

Community College this coming fall. In addition to winning the Congressional Art Competition, Juan won top honors for costume designing in the Florida State Thespian Competition last year.

After showcasing "Proud Mother" for a year, I look forward to honoring him as the first winner of the Congressional Art Competition since I came to Washington at a ceremony this Saturday.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to represent Juan Fontanez, and I am proud to praise him on the floor of this House.

COMMENDING HOLY SPIRIT HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS VARSITY CREW TEAM ON THEIR SECOND STRAIGHT PEABODY CUP CHAMPIONSHIP AT THE HENLEY REGATTA

HON. FRANK A. LOBIONDO

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2004

Mr. LOBIONDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Holy Spirit High School girls varsity-eight crew team on their second straight Peabody Cup Championship at the distinguished and well known Henley Women's Regatta in Henley-on-Thames, England on Sunday, June 20, 2004. The girls' varsity-eight crew team defeated St. Andrews School by taking a strong lead from the start of the race and pushed on to victory by winning the 1,500 meter race by 1¼ boat lengths in 5 minutes and 11 seconds.

The team is led by Holy Spirit High School coach John Slattery, and was made up of bow Robyn Brennan, Erin Coyle, Kairie Roehill, Kaitlin Grant, Andria Haneman, Kristen Haneman, Jen Maslanka, stroke Teri Francesco, and coxswain Lynn Cassidy.

On behalf of the residents of the Second District of New Jersey, I offer my congratulations to the Holy Spirit High School girls' varsity-eight crew team on their outstanding second straight victory at the Peabody Cup Championships. These young women showed poise under pressure and share our pride in their outstanding achievement.

TRIBUTE TO SCOTT LILLY

HON. DAVID R. OBEY

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2004

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to take a moment to thank someone who has meant a great deal to the Appropriations Committee, the entire House, and to me.

Earlier this year, Scott Lilly concluded a 31-year career of service in the House of Representatives, mostly recently serving as the Democratic Staff Director of the House Appropriations Committee. Scott's career in the House was marked by dedication, distinction and an eternal sense of duty to serve the American people.

Too often, Members of the House are given all of the credit for what we produce or for the ideas we make real. In fact, the most difficult tasks are often accomplished behind the

scenes by our hard-working staff. Whatever credit I may be due during my service as the Chairman and now Ranking Democrat on the Committee on Appropriations, I must share much of it with Scott Lilly.

Scott first came to the House as a summer intern in 1966. After graduating from college he worked for the Missouri Legislature, spent two years in the United States Army, and in 1971, was central states coordinator for the George McGovern presidential campaign.

My collaboration with Scott first began in 1973 when he joined my staff, working for more than a decade as an associate staff member to both the Appropriations and Budget Committees. In 1985, Scott moved to the Joint Economic Committee, serving as its Executive Director and publishing a number of reports that attracted national attention, including studies on the regional disparities in economic recovery of the mid-1980s, and on the declining earning power of middle class Americans.

In 1988, Scott became the fourth Executive Director of the Democratic Study Group (DSG) serving under Chairmen MARTIN SABO, Robert Wise and Michael Synar. During that period, the DSG played a central role in legislative reform issues within the House Democratic Caucus and provided legislative research to virtually all Democrats and to many Republican members as well.

Following the passing of Chairman William Natcher in 1994, the Democratic Caucus selected me to serve as House Appropriations Committee chairman. I then asked Scott to become the 10th Clerk and Staff Director in the 129-year history of the Committee.

When the Republicans took control of the House the following January, Scott stayed on to serve as the Committee's Democratic Staff Director, a position he held for nine years.

This past January, Scott announced that he would be leaving the Committee. While his service to the House may have ended, his public service has not. Neither has our friendship or my deep respect for Scott. Now, as a part-time professor at the Georgetown University Public Policy Institute, Scott educates a new generation of public servants, who I know will be equal to the task because they are learning from the best. Scott also continues to serve and stand up for progressive principles as a senior fellow at the think tank, the Center for American Progress.

I am hopeful that, in addition to these new duties, Scott will now have the time to enjoy outside pursuits that he could not avail himself of while serving the House. Particularly, I hope that Scott will be able to return to his guitar lessons. As a fellow member of the bluegrass band, the Capitol Offenses, I know that like all of us, Scott might not be able to improve his singing voice, but maybe he can make some progress on his guitar plucking.

Scott Lilly's departure from the House was a significant loss for this institution. I would note with pride that Scott also leaves with many more friends, from both sides of the aisle, than detractors. Throughout his service, Scott always believed that political opponents don't have to be political enemies. That is a belief that is in too short supply in the Congress and in this town, but it is a belief that Scott lived throughout his service.

Congressional scholar Norman Ornstein noted in a Roll Call column last November the reality that "dedicated professionals," like

Scott Lilly, are what makes this institution work. Ornstein wrote of Scott and others like him, "These are people who could leave at any time and command five or 10 times the pay they receive; instead they have provided the long-term glue that keeps Congressional deliberation and institutional memory together." I could not agree more.

For more than 30 years, Scott Lilly has used his great political talent and judgment to serve this institution and this country. Unlike some in this town, he has never forgotten that political talent is wasted unless it is used for a higher purpose. Whether he was working for the McGovern campaign, or running the Democratic Study Group, the Joint Economic Committee or the Appropriations Committee staff, every day he put that talent to work to make this a stronger, fairer, and more decent and humane country. This House has never been served by two finer staff directors working with each, other across the partisan aisle, than Scott Lilly and Jim Dyer.

Through it all, he has been my best friend and my wisest counselor. What more can be said except thank you and Godspeed in whatever comes next.

IN HONOR OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF INVALIDS AND VETERANS OF WORLD WAR II FROM THE FORMER USSR

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2004

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the American Association of Invalids and Veterans of World War II from the former USSR. As members of the Russian army, this group fiercely fought German occupation from 1941 to 1945, and after fighting post-war anti-Semitism in their own country, they immigrated to the New York City area. Tuesday marked the 63rd anniversary of Germany's invasion of the former Soviet Union. Today, I am pleased to welcome them to Washington D.C. as they visit the World War II Memorial, and to honor their contribution in fighting for peace and liberty in Europe.

The group of Russian Veterans I honor today fought in many battles along the Russian front in World War II, and in major battles in Odessa, Moscow, and Stalingrad. As we recently honored millions of brave Americans with the opening of the World War II Memorial, I also recognize this group of veterans for their contribution to the Allied victory. Through their efforts in the Russian armed forces, these soldiers played an important role in defeating the Nazis—a victory which they celebrated in the streets of Berlin alongside American soldiers.

Their common experiences in the war, in its aftermath, and as immigrants to the United States bind them deeply to one another. As The New York Times explained, "As Jews who shared both the deprivations of a brutal war against Hitler's forces and postwar anti-Semitism under a Soviet system they had risked their lives to preserve, their allegiance is not to the former Soviet Union, nor to the Red Army, nor even to Mother Russia, but to one another." Though the association began in 1995 with only 30 veterans, it now boasts 3,000 members in New York.