

being recognized as Marion County's Sheriff's Deputy of the Year. Deputy Vice received this prestigious award for his courageous response to a gun shooting that took place while he was off-duty. Without any back-up support he deftly maintained his composure as he helped a wounded victim, reported a run-away vehicle, called for emergency help and detained two individuals who had been near the scene of the crime. Due to his heroic actions, a suspect was later arrested.

Deputy Vice has worked with the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department and the Marion County Sheriff's Department, proudly serving the city of Indianapolis, Indiana as a law enforcement officer since 2001. In addition to his extensive experience, it was his training that made the greatest difference last June in contributing to his heroic efforts.

In going above and beyond the call of duty, Deputy Vice has personified the best that Marion County law enforcement has to offer. I would like to extend my most sincere thanks to Deputy Vice for his courageous dedication to the safety of our community.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring Deputy Vice for his outstanding service and wish him continued success in his work as one of Indianapolis' finest public servants.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF MATTHEW DEMICHELIE ON HIS OFFERS OF APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY AND THE UNITED STATES MERCHANT MARINE ACADEMY

**HON. ROBERT E. LATTA**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 28, 2009*

Mr. LATTA. Madam Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to an outstanding young man from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. I am happy to announce that Matthew DeMichiei of Napoleon, Ohio has been offered appointments to attend the United States Air Force Academy and the United States Merchant Marine Academy. Matt has accepted the offer to attend the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Matt's offer of appointment poises him to attend the United States Air Force Academy this fall with the incoming cadet Class of 2013. Attending one of our Nation's military academies is an invaluable experience that offers a world-class education while placing demands on those who undertake one of the most challenging and rewarding experiences of their lives.

Matt brings an enormous amount of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming class of Air Force cadets. While attending Napoleon High School in Napoleon, Ohio, Matt attained a grade point average that placed him among the top of his class. While a gifted athlete, Matt has maintained the highest standards of excellence in his academics, choosing to enroll and excel in Advanced Placement classes throughout high school. Matt is a member of the National Honor Society, Honor Roll, and has earned varsity letters in soccer each of his four years.

Outside the classroom, Matt was a member of the Quiz Team, French Club, Youth Soccer Club, Camp Palmer Counselor, Prom Committee, and Student Advisory Board. Matt participated on Napoleon High School's soccer, swimming, and tennis teams. I am confident that Matt will carry the lessons of his student leadership to the Air Force Academy.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Matthew DeMichiei on his acceptance of appointment to the United States Air Force Academy. Our service academies offer the finest military training and education available. I am positive that Matt will excel during his career at the Air Force Academy and I ask my colleagues to join me in extending their best wishes to him as he begins his service to the Nation.

IN HONOR OF EQUAL PAY DAY

**HON. AL GREEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 28, 2009*

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I wish to acknowledge and honor Equal Pay Day, a national day of recognition instituted by President Clinton in 1998 to raise awareness about the wage disparity and discrimination between men and women.

America has made some strides in narrowing this discrepancy in the workplace, but the fight for equal pay for equal work still remains prevalent and pertinent today. Thirty-five years ago, when President Kennedy signed the Equal Pay Act of 1963, women who worked full-time, year-round made 59 cents on average for every dollar earned by their male counterparts. In 2006, women earned 77 cents for every dollar earned by men; the figures are even more unsettling for women of color. This data demonstrates that the wage gap has narrowed by less than half a cent per year. An 18 cent increase over 35 years indicates a significant wage discrepancy between working men and women that leaves a great deal of work for the employers and decision makers of today. The day on which Equal Pay Day falls represents how far into the year on average a women must work to receive the same amount of pay that a man earned during the previous year.

In the state of Texas, between 2004 and 2006, the average annual salary of men with a college degree or more was \$63,000, while their female counterparts only received an average annual salary of \$45,000 with the same credentials. In comparison, during that same time frame, the national average annual salary for men with a college degree or more was \$66,000, while their female counterparts received only \$50,000. In fact, the state of Texas is about 5% below the national average in narrowing the wage disparity between men and women.

A great woman and former congresswoman from Texas, Barbara Jordan, once said that, "If the society of today allows wrongs to go unchallenged, the impression is created that those wrongs have the approval of the majority." To take the late Ms. Jordan's advice: we who live in today's society must not allow the wrongs created by wage discrimination to continue to undermine the civil liberties of minorities and women. On January 29, 2009, Presi-

dent Barack Obama signed into law the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act to ensure that victims of pay discrimination can effectively challenge unequal pay, marking a significant step forward in the struggle for equality in pay and fair treatment in the workplace for all Americans. Though great progress is being made, significant challenges remain in the struggle against gender-based pay discrimination.

I urge my colleagues and employers nationwide to take up the fight to eliminate the unfair wage discrepancy between men and women as we all honor Equal Pay Day.

WORKERS' MEMORIAL DAY

**HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 28, 2009*

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Workers' Memorial Day. Every day, working people across our Nation are putting their lives on the line, just by getting up and going to work. In a perennially underreported tragedy, more than 5,000 Americans die each year on the job, and millions more experience occupational injuries and illnesses.

That means about 16 workers in the U.S. die each day at work. And those who die are not only those in professions seen as dangerous, like law enforcement or firefighting—they are also mechanics, store clerks, bus drivers, and landscapers. And the deaths are often close to home. Earlier this month, a 38-year-old construction worker was killed back home in the southern Los Angeles area when a garage collapsed on him while he worked on a remodeling project.

To honor those who have died, and to draw attention about the need for better enforcement of our workplace health and safety laws, I join with Rep. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON and Rep. BRUCE BRALEY today to introduce a resolution recognizing the importance of Workers' Memorial Day.

