

county level, and state-wide through his work with the DEP. His commitment and dedication to our state and its people will be sorely missed.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL G. OXLEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 29, 2002

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from the House floor during Thursday's rollcall vote on S. 1762, amending the Higher Education Act with respect to student loan interest rates. Had I been present, I would have voted in favor of this measure.

HONORING DR. DOUG LIGON, FINALIST FOR "COUNTRY DOCTOR OF THE YEAR."

HON. JOHN S. TANNER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 29, 2002

Mr. TANNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Dr. Doug Ligon, one of only four national finalists for "Country Doctor of the Year 2001." Dr. Ligon is a family doctor at Trinity Hospital in Erin, Tennessee, where his coworkers describe him as a big-city boy with a country heart.

Born and schooled in Nashville, Ligon attended Vanderbilt University and the University of Tennessee Medical School, then planned to stay in an urban area to work as a dermatologist. His plans would change, however, after he accepted what was originally to be a temporary job in the small town of Erin in Houston County.

Almost thirty years later, Dr. Ligon is still working in Erin. He says he could not leave, once he realized how much he was needed at Trinity Hospital, where he worked eighty hours each week as one of only a handful of doctors treating a five-county area. Dr. Ligon also acted as Houston County's medical examiner and county coroner, for which he would not accept pay, saying that the county needed that money more than he did.

Dr. Ligon says he appreciates getting to know his patients and their families over time, following the progress of babies he delivered, some of whom are grown now and have families of their own. He says working in a small town allows him to experience what being a family doctor is all about—getting to know his patients, treating them and being able to watch after their general welfare.

Dr. Ligon says his family has been supportive of his decision to remain in Erin. His wife Betsy is, in fact, the person responsible for nominating Dr. Ligon for the prestigious "Country Doctor of the Year" award, as a way to recognize him for the service he provides to the people of Houston County, Tennessee.

We know many medical professionals care deeply about what they do and the patients they see, but Dr. Ligon's years of free-hearted work have been invaluable to the people of Erin and the surrounding communities. He has proven time and time again that he is a leader among his peers.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and our colleagues join me in thanking Dr. Doug Ligon for his years of selfless service and congratulating Dr. Ligon for his distinguished recognition as a national finalist for the title "Country Doctor of the Year."

GIRL SCOUTS GOLD MEDAL RECIPIENT: STEPHANIE ROBEDEE

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 29, 2002

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to recognize one of New York's outstanding young students: Stephanie Robedee. In February, the young women of her troop will honor her by bestowing upon her the Girl Scouts Gold Medal.

Since the beginning of this century, the Girl Scouts of America have provided thousands of youngsters each year the opportunity to make friends, explore new ideas, and develop leadership skills while learning self-reliance and teamwork.

These awards are presented only to those who possess the qualities that make our nation great: commitment to excellence, hard work, and genuine love of community service. The Gold Awards represent the highest awards attainable by junior and high school Girl Scouts.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the recipient of this award, as her activities are indeed worthy of praise. Their leadership benefits our community and they serve as role models for their peers.

Also, we must not forget the unsung heroes, who continue to devote a large part of their lives to make all this possible. Therefore, I salute the families, scout leaders, and countless others who have given generously of their time and energy in support of scouting.

It is with great pride that I recognize the achievements of Stephanie, and bring the attention of Congress to this successful young woman on her day of recognition.

A TRIBUTE TO MATT GREENE OF BIRMINGHAM

HON. EARL F. HILLIARD

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 29, 2002

Mr. HILLIARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer a tribute to a fallen youth from my hometown of Birmingham, Matt Greene. Born Matthew James Greene, Matt was the youngest son of Ken and Barbara Greene and the brother of Michael and Laura. Matt was only 17 years old when he tragically died in the early hours of January 12, 2002, at his home in the presence of his family. He was only 30 days shy of reaching his 18th birthday of February 15, which he shared with his twin brother Michael.

Matt was an exceptional young man. He was handsome, tall and a little on the skinny side with a keen interest in having fun. He had a quick sly smile that melted the hearts of girls and guys alike. He always had a twinkle in his eye when he smiled, and had a zest for life that defied rhyme or reason. He was the Mas-

ter of his own destiny who loved to hunt and fish and reveled in telling a joke. He had great tolerance for all people and all beliefs and his one goal in life was to be loved and liked. He truly had no enemies or malice toward any people. He loved R.&B. music much to the amusement of his friends and frequently to the annoyance of his family, and especially his brother whose bedroom reverberated with the bass of Matt's music into the early hours of most mornings.

