

Mr. Speaker, these inspiring students have become important role models not only to younger children, but also to their communities. I hope my colleagues join me in congratulating them on their accomplishments and wishing them all the best as they continue their education and community involvement.

TRIBUTE TO DR. DELOIS WEEKES

HON. ROY BLUNT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the efforts of Dr. DeLois Weekes in ensuring quality cancer care in southwest Missouri and our Nation. Her unflagging commitment to improving cancer treatment should serve as a model, worthy of our admiration and appreciation.

Cancer is a complex, multifaceted disease that can often best be treated by a multidisciplinary health care team specialized in oncology care, including nurses who are certified in that specialty. As a two-time cancer survivor, I have firsthand knowledge of the clinical, psychosocial, and supportive care oncology nurses provide to patients and their families. For the past three years, Dr. Weekes has served as President of the Cox College of Nursing and Health Sciences in Springfield, Missouri. In the course of her work in pediatric oncology nursing, she has been a teacher, administrator, speaker, advocate, researcher and author. Dr. Weekes' role as an educator and administrator has provided her with a unique opportunity to train these intelligent, highly skilled individuals, like the ones who helped me wage my own battle with cancer.

The impact of Dr. Weekes' work, however, is not limited to southwest Missouri. She has helped advance the nursing profession by serving on the Oncology Nursing Society (ONS) Board of Directors and developing grassroots programs that educate elementary school students about the meaningful and rewarding nursing profession. Her leadership within ONS, the largest organization of oncology health professionals in the world, has allowed her to help cancer patients around the globe. Since 1975, ONS has been dedicated to excellence in patient care, teaching, research, administration and education in the field of oncology. Dr. Weekes' position as a Director-at-Large on the ONS Board of Directors has enabled her to advance programs and policies that help ensure that America is has a well trained oncology nursing workforce. In Missouri alone, ONS has four chapters that serve the oncology nurses in the state and help them provide quality care to cancer patients and their families.

Dr. Weekes' service and the ONS mission have never been more essential. This year alone, 1.3 million Americans will be diagnosed with cancer. An additional 556,000 will lose their battle with this terrible disease. Today, more than two-thirds of cancer victims are over the age of 65, and the number of cancer cases diagnosed among senior citizens is projected to double by 2030. At the same time, many of our community-based cancer centers are facing significant barriers to hiring the specialized oncology nurses they need to treat their patients. It is estimated that there will be

a shortage of 1.1 million nurses by the year 2015. As this date steadily approaches, Dr. Weekes' efforts to educate and prepare America's caregivers for positions in nursing, both in her work at Cox College and ONS, are ever more important.

I commend Dr. DeLois Weekes for her commitment to providing and improving cancer care, and I urge all of my colleagues to support oncology nurses across the country.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE VOLUNTEERS AT THE SUNNYSIDE COMMUNITY SERVICE CENTER

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the dedicated volunteers of the Sunnyside Community Service Center located in Sunnyside, Queens, New York during National Volunteer Week.

The Sunnyside Community Service Center has done an outstanding job of providing a range of social, recreational, and educational services to over 2,000 members. Its successful volunteer program helps the center achieve its goals, reaching hundreds of senior citizens each and every day.

The center offers lunches, Meals on Wheels, and about 30 weekly activities, including special celebrations, concerts, and performances. It also offers a variety of educational programs, such as English as a Second Language, conversational Spanish, citizenship preparation, and health classes.

At the center, seniors can receive assistance including benefits counseling, entitlements—Social Security, SSI, and Medicare—mental health services, and access to various support groups. In addition, the center has a special program for homebound seniors, allowing them to participate in activities and lunch with their peers, and an Alzheimer's day program that provides much-needed support.

