

graduation. Before deploying to Afghanistan, Mark was stationed in Washington, D.C. He served as an executive assistant for the deputy director for Asian politico-military affairs at the Pentagon. In conversations with his friends and family, it was mentioned time and again that Mark was someone who loved God, loved his family, and loved the Air Force. Beyond that, Mark loved the country he served until the very end. His commendations for his service include a Purple Heart and a Bronze Star.

Madam Speaker, I feel certain his many friends in Baldwin County and his comrades in the United States Air Force, while mourning the loss of this fine young man, are also taking this opportunity to remember the many accomplishments of his service to the nation and to recall the fine gift they each received simply from knowing him and having him as an integral part of their lives.

I urge my colleagues to take a moment and pay tribute to Lieutenant Colonel Mark Stratton and his selfless devotion to our country and the freedoms we enjoy.

We should also remember his wife, Jennifer; their three young children, Delaney, Jake, and A.J.; his mother, Jan York and her husband Buddy; his brothers, Michael Stratton and Frankie Little; and his other family members and many friends. Our prayer is that God will give them all the strength and courage that only He can provide to sustain them during the difficult days ahead.

It was Charles Province who said, "It is the Soldier, not the minister, who has given us the freedom of religion. It is the Soldier, not the reporter, who has given us the freedom of the press. It is the Soldier, not the poet, who has given us freedom of speech. It is the Soldier, not the campus organizer, who has given us freedom to protest. It is the Soldier, not the lawyer, who has given us the right to a fair trial. It is the Soldier, not the politician, who has given us the right to vote. It is the Soldier who salutes the flag, Who serves beneath the flag, And whose coffin is draped by the flag, who allows the protester to burn the flag."

Make no mistake, Mark Stratton was not only a dedicated member of the Air Force who made the ultimate sacrifice serving in the uniform of his country, but he was also a true American hero.

May he rest in peace.

RECOGNIZING THE HONOREES OF  
THE 62ND ANNUAL ANNANDALE  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
AWARDS BANQUET

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 4, 2009*

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Honorees of the 62nd Annual Annandale Chamber of Commerce Awards Banquet.

The Annandale Chamber of Commerce is a thriving volunteer organization with over 200 active members. The members represent businesses, industries and professionals who work together to maintain a favorable business climate while improving the quality of life for all residents.

Each year, the Annandale Chamber of Commerce honors a select few who have dis-

tinguished themselves as exemplars of the community. It is my honor to recognize these fine individuals and the contributions that they have made to the community. This year, the Annandale Chamber of Commerce has expanded the categories with the addition of an Award of Valor which honors the services of two Public Safety professionals. The following are the Honorees of the 62nd Annual Annandale Chamber of Commerce Awards Banquet.

Award Recipients in the Student Category are:

William Law, Northern Virginia Community College

Luis Inarra, Annandale High School

Michell Addington, Falls Church High School

The recipient of the 2009 Citizen of the Year Award is Shel Youtz. Shel has been a cornerstone of the Annandale community. In addition to his reliable presence each year at the Fall Festival, Shel chairs or sponsors events and fundraisers in support of the Student Education Foundation and in support of our military veterans.

The Award of Valor for a member of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department has been awarded to Lt. Jeff Allen. Lt. Allen is a 22 year veteran of the Fire and Rescue Department and a member of the Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Team. Throughout his tenure, Lt. Allen has consistently gone above and beyond the call of duty, providing leadership and courage during emergencies and other hazardous incidents.

The Award of Valor for a member of the Fairfax County Police Department has been awarded to PFC Kathleen O'Leary. Although PFC O'Leary has been with the force for only 3 years, she has already distinguished herself as an exceptional public servant, placing the needs of the community ahead of her own personal safety.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing the Honorees of the 2009 Annandale Chamber of Commerce Awards Banquet and to thank them for their service. Each honoree is a role model for his or her peers and an invaluable member of the community as a whole.

TRIBUTE TO THE HANCOCK  
COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD

**HON. TOM LATHAM**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 4, 2009*

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Hancock County Conservation Board on their 50th anniversary. The Hancock County Conservation Board serves over 12,100 citizens in Hancock County in North Central Iowa.

The first board was appointed by the Hancock County Board of Supervisors (HCCB) in 1959. One of HCCB's priorities is to provide park areas and protect the natural areas for wildlife habitat and outdoor recreation. In the past 50 years they have acquired 4 parks, 15 wildlife areas, 2 wildlife refuges for a total of 21 areas, and 1,211 acres of valuable wildlife habitat.

I applaud HCCB's long history of impressing the importance of conservation from one generation to the next. I know my colleagues in the United States Congress join me in con-

gratulating the Hancock County Conservation Board, Director Tom Haan, and Naturalist Jason Lackore for their fifty years of success, and I wish them an equally storied future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 4, 2009*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I submit to the RECORD the following remarks regarding my absence from votes which occurred on June 2nd. Due to inclement weather that caused my connecting flight from Charlotte, North Carolina to Washington on Tuesday, June 2 to be delayed, I missed a series of votes that were held. Listed below is how I would have voted if I had been present.

H. Res. 421—recognizing and commending the Great Smoky Mountains National Park on its 75th year anniversary (Roll no. 292)—Aye  
H.J. Res. 40—to honor the achievements and contributions of Native Americans to the United States, and for other purposes (Roll no. 293)—Aye

H. Res. 489—recognizing the twentieth anniversary of the suppression of protesters and citizens in and around Tiananmen Square in Beijing, People's Republic of China, on June 3 and 4, 1989 and expressing sympathy to the families of those killed, tortured, and imprisoned in connection with the democracy protests in Tiananmen Square and other parts of China on June 3 and 4, 1989 and thereafter (Roll no. 294)—Aye

COMMEMORATING 20TH ANNIVERSARY  
OF THE TIANANMEN  
SQUARE SUPPRESSION

SPEECH OF

**HON. DAVID WU**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 2, 2009*

Mr. WU. Madam Speaker, one of the primary reasons that I ran for public office was to promote democracy, human rights, and the rule of law at home and abroad—particularly in China. There is perhaps no greater singular event that compels me to do so than the Tiananmen Square massacre of June 3 and 4, 1989.

On this, the twentieth anniversary of the violent suppression of protesters in and around Tiananmen Square in Beijing, I express my deepest condolences to the families of those killed and imprisoned in connection with the demonstrations. I urge the Chinese government to immediately review the cases of those still imprisoned for participating in the 1989 protests and to release those individuals who were imprisoned solely for exercising their internationally recognized rights to free expression and peaceful assembly.

In many ways the China of 1989 and the China of 2009 are worlds apart. Twenty years ago, no one would have imagined that China would become the world's largest Internet user a mere twenty years later. And yet, even with the power of the Internet to fuel greater transparency, the people of China still face the