

Madam Speaker, the Congress was fortunate to have Lenny Skutnik as an employee for the last 30 years and this nation is proud to call Lenny one of its own. I wish him a long, healthy, and happy retirement. He has earned it.

HONORING LIEUTENANT COLONEL  
TED EPPLE

**HON. JIM JORDAN**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 9, 2010*

Mr. JORDAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I am honored to commend to the House the outstanding contributions of Lieutenant Colonel Theodore M. "Ted" Epple to the Army and to our nation.

Since August of 2007, Colonel Epple has served as commander of the Joint Systems Manufacturing Center in Lima, Ohio, where so many have worked since World War II to provide cutting-edge military equipment to our armed forces. During his service in Lima, he deployed to Iraq for a year in support of the Defense Contract Management Agency's efforts there.

Throughout his military career, Colonel Epple's dedication and valor have been recognized by his peers and superiors. Among numerous other awards and commendations, he has earned a Bronze Star, the Meritorious Service Medal, and the Joint Service Commendation Medal.

A 1988 graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point, where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in leadership studies, Colonel Epple also earned a Master of Science degree from the Florida Institute of Technology. He and his wife, Barbara, are the proud parents of Ben, Matthew, and Bentley.

Madam Speaker, Colonel Epple will relinquish command of JSMC to Lieutenant Colonel Yee Hang at a June 15 ceremony at the facility. On behalf of the people of Ohio's Fourth Congressional District, I thank him for his distinguished service in Lima these past three years. I am proud to join everyone at JSMC in wishing him and his family every success as they move to a new chapter in their lives.

COMMENDING DR. NATHAN FORD  
AS RECIPIENT OF "CELEBRATE  
OUR SUCCESSES" AWARD

**HON. DAVID P. ROE**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 9, 2010*

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Dr. Nathan Ford, the 2010 recipient of the prestigious "Celebrate our Successes" award for his life achievements as Alumnae of the Cocke County School System.

As a member of the Education and Labor Committee, as well as a former Mayor, I welcome the opportunity to applaud those who have gone above the call to serve their community. Dr. Ford has selflessly devoted his life providing health care through his practice of Optometry, education for all ages, and his Public Service across the State of Tennessee.

Dr. Ford began his public service at age 27 being elected to Cocke County Board of Education, and has since served as Cocke County Economic Development Commission Chairman, Newport/Cocke County Chamber of Commerce Director, Chairman of the Cocke County Baptist Hospital Board; not to mention the four terms he spent serving as a Tennessee State Representative.

As a public figure myself, I understand the responsibilities and challenges that are presented when serving in such a position; I commend him for meeting them all with dignity and wisdom.

Dr. Ford's love of serving others, medicine and community involvement continues to this day; it is a great example to those not only in East Tennessee, but to our Country. I encourage my colleagues to join me in commending Dr. Nathan Ford for his outstanding life contributions, and his earning this honorable award.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 9, 2010*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, listed below is how I would have voted if I had been present on June 8, 2010.

Roll Number 337—H.R. 1061—to transfer certain land to the United States to be held in trust for the Hoh Indian Tribe, to place land into trust for the Hoh Indian Tribe, and for other purposes—"aye."

Roll Number 338—H. Res. 518—honoring the life of Jacques-Yves Cousteau, explorer, researcher, and pioneer in the field of marine conservation—"aye."

RECOGNIZING VALASSIS  
COMMUNICATIONS, INC.

**HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 9, 2010*

Mr. McCOTTER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize Valassis Communications Inc., located in my hometown of Livonia, Michigan, upon the 25th anniversary of their Have You Seen Me? Program founded by Vince Guliano with the support of CEO Al Schultz.

For a quarter of a century, Valassis has demonstrated unwavering support and commitment to the recovery of missing children. Steadfastly dedicated to the core principles of finding missing children, raising public awareness in regard to missing children, deterring potential child abductors and insuring that no missing child is forgotten, Valassis reaches in excess of 100 million people each week. Their partnership with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, NCMEC, and the United States Postal Service has featured more than 2,000 missing children and has led to the recovery of over 1,200 of our most vulnerable.

On May 24, 1985, inspired by the heart-breaking story of the abduction and murder of Adam Walsh, Valassis saw a social need and

became a good corporate citizen. Their Herculean effort generates 87 percent of all photographic leads given to law enforcement in missing child cases.

Madam Speaker, Valassis Communications Inc. deserves not only recognition but heartfelt gratitude for having profoundly changed the way America searches for missing and exploited children. I ask my colleagues to join me in commending Valassis for its devotion to the children and families of our community and our country.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2011

SPEECH OF

**HON. BOBBY L. RUSH**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 27, 2010*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5136) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2011 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

Mr. RUSH. Madam Chair, I rise today in support of the Murphy amendment. By adopting this amendment the House, today, takes an important step in eliminating discrimination in our nation's armed forces.

Madam Chair, critics of this amendment, and the repeal effort, have often stated that allowing open service will "disrupt unit cohesion" and lead to a breakdown in "good order and discipline." These are the same arguments that were used in the 1940s to object to the integration of America's armed forces. Since that time, tens of thousands of African-Americans, myself included, have proudly served this nation that they love. Some have even risen to positions of distinction such as Colin Powell, who served as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Much in that same honorable tradition, Madam Chair, gay and lesbian service members have also served our country with distinction. Whether on land, sea, or in the air gay and lesbian Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and Coast Guardsmen have served, and continue to serve, professionally and admirably.

Madam Chair, open service is a policy that is embraced by many of our key allies. In fact, in our current conflicts, American forces have served side by side with British, Canadian and Australian forces. These nations all permit open service and have demonstrated—through their soldiers' blood, sweat and tears—that they, too, are an effective fighting force.

In fact, Madam Chair, 35 countries, thirty-five, allow for open service. That's 35 countries, on all six inhabited continents, that have moved past prejudice and bigotry. Now is the time for the United States to be the 36th country to join them.

Of our NATO allies, Turkey and the United States are the only countries that have not yet allowed for open service. By passing this amendment, Madam Chair, the United States takes the first step in rectifying that situation.

Madam Chair, I will close with a quote from one of our former colleagues that I seldom, if ever, agreed with: Republican Senator Barry Goldwater.