

and Platte County. In 1997 the Board of Trustees deemed that Blue River would be designated a Community College with locations in Blue Springs and Independence, Missouri.

I have been a strong supporter of the Metropolitan Community Colleges and the educational opportunities they provide. As Ranking Member of the Intelligence Subcommittee for the Homeland Security Committee, I previously secured \$400,000 in federal funding for first responder training at the Western Missouri Regional Police Academy at Blue River Community College. Since 9/11 we have become cognizant of the importance of well trained first responders for natural disasters and threats of terror.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating the Metropolitan Community Colleges for their continued growth with the addition of the Campus Center Building at Blue River Community College. The college provides a resource that impacts economic growth by educating a work force equipped to solve future problems.

HONORING DETECTIVE SERGEANT
BRAUN AND DETECTIVE BALDWIN

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 9, 2004

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the bravery of two law enforcement officers from my district whose heroic acts will be honored by The National Association of Police Organizations at their annual TOP COPS Awards on Saturday September 11th.

While all of our nation's law enforcement officers deserve recognition for their invaluable and often unnoticed service, the TOP COPS Awards pay tribute to those outstanding individuals who performed actions that went beyond the call of duty to protect the citizens of their community. All of the award recipients displayed extraordinary courage and resolve in bringing dangerous criminals to justice.

I am pleased to recognize and share the story of two individuals from my district that have received a TOP COPS honorable mention. In October 2003, the Somerset Medical Center contacted the county prosecutor's office concerning several unexplained deaths of their patients. Detective Sergeant Braun, son of a detective lieutenant and a law enforcement officer for 24 years, and Detective Baldwin, a law enforcement officer for 12 years, began to investigate the case and quickly identified 43 year old registered nurse Charles Cullen as a suspect. Cullen had worked at more than nine medical facilities for brief periods of time in the New Jersey and Pennsylvania area, all of which had recorded an inordinate number of unexplained deaths, many occurring during Cullen's shift.

Based on the evidence these skilled investigators compiled, an arrest warrant for Cullen was issued in December 2003. The innovative, unique and ethical interrogation techniques used by these veteran law enforcement officers, resulted in Cullen's confession. He admitted to taking the lives of more than 40 of his patients, 15 at the Somerset Medical Center alone, over a 16-year span.

Thanks to these two outstanding individuals, a killer targeting the most vulnerable of victims

at our area medical facilities will be brought to justice. Their efforts in this case have forced health care facilities nationwide to re-examine the hiring practices for their nurses.

I commend the dedication and commitment of Detective Sergeant Braun and Detective Baldwin to solve this most tragic and heinous crime and extend my heartfelt gratitude to law enforcement officers across the country for their service to our communities.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO KEVIN
SHAEFFER

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 9, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to an individual of remarkable courage who serves as an inspiration to many Americans. Kevin Shaeffer was the only survivor of his section at the Pentagon's Navy Command Center that was destroyed in the attacks on September 11, 2001. Kevin was severely wounded in the attack; and he has overcome many challenges on the long road to recovery. Kevin is a brave and dedicated patriot, and despite his wounds, has continued his service to his nation. I am honored to tell his story before this body of Congress today.

Kevin had been working for the Navy's Command Center for almost thirteen months as a junior action officer in the branch that dealt with naval strategy and concepts. Specifically Kevin was working on the final phases of a new service strategy for the Navy in the twenty-first century. At 9:43 a.m., Kevin's world was dramatically altered when the command center exploded in flames, blowing Kevin to the ground. He quickly rolled to douse the flames, and with the help of Sergeant First Class Steve Workman, made his way over flames and debris toward the daylight that came from the gaping hole that Flight 77 left in the Pentagon.

Kevin was placed in an ambulance and sent to Walter Reed Army Hospital to be treated for seared lungs and burns that covered forty-two percent of his body. On his path to recovery, Kevin was forced to endure intolerable pain, several skin graft operations, two heart attacks and multiple infections. He received the Purple Heart from the Navy for the wounds he sustained in the attack.

Kevin was discharged from the Navy while in the hospital, but vowed to continue in the service of this country. He found an opportunity to keep that promise by seeking an appointment to the 9/11 commission, charged with investigating the 9/11 attacks. Kevin has faithfully devoted his time and energies to the commission, and worked alongside the panel's members to develop a number of strategies for the government to consider to prevent such a terrible disaster from reoccurring.

Mr. Speaker, Kevin is a phenomenal individual who has prevailed in the course of disaster and tragedy. His tremendous courage and continued dedication to our nation certainly deserves the attention of this body and nation. I am honored to recognize his service. Thank you for all your hard work Kevin, and I wish you, your wife Blanca and your daughter Sophia all the best in your future endeavors.

MEMORIALIZING DR. CLIFFORD I.
UYEDA

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 9, 2004

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the achievements and the life of Dr. Clifford I. Uyeda, M.D., a dedicated human rights activist, pediatrician and a loving family man. Dr. Uyeda passed away of cancer on July 30, 2004 in San Francisco. He will be fondly remembered for his contributions to human rights and social justice issues, and for his service to the Japanese American community. Dr. Uyeda is survived by his wife, Betty Uyeda.

Clifford Iwao Uyeda was born in Olympia, Washington on January 14, 1917 to Matsutaro and Kimiyo Uyeda. He attended the University of Wisconsin and Tulane University medical school. During the Korean War, Dr. Uyeda served as an Army doctor and as a captain in the United States Air Force.

In 1953, Dr. Uyeda moved to San Francisco, where he worked as a pediatrician at Kaiser Permanente for more than twenty years. In addition to touching the lives of countless children and their families, Dr. Uyeda was committed to human rights, social justice and service. He was active in many medical and community organizations and served as editor of *Nikkei Heritage*, a quarterly journal.

After retiring from medicine in 1975, Dr. Uyeda turned to full-time activism. In an era when the United States government did not recognize the grievances of its Japanese American population, who had been disenfranchised during the Second World War, Dr. Uyeda was instrumental in fighting for their rights.

During his tenure as president of the national Japanese American Citizen's League, Dr. Uyeda helped push for a federal Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Citizens, which eventually led to a formal apology and monetary compensation for surviving internees. He was also part of the successful "Tokyo Rose" campaign to clear the name and reinstate the citizenship of Iva Toguri, an American who had been falsely accused of treason during World War II.

Dr. Uyeda was a proud advocate of Japanese American rights but, foremost, he was dedicated to social and historical justice. In 1998, he helped establish the Rape of Nanking Redress Committee to raise awareness about Japanese military atrocities committed during World War II. As president and member of the National Japanese American Historical Society, he was determined to seek and disseminate the truth, even if it was painful or incriminating.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mourn the loss of Dr. Clifford Uyeda. His commitment to human rights and social justice has left an indelible mark on the countless individuals he helped over his distinguished lifetime. He will be fondly remembered by his family, friends and members of the local and national communities he worked so passionately and unselfishly to serve.