

district's exemplary seventh and eighth grade students.

This year's theme was World War I, and consisted of three components—an essay and public speaking contest, an artwork competition, and a history quiz. Students who participated in the essay contest submitted an essay from 250–500 words long about the most important person or event in World War I. The top 20 essayists were asked to present their work orally to a panel of judges consisting of local teachers and elected officials. The top three finishers for each event were given a plaque and/or a savings bond, and accumulated points for the overall competition. The overall winner received a \$500 savings bond. The school that sent the most participants received a \$250 savings bond.

It now gives me great pleasure to announce to my colleagues the winners of the 2000 All American Eagles competition. For the essay-speech contest, Imelda Vionontes from Kinzie delivered an excellent essay about the economic and social devastation during World War I, earning her a third place finish. Samuel Lin from Southwest Chicago Christian School earned a second place prize for his remarks about the Treaty of Versailles. Nicole Svajlenka from St. Alexander School delivered an outstanding essay about the pilots of the Lafayette Escadrille, earning a \$100 savings bond and first place.

I was truly impressed with the artwork submitted for the competition this year. I have no doubt that today's youth will make great contributions to the tomorrow's culture. Winning the third place prize was Ashley Wrobel from St. George School. Joseph Waterlander and Samuel Lin from Southwest Chicago Christian School took second and first place respectively.

For the history quiz, I am reminded by the aphorism that states, "Anybody can make history—only a great man can write it." The following are the potentially "great" future historians that aced the history quiz. Demonstrating a clear interest in world history was Paul Wieckiewicz from Our Lady of the Mount School, earning a third place finish. In second place was Adam Jures from Lincoln Middle School. Finally, Samuel Lin from Southwest Chicago Christian School won his second competition and demonstrated a profound interest in the social sciences.

Furthermore, Samuel Lin made important strides towards the funding of his college education, winning the 2000 All American Eagle Award. I congratulate Samuel for his hard work and deep commitment to his continuing education. Today, I charge Samuel to use his ambition and academic talent in service to this great nation, as he is a credit to his family and community.

Again, I would like to thank all the participants in this year's competition, as well as St. George School for providing the most participants. Judging these contests can often be a difficult task. However, I had the pleasure of hearing great essays and seeing the talent of a new generation of Americans.

Mr. Speaker, I urge these young Americans to pursue their interests to the fullest extent of their abilities and to the betterment of this nation.

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL FRANCIS G. MAHON

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 11, 2000

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Colonel Francis G. Mahon. Colonel Mahon was born in Northport, New York, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Paul G. Mahon. He was commissioned at the University of Delaware in 1979 when he graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Accounting. In 1988, he completed a Master of Science Degree in Systems Technology. His Military education includes the Air Defense Artillery Basic Course, the Armor Officers Advanced Course, the Combined Arms Services Staff School, the United States Army Command and General Staff College, and the Army War College at Carlisle Barracks, Carlisle, PA.

Colonel Mahon has served in many key assignments, including Chaparral Platoon Leader and Battery Executive Officer of Battery C, 4th Battalion, 61st Air Defense Artillery, 4th Infantry Division (Mechanized), Fort Carson, CO; Battery Executive Officer of Battery D, 2nd Battalion, 61st Air Defense Artillery; Assistant S-3, 2nd Battalion, 61st Air Defense Artillery, and Battery Commander, Battery B, 2nd Battalion, 61st Air Defense Artillery, 2nd Infantry Division, Republic of Korea; Chief of Intelligence Branch, C31 Division, USAADASCH Directorate of Combat Developments, Fort Bliss, Texas; Battalion Operations Officer, 5th Battalion, 7th Air Defense Artillery, Bitburg Germany; Brigade Operations Officer, 94th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, Kaiserslautern, Germany; Commanding Officer, 3rd Battalion (PATRIOT), 43rd Air Defense Artillery; and Missile Defense Planner, Office of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, The Pentagon, Virginia.

Colonel Mahon will begin Command of the 11th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, Fort Bliss, Texas, on July 13, 2000.

His awards and decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters, the Army Commendation Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters, and the Army Superior Unit Award with one Oak Leaf Cluster.

Colonel Mahon is married to the former Elizabeth Cecelia McGowan, daughter of Todd and Elizabeth McGowan of Wilmington, Delaware. They have four children, Elizabeth Anne (12), Kathleen Margaret (8), Mary Frances (6) and Francis Todd (3).

