

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONGRATULATING A.K MAGO ON RECEIVING THE PRAVASI BHARATIYA SAMMAN AWARD

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 2010

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate A.K Mago on receiving the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award.

On January 9th, the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award was presented to A.K Mago for his outstanding work which has enhanced India's prestige in the United States. He is the first recipient of this award from the Houston Consulate Jurisdiction, which covers Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma, and Texas.

The Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award is the highest honor conferred on overseas Indians. The award is presented by the President of India as a part of the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Conventions, which have been organized annually since 2003. Recipients of this award have made significant contributions towards a better understanding of India abroad and have supported India's causes and concerns in a tangible way. Additionally, the honorees have made significant contributions in the welfare of the Diaspora, philanthropic and charitable work in India and abroad, and in building closer links between India and its Diaspora in the economic, cultural, and scientific fields.

Madam Speaker, I ask my esteemed colleagues to join me in expressing our congratulations to A.K Mago for receiving this high honor.

HONORING ARMY SERGEANT JUSTIN SIKMA FOR HIS EXEMPLARY SERVICE IN IRAQ

HON. DEBORAH L. HALVORSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 2010

Mrs. HALVORSON. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize Army Sergeant Justin Sikma, Bourbonnais resident and member of the 317th Engineer Company.

While working to clear a swampy field in Iraq, an extra vigilant Sergeant Sikma, spotted a live fragmentation rocket in the path of a piece of machinery being operated by a fellow soldier.

Sikma's keen eye protected the nine other men at his squad's work site.

America is fortunate to have brave soldiers like Sergeant Sikma in our armed forces keeping us safe and protecting our freedoms here at home and abroad. We all owe a debt of gratitude to Sergeant Justin Sikma and the millions of those who have served and will serve the great United States of America.

CONGRATULATING JOSEPH A. HEFFERS, RECIPIENT OF THE 2010 ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FROM THE GREATER PITTSSTON FRIENDLY SONS OF ST. PATRICK

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 2010

Mr. KANJORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Joseph A. Heffers, the 2010 recipient of the Achievement Award from the Greater Pittston Friendly Sons of St. Patrick.

A son of the late John Heffers and Mary Golden Heffers, Mr. Heffers was born and raised in Pittston City, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania.

A graduate of Pittston City High School and Wilkes-Barre Business College, where he earned a degree in business and accounting, Mr. Heffers served in the United States Army from 1964 to 1967 in the Special Troops Unit at Fort Dix, New Jersey.

Mr. Heffers worked at Eberhard Faber Company in Mountaintop, Pennsylvania, as a project manager for 21 years, receiving the President's Award from Mr. Eberhard Faber in 1986.

He later worked for Cooper Industries in Weatherly, Carbon County, Pennsylvania, as a production specialist and later retired from Intermetro Industries in Wilkes-Barre, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania.

Mr. Heffers is currently the Chief Executive Officer and Manager of the Metro Wire Federal Credit Union in Plains Township, Pennsylvania.

A past president of the Greater Pittston Friendly Sons of St. Patrick, Mr. Heffers serves on the advisory board of the Salvation Army in West Pittston and also is a member and former financial secretary of President John F. Kennedy Council 372 Knights of Columbus, their Council Choir and the Fourth Degree Assembly.

Mr. Heffers coached several youth athletic teams including Stoners Soccer, Jenkins Township Girls Softball and Girls Varsity Basketball at St. Mary's Assumption School in Pittston.

He is a member of St. John the Evangelist Church, Pittston.

Mr. Heffers resides in Port Griffith with his wife of 38 years, the former Mary Catherine Shea. They are the parents of two children, Joseph, Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania and Mary Elizabeth Gregor, Plains Township, Pennsylvania. The couple also has two grandchildren, Maxwell Wallace Gregor and Declan Joseph Gregor.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mr. Heffers on this notable occasion. His exemplary service to his family and community has earned him widespread respect and recognition.

HONORING THE MEDICAL TEAM ORGANIZED BY DR. JESSE BUTLER

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 2010

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I rise tonight to recognize a medical team from my district that recently traveled to the Dominican Republic to provide life-saving spinal surgery to victims of the Haiti earthquake.

In the immediate aftermath of January's devastating earthquake, Dr. Jesse Butler, an orthopedic spinal surgeon from Advocate Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge, found a way to contribute his unique skills. In just a few short days, Dr. Butler was able to organize a medical team, collect medical equipment worth millions of dollars, and travel to the Dominican Republic.

Members of the team included anesthesiologist Dr. Howard Konowitz, from Gottlieb Memorial Hospital in Melrose Park; scrub nurse Teresa Dudic, from Gottlieb; registered nurse Maria Korbel, from the Illinois Bone & Joint Institute in Morton Grove; nurse Aimee Duque-Randolph; and physician's assistant Alicia Granger-Carlson.

Dr. Butler's team operated on 11 patients, ages 14 to 35, at Dario Contreras Hospital in Santo Domingo, where many earthquake victims were treated. Conditions were far from ideal: patients waited in crowded hallways, and surgeries were performed in rooms as hot as 85 degrees. Victims withstood the pain of their injuries without the aid of morphine.

Upon their return, members of the team recalled the fear and desperation of those they treated, but also the Haitians' will to live and persevere. And though they could only meet a fraction of Haiti's enormous medical needs, they said they hope that their work will inspire others to similarly volunteer their time and talents.

I would like to submit for my colleagues' interest the following article from the February 10th edition of the Chicago Tribune about the team's trip.

LIFE-SAVING TRIP FOR EARTHQUAKE VICTIMS 'LIFE-CHANGING' FOR SURGICAL TEAM—SPINAL SURGERY UNIT INSPIRED BY RESOLVE OF HAITIANS

(By Courtney Flynn)

When orthopedic spine surgeon Dr. Jesse Butler saw images of the lives shattered by the Haiti earthquake, he knew he had to help the only way he knew how: by fixing broken backs.

Within 48 hours of the Jan. 12 quake, the physician from Advocate Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge organized a spinal surgery team, called in favors to collect millions of dollars of medical equipment and boarded a plane to the Dominican Republic.

"Instead of going the traditional route through a relief agency, we thought it would be more successful if we took charge of the logistics ourselves," Butler said. "We put together a team that could pretty much handle anything thrown at them."

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

In one week, the team operated on 11 patients, from 14 to 35, including a 25-year-old pregnant woman whose injuries had left her a quadriplegic. Nine of the patients were Haitian earthquake victims; two were injured in a motorcycle crash.

Despite the severity of the patients' injuries and the tragedy they'd been through, members of the surgical team said they were struck by the Haitians' resolve to live and wait for help.

"When you looked into their eyes, you saw a terror and fear that just burns into your soul," said Dr. Howard Konowitz, an anesthesiologist from Gottlieb Memorial Hospital in Melrose Park who was on the trip. "There was no morphine . . . but no one was moaning, no one was screaming."

The team performed its work at Dario Contreras Hospital, a public hospital in the Dominican capital of Santo Domingo where many Haitians have sought medical attention since the earthquake. Team members chose the hospital consulting with the Ministry of Health on where their skills would be of most help.

The team worked in grueling conditions, operating in rooms where the heat reached 85 degrees. Some patients waited in crowded hallways, others on thin mattresses atop rusted metal frames.

"We were working long hours. The rooms were so hot, people were dehydrated," said Teresa Dudic, a bilingual scrub nurse from Gottlieb. "And the patients, you could see the desperation in their eyes, they were scared."

Konowitz described the trip as "life-changing."

"All the other catastrophes that I can remember in my lifetime, there was nothing medically like this that I can remember," he said. "It's haunting what we saw."

And although it was gratifying to provide what help they could, team members recognized it was a tiny fraction of the need.

"We may have fixed their spine during the week, but we only got to 11 (people)," Butler said. "There were another 20 we couldn't take care of."

And the people they did treat need long-term care.

Maria Korbel, another member of the team who's bilingual and a registered nurse at the Illinois Bone & Joint Institute in Morton Grove, said she hopes their work will inspire others.

"If we were able to start a chain reaction, I think that would be fabulous," Korbel said. "I hope we started something good, something positive, something that will keep going."

Physician's assistant Alicia Granger-Carlson and nurse Aimee Duque-Randolph also were members of the team.

RECOGNIZING THE 189TH ANNIVERSARY OF GREEK INDEPENDENCE

SPEECH OF

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1107 to recognize the 189th anniversary of the independence of Greece and to celebrate Greek and American democracy.

The path to a free and democratic state is often long and arduous. This has been particularly true for Greece, and through the decades, the country has worked diligently to en-

sure the rights of citizens and uphold the principles of democracy. On March 25, 2010, we join the Greeks in celebrating their Independence Day, and by so doing, we are reminded of the sacrifices that a country grounded in democratic principles necessitates. In truth, the work that goes into attaining a freer and fairer democratic state never truly ends, and for this reason, it is important to recognize the citizens of Greece and the Greek government on this day.

Madam Speaker, the country of Greece has played a remarkable role in European history, and I commend the Greek people on their accomplishments and commitment to democratic ideals. I ask my fellow colleagues to join me today in honoring the people of Greece on the occasion of their 189th Independence Day.

HONORING TIMOTHY REILLY

HON. JEAN SCHMIDT

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 2010

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Mr. Timothy Reilly. Recently, both Tim and his business, Miami Valley International Trucks, were awarded the International Circle of Excellence Award for 2009.

Awarded by Navistar, Inc., the Circle of Excellence is given to dealerships that "achieve the highest level of performance in terms of operating and financial standards, market representation, and, most importantly, customer satisfaction." It is the highest honor that an International dealer can receive from Navistar.

Tim purchased Miami Valley International Trucks in 2004. Since then, he has earned 14 Circle of Excellence Awards and an Isuzu Ichiban Award, given to commercial truck dealers to recognize business excellence and civic-mindedness. Under his leadership, Miami Valley Trucks has grown to include five dealer locations and two parts and services sites in Ohio that employ 367 employees.

