

of the Chief Administrative Officer. As a Team Leader within the Office of Financial Counseling, he provided financial assistance and guidance to all Member and Committee offices including monitoring and projecting available fund balances and ensuring expenditures comply with both House and Committee rules and regulations.

Jim has provided financial guidance to every entity of the House, assuring that House staff and vendors are paid accurately. His passionate customer service and tireless commitment to the countless House staff members who have worked with him will be deeply missed.

On behalf of the entire House community, I extend congratulations to Jim for his many years of dedication and contributions to the financial management of the House. We wish Jim many wonderful years enjoying his retirement.

RECOGNIZING JOHN AHLFIELD

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 10, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize John Ahlfield 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, D.C.

As one of America's best and brightest, John has been an accomplished student. He is a member of Serteens and the National Honor Society. He joined the Liberty Scholar Bowl Team as a sophomore, then became a Varsity member and captain his junior year. Among his favorite subjects are science and mathematics and he hopes to pursue a degree in chemical engineering after graduating from Liberty High School.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing John Ahlfield, an outstanding student from Liberty, Missouri. As a top student who is committed to science and mathematics, John 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 PETER D. GUZOWSKI 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 Peter D. Guzowski of Tiffin, Ohio has been offered an appointment to attend the United States Air Force Academy at Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Peter'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.

Peter brings an enormous amount of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming class of Air Force cadets. While attending Tiffin Columbian High School in Tiffin, Ohio, Peter attained a grade point average which placed him near the top of his class. While a gifted athlete, Peter has maintained the highest standards of excellence in his academics, choosing to enroll and excel in Advanced Placement classes throughout high school. Peter has been a member of the National Honor Society, Honor Roll and has earned awards and accolades as a scholar and an athlete.

Outside the classroom, Peter has distinguished himself as an excellent student-athlete by earning letters in varsity tennis and golf where he served as the captain of his varsity team. He has also remained involved in his community by coaching youth basketball and serving as an altar server. Peter's dedication and service to the community and his peers has proven his ability to excel among the leaders at the United States Air Force Academy. I have no doubt that Peter 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 Peter D. Guzowski 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 Peter 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 THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LAKEWOOD LIBRARY

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 the Lakewood Library, as we join in celebration of their 90th Anniversary.

For the past nine decades, the library, located on Detroit Avenue, has served as a vital source of learning, entertainment and enlightenment for residents of all ages, at no cost or low cost. Founded in 1916, the Lakewood Library has evolved over the years from a small space where books were exchanged, to a peaceful haven of energy where information and ideas are exchanged, learning flourishes and computer technology is presented on the cutting edge.

The Lakewood Library lends out thousands of books, and CD's every year, and also lends its rooms to community organizations where members gather on a regular basis. The Library offers programs for children, adults and seniors, literary programs, workshops, commu-

nity volunteer programs and a variety of family entertainment programs and classes, including reading circles and the visual arts.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of staff, administrators, volunteers and visitors, past and present, of the Lakewood Library. The library's collection of books, resources, historical documentation and advanced technology, offered free to the public, is a priceless component that continues to shape our culture, broaden our horizons and raise our collective and individual dreams into the light of reality—through imagination, discovery and learning, with every turn of the page.

H.R. 4975, THE SO-CALLED "LOBBYING ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY ACT OF 2006"

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 10, 2006

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, May 3, 2006, I voted against final passage of H.R. 4975, making changes to congressional ethics procedures and campaign finance laws.

As a member of Congress first elected to the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES in 1998, I have supported and continue to support efforts to reduce the influence of money in politics because I believe that public cynicism is eating away at voter participation, causing citizens to tune out discussions of very serious issues, and turning a whole generation of young people away from our political system as a means of social change. There is a national crisis of confidence in our political system because of the influence of money in the legislative process. The American people share a widely held belief that special interests, lobbyists, and the very wealthiest campaign contributors wield too much influence in government.

Unfortunately, these concerns have been warranted, as recent scandals have come to light involving, among others, the transgressions of former Rep. Randy "Duke" Cunningham and lobbyist Jack Abramoff. For this reason, I joined as an original cosponsor of H.R. 4682, the Honest Government and Open Leadership Act. This legislation, among other things, takes steps to ban all gifts, including meals, tickets, entertainment and travel, from lobbyists and non-governmental organizations that retain or employ lobbyists; requires Members to pay full charter costs when using corporate jets for official travel; and establishes a new Office of Public Integrity under the Inspector General of the House.

H.R. 4975 falls short in all of these areas and instead chooses to maintain the status quo. Furthermore, the final rule reported out of the Rules Committee did not allow for the consideration of amendments on the House floor that would have addressed these concerns. Instead, the Rule included H.R. 513, controversial campaign finance legislation that would limit the ability of the public to mobilize voters and to hold incumbents accountable for the very misconduct that this bill purports to change. This kind of closed door process is indicative of the problems we are now experiencing in Congress.

Public office is a public trust. All elected officials and their staffs must conduct the public's business in public view and in a manner that is above reproach. Congress must take real steps to improve congressional ethics standards and to make congressional procedures more open and accountable to all Americans.