The Sunnyside Community Service Center volunteers are, in many ways, the lifeline of the organization. These volunteers dedicate their time, energy, and compassion to enriching people's lives each and every day at the center. Therefore, it is with great enthusiasm that I ask you to join me in recognizing the following volunteers for their dedication and commitment to service in our community:

Ana Abreu, Reginaldo Acosta, Zoraida Aguilar, Ashraf Ahmed, Mario Alulema, Sixta Tulia Alvarez, Ana Arboleda, Clara Baquero, Martha Barjacob, Norma Benitez, Paul Bernaschina, Luisa Bonete, Dikran Bostanian, Novella Busetti, Maria Camisa, Zoila Caraballo, Margaret Carlucci, Dorothy Cavallo, Clemencia Ceballos, Haydee Ceballos, Ellie Chen, Joli Chowdhury, Ann Chuhuran, Christine Conety, Catherine Coscia, Michelle Cotrina, Emma Cristancho, Carrie Cunningham.

Anna Damis, Mary Davide, Stephane Dejean, Dora Delgado, Sigrid Doleske, Don Donner, Stephanie Dosantos, Clifton Duhaney, Alfonso Duran, Rosemary Eischeid, Headley Evans, Letty Fabre, Francesca Ferreira, Betty Gallino, Ru-Ze Gao, Mickey Garmendia, Ray Glantz, Paulina Gonzalez, Veronica Gonzalez, Mary Halvey, Ni Han, Eileen Hand, Nancy Hendley, Shyrene Hernandez, Hermilinda Hidalgo, Gloria Holder, Maggie Houston.

Ani Janikian, Idalie Jean-Jacques, Jennie Jesse, Jose Jimenez, Siria Jomarron, Valerie Jones, Yvonne Jones, Cierra Knight, Rodica (Denise) Kondan, Marie Konecko, Mildred Lang, Cecile Laroche, Tatiana Lavega, Laura Lecour, Maria Linan, Renato Lins, Glyn Lloyd, Haleyda Lopez, Juan Lozano, Carmen Luzarraga, Barbara Lynch, Rosa Macas, Paola Machicao, William Madden, Maria Maldonado, Bestina Marte, Joan Marus, Eugenia Matviyenko.

Jim McBride, Robert McCreanor, Gert McDonald, Felipa Miranda, Rakhshinda Moeen, Grace Montes, Betty Moore, Khosrow Moradian, Fanny Morales, Albert Mullakandov, Cortenie Murphy, Robert Murphy, Sara Najam, Lillie Navarro, Marzana Naz, Walky Nazon, Nga Nguyen, Ruben Nunez, Maria O'Grady, Oscar Orozco, David Ortiz, Gizem Ozelik, Kong Park, Ethel Parker, Dalia E. Perez, Emilia Pineda, Bertha Power, Amalia Priore, Rosario P. Priore.

Myriam Ramirez, Ana Restrepo, Maureen Rinaldi, Leopoldina Rodriguez, Celina Ruiz, Julio Salcedo, Karmin Sanchez, Maria Inez Sanchez, Mariana Sanchez, Marina Sanin, Nickola Saroff, Frances Schaefer, Mary Sesio, Jeanette Shane, Virginia Shaw, David Shin, Cynthia Singleton, Maria Sorenson, Juana Sosa, Elsa Spielvogel, Lillian Stanley, Gail Sylvester, Millie Taveras, Angeline Thayuman, Paris Torossian, Yasmin Torres, Zoila Torres, Catherine Trochelman, Ana Urbina, Ligia Vasquez, Abe Vilensky, Anne Walsh, Harry Werner, Maura Wilson, Maisie Wright, Elizabeth Youngfleish, and Christopher Zottarelli.

RECOGNIZING STAFF SGT. JIMMY ARROYAVE WHO WAS KILLED IN IRAQ, APRIL 2004

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to pay tribute to Jimmy Arroyave, USMC, who was killed in the line of duty in Iraq on April 15, 2004. On his second deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Staff Sgt. Arroyave died in a motor vehicle accident northeast of Al Ramadi.

Serving with the Combat Service Support Battalion, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, which is stationed out of Camp Pendleton, this 30-year-old resident of Yolo County, CA answered his country's call and paid the ultimate price.

