

oystering and crabbing. While we often define our Nation's history through military or political milestones, the Trail will serve to remind visitors that maritime-dependent commerce was a major factor in the growth of the United States.

"Eco-tourism" along the Coastal Heritage Trail has proven to be a huge success. There is an abundant variety of natural habitats and species to be found on the Trail. Whale and dolphin watching have become extremely popular, and bird lovers from throughout the country, and in fact around the world, are realizing what Southern New Jersey residents have known all along: our region is unmatched for observing migratory birds, ospreys, and bald eagles.

Today, I am introducing legislation to reauthorize the New Jersey Coastal Heritage Trail Route. This legislation would extend the authorization of the trail to provide additional funding over 2 years to continue the work begun in 1988. It would also initiate a Strategic Plan which would explore opportunities to increase participation by national and local private and public interests, as well as organizational options for sustaining the trail.

The New Jersey Coastal Heritage Trail has helped New Jersey residents develop pride, awareness, experience with, and understanding of our coastal resources and its history. This reauthorization will allow the trail to continue and flourish.

I urge my colleagues in the House to support this legislation.

HONORING THE DISTINGUISHED
SERVICE OF RICHARD PUCKETT

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2005

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding service of Richard Puckett, the operations manager of the Mid-Cumberland area of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Richard is retiring from the Corps after 42 years of service.

During his tenure Middle Tennessee communities saw vast improvements to recreational facilities available on Corps-managed lakes in the Mid-Cumberland region that I represent. Not only do these lakes and facilities improve the mental and physical well-being of our citizens, they also greatly benefit local economies. Richard, therefore, can take much credit for enhancing the lives of many Middle Tennesseans.

His professionalism and responsiveness to the public's needs have been admirable. It has been a real pleasure working with Richard and his staff over the years. The Corps of Engineers and the people of the Mid-Cumberland are going to miss him, but Richard deserves some recreational time of his own. Once again, I congratulate him on a great career and wish him the best in his retirement.

TRIBUTE TO SPECIALIST
JONATHAN CASTRO

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2005

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a hero from my congressional district. On December 21, 2004, U.S. Army Specialist Jonathan Castro of my hometown of Corona, CA, was killed in Mosul, Iraq. Specialist Castro, along with 18 other American soldiers, died from injuries sustained when their dining facility was attacked. I would ask that the House of Representatives honor and remember this incredible young man who died in service to his country. Specialist Castro will be remembered as a hero who lived a life filled with compassion and a respect for all people.

Jonathan, son of Jorge and Vickie Castro, spent most of his life in Corona, CA. The summer after graduating from Corona's Centennial High School in 2001, he enlisted in the Army. He entered the military with the hope that it would enable him to pay his own way through school and would open his eyes to the world. He was assigned to the 73rd Engineer Company in Fort Lewis, WA, and was deployed to Iraq in October, 2004.

He is remembered not only for his caring nature, but also for his intelligence. He was a budding engineer with a talent for working with metals and wood, as well as having strong skills in computer-aided drafting. He demonstrated creativity and ingenuity during high school as he built his own electric guitar, as well as a full-sized electric car.

On December 1, 2004, in Mosul, Iraq, while sharing a meal with his fellow soldiers, the dining facility was attacked. This has been the deadliest blast to date at a U.S. military base in Iraq, with 22 people killed. Specialist Castro was only 21 years old. He is survived by his loving parents and seven brothers. Jonathan was decorated posthumously with the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart.

Jonathan, and men and women like him, contribute to the incredibly rich history of our country. I commend all our service members who volunteer to defend our ideals of freedom and democracy.

I extend my ongoing thoughts, prayers and deepest gratitude to the Castro family. I hope they know their son and brother's goodness and sacrifice will never be forgotten.

INTRODUCING SAME DAY VOTER
REGISTRATION LEGISLATION

HON. MARTIN OLAV SABO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2005

Mr. SABO. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing the Same Day Voter Registration Act of 2005. This legislation is simple and straightforward: it would allow every eligible citizen to register and vote on Election Day for Federal elections.

The right to vote is the most fundamental of American democratic values. Yet, last November we again heard disturbing reports of voter intimidation, disenfranchisement, machine

error, and fraud. If we truly value the right to vote, we must do more to restore public trust in the integrity of our election process.

We should also remove cumbersome voter preregistration requirements. My home State of Minnesota has allowed same day voter registration since 1974. The result: Minnesota is a national leader in voter participation. In 2004, 77.7 percent of eligible Minnesotans voted. Over 20 percent of those voters registered on Election Day.

Same-day voter registration has greatly contributed to consistently high voter turnout in Minnesota. I believe this law has also encouraged new voters, especially young people, to turn out in higher numbers.

Many of the States with low voter turnout also have preregistration requirements of up to 30 days. It is unknown how many Americans have been prevented from exercising their constitutional right to vote only because they were unaware of cumbersome preregistration requirements. My bill will ensure that everyone with the legal right can vote, even those who become engaged in the closing days of an election.

I hope that my colleagues will join me in making Same Day Voter Registration the law of the land.

RECOGNIZING FRANK WOODRUFF
BUCKLES

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2005

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Frank Woodruff Buckles, a World War I veteran who lives in Jefferson County, WV, and cordially ask my colleagues here in the House of Representatives to join me in wishing Mr. Buckles a happy 104th birthday.

Frank Woodruff Buckles was born in Harrison County, MO, in 1901. At age 16, Mr. Buckles enlisted in the U.S. Army and remains today one of America's few surviving Veterans of the Great War. Following the Armistice of 1918, Mr. Buckles helped escort POWs back to Germany, only to ironically become a POW himself while working for a steamship company in the Philippines during the Japanese invasion of 1941. As a POW, Frank Buckles took it upon himself to help his fellow prisoners by tending the sick and feeding the hungry. In fact, Mr. Buckles even convinced the Japanese, who were starving and torturing the prisoners, to allow him to plant a vegetable garden in the camp so the prisoners would have more rations. On February 23, 1945, General MacArthur got word of the prisoners and ordered the 11th Airborne Division to rescue them. With no casualties taken during the rescue, the prisoners were freed and their 3-year ordeal was finally over.

Following the war, Frank married Audrey Mayo and moved to the farm in Jefferson County, WV that his ancestors have owned since 1732. At age 104, Frank Buckles continues to work the farm, drive his tractor, and likes to read books in several different languages. Frank Buckles is an American hero and truly an inspiration to us all.

In honor of Frank Buckles and his many years of hard work, dedication, and commitment to his family, community, and country, I