

their sacrifice, they deserve our most profound respect and gratitude.

It is the willingness of citizens then and now taking individual responsibility in our Nation's defense that is the ultimate guarantee of our security and freedom. The terrorists who perpetrated the attacks of September 11 underestimated us. Since September 11, the Nation has not fallen apart, it has pulled together, confident in our traditions of freedom, tolerance, and democracy.

Today, our armed forces are in the field defending our liberties against the terrorist threat. We have the finest fighting force in the world, and they are doing a tremendous job. At home our first responders—firefighters, emergency medical and ambulance services, law enforcement, and National Guard—are being called upon for more homeland security. I am confident that we will prevail and become even stronger as a Nation.

This Memorial Day, as we celebrate those who gave their lives, we should also pause to consider the veterans among us who have contributed so much and who are such an important part of our communities. As one who had a brother killed in the line of duty in Asia and as a former Air Force officer myself, I understand the sacrifices that our service men and women and their families make.

The bills we are voting on today are designed to increase employment opportunities for veterans, improve VA facilities, and provide needed cost-of-living increases for disability compensation. There is more that we need to do to improve the way the VA does business. We need to ensure that veterans' disability claims are processed quickly and accurately, that health care delivery is improved by coordinating the medical care systems of VA and the Department of Defense, and that resources are focused on treating disabled and low-income veterans. Under the leadership of President Bush and VA Secretary Principi, I believe we are going to make significant improvements in the delivery of veterans benefits.

Over the years, our military veterans have kept faith with their country in times of need. With these bills, we will be helping to keep faith with them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HONORING MR. JARRED M.
LINDLEY

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2002

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the dedication and commitment of Mr. Jarred M. Lindley.

Mr. Lindley is a recent graduate of Savannah High School in Savannah, Missouri, who had perfect attendance throughout his 13 Years of public education. Remarkably, Mr. Lindley also was not tardy from any event, even once, in those 13 years. Mr. Lindley, set this goal when he was an elementary student and would not take credit for his accomplishment until the final day of his senior year was complete. I am honored to have Mr. Lindley living in the Sixth Congressional District of Missouri.

Along with Jarred Lindley's parents, Sherry and Michael, family, and friends, I take pride in what he has accomplished.

I commend Mr. Lindley for his dedication in reaching his perfect attendance record. Additionally, he is graduating in the top five percent of his class, and is a member of the gold team, honor society, band, as well as holding down a part time job after school.

I again want to congratulate Mr. Jarred Lindley for his accomplishment. He makes the Sixth District and All Americans very proud.

TRIBUTE TO THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INTERNATIONAL VISITORS COUNCIL

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2002

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, the International Visitors Council of Metropolitan Detroit is a non-profit organization whose purpose is to present the unique culture of Metro Detroit to distinguished visitors from around the world through its social, economic, and educational diversity. This year, as the International Visitors Council held their annual Gala Celebration, they also celebrated their 30th Anniversary on May 17, 2002.

Since 1972, the International Visitors Council of Metropolitan Detroit has demonstrated distinguished service and leadership in establishing cross-culture relations and building solid networks of communication at the personal and professional level. As "citizen diplomats" faithfully committed to the mission of the International Visitors Council, volunteers dedicate their time and talents to hosting meetings, fundraisers and receptions for Detroit citizens and honorable guests from around the world. Opening their homes and hearts to international visitors from Europe, Asia and Africa, they take it upon themselves to ensure that visitors leave Detroit with a positive impression of the city and its citizenry.

Creating dialogue and building bridges of understanding is the only way to ensure the advancement of communities built on respect and justice. Today the International Visitors Council of Metropolitan Detroit is one of 96 councils in the nationwide network of the National Council of International Visitors, welcoming over 12,000 international visitors during the last three decades. The hard work and dedication of the International Visitors Council of Detroit to achieving its mission of building solid friendships and improving relations between the United States and other countries is truly exceptional, and encourages others to reach their level of activism and understanding.

I applaud the International Visitors Council of Metropolitan Detroit on their leadership and commitment, and I congratulate them on 30 outstanding years of dedication and service. I urge my colleagues to join me in saluting them for their exemplary years of public service.

KENT CITY QUIZ BOWL WINS
STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2002

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 2002 Kent City Community High

School Quiz Bowl team for winning the 2002 Michigan Class "C & D" Quiz Bowl Championship with a perfect 6-0 record during the two-day state tournament. This marks the second time in three years that the Kent City Eagles have claimed the championship.

