

without the utmost caution to threats of danger. He died fighting a fire, which he understood was out of control, and needed containment. Allen is a hero in the true sense of the word and is survived by his wife, Vicky Wyatt; Evans; and Wells Wyatt, all of Oregon. Alan was a knowledgeable and skilled firefighter who will always be remembered as a man of character and a love of nature, his family, and God.

Mr. Speaker, it is with profound sadness that we remember the life of firefighter Alan Wayne Wyatt. His death highlights the great risks that firefighters encounter day in and day out while on the job and we will truly remember Alan as a brave man who died in defense of life. His sacrifice most certainly deserves the recognition of this body of Congress and this nation. I along with a grateful nation and a loving family will miss you, Alan.

TRIBUTE TO THE BUSINESS OWNERS, CITIZENS AND VOLUNTEERS OF CHARLES COUNTY, MARYLAND

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2002

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the tremendous community spirit shown by the people of Charles County, Maryland. As my colleagues may know, a devastating tornado ripped through Southern Maryland on April 29, 2002 destroying the town of La Plata and creating a 24 mile path of destruction. Not only were homes and businesses leveled, but farms and government buildings were heavily damaged. Under the circumstances, you would think that a tornado of this magnitude would cripple an area. Not in Southern Maryland and particularly not in La Plata.

Immediately following the tornado, the residents took to the streets to check on friends and neighbors. Once everyone was accounted for, the clean-up efforts began. Under the leadership of the Mayor of La Plata, William Eckman, and the Charles County Commissioners, directed by Board President Murray Levy, an immediate plan of action was put into place and countless hours were spent with residents and business owners, surveying each situation and assisting wherever possible. A "People's Place" was set up to offer a myriad of services ranging from food, water and shelter, to helping people find lost pets. Clothing and money poured into the area, but most of all people reached out to help their neighbors rebuild their lives.

Volunteers came from across the States of Maryland, Virginia and Pennsylvania, as well as the District of Columbia to assist in removing debris left behind by this vicious storm. SMECO, Verizon and Maryland Department of Transportation had staff working round the clock to restore electrical power, establish valuable communication systems and clear the roadways. The Amish communities of Maryland and Pennsylvania donated much-needed manpower to get the Town of La Plata up on its feet again.

The Charles County Chapter of the American Red Cross went into immediate action, once the tornado passed, even though their

own building was destroyed. Mr. Paul Facchina had a "mini business district" set up for the business owners to get back up and running. The Charles County Chamber of Commerce offered office space and business services to companies in need and for days following the disaster local churches and other civic organizations offered food to the hundreds of volunteers.

Mr. Speaker, it has often been said that the "worst of times, bring out the best in people" and on behalf of the many, many grateful residents and business owners in La Plata, I want to say Thank You to all the volunteers who gave of themselves so unselfishly. A disaster occurred, and people came from all walks of life to help in any way they could. It did not matter how big, or how small a job, volunteers were available to lend a helping hand. This is the true spirit of America and it was shining bright and continues to beam forward in Charles County, Maryland.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BOB CLEMENT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2002

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, I missed the votes on rollcall Nos. 324 and 325. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

RECOGNIZING THE OUTSTANDING SERVICE OF MR. GORDON VEAZEY

HON. JOHN S. TANNER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2002

Mr. TANNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of my friend Gordon Veazey for his 14 years of dedicated service to our nation's veterans. Now, Mr. Veazey begins a new chapter in his life as he retires from his position as Henry County veteran service officer. I ask that the United States House of Representatives thank him for his selfless service.

Mr. Veazey's father, the late Bailey Veazey, was gassed by German soldiers during World War I, causing him serious health problems the rest of his life. Witnessing his father's disability led Mr. Veazey to devote his entire life to veteran causes.

After serving in the Army during the Korean War, Mr. Veazey understands the struggles many of our veterans face. He says one of his greatest satisfactions has been in assisting aging veterans whose ability to earn were limited by disability.

Mr. Veazey was appointed to the office in 1987 after working at Paris Manufacturing Company. During his tenure, he has assisted more than 2,000 veterans in our community in receiving the veterans claim benefits they deserve and depend upon.

