

the international community that even its founders could not have envisioned. Since its founding with an inaugural class of 30 students from 16 countries, the Wien program has grown in stature and worldwide recognition. More than 800 students from over 100 countries have come to Brandeis as Wien Scholars.

Through the years, the Wien program has produced an impressive array of enlightened world leaders dedicated to making the world a better place. Wien Scholars have held important positions at the United Nations, served in prominent roles in national governments from Japan to Kenya to Iceland to the Philippines, and pursued life-saving medical breakthroughs. They have also distinguished themselves in the arts, business, education, law, and science.

I urge all of us, especially at this time of increasing ethnic and religious tensions around the world, to use the fiftieth anniversary of the Wien program to uphold the legacy of its founders by promoting the principles of understanding, tolerance, and acceptance.

CONGRATULATING MR. GREGORY  
MATTHEW PROSKE

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 10, 2008*

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Gregory Matthew Proske, for attaining the impressive rank of Eagle Scout.

Gregory has been involved in the Boy Scouts of America for the past 11 years. Joining as a Tiger Cub, he has shown dedication to the organization, successfully moving up the Boy Scout ranks over time. Gregory is a proud member of Troop 434 in the Trailblazer District in North Tarrant County, Texas.

Gregory went through a rigorous process to receive this honor. A scout must fulfill seven main requirements before achieving Eagle status. He was required to be active in his troop for a period of at least six months after he had achieved the rank of Life Scout and to demonstrate that he lives by the principles of the Scout Oath and Law in his daily life. He earned the expected 21 merit badges needed to qualify and served in a position of leadership in the scouts for at least 6 months. Gregory took part in a Scoutmaster conference, successfully completed an Eagle Scout board of review, and provided the Fort Worth community with a service project. Gregory reworked two planting beds at St. John the Apostle Catholic School in Fort Worth, Texas for his project.

A student at Nolan High School, Gregory plans to attend Texas A&M University, where he intends to become a member of the Corps of Cadets. Additionally, Proske aims to serve in the Air Force as a fighter pilot.

Madam Speaker, becoming an Eagle Scout is only the most recent in a string of impressive achievements, and I am confident Gregory will continue to excel in his future endeavors. I commend Gregory for his penchant for service, his commitment to the community, and this most remarkable accomplishment. He is a role model, both to young people and the entire North Texas area, and I am proud to represent him in the United States Congress.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SCHOOLS  
EMPOWERED TO RESPOND ACT

**HON. BOB ETHERIDGE**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 10, 2008*

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Madam Speaker, as a member of the House Committee on Homeland Security and the former superintendent of public instruction in North Carolina, I am pleased today to introduce the Schools Empowered to Respond Act. This bill will put the federal government to work in partnership with states and local education agencies to support school preparedness planning, training, and equipment needs.

Schools are a vital resource in our community, and our children spend the majority of their daylight hours in our educational institutions. But schools are often overlooked when considering emergency preparedness and first responder needs. Even as teachers, administrators, and students are working together to make schools a safe place for learning, they can use additional help and guidance to make their planning as effective as possible.

When I surveyed principals in my district's schools in 2006 about emergency response planning, I learned that schools were keeping our children safe but, despite the lessons of 9/11, the federal government was doing little to improve emergency planning and disaster mitigation at schools. I then asked the Government Accountability Office to survey schools across the nation. They spoke to school personnel in Washington State, Iowa, Massachusetts, Florida, Ohio, and my own state of North Carolina. Last June, they reported the same thing I found in the 2nd District: schools want to improve their security, but need support and guidance to make improvements.

The Schools Empowered to Respond Act gives schools this support and guidance. It takes simple but important steps to make sure that schools have the help they need to keep our kids safe. State governments and education officials know what is best for their communities and their students, and this bill supports their work to keep schools safe and secure places to learn.

It gives school officials a "one-stop shop" in the Department of Homeland Security they can look to for advice, best practices, and assistance for school security planning. This office will coordinate federal initiatives such as the Safe Schools Initiative, Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools, and Safe and Drug Free Schools to ensure that resources get to the schools that need them. The bill also ensures that schools are eligible for emergency planning grants from DHS to improve school security. Given the vital role that schools serve in our communities, it ensures that teachers and administrators, school resource officers, and school emergency planning officials have a prominent voice in our national homeland security response. In short, it empowers school personnel to continue their good work and to implement their plans for school security by giving them the guidance and resources they need to keep our children safe.

