

Employees, its President Stewart F. Taylor, and all of its members on the 50th Anniversary of the its founding. Half a century of hard work and dedication has led to great success in protecting the benefits of retired federal employees in Chester County, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and across the United States.

HONORING THE LIFE AND WORK
OF RETIRED BRIGADIER GENERAL
PAUL ROBBERSON

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and work of retired Brigadier General Paul Roberson. Today, Paul was brought to his final resting place at our Nation's most hallowed ground, Arlington National Cemetery. Our friend and colleague now rests with America's national heroes.

Although born a Californian, Paul's first assignment as an Air Force officer brought him to Texas, and he spent much of his career in the San Antonio area. A veteran of the Vietnam War, Paul's military honors included the Legion of Merit with oak leaf cluster, Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal.

After a long, distinguished career with the United States Air Force, Paul led efforts in San Antonio to avoid the closure of Kelly AFB during the 1995 BRAC process. With the BRAC decision to close and realign Kelly AFB, Paul wasted no time in working to transform the largest base to be closed in the BRAC process into a productive and vibrant center for aerospace maintenance and international trade. Under his leadership, Kelly AFB became KellyUSA, which now boasts thousands of new jobs and a bright future as a leading industrial and trade center in South Texas. He has left a legacy of success.

Creating KellyUSA was no easy task, and Paul approached it with both determination and optimism. I worked closely with Paul during these years after I came to Congress. Paul always had his list of priority action items and gently, but firmly, made his case. He met obstacles resolutely and with confidence. More often, he welcomed success with humility and appreciation. This is how I will remember Paul.

Paul leaves behind a loving family and a community in San Antonio which he helped shape for the future. We all owe Paul our thanks and appreciation for his life of service to our Nation, to the United States Air Force, to KellyUSA, and to the people of San Antonio. Paul made public service an art, and we all thank him for the tapestry of his life's work.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT GLOCKNER

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Robert Glockner, a distinguished Cali-

fornian, as he receives the 2003 St. Madeleine Sophie Barat Award. This award, named for the foundress of the Society of the Religious of the Sacred Heart, honors individuals who have made extraordinary contributions to Sacred Heart Schools, Atherton, over a significant period of time. Sacred Heart Schools founded in 1897, includes St. Joseph's School of the Sacred Heart and Sacred Heart Preparatory.

Robert Glockner, Trustee Emeritus, became involved with Sacred Heart School in 1975 when the first of his four daughters to graduate from Sacred Heart Preparatory enrolled in the school. In 1976 he was asked to serve on the Advisory Board that later became the governing Board of Trustees. Mr. Glockner served as the Chair of the School's first major capital campaign and helped to raise \$3.5 million and funded the completion of the McGanney Gymnasium. From 1984 to 1986 he served as Chair of the Board. For his determination and leadership during his twelve years on the Board he was named Trustee Emeritus, a distinction bestowed on only two other Board members.

I'm exceedingly proud to honor his work, his values, and his commitment to Sacred Heart Schools. He is a model for others to emulate and his leadership will touch generations of students to come.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Robert Glockner as he receives the 2003 St. Madeleine Sophie Barat Award for his extraordinary contributions to Sacred Heart Schools.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 1588,
NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION
ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 7, 2003

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, when this House voted on H.R. 1588 in May, I voted against it. I didn't think the bill as it stood then was one I could endorse. The conference report that we are considering today is marginally better. Although I still have strong reservations, I will support the conference report.

We are 2 years into our war on terrorism and still engaged in military action in Iraq. There is no doubt that we must continue to focus on defending our homeland against terrorism, we must support our military personnel, and we must give our military the training, equipment, and weapons it needs to beat terrorism around the world.

That's why I'm in favor of provisions in the bill that support those men and women who have put their lives on the line in Afghanistan and Iraq. The bill provides an average 4.15 percent pay raise for service members, boosts military special pay and extends bonuses, and funds programs to improve living and working facilities on military installations.

I am pleased that the report includes provisions recognizing the importance of non-citizen soldiers and the many sacrifices and contributions they have made. The report eases the naturalization process for these soldiers and their families, reducing to one year the length of service requirement for naturalization

during peacetime; allowing soldiers to apply and take oaths for citizenship overseas; and granting permanent resident status to the surviving family of U.S. citizen soldiers who are granted posthumous citizenship as a result of death incurred in combat.