We care deeply about our veterans and their courageous service to this great nation. Through Mr. Veazey's leadership he has set an example for future veteran officers who will serve our friends, neighbors, and children whom are fighting in the war today. We should be proud and honored to have had such a dedicated man working for our nation's veterans.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to ask that you and our colleagues join me in applauding the selfless service and dedication Mr. Veazey has contributed to our nations veterans.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JEFF HAMMOND

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2002

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Jeff Hammond, an individual who has selflessly devoted countless hours towards the betterment of his community. In June of this year, Jeff was named "Volunteer of the Year," by the United Way Organization. Jeff is a hard working, determined, attentive individual whose selfless dedication certainly deserves the admiration of this body of Congress and this nation.

Jeff is an active participant in the Craig Youth Soccer program and in addition, he is an active community volunteer who donates his time to helping the community. This entirely volunteer league could not have made critical strides in the development of its youth, without Jeff's contributions. Jeff donates his time equally to supporting religious functions, fundraisers, car pools, and the Northwest Colorado All-Star Wildkat cheerleading squad.

Although Jeff's busy schedule envelopes most of his time, Jeff places first and foremost his devotion and loyalty to his family duties, as a father and husband do not interfere. He and his wife have been married for 12 years and are the proud parents of two children.

Mr. Speaker it is with great pleasure that I honor Jeff's accomplishments and achievements before this body of Congress and this nation. Jeff Hammond's service to our community has helped strengthen the foundation upon which our great nation was founded and it is with great anticipation I await further successes and achievements in all your endeavors.

HONORING CORINNE "LINDY" CLAIBORNE BOGGS ON OCCASION OF 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF FOUNDING OF CONGRESSIONAL WOMEN'S CAUCUS

SPEECH OF

HON. WILLIAM J. JEFFERSON

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 22, 2002

Mr. JEFFERSON. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to join the House in honoring Congresswoman Corrine "Lindy" Boggs. From her work here, in the halls of Congress, to her days as ambassador to the Vatican, Congresswoman Boggs has served our country and served as an inspiration to all of us who followed in her footsteps. As one who was privileged to succeed her in Congress in representing Louisiana's Second Congressional District, I have been particularly inspired by her work.

Congresswoman Boggs has enjoyed a well-deserved outpouring of love and gratitude in

this, the 25th anniversary of the founding of the Congressional Women's Caucus. With a collective voice, we say thanks to a woman who helped shape the voice of women in Congress.

Since its founding, the Congressional Women's Caucus has championed issues that affect the lives of women and families. The women's caucus has fought for gender equality in the workplace and in schools. It has worked to promote women's health issues and protect victims of domestic and violent crimes. From Congresswoman Boggs' vision to today, the Congressional Women's Caucus has become the primary voice of women in Congress.

Thank you, Congresswoman Boggs for your work and dedication to the people of Louisiana and of this country. Thank you for your dedication to the women of this country. And, thank you for your leadership and inspiration. I am honored to represent you in the Congress and to serve the people of the 2nd District of Louisiana as you did so honorably for so many years.

CONTINUING AZERI WAR
RHETORIC THREATENS PEACE

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2002

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise to call my colleagues' attention to the continuing war rhetoric coming from Azerbaijan regarding Nagorno Karabagh.

Following the fall of the Soviet Union, Azerbaijan launched a military offensive against Nagorno Karabagh in a failed attempt to impose its rule.

In 1994, a cease-fire was negotiated which is still in effect.

However, that fragile cease-fire is presently being undermined by calls for a military solution from senior Azeri officials.

A recent example was in a July 2, 2002 speech by Azeri President Heydar Aliyev where he said, "we will return our land by any means."

This type of irresponsible war rhetoric makes the OSCE peace mission co-chaired by the United States incalculably more difficult and serves to mislead the citizens of Azerbaijan into thinking a second military offensive is preferable to negotiations.

The United States must stand strongly against Azerbaijan's threats to insure a peaceful resolution to this dispute.

NATHAN WEINBERG

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2002

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to recognize the accomplishments of Nathan Weinberg and thank him for his service to his country and his community as he retires as a trustee of the Harry and Jeannette Weinberg Foundation and his appointment as Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army.

After his family emigrated from Eastern Europe, Nathan Weinberg, the sixth of seven children, was born in America in 1917. In 1941, he was inducted into the U.S. Army and on December 25, 1945, Mr. Weinberg was discharged as a 2nd Lieutenant after service in Texas, Australia, New Guinea and the Philippines.

