Huey Frye of Florida, and Martin Allin of Bolivar, Tenn.; four grandchildren, Jay L. Frye and his wife, Kim, of Columbia, Mamie Frye Clayton and her husband, Richard, of Columbia, Debbie Stiehr Smith and her husband, Allen, of Charlotte, and Eric Stiehr and his wife, Marianne, of Columbia; and five great-grandchildren, Cole and Tucker Smith, Mary-Riley, Heyward and Emma Clayton. He was predeceased by a son-in-law, Pete Stiehr.

A TRIBUTE TO GEOFFREY ARONOW—OUTGOING PRESIDENT OF THE AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION FOR THE NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA

HON. ARTUR DAVIS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 4, 2003

Mr. DAVIS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, in February of this year, I joined with individuals from the President's Committee of the American Civil Liberties Union of the National Capital Area for dinner at the home of two of its members, Charlie Cerf and Cynthia Dunbar.

On that occasion, I learned a great deal about the activities of this particular Affiliate of the National ACLU, and I met and talked with its President, Geoffrey Aronow. I found him to be a person who is very committed to preserving and protecting civil liberties. I understand that Mr. Aronow recently retired from his position as President, and I believe it is important that we pause, acknowledge his dedicated service and thank him for his untiring and selfless work in behalf of the cause of defending our Constitution.

These are indeed difficult times, times that challenge us in many ways, puzzling and unpredictable times. Mr. Aronow's presidency spanned the months and now years since the events of September 11th, 2001. I have come to learn that, through it all, he has been steadfast, unwavering, unequivocal and unambiguous in his words as well as his deeds when matters of the Bill of Rights are at stake. He appreciates that the legal experience in America is enriched and venerated by citizens and non-citizens alike because our history is one

of fierce defense of the liberties guaranteed by the first Ten Amendments.

Mr. Speaker, America is not great due to our advanced technology, our many resources or our military might. Those things make us strong. They do not make us great. America is great because of citizens like Geoffrey Aronow, the best and the brightest we have to offer, the most noble, those of unparalleled integrity. He deserves our appreciation for a job well done.

NWOKOMA SAMPSON AND THE MICROSOFT/AAPD FEDERAL INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 4, 2003

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to your attention and to the attention of my colleagues the outstanding summer internship program that has been implemented by the American Association of People with Disabilities [AAPD] and Microsoft Corporation. This Federal Internship Program provides ten college students—including Nwokoma Sampson, of Merriam, Kansas, which is in my congressional district—with paid summer internships this year working in information technology for one of several participating agencies of the U.S. government.

Nwokoma Sampson attended California State University at Northridge [CSUN], where he was the first black deaf student to graduate with a computer science degree. This internship gave him a means to expand upon the experience he gained in previous internships and on his general technology experience. I am confident that the internship has also afforded him the chance to become familiar with the federal government's working environment and to obtain knowledge that will be an invaluable tool for his evaluation when applying for permanent federal positions. I am including with this statement an article about Nwokoma's experiences that was recently published in the Kansas City Star.

As Mariana Nork with the American Association of People with Disabilities has described their joint effort with Microsoft, "This is a unique program because it's focused on people with disabilities. This program provides opportunities for the interns, but it is also a great chance for the participating public agencies to learn more about people with disabilities and to realize that there's a wide pool of untapped talent in the disabled community." Microsoft and AAPD developed a two-year program to provide 25 paid information technology internships to college students with disabilities in ten different federal agencies, with Microsoft providing \$325,000 to fund the program and AAPD overseeing the program's administration. The grant provides each student with a stipend, free accessible housing and transportation, and any costs related to arranging special worksite accommodations that may be necessary. The program is open to any college or university student who has a disability and has demonstrated an interest in a career in information technology. Participating agencies have included the Social Security Administration, the U.S. Department of Transportation and the U.S. Department of Defense.

Established in 1995, the AAPD is the largest cross-disability membership organization in the United States, with over 40,000 members. AAPD's mission is the political and economic empowerment of the more than 56 million people in the United States living with disabilities. I commend AAPD and Microsoft for their joint effort to develop and implement this important federal internship program, which has enhanced opportunities for several disabled individuals, including my constituent, Nwokoma Sampson.

[From the Kansas City Star, July 30, 2003]
STUBBORNLY SEEKING SUCCESS: MERRIAM MAN HASN'T LET DEAFNESS OR HIS START IN WEST AFRICAN POVERTY STOP HIM

(By Kati Jividen)

Call him Nwokoma Sampson or Oma Sampson. He is both. A hearing man. A deaf man. That's according to his resumes.

"I did get some response from the one I posted using Oma without indicating that I am deaf," the 34-year-old Merriam man wrote in an online chat. "But whenever I reply to the recruiter seeking to do an interview, and I tell them I am deaf, I hardly hear from them again." It's discouraging—Sampson won't lie. But, like everything else that has happened in his life, he is not going to sit back and be a quiet observer. He'll let someone else do that.

"When I was at CSUN (California State University-Northridge), deaf students who were enrolled in computer science program with me dropped out," he wrote. "By the time we reached our second year, I found myself all alone and struggling to the end. I guess that is why my parents believe that I am stubborn, but I need to be stubborn with my problems in order to overcome them." Sampson, who was born in the jungle of West Africa, grew up in poverty. After earning a graphic design diploma in Lagos, Nigeria, he put everything behind him and moved to America "in search of the American dream or rather the proverbial golden fleece," he wrote.

In Nigeria, Sampson was the first deaf student to attend the Yaba College of Technology. He also is the first black deaf student to graduate with a degree in computer science from Cal-State-Northridge. Plus, he wrote, English is his third language behind sign language and Igbo, a language spoken by the Igbo tribe of Nigeria. "Nigeria had little opportunity for me," wrote Sampson, who shares his home with his wife of almost one year, Mei Yuk Maggie Sampson, a counselor at Kansas School for the Deaf in Olathe.

"Actually, I wanted to study medicine, but Nigeria university at that time did not accept deaf students. Neither do they provide interpreters for deaf students at the university level. I had to choose graphic design, which depends more on vision, so that I could teach myself and survive in the class without too much trouble."

He found himself in the same predicament at Cal-State where he recently graduated with a computer science degree and \$50,000 in debt. "I could not work and go to school because I had to teach myself everything and even study during summer breaks in advance for the classes I am going to enroll in the following semester," Sampson wrote. But now that Sampson has earned his degree (six years in the making) he is able to spend this summer on an information technology internship in Washington, D.C. He is living in a dorm room at George Washington University, working with the Federal Emergency Management Agency. He has helped with the agency's transition to the Department of Homeland Security.