Members of the 2002 State Championship team include: Mike Cheyne, Jerry Urban, John Hersey, A. J. DeGroot, Josh Whitehead, Joe Postema, Jared Brown, Andy Lerch, Matt Nixon, Brandon Stout, Robert Nyblad, Justin Waller, Dan Ondersma and Isaac Owens. Government teacher Sid Smith, who serves as the coach of this talented squad, should also be commended for his outstanding work in preparing the students for competition.

On the way to their second championship, the Eagles compiled a remarkable 46-7 record, often against much larger schools. To illustrate how much the Eagles dominated most of their competition throughout the year, I note that six of their seven losses were to Class "A" Quiz Bowl Champion Detroit Catholic Central, Class "B" Champion Detroit Country Day and Class "A" runner-up, Hartland.

The team will now compete on the national level as they take part in the National Academic Quiz Tournament in Austin, Texas on June 8 and 9 and the Partnership for Academic Excellence Nationals in Washington, D.C., on June 15 and 16. I have no doubt that these outstanding young men will serve as wonderful representatives for Kent City, the State of Michigan, and the Third Congressional District.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring these students who have put Kent City, Michigan on the Quiz Bowl map. Congratulations on an outstanding season, and I wish you continued success in the upcoming national competitions!

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2002

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained in New York on May 20, 2002, and missed roll call votes 171, 172, and 173. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on roll call 171, "aye" on roll call 172, and "aye" on roll call 173.

COMMENDING HON. RAFA HEATH
CLOE FOR PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2002

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the distinguished career of the Honorable Rafe Heath Cloe, United States Administrative Law Judge for the Office of Hearings and Appeals, Social Security Administration, Birmingham, AL. Judge Cloe served for more than 15 years as a senior trial attorney for the Federal Trade Commission in Washington, D.C. He has served in the United States Air Force, active and reserve duty, retiring as Colonel with the Office of the Judge Advocate General, and also serving as an instructor at the Air Force Law School at Maxwell Air Force Base in Montgomery, Alabama.

On February 22, 1982, he was appointed as the United States Administrative Law Judge for the Office of Hearings and Appeals of the Social Security Administration and has served in that capacity in Birmingham, AL since 1982.

On June 3, 2002, Judge Cloe will retire after 42 years of distinguished service to the people of the United States. His commitment to protecting the Constitutional rights of the citizens of this country is exemplary and unquestioned. He is worthy of commendation for his commitment to public service.

EXPRESSING GRATITUDE FOR THE
EFFORTS TO RESTORE THE
WOLF HOUSE IN MOUNTAIN
HOME, ARKANSAS

HON. JOHN BOOZMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2002

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my gratitude for the efforts of all those involved in restoring the historic Wolf House in Mountain Home, Arkansas.

The newly restored Wolf House will have its grand reopening on May 18th. Built in 1829 by Jacob Wolf, the building served as the county courthouse for what was then Izard County, Arkansas and now provides a good glimpse into how life was in that era.

Nearly two years ago, architect Tommy Jameson led a team of craftsmen in the restoration of the 180 year-old structure. Working closely with Preservation Consultant Joan Gould, they strove to maintain historical accuracy of the project, restoring the oldest public building in Arkansas to its original form.

The restoration effort leaves the state with a building that purely interprets how structures might have appeared in the early 19th century Ozarks.

The Wolf House is now open for self-directed walking tours and I encourage my colleagues to visit this historic site if they are ever in Baxter County.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for the opportunity to praise the hard work of everyone involved in the restoration of the Wolf House.

IN HONOR OF THE 2002 DRAGON
BOAT FESTIVAL

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2002

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to shine a spotlight on the 2002 Washington, D.C. Dragon Boat Festival, being held this upcoming Memorial Day weekend.

Beginning 2000 years ago in China, dragon boat racing continues to be popular in many parts of the world, especially in Taiwan. Dragon boat racing displays a unique aspect of Taiwanese history, culture and tradition. This colorful and exciting event showcases one aspect in the vast array of the region's cultural diversity and will attract a multitude of spectators to the Washington area.

