

soldiers, and he is remembered fondly by all who had the privilege of knowing him.

Matthew Commons was born in Fort Wayne, Indiana, raised in Indianapolis and also lived in Boulder City, Nevada and Alexandria, Virginia. In high school, Matthew was an accomplished honor student and class officer. He then spent a year at the University of Nevada at Reno, but decided in July 2000 to become an Army Ranger because he wanted to serve his country. He had planned to finish college after his four-year tour and become a history teacher like his father. In December 2001, he visited his father's history classes at Carl Sandburg Middle School in full battle fatigues to discuss his life as a Ranger. Matthew had also recently celebrated his 21st birthday with his Army buddies, a celebration that included hats and banners sent by his mother Patricia Marek, who had just moved to Alexandria, Virginia.

Matthew's Army unit had been sent to Afghanistan on a secret assignment in January. Though he frequently spoke by telephone with his father, he had not been allowed to disclose his location. In speaking of his son, Greg recently said, "I'm real proud of him. He loved his family, he loved his country and he loved the Rangers . . . He gave his life to save the life of another Ranger."

Military service is not new to the Commons family. Both of Matthew's grandfather's served in World War II, where his grandfather Marek earned a Purple Heart. Additionally, Matthew's father Greg served in the Marines in the Vietnam War.

Besides his mother and father, Matthew leaves his brother Aaron, his father's second wife Linda Chapman, and two half-brothers, Thomas and Patrick. Matthew, who was buried at Arlington cemetery, has been awarded the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star with V Device for Valor.

Mr. Speaker, I hold out the example of this fine young man, a great American, who paid the ultimate price in defense of freedom and liberty. I know I speak for the entire Congress when I extend sympathies to the entire Commons family and friends who are grieving during this difficult time. May they be comforted by the precious memories of their beloved son and brother.

As a veteran myself, I greatly appreciate the unique challenges faced by the men and women serving in our military today. It is the ultimate sacrifice when a soldier dies for his country. We are able to enjoy the freedoms we have today because of men like Matthew Commons and the hundreds of thousands of Americans who have given their lives in the fight for American principles over the past 226 years.

Matthew Commons answered the call of his country, and his death will forever place his name on the roll of heroes who sacrificed their own lives to protect the lives of others. His life and unyielding commitment to duty and honor should remind us all that the liberties we enjoy do not come without a price. Let us always remember these costs, and always remember Private First Class Matthew A. Commons.

TRIBUTE TO THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. WM. LACY CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2002

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, it is with much pride and satisfaction that I rise today to offer my warm congratulations to my alma mater, the University of Maryland, and its coach, Gary Williams and its men's basketball team, for winning the 2002 NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament and being crowned national champions.

The Terrapins basketball team, led by those heralded seniors, guard Juan Dixon, forward Lonnie Baxter, and guard Byron Mouton, secured the school's first national basketball title with a 64-52 victory over the Indiana Hoosiers earlier this month.

It was a magical tournament run for Maryland's leader and All-American, Juan Dixon, who averaged 25.9 points per game throughout the tournament and was named the tournament's Most Outstanding Player.

Dixon, the Terrapins' steadiest hand throughout the year, led Maryland to a record 32-4 season, with Terrapins winning 19 of their last 20 games.

And now Maryland has the first NCAA basketball championship in school history.

The University of Maryland has a rich basketball history and much to be proud of, even before this national title. Its men's basketball team has posted 20-win seasons 19 times. They have also been to the NCAA Tournament 19 times. Fourteen players have been named All-American.

But for various reasons, the school had never even reached a Final Four until this last season. And it had never won it all until last month.

In their ninth straight appearance in the NCAA tournament, this year the Terrapins finally went the distance. Before this year however, Coach Williams had been a victim of his own great success. The pressure for him to win was incredible.

Getting into the tournament wasn't good enough for Terps fans anymore. For Maryland, March had become maddening, and they wanted a championship. And Gary Williams delivered.

For Williams, this is the culmination of so many dreams. When he returned to his alma mater 13 years ago to take over a program struggling under probation and with an image problem, this goal seemed so far away. But he worked at it every day and now he has reached the pinnacle of college basketball.

For the joyous Terrapin fans, who danced through the streets of Atlanta and College Park, this was Maryland's time to be hailed as "No. 1". This was the year to "Fear the Turtle."

Once again, I congratulate Coach Williams, the Terrapins basketball team and the entire University of Maryland administration and student body for their school's exceptional basketball season.

