

the U.S. Army War College where he graduated in June 2001 with a Master of Strategic Studies. The War College has honed to an even keener edge, Colonel Taitano's strategic planning and leadership skills in preparation for assuming positions as a general officer.

Despite already serving his country in the Viet Nam Conflict, for which he received numerous awards and commendations, Dr. Taitano did not shy away from the call to again serve his country in battle. In 2005, Colonel Taitano again responded to the call of duty with service in Operation Iraqi Freedom, fighting alongside our country's soldiers and attending to their medical needs as a Medical Corp Officer with the 199th Troop Medical Clinic of the 256 Brigade Combat Team of the Louisiana Army National Guard. Upon his retirement, many of our island people will look on John Ray Taitano's distinguished career with justified pride. Many of those who call him DOCTOR will be relieved at his retirement from the Guard; and many in the Guard will be saddened that a fellow soldier who championed their health causes has chosen to retire. But in the minds of all of these will always abide that knowledge that John Ray Taitano will forever be an outstanding doctor of medicine and always an untiring and unwavering patriot, soldier and defender of the American way of life. May God Bless Dr. Taitano as we all wish him the best upon retirement with a heartfelt, Si Yu'os Ma'ase.

COMMEMORATING THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MESSIAH FESTIVAL IN LINDSBORG, KANSAS

**HON. JERRY MORAN**

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 4, 2006*

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commemorate the 125th Messiah Festival in Lindsborg, Kansas. This April, the community of Lindsborg will celebrate Holy Week by performing Handel's "The Messiah." This musical interpretation of the Easter story has been enjoyed in Lindsborg since the late 1800s when local immigrant pioneers first gathered together to perform this historic piece.

Many pioneers settling in the Smoky Valley on the plains of Kansas journeyed far from their homes in Sweden. They sought a better way of life and the choice to practice a religion free from the will of Sweden's state church. These pioneers thrived in their newly adopted Kansas home. They adjusted to a new American way of life, but the citizens of Lindsborg never lost sight of the culture and values that formed their Swedish heritage.

One tradition that has sustained the life of this community through the years is the annual Messiah Festival. In 1881, Reverend Carl Swenson, the founder of Bethany College in Lindsborg, and his wife, Alma, organized the Bethany Oratorio Society in the parsonage of Bethany Lutheran Church. Alma taught the music and English words of "The Messiah" to 40 parishioners. After a winter and spring of instruction, Bethany Lutheran Church began a storied tradition as host to this community celebration marking Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday with beautiful music.

The enterprising spirit and strong Swedish heritage of the early pioneers who began the

Messiah Festival has since led to great cultural and educational additions to the State of Kansas. As the Messiah Festival tradition has grown, so has the town of Lindsborg, and Bethany College. This liberal arts institution has expanded to offer baccalaureate degrees in over thirty fields to an enrollment of 600 full and part-time students from 19 states and 12 countries. The Lindsborg community continues to honor its foundation of cultural expression by hosting art and music festivals and offering unique arts, crafts and import gift shops.

It is with great pleasure that I represent this Kansas community in Congress. Lindsborg demonstrates how collaboration, a rich cultural heritage, and appreciation for beautiful music celebrating the Lord can create a tradition worthy of 125 years of repeating.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing the Lindsborg community for their 125th Anniversary Messiah Festival and for their many contributions to the State of Kansas.

TRIBUTE TO JERRY HOFFMAN

**HON. JO ANN DAVIS**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 4, 2006*

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a constituent of mine, Jerry Hoffman of West Point, Virginia. Born in Ironwood, Michigan, Jerry graduated from Michigan State University. In 1964, he entered the United States Air Force to serve his country. As a Special Agent with the Air Force Office of Special Investigations (AOSI), he was responsible for global counterintelligence operations. Upon retiring from the Air Force in 1984, Jerry continued to serve his country while working for the Central Intelligence Agency. In 1989, he cofounded the private security training company, International Training Inc. (ITI), in West Point, Virginia and served as its president and chief executive officer until 2001. At that time, Jerry was appointed as the president and chief executive officer of ArmorGroup North America, and in 2002 assumed this role at ArmorGroup International.

Jerry is married to Katharine Kropp and has two children, Scott, a Lieutenant Colonel in the United States Air Force, and Tabitha, who owns a Medical Transcription Business. Jerry and Katharine are very active in various charities and organizations throughout Virginia, most notably the American Cancer Society.

Jerry has co-authored two novels, receiving the Edgar Allan Poe special award by the Mystery Writers Association of America in addition to a special research award presented by the United States Air Force Command and Staff College for a study of worldwide international and transnational terrorist groups.

I wish to extend to Jerry Hoffman my sincerest congratulations on his retirement. Both in and out of uniform, he has made a significant contribution to our country, and I am pleased to recognize this special occasion.

TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL GOODMAN,  
CARE AWARD RECIPIENT

**HON. JAMES P. MORAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 4, 2006*

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Michael Goodman, upon receiving the Commonwealth Academy Recognition for Educators (CARE) Award.

The CARE award honors outstanding educators who work to enhance the lives of their students. This year's honorees are recognized for their unrelenting work to enhance the lives of the students they serve. This award is presented by Commonwealth Academy, located in Alexandria, Virginia, and honors those committed to diverse learning throughout the nation. Michael Goodman, an Instructional Technology Coordinator at Kenmore Middle School in Arlington, Virginia, is honored for his work with assisting teachers and students with using technology to learn at Kenmore.

Mr. Goodman has been teaching for over ten years and has won numerous awards for his technology instruction. Because of his vision, many classrooms at Kenmore are "technology rich"—meaning the teacher uses a SMART board and other equipment to tailor instruction to engage and challenge all students. Without Mr. Goodman's exceptional and effort, the teachers would not be able to use the technology to reach students. He has been involved in numerous technology activities and programs. As an organizer of "An Adventure of the American Mind" Library of Congress program at Kenmore, his enthusiasm helped to motivate 54 teachers from Kenmore to complete the entire workshop series last year, and resulted in Kenmore Middle School receiving \$30,000 dollars in technical equipment from the program. Mr. Goodman says of his approach to teaching, "My job as Instructional Technology Coordinator allows me to work with teachers and students bringing in the unique advantages that technology offers to create and simulate activities based on [multiple] intelligences."

Mr. Goodman received his B.S. in Technology Education from Virginia Tech and his master's in Instructional Technology from Towson University. He and his wife, Dedra, have three young sons, Harrison, Xavier, and Remington.

I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding Michael Goodman and congratulating him on this distinguished achievement.

COLLEGE ACCESS AND  
OPPORTUNITY ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

**HON. EARL POMEROY**

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 29, 2006*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 609) to amend and extend the Higher Education Act of 1965:

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Chairman, I rise to say that I will be voting against H.R. 609. In this age of rising global competitiveness, graduating from college has never been more important for America's students. However, as