

Boy Scouts of America, Troop 218, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

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

HONORING PORTLAND,  
TENNESSEE'S 150TH YEAR

**HON. BART GORDON**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 9, 2009*

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the city of Portland, Tennessee on its 150th year anniversary.

Portland is located in Sumner County near Interstate 65, just five miles south of Kentucky and 35 miles north of Nashville. The area was first settled in 1792 by the James Gwin family.

On October 31, 1859, the Louisville and Nashville train made its first stop at the Richland Station depot. The Richland Station depot was built on land belonging to Thomas Buntin, who later became Richland's first postmaster.

During its first year, the City of Richland expanded with the opening of James Goostree's general store. The City of Portland was originally named Richland, but changed its name in 1888 to avoid being confused with another town in Tennessee of the same name. In April 1904, the Tennessee State Legislature enacted legislation incorporating the City of Portland.

In the 1920s, strawberries became a booming business for the area, and in 1941, the city held the first Middle Tennessee Strawberry Festival to celebrate the importance of the crop to both Portland and the state. The Middle Tennessee Strawberry Festival became an annual event that is still celebrated every May.

Portland boasts a thriving economy, with employment numbers that exceed its population. The city is home to excellent parks and recreation system, a full-service public library, local radio station WQKR and hometown newspaper, the Portland Leader. With a population of just 10,000, Portland is still a close-knit and rural community.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2010

SPEECH OF

**HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 24, 2009*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2647) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2010 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 2010, and for other purpose:

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of the National Defense Authorization Act of 2010. This important piece of legislation authorizes \$680 billion for training, equipment, healthcare, and for important quality of life improvements for our troops and their families.

The rising cost of goods and services and rising unemployment is taking an especially serious toll on our men and women in uniform and their families. As military commanders demand more time in theater for active duty personnel and rely more on the contribution of reservists, many of whom leave higher-paying jobs to be activated, demands on the limited financial resources of military families increase. The National Defense Authorization Act of 2010 was crafted with the concerns and urgent needs of these dedicated public servants and their families in mind.

The legislation authorizes \$135 billion for personnel needs and \$27 billion for healthcare. It raises the basic pay of our service members at a time when a pay-raise is dearly needed and the bill helps fund re-enlistment bonuses for active-duty members and reservists. To enable service members to spend more time with their families between tours, the bill increases the maximum leave days that a service member can accumulate and carry over from one year to the next. And, to ensure that our service members have a safe and secure home to return to, the bill contains \$2 billion for the construction and renovation of new and existing family military housing.

I am pleased to report to my constituents who have concerns about traffic congestion as the region prepares for the move of Walter Reed Hospital to Bethesda, that the bill instructs the Department of Defense to use all available resources to implement the Defense Access Road Program near the National Naval Medical Center.

The provisions and funds authorized by this act will help our men and women in uniform serving in the field, and help give them more peace of mind that their families back home are being cared for in their absence. I encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting the bill.

Today, there was also a vote on an amendment to this legislation offered by my colleague Massachusetts Representative JAMES MCGOVERN, which would require the Department of Defense to report an exit strategy for military forces in Afghanistan by no later than December 31st of this year. While I do not oppose the intent of my colleague's amendment, I did oppose the amendment on the grounds that President Obama has already laid out his strategy for Afghanistan in a speech delivered in March 2009. Like President Obama, I want to bring our troops home as soon as possible consistent with our national security needs.

As the President emphasized in his speech, Afghanistan is where the plot to attack the United States on September 11th, 2001 was developed and put into motion. It is of vital importance to U.S. national security that we do what is necessary to eliminate the threat posed to the American people from al Qaeda.

Madam speaker, I urge that we support the National Defense Act of 2010.

HONORING LINCOLNWOOD HIGH SCHOOL LANCERS BASEBALL TEAM

**HON. JOHN SHIMKUS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 9, 2009*

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a state championship baseball team from Raymond, Illinois.

The Lincolnwood High School Lancers knocked off Marissa 3-1 to capture their first state championship in baseball. The championship game win at Silver Cross Stadium in Joliet capped off an amazing season in which the Lancers won their first 27 games and ended up with 34 wins against just two losses.

My congratulations go to Head Coach Chris Paproth and assistant coaches Josh Stone and Lance Glick for their work with this outstanding group of student-athletes. But most of all, I want to congratulate the members of the 2009 Lincolnwood High School Lancers state champion baseball team: Aaron Pope, Luke Leonard, Chase Jaeger, Trevor Riggs, Clayton Clarke, Tyler Walch, Josh Glick, Adam Lemon, Nick Arter, Sam Elmore, Shane Herschelman, Lucas Stieren, Ethan Eliason, Randall Brockmeyer, Michael Stephenson, Kendall Wagaoff, Kyle Snyder, Jake Leonard, Kendall Crawford, Landon Weitekamp and Shane Burbridge.

They have represented themselves, their school and the community in a first-rate fashion, and I want to join with the other members of this House in wishing them the best of luck in their future endeavors, both on and off the field.