

global faith community. It is with great pride that I celebrate the career of Reverend Isaac Singleton. May his retirement be fruitful and joyous.

HONORING THE LIFE AND CAREER
OF BILL POST

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 18, 2009

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Madam Speaker, I would like to take a few minutes to praise and reflect upon the career of an outstanding CEO and an even better friend, Bill Post. I first met Bill in the early 1970s when he was financial officer for the Arizona Public Service, also referred to as APS, and I was a Maricopa County Supervisor. He impressed me as a smart, young executive.

Bill Post is the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Arizona Public Service—my home state's largest electric company. Bill recently announced his retirement from APS and its parent company, Pinnacle West Capital Corporation, after 37 distinguished years with the companies.

Starting his career as a Draftsman after finishing college at Arizona State University, Bill quickly climbed the ranks at APS. He became an officer in 1982, then ascended to President and CEO of APS and President of Pinnacle West in 1997. He earned the title of Chairman of the Board for both companies in 2001.

Of course what he accomplished and the relationships he built were always far more important to Bill than any title. He guided APS through a period of incredible growth for our state. In the last decade alone, APS added more than 300,000 customers, yet the company has been a model of efficiency. Despite its rapid growth, APS continued to meet Arizona's expanding energy needs while also improving customer satisfaction, setting new standards of electric reliability and keeping employee numbers essentially flat.

Revered for his business acumen, Bill is also ubiquitous in the community—continually lending his guidance, energy and financial resources to non-profit organizations such as Greater Phoenix Leadership, Valley of the Sun United Way, the Arizona Business Coalition, and the Children's Action Alliance. His dedication to our community and state led me to often refer to Bill as the "Big Dog in Town." Bill's own generosity has always set the tone for his company—APS and its employees are known across Arizona as leaders in the communities they serve.

Bill Post embodies the character and uniqueness of my home state. A lifelong Arizonan, Bill is as at home driving his Jeep through dusty desert trails as he is guiding strategy in a corporate boardroom. In his retirement from APS, I know he will probably be providing leadership to the people of Arizona.

COMMEMORATING BRAIN
AWARENESS WEEK

HON. JOE SESTAK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 18, 2009

Mr. SESTAK. Madam Speaker, today I rise to commemorate Brain Awareness Week (BAW) and the benefits of this informative week in educating students on brain science in my congressional district and across the country. Brain Awareness Week, launched in 1996, brings together the Society for Neuroscience, Dana Alliance for Brain Initiatives and 1200 other organizations worldwide who share a common interest in improving public awareness of brain and nervous system research. During Brain Awareness Week, neuroscientists around the globe educate K–12 students, senior citizens and the public at large on the wonders of the human brain. These activities include tours of neuroscience laboratories, museum exhibitions and classroom discussions on the elements of the human brain.

This year, the Philadelphia area members of the Society for Neuroscience will host their annual Brain Awareness event at the Franklin Institute in Philadelphia on March 19–20. Many of my constituents will be exposed to the exciting world of neuroscience, hopefully become inspired to become the next generation of scientists, and learn about the connection between increased support for biomedical research and benefits to public health. Today, in recognition of Brain Awareness Week, I would like to highlight a serious brain condition that affects many of our men and women in uniform returning home from combat in Iraq and Afghanistan: Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI).

Madam Speaker, as a member of the House Armed Services Committee and a former Naval officer, I know firsthand the reality of war and how it affects our soldiers. Many of our brave men and women experience severe trauma from land mines, road side bombs and other powerful explosives, which result in what are now recognized to be the signature wounds of these recent conflicts: TBI, the loss of limbs, and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). In part, these wounds can be attributed to advanced body armor that shield soldiers' torsos from bullets, shrapnel, and injury and prevents them from being killed in attacks. Yet their bodies remain relatively exposed to the concussive effect of blasts that can raise atmospheric pressure by 1,000 times, rattling the brain against the skull. Neuroscience research has contributed significantly to the current standard of neurological and mental health care in the field and at military health facilities across the country.

The numbers associated with these signature wounds, including TBI, are staggering and illustrate the need for additional research. During a Pentagon news conference on March 5, 2009, Department of Defense doctors reported as many as 360,000 U.S. Service members have experienced brain injuries, mostly concussions, representing about 20 percent of the 1.8 million soldiers who have served in combat in Iraq and Afghanistan. The head of the Defense Centers of Excellence for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury noted that while the overwhelming majority heal—and heal without treatment—an esti-

mated 45,000 to 90,000 troops have suffered more severe and lasting symptoms, which overall cost the U.S. Army \$242 million last year for staff, facilities and programs to serve troops with brain injuries. Additionally, an unprecedented 36 percent of the veterans treated thus far have been diagnosed with a mental health condition. According to 2003 data analyzed by the Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, about 60 percent of returning U.S. soldiers who had been exposed to blasts showed signs of brain injury, and face a lifetime of disability at an estimated cost of \$60 billion annually.

Madam Speaker, new research is exploring improved methods of treatment of TBI. The Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center and Department of Veterans Affairs research facilities across the country are testing the antidepressant sertraline as a treatment for symptoms of TBI, including irritability, depression, frustration, and anxiety. Neuroscientists are trying to understand how these explosives disrupt the function of the nervous system in order to develop specific recovery strategies. Activity-based therapy, which takes advantage of the brain's plasticity or ability to review and recover, is proving to be one of the most effective approaches in treating head injuries. Even when certain functions are lost, repeatedly practicing a movement seems to encourage the brain to reestablish the connections that support that function. Research in laboratory animals suggests that activity itself can increase the secretion of some nerve growth factors known to play an important role in the brain plasticity and learning.

I would like to recognize that the enhancement of research for soldiers and others suffering from TBI continues to be a Congressional priority, as evidenced by the passage of the Traumatic Brain Injury Reauthorization Act, which I was proud to cosponsor. This legislation reauthorized many essential programs including the Traumatic Brain Injury Research Program at the National Institutes of Health, which conducts TBI research at laboratories on the NIH campus and also supports it through grants to major medical institutions across the country. The pursuit of cutting-edge brain injury research will remain on the nation's healthcare and neuroscience agendas for decades to come in hopes of developing innovative medical treatments that will enhance the quality of life for our veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan.

Madam Speaker, today I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Brain Awareness Week, which exposes our young citizens to the wonders of the brain. I also ask that you join me in continuing to support basic research that provides a foundation for new treatments that have an enormous impact on the lives of our brave men and women returning home from combat with TBI and other brain injuries and disorders.

CELEBRATING MARCH AS RED
CROSS MONTH

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 18, 2009

Mr. KING of New York. Madam Speaker, the American Red Cross has been on the