

the health and safety of our coal miners from future tragedies and enact stiffer penalties for flagrant violations of the law. Further, regulations must be enforced. I have cosponsored Representative MILLER's bill, H.R. 5389, the Protecting America's Miners Act, to improve mine safety regulations to help protect miners in the event of an emergency.

The bill before the House today, S. 2803, while not perfect, includes many important provisions to help save lives. The measure is a step in the right direction and is only the beginning of more mine safety reforms to be considered in the House to ensure our mine workers have the safest measures in place.

I represent southwestern and southern Illinois, a region with a rich coal mining history. Coal mining has played a significant roll in transforming and developing the region since the mid-1800s when substantial coal mining in Illinois began. In 2006, the coal industry continues to be a vital component of our economy, and one we are working to strengthen for the future. Improving mine safety standards is an important part of this process began in Illinois, West Virginia, and other coal producing States. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support S. 2803 to affirm our commitment to the hard working men and women who enter coal mines every day.

RECOGNIZING TREVOR DON ROTH
FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF
EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Trevor Don Roth, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 314, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Trevor has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Trevor has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Trevor Don Roth for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

IN RECOGNITION OF CHARRE TODD

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2006

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Charre Todd of Crossett, Arkansas who was recently awarded the 2005 Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. This award is the Nation's highest honor for teaching in the fields of math and science.

This annual presidential award was established by Congress in 1983. It provides special recognition to outstanding educators in the

fields of mathematics and science for all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Territories, and the U.S. Department of Defense Schools.

I have always held education in the highest regard. As parents, educators, and public officials, we have an obligation, a moral duty, to ensure that students, from pre-school to high school and beyond receive the highest quality education possible. By properly educating our students and providing them with the tools they need in order to become successful adults, they will thrive in today's fast-paced and technological world.

The most important component to our children's education is our teachers. Today, more than ever, our educators face new obstacles and challenges. As the son of public school educators, I have a deep respect and gratitude for all educators and their personal commitment to our children.

America is deeply indebted to top-notch educators, such as Charre Todd, for their continued excellence in the classroom and commitment to our students. Today's teachers shape the very foundation of America's future. I am honored to recognize Mrs. Todd for her outstanding work, and extend my sincere gratitude for her dedication to educating our young people. Mrs. Todd is an inspiration to us all, and I consider it a privilege to serve as her United States Congressman in the House of Representatives.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2006

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, due to illness, I was not present in the Chamber to cast my vote on rollcalls 227 through 234 on Wednesday, June 7.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcalls 229, 230, 231, 233, and 234.

I would have voted "nay" on rollcalls 227, 228, and 232.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF
WORLD WAR II NAVAJO CODE
TALKER, ROBERT YAZZIE

HON. JIM COOPER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2006

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Robert Yazzie, a remarkable American who served his Nation with great courage and honor as a code talker during World War II. We lost a great Tennessean, veteran and patriot when Mr. Yazzie passed away on Memorial Day—Monday, May 31, 2006—at the age of 81.

Robert H. Yazzie was born on June 1, 1924 in Arizona and grew up in an Episcopal orphanage on a Navajo Indian reservation. At the age of 17, he enlisted in the Marines to serve as a code talker in World War II. Yazzie and the other code talkers developed a code based on their native language for military communications in battles with Japan. They used the code in telephone and radio mes-

sages to transmit commands, tactics and troop movements. The Navajo code was used in every Marine assault in the Pacific and played a large role in the U.S. victories at Guadalcanal, Peleliu, Iwo Jima and other major battles in the Pacific between 1942 and 1945. It was never once decoded by the Japanese.

After the war, Mr. Yazzie was discharged as a Private First Class in 1945. He married Carrie A. Yazzie of Gainsboro, TN and moved to Nashville in the early 1950's. He raised a family while earning an honest living as a welder. Mr. Yazzie battled diabetes for the last 35 years of his life and suffered heart problems and a blood infection. He passed away peacefully at his home in Madison, TN.

Mr. Yazzie was always very humble about his contributions to the war effort, "We just sent messages," he said in 2003. "We were sending codes on the radio, and we would just talk on the radio using my language."

Because the code talkers were considered such valuable assets to the military after the war, they never received public recognition for their contributions in the Pacific. Finally, in 1992, Mr. Yazzie was among 35 Navajo code talkers to receive official recognition for their service from the Pentagon outside of Washington, D.C. In addition, I had the great honor of awarding Mr. Yazzie a Congressional Silver Medal for Distinguished Service at a special ceremony in Nashville on July 4, 2003.

I am proud to salute the remarkable life and contributions of Mr. Robert Yazzie and his legacy of courage and patriotism that will live on. On behalf of the Fifth District of Tennessee, I offer my most sincere condolences to his family—Bruce M. Yazzie, Martha Prater, Marjorie Lowe, Charlie Burris and Harvey Lee Burris—and the loved ones he leaves behind.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, May 22, 2006 I was unavoidably delayed and thus missed rollcall votes Nos. 177 and 178. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on both votes.

TRIBUTE TO JACK AND EVON
KECK

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2006

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jack and Evon Keck who recently pledged \$1 Million to assist in the funding of Silver Cross Hospital's Emergency Department expansion. Jack and Evon Keck are constituents in my 11th Congressional District.

The newly expanded Silver Cross Emergency Department will have the capacity to care for 60,000 patients annually. A new waiting area will also be added for children, with amenities like video games, flat screen TVs with VCR/DVDs and an aquarium that will catch the attention of the children and make the wait a little bit easier for parents.