

CONGRESSMAN KILDEE HONORS  
MATTHEW CROFT

**HON. DALE E. KILDEE**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 19, 2002*

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating a young student from Michigan who has achieved national recognition for exemplary volunteer service in his community. Matthew Croft of Waterford has just been named on of Michigan's top two honorees in the 2002 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program, an annual honor conferred on the most impressive student volunteers in each State, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. Matthew will be honored today with a ceremony to be held at his school.

Matthew is being honored for developing and implementing a program to buy bicycle safety helmets for needy first and second-grade children. As an eighth grader at Marist Academy, Matthew belongs to a group called STAND or Students Taking a New Direction. This group was organized to leadership through doing for others and learning to make healthy choices. After reading an article that stated only 20 percent of bike riders in Michigan wore helmets, Matthew decided to take action. He approached his fellow students in STAND and persuaded them to help correct this problem. Matthew helped organize several fundraisers, he obtained matching funds from AAA, and he approached retailers in the area to get a discount on the cost of the helmets.

Once the helmets were purchased, Matthew was one of four presenters explaining to the elementary students that it is "cool" to wear helmets. The students at Whitmer Resource Center in Pontiac responded enthusiastically. Through Matthew efforts more young children in Pontiac are practicing bicycle safety and wearing headgear that may save their lives.

Matthew should be extremely pleased to be singled out from such a large group of dedicated volunteers. He is an example of the important role young Americans play in our communities. I ask the House of Representatives to join me in commending Matthew, his fellow students and faculty at Marist Academy and their families for making this a better world.

**PRESIDENTIAL AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE TEACHING**

**HON. JOHN E. SUNUNU**

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 19, 2002*

Mr. SUNUNU. Mr. Speaker, I rise to the floor today to honor some very important people in the lives of New Hampshire's children—teachers.

I am proud to recognize the accomplishments of nine recipients of the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. These nine recipients are now candidates for the national award.

Like all teachers, they are hard working and dedicated to their students. They instill curiosity and drive to explore ideas and concepts that will help their students in the classroom and throughout their academic pursuits.

The teachers are recognized for their professional performance and for significantly improving their students' understanding of science and mathematics.

The recipients are science and math teachers in elementary, middle, and high schools from all across New Hampshire. I applaud each one of them for their hard work.

In science, the recipients are: Deborah Morill Bates, of Bluff Elementary School, in Claremont; Laura Elise Dreyer, of McKelvie Middle School, in Bedford; Diane Barbara Savage, of Nashua Senior High School, in Nashua; and Dennis Paul Vienneau, of Moultonborough Academy, in Moultonborough.

In mathematics, the recipients are: Catherine Stavenger, of Memorial Elementary School, in Bedford; Janet Christina Valeri, of Mt. Pleasant Elementary School, in Nashua; Terry Reginald Bailey, of Pinkerton Academy, in Derry; Catherine Brownrigg Burns, of McKelvie Middle School, in Bedford; and Dianne Jaye Klabecheck, of Belmont Middle School, in Belmont.

On behalf of your students, your schools, and your state, I salute you.

**TRIBUTE TO REVEREND RONALD L. OWENS**

**HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 19, 2002*

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call the attention of my colleagues to Reverend Ronald L. Owens residing in the Sixth District of New Jersey. He is celebrating his 25th year in the ministry.

Reverend Owens is currently the Senior Pastor of the New Hope Baptist Church of Metuchen, New Jersey. On Friday, April 12, 2002, his church will recognize his illustrious career and dedication to Metuchen and surrounding communities. Reverend Owens graduated from Northeastern Bible College in Essex Falls. He also has earned a degree from the Virginia Union University in Richmond, Virginia. Presently, he is a candidate for the Doctorate in Ministry from Andersonville Baptist Seminary in Camille, Georgia.

At the New Hope Baptist Church he has the unique honor of pastoring the church he attended in his youth. The church has grown to more than five hundred active members, with more than thirty active ministries serving the community. Reverend Owens has a noteworthy career. It includes serving as a member of the Board of Supervisors for Field Ministry at Princeton Theological Seminary and the Ad-Hoc Committee for Minority Recruitment for Robert Wood's Medical School at Rutgers University. Additionally, he has acted as the president of the Metuchen/Edison Clergy Association and former Vice-Chairman of the Democratic Party of Middlesex County in the State of New Jersey. Lastly, he was President and CEO of the House of Hope Community Development Corporation of New Jersey.

Outside of his career, he spends time with his adoring wife of thirty-years, Cheryl Owens, and his two daughters, Tracey and Kimberly. He also enjoys spending time with his four grandsons, Adam II, Joshua, Blair, Jr., and Brandon. Through his ministry he spreads the word of God and provides spiritual leadership.

Now entering his twenty-fifth year of service, I would like to congratulate Reverend Ronald L. Owens on this momentous occasion.

