

known for his eagerness to combat the drug trade in this area, and was often involved in breaking up meth labs, a dangerous job due to the volatility of the chemicals used in the process.

Ed Christensen, president of the Harris County Deputies' Association, remembered him as a tireless and hardworking officer. He also said, "Shane died a hero. What would have happened if he hadn't been there? He laid down his life and gave the ultimate sacrifice. He absolutely laid down his life for his fellow man."

Deputy Bennett is survived by his wife, Teresa, and his 20 month old daughter, Alyssa. According to reports, as he lay mortally wounded, the name of the young girl who will never know her father was the last words he was able to speak.

We are indebted to Shane Bennett for his courage, and we share the grief of his family and offer kind words, knowing that it is a poor substitute for their loss.

Every day, ordinary men and women make an extraordinary commitment when they put on the badge that symbolizes the oath they took to protect and serve, the badge that also makes them a target. Every day, they leave their families behind, not knowing if they will come home that night.

Congress should continue to make sure that we keep our commitment to the law enforcement by providing funding for more officers, better equipment, and advanced training. It not only saves the lives of officers, but it makes our families, our homes, and our neighborhoods a safer place to live.

HONORING SUFFOLK COUNTY OFFICERS AND LOIS APRILE AND DENISE BRENNAN

HON. FELIX J. GRUCCI, JR.

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 13, 2002

Mr. GRUCCI. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Suffolk County Officers Lois Aprile and Denise Brennan who have been selected as the recipients of the Rotary Club of Smithtown's 32nd Annual Peter J. Biegon Award.

Police Officers Aprile and Brennan were appointed to the Suffolk County Police Department on January 25, 1988. After graduating from the Police Academy they were assigned to the Fourth Precinct, assuming the duty of patrol officers. Their professional association and friendship go back many years.

It wasn't long after being assigned to the Fourth Precinct that it became evident that these two energetic officers were committed to establishing programs to benefit a wide range of community interests. In recognition of these efforts, they were both assigned to the Fourth Precinct COPE Unit in 1995.

Police Officer Aprile is certified as a crime prevention officer, a school—resource officer and a DARE instructor. She is currently working toward the completion of a master's degree in counseling at C.W. Post, L.I.U. She is a member of several committees, including the Sachem Committee on Drugs, Hauppauge School District Drug Task Force and is a board member of the Smithtown Veterans Youth Program. She is also a member of the

Long Island Association of Crime Prevention Officers.

She acts as a volunteer for the Boy Scouts/Cub Scouts and serves as a religion education instructor for St. Philip and James Church. She gives freely of her time to the Special Olympics, Toys for Tots and various community outreach groups.

As one of the precinct's school liaison officers she helped create a program at the Smithtown Middle School to decrease problems among students relating to theft, fighting and other misconduct.

She has been recognized as cop of the month and has received several awards from public officials for her work with the Smithtown Veteran's Youth Program.

Police Officer Brennan has received certifications as a school resource officer and crime prevention officer. She is a member of the NYS Juvenile Officers Association.

She also serves as one of our school liaison officers and sits on several committees addressing youth development and delinquency prevention programs. She is a member of the S.A.F.E. Schools Committee, Kings Park Compass, Sachem Teen Driving Committee and the Raynor Park Youth Program.

HONORING THE LIFE AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF 19TH CENTURY ITALIAN-AMERICAN INVENTOR ANTONIO MEUCCI

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 11, 2002

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of legislation considered by the House this week which calls attention to an under recognized historical figure, Antonio Meucci, and his work on an invention that we today know as the telephone. Mr. Meucci is a testament to the hard work and innovation that made America great.

Most Americans know the story of Alexander Graham Bell, the man given sole credit for the invention of the telephone. This resolution makes clear, though, that another man made enormous strides in laying the groundwork for the invention, an Italian immigrant by the name of Antonio Meucci.

Antonio Meucci was born near Florence, Italy, in 1808. He studied mechanical engineering at Florence's Academy of Fine Arts and then worked in the Teatro della Pergola and various other theaters as a stage technician until 1835, when he accepted a job as a scenic designer and stage technician in Havana, Cuba.

Fascinated by research, Meucci read every scientific tract he could get his hands on, and spent all his spare time in Havana on research, inventing a new method of galvanizing metals that he applied to military equipment for the Cuban government. At the same time, he continued his work in the theater and pursued his experiments.