Born in Cali, Colombia, Staff Sgt. Arroyave moved to Woodland, CA, at an early age and enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1993. He was proud to be a Marine, loved the military life and had planned on making the military his career.

In addition to his deployments to Iraq, Staff Sgt. Arroyave served in Kuwait from October 2002 until June 2003, and in Japan for 12 months in 1999. He was the recipient of the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, the Good Conduct Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Sea Service Deployment Ribbon and the Navy and Marine Corps Overseas Ribbon.

Staff Sgt. Arroyave was a devoted son, husband, and father. He is survived by his wife Rachelle, who is 3 months pregnant, daughters Vanessa and Natalia, all of Oceanside,

and daughter Catie of Dixon. He leaves behind his mother, Carmenza Brennan of Woodland, his father Javier Arroyave of New York, and a loving circle of extended family.

Staff Sgt. Arroyave died serving the country he loved, with comrades he loved and with the love of his wife and family in his heart. Our Nation is humbled and grateful for his sacrifice.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we recognize Staff Sgt. Jimmy Arroyave, who gave his life in service to our country.

COMMENDING SANTA MARIA HIGH SCHOOL FOR RECEIVING THE COLLEGE BOARD 2004 INSPIRATION AWARD

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Ms. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an extraordinary accomplishment by one of the Central Coast's finest educational institutions: Santa Maria High School (SMHS).

I am delighted to report that SMHS will receive the College Board 2004 Inspiration Award for its steadfast commitment to fostering student success in one of America's most socioeconomically challenged communities. To meet each student's personal needs, the staff has been deeply involved in developing a variety of innovative methods to reach students and improve learning and success in a diverse and dynamic setting. A distinguished panel of Inspiration Award judges selected Santa Maria High School based on the school's success in increasing the number of student's preparation for college.

While many SMHS students are children of migrant farm workers who never had the opportunity to graduate from high school, a "can-do" attitude permeates the school. Santa Maria's 3,650 students learn in a facility designed for 1,800. Despite the portable classroom trailers used to accommodate the overflow, students and teachers go about their business of learning and teaching with great spirit and determination.

Mr. Speaker, historically this school had its share of struggles, including poor achievement and gang activity. The transformation of SMHS began a decade ago. SMHS embarked on an action plan that included career exploration initiatives, the creation of a college center, and partnerships with businesses and community leaders.

Additionally, Mr. Speaker, I have a personal connection to this school. One of my legislative aides, a proud SMHS graduate, serves in my Washington office and helps with the important issues of the 23rd Congressional District.

In closing, I want to affirm my support for SMHS, and ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the school on its receipt of the College Board 2004 Inspiration Award. This Monday will be a very proud day in the beautiful mosaic we call Santa Maria.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF PAT TILLMAN

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life and service of Pat Tillman who was killed in action in Afghanistan last week. Originally from San Jose, Pat Tillman lived a life that exuded courage, loyalty and hard work.

On the football field, Pat was a shining star. Though undersized at his position, Pat always excelled. After starring in football at Leland High School, Pat went on to play football at Arizona State University. As a 5-foot-10, 180-pound linebacker at Arizona State University, Pat was named Pac-10 Defensive Player of the Year, a tremendous honor for an athlete who succeeded on brains and heart. Though proud of his award, he was even prouder of his educational accomplishments. Pat earned a degree in marketing in just 3½ years and maintained a 3.84 GPA.

The Arizona Cardinals selected Pat in the final round of the 1998 NFL draft. Pat responded by engaging in a rigorous exercise program and adding 20 pounds of muscle to his already solid frame. Pat spurned his critics and became a starter during his first NFL season. In 2000, the St. Louis Rams tried to sign him to a \$9 million offer sheet and out of loyalty, Pat turned it down to stay in Phoenix for less money.