These awards are a testament to Tim's reputation as a leader in the trucking industry. This reputation has been honed through his activity and commitment to organizations like the Ohio Automobile Dealers Association, International Marketing, Sales & Finance Advisory Board, and as a former member of the Idealease board of directors. A dedicated supporter of his alma mater, Notre Dame, Tim also is a devoted father to his twin daughters, now 13 years old.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Tim Reilly for his accomplishments, his record of success, and his many contributions to his community, the State of Ohio, and our Nation.

CELEBRATING MINOOKA COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL VARSITY BOYS WRESTLING TEAM FOR WINNING THEIR FIRST EVER STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. DEBORAH L. HALVORSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 2010

Mrs. HALVORSON. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize the Minooka Community

High School Boys Varsity Wrestling Team for becoming the 2009–2010 Illinois High School Association Class 3A Dual Team State Wrestling Champions.

Through relentless practice and commitment to their sport, the team captured Minooka Community High School's first ever team state championship title. I congratulate the hard work, dedication, and long hours that everyone involved put in to make this title possible; the coaches for their patience and working with these young athletes, to the parents for believing in their students, to the competitors for believing in themselves and their team.

The members of the championship Indian squad are: Kevin Akers, Mitchell Brozovich, Clayton Charland, Brandon Collofello, Jacob DeKlerk, Zachary Friant, Joseph Govednik, Brandon Haase, Calvin Hill, Alex Hoshell, Cody Jones, Sean Kenny, Matthew Meyer, Matthew McEvilly, Michael McNulty, Blake Montella, Mitchell Morris, Colin Nielsen, Corbett Oughton, Jacob Potts, Josh Pullara, Jacob Residori, Daniel Ruettiger, Leo Ruettiger, Kevin Ruettiger, Matthew Stevens, Timothy Wright and Robert Zabel; and are led by head coach Bernie Ruettiger; and the assistant coaches; Jeff Charlebois, Mike Butterbach, Paige Schoolman, Stan Tischer, and Jon Ryan.

Congratulations on a season to be remembered.

AFGHANISTAN WAR POWERS RESOLUTION

SPEECH OF

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 2010

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I oppose this resolution.

I have serious reservations about the presence of U.S. Forces in Afghanistan. I opposed the President's plan to send additional troops into that country, and I opposed funding for the surge. I was reassured when the President said that he wanted to begin withdrawing U.S. troops beginning in 2011. I joined 137 of my colleagues to vote with Representative MCGOVERN to demand that the President provide a plan for withdrawing from Afghanistan, and have been deeply concerned that the mission for our troops there is not clear. If their mission is not well defined, how can we expect to judge success?

I do not support an open-ended commitment without clear goals. But I also cannot support a sudden withdrawal without a plan to protect American lives and American interests. And that's why I will vote against this Resolution.

This Resolution directs the President to remove all U.S. forces from Afghanistan 30 days from adoption, unless the President decides it is not safe to do so. He would then have until the end of 2010 to remove all U.S. forces from Afghanistan.

This language is absolute and provides no exceptions.

It does not provide exceptions for U.S. forces that might be necessary to safeguard U.S. embassy personnel.

It does not provide exceptions for our intelligence community or Special Forces so they can continue to support Afghanistan and Pakistan in the search for al Qaeda and Osama bin Laden.

It does not provide exceptions for U.S. military personnel who are engaged in training the Afghanistan National Army or Afghanistan National Police to provide their own security.

We should not be involved in a civil war in Afghanistan, but there are a few, limited missions in Afghanistan that may be necessary to protect our national interests. This Resolution does not allow us any flexibility to address those missions, and this is why I cannot support a policy that endangers the lives of U.S. personnel on the ground and allows al Qaeda to continue to destabilize the border region between Afghanistan and Pakistan, and potentially strike us here at home.

I hope Representative KUCINICH will refine his legislation and work with the President to present us with a plan to bring our troops home safely and in a timely manner.

CONGRATULATING MARTIN F. QUINN, THE MAN OF THE YEAR OF THE GREATER PITTSSTON FRIENDLY SONS OF ST. PATRICK

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 2010

Mr. KANJORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Martin F. Quinn, who was named "Man of the Year" by the Greater Pittston Friendly Sons of St. Patrick in Luzerne County, Pennsylvania.

Mr. Quinn is a son of the late Martin J. Quinn and Margaret Mitchell Quinn and was raised in the Cork Lane section of Pittston Township. He graduated from Pittston Central Catholic High School. He also attended Fairleigh Dickinson University and the Electrical Programming Institute, both in New Jersey.

He served and was honorably discharged from the United States Army. He was employed by the Lehigh Valley Railroad and Con-Rail Inc. for over 30 years, retiring as a line foreman in 1999. He is a licensed electrician and was recording secretary of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 1153 for many years. He is also a licensed projectionist.

Prior to returning to the Greater Pittston area in 1973, Mr. Quinn was employed in the trucking industry in New Jersey and was vice-president of the Teamsters' Union Local 701.

In addition to his extensive railroad career, Mr. Quinn has contributed a great amount of time to many community activities in the Greater Pittston area. He has served his community for over 20 years as a member of the Pittston Area Board of Education and is actively involved in many local clubs and political organizations. He is a sustaining member of the Greater Pittston Friendly Sons of St. Patrick and is also a charter member of Wolfe Tone Luzerne County Division 1, Ancient Order of Hibernian.

He is a member of the President John F. Kennedy Council #372, Knights of Columbus, and its Fourth Degree Assembly. He is a member of the board of the Parking Authority of the City of Pittston. He is active with the Third District Democrats and served many years as a committeeman in his ward. He is

a member of St. Mary's Help of Christians Church.

Mr. Quinn resides in Pittston with his wife, the former Barbara Brigido. They are the proud parents of three sons, Mitch, Mike, and Brian and have four grandchildren, Zach, Samantha, Katie, and Kearney.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mr. Quinn on this very special occasion. His love of his family and community is evident in all the good works he has been responsible for over many years. Moreover, his example inspires others to emulate him and to share in improving the quality of life throughout the region.

HONORING THE WORLD WAR II VETERANS OF AMERICA

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 2010

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the World War II veterans from across the country who are traveling to Washington, D.C. with the Honor Flight Network, a program whose goal is to provide as many World War II veterans as possible the opportunity to see the World War II Memorial here in Washington, D.C., a memorial that was built to honor their courage and service.

The American veteran is one of our greatest treasures. The Soldiers, Airmen, Sailors, Marines, and Coast Guardsman traveling here today answered our nation's call to service during one of its greatest times of need. From the European Campaign to the Pacific Asian Theatre to the African Theater, these brave Americans risked life and limb, gave service and sacrificed much, all while embodying what it is to be a hero. We owe them more gratitude than can ever be expressed.

I welcome these brave veterans to Washington and to their memorial. I am proud to submit the names of these heroes for all to see, hear, and recognize, and I call on my colleagues to rise and join me in expressing thanks.

Irwin L. Abelson, William Ahearn, Norm Albaugh, Frank Albert, William G. Anderson, George Anderson, Joseph Ansaldi, Dante Argenti, Charles Aschmann, Jr., John Bacik, Sr., Francis R. Bailey, William Banta, Ted Barnes, Benjamin Bauer, Irving Berge, Donald Bergeron, Leroy F. Berkebile, Carmine Biondi, George H. Bitting, Alfred Blake, Henry L. Blim, Eugene G. Bonetti, Edward Borucki, Francis L. Bouthiette, Edward A. Branning, Jr., George W. Briggs, Lionel Brindamour, Blair B. Brooks, George Brown, Carl Brown, Douglas Bryant, Eldon Burgess, Jack F. Bussert, Anthony V. Caggiano, Adone T. Calderone, Sam M. Calucci, Alex Campbell, James J. Carbone, James S. Cardone, Lloyd E. Carpenter, Henry C. Carroll, Edwin Cartoski, Bert L. Casagrande, Pasquale Cassetta, Charles Catyb, Albert Catyb, Carmine J. Cella, Salvatore Chiarelli, Salvatore A. Citrano, Harold Cohen, John J. Colleary, Russell N. Collins, Robert F. Colvin, Victor Coronella, William Coronella, Vincent F. Costello, Edward T. Coyne, Arthur A. Cozza, Don Cruse, Robert Curtis, Raymond D. Daniel, Robert L. Davis, Carl E. Davis, Ralph M. Day, Frank Dezenzo, Fred P. Dickinson, Russell E. Diefenbach, Jo-

