

Stanislaus Area Association of Governments (1992–2000) and the Tuolumne River Regional Park Policy Board (1992–2002).

Outside of the political arena, Mrs. Friedman has been involved in many community activities. From 1997 to 2006 she served on the Sutter Health Board of Directors. Since 2003 she has worked with the Salvation Army in various capacities. In 2003 she worked on the Christmas Angel project and from 2004 to 2006 she co-chaired the “Grassroots” campaign. Since 2006 she has co-chaired the Salvation Army “One Night Out” dinners and has been an honorary Advisory Board member since 2002. Mrs. Friedman is currently serving on the Gallo Center for the Arts Advisory Board, the Valley Business High School Advisory Board and the University of California at Merced Foundation Board. In May 2008 she received the “Children’s First Award” from the Center for Human Services for her dedicated service to the community and children.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Kenni Friedman upon her accomplishments and for being honored as the 2008 “Citizen of the Year”. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Mrs. Friedman many years of continued success.

HONORING SEAN PATRICK
McCALMON

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Sean Patrick McCalmon of Kansas City, Missouri. Sean is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1495, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Sean has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Sean has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Sean Patrick McCalmon for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SIGNING OF THE UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS TO CONDEMN THE ONGOING ATTACKS ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN CUBA

HON. ALBIO SIRES

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. SIRES. Madam Speaker, I rise today, the 60th Anniversary of the signing of the United Nations Universal Declaration of

Human Rights, to condemn the ongoing attacks on human rights in Cuba.

It has been reported that possibly a dozen people in Cuba have been rounded up and detained by the regime to thwart their efforts to attend Human Rights Day events on the island. I was outraged, but not shocked to hear of this most recent action by the brutal Cuban regime to deny the Cuban people their basic human rights, which are guaranteed in the U.N. declaration. Dissident groups throughout Cuba have attempted to organize protests, and government attacks on protesters will likely continue.

This blatant disregard for the rights of all peoples on this symbolic day so accurately represents the true nature of the oppressive Cuban regime. I will continue to fight for a day when the voices of all Cuban people are respected.

HONORING SENIOR AIRMAN AARON
RATH

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to a great American, who was recently honored by the Illinois Air National Guard.

Senior Airman Aaron Rath of Springfield, Illinois, has been chosen as the 183rd Fighter Wing’s Airman of the Year. Airman Rath earned this honor after two tours of duty in Iraq in 2006 and 2007. He serves as a life member of the National Guard Association of Illinois, senior vice commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 755, a member of the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States, and vice president of the Defenders Association. Locally, he has been active in Big Brothers Big Sisters, and in the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics.

Airman Rath enlisted in the Illinois Air National Guard at the age of 29, after the September 11 terrorist attacks on our Nation. He told the local newspaper that he felt it was his “utmost duty as an American to enlist and serve, and give a little back for what so many before me had sacrificed.”

I want to congratulate Senior Airman Aaron Rath on this much deserved recognition, and to thank him and so many other brave young Americans for their service to our Nation. It is through their dedication and their sacrifice that we are able to enjoy the liberties we all hold dear.

BUT I

HON. WALLY HERGER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. HERGER. Madam Speaker, this poem was penned by Albert Caswell in honor of a great American hero, Christopher Frost from Chico California. Tech Sergeant Frost lost his

leg during an IED explosion in Samara, Iraq. His courage and positive attitude is an inspiration to us all. He was part of the Weapons Intelligence Team/Air Force.

But I . . .

Went off to war . . .

And, I will not give up, nor give in for sure!
For my heart, will fly once more . . . for I
will rise, and I will soar!

Wearing my Nation’s Wings, I’ll reach for
the stars . . . once again . . . once
more!

Until, that very end . . . America, and The
United States Air Force . . . I will defend . . .

Is but my life’s passion, my life’s force . . .
all in my heart as my course, I’ve fashioned . . .

For we all have mountains to so climb . . .
For we all have stories, to so write and so
rhyme . . .

Answers, to the hardest of all questions to
find!

All about what we have so left inside, all
about our short lives . . . which so
come to mind . . .

All those moment’s which test our metal, all
in our pain and woe . . .

As this is mine . . . all for Country Tis of
Thee, I was ready to die and bleed . . .

And gladly, pay the greatest of all costs indeed . . .

All in what I’ve found, and so believe . . . all
in what I’ve lost and do not need . . .

As on this day my life, takes me to new
heights . . .

Look into my heart, as it’s there you’ll find
inspiration taking flight . . .

As this Airman’s heart, soar’s so high above
. . .

Burning bold, burning bright . . . all in my
love . . .

A work of art, which make’s souls fly . . .
Showing us all, how a heart faith and courage
can so soar so high . . .

Bring hope, and bringing light . . . speaking
long and loud this night . . .

Who on battlefields of honor once seen . . .
Or home once again, rebuilding from such
heartache and pain . . .

As Chris your heart of courage full, so
astounds . . .

For when all seemed lost, Chris somehow
you found . . .

The Strength, The Courage . . . to not be discouraged . . .

The Light, that flows through your eyes
which does nourish . . .

Teaching us all so how . . . To bare that burden,
to bare that cost . . .

Even, with your fine leg lost! Mountains you
so cross . . .

To reach for the stars, in all your loss . . .
All in that smile upon your face, all in that
mantle of a hero heart that’s yours
portrays . . .

As we see such a fine heart that will not look
down . . .

Teaching us all, what God has made! As your
fine heart so sounds . . .

Reminding us all, not to waste not even a
single day . . .

Bringing tears to eyes, as we kneel down and
pray . . .

But I . . .

If I could but be like you . . .
Then, I would but teach every women, child
and man so too!

Where faith and courage, and service to
country begins . . .

And if ever I have a son . . .
I but hope and pray . . . he could but soar, as
far and as high . . . as you have my
fine son!

And, be like you the one . . . But I . . .