

was the product of a creative collaboration between David and Christine Jackman, the owners of Valley Bronze, and Janelle Stewart, the owner of Stewart Springs, Ltd., a drafting company also located in Joseph.

When it is complete, the "Freedom Wall" of the World War II memorial will feature 4,123 gold-plated stars cast by Valley Bronze, each of which will represent 100 American lives lost in the service of our nation during that terrible conflict. Fifty-six pillars will surround the memorial to represent every American state and territory, each of which will be decorated with bronze wreaths made in Joseph. Anchoring the flagpoles at the ceremonial entrance to the monument will be pedestals made by Valley Bronze, and monumental bas relief medallions representing the "victory medallions" given to World War II veterans will be embedded in the floor of the archways at each end of the memorial. Finally, four water fountains and 900 feet of decorative drainage grate will encircle the monument. I have no doubt, Mr. Speaker, that each of the decorations that will adorn the memorial will be cast with the care and precision to befit a monument in honor of America's patriot dead.

Mr. Speaker, awarding this bid to Valley Bronze is a reflection of the beauty of their work and the quality of their craftsmanship. It is fitting that the materials to build this monument to our nation's heroes will be brought together from across the American continent, just as America's sons and daughters came from cities and towns across this great land to answer their nation's call.

The national monument to the veterans of World War II will stand for generations as an enduring testament to the heroism and sacrifice of the men and women who have rightly been called the Greatest Generation. Visitors from across the United States and indeed the rest of the world will journey to our nation's capital to see this monument and pay their own private tribute to the legions of American soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines who fought and died to prevent the spread of tyranny. They will do so enjoying the freedom won in part by the exertions of Oregonians, just as the beauty they admire was crafted by Oregonians' hands.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Valley Bronze and Stewart Springs, Ltd. for their outstanding success. The first-rate quality of their work was chosen as the finest in the land, and I am proud to represent them and their patriotic community in the House of Representatives.

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING DANIEL KEITH ROBINSON

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 2002

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, Whereas, Daniel Robinson has devoted himself to serving others through his membership in the Boy Scouts of America; and

Whereas, Daniel Robinson has shared his time and talent with the community in which he resides; and

Whereas, Daniel Robinson has demonstrated a commitment to meet challenges with enthusiasm, confidence and outstanding service; and

Whereas, Daniel Robinson must be commended for the hard work and dedication he put forth in earning the Eagle Scout Award; and

Therefore, I join with Troop 510, the residents of Muskingum County, and the entire 18th Congressional District in congratulating Daniel Robinson as he received the Eagle Scout Award.

RECOGNIZING DR. GEORGE KIDD, JR. FOR HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO TIFFIN UNIVERSITY

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 2002

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. George Kidd, Jr., upon his retirement as President of Tiffin University. Dr. Kidd has distinguished himself as one of the nation's outstanding educators, university administrators, and visionaries of higher education.

When Dr. Kidd became Tiffin University's President in April, 1981, the college's enrollment of 375 students occupied three academic buildings. The academic focus was its two-year associate degree program. The school's operating budget had produced seven consecutive annual deficits.

Dr. Kidd's legacy at Tiffin University is a transformed institution of higher knowledge, an innovative curriculum, a distinguished faculty, vibrant campus and a balanced operating budget.

Student enrollment now exceeds 1,600 with a primary focus shifted to the four-year bachelors degree programs. The university facilities now include eleven buildings, including three dormitories, a dining commons, a student center, gymnasium and 38 acres of athletic playing fields.

Dr. Kidd's tireless efforts on behalf of Tiffin University are matched only by his many selfless contributions to the Tiffin community. He has generously given of his time to local community service organizations, including Seneca County United Way, the Chamber of Commerce, Mercy Hospital, and many others.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. George Kidd's contributions to our country are as numerous as the many bright futures he has touched as an educator and a mentor. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing him and his loving and equally talented wife, Dianne, good health and our very best wishes.

HORMONE DISRUPTION RESEARCH ACT OF 2002

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 2002

Mr. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to announce the introduction of the Hormone Disruption Research Act of 2002.

Arctic polar bears show high concentrations of certain synthetic compounds in their tissues. Whales in the world's oceans carry PCBs and other contaminants at concentrations which cause developmental defects in humans.

U.S. streams and groundwater show widespread contamination with chemicals, dioxins, and antibiotics. Alligators in Florida's lakes suffer from reproductive problems that appear to be associated with chronic chemical contamination. New studies have made a persuasive case that contaminants were in part or wholly responsible for the loss of the lake trout and herring in the Great Lakes many decades ago.

