

trustee for the Cleveland Bar Association, Lake Erie College, and the Black Women's Political Committee. For her outstanding contribution to the legal profession, Judge Blackmon has been awarded numerous personal and professional awards, including her induction into the Ohio Women's Hall of Fame, and the 1996 Alumni of the Year Award from Cleveland-Marshall College of Law.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in paying tribute to Judge Patricia Ann Blackmon, as she is being honored on February 5, 2004, by the 14th Annual Strong Men & Women: Excellence in Leadership series, sponsored by Dominion East Ohio. Judge Blackmon's professional excellence and accomplishment as a distinguished attorney and judge serves as a beacon of hope and light for people of all races so they may visualize and realize their dreams. And Judge Blackmon's journey from Mississippi to Ohio reflects tenacity, integrity, dreams and hope, and she continues to inspire us all.

HONORING BRIGADIER GENERAL  
BRADFORD C. BRIGHTMAN ON  
THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

**HON. JO BONNER**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 25, 2004*

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize one of the exemplary servicemen who has served the great State of Alabama and our country in ensuring freedom for the American people. Brigadier General Bradford C. Brightman has not only offered his knowledge and expertise to the Nation while serving, but he has taught the men and women who have served under him to do the same. Today I wish to recognize his numerous accomplishments and honor his distinguished career on the occasion of his retirement from the United States Army.

General Brightman served our country for 1 year as a combat engineer enlisted man and then was commissioned on May 16, 1969, after completing the United States Army Engineer Officer Candidate School. He served on active duty from May 1969 until July 1975, during which time he spent 19 months of combat aviation duty with the 1st Aviation Brigade in Vietnam. He also served as an Operations Officer and Flight Instructor at the United States Army Aviation School, Fort Rucker, Alabama, before leaving active duty in August 1975 and joining the Alabama National Guard.

As a member of the National Guard, General Brightman served his country in a number of aviation unit assignments and in staff positions with group and higher headquarters. These positions have also included assignments as the Deputy Commander of the 62nd Troop Command in Montgomery and Commander of the 226th Area Support Group in Mobile, Alabama.

General Brightman has received numerous awards during his service including the Bronze Star Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Air Medal, the Army Reserve Components Achievements Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal, and the Humanitarian Service Medal. He has also been awarded the Armed Forces Reserve

Medal, the Army Service Ribbon, the Army Reserve Components Overseas Training Ribbon, the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, the Republic of Vietnam Civil Action Unit Citation, Master Army Aviator Badge, Senior Army Aviator Badge, Veterans Service Medal of Alabama, Special Service Medal of Alabama, and the Faithful Service Medal of Alabama.

In addition to his successful military career, General Brightman has also achieved success in the academic arena, earning a degree in civil engineering from Auburn University in 1977 and his MBA from Troy State University in 1985. He attended three military educational facilities including Army Command and General Staff College, Associate Logistics Executive Development Course, and the Army War College. In 1992, General Brightman received the United States Civilian Achievement Award for his participation in the writing of the Panama Canal Treaty Implementation Plan. Currently, General Brightman works as a Senior Project Manager with a management and engineering services company in Mobile.

Mr. Speaker, Brigadier General Bradford C. Brightman has selflessly offered his life and services for his country. It is for this devotion that I would like to extend our most sincere thanks and gracious appreciation on the occasion of his retirement. While the United States Army National Guard will certainly miss the benefit of his leadership and experience, I know I join with his family and many friends and colleagues in wishing him continued success in the years ahead.

TRIBUTE TO THE TULLY BOYS  
VARSITY CROSS-COUNTRY TEAM

**HON. JAMES T. WALSH**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 25, 2004*

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute to the Tully boys varsity cross-country team. The team had an outstanding season, capturing the class D State title. Tully posted the meet's low score of 38 points, beating their closest opponent, Oakfield-Alabama by 42 points.

Seniors Lopez Lomong and Dominic Luka led their team to victory with a 1-2 finish. Other runners who placed for the State championship team were senior Bennett Hillenbrand in 20th place, freshman Tommy Miexell in 28th place, and Matt Kinne in 42nd place. These young men led their team to the second State championship in school history by a Tully athletic team.

The team includes Greg Hartnett, Tommy Miexell, Scott Vandermelon, Mike Heyman, Jeremiah Fraser, Casey Knapp, Brent Hartnett, Matt Kinne, Justin Rood, Travis Kushner, Kevin Easton, Dan Hatch, Rune Anderson, Lopez Lomong, Dominic Luka, Bennett Hillenbrand, Zac Long, and Pat Jordan. The team is coached by Jim Paccia. These young men are a source of pride to our community and should be commended for their hard work and dedication.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO WALTER  
PREDOVICH

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 25, 2004*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise before you to pay tribute to a remarkable man from my district. Walter Predovich of Pueblo, Colorado recently passed away at the age of eighty-four. He will always be remembered as a devoted family man and highly respected attorney throughout the state. I would like to ask my colleagues to please join me in remembering his life before this body of Congress and this Nation today.

Walter began his career by answering his nation's call to duty in serving his country in the Navy. After an honorable discharge, he returned to Colorado to graduate from Colorado College and later the University of Denver School of Law. He went on to practice law for more than half a century and retired as a senior partner in the law firm of Predovich, Ward and Banner. Walter was also passionate about the arts, and served on the board of directors of the Denver Center for the Performing Arts, where he had been president and chief operating officer for almost fifteen years. He is survived by his wife and best friend of fifty-seven years, Marjorie, their two sons, Walter and David, and two grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to rise before this body of Congress and this nation to pay tribute to the wonderful life of Walter Predovich. Walter was a beloved man who made a tremendous impact on his community through his many years of service in his profession and to the performing arts. Walter's love of family and community service is truly a model to us all. The Pueblo community and the State of Colorado will truly miss Walter, and my thoughts go out to his family during this difficult time of bereavement.

HONORING CLEVELAND READS—  
GREATER CLEVELAND'S LITERACY COALITION

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 25, 2004*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Cleveland Reads, as they enter into their seventeenth year of offering the gift of literacy to thousands of Greater Clevelanders. For many children and adults, learning to read and write also brings a significant sense of accomplishment, self-esteem, and the promise and possibility of a renewed and brighter future.

Established in 1987, Cleveland Reads, a non-profit organization, has consistently worked to draw individuals, businesses and agencies into their volunteer literacy projects and campaign. Recently, Cleveland Reads was awarded a significant monetary grant from the United Parcel Service (UPS). The UPS award will enable the agency to enhance their existing volunteer outreach programs, and will also be used to create an effective tutoring model that will be initiated within our community's literacy coalition.