

served as a medic. An attitude of service is certainly evident in every aspect of the life of the congregation.

Congratulations to St. John Lutheran Church on this very special day in the history of the congregation. May God continue to bless its ministry with His presence and His love.

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO THE TIFFIN COUNCIL 608 OF THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS ON THEIR 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 4, 2001

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, on October 6, 2001 the Tiffin Knights of Columbus Council 608 will celebrate their 100th anniversary. For the past 100 years, this fraternal organization has worked to promote charity for those who are less fortunate, to promote unity and brotherhood among Catholic men, and to promote patriotism in our country.

More than 120 years ago, a small group of men met in the basement of St. Mary's Church in New Haven, Connecticut. These men formed a fraternal society that would one day become one of the world's largest Catholic family fraternal service organizations. Their purpose was to bring men together under the banner of fraternity and philanthropy. These men bound themselves together by the ideals of Christopher Columbus, the discoverer of the Americas, the one whose hand brought Catholicism to America.

For the last 100 years, the Tiffin Council has carried on the principles of their founding fathers. Their services to the Tiffin community are profound. The Tiffin Council provides religious education and activities for students and those with mental and physical disabilities. Their efforts at the Ecumenical Sharing Kitchen ensure that those who are less fortunate have a hot meal. Through their charitable efforts, the Tiffin Council raises funds for the Firefighters' Projects for Children, St. Rita School for the Deaf, and Catholic Guild for the Blind.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all the members of the 107th Congress to join me in applauding the efforts of the Tiffin Knights of Columbus Council 608. Their selfless acts of volunteerism and brotherhood over the past century are truly an example for future generations.

COLONEL JAMES A. MCMURRAY RETIRES AS COMMANDER

HON. THOMAS E. PETRI

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 4, 2001

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, on October 26, 2001, Colonel James A. McMurry will retire as Commander of Volk Field Combat Readiness Training Center, Camp Douglas, Wisconsin. After a distinguished career in the U.S. Air Force as an instructor pilot, Colonel McMurry joined the Wisconsin Air National Guard where he served as an instructor pilot, flight examiner and squadron standardization officer with

the 128th Tactical Fighter Wing. During that time, he participated in three overseas deployments. In 1989 he was assigned to lead the installation of a \$31 million Air Combat Maneuvering Instrumentation system at Volk Field. He became Commander in November, 1993. In 1997, he was assigned the additional duty of Air National Guard liaison to the Air Force Command and Control Battle Lab.

Colonel McMurry is a command pilot with over 3800 hours in a variety of aircraft. His awards and commendations include the Meritorious Service Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the Joint Service Achievement Medal, the Outstanding Unit Award and the Organizational Excellence Award.

Colonel McMurry represents the very best in leadership in the Wisconsin National Guard. He is considered one of the most accomplished and respected senior officers in the Air National Guard. He has led in the area of new technologies to train the men and women of the future Total Force.

In addition to his distinguished military career, Colonel McMurry has served in a number of community leadership roles including the American Legion, Lions Club, County Wisconsin Workers Steering Committee and the Greater Mauston Wisconsin Development Corporation.

Colonel McMurry resides in Mauston with his wife, Sue, and their three children, April, Sara and Mike.

I have considered it an honor and a privilege to have worked with Colonel McMurry since his arrival at Volk Field, which is located within the 6th Congressional District that I represent. It is fitting that he receives full recognition and praise for the service he has rendered to his community, his state and his nation along with the thanks and best wishes of his fellow citizens in Wisconsin.

ON INTRODUCTION OF FIRST RESPONDERS HOMELAND DEFENSE LAW

HON. J. RANDY FORBES

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 4, 2001

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to introduce legislation that will help our local law enforcement agencies and public safety personnel prepare for and respond to terrorist attacks.

As the horrific attacks upon our Nation on September 11th have proven, our local police, fire, and rescue personnel are our first line of response to acts of terrorism. While our federal law enforcement officers have a very important role to play in our homeland defense, the role of their state and local counterparts is still more critical. They are the first on the scene, the first to assess the damages and circumstances, the first to attend to victims.

But, they are not now well equipped or prepared for dealing with these situations. They must deal on a day-to-day basis with the more mundane tasks of keeping the peace on the streets and bringing common criminals to justice. They need access to the knowledge and equipment that our federal law enforcement and military personnel freely have, but now lie outside their routine training.

As our Nation sought to prosecute the long, hard war on drugs, we came to similarly realize the value of fully integrating beat cops, state troopers, and other law enforcement officials into the fight. But those officers needed access to the equipment and the knowledge of our military personnel in order to fully realize their capabilities. As a result, there are two programs through which state and local agencies fighting drugs can acquire defense personnel property to conduct counter-drug operations.