Rates of infertility, the incidence of testicular cancer in young men, Parkinson's disease, endometriosis, childhood diabetes, and asthma have risen dramatically since 1970.

What does this all mean? Are there connections between rising levels of chemicals in the environment and increasing rates of certain disorders in humans?

In many cases, we simply don't know. We do not have the scientific information that would allow us to draw solid conclusions. But a growing body of research suggests that there is indeed a connection between certain chemicals and human health.

In recent decades, scientists have begun to recognize and define the hazard posed by some chemicals to the human hormone (or endocrine) system. By definition, hormone disrupting chemicals interfere with the normal activity of hormones within the body. Some chemicals mimic natural hormones and send false messages. Other synthetic compounds block hormonal signals and prevent the proper action from taking place. Still others cause disruption by preventing the synthesis of the body's own hormones, or by accelerating their breakdown and excretion. Whatever the mechanism, the bottom line is the same: Any chemical that interferes directly or indirectly with hormones can scramble vital messages, derail development, and undermine health.

We are only now learning that the effects of hormone disruptors may affect more than one generation. Though adults may not show symptoms of exposure themselves, they may pass the "Imprint," or hormonal effects of exposure, on to their children. In those cases, it is the children whose development suffers. Since 1970, childhood cancers, learning disabilities, hyperactivity, autism, juvenile diabetes, early puberty, early testicular cancer, and infertility have increased significantly both in the United States and around the world. There is growing evidence to suggest that hormone disruptors play an important role in all of these disorders.

Today I am proud to introduce the Hormone Disruption Research Act of 2002. This legislation directs the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) to conduct a major research program on hormone disruption. In addition, it requires NIEHS to report to the public every two years on the extent to which hormone disruption by chemicals poses a threat to human health and the environment. The bill authorizes \$100 million per year for five years for this critically important program.

To date, federal research on hormone disruption has been scattershot and underfunded, even as evidence about hormone disruption has grown. The research program authorized through the legislation will enable NIEHS to gather solid data about the dangers posed by some chemicals and the mechanisms through which they act. With this information in hand, we can make sensible, informed decisions and policies about our own and our children's health and well-being.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the Hormone Disruption Research Act. We owe it to future generations to pursue this scientific research, which has implications for every one of us.

NATIONAL SMALL BUSINESS WEEK

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 2002

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, as part of National Small Business week, I rise today to recognize all the men and women who work in or for a small business in America. Small business is the heart of our economy and culture. It is where the American Dream time and time again is realized.

Prior to my election I was a small business owner. I started like millions of entrepreneurs with a vision and lifefavings. My wife Cathy and I started with \$7,000 and founded Directed Electronics and within 10 years built a company that is an industry leader in automobile security products. I understand the workings of small business and want to take this time not only to commemorate, but to remind everyone the important role that small business plays in our economy.

Small Business is not only the backbone of our economy, but has also changed our culture. More small businesses are owned by women and minorities. There are now 9.1 million firms owned by women: these firms employ 27.5 million Americans. Minority-owned firms are the fastest growing segment from less than 7 percent of all U.S. firms in 1982 to 15.1 percent in 1997. Women and minorities are changing the face of business by helping break old sentiments of prejudices.

I appeal to my fellow colleagues to work to help small business to continue to flourish so that all Americans are able to realize their dream. Right now, small businesses represent 99.7 percent of all employers and employ 52 percent of the private workforce. This is a large block of the American people.

The President, in March, announced his small business agenda which included tax incentives for small businesses, making affordable health care available to more employees, and making the federal contract process more accessible to small businesses.

Small business is America. It is the future of our economy and culture. Let's not strangle it with regulation, but continue to help hard-working American workers and entrepreneurs by supporting the President's plan to help small businesses.

IN HONOR OF MAX RODRIGUEZ

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 2002

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Max Rodriguez, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) "2002 Community Service Awardee of the Year". He was honored by the NAACP, Hempstead Branch & Youth Council at their

22nd Annual Freedom Fund Luncheon on May 4, 2002, at the Nassau County Bar Association.

Mr. Rodriguez was appointed to the Board of Trustees of Hempstead Village in 1994, and elected to the Board in 1995, making history as the first Hispanic Trustee to serve, not only in Hempstead Village, but also in Nassau County. In 1997, he was appointed Assistant Director for the Office of Minority Affairs. Currently, Mr. Rodriguez is a Project Manager for One Source, and a Representative for Best Business Corp. Realty.

