

posed the question that the US has still to face:

"If we cannot get beyond political paralysis in a case where the coalition of American supporters is so comprehensive, there is little reason to think that any multi lateral solution to any international problem is likely to be accepted within the US policy-making structure."

HONORING THE ACHIEVEMENT OF
MR. LESTER (LES) WILLIAMS

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 9, 2006

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I proudly rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Lester (Les) Williams for his recognition as "Labor's Representative of the Year for 2006" by Labor's Educational and Political Club Independent (LEPCI). He is President, Business Manager, and Member of the Executive Board of Construction and General Laborers' Local Union Number 264. As the eighth recipient of this prestigious award, Les joins an elite list of other dedicated and deserving individuals. His unwavering resolve to the betterment of the Kansas City community and its workers is the reason for this recognition and celebration.

Les is a political activist and humanitarian whose legacy continues to enrich the lives of all Kansas Citizens. His dedication and commitment to the Labor Movement has spanned 38 years. In July 1985, Les was elected Vice President, Executive Board Member, and Field Representative of Construction & General Laborers Local Union No. 264. In May 1988, he was elected to his current positions of President, Executive Board Member, and Field Representative of Construction & General Laborers Local Union No. 264.

Les's reputation as a leader extends beyond the borders of the Fifth Congressional District of Missouri. He serves as President of Western Missouri & Kansas Laborers' District Council, Vice President of the Greater Kansas City AFL-CIO, Chairman of the Greater Kansas City Laborers' Pension Fund, Secretary of the Greater Kansas City Laborers' Health & Welfare Fund, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Greater Kansas City Laborers' Training Fund, and as Secretary of the MO-KAN CISAP Fund. Mr. Williams is a member of the Executive Committee Board of the African American Caucus for the Midwest Region of the Laborers' International Union of America and also serves on the Executive Committee of the United Way and is Vice Chairman of Working Families Friend. He is also very active in Democratic politics, serving on the Executive Committee Board for the Missouri Democratic Party.

Born in Kansas City, Missouri, in 1948, Les completed his elementary and secondary education in the Kansas City, Missouri, school district, a graduate of Manual High & Technical Vocational High School. Les is a proud father and husband, having been married to his wife, Judy, for 39 years.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in expressing our heartfelt gratitude to Mr. Les Williams for his relentless efforts in protecting and assisting the rights of others, while extending the labor movement, not only within the boundaries of the Fifth Congressional District, but

within the United States and the entire global community. He represents the best in all of us. I urge my colleagues of the 109th Congress to please join me in congratulating Les on being honored as "Labor's Representative of the Year for 2006."

HONORING MAYOR RONDELL
STEWART OF INDEPENDENCE,
MISSOURI

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 9, 2006

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I proudly rise today to pay tribute to Mayor Ron Stewart, the arbitrator, peace maker and enthusiastic Mayor for the City of Independence, Missouri. After providing 12 years of planned economic advancement and growth for the city of Independence, Mayor Stewart has decided to retire.

For 45 years Ron Stewart has made Independence a safer and more productive city. He began his career at the City on the Independence Police Force where he served for 31 years. He cultivated an appreciation and understanding of the City and its problems. Upon retirement he was encouraged to run for the Independence City Council and won. Two years later he ran for Mayor. The citizens of Independence elected Ron Stewart every time he ran for office. The All American City appreciates and enjoys every positive objective initiated by Ron Stewart aimed at building a brilliant future while preserving a rich heritage.

During his three terms as Mayor he stimulated vibrant economic growth by working with public and private entities, and community organizations. He made it a priority to work closely with the Independence Chamber of Commerce, built partnerships with neighboring cities, championed relationships between state and federal elected officials, and strengthened international relationships with Sister City Higashimurayamam, Japan.

The Mayor persuaded the City of Independence to pass a sales tax to repair a debilitating infrastructure. As a result of his leadership, streets continue to be repaired and built, a critical Storm Water Control problem has been rectified through increased maintenance and repair, the City's water supply system has been upgraded, electrical supply increased, and a nonfunctioning Parks Department now serves the city with new facilities, programs and refreshed parks.

His honors and awards are numerous and include the United States Department of Transportation, Appreciation for Distinguished Leadership Award, 2000; The Jackson County Inter-Agency Council, Community Service Award, 1999; The Jackson County Historical Society Award for Service, 1998; Chamber of Commerce, Distinguished Citizen Award, 1996; Kentucky State Police, Division of Department of Public Safety Award, 1966. He is a member of the F.O.P Lodge 1; National FBI Academy, Masonic Blue Lodge 76, Ararat Shrine, South Independence Optimist Club; American Legion Post 21; Fraternal Order of Eagles; Moose Lodge Rotary and the Lions Club.