I'm also pleased that this bill will allow approximately one-third of eligible disabled military retirees to receive both their retirement and disability benefits. I would have preferred that the bill extend this "concurrent receipt" to all disabled retirees, but this is a great improvement on the bill the House considered earlier this year—which included no such provisions. I am also pleased that the bill extends the military's TRICARE health coverage to National Guard and reservists and their families if servicemembers have been called to active duty. These are all necessary and important provisions that I support.

I do have a number of serious reservations about the bill.

I don't believe it addresses 21st century threats as well as it could. With the exception of the Crusader artillery system, the Administration and Congress have continued every major weapons system inherited from previous administrations. So although the bill brings overall defense spending to levels 13 percent higher than the average Cold War levels, it doesn't present a coherent vision of how to realign our defense priorities.

The bill still includes provisions that would exempt the Department of Defense from compliance with some requirements under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA). There is broad-based support for existing environmental laws—as there should be—and these laws already allow case-by-case flexibility to protect national security. The Pentagon has never sought to take advantage of this flexibility, so it strains belief that these laws are undermining our national security. Indeed, the General Accounting Office has found that training readiness remains high at military installations notwithstanding our environmental laws. I am not persuaded that the changes to these acts proposed by the military are justified.

The bill still includes worrisome provisions to overhaul DOD's personnel system. Although they are improved from the bill the House considered earlier this year, these provisions would still strip DOD's civilian employees of worker rights relating to due process, appeals, and collective bargaining.

Most disturbingly, the bill still includes provisions on nuclear weapons development. This bill provides funding to study the feasibility of developing nuclear earth-penetrating weapons and authorizes previously prohibited research on low-yield nuclear weapons. Low-yield nuclear weapons have an explosive yield of five kilotons or less—"only" a third of the explosive yield of the bomb dropped on Hiroshima. Our obligations under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) require the United States to work towards nuclear disarmament, rather than further increase the size and diversity of our arsenal. By continuing the development of new U.S. nuclear weapons at the same time that we are trying to convince other nations to forego obtaining such weapons, we undermine our credibility in the fight to stop nuclear proliferation.

Mr. Speaker, I am very disappointed that this conference report rolls back civil service

protections, environmental protections, and our work in the area of nuclear nonproliferation. But some of these provisions were improved in conference, and the addition of concurrent receipt provisions for our nation's veterans is critical. In view of these changes to the bill, added to my belief in the importance of supporting our men and women in uniform, I will support the conference report today.

TRIBUTE TO ANTHONY SOMOGYI

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I pay tribute to Captain Anthony Somogyi from Palisade, Colorado. Anthony is a pilot in the United States Army who recently returned home from serving our country in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Our nation is proud of Anthony's extraordinary valor, and it is my honor today to pay tribute to his dedication and commitment before this body of Congress.

Anthony grew up in Palisade and attended Palisade High School. After graduating, he moved to the University of North Dakota where he earned his bachelors degree and graduated cum laude. Upon leaving college, Anthony decided to employ his considerable education and talents for the betterment of our nation. His patriotism and conviction is a shining example to all young Americans.

Anthony was assigned to the Army's 4th Infantry Division for a six-month deployment in Iraq. While there, he was an Air Mission Commander whose team flew over 80 combat missions. Anthony's unit participated in Task Force Iron Horse, the operation responsible for seizing numerous airfields and countless weapons throughout Iraq. In addition, he played a role in securing the border between Iran and Iraq.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to pay tribute to Captain Anthony Somogyi's courageous service. His selfless desire to protect the freedom of all Americans is a reflection of his unwavering love for our country. I am extremely proud of Anthony and his fellow servicemen and women. Thank you and welcome home.

RECOGNIZING JASON THOMAS HANSER FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jason Thomas Hanser, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 66, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Jason has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the 7 years Jason has been involved with Scouting, he has earned 37 merit badges and has held numerous leadership positions, serving as assistant senior patrol leader, patrol leader,

librarian, and assistant scoutmaster in Troop 66. Jason is also a Brave in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say.

