

member of St. John the Evangelist Parish in Pittston, where he has served as an acolyte and Eucharistic Minister.

Mr. Hromisin attended the University of Scranton on a four-year ROTC scholarship, majoring in criminal justice. As a Cadet, he attended Airborne School at Fort Benning, Georgia. He also attended Cadet Troop Leadership Training with a psychological operations unit at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. He was also a competitor on the Ranger Challenger Team.

Upon graduation, Mr. Hromisin received the distinguished graduate award in the fields of criminal justice and military science and he was commissioned a second lieutenant in the United States Army on May 28, 2005.

After completion of the Infantry Officer's Basic Course and attending Ranger School, he was stationed at Fort Lewis, Washington in April 2006. He was promoted to first lieutenant in January 2007, and served as a mobile gun system platoon leader in the 4th Stryker Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division.

During his unit's deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, he led his unit on 20 combat patrols and was critically wounded by a sniper on May 29, 2007, resulting in blindness and a traumatic brain injury. His recovery has included a month at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland; seven months at the Drucker Brain Injury Center at Moss Rehab, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and six months at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Rehabilitation for the Blind in West Haven, Connecticut.

In September 2007, Mr. Hromisin was promoted to captain. At that time, he was awarded the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart, the Army Commendation Medal and the Combat Infantryman Badge. Mr. Hromisin resides at his home in Pittston, Pennsylvania, and continues to receive outpatient therapy.

Madam Speaker, please join me in commending Mr. Hromisin for the extraordinary and courageous service he has given to his country and for the profound sacrifices he has made in the defense of freedom and the protection of his fellow Americans.

OMNIBUS APPROPRIATIONS ACT,
2009

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 25, 2009

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) Program at the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The CTSA program is a noteworthy initiative with the potential to enhance and invigorate our nation's clinical and translational research enterprise.

As the representative from the 8th Congressional District of Massachusetts, I am especially pleased that the program makes significant efforts to create new clinical research homes in academic settings and, so, strengthen our nation's current and future research infrastructure. Furthermore, I am quite proud that Boston institutions; Boston University, Harvard University, and Tufts University are 3 of the 38 sites that currently comprise the growing CTSA network.

Over the past few years, roughly level funding for NIH has severely limited the size of the

award that can be made to these and the other CTSA-recipient institutions. These funding challenges have had dire consequences for the program's implementation and have seriously impeded its very necessary expansion.

As an ardent supporter of NIH, I thank Chairman OBEY on the increased NIH funding in both the FY09 Omnibus Appropriations bill and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

HONORING THE DELAWARE COUNTY
FIRE POLICE ASSOCIATION

HON. JOE SESTAK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 3, 2009

Mr. SESTAK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the courage and dedication of The Delaware County Fire Police Association. These exceptional first responders are often overlooked by many communities in our nation. However, I am proud to say that is not the case in the 7th Congressional District of Pennsylvania.

In the past two years I have come to appreciate and respect the invaluable service these essential citizens provide to their neighbors and brothers and sisters in our Fire and Police Departments. Were it not for the training and bravery of the Fire Police, those initial moments, as a tragedy unfolds, would be chaotic and exponentially more dangerous. For it is the Fire Police who, when a situation is still uncertain, stand in the breach to afford other first responders the time, space and security they require to do their jobs.

As we learned tragically on September 11, 2001, the earliest moments of a crisis demand the greatest caution, experience and communication. I thank the Delaware County Fire Police Association for generations of public service. By consistently arriving at the right time and being in the right place they have saved untold numbers of lives and valuable, often irreplaceable property and possessions.

Madam Speaker, I ask that our nation take this moment to offer our thanks and appreciation to a group of hometown heroes, the Delaware County Fire Police Association.

HONORING PLEASANT VALLEY
HIGH SCHOOL

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 3, 2009

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and thank the students, faculty, administrators, staff, and parents of Pleasant Valley Community High School. Pleasant Valley students have now contributed over 100,000 hours of service as part of the innovative PVHS Service Learning Program.

In 2003, the PVHS community decided it was essential to teach students the importance of community service and civic responsibility. The school district created a bold service-learning program that requires all students to complete seventy hours of service before they graduate. Since the inception of the pro-

gram, PVHS students have contributed their passion, intelligence, and creativity to organizations across the United States and the world. They have served people in need and helped communities address some of our most difficult problems.

Today we face challenges that threaten the world economy, our national security, and the environment that makes life on earth possible. To meet these challenges and ensure that future generations can realize their full potential, we must embrace what the President has called a "new era of responsibility in America." PVHS students have answered this call and set an example for all citizens to follow. Congratulations to Pleasant Valley Community High School and thank you.

WANDA RIDDLE

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 3, 2009

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise today to recognize the outstanding service of Wanda Riddle at Sullivan County Memorial Hospital on the occasion of celebrating 50 years as a Registered Nurse.

Wanda graduated from the College of St. Teresa as a Registered Nurse, and began her career at Sullivan County Memorial Hospital in 1955. She has dedicated almost her entire career to the hospital in Milan, MO and the community it serves. Wanda has had many accomplishments throughout her career, including starting the Sullivan County Ambulance Service at the hospital in the 1980s. She has also taught CNA classes, attended numerous inservice/education for cardiac and EKG interpretations, and has been a mentor to the entire nursing staff at Sullivan County Memorial Hospital.

Wanda has earned the gratitude and respect of her colleagues and fellow citizens of Sullivan County, Missouri. Her life's dedication and hard work should serve as an example to the rest of us on how we can better serve each other and our communities.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me in commending Wanda Riddle for her dedicated service to Sullivan County Memorial Hospital. I know Wanda's colleagues, family and friends join with me in thanking her for her commitment to others and wishing her happiness and good health for years to come.

STATEMENT RECOGNIZING THE
CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE JOLIET
PARK DISTRICT

HON. DEBORAH L. HALVORSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 3, 2009

Mrs. HALVORSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Joliet Park District. The park district is the 2009 recipient of the "Salute to Accomplishment" Award from the Joliet Region Chamber of Commerce. I join the Chamber of Commerce in saluting the Joliet Park District for its long record of service to the residents of Joliet, Illinois.