

Coy Wire is an outstanding example to the Hamburg community. His Coy Wire Foundation has been established to promote education and character building with initiatives that encourage spiritual awareness. Coy has shown by example the positive and uplifting impact of an individual's emphasis on character.

Tonight's Town Meeting theme, Crusade 4 Character, underscores the assembled community's belief that the concept of good character has gained widespread support throughout the town.

There literally are signs of character everywhere in the Town of Hamburg. My good friend and restaurateur Mike DiPaolo has initiated character recognition awards for his employees at Illo DiPaolo's restaurant; Our local community newspaper The Sun has shared these employees' stories and other examples of character with the community. Places of worship throughout Hamburg have promoted character traits on bulletin boards, bulletins and newsletters. Character displays have been placed throughout school buildings and there have been dedicated efforts by students and teachers to recognize good character traits. There has been local government support by resolution in the Town of Hamburg and the Villages of Blasdell and Hamburg. The Hamburg Town Board has initiated character recognition at public meetings and last but not least the Civic Community has generated volunteers to assist in the coordination of character initiatives throughout the community.

These are but a few of the many community wide efforts to encourage residents of Hamburg to embrace good character.

Mr. Speaker, today I would like to join with the founders and supporters of Character First as they examine their past and look toward the future. I would encourage my colleagues to raise the awareness of good character in their community. Our nation will only grow stronger when individual citizens embrace character within their own lives.

RECOGNIZING STEPHEN OLDER
FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF
EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 6, 2003

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Stephen Older, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 395, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Stephen has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the six years Stephen has been involved with scouting, he has earned 28 merit badges and has held numerous leadership positions, serving as Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, Assistant Patrol Leader, Patrol Leader, Senior Patrol Leader, and Troop Guide. Stephen is also a Tom-Tom Beater in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say.

For his Eagle Scout project, Stephen designed, implemented, and installed a stone retaining wall at the Pine Ridge Presbyterian Church. He oversaw almost forty scouts and adults during the month long project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Stephen Older for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

VETERANS DAY 2003

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 6, 2003

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, throughout our history, the freedom we enjoy has faced serious threats time and time again. But because our courageous military personnel were willing to go into battle and risk all they had, our independence and our liberties have remained strongly intact for over 200 years.

It is crucial that we take time to pay tribute to those responsible for our freedoms and I am proud to stand on the House floor today—as Veterans Day draws close—to recognize America's 25 million living veterans and their fallen brothers and sisters.

In Congress, I am honored to serve over 61,000 military veterans from California's 53rd Congressional District. It is truly a privilege to represent so many of America's greatest heroes and to spend so much time working on their behalf.

As I meet with my veterans, I am always amazed with their stories and to learn about their heroics on the battlefield.

Just last month, I heard from a constituent, who as a young man, enlisted in the Army in 1941 and was immediately sent to the South Pacific to fight the Japanese in World War II.

His name is Chief Warrant Officer Michael Campbell, and now 86 years old, he lives in San Diego with his wife, Priscilla. Mr. Campbell's experiences illustrate what millions of our veterans had to endure when they were sent to war.

The Army deployed him to a region where the fighting was extremely intense and the Japanese inflicted severe casualties on our soldiers and took many as prisoners.

Warrant Officer Campbell fought courageously as both a rifleman and a machine gunner in the Philippines, but in 1942, his unit was captured and he too was taken as a Prisoner of War.

This brave young soldier spent the next three years in the harshest conditions you can imagine. He was transferred to several different internment camps and was forced to perform slave labor in a steel mill building supplies for the Japanese Army along side hundreds of other allied soldiers.

By the time the war had come to an end and he was liberated, Warrant Officer Campbell felt lucky to have his life. Hundreds of his brothers who were taken prisoner starved to death or died from other causes.

It took several weeks of medical care in a San Francisco military hospital before Mr. Campbell could recover from what he had experienced.

However—despite what he had endured—this courageous young man quickly reenlisted in the Army and dedicated another 30 years to his Nation. He said he did this because he loved the military and loved serving his country.

It is this kind of amazing resolve that has defeated our enemies and has kept the United States strong. I am pleased for the opportunity to thank Warrant Officer Campbell and his fellow veterans for dedicating their lives to protect our freedoms and our liberties.

Now that we are about to observe another Veterans Day, I ask my colleagues to seriously consider what we owe to them. Are we repaying the debt?

Mr./Madam Speaker, I strongly believe we could improve our treatment of our greatest heroes.

Just recently, we have had the opportunity to increase funding for Veterans' Affairs health care. Unfortunately, though veterans nationwide expressed their strong support, we failed to provide VA health care with the increase it needs. We all know in this body that the health care system veterans rely upon will go under funded in 2004 because we did not act properly.

We currently have another opportunity before us, Mr./Madam Speaker, to end what has come to be known as the Disabled Veterans Tax. I remain hopeful that during the 108th Congress, we can pass strong concurrent receipt legislation and provide the veterans who have made the most unimaginable sacrifices with both the disability and retirement payments they earned and deserve.

I am afraid that any proposal that provides concurrent payments to only a small portion of veterans is not good enough. I ask my colleagues to speak directly to their veterans about this issue and let them decide what kind of legislation will be fair for their brothers and sisters.

Finally, Mr./Madam Speaker, I would just like to take a moment to reiterate my dedication to our Nation's retired military personnel. We can never take for granted the sacrifices our brave men and women in uniform have made on our behalf.

HONORING DALE K. OUZTS FOR
HIS CAREER ACHIEVEMENTS

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 6, 2003

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to recognize Dale K. Ouzts for a legacy of distinguished service to The Ohio State University and the people of Ohio. Dale is retiring after 24 years at Ohio State, including 23 as General Manager of the WOSU Stations and Director of The Ohio State University Telecommunication Center. His hard work, enthusiasm, and leadership have contributed immensely to the quality of life in Central Ohio.

Dale's accomplishments place him high atop the list of Who's Who in public broadcasting. Notable undertakings during his long career include the Chairmanship of the Board of Directors of National Public Radio, a position as the Executive Vice President and General Manager of KPTS-TV in Wichita, Kansas, a lecturer at the Beijing Broadcasting Institute in Beijing, China, and a consultant for the U.S. Information Agency to help Romanian broadcasters transition to Capitalism.

Perhaps more impressive than Dale's lengthy résumé of achievements is the impact his hard work and service have had in our