

being fantastic. Department of Defense is meeting planes as well for security reasons and for protection purposes," she said.

She also noted that the U.S. was trying to minimize the time spent by its citizens on the island and would try to coordinate the arrival of ships with chartered planes to take them home, as far as possible.

"We just want that throughput to be as efficient as it can be. So there is bottled water. There is a fair grounds that we have rented. There are some air-conditioned facilities. The Cypriot Civil Defense Force has been very helpful to us in what they have provided," she added.

IN RECOGNITION OF MASTER  
ARTIST WAN KO YEE

**HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 19, 2006*

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Master Artist Wan Ko Yee, an exceptional artist whose work has been exhibited throughout the world. His work encompasses the genres of painting, calligraphy, literature, and sculpture. Philosophically, his paintings reflect Buddhist themes and the ideas of tolerance and peace between nations. In esthetic terms, his paintings are infused with balance and an appreciation of the natural world.

It is my hope that cultural diplomacy will begin to have enhanced value in coming years as a means of building understanding between nations. Toward this end, it is important to create awareness of the history and culture of Asian communities in this country and throughout the world.

In 2003, Master Artist Wan Ko Yee exhibited selected works at the House of Representatives in an exhibit that was well attended and appreciated. He has been recognized by the Royal Academy of Arts of the United Kingdom, and the Organization of American States. I commend Master Artist Wan Ko Yee on his artistic contributions.

RECOGNIZING DANIELLE McCURDY

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 19, 2006*

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Danielle McCurdy of Blue Springs, Missouri. Danielle recently won the Comcast Leaders and Achievers Scholarship sponsored by Comcast and the Comcast Foundation. She will formally receive the award on July 26, 2006.

Danielle completed a lengthy nomination and selection process, and was chosen from a field of numerous qualified candidates. Comcast recognized Danielle's leadership skills, dedication to community service, positive attitude, and academic achievement.

Comcast and the Comcast Foundation have committed a significant portion of their resources toward motivating young people. In Danielle, Comcast found a high school student who will surely be a force for positive change in the community.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Danielle McCurdy of Blue Springs,

Missouri. Danielle's commitment to excellence is remarkable, and I am honored to represent her in the United States Congress.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE  
OF JOHN EDWARD PECHMANN

**HON. MIKE MCINTYRE**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 19, 2006*

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to an outstanding leader in Southeastern North Carolina, Mr. John Edward Pechmann. Mr. Pechmann unexpectedly passed away on July 15, 2006. John leaves behind a wife, Amy, and son, Jack, but his legacy and contributions will live on in the hearts and minds of many for generations to come.

In lamenting the loss of this great man, The Fayetteville (NC) Observer eloquently described John as "a Renaissance man—a talented lawyer, a fine fisherman, a skilled manager, an expert antiques collector, and a devoted father and husband." As head of the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, John dedicated his life to ensuring that our outdoors were enjoyed, protected, and sustained. Indeed, in 2001, John received the Governor's Award as North Carolina's Conservationist of the Year. As a lawyer, John displayed the integrity and honor that reflects the best of our judicial system. As a leader in the community of his beloved home and state, Fayetteville, North Carolina, John never saw a challenge too great and never met a stranger he did not want to help. As a father and husband, John always put family first and loved the time he spent with his son fishing. Next month, there will be a fishing education center dedicated in his honor at Lake Rim in his home county of Cumberland. Although, John will not be there in person to rightfully receive the honor and praise he so deserves for his commitment to fish, wildlife, and the environment, the center will be a lasting memory that all can enjoy and strive to emulate.

Samuel Logan Bringle, the legendary leader in the Salvation Army, once said some very important words that are reflective of the character and life of John. He said, "The final estimate of a man will show that history cares not one iota about the title he has carried or the rank he has borne, but only about the quality of his deeds and the character of his heart." Indeed, John Pechmann has reflected this through his sacrifice and commitment.

Mr. Speaker, dedicated service to others combined with dynamic leadership has been the embodiment of John's life. May we all use his wisdom, selflessness, and integrity as a source of inspiration and encouragement during our walk on this earth. Indeed, may God bless to all of our memories the tremendous life and legacy of John Edward Pechmann.

MICROSOFT'S "OPEN PLATFORM  
PRINCIPLES" ANNOUNCEMENT

**HON. JAY INSLEE**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 19, 2006*

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, I commend Microsoft's announcement today that it will

adopt a set of "Open Platform Principles" that will govern the development of Windows desktop operating systems.

Four years ago, the Justice Department rejected calls to force Microsoft to remove code out of Windows and to reorganize its business. Instead, the department adopted a consent decree setting out basic rules to preserve competitive opportunities for other companies, while ensuring that Microsoft could continue to improve its products. As a result, the U.S. software industry is thriving with competition and innovation.

The "Open Platform Principles" that Microsoft announced today give me tremendous confidence that innovation and competition will continue. The principles broaden the Department's consent decree and makes them a standard part of how Microsoft does business. They give every company, large and small, confidence that they will be treated fairly and can compete equally.

In 2004, the European Commission ordered Microsoft to delete code out of Windows. To the commission's shock, absolutely no one bought this substandard version of Windows. The commission now appears intent on actively managing how Microsoft designs Vista, its new platform. Microsoft's new guiding principles ensure that Windows will continue to be a great platform for innovation and competition. The fact that Microsoft adopted these principles voluntarily shows that it recognizes the important responsibilities that come with being an industry leader. I congratulate Microsoft for taking this important and forward-looking step.

RECOGNIZING SOPHIA LEE

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 19, 2006*

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Sophia Lee of Blue Springs, Missouri. Sophia recently won the Comcast Leaders and Achievers Scholarship sponsored by Comcast and the Comcast Foundation. She will formally receive the award on July 26, 2006.

Sophia completed a lengthy nomination and selection process, and was chosen from a field of numerous qualified candidates. Comcast recognized Sophia's leadership skills, dedication to community service, positive attitude, and academic achievement.

Comcast and the Comcast Foundation have committed a significant portion of their resources toward motivating young people. In Sophia, Comcast found a high school student who will surely be a force for positive change in the community.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Sophia Lee of Blue Springs, Missouri. Sophia's commitment to excellence is remarkable, and I am honored to represent her in the United States Congress.