

practice catching, fielding, and throwing in a game environment four or five years before they otherwise would.

Helping children reach their potential is nothing new for Jerry. For many years he was a teacher at Albion Public High School. After he started teaching, Jerry took it upon himself in 1954 to head up the Albion recreation department's summer baseball program. Because of this position, he was able to see the lack of opportunity for younger children that two years later would drive him to develop one of the largest innovations in youth sports.

Because of Jerry Sacharski, millions of children across the United States of America, have participated in Tee-ball leagues for over forty years. It is innovators like Jerry, who make life more enjoyable for millions of children, who are so important to the social fabric of our nation. Michigan is very proud of Jerry Sacharski and children around the world appreciate his contribution.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE PUBLIC SERVICE OF DAVID H. KOSHGARIAN

#### HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 19, 2002*

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor David H. Koshgarian who has served as my Chief of Staff since my first election to Congress. Over the past fifteen and one half years David has been an outstanding leader for my office and a partner with me in carrying out all my Congressional duties. I, and the people of Maryland's Third Congressional District, have been well served by his commitment, knowledge and skill. It is with all sincerity that I thank him for his service to the nation.

For more than 25 years, David Koshgarian has served on Capitol Hill working for several Members of the House of Representatives, including Richard Kelly of Florida, Geraldine Ferraro of New York, and Chet Atkins of Massachusetts. Having grown up in Rhode Island and attended George Washington University here in Washington, Dave and his family have long made their home in Maryland and I appreciate that his longest service has been to a Maryland Representative.

The United States House of Representatives is the world's greatest democratic institution. As much as any staffer I have ever worked with on Capitol Hill, Dave has taken joy in the democratic process of governing this nation. His interest and enthusiasm has always enlightened my work, as well as that of our staff and interns. Dave's presence and spirit has always made my office a better place to work.

Dave came to my office after serving as Legislative Director for Rep. Chet Atkins and he never lost his primary interest in legislation and policy. Throughout my service on the Ways and Means Committee, Dave has handled tax and budget issues. Dave's deep intellect and long experience have been well tested in this position on a great variety of complex issues. He has mastered each challenge and often been most successful in effecting change in the Committee's consideration of key issues.

I am also proud that after many years of Ways and Means tax policy work in "Gucci

Gulch", where the concerns of wealthy and corporate interests are most often heard, David has unfailingly focused on the lives and struggles of the neediest among us and worked to ensure that the policies of the nation provide real opportunity to low-income and working class Americans. His efforts have been in the best traditions of the Democratic Party. The dramatic expansion of the Earned Income Tax Credit is one recent example of our successful work in this area.

Dave has made a specialty of pension issues—an area where few people have long focused, but where much good can be done. At this point I am confident he knows as much as any staffer on Capitol Hill in this complicated facet of tax law. Pension policy is an area where sound federal policy can directly benefit the lives of every working American. Dave's effective work in this area is the clearest demonstration of his commitment to the people who most need our help.

Passage of the individual retirement and pension enhancement provisions of HR 1836, the 2001 Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act is testament to Dave's skills and commitment. I doubt those provisions would have been enacted without David's ongoing, focused work on this issue. Dave should leave Capitol Hill proud of his many legislative accomplishments over the years.

David has also proven himself a solid administrator and inspiring leader and educator of staff. With many offices facing great turnover and little historical knowledge of a Member's work for a District, my office has always been very different, with relatively long and accomplished tenures by staff people. To large extent this is a result of Dave's daily caring and concern for staff. His joy in our responsibilities and spirit in the office will be greatly missed.

The hard work of the many loyal staff to the House of Representatives is too little rewarded and too rarely acknowledged. David, on behalf of the people of the nation, Maryland, the Third Congressional District, the many staff people and interns you have worked with and most of all myself, I want to thank you for your proud career of public service.

Best wishes for all your future endeavors.

IN HONOR OF MR. GLENN GRAHAM

#### HON. GEORGE W. GEKAS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 19, 2002*

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Mr. Glenn Graham of Middletown, Pennsylvania. Recently, Glenn was named "Father of the Year" by Keystone Children and Family Services for acting as a tireless father to three of his step-great-grandchildren. Glenn is 73 years old.

Glenn was nominated for the award by Stephan Wolf, a U.S. Customs inspector, who learned of Glenn's remarkable story through weekly visits that Glenn makes while delivering documents. In addition to raising these three children, aged 4, 12, and 15, Glenn holds two jobs and is the Commander of the Middletown Memorial Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1620.