Colonel Mahon has worked for more than 20 years in service to his community and nation. I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating and thanking Colonel Mahon and his family for their dedicated service to the United States of America. We wish him much success as he begins his new command.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4425, MILITARY CONSTRUCTION APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. RICHARD BURR

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2000

Mr. BURR of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my reluctant support for the Conference Report on H.R. 4425, the Fiscal Year 2001 Military Construction Appropriations Bill. While I wholeheartedly endorse the bill as originally reported by the House in May, which contained funding for important construction projects at North Carolina's military bases, I do have some concerns about the new spending added to the bill in Conference.

Much of what was added to this bill in Conference could have been addressed through the normal appropriations process. Among the most egregious examples of pork spending in this bill are: \$45 million for a new jet for the Commandant of the Coast Guard; \$25 million for a new community center in Ohio; \$7 million to "study" sea turtles in the Pacific Ocean; and \$25 million to build a new firearms training center for the Customs Service in West Virginia.

However, the bill also contains numerous provisions that address the true emergency needs of many in this country, and in North Carolina particularly. Thousands of people in my home state are still struggling to overcome the impact of last fall's hurricanes, and have been waiting for months for Congress to take action. The assistance provided in this conference report will be critical in helping my fellow North Carolinians return to at least a semblance of the lives they led before last September's devastating floods.

Despite my concerns about the use of this bill to provide money for projects that are obviously not true emergencies, I am grateful to the Appropriations Committee for providing the desperately needed hurricane-related assistance, and appreciate their hard work in bringing this legislation to the floor.

HONORING SERGEANT ARTHUR J. REDDY

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 11, 2000

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, on this day, I would like to honor Sergeant Arthur J. Reddy on his retirement after 33 years of service as a police officer with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. Mr. Reddy has contributed greatly to the well-being of our citizens.

Sergeant Reddy began working in the Sheriff's Department in 1967. His assignments have included custody, patrol, and narcotics. He served as a representative to federal, state, and local narcotic advisory councils and enforcement agencies. He also received the distinguished honor of working with the U.S. Department of Justice Task Force in which he served as an inter-agency liaison.

In 1979, he was elected to the Board of Directors of the L.A. County Professional Police Officer's Association. Mr.

Reddy's leadership roles in numerous organizations culminated in 1995 when he was elected to serve as the Vice-President of the International Union of Police Associations and Legislative Liaison for three terms. Sergeant Reddy has not only fulfilled all the requirements of his job in an exemplary manner, but he has gone above and beyond the call of duty.

It is because of these accomplishments I am deeply honored in recognizing Sergeant Reddy today. He deserves our deepest gratitude and sincere wishes for a happy and peaceful retirement.

LEHIGH VALLEY HERO JOHN
FINNEGAN, JR.

HON. PATRICK J. TOOMEY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 11, 2000

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to one of my constituents, Mr. John Finnegan, Jr. Mr. Finnegan, who only moved to the Lehigh Valley four years ago, has displayed an extraordinary dedication to the people of his community. The Director of Consulting Services at Dun and Bradstreet, Mr. Finnegan serves as a member of the Board of Supervisors of Hanover Township, Northampton County. He has served as the chief fund-raiser for the township's bicentennial committee, and on its parks and recreation board. His hard work and diligence have made a tremendous difference in the life of his community.

In addition to his civic and corporate involvement, Mr. Finnegan's personal actions also serve as a model for others to follow. He has been a coach for Little League baseball and hockey leagues, serving as a role model and mentor to the youth of the Lehigh Valley. Coordinator for his neighborhood crime watch, Mr. Finnegan has become an invaluable resource to the constituents of my district in the short time he has lived there. I applaud Mr. Finnegan for his devotion to the Lehigh Valley community. John Finnegan is a Lehigh Valley Hero.

SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING
VIETNAMESE AMERICANS AND
OTHERS WHO SEEK TO IMPROVE
SOCIAL AND POLITICAL CONDI-
TIONS IN VIETNAM

SPEECH OF

HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 10, 2000

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my strong support for H. Con. Res. 322, a resolution which expresses the sense of Congress regarding the sacrifices of individuals who served in the Armed Forces of the former Republic of Vietnam.

I introduced this resolution several months ago to honor the brave Vietnamese men and women who fought alongside American forces during the Vietnam conflict, and yet were never given the proper recognition. It is my strong belief that the individuals who served in

the Armed Forces of the Republic of Vietnam should be commended for their bravery and courage in the face of severe adversity and hardship.

This year marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Fall of Saigon to Communist forces. The Armed Forces of the Republic of Vietnam suffered enormous casualties during the Vietnam Conflict. From 1961 to 1975, over 750,000 Vietnamese men were wounded and over 250,000 Vietnamese men were killed in action. These brave men made the ultimate sacrifice: they died fighting for freedom and democracy in their homeland. Although their homeland was lost to Communist forces, their sacrifices must never be forgotten.

