

served his country well, and it is soldiers like him who make the United States military the best in the world. Jordan has done all Americans proud and I know he has the respect, admiration, and gratitude of all of my colleagues here today. Thank you, Jordan, for your honorable and admirable service to this nation.

WOMEN IN THE MILITARY

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2003

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of myself, Representative SLAUGHTER and the rest of the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues. Today, the 6th Annual Women in Military Wreath Laying Ceremony hosted by the Caucus was held at Arlington Cemetery. The purpose is to honor our nation's servicewomen and women veterans for their courage and achievements, and to remember women who have died in service to the United States.

I would like to take some time to recognize the five honorees of this ceremony. These women serve their respective branches with honor, dignity, and courage. These highly decorated leaders chose to defend our freedom and embody the spirit of those that served before them.

Command Sergeant Major Michele S. Jones, U.S. Army Reserve, has held many leadership positions within the Department of the Army. She entered the Army in September of 1982. As the first woman to serve as class president at the United States Sergeants Major Academy (Class 48), she distinguished herself and went on to be the first woman to serve as the CSM of the Army Reserve.

CSM Jones has held every key NCO position, to include squad leader, section leader, platoon sergeant, first sergeant and command sergeant major. Her awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, and Army Achievement Medal just to name a few.

Master Chief Petty Officer Darlene M. Gemuend was honored, representing the United States Naval Reserve. She completed Basic Training in January 1978 and went on to attend Personnelman "A" school.

Master Chief Gemuend has served the Navy at a variety of duty stations and capacities. She is currently serving as the Naval Operations Reserve Battle Force Integration Manpower Analyst at the Arlington Navy Annex. Master Chief Gemuend's personal awards include the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, Navy Recruiting Excellence Awards and various other service and campaign awards.

Master Sergeant Leandria L. Hollinshead is the superintendent of the Command Post, 347th Rescue Wing, Moody Air Force Base, Georgia. She was awarded the Humanitarian Service Medal for her sustained efforts of Hurricane Elena. From 1990 to 1992 she continued to sharpen her Command and Control skills as Combat Alert Center Controller, King Salmon AFS, Alaska. As the single point of contact between NORAD and the alert aircrews, she was solely responsible to decode

emergency orders, scramble, and launch alert aircraft to intercept Soviet Union air vehicles attempting to penetrate U.S. borders. Following the incident of the USS *Cole*, she deployed to Saudi Arabia to establish theater command post operations for the Commander of the Joint Task Force—Southwest Asia.

Continuing to excel in her professional education, she captured the John L. Levitow award at her NCO Academy graduation in June 1999 and was soon after promoted to Master Sergeant. MSgt Hollinshead is the recipient of the AF Meritorious Service Medal, AF Commendation Medal, AF Outstanding Unit Award, and the AF Good Conduct Medal.

Master Gunnery Sergeant Carole A. Hawkins enlisted in the Marine Corps in February of 1973. Currently, she is the senior enlisted female in the Marine Corps, and the senior enlisted administrator. Master Gunnery Sergeant Hawkins is assigned as the Administrative Chief for the Personnel Management Division, Manpower and Reserve Affairs Department, Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps, Quantico, VA.

Master Gunnery Sergeant Hawkins has been awarded the Meritorious Service Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal and the Navy, Marine Corps Achievement Medal and the Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal.

Master Chief Linda Reid enlisted in the Coast Guard Reserve in 1975. She drilled at Coast Guard Reserve Unit Seattle before moving to the Washington, DC, area in 1977. Master Chief Reid has been with the Coast Guard's Sea Partners Campaign since its beginning in 1994. As director, she oversees policy, budget and operations for this nationwide environmental public outreach program. Master Chief Reid coordinated Coast Guard participation in the 1985, 1989 and 1993 Presidential Inaugurals.

Master Chief Reid was advanced to the grade of Master Chief Petty Officer in May 1993, the first woman in the Storekeeper rating to achieve that rank in the Coast Guard. She is a Silver Lifetime Member of the U.S. Coast Guard Chief Petty Officers Association (CPOA) and a member of the Foreign Joint Service Non-Commissioned Officers Association, the Fleet Reserve Association and the Non-Commissioned Officers Association.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great admiration and pride that the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues honor the five servicewomen and their accomplishments. We are living in a day and age when the thought of a woman serving in the military is not the exception, it's the norm. There are over 2 million women serving and they are making a huge contribution to America's military operations around the world . . . as so many of us have seen from America's recent victory in Iraq.

