

the Pentagon to recognize those pilots from the 119th Fighter Wing, who were flying vigil that day and in fact, did the first fly-over of the Pentagon after the attack. These moments will forever be part of the Hooligans' history.

This unit demonstrated time and again a commitment to excellence in flying fighter aircraft. The William Tell competition, which pits the top fighter units from across the country, was won by the 119th three times. The unit won the Hughes Achievement Award for air defense twice. It only makes sense to provide such a skilled and decorated unit a mission for the new century consistent with the evolution of the United States Air Force.

We know about our two new missions—the C-21s and the Predators—but what we don't yet know is how exactly the Hooligans will make their next entry into the history books with those aircraft. Ultimately, the 119th is about the people that make it up and those people have a record of accomplishment and great service to our Nation.

The 119th changes its mission, but brings with it an enviable record for flying safety. The unit was awarded the Flight Safety Trophy four times in the past seven years. Since 1990, the "Happy Hooligans" have flown more than 70,000 hours in F-16 aircraft without an accident from dozens of locations around the world, in a variety of weather conditions, during daylight and nighttime hours. That achievement coupled with hours of accident free flying in F-4 fighters and flight hours in F-101 fighter aircraft is one of the best safety records in U.S. Air Force history.

The pilots and other personnel in Fargo today who have stood up to terrorists and stood for freedom to protect the United States are remarkable heroes and their stories will ring true for many years in our hearts and our history books.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 23, 2007

Mr. TURNER. Madam Speaker, on rollcalls numbers 44, 45, and 46, on January 22, I am not recorded.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on each vote.

A TRIBUTE TO JON SAMUELS

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 23, 2007

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, when our constituents think of the House of Representatives, they think of the 435 elected Congressmen and women. Yet each of us is acutely aware that much of what we do or say simply wouldn't happen without our hard-working staff—the men and women who choose this way to serve their country, and, oh yes, toil to make us look good.

I rise today to pay tribute to Jonathan Samuels who has worked with me and for me from the earliest days of my first Congressional race, beginning in 1997 until today. It is with

great pride, even motherly pride, that I see him move on to a key position in the office of Majority Whip JIM CLYBURN.

In the early fall of 1997, I literally recruited Jon Samuels off the street in my home town of Evanston, Illinois. He and I were walking together in a student-led march against violence that started at the High School and ended in downtown Evanston, a few blocks from my campaign office. He told me that he had recently graduated from college and talked about the work he was doing with the youth in our community. I learned he was experienced outdoors man and led young people on challenging wilderness experiences.

By the time we reached our destination, I knew that I had to have Jon on my team. I clung to him during the speeches and then took him directly to my office to sign him up as an organizer in the Campaign School I was creating. The Campaign School was to be made up of seventeen young people from around the country who wanted to learn to become political professionals by working the Congressional campaign of a progressive Democratic woman. In exchange for providing excellent training, they would work for a stipend and organize a sufficient number of volunteers and identify enough voters that would elect me to Congress.

The plan worked, in large part, because Jon Samuels was a star. There wasn't anything he couldn't do in that first campaign, and there was no way I could go to Washington without him. For the next 8 years, Jon worked by my side as Legislative Assistant, Legislative Director, and then as Deputy Chief of Staff/Communications Director. Along with my amazing Chief of Staff, Cathy Hurwit, Jon has been the brains behind Team Schakowsky.

As good as he was when he started, Jon has only gotten better. I have watched him grow into one of the most capable, dedicated, strategic, focused, wise-beyond-his-years young men I have ever encountered. I have relied on him to handle the most complicated issues and situations, deal with the media, constituents and outside groups, with other members and their staffs.

But even more than for all of his extraordinary talents and skills, I appreciate and love Jon Samuels for his heart. Working in my office was never just a job for Jon. He believes in our shared progressive vision. He believed our team could make a difference. And I always knew he believed in me, and that has been and continues to be a source of inspiration.

Jon is now like family to me. I feel privileged to say that because Jon is fiercely loyal to his family. He even calls his Grandmother every single day!

And so, Madam Speaker, I rise to say on the record, Thank you, Jon Samuels. Thank you for your service to the residents of the 9th Congressional District of Illinois, for your continuing contributions to our country, for sticking with me for over 9 years, and for your love and friendship. You will always be part of Team Schakowsky.

RETIREMENT OF SUSAN K. KERN,
DIRECTOR OF THE UNIONDALE
PUBLIC LIBRARY

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 23, 2007

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a dedicated and spirited community leader from the 4th Congressional District, Director of the Uniondale Public Library Susan K. Kern. Susan K. Kern began her library career 40 years ago in her hometown of Worcester, Massachusetts after receiving her Master's degree in Library Science from Simmons College in Boston, Massachusetts.

Susan spent time working in public libraries in Massachusetts, Rhode Island and New Jersey before relocating to Long Island, New York in 1981.

In 1986, Susan became the Director of Uniondale Public Library. She remained in that position for over 20 years. During her tenure at the Uniondale Public Library Susan was a major factor in several projects and programs that are still in existence today. She was responsible for installing the library's first elevator in 1987, coordinating the removal of dangerous asbestos in 1992 to keep the community safe and healthy.

The major project of her Uniondale Public Library career has been the Building Expansion and Renovation project. Beginning in 2003, this renovation took nearly 3 years to complete, ending with a Grand Reopening Celebration on January 8, 2006. This project has doubled the size of the library and has enabled the facility to offer more services and materials for the community.

In addition to the great projects Susan has completed, she is also responsible for many programs for the community. Susan has initiated many art exhibits, classes for both children and adults, and countless cultural programs for community members of all ages.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in recognizing the outstanding guidance provided by Susan K. Kern, and the remarkable accomplishments she has made along the way. Together with her family and friends, I applaud Susan for her dedication and service to the community. I wish her continued success, and am honored to have her as a member of my district.

HONORING JERRY ZREMSKI ON
HIS INAUGURATION AS PRESIDENT
OF THE NATIONAL PRESS
CLUB

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 23, 2007

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Mr. Jerry Zremski, newly inaugurated president of the National Press Club and new Washington Bureau Chief of the Buffalo News. Jerry has worked for the Buffalo News for 27 years, and we are privileged to have such a reputable journalist covering our city.

Jerry joined the Washington bureau of the Buffalo News in 1989. From presidential elections and the Buffalo waterfront to the Western