seph G. Doherty, James J. Donnell, Joseph E. Donnelly, Calvin B. Double, Gerard Doyle, Clifford W. Drumm, Charles du Moulin, O'Neal Duffey, Gordon R. Dunbar, William R. Elwinger, Alvin R. Engelhardt, Raymond J. Enser, Julius J. Erdos, Karl Esler, Peter Fabregas, Peter J. Fantacone, Edmond G. Farah, Mike Florio, Dennis Focas, John E. Franklin, Jerome Freund, Arthur G. Fulte, John Fulton, Paul Gaither, Albert F. Gallo, John R. Giarrusso, Monroe Glazer, James Goins, Edward V. Golien, Frank M. Gondela, Jr., Milton R. Gore, Albert P. Greenwald, Victor Grillo, Don Griswold, Vaclav S. Gursky, Edward A. Haas, Robert B. Hagerman, Howard E. Haines, Charles Hamblin, Richard L. Hamel, Milton S. Harrell, Calvin N. Hartz, William T. Hay, Eugene J. Henleben, Kenneth Herrington, Ivan E. Hertle, Lawrence Hickey, William F. Hill, Edward R. Hodgman, Jr., Charles Holdstein, William B. Howell, Elmer Hurt, Walter H. Ingham, James Inglis, Bart Ingoglia, Thomas J. Jarecki, Elbert I. Jaudon, Jr., Warren Jenkins, Otto Jensen, Frank F. Jurek, Joseph L. Keller, George Keys, Paul J. Kieffer, Victor F. Kilkowski, Robert D. Kistler, George A. Klein, Robert Knight, Christos A. Kourambis, John L. Kraus, Leo Kukiela, Lewis A. Kull, Charles Lafferty, James L. Lange, Carman Laspatha, John P. Lauriello, James H. Leidig, Harold C. Levenberg, Lawrence J. Levy, Clifford Lewis, Walter Lightcap, Edward Lindstrom, Harry Lines, Joseph Locurto, Vincent J. Lombardi, Thomas A. Long, David Loree, Alfred Maccheronio, James D. Maniatis, Anthony A. Marchitelli, Robert M. Marraccini, George Martin, Joseph McGinnis, William McCarron, John W. McCormick, Elijah McKelvin, Marion F. Merrick, Robert Meyer, Richard Miller, Arthur Minichiello, Glen A. Mohler, Blasco Molle, Carl Montensen, John "Jack" Mueller, Thomas Murphy, Edward L. Norton, Paul E. Novak, Ed Novak, Felix A. Novelli, Dennis J. O'Keefe, Thomas J. Oliva, Raymond J. Olley, Frank H. Otremsky, Neil L. Pallante, Edlen C. Pearson, Edlen Pearson, Arthur Pendleton, Henry J. Pepe, Salvatore O. Perrone, Arthur Petterson, Clinton Phillips, Lawrence M. Pinto, Dale Pottorff, Edward D. Radbill, Ellenor Rennell, Samuel W. Revels, William Rimshaw, Charles F. Romano, Fred Rose, Philip Roston, Robert Roy, Glenn J. Royer, George W. Sarlitto, Glenn E. Sauers, Angelo N. Sauro, Lawrence Schechter, Herman F. Schult, Nick Schweitzer, Elliott Sears, Andrew Serrell, Burton L. Showers, Fred B. Simonson, Calvin L. Simpson, Daniel Siraco, William D. Sitman, Richard Skovira, William W. Sleezer, William Sligo, Emil Sliwa, Clarence Smith, Nicholas Smith, Kenneth W. Soderstrom, Frank T. Spero, Theodore W. Stathis, Gilbert Stead, Donald B. Stearns, Charles H. Stewart, John D. Stover, Shirley Sutherburg, Arthur J. Sutton, Morris B. Sweet, James B. Tedrick, William J. Toohey, Arthur P. Travis, William Tully, Richard L. Usinger, Frank G. Valentine, Earl N. VanDyke, John E. Vargo, Nicholas J. Velardi, Albert J. Vicarelli, Anthony Vieceli, Lowell R. Wagner, Nicholas J. Waters Jr., Richard E. Watkins, John H. Webb, Robert H. Wetter, Robert White, Cecil F. Wigmore, Raymond W. Wike, John C. Witty, Milton S. Wolchuck, James M. Zirakian, Leon Zochowski.

H.R. 4821 THE “KAYTLYNN NOGGLE FEDERAL LIFE INSURANCE EQUITY ACT”

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 2010

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the “Kaytlynn Noggle Federal Life Insurance Equity Act,” named in honor of the daughter of constituents of mine, Elizabeth and Larry Noggle; and to encourage all of my colleagues to support this bill.

I would like to read the e-mail sent to me by Mr. Noggle as I think it sums up the need for this legislation far better than I could.

“Representative Burton, recently my wife, Elizabeth, and I had a stillborn daughter, Kaytlynn Grace on December 19, 2009.

We are both Federal employees with the Defense Department and when we looked to see if the Federal Group Life Insurance covered stillborn children, we were told it did not.

As you are probably aware, Indiana law requires any child 20 weeks gestation or more to be buried or cremated as if they were a regular person who lived and died, the cost of which ran our family over \$2,000 in funeral expenses.

As the insurance didn't cover it, this was a large unexpected expense. Since Indiana law requires burial, we had hoped our insurance would cover at least the funeral expenses as we carried the family coverage on our policy. We discovered that for military service members, their life insurance covers stillborn children up to \$10,000.

While neither Elizabeth nor I expect to benefit from any changes, we request that the Federal Employees Group Life Insurance program be modified to include stillborns for all Federal employees, at least equivalent to the Servicemembers group Life Insurance Program.

We aren't looking to profit from Kaytlynn's death. We are hoping to bring about a change to help other families in this situation. Thank you Larry Noggle.”

Madam Speaker, Public Law 110–389, the “Veterans” Benefits Improvement Act of 2008” in addition to enhancing other veterans and military benefits, amended the definition of dependent under the Family Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance program to include stillborn children. And coverage for stillborn children has been part of the program since November 18, 2009.

The “Veterans Benefits Improvement Act” did not, however, amend the definition of dependent under the Federal Employees Group Life Insurance program. The Kaytlynn Noggle Federal Life Insurance Equity Act simply corrects this imbalance and brings the two programs into parity.

Although I do not have an official CBO score on the bill, the costs to the Federal Government should be negligible for several reasons.

First, the cost of Basic insurance under the Federal Employees' Group Life Insurance program is shared between the employee and the Government; with the employee paying $\frac{2}{3}$ of the total cost while the Government pays $\frac{1}{3}$. The cost of the Optional Coverage under the program—in other words coverage for spouses and children (including coverage for

stillborn children)—is paid 100 percent by the employee.

Second, stillbirths are fortunately rare. According to the latest figures from the Centers for Disease Control, each year in the United States approximately 25,000 babies are stillborn—roughly 1 percent of all births. Consequently, the probability is that the Federal Employees Group Life Insurance program would pay out relatively few claims under the stillborn provision.

To paraphrase Mr. Noggle, no one is going to make a profit from this provision. But it will hopefully give Federal families some peace of mind that they won't be made destitute by the tragic event of a stillborn baby.

I would encourage all of my colleagues to co-sponsor this critically important legislation.

IN RECOGNITION OF ROBERT FRONEK FOR HIS YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE NEW LENOX FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

HON. DEBORAH L. HALVORSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 2010

Mrs. HALVORSON. Madam Speaker, on April 3, 2010, friends, family, and colleagues of Robert Fronck will gather to celebrate his 35 years of service to the New Lenox Fire Protection District. Today, I join the chorus of praise for Robert's service.

Robert, or Bob to his friends, began his service to the New Lenox Fire Protection District on June 14, 1973. When he first began, Bob gave his time for little or no pay. He gained a Master's Degree in Fire Science and his role in the fire department grew as he devoted his time and effort to the Fire Protection District.

Over the past 35 years Bob has worked for the New Lenox Fire Protection District. He has served as Lieutenant, Captain, Deputy Chief, and Trustee. He currently serves as District Operations Manager. Bob is the only person to have held every office on the district's Board of Trustees, serving as President, Treasurer, and Secretary. Bob has also been awarded the honor of Firefighter of the Year. During his time with the Fire District, Bob was an advocate for the businesses in New Lenox by making sure that the Fire District received bids from local businesses whenever possible. Bob is known to his colleagues as a very meticulous worker and a great friend.

Bob is also a loving grandfather, father, and husband. Bob and his wife Mary have been married for 37 years, all but one of which have been spent living in New Lenox. Bob and Mary have five children and ten grandchildren.

The 11th Congressional District of Illinois and the community of New Lenox owe Robert Fronck a debt of gratitude. I am proud to represent him and all the wonderful firefighters who serve the 11th District. I congratulate Robert on being honored by his colleagues and wish him continued success.

RECOGNIZING CORPORAL CHAD WATSON

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 2010

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I rise tonight to recognize Cpl Chad Watson of the United States Marine Corps, a true American hero.

Corporal Watson gave up his final year of a wrestling scholarship at Indiana University to serve his country in Iraq with the Marine Corps in 2006. He was quickly assigned to be a team leader, and led his team on five ambushes and more than 60 combat patrols. Corporal Watson was popular with his team and was even voted as the one Marine his fellow Marines would most like to serve with in combat.

However, after serving a little more than three months in Fallujah, Corporal Watson's time in Iraq was cut short when he was severely injured by an IED while on a mission. He spent the next 17 months in various forms of recovery and rehabilitation.

Corporal Watson received the respect and praise of his colleagues while serving in the military, and was named Marine of the Quarter for his actions in Iraq. Despite his injuries and substantial recovery time, he continues to serve his country and his fellow servicemen through his work with the Wounded Warrior Project. This organization seeks to empower injured veterans by spreading awareness and enlisting the aid of the public to meet the needs of men and women who have been injured in service to their country. The Wounded Warrior project also helps severely injured service members aid and assist each other.

Corporal Watson's devotion to his country before, during, and after his time in Iraq is an example of true patriotism. I want to both recognize him and, on behalf of the United States Congress, thank him for his selfless service on the frontlines in Iraq and for his continued dedication to serving as a tireless advocate for our nation's veterans.

HONORING JEAN SPRINGER

HON. JEAN SCHMIDT

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 2010

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize an American heroine and one of my constituents, Jean Springer. Jean was a twenty-two year old student at Adelphi University, who instead of thinking about studying and exams, began thinking about how she could help her country in the War effort.

In 1943, Jean joined the newly formed Women Air Force Service Pilots or WASP Corps and began flying non-combat missions in support of the United States Army Air Forces.

Jean grew up in Long Island, New York. She learned to fly on Long Island and began a lifelong love of flying.

Jean and more than one-thousand other female pilots joined the Army Air Forces WASP Corps in an effort to free up their male counterparts to fly combat missions in the war effort. At that time women pilots were prohibited

from flying combat missions. Instead they flew missions to ferry military personnel, equipment and delivered new aircraft.

Yesterday, the United States Congress honored these women by awarding them the Congressional Gold Medal, a recognition that was long overdue. It wasn't until 1977 that our nation recognized these women for their military service. The WASP Corps was disbanded in 1944.

Jean relocated to Cincinnati over sixty years ago and is the retired Director of the Men's Mercantile Library Association. She is a mother of three and grandmother to four wonderful grandchildren, her family was present today to see her honored.

Jean and the women of the Women Air Force Service Pilots Corp are true American Heros. I am extremely happy that today they were given the recognition they have long deserved.

RECOGNIZING CONTRIBUTIONS OF
KOREAN AMERICANS

SPEECH OF

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1036 to recognize the contributions of Korean Americans in the United States.

On January 13, 1903, over a hundred Korean immigrants came to the United States, and today there are more than a million people living in this country who can trace their ancestry to Korea. In my district in Texas, we are privileged to have a very large and dynamic Korean American community, and through the years, Dallas has benefitted immensely from this community's contributions. Additionally, the Dallas/Fort Worth area has a remarkably strong trading relationship with South Korea and the city both imports and exports exhaustively with the country.