The death of Matt is very tragic because for just a few moments, Matt lost sight of his dreams, his future, his family and his friends. Matt forgot the past, denied the future and only focused on the NOW and the pain, which NOW contained. Matt died in an accident that no one had the power to prevent and for which no one should feel guilt. There is no one and nothing to blame, but the blinding light of pain, despair and misplaced loneliness. I say misplaced loneliness, for Matt had many friends, old and young, male and female, rich and poor, black and white. At Matt's funeral mass, over 1,200 people who loved him gathered together and prayed to God for Matt's eternal soul.

It has been said, "wishing on last night's star will not change tomorrow's dawn." However, instead of succumbing to the demons of anger and self-doubt, Matt's family and friends are turning instead to the balm of God's healing and understanding. All of Matt's friends will miss his crooked smile and his frequent requests of "Can you do me a favor, man?" His teachers and fellow students at his high school will miss his antics, and the Rite-Aid Pharmacy where he worked has lost a valuable team player and morale builder. Matt's family and loved ones miss his embrace, his kisses, his loyalty, and his unyielding love. Those people who love Matt have told me they will wait a lifetime to join him again. May the Congress, by these remarks, offer comfort and solace for Matt's family and friends.

TRIBUTE TO THE DISASTER MORTUARY OPERATIONAL RESPONSE TEAM, REGION VI, OF LOUISIANA

HON. RICHARD H. BAKER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 29, 2002

Mr. BAKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the nine Louisiana residents who put fear aside and risked their lives to recover those lost on September 11, 2001, during the tragic attack on the World Trade Center.

The Disaster Mortuary Operational Response Team (DMORT), administered through USPHS and funded through FEMA, provides assistance upon request of local authorities in the event of a mass fatality incident. Regional VI consists of participants hailing from Louisiana, Texas, Arkansas, Oklahoma, and New Mexico. This team was deployed to New York City several days after the terrorist attacks to assist the New York Medical Examiner. Subsequent to this assignment, Region VI was then transferred to the American Aircraft crash in Queens, New York.

Mr. Speaker, Deputy Commander Charles D. Smith, Jr., led Louisiana residents Anthony Buras, Jordan Charlet, Arbie Goings, Shelly

Roy, James Brett Smith, Mark Stewart, Dee Wilde and Mike Armanini, of the Disaster Medical Assistance Team, in their mission to recover those lost in the World Trade Center. Smith, who has been in New York for a total of two months, noted that "every member distinguished themselves on this difficult deployment and served the country and the National Disaster Medical System with honor . . . I am proud to report that the state was represented in a splendid manner."

At a time when tragedy was at its greatest, Region VI responded swiftly with deep compassion for those they had never met. Their effort represents not only the spirit of Louisiana, but the spirit of our nation as well.

TRIBUTE TO LARRY W. WHITE

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 29, 2002

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a great American citizen, and I am proud to recognize Larry W. White in the Congress for his invaluable contributions and service to Arkansas and our nation.

Larry has spent over 30 years with the Arkansas Soil and Water Conservation Commission (ASWCC), and currently serves as Assistant to the Director for Conservation. His career began in 1963 with the Arkansas Geology Department, and he moved over the ASWCC in 1970 as a Land Resource Specialist.

I served on the Arkansas Soil and Water Conservation Commission from 1986 until 1993, including a term as chairman, so I can personally testify to Larry's professionalism, integrity, and outstanding skills and talents. But you don't have to take my word for it, because last year he was named Outstanding Conservationist by the Arkansas Association of Conservation Districts for "his lifelong contributions and accomplishments to state and national soil and water conservation."

Part of Larry's distinguished record includes participating in the development and biennial update of the Arkansas Conservation Strategic Plan, which led to a 300% increase in funding for conservation districts in 1997; providing leadership in instituting a plan for annual district program evaluations and competitive allocation of funds to districts; providing leadership in the successful implementation of an Emergency Watershed Protection Project that aided poultry farmers after catastrophic losses in 2000; serving as State Floodplain Management Coordinator for 16 years; serving on the Board of Directors of the Association of State Floodplain Managers for two years; and helping to create the Eastern Arkansas Water Conservation Project. He also represents ASWCC on the Arkansas Conservation Partnership and the National Watershed Coalition.

In addition to these conservation responsibilities, Larry also found time to serve on the Arkansas Mental Health Board, as well as the Professional Counseling Associates Board of Directors, including two years as its president. He lives in Lonoke with his lovely wife Annette, and with her he has three daughters, one step-daughter, two step-sons, three granddaughters, two grandsons, three step-grandsons, and one step-granddaughter.

