

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.