Workers' Memorial Day is a reminder that each death is a life cut short—a worker who left behind a family and friends.

I encourage everyone to take a moment today to recognize the needless sacrifice that these workers' and their families made this year and in years past.

Going to work should not be a life and death proposition. Workers' Memorial Day is a reminder that we can do better.

HONORING RYAN JAMES

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 28, 2009*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Ryan James 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 75, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Ryan has been very active with his troop participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Ryan 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 Ryan James for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF  
JARED LEININGER ON HIS AP-  
POINTMENT TO ATTEND THE  
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE  
ACADEMY

**HON. ROBERT E. LATTA**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 28, 2009*

Mr. Latta. Madam Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to an outstanding young man from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. I am happy to announce that Jared Leininger of Archbold, Ohio has been offered an appointment to attend the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Jared's offer of appointment poises him to attend the United States Air Force Academy this fall with the incoming cadet Class of 2013. Attending one of our Nation's military academies is an invaluable experience that offers a world-class education while placing demands on those who undertake one of the most challenging and rewarding experiences of their lives.

Jared brings an enormous amount of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming class of Air Force cadets. While a gifted athlete, Jared has maintained the highest standards of excellence in his academics, having been on the alpha honor roll and honor roll each year, and earned varsity letters in wrestling and football.

Outside the classroom, Jared was a member of Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Hand Bell Choir, Senior Lutheran Youth Fellowship, serving as both Vice President and President, and served as an elementary tutor and teachers' aide. Jared participated on Archbold High School's football, wrestling, and baseball teams. Jared's dedication and service to the community and his peers has proven his ability to excel among the leaders at the Air Force Academy. I have no doubt that Jared will take the lessons of his student leadership with him to Colorado Springs.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Jared Leininger on his acceptance of appointment to the United States Air Force Academy. Our service academies offer the finest military training and education available. I am positive that Jared will excel during his career at the Air Force Academy and I ask my colleagues to join me in extending their best wishes to him as he begins his service to the Nation.

IN HONOR OF CAPTAIN JOHN  
"MUD" MEDVESCEK, INDIANAPOLIS  
FIREFIGHTER OF THE  
YEAR

**HON. ANDRÉ CARSON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 28, 2009*

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Captain John "Mud" Medvescek with the Indianapolis Fire Department. On April 16, 2009, he was recognized as Indianapolis' 2008 Firefighter of the Year for his outstanding service to the city of Indianapolis.

With thirty years of service with the Indianapolis Fire Department, Captain Medvescek has exemplified himself through his commitment to ensuring the safety of our community. As a member of the advanced rescue squad he has worked tirelessly and bravely to provide emergency response support to those in need. Through these experiences, Captain Medvescek has been able to generously share his wealth of knowledge, which has allowed him to play an invaluable role in training the next generation of firefighters.

For decades he has bravely served on the front lines, selflessly fighting to save the lives of countless Hoosiers in the face of great danger. As a former law enforcement officer, I understand the true value of Captain Medvescek's dedication to our city and to the people of Indianapolis.

Madam Speaker and distinguished colleagues, I urge you to join me in thanking Captain Medvescek for his tremendous contributions. He is a devoted public servant whose mentorship has served as a lasting legacy for those aspiring to pursue careers dedicated to protecting the lives of others.

61ST ANNIVERSARY OF ISRAEL

**HON. SCOTT GARRETT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 28, 2009*

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to recognize the 61st anniversary of the founding of the modern state of Israel. Israel has been one of our strongest allies and I am thankful for the bond of friendship and cooperation that we share. After all, our two countries have many historic similarities. We both have faced war and fought for peace and freedom. We both continue to pursue liberty despite ongoing opposition.

For 2,000 years, most Jews had been scattered around the world, often enduring intense persecution and discrimination. After World War II, the Jewish people desired to return to their ancient homeland and live in the land that had once belonged to their forefathers. The Holocaust revived their desire to form a new state, even though the land of their ancestors was merely a dry, almost barren terrain.

After winning independence, the Israelis amazingly transformed the wilderness into a site of thriving agriculture production. One Jewish scientist developed the first surface drip irrigation system and this discovery has

transformed irrigation practices across the world. Scientists in Israel have also developed fruits and vegetables that are resistant to disease.

Not only has Israel been the source of agricultural improvements, but it has also partnered with the U.S. in several scientific initiatives. As the representative of New Jersey's Fifth District, which is home to many small farms that help make up the Garden State, I am grateful for how Israel has pioneered numerous agricultural initiatives.

I am also grateful for how Israel has been an example to other countries. I have many Jewish friends and I am always impressed by how they value freedom. It is free markets and free thinking that enable new inventions, and these inventions in turn help future generations to prosper. As Israel celebrates this 61st anniversary, I encourage my constituents to reflect on the achievements of the past as we work to better our children's future.

HONORING CLAYTON MATHER

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 28, 2009*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Clayton Mather 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 75, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Clayton has been very active with his troop participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Clayton 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 Clayton Mather for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF JACQUELINE CRAWFORD ON HER APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND THE UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY PREPARATORY SCHOOL

**HON. ROBERT E. LATTA**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 28, 2009*

Mr. Latta. Madam Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to an outstanding young woman from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. I am happy to announce that Jacqueline Crawford of Waterville, Ohio has been offered an appointment to attend the United States Naval Preparatory School in Newport, Rhode Island.

Jackie's offer of appointment poises her to attend the United States Naval Preparatory School this fall, and after successful completion, will attend the United States Naval Academy with the incoming midshipmen Class of 2014. Attending one of our Nation's military academies is an invaluable experience that offers a world-class education while placing demands on those who undertake one of the