For his Eagle Scout project, Jason identified and mapped out the location of all veterans buried in the cemetery in Plattsburg, Missouri. He identified over 350 veterans dating back to the Civil War. His project aided the American Legion in placing flags on Memorial Day.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Jason Thomas Hanser for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH

HON. DAVID SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize October as National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM). Congress designated each October as National Disability Employment Awareness Month in order to increase the public's awareness of the contributions and skills of American workers with disabilities. Various programs carried out throughout the month also highlight the specific employment barriers that still need to be addressed and removed. People with disabilities face many barriers to employment, including everything from transportation to contending with the prevailing attitude surrounding the disabled, but many of them want to work. They want the opportunity. The key is to focus on the abilities of the person, not the disabilities.

This effort to educate the American public about issues related to disability and employment actually began in 1945, when Congress enacted a law declaring the first week in October each year "National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week." In 1962, the word "physically" was removed to acknowledge the employment needs and contributions of individuals with all types of disabilities. In 1988, Congress expanded the week to a month and changed the name to "National Disability Employment Awareness Month." This year's theme for National Disability Employment Awareness Month was "America Works Best When All Americans Work."

I am also grateful to Wayne McMillon, CEO of the Bobby Dodd Institute, Lori Nipp, Board Member of the Bobby Dodd Institute, Megan Dakake of the Bobby Dodd Institute and Dorothy Cochran, CEO of Clayton County Worktec who work actively to prepare individuals with disabilities for employment, to expand employment opportunities available to them and to improve the quality of life for people with disabilities in Georgia. Each of these individuals work on behalf of the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Program which provides employment opportunities for nearly 40,000 Americans who are blind or have other severe disabilities.

The Javits-Wagner-O'Day (JWOD) Program uses the purchasing power of the Federal Government to buy products and services from participating, community-based nonprofit agencies dedicated to training and employing individuals with disabilities. In the United

States, the program serves 40,000 people with disabilities and 972 Georgians with disabilities earned nearly \$3 million in wages last year as a result of JWOD.

A coordinated effort on behalf of the Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled (the Federal agency that oversees the Program), National Industries for the Blind (NIB) and NISH-Creating Employment Opportunities for People with Severe Disabilities, the JWOD Program provides people who are blind or who have other severe disabilities the opportunity to acquire job skills and training, receive good wages and benefits and gain greater independence and quality of life. Through the JWOD Program, people with disabilities enjoy full participation in their community and can market their JWOD-learned skills into other public and private sector jobs. It is with great pleasure that I recognize the great contributions of American workers with disabilities and I encourage others to do the same every day of the year.

TRIBUTE TO JIM L. RIDLING FOR HIS TIRELESS COMMUNITY SERVICE TO MONTGOMERY, AL, AND MAXWELL AIR FORCE BASE

HON. TERRY EVERETT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Mr. EVERETT. Mr. Speaker, Montgomery, Alabama, in my congressional district, is the home to Maxwell Air Force Base and the Air University. It is without a doubt the crown jewel in Air Force excellence and base operations. This didn't just happen by accident. Many people have played major roles in building the necessary synergy of local and federal support to transform Maxwell and Montgomery into the success stories they are today. One of those key players is Jim L. Ridling, who is retiring from Southern Guaranty Insurance.

As the Montgomery Area Chamber of Commerce points out, senior Air Force leaders continue to praise the excellent relationship between the Montgomery and Maxwell-Gunter as the best in the Air Force. No doubt, some of that praise goes to the man who twice presided over the "Wright Flyers", served as chairman of the Montgomery Area Chamber of Commerce's Military Council, and labored as a member of the Executive Committee of the Montgomery Air Force Association.

Jim Ridling has worked behind the scenes and sometimes out front to make sure the needs of Maxwell and other area defense activities were met both locally and in Washington. This is no small task and the rewards are big as Montgomery continues to enjoy a local defense economic impact of well over \$1 billion annually.

All I have mentioned really doesn't begin to scratch the surface of Jim's community service. He's also a member of the Board of Directors of the Business Council of Alabama, a member of Board of Directors of the Montgomery Area Chamber of Commerce, a member of the Board of Directors of the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts, a member of the School of Business Advisory Council of Troy State University, and a member of the Board of Directors of the Boy Scouts of America. And this remarkable record doesn't even include his "real" job.