TRIBUTE TO U.S. MARINE LANCE
CORPORAL NICKOLAS D.
SCHIAVONI

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, Marine Lance Corporal Nickolas D. Schiavoni, who gave his life in service to our country.

Lance Corporal Schiavoni lived in my district in Haverhill, and was deployed with the brave men and women serving in our armed forces as part of Operation: Iraqi Freedom. Nickolas died tragically on November 15, 2005 when a suicide, vehicle-borne, improvised explosive device was detonated while he was conducting combat operations against enemy forces near Al Karmah, Iraq during Operation Steel Curtain. He was twenty-six years old.

Nickolas leaves behind his beloved wife Gina, and two young children, Marissa and Alex. He is also survived by his mother, Stephany Kern, his grandfather, David Swartz, and his sister, Vanessa Schiavoni. Nickolas treasured his time with his family and was very fond of their time together at his mother's home in Westerly, Rhode Island.

Nickolas served in Iraq with the 2nd Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force, based in Camp Lejeune, N.C. He was serving on his second tour of duty in Iraq when he was killed. He was very proud to be a Marine.

Nickolas' family is proud of him, not just for the supreme sacrifice he paid on behalf of his country, but for the honor he brought to them as a Marine. He strove to protect his family and his country. His courage will not be soon forgotten.

I have now requested that an American flag be flown over our United States Capitol in memory of Lance Corporal Nickolas Schiavoni to honor his brave service to our country. This flag will be delivered to his family. Nickolas 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 Lance Corporal Nickolas D. Schiavoni, United States Marine Corps, who gave his life in service to his country.

THANKING MRS. ESTELLE JONES
FOR HER 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 her retirement in June 2006, I rise to thank Mrs. Estelle Jones for 29 years of outstanding service to the U.S. House of Representatives.

Throughout the years Estelle has made significant contributions managing the employee benefit programs for the U.S. House of Representatives and providing oversight to the processing of staff employee benefits for the U.S. House of Representatives. She began her career at the House on June 15, 1977, as an Employee Benefits Clerk in the Office of Personnel and Benefits, Office of Finance, under the Office of the Clerk. In January 1980, she assumed the title of Personnel Control Clerk, supervising the paperwork flow of the Employee Benefits Clerk. Estelle later accepted the position of Benefits Counselor, remaining with the Office of Personnel and Benefits. On December 1, 1987, she was promoted to Assistant Supervisor for the Office of Personnel and Benefits until November 12, 1995, when she accepted the appointment as Director of the Office of Personnel and Benefits, Human Resources for the Chief Administrative Officer. As Director of Personnel and Benefits, Estelle also served as the House Benefits Officer for both Health Benefits and Retirement with the Office of Personnel Management. She had the overall responsibility for the quality, accuracy and timeliness of submissions of all benefits records to OPM. She has provided many years of employee benefit support and guidance to the countless House staff members who have worked in this great institution throughout the last 29 years.

On behalf of the entire House community, I extend congratulations to Estelle for her many years of dedication and outstanding contributions to the U.S. House of Representatives. We wish Estelle many wonderful years in fulfilling her retirement dreams with her husband, Jack, and her children, Justin and Stephanie.

RECOGNIZING STEPHANIE HULL

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 10, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Stephanie Hull of Liberty, Missouri. She 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, D.C.

As one of America's best and brightest, Stephanie has been an accomplished student. A very active student, she participates in Scholar Bowl, Orchestra, National Honor society, Model UN, Debate, the National Forensic League, her church youth group, and the Senior Girl Scouts. Stephanie would like to become a doctor and is interested in attending UMKC or the University of Chicago.

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

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF KEIL
J. MILLER ON HIS APPOINTMENT
TO ATTEND THE UNITED STATES
NAVY 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 Keil J. Miller of Napoleon, Ohio has been offered an appointment to attend the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

Keil's offer of appointment poises him to attend the United States Naval Academy this fall with the incoming midshipmen 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.

Keil brings an enormous amount of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming class at the Naval Academy. While attending Napoleon High School in Napoleon, Ohio, Keil attained a grade point average which placed him near the top of his class. While a gifted athlete, Keil has maintained the highest standards of excellence in his academics, choosing to enroll and excel in Advanced Placement classes throughout high school. Keil has been a member of the Honor Roll, the Drama and German Club and has earned numerous awards and accolades as a scholar and an athlete.

Outside the classroom, Joshua has distinguished himself as an excellent student-athlete by earning varsity letters in track and football where he served as the captain of his varsity team. He has also remained involved in his community by serving as a camp counselor for a youth football program and as an active participant in Big Brothers/Big Sisters. Keil's dedication and service to the community and his peers has proven his ability to excel among the leaders at the Naval Academy. I have no doubt that Keil will take the lessons of his student leadership with him to Annapolis.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Keil J. Miller on his appointment to the United States Naval Academy. Our service academies offer the finest military training and education available anywhere in the world. I am sure that Keil will do very well during his career at the Naval Academy and I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing him well as he begins his service to the nation.

IN HONOR OF RICHARD ZEAGER
AS HE CELEBRATES HIS 90TH
BIRTHDAY

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 Richard Zeager as he celebrates his 90th birthday. Richard