It was Pat's deep loyalty that drove him to do the unthinkable. Following the horrific attacks of 9/11, Pat, returning from a honeymoon announced that he was leaving the NFL to join the Army Rangers. To enlist, Pat left behind his new bride Marie and a \$3.6 million contract from the Arizona Cardinals.

Mr. Speaker, Pat Tillman was never about the money or the bright light of fame. He was a man who cared more about others more than he cared about himself. Pat's physical strength and talents were only overshadowed by his love for country and personal integrity. I have no doubts that when Pat Tillman died, he did so trying to protect his fellow soldiers.

Mr. Speaker, Pat Tillman was a giant. He was given a golden egg in the NFL and he sacrificed it for a uniform and a flag. It is most appropriate at this time that we honor him. Pat was and will forever remain a true hero. He upheld a standard of patriotism and courage that we should all strive to achieve. On behalf of the citizens of San Jose, I wish to express my deepest sympathies to Pat's wife Marie, his father Patrick Sr., his mother Mary and his two brothers Kevin and Richard and the entire Tillman family.

ISRAEL INDEPENDENCE DAY AND ISRAEL MEMORIAL DAY

HON. ROBERT WEXLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Mr. WEXLER. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to join you in marking 56 years of Israel's independence, 56 years of American-Israeli relations, and 56 years of Israel's continuing

struggle for security and peace. We gather here today to deliver a clear message—that in these turbulent times—the government of the United States and the American people stand shoulder to shoulder with Israel, now and forever.

Since 1948, Israel has persevered through seemingly insurmountable challenges by drawing upon the richness of Jewish tradition and our love for life. In just over five decades, Israel has risen from the ashes of the Holocaust and developed into one of the most technologically advanced nations on earth. Its population has increased ten-fold. It has established a vibrant democracy that values freedom, justice and human rights. Israel has deepened economic, military and diplomatic ties with America and Europe, but most remarkably with nations like Turkey, India, Egypt and Jordan. The ingenuity of the Israeli people soared during the recent high-tech boom, with more Israeli Internet startups and companies on the NASDAQ per capita than any other country in the world.

While Israel celebrates 56 years of freedom, this freedom is unquestionably challenged by ongoing incidents of terror and festering regional threats. At this difficult time, it is clear that the essential counterbalance to these threats is America's steadfast partnership with Israel. This sentiment is shared by an overwhelming majority of my colleagues in Congress, where Israel is enjoying unprecedented friendship and support.

In this post-9/11 world, the American and Israeli people are forever linked. We understand that terror knows no borders and cannot be justified, qualified or ignored. We understand that terrorism—in any form or supported by any nation—must meet a swift, definitive and unequivocal response. We know that incitement and hate pose the most significant obstacles to peace, and we know that terrorism incurs irreparable pain and loss.

On this Yom Ha'zikkaron, our thoughts and prayers turn to brave soldiers who have sacrificed their futures for that of Israel. Yet this year, one cannot help but also think of the 960 innocent Israelis who have died since September 2000 in hundreds of terrorist attacks. These are the victims of Israel's latest war, where civilians—as opposed to soldiers—are the prime targets.

Six years ago at the White House, I stood alongside President Clinton and Prime Minister Netanyahu at the signing of the Wye River Accords. I hoped then that Israel was embarking upon a new era of peace. Unfortunately, since refusing Prime Minister Barak's historic offer in January 2001, we have witnessed a complete abdication of responsibility on the part of Yasser Arafat, the deterioration of the Palestinian Authority and a cynical attempt by the Palestinians to use terror—as opposed to negotiations—as a means of achieving their political goals.

As a result, America must lead efforts with Egypt, Jordan, Europe and others in the international community to build the capacity and will of Palestinian anti-terror institutions so that Israel is not forced to continue to act in self-defense. America must also firmly support Israel's construction of a security barrier between Jewish population centers and the West Bank. That is why I traveled to the Hague in the Netherlands two months ago—to oppose the Palestinian case against Israel in the International Court of Justice and voice my unwavering support for Israel's right of self-defense.