The citizens of Independence know Ron Stewart as a no-nonsense type of guy whose

integrity has brought trust. He appreciates his life's treasures that include his family and his wife Marilyn who has been by his side for more than 46 years. He is a musician that enjoys singing and playing his steel guitar in his band, "Country by Choice". He rode into public service as a young Independence motor cycle patrol officer and continues to enjoy riding on his Harley-Davidson. His departing documentary was a video that followed the Mayor on his Harley-Davidson as he recounted his proudest accomplishments throughout the city.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and our colleagues in the House join me in saluting the Mayor of Independence, Ron Stewart, for his leadership and many accomplishments for the City of Independence, Missouri. We wish him the very best as Mayor Stewart leaves public office with a song in his heart and time to explore on his Harley. Thank you, Ron Stewart for choosing to serve. You elevated Independence, Missouri to an All-American City.

RECOGNIZING SHANE DANIEL

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 10, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Shane Daniel of Liberty, Missouri. He has spent many hours of study and preparation as a member of the Liberty High School Science Bowl Team. After numerous competitions and a victory in the regional competition, the Liberty High School Science Bowl Team earned a spot to compete in the 2006 National Science Bowl Competition in Washington, DC.

As one of America's best and brightest, Shane has been an accomplished student. As a student who loves competition, Shane is a member of the Varsity Scholar Bowl team, Future Business Leaders of America, and the cross-country team. He enjoys studying physics, chemistry, and mathematics, hoping to attend the University of Chicago to study in the sciences.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Shane Daniel, an outstanding student from Liberty, Missouri. As a top student who is committed to science and mathematics, Shane will certainly have a bright and fulfilling future. I commend him for his achievements and I am honored to represent him in the United States Congress.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF
TRAVIS S.C. ROOT ON HIS APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND THE
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
ACADEMY

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 10, 2006

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to an outstanding young man from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District, I am happy to announce that Travis S.C. Root of Norwalk, OH, has been offered an appointment to attend the United States Air Force Academy at Colorado Springs, CO.

Travis's offer of appointment poises him to attend the United States Air Force Academy this fall with the incoming cadet class of 2010. Attending one of our Nation's military academies is an invaluable experience that offers a world-class education and demands the very best that these young men and women have to offer. Truly, it is one of the most challenging and rewarding undertakings of their lives.

Travis brings an enormous amount of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming class of Air Force cadets. While attending Norwalk High School in Norwalk, OH, Travis attained a grade point average which placed him near the top of his class. While a gifted athlete, Travis has maintained the highest standards of excellence in his academics, choosing to enroll and excel in advanced placement classes throughout high school. Travis has been a member of the Honor Roll, the Academic Challenge Team, and the Key Club.

Outside the classroom, Travis has distinguished himself as an excellent student-athlete by earning varsity letters in football, swimming and track. Travis's dedication and service to the community and his peers has proven his ability to excel among the leaders at the Air Force Academy. I have no doubt that Travis will take the lessons of his student leadership with him to the United States Air Force Academy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Travis S.C. Root on his appointment to the United States Air Force Academy at Colorado Springs. Our service academies offer the finest military training and education available anywhere in the world. I am sure that Travis will do very well during his career at the United States Air Force Academy and I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing him well as he begins his service to the Nation.

IN HONOR OF CHARLOTTE CREWS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 10, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Charlotte Crews, upon her retirement as center director of the Barton Center of Lakewood, whose dedication and devotion to the residents of the Barton Center has brought joy and energy to their lives for more than two decades.

Mrs. Crews began volunteering at the Barton Center nearly 21 years ago. Though busy with family and her own job at a local insurance company, Mrs. Crews made time to prepare meals, and she also utilized her creative theatrical talent and experience by writing and directing countless performances and shows at the center. Her husband, Curt, was program director at the time, and she also volunteered as his assistant. In 1995, she was offered the position of center director. As center director for 11 years, Mrs. Crews went above and beyond the usual call of duty. Her care and compassion for the elderly and disabled residents of the center was equally matched by her energetic drive and dedication that focused on enriching their lives.

