

maritime law enforcement cases. Over the past 2 years alone, Air Station personnel flew over 4,445 flight hours. "Always Ready" flight crews supported nearly 1,000 hours in support of President Bush, homeland security patrols, and military escorts. Houston's personnel responded to over 300 search and rescue cases, saving or assisting nearly 1,100 lives, including an outstanding effort to rescue 890 individuals following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Again, I am privileged to recognize Captain Norman S. Schweizer, Commander Sean M. Mahoney, and Air Station Houston for outstanding service to our country.

TRIBUTE TO THE BLUE NOTES DRUM AND BUGLE CORPS

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2007

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a musical group from my district that, for the past 50 years, has traveled Michigan's Upper Peninsula, U.P., entertaining crowds with traditional drum and bugle corps music. The Blue Notes Drum and Bugle Corps began in Ishpeming, MI, on Halloween night in 1957 as an all-boy junior corps. Founded by two dedicated young men, Joe Mayrand and Jim Medlyn, the Blue Notes and Drum Bugle Corps performed in local parades for the first time in the summer of 1958.

In 1959, the Blue Notes Drum and Bugle Corps was expanded and an all-girl color guard was added, under the direction of Mary Blight. In 1960, women were accepted into the Blue Notes horn line for the first time.

Over the next few years, with strong support of hard working parents and the entire Ishpeming community, along with sponsorship by the American Legion Post 58, money was raised to purchase new uniforms and instruments. With a proud community behind them, the Blue Notes soon grew into a competitive drum and bugle corps, well known throughout the Midwest.

During their 20-year existence as a competitive junior drum and bugle corps, the Blue Notes won numerous titles, including 9 State championships. The Corps participated in contests across the Midwest and Canada. Sadly, despite their successes, interest in the Corps dwindled and, in 1977, the junior corps disbanded. Drum and bugle corps music was absent from the Ishpeming area for the next 7 years.

However, in 1984, a group of junior corps alumni, then in their twenties and thirties, came together to consider reviving the corps. After discussions and practice, the group gathered and marched through the July 4th parade in Ishpeming, to honor the high school's 100-year reunion celebration.

The alumni corps' performance electrified the crowd. Having received such a tremendous reception, the alumni group decided to officially reunite and, since then, the revived Blue Notes Drum and Bugle Corps have been performing every year since.

The revived Corps expanded its membership to include not only Blue Notes alumni, but

other drum corps alumni and, any musicians interested in sharing their talents. Today, the Blue Notes Drum and Bugle Corps has members from across Michigan's western U.P., including the communities of Ishpeming, Negaunee, Marquette, Gladstone, Gwinn, Ontonagon, Kingsford, Iron Mountain, and even Hurley, WI.

The Blue Notes Drum and Bugle Corps' membership level has fluctuated throughout the years. While having only 8 members in 1984, the Corps boasted 54 members in 1999. Due to these changes in membership, members of the Corps came to realize that the group's continued existence would require a strong recruiting drive. A committee was formed to concentrate on recruiting new members. They targeted younger musicians, those aged 18 to 21, in order to ensure the Corps would remain vibrant even after its older members leave the group.

The recruiting committee's efforts successfully brought several younger members into the group. After seeing the enthusiasm these young people brought to the drum and bugle corps activity, the Blue Notes Drum and Bugle Corps extended membership to high school students.

Today, the 2007 Blue Notes "50th Anniversary Corps" has members ranging in age from 14 to 60. They come from all walks of life, but are united by a passion for drum and bugle corps music. Marquette County's only drum and bugle corps, and one of two active drum and bugle corps in the Upper Peninsula, the Blue Notes Drum and Bugle Corps are the pride of Ishpeming. Every summer, they conduct 20 performances across Michigan's Upper Peninsula, participating in parades, playing at community celebrations and keeping the drum and bugle tradition alive throughout the U.P.

Madam Speaker, the Blue Notes Drum and Bugle Corps' stalwart members, who revived the group after the junior corps disbanded in 1977 and their current members, should be commended for their dedication. This month, the Blue Notes Drum and Bugle Corps celebrates its 50 year anniversary. As the Ishpeming community and Michigan's U.P. honor the Blue Notes Drum and Bugle Corps I would ask that you, Madam Speaker, and the entire U.S. House of Representatives join me in saluting them, congratulating them on 50 musical years and wishing them many more years of spreading drum and bugle music throughout our Upper Peninsula.

SALUTING FRED RASCHKE: GALVESTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE'S BUSINESS LEADER OF THE YEAR

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2007

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, the Galveston Chamber of Commerce has chosen Mr. Fred Raschke as its Business Leader of the Year because, as Galveston Chamber of Commerce President Gina Spagnola said, "Fred is an extraordinary man who is committed to his family, his faith, his friends as well as service to our community."

Mr. Raschke is an honors graduate of the University of Texas and a graduate of Texas Tech University School of Law. He is a partner of the Mills Shirley law firm and a member of numerous legal organizations including the Fifth Federal Circuit and American Bar Association, the State Bar of Texas, and the Texas Association of Defense Counsels. His legal practice areas include defense litigation, negligence defense, personal injury defense, toxic tort defense, premises liability, gas, and electric utilities.

In addition to his professional accomplishments, Mr. Raschke's commitment to community service has made him a partner with all the people of Galveston. Mr. Raschke is very involved with several different community organizations including the Salvation Army, Boy Scouts of America, the Galveston Chamber of Commerce and the Galveston Historical Society. He has also served on boards of various Galveston area organizations, including the UTMB School of Nursing Alumni, Development and Community Relations Advisory Council, the Galveston County Economic Alliance, and the Galveston Rotary Club.

Madam Speaker, I am pleased to take this opportunity to join my friends at the Galveston County Chamber of Commerce in saluting Fred Raschke for both his professional accomplishments and his dedication to the Galveston community.

FINANCIAL SERVICES AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN J. HALL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2829) making appropriations for financial services and general government for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes:

Mr. HALL of New York. Mr. Chairman, I am a committed advocate for small businesses, which are a driving force in the economy of the Hudson Valley. To help support these businesses, I cosponsored the Small Business Tax Relief Act, which provided a number of tax breaks to local small businesses including enhancement of the work opportunity tax credit and the ability to claim the work opportunity tax credit against AMT liability. I was proud to see the President sign that small business tax relief package into law earlier this year. The bill we considered today, the Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Bill, included over \$580 million for the Small Business Administration. Small businesses are a vital part of the 19th district of New York and the country as a whole, and I am committed to helping small business owners succeed in the 21st century and beyond.

During consideration of the Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Bill I voted against an amendment proposed by Congressman GARRETT that would have extended a moratorium on enforcement of