Given recent events at schools across the country, we as a nation simply must invest in important priorities like emergency planning to ensure our schools remain prepared for any

emergency. I am proud to be taking steps to help schools with their emergency planning, and I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting the Schools Empowered to Respond Act today.

TRIBUTE TO MATAYA HULING

**HON. TOM LATHAM**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 10, 2008*

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker I rise today to honor a great achievement by a young American from Garner, Iowa. This Sunday, April 13, Mataya Huling will be presented with The Girl Scout Gold Award. This is the highest achievement possible within the Girl Scouts of the United States of America.

According to the Girl Scouts, the Gold Award project is the culmination of all the work a girl puts into "going for the Gold." It is something that a girl can be passionate about—in thought, deed, and action. The project is something that fulfills a need within a girl's community (whether local or global), creates change, and hopefully, is something that becomes ongoing. The project is more than a good service project—it encompasses organizational, leadership, and networking skills.

This award is certainly very prestigious, as last year only 5.4 percent of all eligible Girl Scouts received the Gold Award.

According to the Garner Leader and Signal newspaper, Mataya's Gold project was to redo the Garner-Hayfield High School Drama Department prop room. Mataya has been actively involved in drama programs since her days in junior high school. She worked 80 hours to organize, clean, repair and properly store props, costumes and materials used by the drama department.

Previously Mataya earned the Girl Scout Silver Award by planning and presenting several bike safety workshops for younger troop members and pre-school age children.

Along with her dedication to Girl Scouts, Mataya is involved in countless other activities in her school and community including chorus, band, GAP Teen Council, golf, and has volunteered teaching Sunday Bible School at St. Paul Lutheran Church.

Mataya is a shining example of the dedication, determination and faith present in today's youth and their promise as tomorrow's leaders. I am proud to represent Mataya and her parents, Mark and Missy, in the United States Congress. I know that all of my colleagues will join me in not only congratulating Mataya but also recognizing that maybe one day in the not too distant future we will see Congresswoman Mataya Huling serving in this historic institution.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING  
CHASE HUBER FOR WINNING THE  
BOYS' DIVISION I STATE BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

**HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 10, 2008*

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Chase Huber showed hard work and dedication to the sport of basketball; and

Whereas, Chase Huber was a supportive team player; and

Whereas, Chase Huber always displayed sportsmanship on and off of the court; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that along with his friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Chase Huber on winning the Boys' Division I State Basketball Championship. We recognize the tremendous hard work and sportsmanship he has demonstrated during the 2007–2008 basketball season.

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TRIBUTE TO CHELSEA DISTRICT  
LIBRARY

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**HON. TIMOTHY WALBERG**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 10, 2008*

Mr. WALBERG. Madam Speaker, it is my special privilege to recognize the Chelsea District Library on being named the Best Small Library in America for 2008 by Library Journal. It is with great admiration and pride that I congratulate the Chelsea Library on behalf of all of those who have benefited from its commitment to Washtenaw County and dedication to high standards and superior services.

The Chelsea District Library proudly serves 14,000 residents of Chelsea, Michigan and its surrounding areas by providing accessible, reliable, and up-to-date information and technology. Within its impressive renovated facility, the library offers an extensive collection of diverse research materials including books, periodicals, and videos as well as online and CD-ROM databases. Exceptionally responsive to community needs, the Chelsea library boasts abundant success for its targeted outreach programs.

In its fourth year, the Best Small Library award is presented to libraries that serve populations of less than 25,000. The award is co-sponsored by the Library Journal, the oldest publication covering the library field, along with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, which seeks to ensure that all people have access to a great education and to technology in public libraries.

This year's award for Best Small Library in America sent to the Chelsea District Library for its continued excellence in its field. Today this library stands as the pride of the Chelsea community, working to educate all local citizens by providing access to cutting edge resources in a welcoming environment. This historic library continues to serve as a model for small libraries across Michigan and the nation.

Madam Speaker, today I honor the Chelsea District Library for its continued service to the Chelsea community. May others know of my high regard for this library's innovative programs and enthusiastic outreach, as well as my best wishes for the Chelsea Library in the future.

