

charged with providing fully trained, combat ready forces to support United States and NATO commanders in regions of conflict throughout the world.

On September 11, 2001, the world changed. As America prepared to go to war, I for one, was pleased to know that Admiral Natter was leading the Atlantic Fleet's 160,000 Sailors and Marines, 162 ships and 1,200 aircraft, as well as 18 major shore stations providing training, maintenance and logistics support.

Then on October 1, 2001, Admiral Natter was assigned additional responsibility as the first Commander of the newly established U.S. Fleet Forces Command, which is responsible for manning, equipping and training all Atlantic and Pacific Fleet ships and aircraft squadrons. His strong and dynamic leadership inspired Atlantic Fleet Sailors, officers, and civilians to perform their best and contribute their utmost during a time of unprecedented military action that resulted in the overwhelming success in the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Admiral Natter's was truly an amazing career that was recognized by numerous personal awards and decorations. In addition to the Silver Star and Purple Heart, Admiral Natter's personal decorations include three awards of the Distinguished Service Medal, the Defense Superior Service Medal, five awards of the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star Medal with Combat V, two awards of the Meritorious Service Medal, the Navy Commendation Medal with Combat V, and the Navy Achievement Medal with Combat V. He was also a distinguished graduate of the U.S. Naval War College, and he earned Masters Degrees in Business Management and International Relations. And, he was honored as the fifth recipient of the Naval War College's annual Distinguished Graduate Leadership Award.

His career clearly speaks for itself. Admiral Natter personifies the Navy's core values: Honor, Courage, and Commitment. But, what his bio doesn't tell you is that through it all, Bob was, above all, a family man. He is a loving husband to his beautiful wife Claudia, and a dedicated father to his three children Kelly, Courtney and Kendall. Anyone that knows Bob, knows that he lives for his family and his children are truly the "glimmer in Dad's eye."

Admiral Natter is a family man, a patriot, a hero, and a superb naval officer who, throughout his naval career, led with courage and integrity. His leadership and performance in peacetime and war were instrumental in the success of the Navy and outstanding support for naval forces throughout the world. Thanks to his inspirational leadership and selfless dedication to duty, our Navy has remained second to none.

So, as Admiral Natter moves into retirement with Claudia, our Nation and Navy owe him a debt of gratitude for his superb service. I wish him fair winds and following seas as he concludes his distinguished career.

TRIBUTE TO ARCATA ASSOCIATES FOR RECOGNITION AS NASA'S MINORITY SUBCONTRACTOR OF THE YEAR

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 30, 2003

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate an outstanding company, Arcata Associates, Inc., for being named the 2003 NASA Minority Subcontractor of the Year. Arcata, which employs a number of people in my Northern Alabama congressional district, provides important services used at NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center and across all of NASA.

Arcata CEO and President Tim Wong accepted this award on behalf of all the Arcata employees for their outstanding subcontracted work providing interactive, multimedia services, imaging services, and audio/visual communications under the Program Information Systems Mission Services Contract, and video/voice teleconferencing support under the Consolidated Space Operations Contract.

Under the leadership of Tim Wong, and with strong guidance from Mark Emery, the Huntsville site has helped Arcata Associates become a model for small businesses in North Alabama and across our Nation. The first-rate services that they provide to Marshall and all of NASA play a vital role in the success of our Nation's space and aeronautics programs.

Mr. Speaker, today I wanted to take this opportunity on behalf of the people of North Alabama, to congratulate Tim Wong, Mark Emery, and all the employees of Arcata Associates, Inc. on a job well done and for being named the 2003 NASA Minority Subcontractor of the Year.

FREE LEONARDO MIGUEL BRUZON AVILA

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 30, 2003

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of a political prisoner in Cuba. Today I ask Congress to remember the name Leonardo Miguel Bruzon Avila.

Mr. Bruzon Avila is currently incarcerated without trial in Castro's inhumane prison system because he desires freedom. Mr. Bruzon Avila is the president of the 24th of February Movement, named for both the commencement of the glorious Cuban War of Independence in 1895, and the day in 1996 when two civilian aircraft carrying four members of the Brothers to the Rescue movement were shot down over international waters by the Cuban dictatorship's fighter jets. The 24th of February movement desires and struggles for freedom in Cuba.

Mr. Bruzon Avila was jailed on February 22, 2002, two days before he was set to peacefully commemorate the day when Castro's regime murdered four innocent human beings in 1996. Mr. Bruzon Avila has yet to be taken to trial.

Mr. Bruzon Avila began his first hunger strike on March 15, 2002 to protest the fact

that he had not yet been charged with any crime. On August 27, 2002 Mr. Bruzon Avila and 26 others began a second hunger strike to demand they be informed of the charges against them or released at once.

Mr. Bruzon Avila's health has been rapidly deteriorating. According to reports, Mr. Bruzon Avila is suffering from vitamin deficiency, he is losing his vision, and he can no longer move his right arm. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Bruzon Avila is dying in Castro's gulag.

Mr. Speaker, Leonardo Miguel Bruzon Avila is in a dungeon because he desires freedom for Cuba. If Mr. Bruzon Avila continues to deteriorate, he will die for his love for a free Cuba.

My colleagues, we must cry out for the immediate release of Leonardo Bruzon Avila and all prisoners of conscience in the totalitarian Cuban gulag.

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN COMMEMORATIVE COIN ACT OF 2003

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 30, 2003

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the "Benjamin Franklin Commemorative Coin Act of 2003." This legislation will direct the Secretary of the Treasury to produce a limited edition silver coin to honor the many achievements of Ben Franklin and celebrate the anniversary of his 300th birthday in January 2006.

Ben Franklin was one of the most remarkable of our founding fathers; he made historic contributions to our nation in a number of fields: government, business, science, communications, and the arts. Mr. Speaker, as I stand before you in the great halls of Congress, it is notable to recognize that Franklin was the only Founding Father to sign all of our nation's organizational documents.

It is fitting to honor Franklin with a commemorative coin, as his role in the early years of currency cannot be overlooked. During the American Revolution, Franklin designed the first American coin, the "Continental" penny. He also played a major role in the design of the Great Seal of the United States, which appears on the one dollar bill. Franklin was the printer of official currency for the colonies of my great state, Delaware, as well as Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Maryland. Furthermore, the official United States half dollar from 1948 to 1963 bore Franklin's portrait. Until 1979, Benjamin Franklin was the only non-president of the United States whose image graced circulating coin and paper currency.

In 2002, the United States Congress passed the "Benjamin Franklin Tercentenary Act" to create a panel of distinguished Americans to commemorate Franklin's 300th birthday in 2006. I am proud to serve as a member of the Benjamin Franklin Tercentenary Commission which was created to honor a true American statesman. I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this legislation and look forward to working with the Financial Services Committee to bring this bill to the House Floor.