

from other parts of the United States such as Vermont, Virginia, Illinois and New York moved in to begin farming the land there as well. This area also attracted people from other parts of the world including England, Germany, Ireland, and Switzerland.

On April 23, 1957, with a population of 5,231, area residents voted to incorporate as the Village of Shoreview. During the 1970s and 1980s Shoreview experienced rapid growth. In the 1990s, the city matured as less land was available for development. City planning has shifted from new development to infill, redevelopment and preserving its natural habitat.

Fifty years after incorporation, Shoreview has grown into a large suburb. It is a thriving community that is home to quiet neighborhoods, small businesses, excellent schools, and expansive wetlands, trails, parks and lakes.

Madam Speaker, in honor of the history of Shoreview, Minnesota and the events celebrating it, I am pleased to submit this statement for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD recognizing Shoreview's 50th anniversary.

HONORING THE LIFE OF PRIVATE  
FIRST CLASS STEVEN A. DAVIS

**HON. TOM DAVIS**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 23, 2007*

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Private First Class Steven A. Davis and to recognize his service to our nation.

PFC Davis was a true patriot who served his country with honor. Throughout his life he selflessly dedicated himself to his fellow soldiers, family and friends, and to our country.

His family moved to Woodbridge, Virginia, in 2001. Before joining the Army, PFC Davis worked in a fast food restaurant to try and pay for college. Yearning to serve his country, he enlisted in the Army in September 2005, and began his first deployment shortly thereafter. PFC Davis was assigned to C Company, 2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division, Fort Carson, Colorado. Tragically, he was killed on July 4, 2007, after sustaining injuries from grenades detonated near his mounted patrol. He was honored with the Purple Heart and Bronze Star prior to his death.

PFC Davis is survived by his parents Guy and Tess, his wife Ayla and their one-year-old daughter Elizabeth, and his brother Specialist Chris Davis, who is also a soldier currently deployed to Iraq. His mother, Tess, is working in Iraq as a paramedic, and his grandfather is working there as a mechanic. His father, Buck, is also an Army veteran.

Words cannot express the gratitude we feel to those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our nation; it is a debt that can never be repaid. I recognize that words are of little comfort for the family and friends of PFC Davis, who are truly suffering in the wake of the loss of this intelligent and dedicated man. I hope they will take some solace in knowing that we will never forget PFC Davis and the tremendous sacrifice he made while defending our country.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I would like to honor the memory of Private First Class Ste-

ven A. Davis. I call upon my colleagues to remember him as a man who gave his life protecting the American people.

CELEBRATING THE BIRTH OF MISS  
JOELLA GALE MURRAY

**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 23, 2007*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, today, I am happy to congratulate Joseph and Kathryn Murray of Alexandria, Virginia, on the birth of their beautiful baby girl, Joella "Ella" Gale Murray was born on Thursday, June 21, 2007, at 1:03 pm weighing 7 pounds 4 ounces and measuring 19 inches long. Ella has been born into a loving home, where she will be raised by parents who are devoted to her well-being and bright future. Her birth is a blessing.

PASSING OF GENNADI KRYUCHKOV

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 23, 2007*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, on July 14, 2007, the Russian Federation lost one of its great leaders, although I am certain he would steadfastly reject such a characterization of himself.

He certainly wasn't a famous political figure, or a wealthy philanthropist, or a brilliant scientist, and his name was rarely found on the pages of the major media. Gennadi Kryuchkov's leadership was in the spiritual realm. He was a courageous and principled leader of the unregistered Evangelical Baptist Church in the Soviet Union in the days when merely sharing one's religious faith with a neighbor could lead to a "discussion" at the local police station or the feared KGB office, and actively preaching the Gospel without permission from the government was usually good for a ticket to one of the many forced labor camps that comprised the infamous Gulag.

Born in 1926, Gennadi Kryuchkov came to faith in 1951, and became active in an unregistered congregation of Baptist believers. In 1960, when he felt the officially registered Baptist organization had too deeply compromised itself with Soviet authorities by submitting to repressive new regulations, he became one of the leaders of the *Iniitsiativniki*, the unregistered and essentially underground network of congregations that defied Caesar's intrusion into the spiritual realm. Gennadi Kryuchkov became president of the underground church council and the late Georgi Vins was chosen as secretary. In May 1965, Pastor Kryuchkov and Pastor Vins led an open march on Communist Party headquarters in Moscow to protest government restrictions on believers in the Soviet Union.

According to church council statistics, by 1972 the unregistered or "reform" Baptist church numbered around 450 congregations and 18,000 members. Another reputable source reported in the mid-1980s that there were 2,000 reform Baptist congregations with approximately 70,000 adult members.

I would add parenthetically that in April 1979 Georgi Vins and four other Soviet dissidents were expelled from the Soviet Union in exchange for two convicted Soviet spies. In August 1985, the Helsinki Commission, of which I am honored to serve currently as Chairman, heard Pastor Vins' dramatic testimony on the plight of the unregistered Baptist church at Congressional hearings in Buffalo, New York, devoted to the subject of Soviet forced labor practices.

Meanwhile, as a result of his determination to preserve the freedom to worship without state interference, Pastor Kryuchkov was arrested and sentenced to three years in labor camp from 1966 to 1969. In 1970, under threat of continued persecution, he went into hiding and spent 20 years working underground, preaching to fellow believers in clandestine gatherings, publishing "illegal" religious literature, and staying one step ahead of the KGB.

Only when the chains of religious repression in the Soviet Union were cast off as a result of the new thinking that characterized the government of Communist Party General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev, was Pastor Kryuchkov able to emerge from the shadows and return to his family and loved ones in the Tula Oblast, still fervently preaching the Scriptures and standing fast for separation of church and state.

Madam Speaker, like the Soviet Union itself, the days of cruel religious persecution and militant atheism in Russia are pretty much a thing of the past. But let us not forget the courage and persistence of church leaders like Gennadi Kryuchkov, who, like the "Remnant" of Old Testament times, kept the flame of faith of burning during the dark days of persecution.

HONORING MR. PETE DLALAB OF  
ELLSWORTH, KANSAS

**HON. JERRY MORAN**

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 23, 2007*

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Madam Speaker, today I rise to express my respect and high regard for a Kansan who is truly a member of "the Greatest Generation"—Mr. Pete Dlabal of Ellsworth. The time has come to recognize this man who has served his community and country while remaining devoted to his family.

Mr. Dlabal was born to a family that included nine brothers and sisters in one of the fine small towns I have the privilege of representing, Wilson, Kansas. Following his graduation from Wilson High School and the Wichita Business School, he joined the millions of other selfless young men of his generation and enlisted in the United States Army. After serving in the Army for four and a half years during World War II, he returned to Ellsworth County, Kansas.

Upon returning home, his service to his community continued, serving as the county treasurer for two years. He then began his tenure at the Ellsworth County Farmers Cooperative Union in 1949. In this position he would remain for 31 years, including 24 years as General Manager. In honor of his dedication and leadership, Mr. Dlabal was one of only four individuals inducted into the Kansas Cooperative Hall of Fame this past March.