

discover that, upon his return home, Chris and Meredith decided to publish this poignant collection of letters and use the book as a means to further support members of our military and their families.

All of the proceeds from the sales of "Made a Difference" will be donated to the Fisher House Foundation, an organization which supports America's military and their families in times of need. Because members of the military and their families are stationed worldwide and must often travel great distances for specialized medical care, Fisher House Foundation donates "comfort homes," built on the grounds of major military and VA medical centers. These homes enable family members to be close to a loved one at the most stressful times—during the hospitalization for an unexpected illness, disease, or injury.

As a husband, father, doctor, surgeon, and Air Force Major, Chris has touched countless lives—exemplifying the very spirit of Xavier's educational mission and I cannot think of a more fitting recognition than the Saint Francis Xavier Award. It is with great pride that I rise today to join all of those gathered to join his wife, Meredith, his parents, Dr. Paul and Eileen Coppola, family, friends, and Xavier High School in congratulating Dr. Christopher Coppola on this very special occasion.

A TRIBUTE TO OLANIKE T. ALABI

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Ms. Olanike T. Alabi, who is the proud daughter of immigrants who came to the United States several decades ago. She is a product of the New York City Public School system, graduating from Midwood High School. She also attended Brooklyn College's prominent Medical Science Institute. She later received her bachelor of arts degree from Temple University, where she carried a double major and a minor. In 1999, she was accepted to the prestigious University of London in Great Britain, where she pursued a master of arts degree.

Olanike Alabi is currently employed by Local 1199 of the SEIU United Healthcare Workers East as an assistant to the president. There, she also participates in a voluntary voter-registration program as well as political campaign events.

Ms. Alabi has received certificates and awards from such organizations as the Family and Support Resources Group; the Training and Employment Council (TEC) Brooklyn; the Access Fund, an organization dedicated to providing scholarships for students attending institutions of higher learning; a Great Force Partner Award from former Congressman Major Owens; a Woman of the Year Award from State Senator John Sampson; and I have presented Ms. Alabi with a Community Service Award for her outstanding work in the community.

Additionally, she has established herself as a fighter for justice. In June of 2003, after being fired from her job as the District Manager for CB No. 2, she filed an Article 78 proceeding at the Kings County Supreme Court and was granted a favorable, unanimous deci-

sion from a panel of judges at the Appellate Division, 2nd Department in April of 2005. Her lawsuit resulted in her reinstatement with compensation and the City of New York issuing proper procedures for terminating a community board employee. In June of 2004, she filed a New York State Division of Housing and Community Renewal (DHCR) proceeding against a Brooklyn-based property owner and was successful in the venture in March of 2005.

She continues to be featured as a public speaker at events celebrating women's history, school graduations, chemical dependency programs, and college fairs, and as a moderator for political debates, some of which were most recently aired on Manhattan Neighborhood Network (MNN). She was recently elected as the state committeewomen (district leader) of the 57th A.D.

Finally, her primary interests include public service, international affairs, labor, industrial relations and education. She enjoys reading, writing and traveling. Her church, organizational board and memberships include: Emmanuel Baptist Church in Brooklyn, Board for the Education of People of African Ancestry, the Community Advisory Board of the Cumberland Diagnostic and Treatment Center, League of Women Voters, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Church Women United, Inc., and a host of other local and civic organizations.

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize Ms. Alabi and all of her hard work and the precedents she has set.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Ms. Olanike T. Alabi.

IN REFERENCE TO THE COOPER RIVER 10K BRIDGE RUN

HON. MIKE FERGUSON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2007

Mr. FERGUSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor one of my constituents, Michael L. Drozd of Hillsborough, New Jersey. He is dedicating his time and efforts to an important cause. On March 31, Michael will be running in the Cooper River 10K Bridge Run to support the Injured Marine Semper Fi Fund.

This fund provides financial assistance to Marines in combat and training and to their families. Since its inception in May 2004 through the end of last year, the Injured Marine Semper Fi Fund has provided more than \$8 million to our wounded heroes.

At 23 years old, Michael has served in the Army, Navy, and the Marines. Michael is a senior First Classman who will be commissioned as Second Lieutenant in the Marine Corps when he graduates from the Citadel in May. He is the only Marine representative Cadet from New Jersey participating in the run and will be running in battle dress uniform, combat boots, and wearing a 50-pound rucksack.

I'd like to commend Michael not only for his selflessness and service to our country but also for his commitment and dedication to such a worthy cause. It is truly inspiring to see a young person like Michael give so much of their time and energy to help others in need.

HONORING GENERAL AND MRS. MICHAEL L. OATES

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2007

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, I would like to take a moment today to honor the service of BG Michael L. Oates as he leaves the 101st Airborne Division, Air Assault, and the Fort Campbell community. He has been selected for promotion to Major General and will soon take on even greater challenges and responsibilities as he assumes command of the 10th Mountain Division, Light Infantry, in Fort Drum, NY. This new assignment is further evidence that General Oates is among the most capable and trusted officers in our Army today.

In early 2005, General Oates was at the forefront as the Screaming Eagles returned to Iraq, taking control of four volatile provinces. The Division would later gain responsibility for training Iraqi forces in two additional provinces and would participate in security operations in Baghdad itself. The 101st was given a series of difficult missions, and performed each of them well.

General Oates was also instrumental to the continuing transformation of Fort Campbell. Soldiers returning from service in Iraq were greeted by new training facilities, new infrastructure, new barracks, and first-class housing for their families.

A deployment leaves behind thousands of family members who must daily confront the stress and hardship of having a loved one at war. Barbara Oates has been a cornerstone of Fort Campbell's efforts to take care of these families. I have great admiration for her leadership and value her friendship.

Madam Speaker, please join me in thanking General and Mrs. Oates for their extraordinary service to the Army, the 101st Airborne Division, Air Assault, and the Clarksville and Montgomery County communities. We will miss them, and we wish them the best of luck in their next assignment.

SUPPORTING H.R. 1132

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2007

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of this legislation. Breast cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death among women and the leading cause of cancer death among women under the age of 40. Early detection and education are key to winning this battle. It is imperative that we reauthorize the National Breast & Cervical Cancer Early Detection Act, H.R. 1132, so that all women are given access to free and low-cost breast and cervical screenings. No woman should be denied these lifesaving screenings simply because she cannot afford them. Further, all women should be made aware of the benefits of each screening and the risks of these cancers through public education programs.

This issue is very important within my District of Marin and Sonoma Counties in California, and especially so in Marin County because it has the highest rate of breast cancer