

the Valdosta State University in Valdosta, Georgia where he was the 1993 Graduate Student of the Year. He also graduated with Military Honors from the Navy Senior Enlisted Academy in Newport, Rhode Island in 1995.

Mr. Speaker, Master Chief Haggard's contributions have had a direct and lasting impact on the overall readiness and effectiveness of Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program personnel. He is an individual of uncommon character and his professionalism will be sincerely missed. I am proud, Mr. Speaker, to thank him for his honorable service in the United States Navy, and to wish him "fair winds and following seas" as he closes his distinguished military career.

**NATIONAL CHAMPIONS HAMMOND
ROBOTICS TEAM**

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 11, 2002

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and enthusiasm that I congratulate the national champion Hammond Robotics Team, the team, which comprises students from all racial, cultural, and economic walks of life, finished in first place for the second consecutive year at the US FIRST national competition in Orlando, FL.

The members of the national champion Hammond Robotics Team are: Amanda Aldridge, Jasmine Barnett, Justin Clark, David Clinton, Ryan Gawron, Mike Goril, Ethan Grove, Eugene Hanas, Elyse Holguin, Khamicia Jarrett, Kristyn Kapetanovic, Kevin Kolodziej, Omar Martin, Sarah Michna, Luis Moreno, Amanda Morrison, Julia Novak, Shane Ostapchuk, Michael Phillips, Christina Polka, and Michael Smith.

US FIRST is an organization dedicated to motivating America's youth about science, technology, and engineering through hands-on methods. The program involves a unique blend of problem solving and competition that prepares students for real world situations. During the competition, teams face off against each other and are given a limited amount of time to devise both an offensive and defensive strategy for accomplishing a specific task. Team Hammond conquered the challenge. While nearly 1,000 teams nationwide were involved in the US FIRST competition, Team Hammond came out on top.

Although Team Hammond has enjoyed a high level of success through the years, the team's triumphs have not come without adversity. Though many of the teams at the National Competition enjoyed significant corporate financial underwriting, Team Hammond had to work extremely hard to secure funding for both the regional and national competition. Through numerous fundraising efforts and private sponsorships, Team Hammond took the necessary initiative and was able to secure the necessary funding for its worthy program.

However, perhaps the most applaudable aspect of Team Hammond's success is the various backgrounds from which the team members come. The team is comprised of students from all four of Hammond's high schools and reflects the diversity on which northwest Indiana prides itself. This diversity is, for the Hammond Robotics Program, the rule rather than the exception and it should be commended.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I congratulate Team Hammond for its second consecutive year as national champions and third national championship overall at the US FIRST national competition. The young men and women of the team worked hard towards a goal and their efforts paid off. I hope that the rest of my colleagues will join with me in applauding Team Hammond's commendable effort.

IT'S TIME

HON. KEN LUCAS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 11, 2002

Mr. LUCAS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak to my colleagues about prescription drugs and Medicare. Specifically, I feel it is an outrage that our senior citizens are being forced to drive to Canada to get prescription drugs at reasonable prices, or even worse having to choose between buying food or medication.

This has gone on for far too long. As a couple in Maysville, KY, avowed, "It is past time! And way overdue! Older people need help, perhaps not all of us, but many of us do." This is just one of the many comments that I received in the mail from Kentucky seniors. However, as I read their comments, I realize these are not just the voices of Kentucky's senior citizens, they are the voices of America's senior citizens. These senior citizens are veterans, they are mothers and fathers, they are grandparents, and they are men and women that have worked their entire life to make America a better place.

As representatives of the American people, we must work together to pass a meaningful drug benefit for our senior citizens. We need a bipartisan prescription drug plan that helps seniors afford the drugs their doctors are telling them they need. This is not a political issue. This is a quality of life issue. We need to get this done and get this done now. I would like to share with you some of the stories from Kentucky's senior citizens. However, when you listen to these stories from across the Fourth District of Kentucky, remember they are representative of the problems seniors are facing all across America.

From Crittenden, KY, "It is getting so bad we are thinking about driving to Canada to stock up on our prescriptions." From Rush, KY, "Seniors have worked all their lives and now can't enjoy pleasures because medicine is too high." From Pleasureville, KY, "When is it going to end? Something surely needs to be done, people like myself are not going to be able to make it. Sometimes, I wonder do I pay my bills or buy my medicine." From Dry Ridge, KY, "We are both 68 years old. My husband's prescription drug bills were about \$600 a month after heart surgery. So we started getting prescription drugs from Canada. My cholesterol medicine is \$80 a month from Wal-Mart. From Canada it is \$31 a month and is exactly the same prescription drug." From Ashland, KY, "I am 90 years old and it is a choice between food and Medicine." From Williamstown, KY, "We need the medicine but we need to eat too. Sometimes we do not know which comes first. We need help with our prescription drugs."

