

a high-need school, which until recently was defined as one receiving grants under part A of Title I. To further encourage participants to teach in schools with the greatest need, a \$10,000 bonus is offered to those who agree to teach for three years in a school with 50 percent of students below the poverty level.

This structure has proven very effective in transitioning qualified retiring military personnel into second careers in teaching. Indeed, Troops participants fill several critical needs among educators: A 2005 study found that eighty-two percent are male, over one-third ethnic minorities, and a majority bring an expertise in science and math to the classroom. In an increasingly globalized economy, these valuable characteristics provide a vital resource for schools across the country.

However, this success is now in jeopardy due to a drafting error in the 2001 No Child Left Behind Act which has inadvertently restricted the number of schools at which participants may fulfill their service. The applicable definition for "high-need local education agencies" for Troops to Teachers was inadvertently changed as it was included in the section of the legislation regarding other alternative programs that had a different definition. This stricter definition requires a higher threshold for "high-need," requiring the school to have either 10,000 students or 20 percent of students from families below the poverty level. However, the original Title I definition of high-need was also retained in the law in the section specifically detailing the Troops program. Essentially, Congress inadvertently created two conflicting definitions of "high-need" with regard to this program.

Early on, the Department of Education and the Troops to Teachers program recognized this unintended change in law and worked together to address it. From 2003 to 2005, while discussions were being held on how to reconcile this discrepancy, the program continued to operate under the original and intended definition. However, after the completion of a negotiated rulemaking process in September 2005, the Department issued a regulation stating that the new, stricter definition was not an error but congressional intent. As one of the leading supporters of this program during the drafting of No Child Left Behind, I can assure my colleagues that this clearly was not the intent of the supporters of the program.

Mr. Speaker, the unfortunate result of this, aside from limiting the number of schools at which veterans may teach and honor their obligation of three-years service, is that it has disproportionately impacted western and rural states. In my home state of Wisconsin, the number of eligible school districts has been reduced from approximately 395 to 11. Not surprisingly, participation in the program has fallen significantly since the implementation of the new definition. This decision, although understandable given the conflicting definitions contained in the law, is a disservice both to veterans wishing to continue their service to our nation as educators as well as children who stand to benefit from their unique expertise.

The bottom line is that we are losing out on great teachers because they cannot accept the certification stipend due to a lack of schools meeting the higher needs threshold in their communities. The more we restrict opportunities for participation, the fewer teachers we will be able to bring into public education, and the fewer teachers we will eventually be able

to attract to the schools with the greatest need. Further, given the nation's need for more math and science teachers, we should be removing, not creating, restrictions that prevent qualified teachers in these areas from teaching in our nation's classrooms.

Mr. Speaker, with Troops to Teachers, the Department already has an established program that is well-funded and successful. Rather than restricting it, we should be maximizing this program's potential. This legislation would correct this error and restore the original intent of the Troops to Teachers program. Our bill would ensure that veterans participating in the Troops to Teachers program may receive a \$5,000 stipend for teaching for three years in any school that is in a district receiving grants under part A of Title I. This change would more than double the number of eligible schools for the program.

The legislation would retain the current criteria for troops to receive an additional bonus of \$5,000 for teaching in a high need school, defined as in a school district that has at least 10 percent or greater who come from families living below the poverty level and a school where at least 50 percent of students are eligible for free or reduced lunch or have a "high percentage" of students with disabilities.

This legislation will also increase the number of service personnel who would qualify to participate in Troops to Teachers. Currently, eligibility for Troops to Teachers requires that members of the military have six years of service, and that members of the National Guard and reserves have 10 years of service with a commitment to serve an additional three years. This legislation will change the years of service requirement from six to four years for members of the active duty military to accommodate the many men and women who have served honorably and well in the difficult conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Additionally, it will create a "years of service" exemption for any member of the reserve, National Guard, or active duty military who has served on active duty since September 11, 2001, similar to eligibility requirements for the Post 9/11 GI Bill.

I urge my colleagues to join me and Representatives MATSUI and COURTNEY in supporting this successful program and restoring the opportunity to "serve again" to our nation's veterans.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 23, 2011

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. on May 12, during rollcall vote No. 316, I mistakenly voted "aye." I intended to vote "nay." I ask that the record reflect my opposition to this amendment. With respect to energy production-related legislation, I support an all-of-the-above strategy, as long as it is responsible and meets proper safety standards.

FORMAL DEDICATION OF THE
MANDELL AND MADELEINE BER-
MAN CENTER FOR THE PER-
FORMING ARTS

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 23, 2011

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, today will be the formal dedication of the Mandell and Madeleine Berman Center for the Performing Arts in West Bloomfield, Michigan.