A leader in the Hispanic Community, Mr. Rodriguez contributes to many organizations, including: the NAACP; Silver Life; the Cuban American National Foundation; the Long Island Hispanic Chamber of Commerce; La Hermandad del Senor de los Milagros; Hempstead for Hofstra Scholarship Board; the Interfaith Nutrition Network; and the East Meadow Kewanis Club. He is the Northeast Regional Representative of the Republican National Hispanic Assembly; serves on the President's Advisory Board on Multicultural Concerns at Molloy College; and is Commissioner of Recreation and Parks in Hempstead Village.

For his initiative and outstanding service, he has received numerous awards, including: the American Red Cross Peter Bon Berg Humanitarian of the Year Award; Hofstra for Hempstead Unispan Award; United States Postal Service Award; Hempstead Chamber of Commerce Public Servant of the Year; West Indian-American Chamber of Commerce Community Service Award of the Year; and countless others.

Mr. Rodriguez holds a Bachelor's Degree from Adelphi University, and a B.A. in Business Management/Communication.

Mr. Rodriguez is married to Gladys, father of three daughters, Vicky, Jennifer, and Monica, and proud grandfather of Nicholas.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Max Rodriguez for his selfless dedication and positive contributions to our community.

IN MEMORY OF COLONEL FRANCIS
S. GABRESKI, WORLD WAR II ACE

HON. JOHN P. MURTHA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 2002

Mr. MURTHA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to remember to my Colleagues and to this great Country a most extraordinary Veteran who passed away this year.

Col Francis S. Gabreski, 83, America's air ace in Europe in WWII and an ace in the Korean War died January 31, 2002 of a heart attack.

One of five children, Gabreski was born in Oil City PA on January 28 1919. His parents were Polish immigrants. He would fly 266 combat missions in two wars destroying 37.5 enemy aircraft in World War II and 6.5 in Korea.

Flying single engine P-47 Thunderbolt fighters, Mr. Gabreski downed 28 Messerschmitts and FockeWulfs over France and Germany between August 24, 1943 and July 5, 1944, and destroyed three more German aircraft on the ground. He was captured in late July 1944 after crash-landing near Koblenz, Germany on

what was to have been his last mission, and spent ten months as a prisoner of war. He became an ace (a pilot shooting down at least five enemy planes) in the Korean War as well, flying an F-86 Sabre jet. He shot down six Soviet-built MIG-15 fighters and shared credit for the downing of another.

His flying days began after he graduated from basic training in March, 1941 as a second lieutenant, and joined a fighter unit at Wheeler Field in Hawaii. On the morning of December 7, 1941, he was shaving when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor. He scrambled to a P-36 fighter but by then the Japanese aircraft were nowhere in sight.

Because he spoke Polish and "I felt strongly about what the Nazis had done to Poland," he asked to be assigned to a Polish fighter unit attached to the Royal Air Force. He flew some two dozen missions over Europe with Polish pilots early in 1943 before joining the United States 56th Fighter Group in Britain.

After the war and a hero's welcome home, Gabreski worked for Grumman Aerospace and was head of the Long Island Rail Road, the nation's busiest commuter line.

Gabreski once said, "A pilot can contribute physical acumen, good eyesight and alertness. You have to be calm, cool and collected. Freeze, and you frighten yourself. But beyond that you need some luck to survive."

Gabreski lived in Dix Hills, NY. He is survived by three sons, six daughters, two sisters, eighteen grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

Among Gabreski's decorations were: The Distinguished Service Cross, Silver Star with Oak Leaf Cluster, Distinguished Flying Cross with nine Oak Leaf Clusters, Air Medal with four Clusters, the Bronze Star, The French Legion D'Honneur and Croix de Guerre with Palm, Polish Cross of Valor, the British Distinguished Flying Cross and the Belgian Croix de Guerre.

IMPROVE CHILD SURVIVAL AND MATERNAL HEALTH

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 2002

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution along with my colleague, Representative CONNIE MORELLA, voicing this body's commitment to improving the health of mothers and children around the world. This resolution illustrates that an increased commitment to improving the health of the world's mothers and children will have a long-term impact on the political, economic, and social progress of developing countries. The stability of our own nation depends significantly on the economic and political situation of developing nations. Their economic and political progression cannot be realized unless the health of their people is improved. The global community acknowledges this need.

On May 8-10, representatives from over 179 countries met at the United Nations Special Session on Children. During this meeting, they reviewed the progress made since the 1990 World Summit for Children and renewed their pledge to improve the lives of the world's children over the next decade.

Our Administration also acknowledges that investing in better health increases a country's