TRIBUTE TO PETER COGAN

HON. JOSEPH M. HOFFEL

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2002

Mr. HOFFEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Peter Cogan of Amber, Pennsylvania. For twenty-five years Peter has served as the executive director of the Children's Aid Society (CAS) in Southeastern Pennsylvania. He has done an outstanding job for his community. CAS provides specialized, professional, family-focused social services to abused, neglected and delinquent children and youth within and outside of the context of their families.

Peter received his bachelor's degree from Georgetown and his master's degree in social work from the University of Pennsylvania. In 1977, the board of directors of CAS selected Peter to become the executive director of their organization. During his tenure, Peter brought CAS from an agency that operated primarily in one county to a regional organization serving Southeastern Pennsylvania. Through his diligence and vision, Peter has started programs that have maintained CAS as a reliable, high quality delivery system that protects children, empowers families, and achieves permanent homes for children.

Peter and his wife Donna reside in Ambler and are the proud parents of three children.

I am pleased to recognize Peter Cogan for his many years of dedicated work. Our community is fortunate to have someone of such distinction.

ON THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GIRL SCOUTS

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2002

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my congratulations on two momentous occasions for an organization that has made a difference in the lives of girls and women around the nation. In the same year that the local Black Hawk Council chapter of the Girl Scouts in Madison, Wisconsin celebrates 75 years of scouting, the Girl Scouts of the USA are celebrating 90 years of "helping girls grow strong."

Girl scouting began on March 12, 1912, when Juliette Gordon Low assembled 18 girls from Savannah, Georgia for a local Girl Scout meeting. Low believed that all girls should be given the opportunity to develop physically, mentally and spiritually. Today, 3.7 million strong, the Girl Scouts continue to carry out their goal by encouraging girls to discover and develop their full potential. They focus on empowerment of girls by engaging in cultural exchanges, going on field trips, participating in community service projects, and learning about non-traditional fields for women such as science and technology.

The Girl Scouts emphasize that their mission is to help all girls grow strong. They emphasize that Girl scouting is available to every girl in every community, reaching beyond racial, ethnic, socioeconomic and geographic boundaries. I experienced this first-hand when

I was a girl scout in the Black Hawk Council as a girl in Madison. I continue to support the Girl Scouts as a member of "Troop Capitol Hill."

While the main focus of Girl Scouts is to help girls grow, there is something for everyone to learn from the Girl Scout Law, which states:

I will do my best to be honest and fair, friendly and helpful, considerate and caring, courageous and strong, and responsible for what I say and do, and to respect myself and others, respect authority, use resources wisely, make the world a better place . . .

I wholeheartedly congratulate the Black Hawk Council of Madison for 75 years of empowering girls, and the Girl Scouts of the USA for 90 years of community service, education, and leadership.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 4083, THE CORPORATE RESPONSIBILITY ACT OF 2002

HON. JOHN J. LaFALCE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2002

Mr. LaFALCE. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce H.R. 4083, the Corporate Responsibility Act of 2002. This bill gives legislative substance and real teeth to meritorious portions of President Bush's 10-point plan unveiled several weeks ago regarding corporate disclosure and accountability. This bill supplements the important and comprehensive reforms in H.R. 3818, the Comprehensive Investor Protection Act, that I introduced with Minority Leader GEPHARDT and many other Democratic colleagues in the wake of the Enron collapse.

This bill would make it clear that the CEO and CFO are the gatekeepers of honest and understandable disclosure. To the extent that corporate officers violate their duty to shareholders, this legislation empowers the SEC to take action. My bill includes:

1. Disgorgement of Bonuses: Requires the SEC to adopt rules to require the disgorgement of bonuses and other incentive-based compensation obtained by an officer or director of an issuer who filed financial statements which were at the time they were filed misleading.

2. CEO and CFO Certification: The CEO and CFO certify in each annual or quarterly report filed that: such officer reviewed the support; the report does not contain any untrue statement of material fact; the financial statements fairly present the financial condition of the company; and the company has evaluated its internal controls and have disclosed to the auditors and the audit company (a) all significant deficiencies in such controls and (b) any fraud that involves management or other employees who have a significant role in the company's internal controls, among other things. In addition, corporate officers must indicate whether or not there were significant changes in internal controls subsequent to the day of the evaluation of internal controls and whether any corrective actions have been taken.

Violation of the certification provisions may be enforced by the remedies granted to the SEC under Securities Act of 1934, including criminal penalties for any willful violations of such certifications.

