

Over the past four years, thousands of volunteers have worked diligently to alter shirts, shorts, boxer shorts, and pants. All of which are shipped to a central distribution center in Ohio and then allocated to military hospitals throughout the United States, as well as Germany, Iraq, and Afghanistan.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to recognize the remarkable philanthropic efforts of Sew Much Comfort and their volunteers for their generosity and commitment to service which has helped to create a better life for our brave servicemembers.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. KENNY C. HULSHOF

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 1, 2007*

Mr. HULSHOF. Madam Speaker, unfortunately, I was unavoidably detained and missed September 7th's rollcall vote, number 869. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on H.R. 2669, the College Cost Reduction Act of 2007.

#### RECOGNITION OF RETIREMENT

### HON. JACK KINGSTON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 1, 2007*

Mr. KINGSTON. Madam Speaker. I rise today in recognition of the retirement of Vernon Martin, the Executive Director of the Coastal Georgia Regional Development Center. Vernon has been a valuable partner in my efforts to represent the First District of Georgia and a great friend.

Over the many years that we have known each other, he has been wonderful to work with and always kept the safety, security, and well-being of the community in the forefront of his thoughts. Vernon has dedicated 38 years of service to Coastal Georgia Regional Development Center, where he was instrumental in the economic development of the region. The service area for his office has undergone tremendous change in the past four decades. Coastal Georgia needed leadership and hard work to transition from the slow growth rates that characterized prior eras to the booming growth that the region is now experiencing. Vernon and his staff at the RDC have provided steady guidance and support to the communities they serve, helping them prepare for the future and adapt to change.

Vernon's list of accomplishments over the years is a long one. He was active in the creation of Coastal Emergency Management Plan to insure the safety of Georgia's coastal communities during hurricanes, established the Nation's first and largest rural revolving loan fund, helped to create one of the Nation's first regional rural tourism program and was involved in coordinating off-base impact planning for two major military installation expansions. In 2004, Vernon was awarded the Walter Scheiber Leadership Award for his support to the Association and for his outstanding leadership and innovation as a regional council executive director.

Although he will be missed at the Regional Development Center, we are all glad to know that he will still serve in an advisory capacity and help transition to a new Executive Director. I'm sure Vernon is counting the days until he can fully enjoy the beautiful Georgia weather on his beloved motorcycle. I wish him the best of luck in his retirement.

CONGRATULATING ST. JOHN'S  
PREPARATORY SCHOOL IN  
DANVERS, MASSACHUSETTS

### HON. JOHN F. TIERNEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 1, 2007*

Mr. TIERNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor St. John's Preparatory School in Danvers, Massachusetts, on the occasion of its 100th Anniversary Celebration and extend the congratulations and best wishes from the United States House of Representatives for continued success in all of its future endeavors to the School's Board of Trustees, Administration, Faculty, Staff and Alumni.

St. John's Preparatory School held its first day of classes on September 10, 1907, and over the next century, it has graduated 12,000 alumni, who have gone on to make significant, lasting contributions in careers and communities throughout the region, across the country and around the world.

Today, St. John's Preparatory School continues to honor the legacy of its founders, the Congregation of the Brothers of St. Francis Xavier, and remains dedicated to the pursuit of humility, zeal, compassion, trust and simplicity in all endeavors.

Throughout its history, the School has nurtured a dynamic community of learners encouraging its students to develop their full spiritual, intellectual, moral, physical and creative potential, and it has inspired its student body to value and honor the diversity that enriches both the school community and the world beyond its campus.

St. John's Prep students continually strive for excellence and have earned distinction in scholarship, athletics, service and the arts. The Prep, as it is better known by many, is committed to the character, mission and values of a Catholic education and since its opening has celebrated its Catholic identity and formed partnerships with schools in the region to enhance educational opportunity and ensure access for students from all walks of life.

St. John's Preparatory School seeks to promote human dignity and the pursuit of peace and justice, and its alumni, students, faculty and staff have established various programs to respond to the needs of many working side by side with other volunteers and social service organizations locally, nationally and internationally.

Congratulations to St. John's Preparatory School for one hundred years of education, inspiration and enrichment bestowed upon so many who have passed through its halls and in recognition of the contributions and accomplishments of its alumni, administration, faculty, staff and students that have touched many throughout the world.

MS. FABIOLA SMALL

### HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 1, 2007*

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, today I am proud to recognize a longtime community leader in southeast Texas. Ms. Fabiola Small has worn many distinguished hats throughout her lifetime, including co-chair of the Port Arthur Weed and Seed; founder of Love People, Inc.; founder of the Port Arthur, Texas Juneteenth Pageant; president of Woodmen of the World, Lodge 6192 and Youth Lodge 4640; president of Texas Senior Citizens Association; and board member of Tekoa Academy Charter School.

"Ms. Fab" selflessly volunteers her time at the Salvation Army Boys and Girls Sports Section, and delivers meals to the young and the elderly. She has received countless awards, including the 2006 Woodmen of the World Insurance Society; 2006 Fraternalist of the Year; MVP of the National Fraternal Congress of America; 2006 Women's History, Builders of Communities & Dreams; 2007 MVP of the U.S. Congress, and 2007 Juneteenth Trailblazer.

Ms. Small is the first African American to be recognized as the National and International Fraternalist of the Year. An award presented to fraternalists who provide outstanding volunteer service in his or her community, and excellent leadership in his or her local chapter throughout the past year. Ms. Small's volunteerism even caught the attention of Southern Living Magazine, who will feature her in an upcoming issue.

Ms. Small has dedicated her time and energy to the Golden Triangle for most of her life. Her selfless acts of kindness, devotion, and compassion for others are a true testament to her character. With 4 children, 18 children that she has taken under her wings, 22 grandchildren, and 9 great-grandchildren, "Ms. Fab" is an inspiration to others, setting a great example for all to follow.

On behalf of the Second Congressional District of Texas, I applaud Ms. Fabiola Small on her outstanding achievements. She has helped make our world a better place to live, and I applaud her unwavering service and dedication to the community.

And that's just the way it is.

#### TRIBUTE TO PAUL WICE OF WEST CENTRAL NEBRASKA

### HON. ADRIAN SMITH

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 1, 2007*

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay my respects to a broadcasting institution in West Central Nebraska, Paul Wice. This past Friday he turned on the microphone to host "Talk of the Town" one last time.

A 1962 graduate of Kearney High, and a 1966 graduate of Kearney State College, Paul has been a fixture on the airwaves for listeners in my district for nearly 40 years.

I have had the pleasure of being interviewed by him both as part of news stories, and as a guest on his show.