Mr. Speaker, it's time for us all to work together to enact a meaningful Medicare prescription drug benefit.

HONORING STANLEY ZIMMERMAN

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 11, 2002

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Stanley Zimmerman on the occasion of his 70th birthday and the Preview of the Automobile Driving Museum. For over 30 years, Stanley Zimmerman has been collecting, restoring, and showing classic automobiles, amassing nearly 40 cars. This life long passion will culminate with the opening of the Automobile Driving Museum in the fall of 2002.

Stanley's passion for automotive restoration began in the 1970s when he purchased a 1936 Packard Convertible Sedan which he painstakingly restored over the ensuing 28 years to award-winning, 100 point perfection. Since that time, his collection has expanded to include: Packards, Studebakers, Lincolns, Fords, Cadillacs, Chryslers, and a Stutz. Due to its uniqueness of variety and perfection, Stanley's collection has been shown around the country, winning awards and inspiring fellow collectors.

Over the last 30 years, Stanley Zimmerman's passion has contributed to the preservation of the history of automobile production in America as well as the histories of the famous Americans who drove them. His collection contains such historically significant automobiles as a 1955 Packard Caribbean, a car first purchased by Howard Hughes for his wife, Jean Peters, and a 1936 seven-passenger Packard Phantom, purportedly a gift from President Roosevelt to Joseph Stalin.

As a member of the Classic Car Club, The Packard Automobile Classics Club, the Antique Studebaker Club, the Lincoln Owners Club, the Walter P. Chrysler Club and the Earl C. Anthony Packard Club, Stanley has gained priceless knowledge about each of the cars he has restored and has thus been able to pass on this knowledge to countless other classic car owners and members of our national community. With his years of experience as his guide, Stanley will open the Automobile Driving Museum, the only car museum in the United States which allows visitors to ride in the classic cars on display.

I ask all Members to join me in congratulating Stanley Zimmerman for his devotion to the history and restoration of classic automobiles and in wishing him good fortune upon the opening of the Automobile Driving Museum.

**IN RECOGNITION OF PASTOR
FATHER PHILLIP G. RACCO**

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 11, 2002

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Phillip G. Racco, Pastor of Holy Rosary Church in Cleveland, OH. On

June 11, 2002, Father Racco will celebrate the silver anniversary of his ordination into the priesthood. Father Racco has devoted 13 years to ministering to the people of Holy Rosary and Little Italy. Father Racco has made Holy Rosary Church a great haven for the students at Case Western Reserve University and the many families and friends of patients at University Hospital and the Cleveland Clinic who visit the church daily. Father Racco has previously served as an assistant at St. John Bosco in Parma Heights, St. Margaret Mary in South Euclid and Pastor at St. Philomena in East Cleveland prior to being assigned Pastor of Holy Rosary Church in 1989.

Therefore, I join with the entire 11th District of Ohio in congratulating Father Phillip Racco for his 13 years of service to Holy Rosary Church and the city of Cleveland.

HONORING JOHN REYNOLDS

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 11, 2002

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor John Reynolds on the occasion of his retirement from the National Park Service. I have had the pleasure of working with him in my capacity on the Resources Committee and as the Representative from the 19th District of California.

John is the son of a park ranger, having been born in Yellowstone National Park. He is the brother of a park superintendent who served around the country in superlative national parks. He has spent the last 37 years crisscrossing the country, changing assignments every couple of years, and charting the course of a moderate and flexible national park system. He will retire August 2 as regional director of the Pacific West Region.

His distinguished career began as a park planner and he developed a lifelong love of Yosemite National Park after serving as team captain for the first master plan. John has served the National Park Service diligently in numerous positions across the country. Among these John has acted as the Director of the Service Center located in Denver, Colorado, the Regional Director to the Mid Atlantic Region, in Philadelphia, and the Deputy Director of the National Park Service here in Washington, D.C. Throughout his career with the Service, John Reynolds has consistently demonstrated a level of care, commitment, leadership and vision of America's National Parks. I anticipate that John will continue to generously share his thoughts and vision for these treasures long into his retirement.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor John Reynolds on his retirement. I invite my colleagues to join me in thanking John for his outstanding service to the nation's National Parks and in wishing him many more years of continued success.