**IN HONOR OF DR. JOSE R. SANCHEZ-PENA**

**HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 19, 2002*

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Jose R. Sanchez-Pena for his many contributions to the Hispanic community. He will be honored by the Federation of Cuban Musicians in Exile on Sunday, March 17, 2002, at Mi Bandera restaurant in Union City, NJ.

Dr. Jose R. Sanchez-Pena is currently an assistant professor of medicine at the University of Puerto Rico and the University of Medicine & Dentistry of New Jersey.

He is a member of Barnert Memorial Hospital in Paterson, NJ. In Passaic, NJ, he is a member of Beth Israel Hospital, Saint Mary's Hospital, and General Hospital Center. He is the Medical Director at Gregory Medical Associates, Comprehensive Medical Evaluations, and Gregory Surgical Services.

Dr. Jose R. Sanchez-Pena is an asset to the Hispanic community, providing excellent medical care to countless Hispanics at his medical offices in Manhattan, Queens, Jersey City, West New York, Paterson, Passaic, and Hoboken. Having medical licenses in New York, New Jersey, Indiana, Puerto Rico, and the Dominican Republic, he is able to extend his services to a diverse group of individuals.

Not only does he attend to people's medical needs, but his services also benefit the community, as he is a medical consultant for the Social Security Administration, the Immigration and Naturalization Services, and Workmen's Compensation in the State of New York and New Jersey.

Today I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Dr. Jose Sanchez-Pena for his many contributions to the medical community and the Hispanic community of New Jersey.

**TRIBUTE TO JASON CUNNINGHAM**

**HON. HEATHER WILSON**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 19, 2002*

Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, it rained in Washington last Wednesday. By Thursday morning the sun was burning through the mist that blanketed Arlington National Cemetery. On the north side of a ridge near a grove of evergreen trees an Air Force honor guard carried Jason Cunningham's casket to his final resting place.

There were six honorary pall bearers who followed the casket up the incline to where the family and a small cluster of others waited. Those six all wore the maroon berets of the Air Force elite pararescuemen. There were dozens of PJs there, mostly from Jason's squadron in Georgia. All of them had completed their PJ training at Kirtland Air Force Base.

Over the ridge to the south of where we stood two cranes lined the sky where crews

work feverishly to rebuild the Pentagon. You could hear the throb for work from the site and it was comforting, somehow, to know that even as we grieve deeply for those lost we are rebuilding and going on.

Jason Cunningham was a New Mexican and, by all accounts, a good man who was willing to risk his life in daring missions to rescue others. That's what PJs do. When Navy SEAL Petty Officer Neil Roberts was left behind after his helicopter was attacked in a mountain valley in Afghanistan, Jason and his team went in to try to rescue him. They got into a vicious fire fight. Jason, the Navy SEAL, and five others were killed. Eleven Americans were wounded.

Even when you know a cause is just, when those who fight do so willingly, when you know it's a fight we have to win, the grief is just as deep. The rifle shots of the honor guard, the echoes of taps, the rescue choppers flying by in a last salute, the wide-eyed children of a soldier who won't be coming home, weighed heavily on everyone at Arlington on Thursday.

There were thousands of New Mexicans who would have been at Arlington if they could have. I went to represent them and to let the Cunninghams know that the thoughts and prayers of thousands of New Mexicans are with them. We are sorry that Jason isn't coming home and grateful for his service and his sacrifice defending us and our way of life.

Operation Anaconda has been the costliest battle so far in Afghanistan. There will be more battles in this war against terrorism. Let's keep the troops in our thoughts and prayers.

JAMES R. BROWNING U.S. COURT  
OF APPEALS BUILDING

**HON. TOM LANTOS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 19, 2002*

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 2804, legislation to name the U.S. Court of Appeals Building at 7th and Mission Streets in San Francisco, the "James R. Browning U.S. Court of Appeals Building". I first want to commend my good friend and distinguished colleague, Congresswoman NANCY PELOSI, who is the sponsor of this legislation.

It is most appropriate that we name the 100-year-old San Francisco Federal Appeals Court building after Judge James R. Browning in recognition of his 40 years of distinguished service on the federal bench and his service for twelve years—from 1976 to 1988—as Chief Judge of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Mr. Speaker, Judge Browning received his legal education at the University of Montana Law School, where he achieved the highest scholastic record in his class and served as editor-in-chief of the Law Review. After graduation in 1941 Judge Browning joined the Antitrust Division of the Department of Justice. Two years later, he answered his country's call and was inducted as a Private in the Army. He served in the Pacific Theater for three years, earning a Bronze Star. Upon his return to the United States, Judge Browning rejoined the Department of Justice, where he

quickly rose to Chief of the Northwest Regional Office of the Antitrust Division, working out of the Seattle office. He was then called back to Washington, DC to become Assistant Chief of the General Litigation Section of the Antitrust Division.