Over forty teams will participate in the race, held on the Potomac River Saturday May 25th and Sunday May 26th, including those from

the D.C. Police Department, the Harbor Patrol Officers, and even one for Congressional Staff. Through the efforts of numerous Taiwanese organizations, eight magnificently painted 45-foot long dragon boats were donated to be used in the competition.

I send my congratulations to the distinguished members of the 2002 Washington D.C. Dragon Boat Festival Committee, especially to the three honorary chairpersons: Mayor Anthony A. Williams, Chairwoman Linda Cropp and Representative C.J. Chen of the Taipei Economic Council. Also many special thanks should be given to Mrs. Yolanda Chen and all the cosponsors under her leadership. They have spent a lot of time and effort to bring this spectacular event to the Greater Washington area.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to announce what a great source of pride this event will provide to the local Taiwanese community. They are an integral part of our society and I am pleased that the 2002 Washington, D.C. Dragon Boat Festival helps to highlight the contributions they have continuously brought to the region over the years.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. FRANK MASCARA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2002

Mr. MASCARA. Mr. Speaker, on May 16, 2002, I was absent for personal reasons and missed roll call votes numbered 167, 168, 169, and 170. For the record, had I been present I would have voted yea, yea, yea, and nay, respectively.

RECOGNITION OF EILEEN
KAVANAGH

HON. VITO FOSSELLA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2002

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, I hereby request that these comments be placed in the appropriate part of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

This past fall, the Staten Island Advance, the Staten Island Children's Campaign and my office joined together to raise money for families of victims of the World Trade Center tragedy. We established a non-profit named The Staten Island September 11th Fund and were successful in raising more than \$1.2 million for families of victims from Staten Island.

The person who made the whole program work, the one who dealt with every family and every single application received, was Eileen Kavanagh.

Without relinquishing or compromising any of her myriad daily duties serving as executive secretary to the editor of the Staten Island Advance, she took on for six months the tremendous amount of work associated with The Staten Island September 11th Fund. That work included reviewing and processing the more than 200 applications received, handling all inquiries concerning benefits and donations and serving as the liaison between the Fund and the bank handling the account. This work

included receiving and creating computerized records of thousands of donations totaling almost \$1.3 million, sending written acknowledgments to all donors, making necessary bank deposits and, in the end, writing the almost 200 checks that the fund dispensed.

Perhaps most importantly, she showed the ability to balance both the sensitivity needed to deal with families of the September 11th attacks and the objectivity needed to reflect the strict requirements established for the administration of the Fund. From trying to explain the fund to a widow who lost her firefighter husband and who is struggling to raise their children alone and at the same time consoling and empathizing with her to explaining it to a woman who lost her father and is doing everything she can to help her mother to accepting thousands of donations from

To sum it all up, Eileen Kavanagh was able to do all of this with accuracy, understanding and compassion. She made the very difficult situation for many family members seeking financial assistance a lot easier for them because of that compassion. Sometimes, a family member of a victim just wants to hear a friendly voice on the other end—to talk—to be understood and listened to—Eileen did this gracefully. She did not do it for any monetary compensation, or for public attention, but simply to help her friends, neighbors—fellow Staten Islanders who were so devastated by the tragic events of September 11th. She provides us with an excellent example of the goodness that truly does exist in people—a goodness that we should all strive to share and attain.

Staten Island suffered a great loss on September 11th. Hundreds of men and women were lost—husbands, wives, mothers, fathers, sons, daughters, aunts, uncles, grandparents, cousins, friends, neighbors and loved ones. All of our lives were forever changed—but the deeds of people like Eileen have eased the burden a bit—and have given us all a little more strength to carry on and hope for the future.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE ATHELSTANE
LODGE #839 FREE AND ACCEPTED
MASON'S

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2002

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I wish to call to the attention of our colleagues and the American people the achievements of the Brothers of the Athelstane Lodge #839 Free and Accepted Masons of Pearl River, New York, on their 100th anniversary of fraternity and service to their community. The Athelstane Lodge has continued the Masonic tradition of promoting "morality in which all men agree, that is, to be good men and true."

The Masons, officially titled the Free and Accepted Masons, are one of the world's oldest and largest fraternal organizations, dating back to its foundation in England in the early 1700's. Throughout history the Masons have sought to bring men together of all race, religions and political ideology under the ideas of charity, equality, morality and service to God. Today the Masons have millions of members worldwide, including more than 2.5 million in