

Army Commendation Medal and also received the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Medal, an Army Service Ribbon, an Overseas Service Ribbon, and the NATO Medal with an International Security Assistance Force bar. We will remember SPC Randall Landstedt for his honor and dedication, and we must never forget the service and sacrifices of the sons and daughters of our great country.

HONORING ISRAELI
INDEPENDENCE DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2010

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 62nd anniversary of the establishment of the modern State of Israel.

After the horrible actions of the Holocaust, Israel was established as an independent nation. She has since advanced into a successful, democratic, and thriving nation.

Since her inception 62 years ago, Israel continues to be a friend and a strong ally to the United States. I stand here with my colleagues and reaffirm this bond of solidarity and cooperation between the United States and Israel.

As Iran gets closer to nuclear capability, threatening our collective security, we must stand together in accord, now more than ever.

We support Israel and commend the progress made as she continues to work towards peace with her Arab neighbors.

I also commend all our Jewish friends in the United States whose tireless efforts contribute to American and Israeli achievement.

I urge my colleagues to support and reaffirm our unwavering friendship with the Israeli people, and congratulate Israel on this memorable occasion.

THE CONGRESSIONAL YOUTH AD-
VISORY COUNCIL: A LEGACY OF
SERVICE

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 26, 2010

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I ask my fellow colleagues to join me in congratulating the 2009–2010 Congressional Youth Advisory Council. This year 45 students from public, private, and home schools in grades 9 through 12 made their voices heard and made a difference in their communities, their country and their Congress. These students volunteered their time, effort, and talent to inform me about the important issues facing their generation. As young leaders within their communities and their schools, these students boldly represent the promise and the hope we all have for their very bright future.

President Ronald Reagan said, "Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, pro-

ted, and handed on for them to do the same, or one day we will spend our sunset years telling our children and our children's children what it was once like in the United States where men were free."

To ensure that the blessing of freedom is passed from one generation to the next, the members of the CYAC spent time interviewing a veteran and documenting the experience for the "Preserving History Project." Today I'm proud to submit the brief summaries provided so the patriotic service of our dedicated veterans and the thoughtful work of the CYAC may be preserved for antiquity in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. A copy of each submitted student summary follows.

To each member of the Congressional Youth Advisory Council, thank you for making this year and this group a success. It is not a coincidence that this congressional tribute celebrates two generations of service. Each of you is trusted with the precious gift of freedom.

You are the voices of the future and I salute you. God bless you and God bless America. The summary follows:

I had the honor to sit down with Sergeant Goins, a member of the United States Army, in his Plano West classroom to learn about his intriguing assignments overseas. Chad Goins is currently a teacher at Plano West Senior High School where he instructs students in Introduction to Criminal Justice and Criminal Investigation classes. Just under two years ago, in June 2008, Sgt. Goins left to endure an eight month training followed by ten months at Bagram Airfield in Afghanistan. His many awards and achievements clearly demonstrate the integrity and valor with which he has served his country, such as the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, and the Combat Action Badge. Due to the nature of Sgt. Goins' duties of Military Intelligence, he was unable to discuss many of the specifics. However, because he saw a lot of the local population, he discussed with me just why the war in Afghanistan is so difficult to fight. From this experience, I am now better able to understand the war in Afghanistan and the reason to why it is such a non-traditional war. The religious and cultural differences and the thousands of familial tribes in Afghanistan make continuity nearly impossible with Americans to Afghans, and even Afghans to Afghans. Thank you, Sergeant Goins and all other members of the U.S. Military for everything you do to protect our country. For it is because of you that we can live the life we do. I am thankful to add, Sergeant Goins' duty ended on Thanksgiving Day of 2009, and he returned home shortly after, injury free.—Laura Schuller.

RICHARD C. SCHAEFFER, JR.

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 26, 2010

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to honor Mr. Richard Schaeffer, Jr., for a distinguished 40-year career with the Federal Government.

A graduate from Catholic University of America, Schaeffer holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering. His participation in the Intelligence Fellows Program, National Senior Cryptologic Course, and Executive Development Seminar provided a sound base for his future achievements.

As one of the National Security Agency's (NSA) highest ranking senior leaders, the Information Assurance Director, Schaeffer is responsible for the availability of products, services, technology and standards for protecting our nation's critical information systems from adversaries in cyberspace. Prior to holding the position of one of the nation's leading defenders against cyber attacks, Schaeffer was Chief of the National Security Operations Center, which manages the U.S. Cryptological System, serving as the command-and-control center for crisis response. His other major assignments have included Information Assurance Deputy Director, NSA Deputy Chief of Staff, and Director, Infrastructure and Information Assurance. Prior to his work with NSA, Schaeffer served in the United States Marine Corps, including two tours in Vietnam.

For his renowned work with the Federal Government, Schaeffer earned numerous awards including Armed Forces Communications and Electronic Association Meritorious Service Award; the Presidential Rank Award; Secretary of Defense Medal for Meritorious Civilian Service; and Secretary of Defense Productivity Excellence Award, among many others.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join with me today to honor Mr. Richard Schaeffer, Jr., and his illustrious career with the Federal Government. His leadership and loyalty has protected this nation for over 40 years. His dedication to the United States is highly commendable.

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE
OF VOLUNTEERISM

SPEECH OF

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2010

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a cosponsor of H. Res. 1276, which commemorates the first anniversary of the Serve America Act. For the last year, the Serve America Act has been promoting service to help meet national challenges, expand opportunities to serve, and support social innovation. The Serve America Act is a historic milestone for national service, but signing the bill is just the beginning—we need every American to rise to this national call to service.

I thank Chairman MILLER for his leadership in bringing this bill to the floor. I also thank him for sponsoring this legislation and taking the time to chronicle the crucial achievements of the Serve America Act.

Mr. Speaker, last year President Obama signed into law the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act, the most sweeping expansion and strengthening of national service in a generation. The strong bipartisan support for this legislation was a testament to the proven impact of national service and the widespread recognition that service is a solution to tough challenges. There is strong momentum for citizen service—volunteering increased last year to the highest level since 2003, AmeriCorps applications continue to increase on a yearly basis, and the service field is experiencing a wave of new innovation and collaboration. In California, last year 230,000 individuals of all ages and backgrounds helped meet local needs, strengthen communities, and increase