In 1951 Judge Browning moved from the Antitrust Division to the Civil Division of the Department of Justice, and shortly afterwards became Executive Assistant to the Attorney General of the United States. While in this position, he organized and was then appointed Chief of the Executive Office of United States Attorneys. In 1953 Judge Browning left the Department of Justice for private practice as a partner at Perlman, Lyons & Browning, but continued to lecture on Antitrust Law at both the New York University Law School and the Georgetown University Law Center.

Mr. Speaker, after five years in private practice Judge Browning left private practice to become Clerk of the U.S. Supreme Court. In this position he held the Bible at the time John F. Kennedy took the oath of office from Chief Justice Warren when he was sworn in as President in 1961. He was the last Clerk of the U.S. Supreme Court to perform this task. Since 1961, the Bible in all cases has been held by the spouse of the President-elect.

It was President Kennedy who appointed Judge Browning to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in 1961, where he has remained in service, for over forty years, the longest serving Justice in the history of the Ninth Circuit. Today he is the sole remaining Kennedy appointee serving on any court in the United States.

Mr. Speaker, after serving on the court for 15 years, Judge Browning was elevated to Chief Judge of the Ninth Circuit, which position he held from 1976 to 1988. During his time as Chief Judge, Judge Browning was an influential member of the Judicial Conference of the United States and an active participant in resolving major problems facing the federal judiciary. He has an impressive record of achievement in the Ninth Circuit. Despite calls to reduce the size of the Court, Judge Browning implemented reforms to increase the efficiency of the Court by increasing the number of judges in the Circuit, reducing the enormous backlog of pending case work, and halving the time needed to decide appeals.

With a jurisdiction that includes all the federal courts in California, Oregon, Washington, Arizona, Montana, Idaho, Nevada, Alaska, Hawaii, Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands, Judge Browning utilized computers and information technology to increase the speed and efficiency of the courts. This included creating a computerized case screening and processing system which allowed geographically disparate judges to maintain docket contract and avoid intra-circuit conflicts. Judge Browning also created three geographic administrative subdivisions headed by senior active judges within each region to decentralize decision-making and increase productivity.

Mr. Speaker, Judge Browning emphasized the importance of collegiality and civility among judges on the Ninth Circuit, and encouraged the use of email, telephone conferences, symposia, conferences and other meetings to increase interpersonal contacts and mutual understanding among Ninth Circuit and District Court judges. With these steps, he succeeded in cutting in half the time needed to decide appeals and eliminating the case

backlog at the same time that the circuit expanded in size.

In recognition of his extraordinary service to the federal judiciary Judge Browning was the recipient of the Edward J. Devitt Distinguished Service to Justice Award in 1991, and the American Judicature Society's Herbert Harley Award in 1984.

Mr. Speaker, I am delighted that this legislation will name the San Francisco Federal Appeals Court building after Judge James R. Browning in recognition of 40 years of distinguished service on the federal bench. The building, currently unnamed, is simply known as the Old Post Office Building. It is very fitting that this building in which we uphold justice as enshrined in our constitution, be named after a distinguished jurist who has dedicated his life to upholding our system of justice.

CONGRATULATING THE GIRL  
SCOUTS OF THE USA ON ITS  
90TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. THOMAS E. PETRI**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 19, 2002*

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to, somewhat belatedly, congratulate the Girl Scouts of the USA on reaching its 90th anniversary as an organization.

The organization had its origins in 1912 with an 18-girl group in Savannah, Georgia. From those rather humble origins it has grown to its current strength of 3.8 million members, including 900,000 adult members. The Girl Scouts also boast 50 million alumnae. This is the largest organization for girls in the world.

Since the organization's inception, the Girl Scout experience has helped girls acquire self-confidence and expertise, learn to think creatively and develop habits of honor and integrity that are essential in good citizens and great leaders. Many of our educators, doctors, lawyers, elected officials and other community leaders were once Girl Scouts.

The benefits of Girl Scouting are delivered by a dedicated group of people—adult volunteers. Ninety-nine percent of all the adults involved in Girl Scouting are volunteers who give their time to advance the noble goals and purposes of Scouting, teaching their charges about community service, science, money management, health, fitness, and other useful skills and talents. In a time when we are trying to encourage more community involvement, we need to take the time to recognize an organization that has been leading the way for decades.

Again, I am pleased to congratulate this group, which has been such an integral part of the American social fabric, as it reaches an important milestone.

TRIBUTE TO ALACHUA ELEMENTARY  
SCHOOL'S 2002 QUIZ BOWL  
TEAM

**HON. KAREN L. THURMAN**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 19, 2002*

Mrs. THURMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am here today to pay tribute to six remarkable elementary school students, Kyle Carlisle, Kaytlynn