After returning home to Baltimore, Mr. Weinberg worked in real estate and lived briefly in Texas and Pennsylvania working on business interests of his brother, Harry Weinberg. He remained a member of the standby reserve until October 1995 when he was honorably discharged.

In 1960, Mr. Weinberg became an active officer and trustee of the Harry and Jeannette Weinberg Foundation. Since his brother Harry's death in 1990, Mr. Weinberg has remained one of five trustees to the Foundation, which is one of the largest private foundations in the United States. His leadership on the board has included projects supported by his brother, particularly housing and amenities for the elderly from Coney Island to Tel Aviv to Hawaii.

Mr. Weinberg was appointed Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army in 2000. His military experience and his dedication to the Maryland Army National Guard has provided leadership, friendship and financial support for community outreach.

Mr. Weinberg has a strong sense of family and a firmly held belief in equality and equitable treatment for all people. At ground breakings and ribbon cuttings, he is not shy about expressing his concern for the welfare of the audience, unhappy that the dignitaries receive special treatment while the audience is left to stand, swelter in the heat or freeze in the cold. His sense of justice guides his dealings with others and he expects others to pass along that philosophy as well. He is a leader by example and deeds.

I would ask my colleagues to please join me in congratulating Mr. Weinberg on a life well lived and in thanking him for his service to his country. Our appreciation extends to his family, his wife Lillian and his three sons, Donn, Glenn and Joseph their wives and children.

EXCELLENCE IN MILITARY
SERVICE ACT

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2002

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the "Excellence in Military Service Act."

This legislation would increase the active duty service obligation (ADSO) of Military Service Academy graduates from five to eight years. Many Americans do not realize that this free and highly competitive college education costs the average taxpayer approximately \$300,000 per cadet/midshipman.

While I believe that investing in our military is critical to the future stability of our nation, I do not think it is fair to burden the taxpayer with this expense without requiring academy graduates to exhibit a similar commitment in their ADSO. I maintain it is not unreasonable that in return for a free education, with a monetary allowance, that a graduating cadet/mid-

shipman be required to commit to a longer period of obligated service upon commissioning.

As college tuitions continue to skyrocket, I believe our U.S. military academies will become even more attractive to prospective college students. In light of this fact, we need to ensure that a free education does not become a primary motivation for future applicants. I maintain that increasing the ADSO is an effective way to accomplish this without jeopardizing the viability of these historic institutions. I hope my colleagues will join with me in cosponsoring this legislation, and I look forward to working with them to protect the U.S. taxpayers' investment in our nation's future and ensure the integrity of one of our nation's most precious resources.

HUNGER RELIEF

HON. MARTIN OLAV SABO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2002

Mr. SABO. Mr. Speaker, today I join my colleagues in honoring my friend, Congressman TONY P. HALL, a tireless advocate for hunger relief programs and improving international human rights conditions.

Congressman HALL's 30 plus years of service to the people of Ohio is indicative of the dedication he holds for improving the lives of all Americans. No one compares to TONY when it comes to his experience and knowledge on human rights, child welfare and survival, and global development. It has been a distinct privilege to serve in the House with him for the past 23 years.

Mr. HALL and I hold a special bond, not only did we both begin our service in the House in January 1979, but we also have experience serving in our state's legislatures. In the beginning, we were able to draw on these similarities the trappings and pitfalls facing new members of Congress, and then use this knowledge to grow as public servants and legislators.

TONY will soon be embarking on a new adventure. He'll bring his lifelong devotion to easing hunger across the globe and improving food security to Rome, Italy as he assumes the position of United States ambassador to the United Nations food and agriculture organizations. I think it is safe to say that we can send no one who would better represent the United States in these important institutions.

So, Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I extend my sincerest thanks to my friend, Congressman TONY HALL, and wish he and Mrs. Hall all the best as they embark on this new journey.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF CHURCH
OF THE EPIPHANY

HON. WILLIAM J. COYNE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2002

Mr. COYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to observe the 100th Anniversary of Epiphany Catholic Church in Pittsburgh Pennsylvania.

The Church of the Epiphany was established when the St. Paul Cathedral was