3. Officer and Director Removal: Reduces the SEC's burden in court for establishing unfitness to serve as an officer and director. In addition, the bill provides that the Commission in its own administrative proceeding may remove an officer and director (subject to judicial review). Current law requires that the SEC must go to court to seek officer and director removal.

I intend to seek the bi-partisan support of my colleagues by offering each section of this legislation as separate amendments at the upcoming markup of H.R. 3673. I hope to have the support of the White House and my Republican colleagues to make real the enhancement of corporate accountability.

IN HONOR OF TERRI GRAHAM

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2002

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Terri Graham for her outstanding contributions as a Visual Arts Teacher at Bayonne High School. She was honored at the "Lifetime Presents Disney's American Teacher Awards", on November 10, 2001, at CBS Television City in Los Angeles.

The entire Bayonne Public School community is proud of Terri's talent, commitment, and creativity that have had a profound and lasting impact on the students and community of Bayonne. Terri has provided a comfortable and safe learning environment in which her students thrive.

Her students have achieved statewide recognition in the past with the 2000 State of New Jersey Arts and Humanities Award (AH-HA), and the 2001 New Jersey State Department of Education Best Practice Award, "An Interdisciplinary Puppet Show". By collaborating with the school's German teacher, Mrs. Varda Wendroff, and her German students, Terri and her ceramics students created puppet performances of German folk tales.

Each year, her students are selected to participate in the Morris Museum "Fresh Perspectives" show for outstanding high school students in the state. Terri and her students have participated in a variety of community projects, such as the New Jersey Transit Hudson Bergen Light Rail Tile Mural, and they worked with the Bayonne Historical Society, "History of Bayonne Architecture", duplicating Bayonne's historic buildings in clay.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Terri Graham's selfless work in educating our nation's youth. She has provided and continues to provide an invaluable learning experience to the students of Bayonne.

“WE THE PEOPLE” COMPETITION

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2002

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, on May 4-6, 2002, more than 1,200 students from across the United States will visit Washington, D.C. to compete in the national finals of the We the People . . . The Citizen and the Constitution

program, the most extensive educational program in the country developed specifically to educate young people about the Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

I am proud to announce that the class from La Moure High School from the city of La Moure will represent the state of North Dakota in this national event. These young scholars have worked diligently to reach the national finals and through their experience have gained a deep knowledge and understanding of the fundamental principles and values of our constitutional democracy.

It is inspiring to see these young people advocate the fundamental ideals and principles of our government in the aftermath of the tragedy on September 11. These are ideas that identify us as a people and bind us together as a nation. It is important for our next generation to understand these values and principles which we hold as standards in our endeavor to preserve and realize the promise of our constitutional democracy.

The class from La Moure High School is currently conducting research and preparing for their upcoming participation in the national competition in Washington, D.C. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize these young scholars by name:

Emily Anderson, Michael Anderson, Derek Arndt, Lacey Boehm, Justine Dathe, John Doehler, Sandra Eastley, Cassie Exner, Christina Hanson, Tonya Jacobson, Naomi Janke, Donald Ketterling, Levi Ketterling, Travis Ketterling, Michelle Koval, Kyle Kranda, Cody Larson, Lucas Larson, Loren Podoll, Aaron Potts, Spencer Potts, Ambra Premo, Bethany Roscoe, Clara Sandness, Savannah Sandness, Heather Schmidt, Casey Shockman, Michael Ulmer and Kyle Westgard.

I would also like to recognize and thank their teacher, Mr. Brian Ham, for his critical role in these students' success and their interest in American government. I wish Lamoure High School the best of luck in the national competition.

TAIWAN RELATIONS ACT

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2002

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to recognize the 23rd anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act (TRA) of 1979 and to reiterate the United States' strong friendship with Taiwan. This important legislation was signed into law by President Jimmy Carter on April 10, 1979 and gives Congress a statutory role in defining United States foreign policy toward Taiwan. We have the duty and the responsibility to see that peace, security and stability prevail in the Western Pacific region. Despite tensions with the Peoples Republic of China, Taiwan has prospered economically and politically. A member of the World Trade Organization, Taiwan is one of the richest countries in Asia. Politically, Taiwan is an evolving democracy, and at this moment every major public office on the island is democratically elected.

On the 23rd anniversary of the TRA, we must affirm that the United States will continue to support Taiwan according to the wording and spirit of the Taiwan Relations Act, which