

This resolution recognizes the important work Meals on Wheels does in preventing senior hunger and improving the quality of life for hundreds of thousands of our Nation's seniors. It also encourages Members of Congress to support their local senior nutrition programs by participating in their annual March for Meals events and delivering meals to homebound seniors in a community within their district or State.

While, due to our business in Washington, DC, today, I am unable to participate in this year's celebration, I have proudly participated in past Meals on Wheels Association of America's March for Meals events. I have joined volunteers on Meals on Wheels organizations throughout my district in delivering meals and witnessed first hand both the need for these important programs and the incredible dedication of their staff and volunteers. I encourage each of you to get involved with your local programs—whether you help prepare meals, deliver meals, or just join local seniors in enjoying their meals—your support can make a difference.

I also encourage you to join me as a cosponsor of this resolution which will give the Meals on Wheels Association of America and its member programs the honor and recognition they so richly deserve.

HONORING JUSTIN PAWLEY

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 21, 2007

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, the right to vote is the cornerstone of our American democracy. I rise today to honor Mr. Justin Pawley, an exemplary individual from my Congressional District, who has fought hard to protect and expand voter rights.

Mr. Pawley, a self-described political junkie, is one of millions of Americans living with Down Syndrome. His civic awareness and interest in our political system motivated him to utilize his right to vote in 2000. Sadly, Mr. Pawley was turned away due to a State statute that prevented adults with guardians to vote in the Commonwealth. Soon thereafter, he began a 7 year effort to correct this injustice.

Mr. Pawley has demonstrated remarkable courage and determination through his work with State and local officials to get his right to vote. The Justin Pawley Act was introduced in the Kentucky Legislature last year to allow thousands of individuals with guardians the right to vote in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Mr. Pawley's quest came one step closer to realization last week when the bill passed both houses of the Kentucky State Legislature.

Mr. Pawley's relentless pursuit of his right to vote is an inspiring example of how one person can make an important difference in our political process. It is my honor to recognize Justin Pawley today before the entire House of Representatives. He is an outstanding citizen worthy of our collective appreciation and respect.

RECOGNITION OF BILLY
WALKABOUT

HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 21, 2007

Mr. COLE of Oklahoma. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of a great American and great Oklahoman, Billy Walkabout. Mr. Walkabout was the most decorated American Indian soldier in the Vietnam War, and this weekend his family will have the great honor of laying him to rest at Arlington National Cemetery.

Walkabout, a Cherokee, joined the Army soon after graduating from U.S. Grant High School in Oklahoma in 1968. On November 20, 1968, Army Ranger Sergeant Walkabout and 12 of his fellow soldiers were on a mission behind enemy lines when they suddenly came under fire. The battle lasted several hours, during which Sergeant Walkabout was seriously injured. Despite these injuries, Walkabout continued to provide life saving measures to his wounded colleagues and help them board evacuation helicopters—all while continuing to return fire.

Because of his incredible courage and valor, Billy Walkabout received the Distinguished Service Cross, 5 Silver Stars, 5 Bronze Stars and the Purple Heart.

Madam Speaker, it is an honor to be a Member of this House and to serve those great Americans like Billy Walkabout. His service, bravery and patriotism are true testaments of his character. I am proud to stand before this House in recognition of the great life and service of Mr. Billy Walkabout.

CONGRATULATIONS GROVE JUNIOR
HIGH DARE STUDENTS OF
THE YEAR

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 21, 2007

Mr. ROSKAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the DARE Students of the Year from Grove Junior High School in Elk Grove Village.

These students participated in the Grove Junior High DARE program during the 2006–2007 school year to learn about the harmful effects of drugs and alcohol. In recognition of their outstanding classroom participation and positive attitude, Anthony White and Christian Barajas were named DARE Students of the Year and Jaela Gibbs and Dahee Will were named runners-up.

These students have learned to resist peer pressure and live productive drug, gang, and violence-free lives. I commend these students for their hard work and encourage them to continue to set a good example for their peers.

Anthony, Christian, Jaela, and Dahee, your families, your school, and your community are extremely proud of what you've accomplished. I wish you all the best in the future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 21, 2007

Mr. MITCHELL. Mr. Speaker, due to the fact that my flight reservation was inadvertently canceled and I had to take a later flight, I missed three rollcall votes.

Had I been present, I would have voted in favor of H. Res. 138, which passed 399–0 on rollcall vote No. 157, H.R. 658, which passed 390–10 on rollcall vote No. 158, and H.R. 839, which passed 394–1 on rollcall vote No. 159.

NATIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR DAY

HON. NORMAN D. DICKS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 21, 2007

Mr. DICKS. Madam Speaker, ladies and gentlemen, Members of Congress, leaders of our armed forces and, of course, our treasured Medal of Honor recipients. Thanks to all of you all for joining me in remembering the extraordinary achievements of our combat veterans—particularly those who wear the Congressional Medal of Honor. It's also a real pleasure once again to have the chance to be with Bruce Crandall, who received his Medal recently at a White House ceremony that I attended earlier this month. When the President read the citation detailing the amazing heroism that Bruce displayed in Vietnam, it was again a reminder to me of how special each of these individuals are and how important it is that we provide adequate recognition to those who achieve this highest military commendation.

Out of more than 3,400 individuals to receive this medal in our nation's history, just 112 remain with us today.

Their actions in battle, and their continued efforts now as shepherds of patriotism, remind us all how fortunate this Nation is to have men as brave as these among us. Your legacy and lessons of sacrifice continue to inspire us to act with loyalty where we work, live and serve; to walk with courage when obstacles hinder us from the right path.

I am honored to be able to serve in my capacity as a member of the United States Congress, and am proud to be an original cosponsor of this resolution creating the National Medal of Honor day. You have been recognized by your Nation's leadership with the highest medal of military distinction. Now your fellow citizens will always recognize you with a day in your honor.

Thank you for your bravery that brought America to where she is today, and thank you for all that you continue do to demonstrate the values of loyalty, sacrifice, integrity, and courage.

NATIONAL AGRICULTURE DAY

HON. MARK E. SOUDER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 21, 2007

Mr. SOUDER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of National Agriculture Day,