It is a magnificent, state-of-the-art cultural center on the campus of the Jewish Community Center of Metropolitan Detroit. It is a result of the generosity of two people who have exemplified over many decades an exceptional sense of gratitude for the opportunities provided to their families by our nation, Bill and Madge Berman.

The focal point of the new Center will be a 350-seat high-tech auditorium that can be opened to a capacity of 600 seats. The Center will be a venue for people of all ages to experience classical and Broadway music and a wide variety of theatrical productions.

Bill Berman graduated from Detroit schools and Harvard College and Business School, and served as a naval officer for 4 years during World War II. He next began a highly successful career in the building business, using his expertise in a variety of commercial activities and related endeavors. His deep sense of community found its voice in his service on the Michigan State Finance Housing Authority and Board of New Detroit, and he also served as the first Chairman of the Skillman Foundation.

Bill Berman became an indispensable force within the greater Detroit Jewish Community in a wide variety of vital religious, charitable and educational activities. In these efforts he was actively joined by his wife, Madge Berman. She was an inspiration for their deep interests in the arts. She has served on the Board of Directors of the Detroit Symphony and the Michigan Opera Theater. Madge Berman was appointed to the President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities in 1994 and was reappointed to the President's Committee last year by President Obama.

The fabulous offer for a cultural center by Bill and Madge Berman engendered support from other very generous persons that will help make this new center a reality. This warm and loving couple has brought joy over many years to their friends. They now will bring the joy of the arts to many, many thousands who have never met the Bermans but will benefit greatly from their generosity. I ask all my colleagues to join me in conveying congratulations and thanks to Bill and Madge Berman on the formal dedication today of the new Center bearing their names.

JOHN LOXAS, RECIPIENT OF THE
ROBERT V. HEINZE VOCATIONAL
SERVICE AWARD

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 23, 2011

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect and admiration that I stand before you today to honor Mr. John Loxas. John

has been recognized by the Hammond Rotary Club as an outstanding citizen who has demonstrated entrepreneurial success and vision in the community of Hammond and throughout northwest Indiana. His devotion to professional and ethical business leadership is to be commended. For his outstanding efforts, John will be presented the Robert V. Heinze Vocational Service Award by the Hammond Rotary Club on Tuesday, May 24, 2011.

The Hammond Rotary Club was established in 1920 adhering to the principles of Rotary International: "World Peace through Understanding" and "Service above Self." These values are vigorously upheld by the Hammond Rotary Club members who passionately serve their community. Each year, the club recognizes an organization or an individual who is a praiseworthy local business or community leader by honoring the recipient with the Robert V. Heinze Vocational Service Award, and this year's recipient is John Loxas.

John Loxas was born on the island of Zakynthos, Greece. He immigrated to the United States in 1955 and settled in Hammond, Indiana. John found employment at Republic Steel in south Chicago and worked there for a few years. After being laid off from the mill, John found inspiration and opportunity at a small Hammond grocery store where he volunteered to work for no pay. During that time, he educated himself in the grocery business, and in 1958, he purchased the store that gave him his inspiration, which he ran for many years. In 1975, John's dream for a more modern grocery store came true, and he opened a second, larger location. In the years to follow, new locations would open under the name J&M Foods, and later, Reliable Supermarket. John's success and entrepreneurial spirit continued, and in 1985, he opened Olympia Lanes bowling center in Hammond, which included a high-tech scoring system, deli, lounge, and pro-shop. Olympia Lanes recently celebrated its 25th anniversary. Seeing the need for an elegant banquet hall in Hammond, John opened Dynasty Banquets in 1993. Capitalizing on his business, he opened the recently renovated Ramada Inn and Johnel's Restaurant, which are located in the same locale as Dynasty Banquets. For his remarkable business success and complete dedication to the community of Hammond, John Loxas is truly inspiring, and it is because of his efforts that he is the recipient of the 2011 Robert V. Heinze Vocational Service Award.

John's commitment to the community and his career is exceeded only by his devotion to his amazing family. John and his wonderful wife, Margaret, have five beloved children and four grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating John Loxas on being honored with the Robert V. Heinze Vocational Service Award, and in honoring the Hammond Rotary for their outstanding contributions to the community of Hammond and all of northwest Indiana. Their constant commitment to improving the quality of life for countless individuals in northwest Indiana is truly encouraging, and they are worthy of the highest praise.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF
RONALD FREDERIC RICHARDS

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 23, 2011

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is an honor for me to rise today to recognize the life of northwest Florida's beloved Ronald Frederic Richards.