Mr. Speaker, our country is stronger because of communities like the Korean American community, and we are fortunate that they have added unique and dynamic attributes to the American character. I ask my fellow colleagues to join me today in honoring their contributions to American culture and in celebrating their accomplishments in this country.

IN RECOGNITION OF GLEN KROHN
FOR HIS YEARS OF SERVICE TO
THE NEW LENOX FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

HON. DEBORAH L. HALVORSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 2010

Mrs. HALVORSON. Madam Speaker, on April 3, 2010, friends, family, and colleagues of Glen Krohn will gather to celebrate his 50 years of service to the New Lenox Fire Protection District. Today I join the chorus of praise for Glen's service.

Glen, a 70 year resident of New Lenox, began his service to the New Lenox Fire Pro-

tection District on December 8, 1960. When he first began, Glen gave his time for little or no pay. His role in the fire department grew as he devoted additional time and effort for what he viewed as a great cause.

Glen began his life of service to our country with three years in the US Army. He then began a half century of service to the New Lenox Fire Protection District. He has served as Lieutenant Engineer, Chief Engineer, and, since 1997, as Trustee. Glen has twice been awarded the honor of Firefighter of the Year. He is known to his colleagues as the historian of the fire district and is said to possess a heart of gold.

Glen is also a loving grandfather, father, and husband. Glen and his wife, Doris, have been married for 56 years and have three children and seven grandchildren.

The 11th Congressional District of Illinois and the community of New Lenox owe Glen Krohn a debt of gratitude. I am proud to represent him and all the wonderful firefighters who serve the 11th District. I congratulate Glen on being honored by his colleagues and wish him continued success.

HONORING ARIZONA WESTERN
COLLEGE FOR HISTORIC SOLAR
ARRAY

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 2010

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Arizona Western College, a community college in southwestern Arizona that serves over 13,000 full-time and part-time students in Yuma and La Paz Counties. Arizona Western College, in collaboration with Arizona Public Service and Power Purchase Agreement Inc., will be establishing the largest array of solar energy panels of any college in the country. The total solar installation, which will be on the college's main campus in Yuma, Arizona, will be 5 megawatts, generating enough energy to cover 100% of the college's energy needs.

The installation will also be a testing site for manufacturers around the world as well as the foundation for education and workforce development in renewable energy technology. Arizona Western College is in the process of developing curriculum in solar energy technology, ranging from occupational certificates to an associate's degree program while plans to partner with university programs for bachelor and master's degrees are also underway. The installation will not only provide a source of clean energy for the campus, but it will also help train the next generation of "green collar" professionals. While the solar array will most surely change the face of the local economy, it also has the potential to impact solar technology research and education on a national and global scale. By training individuals in these technologies and supporting technological advances in solar energy production, Arizona Western College is leading the way to a clean energy economy.

Arizona Western College's decision to enter this partnership will help reduce our country's dependence on unsustainable fossil fuels, actions which I applaud. By investing in renewable energy technologies and research, Ari-

zona Western College will help make these technologies more affordable and readily available across America. Our country has been at the forefront of past technological revolutions, and with Arizona Western College spearheading the effort, America will be the leading innovator in solar energy technology.

This project takes us one step closer to establishing a sustainable energy future. As a member of the House Committee on Natural Resources, I not only admire but also wholeheartedly support Arizona Western College's initiative to help lead the country in developing technologies that will help harness the power of the sun.

SARA PLATT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 2010

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Sara Platt. Sara is a very special young woman who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Girl Scouts of the USA and earning the high honor of the Gold Award.

Sara's outstanding achievement reflects her hard work and dedication. Sara has exhibited unique and creative examples of service that have made a difference in her community. I am confident that she will continue to hold herself to the highest standards in the future. This is an accomplishment for which Sara can take pride in for the rest of her life.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Sara Platt for her accomplishments with the Girl Scouts of the USA and for her efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of the Gold Award.

CONGRATULATING JOHN D.
MC CARTHY WHO WAS NAMED
MAN OF THE YEAR BY THE
WILKES-BARRE FRIENDLY SONS
OF ST. PATRICK

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 2010

Mr. KANJORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to John D. McCarthy, who was named "Man of the Year" by the Wilkes-Barre Friendly Sons of St. Patrick.

Born in Wilkes-Barre, June 19, 1935, Mr. McCarthy graduated from St. Mary's High School and King's College where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration.

Mr. McCarthy is chairman of the board of McCarthy Tire Service Company, Inc., one of the largest tire distributorships in North America and also Chairman of the Board of McCarthy Realty, Inc.

Mr. McCarthy has, for many years, left an indelible and positive imprint on many groups and organizations in the Greater Wyoming Valley. He served on the boards of directors of the Wyoming Valley Health Care Systems,

Inc., Pennsylvania American Water Company, Blue Cross/Blue Shield, Continental Bank and the Wilkes-Barre Housing Authority.

He served as chairman of the board at the Wyoming Valley Health Care System and at the Wilkes-Barre Housing Authority.

A member of the Fox Hill Country Club, he is also a member of the Knights of Columbus, Fourth Degree.

Mr. McCarthy was awarded the "Citizen of the Year" by the Wilkes-Barre Lions Club and "Small Businessman of the Year" by the Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. McCarthy is married to the former Cecelia M. Corgan and they are the parents of Mary Ellen Horn, Kathleen Lambert and John D. McCarthy Jr. They also have seven grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mr. McCarthy on this auspicious occasion. His extraordinary service to the community and his personal example has been inspirational to many. The contribution he has made has greatly enhanced the quality of life throughout the region and has earned him widespread respect and admiration.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM JORDAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 2010

Mr. JORDAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I was absent from the House Floor during Tuesday evening's three rollcall votes.

Had I been present, I would have voted in favor of H. Res. 1069 and H. Res. 935, and against H.R. 3650.

HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOMS AND HYPOXIA RESEARCH AND CONTROL AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Madam Speaker, yesterday, the House voted down H.R. 3650, the Harmful Algal Blooms and Hypoxia Research and Control Amendments Act. This bill would have cost an estimated \$153 million of taxpayer dollars for 2010 through 2014 and \$22 million after 2014 to establish a new task force charged with responding to hypoxia events and, among other items, implementing and overseeing the regional research and action plans. I joined with 141 of my colleagues and voted against this misguided bill. I understand and appreciate that the health of our rivers is of vital importance to the 9th district of Missouri and to the Nation, and I believe that responsible environmental management is critically important to national commerce and infrastructure. However, agriculture has been forced to bear the brunt of environmental attacks for long enough. While the Environmental Protection Agency, EPA, and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, NOAA, point the finger at agriculture as a contributor of gulf hypoxia, particularly through the dumping of sediment and runoff of fertilizer,

the Army Corps of Engineers, Corps, at the direction of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is digging chutes that are up to 25 feet deep, 200 to 300 feet wide, and sometimes over one mile long to provide shallow water habitat for the endangered pallid sturgeon. According to the Missouri Clean Water Commission, the Corps will dump 34 million metric tons of sediment into the Missouri River annually. This soil contains a significant amount of phosphorous, a known cause of hypoxia. All of this without facing fines from the EPA, which have been levied against farmers and businesses along the river, because the Corps was able to obtain a Clean Water Act Section 404 permit granted by themselves. Instead of continually attacking agriculture and small business and trivially spending hard earned taxpayer dollars, perhaps the Federal Government should spend some time investigating its own actions.

TRIBUTE TO CALIFORNIA CHIEF JUSTICE RONALD GEORGE ON THE OCCASION OF HIS 70TH BIRTHDAY

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 2010

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Chief Justice of California Supreme Court, Ronald Marc George on the occasion of his 70th birthday and to thank him for his years of extraordinary public service to the people of California and beyond.

Chief Justice George is married to his beloved wife, Barbara and they have three children . . . Eric, Andrew and Chris, and two grandchildren, Charlotte and Maya, daughters of Chris and his wife Rebecca.

Born on March 11, 1940, Chief Justice George received his A.B. from Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs in 1961, and a J.D. from Stanford University in 1964. Currently serving as the 27th Chief Justice of California, he heads the Supreme Court of California as well as the Judicial Council of California.

Chief Justice George has had a long and distinguished career. He was appointed to the Supreme Court of California in 1991 by Governor Pete Wilson after serving on the bench in the Los Angeles Municipal Court, the Los Angeles Superior Court and on the Court of Appeals. He also served as Deputy Attorney General in the California Department of Justice where he prepared six oral arguments and briefs for the U.S. Supreme Court.

Chief Justice George served as the President of the Conference of Chief Justices, Chair of the Board of Directors in the National Center for State Courts, President of the California Judges Association, as well as many other activities and associations outside his work on the bench. He has been honored by numerous organizations including the Consumer Attorneys' Association of Los Angeles' Roger J. Traynor Memorial Award in 2009, the Bar Association of San Francisco's Champion of Justice Award in 2008, the American Bar Association's John Marshall Award in 2007 and the Legal Writing Institute's Golden Pen Award in 2007. His accomplishments and recognitions are simply too many to name. In addition to his judicial commitments and volun-

teer activities, he takes time to lecture at numerous judicial education programs, law schools and events around the country to share his experience and legal expertise.

Madam Speaker, I ask the entire House of Representatives to join me in offering our best wishes to Chief Justice Ronald George on the very special occasion of his 70th birthday, and extend our gratitude for his integrity, his love of the Constitution and his exemplary leadership which strengthens California's judicial system and our nation as well.

RECOGNITION FOR THE 2010 TUCSON FESTIVAL OF BOOKS

HON. GABRIELLE GIFFORDS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 2010

Ms. GIFFORDS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 2010 Tucson Festival of Books, which will be held at the University of Arizona on March 13 and 14.

The Tucson Festival of Books is a celebration of literacy and an opportunity for those of us who cherish books to meet the men and women who write them. It is, ultimately, a community's recognition of the great value we place on the written word.

As the proud home of the University of Arizona, Tucson is the ideal place for a festival of books. The Festival brings together more than 450 authors and presenters who will speak about their work, sign their books and answer questions about their craft.

