

In Recognition of the Eglin-Hurlburt Site of the MITRE Corporation upon 50 Years of Service to the United States of America

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the MITRE Corporation on the occasion of its 50th anniversary and upon completion of the modernization of their Eglin-Hurlburt Site. It is my pleasure and privilege to honor MITRE for its dedicated service to the Northwest Florida community and to the United States of America.

The MITRE Corporation was founded in 1958 on the premise that the government needed a corporate partner to provide technical expertise in systems engineering and integration. MITRE was born out of the Lincoln Laboratory at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Its founding principle was to produce quality expertise for the government by drawing on the best in both the commercial and public sectors to solve the Nation's most difficult technical problems. Its first project was to provide systems engineering for the Semi-Automatic Ground Environment (SAGE) program, and MITRE chose Eglin Air Force Base as its first site.

Over the years, the Eglin-Hurlburt Site has been a vital part of the development and testing of countless critical sensor systems, data link systems, and command and control systems. From its development of telemetry methods in the 1960's to its recent work on the integration and development testing of Joint Tactical Information Distribution Systems (JTIDS), MITRE has spent the last 50 years providing essential services to the defense community of the United States.

Today, the MITRE Eglin-Hurlburt Site consists of 18 engineers, scientists, researchers, analysts, and support staff providing a wide range of development and engineering expertise to the United States Air Force Special Operations Command, Air Armament Center, and 505th Command and Control Wing. MITRE has earned an international reputation for technical excellence and innovation. Their local employees devote themselves to serving the public interest as well as contributing inculcable hours of community service throughout the Florida Panhandle.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to honor one of America's true corporate leaders, the MITRE Corporation and its Eglin-Hurlburt Site, for their 50 years of service to the defense community of Northwest Florida and across the United States. I wish everyone at MITRE the best for continued success.

HONORING DAVE WELDON

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my good friend and colleague, Congressman DAVE WELDON, who is retiring from the House

of Representatives after serving the people of the 15th district of Florida for 14 years. He has always served his constituents with dignity, class, and integrity.

He has been a great example of a true citizen legislator. He put aside successful careers in our Nation's Armed Forces and in private practice as a physician to devote many years of his life to public service.

DAVE has been a leading national supporter of NASA and other space issues. He has been a strong leader in Florida advocating the need to invest in NASA and the many benefits it provides our Nation. From his service on the Science and Appropriations Committees, he has kept a close eye on the space program and ensured Florida's Space Coast plays an integral role in national space policy.

It has been an honor serving with him, and it is a privilege to call him a good friend. I wish DAVE and his wonderful wife Nancy much happiness in the next chapter of their lives.

HONORING DR. DAVE WELDON FOR HIS MANY YEARS OF OUTSTANDING CONGRESSIONAL SERVICE

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak about one of my colleagues from the great State of Florida who is retiring this year. Dr. DAVE WELDON from Indialantic has served in this body for many years with honor and distinction and will be sorely missed by his friends and colleagues.

Following his arrival in Congress in 1995, Dr. WELDON quickly made a name for himself as someone who cared deeply for his constituents. As someone who had built his career prior to Congress as a physician, Dr. WELDON was perfectly suited to a second career as a public servant.

His legislative efforts in the House have brought tens of millions of federal funds back to Florida, restoring our infrastructure, building roads and bridges, preserving precious wetlands, and helping his friends and neighbors live a better life.

Perhaps his signature achievement in Congress has been his continued fight for the unborn. Using his position as a senior member of the House Appropriations Committee, Dr. WELDON continually sought to protect those who do not have a voice.

Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I help send my good friend Dr. WELDON off into the next stage of his career. After so many years of making sacrifices in his family life and professional career, now is the time when he can devote his time and energy to his wife Nancy and his two children. I wish him the best of luck and hope that he will continue to give back to his local community and the State of Florida.

HONORING BALDWIN HIGH SCHOOL BOYS VARSITY X-COUNTRY

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania's Baldwin High School Boys Varsity Cross-Country team for their first place finish in the McDonald's Cross Country Festival at Maymont, Virginia. The team finished 25 seconds ahead of the second place team in the silver division. With their decisive victory the boys of Baldwin are now recognized among to top cross-country teams in Pennsylvania this year.

The McDonald's Cross Country Festival at Maymont draws over 3,000 of the best high school athletes from 15 different States. The Baldwin team put in long, hard hours of training to place among the elite teams in the State. I would like to recognize the dedication of T.J. Hobart, Matt Cecala, Dennis Logan, Michael Cain, Paul Degregorio, George Crompton and my grandson, David Wainwright. I congratulate their fine performance in Maymont.

I recently spoke with Baldwin's cross-country coach Wright and he highlighted the special comradery and commitment of everyone on the team. The Baldwin team has attended the meet for the last 3 years; however, the dedicated young men I have mentioned are the first to emerge victorious. The coach spoke of his pride with the boys' accomplishment and I share his pride today.

It is my honor to recognize the victory of the Baldwin Boys Varsity Cross-Country team, especially my grandson David. I commend their hard work and commitment to teamwork as they head into "championship month" in Pennsylvania. I wish the boys the best of luck in the Western Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic League State Championship in Hershey later this month.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE CORPORAL KODY WILSON

HON. NANCY E. BOYDA

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Mrs. BOYDA of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize CPL Kody Wilson of Erie, Kansas. Corporal Wilson was serving in our armed forces in our efforts abroad and was injured. Upon his injuries he was taken to Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

While at Walter Reed, Corporal Wilson was an inspiration to others. One individual was truly moved by his story and wrote a poem to honor this soldier. I would like to share this poem with you:

FROM OUT OF THE WEST

(By Bert Caswell)

From Out of The West . . .
 As over the years, as have come from so here
 . . . all of our best . . .
 Fine Women and Men, of honor so then . . .
 sons and daughters who our nation
 have blessed . . .
 As over the years . . .
 Have been shed many a tear, for all those
 lost and injured loved ones . . . so very
 dear . . .