

Peddie, Milton Academy, Pingry School, St. George's, Seton Hall Prep and Science High. The school encourages these students from Newark neighborhoods to reach for the stars. Not only are they outstanding students and performers, they learn to be good citizens with a respect for their community and their environment.

Mr. Speaker, these outstanding youngsters represent the best and brightest of a new generation. Please join me in honoring them as they make their debut at the Kennedy Center.

HONORING THE LATE SGT.  
CHRISTOPHER RYAN LAIR

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 23, 2001*

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, on May 18, 2001 Sergeant Christopher Ryan Lair of Parachute, Colorado died before his time. The 22-year-old Marine died in a civilian aircraft near San Diego, California. I stand before Congress to ask that we all pause a moment in honor of Sgt. Lair.

Chris was born in Wheatridge, Colorado in 1979. Chris and his family moved to Parachute, where he graduated from Grand Valley High School in 1997. After graduation, he enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps. He was stationed at Camp Pendleton, California, where he was Crew Chief in VMLA-169, a Huey/Cobra helicopter squadron.

On May 1, 2001, Chris was promoted to the rank of Sergeant. During his enlistment, Chris had been awarded the Good Conduct Medal, the Humanitarian Service Medal, the Sea Service Deployment Medal, the Humanitarian Service Medal, and the Navy Achievement Medal.

Flying was his greatest joy. He grew up around airports as his parents owned and operated an avionics shop at Garfield County Airport. He received his pilot's license at the age of 18 and completed his multi-engine certificate in May 2001. He flew every opportunity he had and his goal was to become a commercial pilot after serving in the military.

Mr. Speaker, Sgt. Christopher Lair was truly one of our 'few good men'. It's a tragedy that he died so young and at something he loved to do. I ask that Congress pause a moment to honor him and thank him for his service to our country.

IN HONOR OF THE SISTERS  
SERVANTS OF MARY IMMACULATE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 23, 2001*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor The Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate on the 25th anniversary of its Ministry to the Aged in the Diocese of Cleveland on this 26th day of May.

Though the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate came to Cleveland in 1976, they were founded over 100 years ago in Poland. The Sisters were founded on the principles of apostolic works and have given their time self-

lessly to the sick, aged, forgotten, and lonely. Their ministry eventually expanded to the United States, and a headquarters was built in Maryland where the Sisters established and managed a home for the sick and elderly.

After arrival in Cleveland, the Sisters quickly clarified their purpose and mission: to minister to the spiritual needs of the elderly of the Polish families and their corporal needs as far as possible; and to educate the families and the community to understand the needs of the elderly and to recognize their respective responsibilities to the elderly.

The Sisters have done just that and so much more. The Sisters current work is their Special Ministry to the Aged under the auspices of Catholic Charities. This ministry provides and arranges for basic human needs such as food, shelter, health care, and social services. The ministry is staffed by five sisters with professional backgrounds in nursing, social work, and occupational therapy, 24 hours a day. The Sisters have also developed a "Phone Companion Reassurance Program" where volunteers are trained and connected to homebound elderly who have little or no family support.

The Sisters have served Cleveland selflessly and are an incredible asset to the entire community. They have come to serve and be a presence to many poor and frail elderly. Please join me in honoring the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate on this very special occasion.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANTHONY D. WEINER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 23, 2001*

Mr. WEINER. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained in my district on Monday, May 21, 2001, and I would like the RECORD to indicate how I would have voted had I been present.

For rollcall vote No. 126, the resolution expressing the sense of the Congress regarding National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day, I would have voted "yea."

For rollcall vote No. 127, the Section 245(i) Extension Act, I would have voted "yea."

HONORING A MAN OF GREAT  
ABILITY JAMES E. HAUN—AN  
EXEMPLARY LIFE AND MAN

HON. ZACH WAMP

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 23, 2001*

Mr. WAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise to talk about an exceptional man in my district, James E. Haun. Jim has served as an electrician for 40 years, with unwavering dedication. Throughout his outstanding career, Jim has demonstrated remarkable ability not only to perform the duties of an electrician but also to motivate others to reach their potential, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his peers and superiors. He was born in Harriman, Tennessee on November 16, 1935 and moved his family to Oak Ridge, Tennessee where he graduated from the Oak Ridge High School in

1955. He enlisted in the United States Air Force following graduation and served four years as a jet engine technician. He also served a tour of duty in French Morocco.