One of those two programs, found at 10 U.S.C. 2576a, was already amended by Congress to allow these same resources to be used for counter-terrorism. Through that program, local law enforcement can get free access personnel property no longer needed by the Department of Defense. It is time to bring the second program into the Twenty-First Century as well, and that is what my bill does.

This second program, found at 10 U.S.C. 381, simply provides state and local enforcement officers access to the catalog of equipment and knowledge currently available to the Department of Justice, the Department of Defense, and the General Services Administration.

No new funds are needed to expand this program. The local agencies pay for the items they purchase with their own dollars. But, by purchasing these items through this program, the communities may be able to leverage the buying power of the federal government and pay lower prices.

There is no cost to making this change in law, but there is a great cost to not providing our local public safety workers with the tools they need to respond to future potential terrorist attacks. As we begin to prepare our Nation to fight what could be a long, hard war against terrorism, we must arm our front-line soldiers—the police, fire, and rescue personnel of our local communities. The First Responders Homeland Defense Act is one right step in that direction.

TRIBUTE TO THE SOUTHSIDE FALL FESTIVAL

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 4, 2001

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the patrons and organizers of the Southside Fall Festival for their work and sacrifice in honor of all the people who both survived and who lost their lives in the terrorist attacks on September 11th, 2001 their families and their friends.

These terrorist attacks mark a solemn moment in America's history. American men and women, civilians and soldiers, firefighters and police, mothers and fathers, were slain for a cause so terrible, so heinous, and so despicable that we find it unimaginable and indescribable. United, Americans seeks to find meaning and hope in a seemingly hopeless and meaningless act. In the days since these terrible terrorist attacks, America has been shoulder-to-shoulder in a struggle to meet the challenges of a world that is a little less safe, a little scarier, and far less predictable. The efforts of the patrons and organizers of the Southside Fall Festival signify the commitment

and concern of Americans everywhere. Our Nation's strength does not lie in her military might but rather in the collective compassion of its people.

Since the September 11th terrorist attacks, the patrons and organizers of the Southside Fall Festival have raised and contributed more than \$1,500 to assist the grieving families and rescue workers. The patriotism and persistence of the patrons and organizers of the Southside Fall Festival is a lasting memorial to the thousands of victims who perished in New York, Washington, and Pennsylvania.

Through the days, weeks, and months ahead, all Americans must come together and do what they can to assist the Nation's war effort. Whether it is giving blood, sending donations, praying for the thousands of grieving families, or simply saying thanks to the brave men and women who put their lives on the line each and every day so that we may be free, it is important that the American people are vigilant in their efforts to overcome this evil. Though our Nation has witnessed unspeakable horror, America's virtues, determination, and faith continues to shine brightly on the world.

I am confident that the United States will seek out those that harbor hatred, terror, and depravity in their hearts; and we will defeat them. This is a war that we must, can, and will win. May God bless the families and children grieving across this great Nation and may God bless America.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF ART COOK

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 4, 2001

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, when someone is stranded in the backcountry and a search and rescue team is called into action, dedicated and brave individuals respond to the call of those in need. Today I would like to rise and honor the service and contributions of Art Cook, a 14-year veteran with the Mesa County Search and Rescue, whose service has led him to be one of the most respected members of his squad and who was recently recognized by the Lions Club in Grand Junction, Colorado for his selfless acts.

In the vast terrain of Colorado, the vehicles needed for search and rescue differ from region to region. However, the need for four-wheel drive vehicles always seems to be a necessity and Art established the four-wheel-drive division of the Mesa County Search and Rescue. Not only did he implement this crucial component to the service, Art also created a unique and very effective mechanism for rescuing someone out of the backcountry. His innovation has been appreciated tremendously and has served to make the Mesa County Search and Rescue a better operation.

Art began his volunteer service in 1987 after retiring from Mountain Bell. Now 67 years of age, Art has helped to save numerous lives and has extended a warm and helping hand in numerous instances. At times, his dedication worries his family but that does not halt his volunteering. This award from the Lions Club was accompanied with a check to be given to the Search and Rescue team.

Mr. Speaker, Art Cook has offered himself and his expertise to others on many rescues. His honorable and commendable service is greatly appreciated. I would like to take this moment to congratulate Art on his recent recognition and extend my warmest regards and best wishes to him and his family in many years to come.