Mr. Richards was a fixture in the local business community who used his success and acumen to help support and to lead numerous rotary and yachting clubs in the Pensacola community. After a successful 25 years in the supermarket industry in Birmingham, Alabama, and Pensacola, Florida, Mr. Richards entered the financial services industry in 1990. He formed his own company, Ron Richards Financial Services, and his total commitment to helping others was the key to his success.

His leadership in the northwest Florida community was unquestioned. He was highly respected, and in 2000 and 2001, he served as commodore of Pensacola Yacht Club. He was responsible for establishing a long-term endowment, the Legacy Wheel, to ensure the future of the yacht club. In 2008, Ron served as commodore of the Gulf Yachting Association, commodore and a charter member of the Florida Commodore's Association, and a member of the International Commodore's Association.

Mr. Richards was noted for his love of sailing by many; however, his love for Rotary was also well-known. Ron was a charter member of the Rotary Club of Navarre in 1995 where he served as club president for the 1998/99 Rotary year. He was instrumental in the establishment of the Navarre Club's Scholarship Fund, and his club was awarded the Presidential Citation for its outstanding performance. In 2003, due to the relocation of his business, Ron left the Navarre Club and was elected into membership at the Rotary Club of Pensacola. During 2006/07, he served as President of the Combined Rotary Clubs of Pensacola, a president's council for the 12 clubs in the area.

To some, Ron Richards will be remembered as a leader in the business community. To others, he will be remembered for his love of Florida and the Gulf Coast. To his family, he will always be remembered as a loving and devoted uncle and spouse. He was an inspiration to those who knew him, and his service to the Pensacola community is his lasting legacy.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it gives me great pride to honor the life of Ronald Frederic Richards. My wife Vicki and I offer our continued prayers for his entire family.

EVERETT COREY, DIRECTING
BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVE
FOR THE IAM IN CT, REMARKS
FROM MONDAY, MAY 9, 2011

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 23, 2011

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following:

EVERETT COREY, DIRECTING BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MACHINISTS IN CONNECTICUT, REMARKS FROM MONDAY, MAY 9, 2011

What a day! What a victory for Pratt & Whitney right here in Connecticut! What a victory for American jobs and American workers!

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to be part of such a distinguished—and genuinely remarkable—group here today, people who have changed the world through skill, intelligence, dedication and perseverance despite the odds. I'm referring, of course, to the employees of Pratt & Whitney—who are, without a doubt—the greatest jet engine makers in the world. And the best of the best are right here, in the State of Connecticut. Thank you for all you do.

President Chenevert, President Hess—I want to thank you for inviting the Machinists Union to participate in this program. Congratulations to you both on these great victories.

Members of the Connecticut Congressional delegation—we know how hard you have worked to reach this result. We know that you understand, it's all about jobs. You have worked tirelessly on behalf of the people of Connecticut, and the workers of Pratt & Whitney, and it's great to see all that effort end up with two big wins—the Air Force tanker, and sole sourcing on the F-35.

Congressman Norm Dicks—Thousands of workers here and in Washington State, including thousands of Machinists Union members, will have work for years ahead, thanks to your efforts. On behalf of the International Association of Machinists—thank you, Congressman Dicks.

Governor Malloy—what a great relief to have a Governor of Connecticut who is so engaged, so smart, so tough and determined. We know, that like us, your first thought in the morning and your last thought at night is about jobs for Connecticut. Well, here you go—how about 25 years worth of work going forward? A great moment for state.

I thanked the entire Congressional delegation, because they deserve it. But I have to extend a special, heartfelt thanks to Congressman John Larson—who more than anyone, took on the fight for both these contracts, worked countless hours, pushed relentlessly—and brought home two enormous, unbelievable wins. Congressman Larson—you truly are the man who "keeps the eagle flying." We thank you, we salute you—Connecticut owes you a debt that words cannot express.

The other person who deserves special thanks, but who could not be here today is Jim Parent, Assistant Directing Business Representative of District 26 and chief negotiator for UTC issues. Both management and labor here at Pratt, and people across the state and around the country, have benefited from the work of Brother Parent, on this and countless other issues. This day is his, and we thank him. Jim will be retiring in January, and we wish him well.

Let me end with two brief comments. First, to David Hess and Louis Chenevert. We were proud to work with you in the fight to get these contracts—and will continue to work with you whenever and wherever we can jointly fight for work that keeps jobs and grows jobs in Connecticut. We even have a coalition called GrowJobsCT—we invite you to join, and we'll waive the initiation fee.

Finally—Pratt & Whitney employees, hourly and salary, sister and brother Machinists Union members—stand proud today, and every day. It's your skills, your hard work, your dedication—that keep this company thriving, and most important, help defend our great country.