Now in its second year, the Tucson Festival of Books will have writing workshops and competitions, panel presentations, children's activities, storytelling, artists and musicians. The Festival truly provides something for readers of all ages. In 2009 more than 50,000 people attended the Festival and an even larger turnout is expected this year. Clearly the people of Southern Arizona have a strong love of books and reading.

As much fun and informative as the Festival will be, it also serves a larger purpose. I believe that the Tucson Festival of Books can help us improve literacy and encourage young people to expand their knowledge of the world. It is a reminder of how essential books and the information they impart are to our society and to our form of government. In 2009, the Festival raised \$200,000, which was distributed to agencies providing literacy services in Tucson.

"Once you learn to read," Frederick Douglass told us, "you will be forever free." The Tucson Festival of Books plays an important role in fulfilling that promise.

The 2010 Tucson Festival of Books is sponsored by the University of Arizona, the Arizona Daily Star and The Diamond Children's Medical Center.

The Festival is organized and run by the Tucson Festival of Books Foundation, a non-profit organization. It was founded by Bill Viner, President of the Foundation Board of Directors. He is joined in this labor of love by Board Vice Presidents Frank Farias and John M. Humenik, Treasurer Bruce Beach and Secretary Brenda Viner. The Festival would not be possible without their hard work and dedication and the efforts of many volunteers. On behalf of a grateful community I thank and

commend them for bringing us this incredible gift.

IN MEMORY OF CROSWELL FIRE
CHIEF THOMAS A. DICKENSHEETS

HON. CANDICE S. MILLER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 2010

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I come to the floor today to honor and remember the life of Thomas A. Dickensheets. Sadly, at just the age of 55 years old, he unexpectedly died on Sunday, March 7th, 2010. I offer my deepest sympathy and condolences to his family, friends and colleagues from the City of Croswell. I know this is an extremely difficult time as they mourn his passing, but hopefully they can find comfort and solace and eventually start the healing process.

Tom was a loyal and dedicated employee for the City of Croswell. He served his community with great pride and enthusiasm while performing numerous functions in many different capacities. He worked for the Croswell Department of Public Works (DPW) for 25 years, serving as the Superintendent for 11 years as well as the City's Zoning Administrator and Cemetery Sexton.

In addition, he achieved 34 years of service as a Volunteer Fireman and was the Chief for the past 22 years. His knowledge, expertise, and commitment to the safety and security of this community will be significantly missed. He dedicated his life to protecting property and saving lives. Instead of running away from a threat, Chief Dickensheets hurried to the firehouse to throw on his gear and race towards the emergency and danger that awaited him. That is an admirable characteristic that many would not choose to pursue on a daily basis and as a profession. There is no doubt his impeccable integrity has created a void throughout Sanilac County, the 10th Congressional District and the State of Michigan. He truly was an outstanding person.

Chief Dickensheets' life demonstrates a consistent pattern of going above and beyond the required call of duty. He served his community through numerous roles such as the City of Croswell Emergency Management, Sanilac County 911 Committee Member, and President of the Sanilac County Firemen's Association, President of the Sanilac County Police Firemen Field Day Association, Regional Homeland Security Committee Member, and a Sanilac County Fire Training Committee Member. These are just some of the leadership roles Tom pursued during his tenure with the city.

I cannot imagine how heart-breaking this time is for the family of Mr. Dickensheets and the City of Croswell. Tom was an inspirational leader and a wonderful man. He loved his family, community and country very much. He always strived to improve the world around him and the fire department he served so proudly. Without question, he will be severely missed but definitely not forgotten.

In closing, it is an honor to have an opportunity to recognize his lifetime of achievements and offer my sincere gratitude and thanks for his service. My thoughts and prayers go out to all of those who knew Chief Dickensheets. May he rest in peace and receive eternal rest.

MICAH PROCTOR

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 2010

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Micah Proctor. Micah is a very special young woman who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Girl Scouts of the USA and earning the high honor of the Gold Award.

Micah's outstanding achievement reflects her hard work and dedication. Micah has exhibited unique and creative examples of service that have made a difference in her community. I am confident that she will continue to hold herself to the highest standards in the future. This is an accomplishment for which Micah can take pride in for the rest of her life.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Micah Proctor for her accomplishments with the Girl Scouts of the USA and for her efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of the Gold Award.

**MOURNING THE PASSING OF JON
JONES**

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 2010

Ms. HARMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to mourn the passing of my friend Jon Jones, the Vice President of Raytheon Company and President of Raytheon Space and Airborne Systems (SAS)—and to celebrate his life.

Jon was a single father with sole custody of his two beloved daughters. He was a proud family man and was pleased to see them grow successfully into adulthood—Alexis, a nurse practitioner who does research at USC, and Ashley, a student at the University of Arizona. He was looking forward to Alexis' wedding in May.

Jon led a life devoted to others. In addition to supporting numerous veterans' charities and causes, Jon is remembered for his authenticity, his even temper, and the kindness with which he treated others.

He was a proud native of California and a true Bruins fan serving on the Dean's Advisory Council at UCLA School of Engineering, where he was scheduled to give the commencement address in May.

He was Raytheon Executive Diversity Champion and throughout his career served as a model for inclusion and embracing diverse viewpoints to solve some of our nation's most difficult technology challenges.

He pioneered the development of the Sidewinder missile and the Tomahawk cruise missile, both of which have provided critical capabilities to our nation's military.

Jon served as Vice President and Deputy General Manager of Space and Airborne Systems before becoming its president in 2005. He demonstrated for his 12,400 employees the professionalism and self-confidence that allows them to serve their country so well. He demanded excellence and got it, turning a troubled Raytheon contract around after some major challenges.

Jon was an admired innovator. He won the Malcolm R. Currie Innovation award in 1996. He was named the State of Arizona's Innovator of the Year in 1997, and he received Raytheon's corporate Excellence in Technology Award for advancements in infrared guided missiles in 2001.

He was an advocate for the warfighter, a patriot, and a successful businessman and innovator, but most importantly, a devoted and wonderful father. My colleagues and I who knew and worked closely with him mourn his passing.

CONGRATULATING HON. JAMES M.
MUNLEY FOR 25 YEARS OF
SERVICE TO THE FRIENDLY
SONS OF ST. PATRICK OF
LACKAWANNA COUNTY

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 2010

Mr. KANJORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Hon. James M. Munley, senior Federal District Court Judge of the Middle District of Pennsylvania, who is being honored for 25 years of service to the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick of Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania. Judge Munley was nominated by President William Clinton, confirmed by the United States Senate and sworn in as a federal district judge on October 26, 1998.

A graduate of the University of Scranton and Temple Law School, he also graduated from the National College of State Trial Judges in Nevada and pursued additional legal studies at Harvard Law School, Massachusetts, and participated in national security seminars at the U.S. Army War College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania.

He served in the United States Army from 1958 to 1960 during which he was stationed in Germany.

Formerly engaged in the practice of law with his brother, Attorney Robert W. Munley, from 1964 to 1978, he was elected as Judge of the Court of Common Pleas November 8, 1977, and was retained for additional terms in 1987 and 1997.

In 1986 he was appointed by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court to serve on the Judicial Inquiry and Review Board. He was elected chairman of that board in 1989.

He has lectured, taught and written extensively on the law over the years and has remained active in the Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania and American Bar Associations.

Judge Munley has also been active in the Boy Scouts, Friendly Sons of St. Patrick, Ancient Order of Hibernians, Knights of Columbus and the Country Club of Scranton.

He has also been actively involved in Lourdesmont, Good Shepherd Youth and Family Services, St. Joseph's Hospital School of Nursing, Lackawanna County United Way, Everhart Museum, First National Bank, Peckville; Pennsylvania Trial Lawyers Association, Pennsylvania Trial Judges Association and its State Ethics Committee.

He has received numerous awards from Marywood University, University of Scranton, Women's Resource Center of Scranton, Boy

Scouts, American Legion, Temple University, Young Lawyers of the Lackawanna County Bar Association, Judicial Inquiry and Review Board, Dickinson School of Law and Bethel A.M.E. Church of Scranton.

Married to Dr. Kathleen P. Munley, a professor at Marywood University, they are the parents of two daughters, Attorney Julia K. Munley and Gwendolyn Munley.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Judge Munley on this auspicious occasion. His exemplary service to his profession and to his community has improved the quality of life throughout the region.

AFGHANISTAN WAR POWERS
RESOLUTION

SPEECH OF

HON. KURT SCHRADER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 2010

Mr. SCHRADER. Madam Speaker, I believe it is time to bring the United States Military's involvement in Afghanistan to a close. Last year I became a cosponsor of H.R. 2404, to require the President to issue a plan for withdrawal from Afghanistan by the end of 2009; and I voted for an amendment to the FY2010 Defense Authorization Act to mandate the same. Although a majority of my colleagues did not join me in supporting those measures, H. Con. Res. 248 is not the right approach.

It is unrealistic to ask President Obama to remove military forces from Iraq within the next 30 days or even the next 10 months as H. Con. Res. 248 demands. Ending a war is unfortunately more complicated than beginning one. Even as a candidate in 2008, President Obama recognized an expedited withdrawal of troops from Iraq would take 15 to 24 months. Asking for a 10 month window for withdrawal from Afghanistan is unrealistic.

With thousands of Oregon Guardsmen currently serving in Iraq and hundreds more deploying to Afghanistan, such a resolution at this time, in this manner, would be inappropriate.

COMMEMORATING THE 31ST ANNUAL
WINDHAM SPECIAL OLYMPICS
INVITATIONAL SWIM MEET

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 2010

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate and honor the 31st Annual Windham Special Olympics Invitational Swim Meet. This Saturday, I will have the great pleasure of attending the Opening Ceremony of this event with hundreds of athletes, families and volunteers from around the region. I am familiar with the good work of Special Olympics Connecticut and am particularly excited for Saturday's meet.

All of the events that the Special Olympics organizes are first and foremost about the athletes who participate in them. They provide a unique opportunity for these individuals to compete and learn the benefits of regular training and physical fitness activities. In addition

to the athletic component, I want to highlight the overwhelmingly positive impact that Special Olympics competitions have on the lives of the athletes. The social, educational, and professional skills that are gained from mere involvement in these programs are outcomes that the organization and the athletes should be tremendously proud of.