TRIBUTE TO STEVE KICKLIGHTER

**HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON**

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 10, 2008*

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize an amazing Idahoan, Steve Kicklighter, known to his listeners as KeKe Luv. In the name of Child Abuse Prevention, KeKe set out to break a world record and stay awake for 175 hours, and I'm proud to say KeKe accomplished this enormous goal.

KeKe is a disk jockey for Boise radio station KSAS–103.3 FM. With the support of his station, KeKe took on the microphone for 7 full days. He only received one 15 minute break every 8 hours, and he accomplished this feat without any caffeine. Why did he do this? The answer is simple, he wanted to create awareness of child abuse, and, like most people, he wants that abuse to end.

Over a year ago, KeKe learned of the death of 4-year-old Summer Phelps. Her tragic death was one of the worst cases of child abuse that the city of Spokane, Washington, has ever seen. A once-happy redheaded little girl moved into her father and step-mother's home, where she endured unimaginable abuse in the days leading up to her murder. KeKe's message is simple: it shouldn't hurt to be a child.

In honor of Child Abuse Prevention month, KeKe took on the challenge to stay awake for 7 straight days to help raise awareness. KSAS–103.3 FM passed out blue ribbons and promoted Boise's non-profit organization, Idaho's Heart.

Thank you to KeKe Luv, thank you to KSAS–103.3 FM, and thank you to all their fans who offered support. I am so proud of your accomplishment, and I believe because of your efforts, the city of Boise and the Nation are ready to take action to prevent and end child abuse.

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PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION  
OF H.R. 2016, NATIONAL LAND-  
SCAPE CONSERVATION SYSTEM  
ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. MARK UDALL**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 9, 2008*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Chairman, I am a cosponsor of this legislation and I rise in its support. Its sole purpose and effect is to establish the National Landscape Conservation System, NLCS, as a matter of statutory law.

The NLCS now includes more than 800 units, including all National Scenic and Historic Trails, National Conservation Areas, National Monuments, wilderness areas, Wild and Scenic Rivers, and wilderness study areas managed by the Bureau of Land Management, or BLM. In all, it includes some 26 million acres, or about 10 percent of the land that BLM manages.

As a system it was established in 2000 by an administrative action of Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt. However, each of its units was originally established by Congress or through a Presidential Proclamation under the

Antiquities Act of 1906 and each is managed according to its enabling authority, as well as other laws applicable to various units or portions of units, such as the Wilderness Act, Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, or the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976.

The purpose of Secretary Babbitt's administrative action was to erect a framework to tie each unit of the NLCS together into a larger conservation system, and the result has been to increase the public recognition and understanding of these special places within the array of public lands under management of the BLM.

The NLCS units include significant natural resources, including approximately 12 percent of the BLM-managed sage grouse habitat, as well as important cultural and scientific resources. For example, in Colorado the system includes the Canyons of the Ancients National Monument, which has more than 6,000 archeological sites significant to Native American cultures, as well the Gunnison Gorge and McInnis Canyons National Conservation Areas (the latter of which is named for our former colleague, Representative Scott McInnis).

These and the other NLCS units provide unique recreational opportunities, and their status as part of the system has proved valuable not only in terms of their recognition by the public but also as it relates to funding for their management.

The bill makes that status a matter of law. At the same time, it specifies that any future additions to the system must be authorized separately—as the existing units have been—and that each unit is to be managed in accordance with all laws applicable to that unit and in a manner that protects the values for which the components of the system were designated.

The legislation does not impose any new conditions on use of the lands involved, nor does it affect existing rights with respect to those lands, whether those are related to grazing or other purposes. The Congressional Budget Office says its enactment will not affect BLM's budget because BLM already has permanent authority to manage the lands in the system, subject to amounts provided annually in appropriations acts, and that enacting H.R. 2016 will not affect direct spending or revenues or the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

The bill is supported by the Bush Administration as well as by many other groups, including the Colorado-based Outdoor Industry Association as well as the American Hiking Society, National Council of Churches, Boone and Crockett Club, National Trust for Historic Preservation, and the National Wildlife Federation.

Mr. Chairman, this is a modest measure but one that deserves enactment, and I urge its approval by the House.

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TRIBUTE TO ARMER NATHAN  
BURKART

**HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 10, 2008*

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the life of Army SPC Armer Nathan