

IN MEMORY OF LANCE CPL.
TRAVIS J. LAYFIELD

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Lance Cpl. Travis J. Layfield. Travis, a 19-year-old resident of Fremont, California, served his country with honor in the United States Marines. Sadly, he was killed during a firefight in the Anbar Province of Western Iraq on Tuesday, April 6, 2004.

The 2003 graduate of Washington High School has become a hero to all of us for his service with the 2nd Battalion, 4th Marines, 1st Marine Division, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force out of Camp Pendleton in southern California.

Travis entered ROTC while in junior high school and was totally focused on a career in the Marine Corps. Last year he completed 12 weeks of basic training at the Marine Corps recruit depot in San Diego. He left for the Middle East in February 2003, first heading to Kuwait and later Iraq.

There has been a tremendous outpouring of love and respect for Travis from his classmates and friends at his high school alma mater, Washington High School, as well as the entire community of Fremont, California, who are mourning the loss of this proud young marine.

We shall long remember Lance Cpl. Travis J. Layfield. He gave his life for peace and democracy and died, as a noble marine, serving our country. Our prayers and thoughts are with his family.

HONORING JANE PERKINS
MARONEY AND ADA LEIGH SOLES

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today in honor of two very distinguished Delawareans and former members of the Delaware House of Representatives, the Honorable Jane Perkins Maroney and the Honorable Ada Leigh Soles. As legislators, their contributions to our State have touched the lives of many and have helped to improve our community. On behalf of the citizens of the First State, I would like to pay tribute to these outstanding individuals and extend to them our congratulations on being chosen as the joint recipients of the League of Women Voters of New Castle County Carrie Chapman Catt Award.

Jane Perkins has been recognized for her many years of dedicated service to Delaware politics. In 1998, she was the recipient of our State's highest award, the Order of the First State. Following her time in elected office, Jane continued her tireless advocacy for fellow Delawareans through her work with local and national organizations. Her current focus, as program director of Creative Grandparenting, Inc., involves developing and leading workshops for people who are facing difficult transitions in their lives. Jane's devotion to promoting child and family health initia-

tives deserves this recognition and our gratitude.

Ada Leigh Soles's work on behalf of her fellow Delawareans has also played an important role in making our State a better place to live and raise a family. During her career, she has been honored for her leadership by numerous academic and community organizations. Ada Leigh has received the New Castle County Civic League's Good Government Award and the University of Delaware's Medal of Distinction, along with numerous local and national awards recognizing her tireless efforts on behalf of libraries. As a testament to her distinguished tenure and the esteem in which she was held by her colleagues, Ada Leigh Soles was often regarded as the "conscience" of the Delaware State House of Representatives.

Mr. Speaker, it has been my sincere privilege to have served as Governor of Delaware while both Jane Maroney and Ada Leigh Soles were members of the Delaware House of Representatives. I wish to thank these two outstanding individuals for their friendship, commitment, and constant dedication to the citizens of Delaware. Their service to our State will have a permanent place in Delaware history. They deserve our thanks and praise.

CONGRATULATIONS TO STUDENTS
FROM HAMPTON HIGH SCHOOL

HON. MELISSA A. HART

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the students from Hampton High School in Allison Park, Pennsylvania, who will travel to Washington, D.C., on April 30, 2004, to compete in the national finals of the We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution, a highly prestigious academic competition on the Constitution. It is an honor to represent such dedicated students and teachers.

The high school students have studied for months with their teacher, Mr. Cliff Stevenson, in order to prepare themselves for their roles as experts testifying on constitutional issues in a simulated congressional hearing. They placed first in both the district and State competitions earlier this year to represent the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in the national finals. The annual 3-day competition is the culminating activity of the We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution, the most extensive education program of its kind in the country. Since last fall they have studied We the People, a text developed by the Center to provide students with a fundamental understanding of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

The We the People program is funded by the U.S. Department of Education and is directed by the Center for Civic Education in Los Angeles. According to Stephanie McKissic, Director of Education at the National Constitution Center, "There is no finer educational program that fosters in our younger generation the concepts and understanding of our constitutional heritage, leading them to a reasoned commitment to its fundamental principles." Since the program's creation over 15 years ago, it has reached more than 26.5 million elementary, middle, and high school students nationwide.

I ask that my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives join with me in honoring these devoted high school students and teachers from the Fourth Congressional District of Pennsylvania. It is truly an honor to represent such an outstanding group of students and teachers.

TRIBUTE TO THE HOPE FIRE COMPANY OF GREAT BARRINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS ON ITS 150TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JOHN W. OLVER

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mr. OLVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the Hope Fire Company of Great Barrington, Massachusetts, on its 150th anniversary. Their long and outstanding record of public service will be celebrated during their annual ball on May 8, 2004.

On February 7, 1854, hardware merchant Erastus F. Russell hosted a meeting of 19 young men from the community. This meeting established Hope Fire Company No. 1; and with "strong arms and willing hearts," they pledged to obtain and man a fire engine for the town.

With great enthusiasm and support from their friends and neighbors, the Hope Fire Company was able to quickly raise the \$1,550 needed to purchase an engine "of the first class, of superior caliber, and power, with suitable fixtures to equal all emergencies."

By June 15 of that year, the local paper reported that the company, now 80 members strong, paraded in full dress to the train depot to receive their new engine: a pumper and hose cart manufactured by Button & Company of Waterford, New York.

That same summer, the company played a central role in the town's 4th of July celebration. They were grandly toasted during the ceremonies, and member Charles A. Sumner responded with a sentiment that still holds true today:

"May we attain such promptness and efficiency of action as shall entitle us to your confidence, so that when the devouring element threatens you, and all seems lost, the smack of our brakes may remind you that there is one Hope left yet."

It has been 150 years, but the dedication and professionalism of the Hope Fire Company has never wavered. I ask my colleagues to join me in commending the company on its anniversary.

TRANSPORTATION EQUITY ACT: A
LEGACY FOR USERS

SPEECH OF

HON. ANTHONY D. WEINER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 1, 2004

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3550) to authorize funds for Federal-aid highways, highway safety programs, and transit programs, and for other purposes.