As a result of his research, Meucci had developed a method of using electric shocks to treat various illnesses. One day, while preparing to administer such a treatment, Meucci heard his friend's voice over the piece of copper wire running between them. He realized

he had stumbled onto something much more important than any other discovery he had ever made, and he spent the next ten years bringing the principle to a practical stage. The following decade was to be spent perfecting the original device.

Antonio Meucci called his work on this project, "teletrofono." Meucci was unable to commercialize his invention because he did not speak enough English to navigate the American business community, and, having spent most of his life savings on his work, he was unable to raise sufficient funds to pay his way through the patent process. Instead, he had to settle for a caveat, a one-year renewable notice of an impending patent, which Meucci first filed in 1871.

While a brilliant inventor, Meucci was victim of a series of financial and personal misfortunes. A Western Union affiliate laboratory—where Meucci was keeping his models to demonstrate his work—reportedly lost his working models, and as Meucci—was subsidizing off public assistance, he could not afford the \$10 necessary to renew the caveat in 1874. In 1876, Alexander Graham Bell, who conducted experiments in the same laboratory where Meucci's materials had been stored, was granted a patent, and thereafter credited with inventing the telephone. Nine months later, the government moved to annul Bell's patent on the grounds of fraud and misrepresentation, which the Supreme Court remanded for trial.

Meucci died in 1889, the Bell patent expired in 1893 and the case was discounted as moot without ever uncovering the true inventor of the telephone. If Meucci were able to renew his caveat, a patent to Bell could have never been issued.

The world of science and invention is a highly competitive one, where inventors compete to make and market their discoveries. It is only right that we call attention to the work of one brilliant inventor who history has not given his proper due, and who made enormous contributions toward the invention of this device. I urge support for the bill.

RECOGNIZING WILBERFORCE UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT DR. JOHN L. HENDERSON

HON. DAVID L. HOBSON

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 13, 2002

Mr. HOBSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of Dr. John L. Henderson, who, for the past 14 years, has served as the president of Wilberforce University, which is located in Greene County, Ohio in the 7th Congressional District.

On June 30th, Dr. Henderson will be retiring after a distinguished career in which he served at Wilberforce and in leadership positions at Xavier University, the University of Cincinnati, Sinclair Community College and Cincinnati Technical College. He also has taught education, counseling and psychology courses since 1966.

Dr. Henderson's tenure at Wilberforce has been marked by many accomplishments, not the least of which is the institution's physical growth. Some of the major facilities constructed during his tenure include: a health

and wellness center, a gymnasium/student activities center, new dormitories, a communications center and a new administration building.

As a former member of the Wilberforce Board of Trustees, I have always found Dr. Henderson to be a dedicated educator and administrator, and a true advocate for the students and faculty at Wilberforce. His professional demeanor and extensive experience in Ohio's outstanding system of higher education have always made it a pleasure to work with Dr. Henderson and I have been privileged to have been able to work on the school's behalf in the Ohio State Senate and in Congress.

Dr. Henderson's comprehensive knowledge of higher education has been recognized with his selection to leadership positions in numerous educational organizations. He is a member of: the Board of Directors of the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, the Council of Independent Colleges and Universities, the National Commission of Cooperative Education, the Council of Presidents of The College Fund/United Negro College Fund, Minorities in Mathematics, Science and Engineering and the Givat Haviva Educational Foundation that oversees the education of college students in Israel.

Most recently, President George W. Bush appointed Dr. Henderson to serve on the President's Advisory Council on Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

Dr. Henderson received his bachelor's degree from the Hampton Institute in 1955, and his Master's degree in Education in Counseling and Guidance from the University of Cincinnati. Dr. Henderson continued his studies at the University of Cincinnati and received his Doctorate of Education in Counselor Education.

As Ohio's Seventh District Representative to the Congress of the United States, I take this opportunity to publicly recognize Dr. Henderson and his achievements on behalf of Wilberforce University. His many contributions to the educational growth of the nation's oldest privately funded historically black co-educational institution of higher learning are noteworthy and I thank him for his service.

A TRIBUTE TO HOWARD PITSCHE

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 13, 2002

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Howard Pitsch in recognition of his long-term dedication to his community.

Howard is a twenty-year resident of Fort Greene who has assisted in promoting the progressive revitalization of the community. He is the chair of the Fort Greene Association, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to historic preservation, strengthening community relations and improving the quality of life and parks. In this position, he has used his professional expertise as a marketing manager for Newsweek to enhance the profile of this vital community organization.

He builds relationships with social and cultural organizations to improve the Fort Greene and Downtown Brooklyn areas. The Fort Greene Association sponsors a scholarship for a student to attend the Brooklyn Music School. The Association also works to restore Fort

Greene Park and contributes to the creation of a Brooklyn Bridge Park.

