

Plum, Ms. Dunbar, and Ms. Litsey have traveled to Washington, D.C. with their families to be honored at the ExploraVision awards gala next week. ExploraVision is the largest international science competition in the world with thousands of projects, and over 14,000 students participating this year.

These three bright young students each will be presented with a \$5,000 U.S. Savings bond for their outstanding work on their school science project entitled "The Sleep Doctor". ExploraVision asked students in its competition to envision technology that may exist in the next 20 years, and to describe how it would work. Kyle, Courtney, and Olivia envisioned a project called "The Sleep Doctor". This project creatively explores the four stages of sleep, rapid eye movement, and the sleep cycle. Using the innovative EEG Sleep Doctor technology, Kyle, Courtney, and Olivia were able to determine whether or not test subjects were having a nightmare during the rapid eye movement phase of the sleep cycle. Using the wireless EEG technology the students would be able to sense a subject's nightmare, and activate pre-programmed soothing sounds and smells to successfully restore feelings of safety and to generate a good night's sleep. Kyle, Courtney, and Olivia have been working tirelessly on this project since October of last year, and their efforts are quite evident by the outstanding final product.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the outstanding achievements of Kyle Plum, Courtney Dunar, and Olivia Litsey, and applaud the success of their educational endeavors and innovative technological ideas.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JEAN BIONDO

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 3, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to rise today to pay tribute to Jean Biondo and thank her for her leadership and contributions to Colorado as District Manager of the Grand Junction Social Security Office. The level of integrity and honesty that she has brought to the Department of Social Security throughout her thirty-eight years of service are truly outstanding. As Jean celebrates her retirement,

let it be known that the citizens of Colorado and I are eternally grateful for the outstanding service she has given to countless citizens over the years.

Jean began working for the government in Pittsburg, Kansas, and was later transferred to the social security office in St Joseph, Missouri. In April of 2000 she was offered the job of District Manager of the Colorado Social Security branch that covers the Grand Junction area. During her time as district manager, her leadership has helped create an efficient district operation for serving the people of Southwest Colorado.

Jean has also been an active member of her community, dedicating her efforts to numerous civic organizations. She has been involved in Altrusa, an international association of professional women and men who volunteer their energies and expertise in projects dedicated to community betterment. This year Jean was the Treasurer and played an integral role in organizing their Cancer Walk. She is very involved in her church where she teaches Sunday School and helps with youth groups. Jean's newest hobby is golf, and one I hope she has a lot of time for in the coming months and years.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear that Jean Biondo has been an invaluable resource for the State of Colorado and to our Social Security system. Her hard work and selfless dedication to her job was extraordinary and is worthy of acknowledgment before this body of Congress and this nation. Thanks, Jean, for all your hard work, and I wish you and your husband, Mike, all the best in your well-deserved retirement.

FALLEN HEROES

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLES F. BASS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2004

Mr. BASS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Master Sergeant Richard Lee Ferguson of Conway, New Hampshire. He bravely served the Army's 10th Special Forces Group supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom. Master Sgt. Ferguson made the ultimate sacrifice to protect his country and aid the Iraqi people when the military vehicle he was riding in tragically rolled over in Somara, Iraq on March 30, 2004.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Master Sergeant Richard Lee Ferguson and our other servicemen and women who have courageously given their own lives in order to protect and defend the democracy we enjoy in America and to extend the freedoms that come with democracy to those who live in fear and oppression worldwide.

FALLEN HEROES

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2004

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of a brave young Army Ranger who died Thursday, April 3, 2003, due to a suicide car-bomber at a checkpoint northwest of Baghdad. United States Army Specialist Ryan P. Long was a proud Ranger who gave his life, along with two of his fellow soldiers, helping the Third Battalion of the Seventy-fifth Ranger Regiment operate a checkpoint outside of Baghdad.

At only twenty one-years of age, Ryan was an inspirational young Delawarean who graduated from Seafood High School in June of 1999, where he had been vice commander of the Naval Junior ROTC program. Ryan joined the Army and became an Army Ranger, where he was part of an elite group chosen to carry out special missions. He was stationed in Fort Benning, Georgia and was deployed twice to Afghanistan before his service in Iraq, where he continued the noble fight against terror.

Ryan was a patriotic American who enjoyed soccer, golf, snowboarding, and motorcycles. Ryan was a fourth generation soldier, his father is retired Major Rudolf "Rudy" Long. Ryan followed in his family's tradition and chose to serve his country. He will be deeply missed by his parents, Rudy and Donna, and brother, his friends, teachers, and fellow soldiers.

Mr. Speaker, it is my sincere privilege to honor the life of a proud Ranger and heroic representative of the State of Delaware. Army Specialist Ryan P. Long deserves our gratitude and respect.