After the war, the government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam forcibly rounded up intellectuals, political leaders, teachers, poets, artists, religious leaders, and former officers and enlisted personnel of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Vietnam and sent them to re-education camps—a more appropriate term would be “Vietnamese Gulag.” These camps evoke images akin to the Nazi death camps during World War II. The prisoners, deemed security risks by the Communist regime, were regularly beaten, starved, tortured, and forced to endure inhumane conditions. Unfortunately, many, if not most, did not survive.

As one former prisoner told the Seattle Times, “The Communist did not need reasons to kill. Prisoners were expendable, worked to death . . .” Or told through the eyes of another former prisoner, “They [the Communists] don't kill everyone all at once, but slowly, slowly.”

I would like to mention some remarkable individuals who survived the Vietnamese Gulag and have personally shared their stories with me. These stories speak of courage, spirit, and the human will to live. These individuals now live in Northern Virginia. Mr. Nguyen Cao Quyen, Mr. Nguyen Van Thanh, Mr. Tran Nhat Kim, Mr. Dinh Anh Thai are all former prisoners of the Vietnamese Gulag. Their crime: they were officers of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Vietnam or worked for the South Vietnamese government.

Mr. Vu Hoi—an artist, Mr. Nguyen Chi Thien—a poet, and Professor Doan Viet Hoat, all were intellectuals who were imprisoned by the Communist government for expressing their beliefs about democracy. In total, these three men spent over 50 years in the Vietnamese Gulag.

Finally, I would like to mention Father Nguyen Huu Le and Father Tran Qui Thien who were also imprisoned for many years because they would not use their influence with their parishioners to propagandize Communist ideology. I am proud to represent these courageous individuals and others like them in Virginia's Eleventh District.

Although the current government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam is a signatory to eight international covenants on human rights, it continues to treat members of the former Armed Forces of Vietnam and their families as second-class citizens. The government of Vietnam has established a two-tiered socioeconomic system, reminiscent of the apartheid regime used in South Africa and implemented by the Nazis to isolate Jews in the 1930's.

A good example is education, which is highly valued in Vietnamese culture and society. Yet relatives of the men who suffered in the Vietnamese Gulag cannot enroll in schools be-

cause of an official government-endorsed policy of exclusion. Likewise, many relatives of these former prisoners find it difficult to obtain employment for the same reason. The government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam is adding insult to injury to these principled men who endured years of wrongful imprisonment and torture only to have their families continue to suffer today by not having access to jobs, education, and proper medical treatment.

The end of the Vietnam conflict produced an exodus of over 2 million Vietnamese who fled the country, many in rickety boats that were over-crowded and dangerous. They suffered treacherous seas, pirate attacks, dehydration, lack of food and medicine, and risked death rather than live under a Communist regime. Many of these refugees came to the United States where they have resettled, and are now proud Americans.

While the Vietnamese-American Community has been successful in rebuilding their lives here in the United States, they have not forgotten those who fought in the name of freedom. Traditionally, the former Republic of South Vietnam and presently in Vietnamese-American communities all across America, June 19th represents a day to commemorate and honor both fallen and living heroes who have dedicated or are continuing to dedicate their lives to bringing international attention to freedom and the human rights situation in Vietnam. It is a day on which the community memorializes those who gave their lives and recognizes former prisoners of conscience for their commitment and sacrifice in the struggle for democracy and freedom.

This is why on Vietnam Human Rights Day, I introduced, H. Con. Res. 322, a resolution honoring the sacrifices of individuals who served in the Armed Forces of the former Republic of Vietnam. As an original sponsor of the Congressional Dialogue on Vietnam and the Adopt-A-Voice-of-Conscience program, it is not only my honor, but my privilege to have introduced this resolution on behalf of all Vietnamese-Americans and especially, the tens of thousands living in Northern Virginia. It is imperative that we never forget the sacrifices that the members of Armed Forces of the Republic of Vietnam made so that future generations may live in freedom.

I urge my colleagues to support this important resolution because it reaffirms Congress' commitment to Vietnamese-Americans and others whose work helps to keep the spirit of freedom alive for those still living in Vietnam.

It is my strongest hope that the citizens of Vietnam will one day be free: free to elect their own leaders and government, free to worship as they please, free to speak and print their own opinions without fear of persecution or harassment, and simply free to live their lives without government intrusion. This is the will of democracy and the Vietnamese people.

IN HONOR OF JOHN BACO

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 11, 2000

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute to John Baco, pitcher for the baseball team at St. Ignatius High School in Ohio. John