As Fort Greene Association Chair, he serves as the liaison between the Association and elected officials, Community Board Two, the 88th Precinct Council and the Brooklyn Borough President's office. His ability to juggle and maintain these various relationships is a true talent.

Mr. Speaker, Howard Pitsch has dedicated himself to serving his Brooklyn community. As such, I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable person.

IN TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT FIRST CLASS DANIEL ROMERO

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 13, 2002

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an American hero. Sergeant First Class Daniel Romero was killed while diffusing ordinance in Afghanistan on April 15, 2002. A member of the Colorado National Guard from Lafayette, Colorado, Daniel was called to active duty following the September 11 attacks against our country.

A ten-year veteran of the National Guard, Daniel was a communications specialist in the Special Forces. He also attended jump school, language school, and paramedic school. Daniel received the highest praise from his fellow soldiers including his Master Sergeant, who said, "I always rode him hard and every time he stepped up to the plate." He was sent with his unit to Afghanistan as a paramedic coordinator and ended up mastering a new communications system that had confused the rest of the unit. Daniel's versatility was just one of the traits that made him a model soldier.

Like so many of our brave men and women, Daniel left his home to defend his country. He left behind his parents Michael and GERALYN, his two sisters Stephanie and Gabrielle, and his new wife Stephanie Wendorf. To them, our humble nation thanks them and praises them, for they have paid the ultimate price in the name of freedom.

Mr. Speaker, as we are engaged in this battle to free the world from terror, I am sure that every one of my colleagues will join me in saluting Sergeant First Class Daniel Romero. His dedication and devotion to his family, his unit, and his country can serve as an example to all Americans. He is a symbol of the values that makes America great and is a testament to the spirit that will see this country through even these troubled times.

CONGRATULATING NASA AND DR. FRANKLIN CHANG-DÍAZ FOR A SHUTTLE MISSION

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 13, 2002

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate NASA on the successful launch of the Space Shuttle Endeavour on June 6. This important mission has delivered the Expedition Five crew, and continues to in-

stall the Leonardo Multi-Purpose Logistics Module and the Mobile Remote Servicer Base System on the International Space Station.

This launch marks Endeavour's 18th flight and also marks the 14th shuttle flight to the space station. This launch is also historically significant because Astronaut Franklin Chang-Díaz makes a record-tying seventh flight into space. He now shares the record with Astronaut Jerry Ross.

During this mission, Astronaut Franklin Chang-Díaz, along with French Space Agency Astronaut Philippe Perrin have also preformed three scheduled spacewalks that continue the assembly of the International Space Station. These extravehicular activities mark the first time that Chang-Díaz and Perrin have been the first spacewalks for both astronauts.

Four years ago, I had the privilege of meeting and getting to know Dr. Franklin Chang-Díaz, an outstanding scientist and an accomplished astronaut. During this four year period, Dr. Chang-Díaz has accompanied me to nine middle schools in my district to talk about the importance of our national space program and to encourage students to take more math and science classes. I have also had the opportunity to visit his plasma propulsion laboratory at the Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center in Houston.

Dr. Chang-Díaz is a man of many talents. Not only is he the second human to make seven space flights, he is also currently developing the new Variable Specific Impulse Magnetoplasma Rocket (VASIMR) concept. The VASIMR prototype rocket engine is designed to shorten the trip to Mars and provide a safer environment for the crew.

Dr. Chang-Díaz has been working with scientists at NASA and the Department of Energy to develop this project. To date, he has been able to secure just enough funding to keep the project operating. However, this project is too important to allow it to just survive. I am hopeful that NASA will quickly realize the need to have a dedicated stream of funding for the VASIMR project.

Our nation is fortunate to have such outstanding individuals, like Dr. Chang-Díaz and the other crew members, as part of our national space program. Our NASA astronauts are scheduled to arrive back to earth on Monday, June 17. At that time, I look forward to welcoming back our heroes.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating Astronaut Franklin Chang-Díaz, the Johnson Space Center in Houston and everyone at NASA for a successful launch and a successful mission.

HONORING NADINE CIOFFI AND THE WILLIAM FLOYD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. FELIX J. GRUCCI, JR.

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 13, 2002

Mr. GRUCCI. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Ms. Nadine Cioffi and the William Floyd Elementary School in Mastic Beach, New York, upon their receipt of The New York State Health Facilities Association's "Group Volunteer of the Year" award for 2002.

Ms. Cioffi is honored today for her unwavering commitment to the students of William