Mrs. Crews worked overtime to cook dinner for more than 100 people for the monthly din-

ner show. She set the menu, shopped, cooked and served the food. She also continued to channel her talents by writing, producing and directing the annual staff show. Additionally, she created a small grocery called the Corner Store, located in the building, for residents unable to leave the center. Mrs. Crews added a computer to the center, created several new programs for residents, and initiated a successful fundraising plan, known as the Annual Campaign. Moreover, Mrs. Crews' approachable demeanor and great sense of humor easily drew others to her, and her presence brightened the spirits of residents, staff and volunteers.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor, recognition and gratitude to Charlotte Crews, for her unwavering dedication, generous heart, expansive talent and true sense of giving that has framed her presence at the Barton Center for the past 21 years. Her achievements are numerous, yet her most significant accomplishment is the love and compassion that she shared with the most frail citizens of our society—bringing them joy, great care and hope, and the foundation of friendship that Mrs. Crews created has raised the lives of every resident at Barton Center, and has strengthened our entire community.

RESPECT FOR AMERICA'S FALLEN
HEROES ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 9, 2006

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5037, the Respect for America's Fallen Heroes Act. I read with disgust the article on the protests that occurred at the military funeral for Army SSG. Jeremy Doyle, who was killed in Iraq, earlier this year. It especially saddens me that the individuals who protested at Staff Sergeant Doyle's funeral were from the Westboro Baptist Church in Topeka, KS. The church's founder, Rev. Fred Phelps, says that American soldiers are being killed in Iraq as vengeance from God for protecting a country that harbors gays.

I find it abhorrent that individuals and groups feel a military funeral is an appropriate forum to display their beliefs on gay rights. Losing a family member during military service is a very difficult and devastating thing. It is unfortunate that some individuals and groups add to the anguish and grief of those who have lost a loved one by protesting outside of the funerals of fallen soldiers. Our military heroes who make the ultimate sacrifice for our country deserve our respect and gratitude. I condemn these actions in the strongest terms possible and I'm proud to support H.R. 5037.

TRIBUTE TO U.S. ARMY SERGEANT
PIERRE A. RAYMOND

HON. MARTIN T. MEEHAN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 10, 2006

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a true hero, Army Sergeant Pierre A.

Raymond, who gave his life in service to our country.

Sergeant Raymond was a resident of Lawrence, MA, and was deployed with the brave men and women serving in our armed forces as part of Operation: Iraqi Freedom II. David was in Iraq just one week before sustaining fatal injuries from an explosion that ripped through his barracks in Ramadi, Iraq. He died five days later on September 20, 2005, surrounded by his family in the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Landstuhl, Germany.

Pierre was preparing to celebrate his 29th birthday in early October. He looked forward to returning to his family and his girlfriend, with whom he had lived before deployment, and was planning to finish a college degree in psychology. His friends and family recall his playful nature and his wonderful laughter. He was courageous to the end. Even as he lay wounded in his hospital bed, he is reported to have been talking and joking with doctors and nurses and was in good spirits. Friends and family also remember David's passion for cars and his talent for repairing them—a technical ability that served him well as an Army mechanic maintaining Bradley Fighting Vehicles in the Army Reserve's 228th Forward Support Battalion, 28th Infantry Division. His zest for life should be an inspiration to us all.

Pierre graduated from Salem High School in New Hampshire in 1994, and joined the Army in 1998, serving for thirteen months in Bosnia as a member of the U.N. peacekeeping force before being discharged in 2001. As a member of the Individual Ready Reserve, he was recalled in June of 2005 to serve in Iraq. While he was overseas, he called his family every morning. In his final hours, they joined him at his bedside in Germany, and his mother accompanied him on his journey home to the United States after his tragic death.

Pierre's family is proud of him for the supreme sacrifice he made on behalf of his country. He will always be remembered for his kindness, enthusiasm, his faith, and his desire for peace. He will be sorely missed.

I have now requested that an American flag be flown over our United States Capitol in memory of Sergeant Pierre Raymond to honor his brave service to our country. This flag will be delivered to his family. Pierre died fighting for the country he loved, alongside comrades he respected and with the family he adored, forever in his heart. Our nation is humbled and grateful for his sacrifice.

Mr. Speaker, we should all take a moment to recognize Sergeant Pierre A. Raymond, United States Army, who gave his life in service to his country.

THANKING JAMES S. MURPHY FOR
HIS SERVICE TO THE HOUSE

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 10, 2006

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of his retirement at the end of May 2006, I rise to thank Mr. James S. (Jim) Murphy for his 29 years of outstanding service to the United States House of Representatives.

Jim began his career with the House on October 11, 1977, and served in positions within the Office of the Clerk and the Finance office