INTRODUCTION OF OFFICIAL TIME REPORTING ACT

HON. DAN MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 11, 2002

Mr. DAN MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to discuss legislation I have introduced today. The "Official Time Reporting Act" is a much needed effort to bring sunshine to the mysterious world of "official time."

This bill would require the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) to collect and report to Congress on the use of official time by federal union workers.

Official time is the use of federal government paid time to attend to union related business. The use of official time by union members for the participation in collective bargaining and Federal Labor Relations Act authorized activities is a matter of statutory right. Using official time for other union activities is negotiated between the agency and the union.

However, critics note that official time has ambiguous definitions that leave it open for abuse such as through the use of "no-show" jobs or government funded union advocacy. Nevertheless, the bill I am introducing today has nothing to do with the merits of official time, it simply tries to quantify the use of it within the federal government.

There are over 1.8 million federal workers currently working for the government. This large workforce is continuing to grow especially with the war on terror adding to its roles. However, there is no method to tell what federal resources (salary, equipment, etc.) are used for purely union related work as opposed to federal work.

Currently, only the Social Security Administration (SSA) collects and reports this information.

The information currently collected by the SSA includes:

- (1) The number of hours of official time that employees spent on union activities;
- (2) Number of employees who used official time for union activities;
- (3) Number of employees who spent 100 percent of their time on union activities;
- (4) Dollar value of the official time spent on union activities;
- (5) Dollar value of the office space, equipment, telephone use and supplies provided to unions; and
- (6) Benefits and disadvantages of using official time for union activities.

My bill would simply make every federal agency report this information to the OPM.

Extrapolating from the currently provided SSA data, official time usage could be at least a \$400 million a year federal government-wide expense. When we are talking about hundreds of millions of dollars, Congress should not have to guess.

Furthermore the previous administration's OPM was ordered by Congress to examine this issue in 1998. In its 1998 report, OPM calculated a figure of roughly \$110 million using different criteria than the SSA. So as you can see official time is not cheap.

This bill puts sunshine on the issue of federal worker productivity and will be an important tool for Congress to use to understand how the money it appropriates is being spent and for the Executive Branch to understand how it is allocating resources.

The General Accounting Office (GAO) has tried to study how much official time is being used but has been stymied by the lack of data on this issue. In testimony before the Civil Service Subcommittee of the House Government Reform and Oversight Committee in June 1998, GAO concluded: "our work has shown that if decision makers hope to resolve the question of the extent to which federal agencies use official time and other resources to support employee union activities, better data will be needed."

This bill will remedy this important GAO concern.

The Official Time Reporting Act is different than an official time bill that I introduced in 1998 called the Workplace Integrity Act. Whereas the 1998 bill contained restrictions on official time, this bill solely concentrates on reporting and disclosure issues. The Official Time Reporting Act has no restrictions on the use of official time. It is a bill introduced in the spirit of openness and good government. I am hopeful this good government disclosure bill will be acted upon by Congress in an expeditious manner.

I urge my colleagues to co-sponsor this important bill and I thank the Speaker for yielding me this time.

CELEBRATING 120 YEARS OF SERVICE AND SPIRITUAL GUIDANCE

HON. HEATHER WILSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 11, 2002

Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I would like to share the story of the Grant Chapel Church in my hometown of Albuquerque, New Mexico. The church was founded in 1882 as the "Colored Methodist Mission" by a group of local African Americans. It was built as a place for them to worship in dignity and respect. As one of the oldest African American churches in the Southwest, the church has provided spiritual guidance and refuge to Albuquerque communities for many years.

In 1883, the New Mexico Township, Inc. awarded several plots of lands to businesses and churches to promote development in the town that has become the Albuquerque we know today. The Colored Methodist Mission was only one of five churches to receive this gift from the city.

The Grant Chapel Church has changed hands over the years and has had some fifty ministers serve its congregation throughout the 120-year history. In 1905, the church was renamed for Bishop Abram Grant, the presiding prelate of the 5th Episcopal District. The faithful members of this congregation built a church house in a Southwestern style in 1952 and served the community there for nearly fifty years before moving to a new location in 1990, where it remains today and continues to serve.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating this church for 120 years of service and spiritual guidance to the Albuquerque communities.