I also want to take this opportunity to acknowledge the many volunteers and other members of the community that make each and every Special Olympics event possible. Without them, the athletes and their families could not enjoy the activities and terrific memories that come from these events. Thank you for all your service and good luck to the athletes competing in the Windham Special Olympics Invitational Swim Meet.

LACY RADZIEJ

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 2010

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Lacy Radziej. Lacy is a very special young woman who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Girl Scouts of the USA and earning the high honor of the Gold Award.

Lacy's outstanding achievement reflects her hard work and dedication. Lacy has exhibited unique and creative examples of service that have made a difference in her community. I am confident that she will continue to hold herself to the highest standards in the future. This is an accomplishment for which Lacy can take pride in for the rest of her life.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Lacy Radziej for her accomplishments with the Girl Scouts of the USA and for her efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of the Gold Award.

RECOGNIZING THE 189TH ANNIVERSARY
OF GREEK INDEPENDENCE

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1107, which recognizes the 189th anniversary of the independence of Greece and celebrates Greek and American democracy. This resolution honors the Greek republic on its 189th anniversary, but the culture of the Greek people is over three thousand years old and has been the intellectual and philosophical foundation for many democracies throughout modern history.

Modern Greece is a living, breathing example of the trials and struggles of many countries over the last hundred and eighty-nine years. Greece had to remove the shackles of empire to forge its own identity and destiny. The Greek people joined the allies in their fight against fascism during World War II. In the war's aftermath, Greece was in the physical and geopolitical center of the east and west struggle in the Cold War.

The Greek people and culture have also had a lasting impact in the Detroit Metropolitan area. What started out as a small group of people on Monroe Street who wanted to preserve their rich culture, has grown into a successful group of business owners and, most of all, great Detroiters.

Greece is an example of the steadfast determination that all people admire. The Greek People have seen their land invaded by foreign nations, experienced coups and rebuilt after tragedy. While this happened, America stood with them offering aid and assistance. It is only fitting we celebrate this occasion with them.

CONGRATULATING THE REV. BERNARD R. MCLHENNY, S.J., THE
RECIPIENT OF THE PRESIDENT'S
AWARD FROM THE FRIENDLY
SONS OF ST. PATRICK OF
LACKAWANNA COUNTY

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 2010

Mr. KANJORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to the Rev. Bernard R. McIlhenny, S. J., who is being honored by the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick of Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania, with their 2010 President's Award.

Currently the Dean of Admissions Emeritus at the University of Scranton and minister of the Jesuit Community at Scranton, Father McIlhenny was ordained a priest at Woodstock College on June 17, 1956. He spent the last year of his training at Auriesville, New York.

On July 1, 1958, he was named fourth headmaster at Scranton Preparatory School where he spent the next eight years. In 1966, he was assigned as Dean of Admissions at the University of Scranton where he remained for the next 31 years.

On June 1, 1997, Father McIlhenny retired as Dean of Admissions to become Administrator of the Scranton Jesuit Community.

He received an honorary degree from the University of Scranton on May 26, 1998, and, on September 13, 2009, the University recognized Father McIlhenny's years of dedicated service by naming the Rev. Bernard R. McIlhenny Ballroom in his honor.

Born in Philadelphia on March 27th, 1926, Father McIlhenny is the son of Bernard and Marie Seiberlich McIlhenny. He graduated from St. Joseph's Preparatory School in Philadelphia. He entered St. Joseph's University in 1943 and entered the Novitiate of the Society of Jesus in Wernersville, Pennsylvania, in February, 1944.

Father McIlhenny attended his first Friendly Sons of St. Patrick dinner in 1959 and has been enjoying the event ever since.

Father McIlhenny has distinguished himself throughout northeastern Pennsylvania over the years for his extraordinary service to his Church, to his community and to the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick of Lackawanna County.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Father McIlhenny on this auspicious occasion. His personal example has been an inspiration to many and he has contributed greatly to the improvement of the quality of life throughout the region.

HONORING THE REVEREND DR. S. L. ROBERSON ON THE OCCASION OF HIS 90TH BIRTHDAY

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 2010

Mr. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of my friend S. L. Roberson of Ypsilanti, Michigan and to pay tribute to him on the occasion of his upcoming 90th birthday on Saturday, March 14th, 2010.

The Reverend Dr. S. L. Roberson is a pillar of the Ypsilanti-area community, a servant for his fellow man and a dear friend of mine; one whose wisdom and counsel I have been lucky to receive.

S. L. Roberson was born in Alabama to Estella and Reverend Gaither Roberson, Sr., on March 14th, 1920. As a child he moved to Michigan and received his education in the Ypsilanti Public Schools. The church has always been central to S. L.'s life, and he was baptized at an early age while attending Second Baptist Church of Ypsilanti where his father served as pastor. It was at this time that S. L. received his calling, preached his trial sermon and was ordained in his ministry. He was later called to pastor the now Metropolitan Memorial Full Gospel Baptist Church and has led that congregation for over 50 years. S. L. has undergraduate degrees from Eastern Michigan University, has studied at Detroit Bible College and has a doctorate of divinity from Urban Bible College. Reverend Roberson has also served his country with great pride and distinction as a member of the United States Marine Corps. He is quick to tell you that once a Marine, always a Marine.

My friend S. L. is a devoted husband to Elder Hollie Roberson, who is not only his wife, but his "right hand." He is also the loving father of five children, but he serves as a fatherly figure to many more individuals throughout our community.

Reverend Roberson's service has not gone unnoticed. He has received many distinctions, including the Liberty Bell from the Lawyers Association, the Ypsilanti Police Department Honor Award, and the Washtenaw Community College Service Award. December 14th has even been recognized as Reverend S. L. Roberson Day in the City of Ypsilanti. In addition to these achievements, I had the pleasure of hosting Reverend Roberson when he gave the opening prayer for the United States House of Representatives on September 5, 2007.

As he celebrates his 90th birthday on March 14th, 2010, I hope that S. L. Roberson will know how beloved he is by his community, myself included. S. L. has lived a life of service, dedicating himself to his fellow human beings and the great cause of justice. I ask that the House join me in paying tribute to a fine and decent man as he comes to this remarkable milestone in a life so well lived.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAY INSLEE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 2010

Mr. INSLEE. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 95 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

KRISTINA SEVY

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 2010

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Kristina Sevy. Kristina is a very special young woman who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Girl Scouts of the USA and earning the high honor of the Gold Award.

Kristina's outstanding achievement reflects her hard work and dedication. Kristina has exhibited unique and creative examples of service that have made a difference in her community. I am confident that she will continue to hold herself to the highest standards in the future. This is an accomplishment for which Kristina can take pride in for the rest of her life.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Kristina Sevy for her accomplishments with the Girl Scouts of the USA and for her efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of the Gold Award.

HONORING LIEUTENANT GENERAL
JAMES F. RECORD

HON. STEVE BUYER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 2010

Mr. BUYER. Madam Speaker, I am here to honor a fellow Hoosier, Lieutenant General James F. Record, who passed away on December 22, 2009. He is being interred today at his final resting place, a short distance from here, at Arlington National Cemetery. Born and raised in Indiana, General Record's distinguished career and service to our nation makes me especially proud to recognize the accomplishments of this Hoosier patriot.

General Record graduated from Purdue University in West Lafayette in 1961 with a Bachelor's degree in Animal Science. Shortly after graduation, he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Air Force through Purdue's Reserve Officer Training Corps Program.

After graduating from pilot training, General Record served as an instructor pilot at Laredo Air Force Base, Texas. In 1967, he was deployed to combat in Vietnam where he served meritoriously for two years. Following his tour in Vietnam, he became commander of the 8th Tactical Fighter Wing stationed in South Korea, the 58th Tactical Training Wing, and the 388th Tactical Fighter Wing. In 1985, he was promoted to Brigadier General and took command of the 833rd Air Division.

Following his command tour with the 833rd, he served as deputy commander of the Joint Task Force Middle East in the Persian Gulf. General Record also served as the chief of staff for the United Nations Command and the Republic of Korea/United States Combined Forces Command in Seoul, South Korea. While serving as vice commander of the 12th Air Force and U.S. Southern Command Air Forces, he took command of the Joint Task Force Southwest Asia. In 1995, he was named commander of the 12th Air Force and U.S. Southern Command Air Forces and promoted to Lieutenant General. General Record retired from the Air Force in 1997.

Throughout his career, General Record accumulated over 6,000 flight hours and received numerous awards and decorations. Among his many medals for meritorious service, General Record received the Defense Distinguished Service Medal with oak leaf cluster, Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit with three oak leaf clusters, the Distinguished Flying Cross with two oak leaf clusters, the Bronze Star Medal, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters, the Air medal with 27 oak leaf clusters, the Air Force Commendation Medal, Vietnam Service Medal with six service stars, the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm, and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal.

While General Record's passing brings great sadness to our beloved country, his family, and his friends, we as Americans should be thankful that people like him dedicate their lives to the cause of liberty and make countless sacrifices so that we may enjoy the blessings of freedom. Today, I salute this honorable and distinguished warrior, a role model for Hoosiers and all Americans, as the nation bids him farewell.

HONORING THE CALIFORNIA NATIONAL GUARD 235TH ENGINEER COMPANY

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 2010

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the California National Guard 235th Engineer Company, SAPPER, who recently returned from a tour in Afghanistan as part of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Their mission in Afghanistan was to clear the routes of improvised explosive devices, IEDs, to allow the infantry freedom of movement. They were the front line for the front line! These brave soldiers risked their lives every day for their comrades and returned as the most decorated unit. They also received the Valorous Unit Award which is awarded to a unit that displays extraordinary heroism in actions against the enemy.

As part of their primary mission, 235th Engineer Company cleared more than 10,000 kilometers of road in 5 separate battle spaces and more than 208,000 square meters around Bagram Air Base, destroyed 4,800 pieces of unexploded ordnance and land mines, and found 54 IEDs.

In addition, they completed 220 combat missions (enduring 32 IED strikes and 25 other enemy engagements) as well as 2 FOB defense missions. They captured 604 persons of

interest and conducted 11 named operations, 5 air-assault missions, and 17 combat resupply missions during the heat of battle. Medics helped in more than 30 mass casualty and MEDEVAC trauma events.