It is an honor for each member of the Caucus to highlight these exceptional women. The Army, the Navy, the Air Force, the Marine Corps, and the Coast Guard are well represented by our 2003 Women in Military Service Honorees.

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING ERIC WAGNER

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2003

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

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

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

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

Therefore, I join with Troop 85, the residents of Yorkville, and the entire 18th Congressional District in congratulating Eric Wagner as he receives the Eagle Scout Award.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ALCOHOL TAX EQUALIZATION ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2003

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, as Congress adjourns for Memorial Day, I am introducing the Alcohol Tax Equalization Act because of my special concern that beer and wine will take a high toll in human life and injury, especially among teens and other young people this very weekend, because these alcoholic beverages are less costly than they should be. Congress is complicit in this carnage by winking at beer and wine through the Tax Code. We have just renewed vigilance for seat buckling because of growing concern about teen deaths due to driving mishaps. It's time we also focused on alcohol abuse, a much greater cause of traffic deaths among teens and young people.

The Memorial Day holiday often begins a season of tragedies resulting from alcohol abuse, particularly beer and wine. In an effort to reduce alcohol-related fatalities, my bill would require that beer and wine be taxed according to their alcohol content, as is hard liquor. Alcohol abuse is the leading cause of death among teens and young adults. The need to provide appropriate disincentives is urgent.

The bill creates a substance abuse prevention trust fund for alcohol prevention programs. The kinds of programs that work best include cross-peer mentoring by high school students about alcohol and drug abuse and traffic safety; teen courts to decide appropriate penalties for other teens who abuse alcohol; community-based prevention programs for pregnant women and high-risk populations; and 100 percent drug and alcohol-free clubs. The programs would be implemented through grants from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

It is impossible to explain today why a can of beer, a 5-ounce glass of wine, and a shot

of hard liquor, all of which have the same alcohol content, should not be taxed equally. However, the beer and wine industries want it that way. Expect them to fight to preserve the enormous tax break they enjoy compared to their competitors in the distilled liquor industry.

Beer and wine have long replaced hard liquor in alcohol consumption and sales, but tax policy is still lost somewhere in the 1940s. Hard liquor is far behind beer and wine in consumption and sales. More than half of all alcohol sold today is beer, much of it to teens and college students; 15 percent of alcohol sales is wine. America, especially young America, is getting drunk on beer and wine, in no small part because badly outdated taxing policy make beer and wine cheap. If a can of beer, a 5 ounce glass of wine, a wine cooler, and a shot of vodka have the same alcohol content, they should be taxed equally. The resulting transfer of tax burdens to others at a time of dangerous deficits is particularly untenable in the case of alcohol and calls for attention of this inequity now.

In 1997, the Senate Finance Committee proposed substantially raising taxes on cigarettes to discourage teenage smoking. Many states have done just that. The very same reasoning should apply to beer and wine. Minors consume more than 1 billion beers each year. Teens are price sensitive because they have less disposable income. By taxing beer

and wine substantially less than liquor, we bring the price down and encourage teens to make these the drinks of choice.

Because the Federal excise taxes on liquor are substantially higher than taxes on beer, Congress is sending the message to teens that these drinks are okay and are not as dangerous and addictive. Congress therefore bears a heavy part of the responsibility for the fact that alcohol abuse is the leading cause of death among teenagers and young adults.

Throughout the country, taxing beer and wine fairly would be an important step in reducing alcohol-related traffic fatalities, accidents and disease. The need here is urgent. The bill I introduce today will take the District of Columbia and the entire country closer to the national goal of significantly reducing alcohol-related fatalities.

COMMEMORATING THE RETIREMENT OF STUART AND SANDY SLETTEN

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2003

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, when the term milk man is mentioned, it brings back to me the

memory of early morning noises such as the low throb of an idling delivery truck's engine and the rattling of milk bottles coming and going from our front porch. This piece of "Americana", familiar to so many, will be coming to an end this month in my hometown of La Crosse, Wisconsin. On May 30, 2003 the era and service tradition of "to-the-door milk delivery" will come to an end with the retirement of Stuart and Sandy Sletten.

It is with great pleasure I wish a happy, healthy and fulfilling retirement to Stuart and Sandy Sletten as they look forward to taking their first vacation since 1990. This dedicated husband and wife team provided excellent and trusted service for their dairy products route for the past 27 years. For the last 27 of their 42 years of marriage they have worked shoulder to shoulder loading and delivering to their thousands of customers. The life and dedication of this couple represents the positive work ethic and values that Wisconsin citizens deeply respect.

Thank you Stuart and Sandy for keeping alive for many years a small and beautiful piece of our American way of life.