Raised in Massachusetts, Glenn served in the Army as a paratrooper shortly after World

War II and re-enlisted when the Korean War began. After serving in the Army, Graham drove tractor-trailers for a living. While making deliveries in New Jersey, Glenn was shot in the arm by two teenagers who were "having fun" by firing a rifle at his truck.

Glenn admits that he could not be such a dedicated father without the help of his wife, Mildred. He also acknowledges that he owes his exceptional parenting skills to the example set by his loving father, who raised seven children himself.

I ask my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Glenn Graham. This remarkable man is an inspiration to fathers across the Nation for his selfless dedication to his family and deserves our genuine congratulations.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 19, 2002*

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent from this chamber on June 6, 2002 and I would like the record to show that had I been present in this chamber, I would have voted "yea" on roll call vote 209, "no" on roll call vote 213. I was also unavoidably absent from this chamber on June 11, 2002 and I would like the record to show that had I been present in this chamber, I would have voted "yea" on roll call vote 220, "yea" on roll call vote 221 and "yea" on roll call vote 222.

Mr. Speaker, I was also unavoidably absent from this chamber on Monday. I would like the record to show that had I been present in this chamber on that date, I would have voted "yea" on roll call votes 230, 231 and 232.

#### A TRIBUTE TO UNITED STATES AIR FORCE COLONEL JAMES S. DAVIS ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

#### HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 19, 2002*

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to call your attention to the fact that on Sept. 28, 2002, the retirement of a highly distinguished officer in the United States Air Force—and a lifelong friend of mine—will become effective. The actual last day of service for Col. James S. Davis, Director of Operations for Alaskan Command at Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska, is June 28, which is why I wish to speak tonight about Jim and his career of service to this Nation.

It certainly dates us, Mr. Speaker, when we recall with fondness those students in our class whose skill and commitment to high school studies, particularly math and science, was marked by a plastic pocket protector in the shirt and a slide rule on a belt clip. Jim Davis was one such student, but Jim was also uniquely friendly and extroverted, and his own academic aptitude never set him apart and away from his classmates. All Jim's classmates shared the same thought: Jim Davis will

go very far. What we didn't know, Mr. Speaker, is that he would go very high and very fast, as well.

Jim was commissioned an Air Force officer in 1975, when he graduated from the University of Michigan with an engineering degree. After completing pilot training at Vance Air Force Base in Oklahoma, he was assigned as a T-37 instructor pilot with the German Air Force pilot training program at Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas. In 1980, he was selected to fly the F-16 fighter at MacDill Air Force Base, Florida, and then was posted to a series of duty stations with jobs of ever-increasing responsibility: Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada; Kunsan Air Base, Republic of South Korea; Luke Air Force Base, Arizona; Shaw Air Force Base, South Carolina; and Osan Air Base, Republic of South Korea.

Jim has logged more than 3,400 flight hours—more than 2,200 of them in the F-16—and he flew 29 combat missions during

Operation Desert Storm. That campaign earned Jim both the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Air Medal. Jim has also been awarded an oak leaf cluster for the Air Medal, the Legion of Merit, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal with one oak leaf cluster, the Meritorious Service Medal with five oak leaf clusters, the Aerial Achievement Medal, the Joint Service Commendation Medal, the Air Force Commendation Medal, and the combat Readiness Medal with three oak leaf clusters.

From June 1996 to August 1998, Jim worked in our own backyard, Mr. Speaker, serving at the Pentagon on the staff of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, before returning to Nellis Air Force Base, where he served as commander of the 414th Combat Training Squadron and then commander of the 57th Operations Group.

It's been a long and distinguished career for the brilliant young math and science wizard from Gladstone High School. Although our

paths have never crossed as much as I would have liked, I still frequently see his folks, Edward and Millie, and, in fact, the Davis home on the corner of Montana and 12th in Gladstone is one of the milestones on my annual 4th of July parade walk through the community. I've known all the Davis family, including his brother Tom, who lives with his wife Cindi just north of Gladstone in Brampton Township; brother Mike, who lives with his wife Teri in Colorado; and Jim's sister Jean, who lives with her parents.

Our floor schedule won't allow me to join Jim at his retirement bash in Alaska, so I'd like to take this opportunity to wish Jim and his wife Camella all the best in Jim's retirement years, and I ask you and our House colleagues to join with me in offering this distinguished career officer a hearty, "Thanks . . . and well done!"