Through their deployment there was no single loss of life, limb, or eyesight.

Our courageous SAPPERS earned 39 Purple Hearts, 23 Bronze Stars, 2 Meritorious Service Medals, 87 Army Commendation Medals, 5 Army Achievement Medals, 87 Combat Action Badges, 4 Combat Medic Badges, and received a special commendation from the Polish Battle Group Commander.

Madam Speaker, it is my privilege to honor the 235th Engineer Company for their service to our Nation. Our heroic soldiers were true to the SAPPER creed by completing the mission regardless of available assets and overcoming insurmountable odds.

CONGRATULATING JAMES A. GILMARTIN, RECIPIENT OF THE W. FRANCIS SWINGLE AWARD FROM THE GREATER PITTSSTON FRIENDLY SONS OF ST. PATRICK

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 2010

Mr. KANJORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to James A. Gilmartin, who was selected to receive the "W. Francis Swingle Award" from the Greater Pittston Friendly Sons of St. Patrick in Luzerne County, Pennsylvania.

Born in Pittston, Pennsylvania, Mr. Gilmartin graduated from Pittston High School, Class of 1952.

He worked in private industry for six years before enrolling in King's College Night School in 1958. In 1960, he became a full-time student and graduated with a bachelor's degree in economics in 1962.

Mr. Gilmartin returned to his high school alma mater where he was appointed as a teacher of social studies for five years until he moved to Hamburg, Pennsylvania, to accept a position as assistant junior-senior high school principal.

He moved through the ranks, serving as assistant superintendent for seven years and, in 1978, was named superintendent of schools, a position he held until his retirement.

Subsequently, he has served in eight school districts and the Intermediate Unit in temporary capacities.

Mr. Gilmartin continues to be involved in education, serving as a reader for the Educational Testing Service and as a special education auditor for the Pennsylvania Department of Education. During the last school year, he served as a mentor to two new administrators as part of the Principal's Leadership Initiative and as an advisor to the Superintendent of the Pittston Area School District.

He is a member of the Board of Trustees of the Reading Area Community College, Hamburg Center Board of Trustees, a member of the Berks County Municipal Authority and he also serves on U.S. Congressman TIM HOLDEN's Academy Selection Team.

He has been active with the volunteer fire and ambulance units in Pittston.

He has also written a weekly newspaper column for the Pittston Sunday Dispatch in recent years.

Mr. Gilmartin has noted that it was W. Francis Swingle, a former King's College professor, who guided him through the college enrollment process more than 50 years ago. In 2002, Mr. Gilmartin established a scholarship at King's College that provides a substantial four-year award to a student from the Greater Pittston Area. The application and selection process is determined by the Greater Pittston Friendly Sons of St. Patrick.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mr. Gilmartin on this notable occasion. His commitment to the education of our young people is evidence of the positive influence W. Francis Swingle had on him more than a half century ago and his selection to receive the Swingle Award is a fitting tribute to both.

INTRODUCTION OF "THE NEXT GENERATION 9-1-1 PRESERVATION ACT OF 2010"

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 2010

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce "The Next Generation 9-1-1 Preservation Act of 2010." This bill represents the combined work of my colleague and E9-1-1 Caucus Co-Chair, JOHN SHIMKUS, as well as our Senate Co-Chair counterparts, Senators AMY KLOBUCHAR and RICHARD BURR.

I'm very grateful to my colleagues for their efforts. Representative SHIMKUS and I are the remaining original co-founders of the E9-1-1 Caucus and we have shared in its mission over the years. I'm very pleased that Senators KLOBUCHAR and BURR have joined us in this important work. Together, we will make a difference in the lives of millions of Americans who call 9-1-1 each day.

For the past seven years, the E9-1-1 Caucus has worked in a bi-partisan, bicameral fashion to ensure that 9-1-1 call centers have essential technology to perform their life-saving tasks. In 2004, we introduced the ENHANCE 911 Act, which established a National 9-1-1 Office to coordinate the implementation of Enhanced 9-1-1 services at the Federal, State and local levels. We provided funding resources for a grant program and made certain that funds collected on telecommunications bills for 9-1-1 were used only in support of 9-1-1 services.

We followed up on this initial core legislation with language in the "Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007;" the "New and Emerging Technologies 9-1-1 Improvement Act of 2008;" and the "National 9-1-1 Education Month Resolution in 2008." The 2008 Farm bill also included language to make loans to improve 9-1-1 access to entities eligible to borrow from the Rural Utilities Service.

Our work and dedication to 9-1-1 call centers is ongoing and evolving because technology changes and new tools have become available to upgrade safety protocols. In part, that's why we call the new program "Next Generation 9-1-1." We have moved from the point where we are mainly concerned about

enhanced services for location identification. Now we take global positioning technology for granted. We need to focus on coordinated efforts to recognize essential technology and upgrades, and facilitate this process at the national level through a coordinated, Federal effort. We need to enhance interoperability and citizen access, while providing tools for the call centers as they route information and coordinate responses.

The Next Generation 9-1-1 bill authorizes \$250 million in grants for each fiscal year for the next five years for ongoing programming and moves the Coordination Office to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration at the Department of Commerce. When this program initially began, it was placed in the Department of Transportation, but we now recognize that NTIA is the proper location for public safety technology grants and programming.

We also remain concerned about states that raise funds for 9-1-1 services on consumers' telecommunications bills, but divert those funds for other budgetary purposes. Now, more than ever, we need to provide incentives for States to keep their promise to use the funds for the purpose for which they were raised. We cannot permit routine raids of the 9-1-1 coffers at the expense of public safety.

And that's what this bill really is about—public safety at its most basic level. The first tool of first responders is the E9-1-1 call center. Let's ensure that these centers have the tools that they need to serve the public and keep us all safe.

HONORING RITA WISCHMEYER AND THE WOMEN AIRFORCE SERVICE PILOTS

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 2010

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I am so privileged to rise today to recognize Ms. Rita Wischmeyer and the members of the Women Airforce Service Pilots.

These women truly broke gender barriers and defied tradition when they served as military pilots during World War II. From September 10, 1942 until December 20, 1944, roughly 1,000 women served in this group and helped to lay groundwork for future generations of women to serve in the armed forces, and particularly, as pilots. Their actions were both heroic and daring, and we honor their legacy with heartfelt thanks and warm thoughts.

Recently the Women Air Force Service Pilots were honored with the Congressional Gold Medal, and I applaud them on receiving this long overdue recognition. America is a better country because of these women and because of their service, and I extend a personal thank you for their sacrifice.

Additionally, I would be remiss if I did not mention Ms. Rita Wischmeyer, a citizen from my district, who served with this group. We can all learn a valuable lesson from her courage in the face of discrimination and willingness to give to her country. Together with these women, Ms. Wischmeyer helped to change the course of history so that people

could serve both in the military and as pilots, regardless of gender.

Madam Speaker, the Women Airforce Service Pilots were remarkable women that gave unselfishly and wholeheartedly for their country. I ask my fellow colleagues today to join me in honoring their accomplishments and celebrating their legacy for future generations of women.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TRUELIGHT BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 2010

Mr. COSTELLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the 100th Anniversary of Truelight Baptist Church in East St. Louis, Illinois.

In 1910, a small congregation was formed under the leadership of the Reverend James Alfred Lampley. This was the founding of Truelight Baptist Church in East St. Louis, Illinois. Serving with Pastor Lampley as the original church officers were Deacons John Wright and Charles King, Clerk Mary King, and Treasurer Frank Settles.

Originally located at 14th Street and Baker Avenue, Truelight Baptist Church would move several times as the requirements and size of the congregation grew, while always staying within the same East St. Louis neighborhood. When the current, brick church at 1535 Tudor Avenue was under construction, the congregation met for a time at the funeral home of one of its members. When the first floor of the church was completed, the congregation marched from the funeral home to the new church building.

Upon the death of founding Pastor Lampley in 1956, Reverend Henry Nicholson was chosen as pastor at the very young age of 23. Pastor Nicholson continues to serve as pastor to this day. It is a rare blessing that Truelight Baptist Church has had only two pastors in its 100 year history.

Truelight Baptist Church has grown and expanded since its humble beginnings. Several parishioners have moved but continue to return for services. The congregation has started several ministries and has developed an active participation in social, political and educational issues while remaining rooted in its spiritual foundation.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the 100th Anniversary of Truelight Baptist Church and to wish the congregation the best for many years to come.

JENNIFER ROBINSON

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 2010

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jennifer Robinson. Jennifer is a very special young woman who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Girl Scouts of the USA and earning the high honor of the Gold Award.

Jennifer's outstanding achievement reflects her hard work and dedication. Jennifer has exhibited unique and creative examples of service that have made a difference in her community. I am confident that she will continue to hold herself to the highest standards in the future. This is an accomplishment for which Jennifer can take pride in for the rest of her life.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Jennifer Robinson for her accomplishments with the Girl Scouts of the USA and for her efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of the Gold Award.

A TRIBUTE TO TOM A. CURTSINGER

HON. BRETT GUTHRIE

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 2010

Mr. GUTHRIE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Tom A. Curtsinger of Owensboro, Kentucky for his service both to his country and the Commonwealth.

Born in Graves County, Mr. Curtsinger grew up working on his family farm and honorably served in the US Air Force during World War II. After his service, Mr. Curtsinger received his bachelor's degree in agriculture and his master's degree from the University of Kentucky.

Tom and his wife Rose were married in 1954, and they have five children, ten grandchildren, and two great grandchildren. In 1968, when Mr. Curtsinger was hired as Daviess County's 2nd Extension Agent, the Curtsinger family moved to Owensboro, where they still reside today.

During his work in Daviess County, crop yields improved by nearly 100 percent, an accomplishment that greatly benefited his community.

For all his hard work and dedication, Mr. Curtsinger received the Kentucky Farm Bureau Federation's Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award on December 12, 2000. He also received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Rural Life Celebration Committee recognizing Mr. Curtsinger's commitment to promoting the agriculture industry and helping his community.

As a leader in Daviess County, Mr. Curtsinger has been involved with many organizations, including serving as Treasurer and Secretary of the DC Lions Club and past president of the Kentucky Agriculture County Extension Agent Association. Mr. Curtsinger has also served as an honorary board member of the DC Farm Bureau and is the founder and organizer of the Annual Agriculture Farm Expo.

