

throughout Southeast Cleveland and its suburbs. Her kind and humble nature draws people to her, and she has garnered the admiration and respect of everyone she knows. She is a longtime member of the Garfield Heights Historical Society and serves as a board member for Cleveland Central Catholic High School. She is currently serving her second term as President of the Kiwanis of Southeast Cleveland. As a member and leader in Kiwanis, Ellen has been instrumental in leading several fundraising efforts aimed at local student scholarship awards, and recently, a fundraiser and recognition dinner honoring Dr. Javier Lopez which raised greatly-needed funds for his medical missions to Central America. Ellen has always reached out with a generous heart wherever and whenever needed. Her efforts in volunteerism also include her tireless dedication in her efforts to save St. Michael's hospital.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of Ellen Psenicka, as she celebrates her 40th Anniversary with the Neighborhood News. The Neighborhood News is read by tens of thousands of people weekly, and continues to inform and unite us all. Ellen's commitment to bringing us the news of the neighborhood and her generosity as a community leader and volunteer serves to brighten and strengthen our entire community.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF ANTHONY APPLEWHITE

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 12, 2009

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Anthony Applewhite of Boy Scout Troop 1577 on being promoted to the rank of Eagle Scout. Fewer than 2% of all scouts have mastered the skills necessary to achieve this honor. Anthony's achievement of this rank is even more extraordinary because, at the age of just 13, he is one of the youngest Eagle Scouts ever in the 100 year history of Boy Scouts of America.

For his Eagle Scout Service Project, Anthony designed, planned and managed the construction of a picnic area at The Kings Chapel in Clifton, Va. This picnic area was completed efficiently and now is enjoyed by community members as well as the children who attend the The Kings Chapel pre-school. This is just a recent example of Anthony's scouting achievements. Anthony also was recognized for his leadership and service in his Boy Scout Troop with membership in the Order of the Arrow, the National Honor Society of Scouting.

In addition to his success within the Boy Scouts, Anthony is an Honor Roll Student at Rocky Run Middle School. He excels in science, math and technology and would like to attend the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Anthony plans a dual career of game designer and neurosurgeon where he can utilize many of his impressive abilities. Anthony's scholastic abilities were highlighted when he captained his Odyssey of the Mind teams for the creative problem solving competitions. He also enjoys travel soccer as well as the violin.

Anthony has set many short- and long-term goals for himself ranging from continuing his involvement in the Scouts where he hopes to be selected to attend the 2010 National Jamboree and the 2012 World Jamboree to a career in the medical and technological fields.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Anthony on being one of the youngest Eagle Scouts in scouting history and in wishing him the very best in what promises to be a very bright future. I would also like to ask my colleagues to join me in expressing our thanks to Anthony's family, friends and troop leaders for the support that they have given Anthony which has allowed and encouraged his development as a fine young citizen.

BIPARTISAN CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO NATO PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY MEETINGS

HON. JOHN S. TANNER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 12, 2009

Mr. TANNER. Madam Speaker, during the period May 22–31, 2009, I led a bipartisan House delegation to NATO Parliamentary Assembly (NATO PA) meetings in Oslo, Norway and to additional bi-lateral meetings in Helsinki, Finland and Stockholm, Sweden. The co-chair of the NATO PA delegation is the Hon. JOHN SHIMKUS. The delegation also included Representatives JO ANN EMERSON, DENNIS MOORE, JOHN BOOZMAN, MIKE ROSS, DAVID SCOTT, KENDRICK MEEK, JEFF MILLER, BEN CHANDLER, MIKE TURNER and staff. The NATO PA delegation had a highly successful trip in which a wide range of political, economic and security issues on NATO's agenda, as well as issues involving the U.S.–Finland and U.S.–Sweden bi-lateral relationships, were examined. Accompanying the delegation on the visits to Finland and Sweden was Mr. David Hobbs, Secretary General of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, who provided invaluable assistance with respect to Finland and Sweden's participation in the NATO PA and issues related to their cooperation with NATO in numerous Alliance operations.

The NATO Parliamentary Assembly consists of parliamentarians from all 28 NATO member states. The NATO PA provides a unique forum for elected officials to analyze and debate issues that the NATO leadership discusses in Brussels. In addition to the 28 member parliaments, parliamentarians from countries such as Russia, Georgia, Afghanistan, and others also participate in the sessions as associate states or observers. Through these sessions, delegates have the opportunity to learn firsthand the views and concerns that other countries have over the key security issues of the day. An invaluable aspect of the meetings is the chance to meet and come to know members of parliaments who play important roles in their own countries in shaping the security agenda that their governments pursue at NATO. These contacts can endure through a career, and can provide an invaluable private avenue for insights into each ally's particular views on an issue.

In early April, NATO celebrated its 60th anniversary at a summit in Strasbourg, France and Kehl, Germany. The key issues on the

agenda of the Alliance included the broader issue of the future of NATO and more specific issues including relations with Russia, energy security, missile defense, the conflict in Afghanistan, and emerging challenges such as piracy and cyber security. Each of these issues was also on the NATO PA agenda in Oslo and many were vigorously debated by the parliamentarians. Relations with Russia and the new strategy towards Afghanistan and Pakistan were two of the issues that dominated the session. Many members of the Alliance questioned whether Russia has begun to implement an increasingly assertive security policy including efforts to intimidate neighboring states, through the threat of force. There was also concern expressed that Russia would continue to use its energy supplies as a political lever to influence European policy. It was clear from our meetings that not only the United States and NATO, but the European Union as well, are concerned about Moscow's posture on a variety of issues. And, while there were differences of opinion over how to structure future relations between NATO and Russia and the NATO PA and the Russian delegates to the Assembly, most felt that dialogue between NATO, the NATO PA, and Russia was important and should continue. Many delegates welcomed the U.S. commitment to a new, constructive relationship with Moscow and expressed hope that through those promising relations, Russia's attitude toward NATO could become more positive. On Afghanistan, there was continued support for the ISAF mission among the allies and a willingness to provide the additional civilian and financial support necessary for the reconstruction effort there. However, we did detect an undercurrent of concern among some allies that through the commitment of 21,000 additional U.S. troops to Afghanistan and the replacement of U.S./ISAF Commander, General McKiernan, the process of the "Americanization" of the war was underway and that NATO could be pushed aside by the United States. Our delegation was clear that this is not the case and that NATO's role in Afghanistan continues to be a critical one that needs to be carried out in an effective and efficient manner.

Before the opening sessions of the Assembly's plenary the U.S. delegation received a detailed briefing from the new U.S. Ambassador to NATO, Ivo Daalder, who had been in his new role for four days. He prepared us for the nuances involved in some of the issues that would be debated during the NATO PA sessions, particularly regarding Russia and NATO's on-going role in Afghanistan. In addition to the briefing by Ambassador Daalder, we also had the opportunity to meet with the new Deputy Chief of Mission to NATO, Mr. John Heffern who represented the United States at the joint NATO PA/North Atlantic Council (NAC) session at the conclusion of the plenary. Another highlight was a private meeting our delegation held with NATO Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer who was attending his last NATO Parliamentary Assembly session as Secretary General. He gave an overview of the most critical challenges confronting the alliance and thanked the U.S. delegation for its continued support for NATO. Later he addressed the NATO PA's plenary session. The Foreign Minister of Norway, Jens Stoltenberg also addressed the plenary and spoke about the continued importance of the