Following his discharge, Jim decided to enter the electrical field. Terrell Electric hired him in September of 1959, as an Electrician's Helper. Jim became a member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 175 located in my district. He served a five-year apprenticeship and graduated as an Inside Wireman in 1966. Because of his outstanding abilities, he was offered a position as a 2nd Year Instructor with the Apprenticeship School and he remained in that position until he accepted the position of School Training Director in 1992. Jim has served Local 175 in many capacities including the title of Treasurer from January 1992 to October 1992 and held membership on the I.B.E.W. Credit Union Committee.

Jim's dedication to his family, country, community and his profession is exemplary of the type of character and spirit he possesses. He is truly a remarkable man. I am very honored to represent Jim Haun in the Third Congressional District of Tennessee.

Mr. Speaker, I am honoring Jim Haun today in honor of his retirement from a full life well lived. On behalf of a very proud district, I extend to him my very best wishes for continued success in his future endeavors.

HONORING THE ARNOLD ENGI-  
NEERING DEVELOPMENT CEN-  
TER ON THE OCCASION OF ITS  
50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. VAN HILLEARY

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 23, 2001*

Mr. HILLEARY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the United States Air Force's Arnold Engineering Development Center at Arnold Air Force Base, Tennessee, which celebrates its 50th Anniversary on June 25, 2001.

The test center is named after 5-star General Henry 'Hap' Arnold, World War II commander of the Army Air Corps, and the father of the United States Air Force. In 1944, General Arnold asked Dr. Theodore von Karman to form a scientific advisory group to chart a long-range research and development program for the Air Force. After World War II, members of this group visited Germany to view its research and development facilities. They were disturbed to find that the German scientists were years ahead of the United States in the development of aerospace technology. Fortunately for us, Germany had made these technological advances too late in the war, and had to surrender before it could take full advantage of them. Even today, it is chilling to think what might have happened if the Axis powers had been able to hold out just a little longer.

General Arnold knew that America was unlikely to be that fortunate again, and determined that in order to keep America's Air Force prepared to fight and win our nation's wars, we needed a first class flight simulation test facility. In 1949, Congress authorized \$100 million for the construction of such a facility at the Army's old Camp Forrest between Tullahoma and Manchester, Tennessee. On June 25, 1951, President Harry S Truman

himself dedicated AEDC, declaring that, "Never again will the United States ride the coat tails of other countries in the progress and development of the aeronautical art."

In the 50 years since, the world's largest and most complex collection of flight simulation test facilities has made good on that promise, AEDC's wind tunnels, jet and rocket altitude test cells, space chambers and ballistic ranges have played a vital role in the development and sustainment of every American high performance aircraft, missile and space system in use today. Twenty-seven of the center's 58 test facilities are unique in the United States. Fourteen can be found nowhere else in the world. But what makes AEDC special can't be measured simply in nuts and bolts. It also lies in the unsurpassed quality of the engineers, scientists, technicians, craftsmen and support personnel who work there.

Thanks in part to the tireless efforts of these dedicated men and women, the Cold War that President Truman and General Arnold prepared for has been won. But now, America faces an uncertain world of emerging threats, requiring the development of an advanced American space and missile defense, and a new generation of manned and unmanned aircraft. As it has since its inception, AEDC will lead the way in the U.S. Air Force's efforts to protect American liberty by remaining the world's preeminent aerospace power.

I salute the hard work of the men and women of AEDC, both past and present, and look forward to AEDC's next 50 years as America's premier flight simulation test facility.

#### TRIBUTE TO CHARLES FRANCIS FITE

#### HON. JOHN T. DOOLITTLE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 23, 2001*

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to recognize and honor the life of Mr. Charles Francis Fite of Fair Oaks, California. I was blessed to have known Charlie for a number of years, and am truly grateful to have counted him a friend. Charlie Fite passed away on May 10, 2001, at the age of 89—leaving behind his loving wife of nearly 70 years, Hazel, two children, five grandchildren, and eleven great-grandchildren.

Born in Paris, Arkansas, Charles Fite's life is a shining example of the American dream. As a young man, Mr. Fite toiled in the coalmines of northwestern Arkansas and contributed to the war effort as a master electrician in the naval shipyards of Long Beach. Later, Mr. Fite immersed himself in the world of finance and banking. Mr. Fite was instrumental in the founding of the world's first fast food franchise, Dairy Queen, where he served as president.

After retiring from Dairy Queen, he and Hazel moved to the Sacramento area in 1969. In 1970, he and his son Bruce entered into real estate development along with grandson, Chet Fite. In 1980, he founded HCF, Inc., and continued real estate development with his daughter, Barbara, and grandson, Greg Hardcastle.