Arkansas is a better place because of Larry White and I am proud to call my friend.

On behalf of the Congress, I extend congratulations and best wishes to this faithful public servant, Larry White, on his successes and achievements.

A TRIBUTE TO THE LATE DR. WILLIAM R. FAIR

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 29, 2002

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great pioneer of medicine, the late Dr. William R. Fair, an accomplished cancer surgeon, who lost his brave battle with colon cancer on January 3, 2002. Dr. Fair was a tireless advocate for the scientific study of complementary medicine.

From 1984 until 1997, Dr. Fair held the position of chairman of urology at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center. Dr. Fair was a fruitful researcher who developed surgical techniques and treatments for prostate cancer. In collaboration with his colleagues, specimens of his tumor were used to develop an experimental vaccine for his cancer. Unfortunately, Dr. Fair never had the opportunity to use it.

In 1995, Dr. Fair was diagnosed with colon cancer. In 1997, the cancer returned and according to his own words, "there was little chance of a cure." That's when he embarked on medical approaches outside the confines of conventional cancer treatments. He began a regime of exercise, meditation, herbal treatments and a change in diet. He noted that he felt better and the tumors did shrink, if only for a while. Dr. Fair embraced complementary medicine, which is standard therapy matched with unconventional treatment. This practice, as Dr. Fair used to point out, is different than alternative medicine. As a medical scientist, he tested his approaches and was adamant about holding unconventional therapies to the same high standard as conventional therapies. In 2001, Dr. Fair and his son helped found the complimentary medicine center called Health, which is located in New York City. Dr. Fair firmly believed that unconventional therapies extended his life and to quote him "even if they can't cure, they can certainly help heal." In fact, his own surgeon was astonished as to how long Dr. Fair survived after his 1997 recurrence of cancer.

Dr. Fair was a Member of the White House Commission on Complementary and Alternative Medicine Policy. He received his doctor of medicine degree from Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia and did his residency in urology at Stanford University. He is survived by his wife, Mary Ann, his son, his brother, Charles, of Norristown, PA, and his sister, Margaret Murtha, of Turnersville, NJ.

I strongly urge my Colleagues to take a closer look at the promise of Complementary Medicine in the treatment of disease, and the work that Dr. Fair brought to this area of discovery. Dr. Fair will be sorely missed.

HONORING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF MYERS PARSONS

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 29, 2002

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding contributions that my cousin, Myers Browning Parsons Sr., has made to the Rutherford County community.

Mr. Parsons grew up in Rutherford County, as did I, and has spent most of his life giving back to the community that has given so much to him and his family. Fortunately, I lived near Mr. Parsons, grew up with his children and considered him a second father. A graduate of Christiana High School, Mr. Parsons excelled in basketball and football while attending the University of Tennessee at Martin, where he received the university's Athletic Award.

The World War II veteran has been a teacher, farmer and business owner, prospering in all three vocations. He also has been actively involved in many of the community's civic boards and organizations. Mr. Parsons has served on the Rutherford County Board of Education, the Rutherford County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and the Christy-Houston Foundation Board of Directors. He has coached Little League baseball, as well, and is a member of the Kiwanis Club.

For the past 26 years, Mr. Parsons has served as a Rutherford County road commissioner. And he is the chairman of the Rutherford County Equalization Tax Board, representing my hometown of Murfreesboro. This past year he served as the chairman of the Building Committee of the Oaklands Historic House Museum. He is also a member of the University of Tennessee's Institute of Agriculture Development Board.

Constantly striving to help his fellow man, Mr. Parsons has never shirked civic responsibility, even while recovering from lung cancer and a serious heart attack. He now pays close attention to his health and emphasizes the importance of receiving good health care and participating in a quality physical fitness program. As a tribute to his amazing fortitude, the Rutherford County Chapter of the American Heart Association will honor Mr. Parsons on Saturday, February 9, during this year's Heart Ball. I congratulate Mr. Parsons for his unselfish and untiring service to his community and the motivation he has stirred in others.

GIRL SCOUTS GOLD MEDAL RECIPIENT: DANIELLE RUSSO

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 29, 2002

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to recognize one of New York's outstanding young students: Danielle Russo. In February, the young women of her troop will honor her by bestowing upon her the Girl Scouts Gold Medal.

Since the beginning of this century, the Girl Scouts of America have provided thousands of youngsters each year the opportunity to make friends, explore new ideas, and develop leadership skills while learning self-reliance and teamwork.