I want to thank Mr. Curtsinger, along with Rose and their family, for serving as role models for all Kentucky families, especially those within the rapidly changing farming industry. I wish them nothing but the best, and I hope their success continues for many years to come.

HONORING MR. JACK JONES JR.

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 2010

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the years of service given to the people of Chautauqua County by Mr. Jack Jones Jr. Mr. Jones served his constituency faithfully and justly during his tenure as the Supervisor for the Town of Carroll.

Public service is a difficult and fulfilling career. Any person with a dream may enter but only a few are able to reach the end. Mr. Jones served his term with his head held high and a smile on his face the entire way. I have no doubt that his kind demeanor left a lasting impression on the people of Chautauqua County.

We are truly blessed to have such strong individuals with a desire to make this county the wonderful place that we all know it can be. Mr. Jones is one of those people and that is why Madam Speaker I rise to pay tribute to him today.

HONORING WILSON COUNTY, TEXAS

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 2010

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Wilson County, Texas on its sesquicentennial year. It was 150 years ago when Wilson County was founded in South Texas by an act of the state legislature. The area is rich in culture and history and serves a great part to the state of Texas.

Before the founding of the county, the first Spanish explorers traveled the area in the early eighteenth century and used the land mostly for ranching. Most notably, the birthplace of ranching took place at Rancho de las Cabras. This was a ranching outpost for Mission San Francisco de la Espada where the first ranches and cowboys settled near Floresville in Wilson County. By the 1800s, Mexicans, Anglo American, German and Polish settlers began moving into the area. Soon after, the state Legislature founded Wilson County on February 13, 1860. The county was named after James Charles Wilson, who was an early settler of Texas and a state legislator.

Throughout the years, Wilson County has played a significant role in South Texas history. After the Civil War, Wilson County's population underwent the greatest growth due to the completion of the San Antonio and Aransas Pass Railway, which reached Floresville in 1886. By the early nineteenth century, farmers who were once known for cotton crops as the most important cash crop, then diversified into a wider range of like peas, watermelons, and peanuts. Today, some call Floresville the "Peanut Capital of Texas." Wilson County residents have served valiantly in combat from the Civil War to today's conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan. One hundred and fifty years has shaped the county and development of Texas through its rich culture and history and of a diversified economy that includes farming, ranching, and even oil discovery.

Wilson County includes towns and cities such as, Floresville, La Vernia, Pandora, Poth, Stockdale, Sutherland Springs, and communities such as Carpenter, Calaveras, Canada Verde, Grass Pond Colocy, Kicaster, Doseido Colony, Saspameo and Sandy Hills. It totals 809 square miles and has a population of more than 40,000.

From a legacy in ranching, to its honorable natives and rich historical culture, Wilson County celebrating its sesquicentennial year is a milestone for the county and for Texas. I am honored to have had this time to recognize Wilson County on its sesquicentennial year.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL
DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 2010

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Madam Speaker, today our national debt is \$12,544,389,439,808.45.

On January 6, 2009, the start of the 111th Congress, the national debt was \$10,638,425,746,293.80.

This means the national debt has increased by \$1,905,963,693,514.65 so far this Congress.

This debt and its interest payments we are passing to our children and all future Americans.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MRS.
HERTA ADLER

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 2010

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mrs. Herta Adler, known to Memphians as the "matriarch of the local Jewish community." She was born to Adolf and Mathilde Arfeld on September 27, 1915, in Diez, Germany.

Herta Adler was 24 when she witnessed the burning of her synagogue on Kristallnacht, or Night of Broken Glass. That night rioters burned or destroyed 267 synagogues; thousands of homes and businesses were vandalized or destroyed; at least 91 Jewish people were killed, and 25,000 to 30,000 Jews were sent to concentration camps, including many who were friends or family of Herta Adler.

In 1940, Mrs. Adler was permitted to move to Lisbon, Portugal, where her brother was in business, because the government granted residency to family members of established residents. From Portugal, Mrs. Adler made her way to New York City, where she met her husband, Dr. Justin H. Adler. They married in 1943 and relocated to Memphis not long after.

Herta and Justin Adler were well-known as avid collectors of art and Judaica. Mrs. Adler, in particular, was known as a philanthropist who supported all kinds of artistic and cultural organizations, reminding others that "charity is the gift that we give for having a good life." In the early 1990s, the Adlers donated a large collection of Jewish ritual art to Temple Israel, which is located in Memphis, TN, helping to

create the only Judaica museum in the region. In 1992, the Adlers also contributed their extensive pewter collection, which spans 400 years, to Dixon Gallery and Gardens, where it is part of the permanent collection.

Even greater than Mrs. Adler's passion and appreciation for art was Mrs. Adler's interest in the people around her and her dedication to her synagogue. She befriended and supported several young Memphis artists and centered much of her life on Temple Israel, where she was a member for more than 60 years. Mrs. Adler and her husband were also founders of Beth Sholom Synagogue, a Conservative Synagogue in Memphis.

Mrs. Herta Adler passed away on Friday, February 12, 2010, and was laid to rest on Monday, February 15, 2010. She was 94 years old. She is survived by her daughters Hedda A. Schwartz, a residential and commercial real estate executive, and Susan Adler Thorp, a respected journalist, and her son Michael Adler, an accomplished attorney—all of Memphis. I will always remember Mrs. Adler for her devotion to shaping the cultural and Jewish life of Memphis, Tennessee.

CONGRATULATING HUGH DUGAN
ON HIS SELECTION TO SERVE AS
GRAND MARSHALL FOR THE 2010
CARBON COUNTY ST. PATRICK'S
DAY PARADE

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 2010

Mr. KANJORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Mr. Hugh D. Dugan, who was named Grand Marshall for the Carbon County St. Patrick's Day Parade.

Mr. Dugan was born in Coaldale, Pennsylvania, July 29, 1943, a son of the late Dennis and Margaret Hogan Dugan. Mr. Dugan was raised in Jim Thorpe with his older brother, John.

He attended Immaculate Conception Elementary School and graduated from Jim Thorpe High School in 1961.

Mr. Dugan enlisted in the U.S. Coast Guard in 1962 and served for 22 years until his retirement as a Master Chief Petty Officer in 1984. During his military service, he was stationed in New Jersey, New York, Washington, D.C., New London, Connecticut, and London, England. During that period, Mr. Dugan was awarded two Coast Guard Achievement Medals as well as numerous other citations.

Mr. Dugan was also employed by the U.S. Post Office in Jim Thorpe, where he worked for 20 years.

Mr. Dugan and his wife, Fran, have resided in Jim Thorpe since 1977. They have been married for 45 years and have three daughters, Theresa, Denise and Maureen, and a son, Michael. They also have nine grandchildren. They are members of the Immaculate Conception Church in Jim Thorpe.

Mr. Dugan is a charter member and co-founder of the Ancient Order of Hibernians. He served as its first vice president and two terms as president. He is currently financial secretary of that organization. He has also served as co-chairman of the St. Patrick's Day Parade for the past several years.

Mr. Dugan also served as Division Representative for the Children's Friendship Project for Northern Ireland, a program that brought teens from Northern Ireland to the United States to live with host families for six weeks. Mr. and Mrs. Dugan served as host for four Irish teens over the years.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mr. Dugan on this auspicious occasion. His commitment to his family, his community and his Nation is exemplary and inspirational. Clearly, he has improved the quality of life throughout northeastern Pennsylvania.

HONORING THE LIFE, SERVICE,
AND WORK OF MAJ. GEN. HUGH
G. ROBINSON

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 2010

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of a great American, Maj. Gen. Hugh G. Robinson, who passed away on March 1, 2010 at the age of 77.

General Robinson was an outstanding civic leader in the Dallas community, and as a decorated Vietnam War veteran who served in the Army from 1954 to 1983, he was an inspiration to countless individuals across the city. Born in Washington, D.C., he attended the United States Military Academy at West Point where he received a bachelor's degree before completing graduate studies at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. During his time in Vietnam, he received an Air Medal, a Bronze Star, the Legion of Merit, and an Army Commendation Medal for his work commanding the 39th Engineer Battalion and serving as an executive officer of the 45th Engineer Group. He later returned to Washington, D.C. where he served at the Pentagon and in President Lyndon B. Johnson's White House where he became the first African-American Army aide to a President.

After leaving the military in 1983, General Robinson settled in Dallas where he served on the board of directors of several corporations including Southland Corp. and Belo Corp. He was active in the New Way Christian Outreach Church in Dallas, and along with his wife, adopted 13 foster children.

Madam Speaker, Maj. Gen. Robinson was regarded as a true hero in the Dallas community, and I ask my fellow colleagues to join me today in honoring his life and service. He was an inspiration to us all and will be truly missed.

HONORING PATRICK R. BYRNE

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 2010

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Patrick R. Byrne, the 2010 Honorary Chairman of the 38th Annual St. Patrick's Day Luncheon being held at the Buffalo Irish Center this March 12th.

Pat's Irish roots certainly run deep; his father Mike is a native of County Offaly while his

mother Maureen hails from County Limerick. The Byrnes were incredibly involved in Buffalo's Irish American community, helping to establish the St. Patrick's Irish American Club as well as the Gaelic American Athletic Association of Buffalo—now the Buffalo Irish Center.

Pat himself has continued this great tradition as a steadfast supporter of the Buffalo Irish Center. The extensive list of his community involvements includes being the President of

M.P.B. Travel and the Byrne Agency. He is also a member of the Society of Financial Service Professionals as well as the Golden Key Society. Pat has served as a trustee for the Orchard Park School District, President of the Upstate Chapter of the American Society of Travel Agents, and President of the Buffalo Chapter of Scalp and Blade. He and his wife Darlene reside in Orchard Park.

The St. Patrick's Day Luncheon is a time to celebrate all of Western New York's businesses, community members, government leaders, and friends. It is a wonderful Buffalo tradition that I am proud to be a part of. I ask my fellow Members to join me in recognizing Pat for his chairmanship of the St. Patrick's Day Luncheon and his many contributions to the Buffalo community.