IN HONOR OF CHARLES G. OFIESH

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 4, 2001

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring this great chamber's attention to a distinguished decorated military veteran recently elected state commander of the Department of Pennsylvania Disabled American Veterans (PADAV). Mr. Charles G. Ofiesh, a resident of Altoona, Pennsylvania, located in the 9th Congressional District, served honorably during WWII and the Korean War. After his return from the Korean War, Mr. Ofiesh enlisted with the 341st Medical Company, Army Reserve, Altoona, and quickly rose to the rank of first sergeant—a position to held for years. Mr. Ofiesh was then transferred to the 99th Army Command where he was soon promoted to command sergeant major where he served until his retirement in November 1984.

During his distinguished military career, Mr. Ofiesh received over 24 awards and decorations, most notably the Legion of Merit and the Meritorious Service Medal with one Oak Leaf Cluster. Mr. Ofiesh is a member of the American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, has served as a member of the Altoona City Zoning Appeals Board for over 24 years and is very active in the Civil Air Patrol program.

The tragic incident of September 11th reminds all of us to honor our military, both past and present. Mr. Ofiesh is a person who believes in America and fought admirably to protect our country. Mr. Ofiesh deserves the recognition from Congress and we should take notice and acknowledge all of heroes like Mr. Ofiesh. I look forward to working with him in his new role as state commander of PADAV and joining the fight to ensure that all veterans and their families receive the respect and benefits that they have earned.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to place a copy of the article from the Altoona Mirror into the RECORD.

[From the Altoona Mirror, Sept. 30, 2001]

LOCAL MAN ELECTED TO HEAD PA. DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

(By Mark Leberfinger)

Charles G. Ofiesh has worn many hats over the years: government official, parade marshal, businessman and decorated military veteran.

Now he has a new hat to wear as state commander of the Department of Pennsylvania Disabled American Veterans.

"He's a guy whose feet never stop," department adjutant John W. Neeves said. "He's always on the go. "He has all the attributes a leader should possess."

Ofiesh was elected to his new role during the Disabled American Veterans' Pennsylvania convention in June. DAV was founded in 1920 and chartered by Congress in 1932. It is the official voice of America's service-connected disabled veterans.

Ofiesh said he joined the organization because he felt he could do more directly helping veterans than he could in other organizations.

"The DAV takes care of members of the Legion and VFW, everybody," he said. "You don't have to be a DAV member to be served."

"I couldn't do near what I could do in the other organizations what I can do in the DAV," Ofiesh said.

He has been working on several goals for the organization including improving the transportation system that takes veterans to area VA medical centers and doctor appointments and increasing membership in the nearly 53,000-member organization.

"The DAV is lobbying all the time for veterans," the new state commander said. "We're trying to tell them 'you made promises and you need to keep those promises'—to take care of the veterans for life after they came home."

In addition, the state Disabled American Veterans is seeking more grant money from the Commonwealth to purchase more vans for the James E. VanZandt VA Medical Center and the seven other VA centers in the state.

Before taking the reins of the state DAV, Ofiesh served as the organization's junior vice commander and senior vice commander.

He already has represented the state organization at various statewide veterans meetings.

"There are so many organizations and they're all working toward one goal: to support the veterans," he said.

Ofiesh served in the 24th Infantry Division during World War II and the Korean War. After his return from Korea, he enlisted with the 341st Medical Company, Army Reserve, Altoona. Ofiesh rose to the rank of first sergeant, a rank he held for 16 years.

He was transferred to the 99th Army Command in Oakdale, where he was promoted to command sergeant major. He retired at that rank in November 1984.

During his military career Ofiesh received many military awards including the Legion of Merit and the Meritorious Service Medal with one Oak Leaf Cluster.

Ofiesh and his wife, Helen, have three children and three grandchildren.

He is a member of the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Ofiesh has served as a member of the Altoona City Zoning Appeals Board for 42 years. He is also a member of the Altoona Blair County Development Corp. and Blair County Industrial Development Authority.

Ofiesh has been grand marshal for parades in Altoona during the past 20 years.

"I would call the commander's honor the crowning glory, my final salute," he said, "because all the other things I've done aren't of the magnitude of state commander of an organization like the DAV."

TRIBUTE TO LEONARD WADE FAULK

HON. BOB SCHAFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 4, 2001

Mr. SCHAFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Leonard (Wade) Faulk of Julesburg, Colorado. Wade was one of only 51 high school students nationwide selected for a \$20,000 Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation Scholarship. For this, Mr. Speaker, the United States Congress commends him.

Wade is a recent graduate of Julesburg High School in Julesburg, Colorado. He and