Charlie's work has left an indelible mark on the Sacramento area and has been instrumental in the region's development and positive growth. The business enterprises and projects for which Charlie is responsible are too numerous to name, but one of his more recognizable projects is the Sacramento Sportsplex on Highway 50.

Charlie Fite's accomplishments are many and great, but his life could never be defined by business acumen alone. Instead, Charlie will be remembered most for his honesty, integrity, and generosity. He will be revered and honored not for what he made for himself but for what he selflessly gave to others. Charles Fite was not simply a boss, he was a mentor; he was not just a father, he was a dad. His motto always was, "It's not a good deal unless it's a good deal for everybody." Charlie was a man of great inspiration, and he had an innate ability to lift those up who were around him.

Charles was also a man of deep Christian faith. He helped found Warehouse Christian Ministries and served on the board of Capital Christian Center. Charlie Fite both professed and lived his Christian faith. He was a compassionate and a wise friend whose life will be cherished and remembered by generations yet unborn. He will be profoundly missed, but he certainly will not be forgotten.

May you rest in peace, Charlie.

#### HISTORY OF THE WEST PALM BEACH VETERANS ADMINISTRATION MEDICAL CENTER

#### HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 23, 2001*

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, the West Palm Beach Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Florida was inspired by the life, military service and death of Pfc. John Mica. Army Corpsman Mica was born on April 3, 1915 in Binghamton, NY, served as a private in the U.S. Army from 1943–44, and died July 16, 1972 in a crowded veterans hospital in Miami, Florida.

Because of the circumstances of John Mica's death in that veterans facility, which was strained to capacity, his son Daniel A. Mica made construction of a new South Florida veterans hospital one of his goals when elected to the U.S. Congress. From 1978 to 1988, Congressman Daniel Mica, a member of the House Veterans Committee, cited the need for additional veterans medical facilities in Florida at every meeting of that Congressional panel over the decade of his service.

Congressman Daniel Mica, on February 8, 1983 during the 98th Congress, introduced H.R. 1348, "A bill to construct a new Veterans Administration hospital in the State of Florida." Construction of the Palm Beach County Veterans' Hospital was completed in 1994.

This history has been submitted into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD by Congressman JOHN L. MICA in memory of his father, Pfc. John Mica, and also in recognition of his brother Daniel's contribution to the veterans of the State of Florida.

#### MINI OLYMPICS A CREDIT TO MOUNT CARMEL AREA

#### HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 23, 2001*

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the participants and volunteers in the Mount Carmel Mini Olympics for People with Special Needs, which has grown in each of its seven years. This year's Mini Olympics will be held on June 2.

Last year, I had the opportunity to witness first-hand the dedication of the athletes and the generosity of the many volunteers who make this event possible.

A group of friends initiated the Mini Olympics to allow local special needs athletes the opportunity to participate that might not otherwise be possible due to the travel distance, lodging expenses and commitment of time that are sometimes necessary for the state or national Special Olympics. Building on that success, the Mini Olympics have become an annual event. The number of participants has grown from 44 at the beginning to 184 last year.

Led by Chairman Ron Tanney, the Mount Carmel Mini Olympics for People with Special Needs Committee organizes this inspiring event with the help of many volunteers and community donors too numerous to list them all here.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to call to the attention of the House of Representatives this extraordinary event and the people who make the Mini Olympics possible, and I wish them all the best as they continue with their many endeavors.

I would now like to insert for the record an editorial from the Shamokin News-Item commending the volunteers and participants in last year's Mini-Olympics, words which I am sure will apply equally well this year.

#### TWO 'CLASS' EVENTS THAT MAKE US PROUD

[Shamokin News-Item Editorial, June 6, 2000]

Two annual events, both held this past weekend, show the class of area volunteers and the generosity of our area's residents.

The two events, of course, are the Mount Carmel Mini-Olympics for People with Special Needs and the Relay for Life sponsored by the American Cancer Society.

Seldom do we witness the level of unselfishness and the concern for fellow human beings that is so apparent at these two programs.

This was the sixth annual Mini-Olympics and the program keeps getting better every year. Thanks to a cadre of dedicated volunteers who plan the day out of love, those who help out at the events and the generous businesses, individuals, organizations and government officials who support it, the Mini-Olympics is a high point in the lives of the participants and their families. Indeed, the lives of all who are in the stadium are enriched because of the Mini-Olympics. It is truly a celebration of life.

So too is the annual Relay for Life, in which people throughout the region join