

participated in policy conferences and church missions to Russia, Israel, Jordan, Cuba, and Haiti.

Above and beyond all else, Reverend Tuggle is a strong family man. He is married to Evette Beckett-Tuggle, and together they have three daughters.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Reverend Tuggle on behalf of every man, woman and child who has been touched by Reverend Tuggle's preaching and endless and selfless community efforts.

IN OBSERVANCE OF THE SECOND
ANNIVERSARY OF THE ATTACKS
OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

HON. J. RANDY FORBES

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2003

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, it is hard to believe that two short years ago this day, our Nation was plagued by horrendous and vicious terrorist attacks against innocent Americans in New York, Pennsylvania, and our very own Commonwealth.

September 11, 2001 was not the beginning of terrorism against the United States. Defense officials tell us that terrorism has posed a risk to our national security for decades, but too often was not considered a large enough threat to heed those warnings. September 11 awoke us to the threat of terrorism. It was forever bookmarked in our history as the day when life as Americans knew it, changed forever.

The attacks on September 11, 2001 made us feel horrified, scared and angry. But as a result of the senseless attacks, Americans found a renewed sense of patriotism. American flags began to fly not just from flagpoles, but they appeared in windows, on doors and vehicles. Just hours after the attacks, men, women and children all across the country held vigils and waved flags showing support for those who lost their lives. The terrorists took many lives and caused our Nation to grieve, but through that grief Americans rose up and refused to let those terrorists take away their spirit and love of America.

I visited the Pentagon a few days after September 11, and I still remember so vividly the smell of terror surrounding the entire building and complex. I was angry that such a brutal act of violence was committed against innocent people.

Since the tragedies, the Department of Homeland Security was established to prevent terrorist attacks within the United States, reduce U.S. vulnerability to terrorism, and most importantly, to share intelligence information among government agencies and departments.

Comprehensive anti-terrorism legislation provides new tools for law enforcement and for improved information sharing among Federal agencies to address terrorist threats. A "clearinghouse" was created to serve as the central location where all foreign- and domestically-generated terrorist threat and intelligence information is collected and reviewed. It is imperative that we harness that knowledge and use it to protect all Americans and help stop terrorist networks.

New laws are now in place to help prevent acts of bioterrorism. Enhanced controls on

deadly biological agents have been implemented, as well as protections to ensure the safety of the food we eat and the water we drink. Just last week, Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson announced that Virginia will receive over \$31 million in Federal funding to help bolster public health preparedness, and make improvements to hospitals to handle mass-casualty incidents.

Great strides have been made in securing our country and helping to fix some of the longstanding problems that we have had with the Immigration and Naturalization Service. While there is still much left to do, we are moving closer to a system that keeps terrorists out of our country, yet provides a fair and efficient service to those who justly migrate into the United States.

We are continuing to strengthen security in our airports, and have also taken steps to keep Americans safe while flying. Commercial airline pilots are now trained and equipped with firearms in the event of a terrorist attack on-board the plane. In addition, the number of Federal air marshals has been increased by 5,000 to respond to potential terrorist threats or attacks on commercial flights.

I also introduced legislation that makes it easier to prosecute terrorists who try to use chemical weapons or other weapons of mass destruction within the United States. I am hopeful that the Judiciary Committee will take action on this important legislation soon.

We grieved with each other two years ago for the loss of our loved ones, friends, neighbors, coworkers and so many others who perished. Nothing will ever repair the losses we suffered as a nation. But today, their memories live on in our hearts and minds. As Americans, we have always had a strong willingness to stand hand-in-hand when times are tough. We must continue to show our patriotism for our great Nation, and show the world that America will not stand for terrorism.

May God bless you and your family on this solemn day.

RECOGNIZING THE PRINCE WILLIAM SENIOR CENTER AT WOODBRIDGE ON ITS 20TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2003

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this time to honor the Prince William Senior Center at Woodbridge as it reaches its 20th anniversary on September 14, 2003.

The Senior Center was first built in 1983 by Prince William County and renovated in 2002 to provide 10,000 square feet of space for its many classes and services. Throughout its existence the center has provided a gathering place for seniors from the tri-jurisdictional area of Prince William County, the City of Manassas, and the City of Manassas Park.

The center is operated by the Prince William Area Agency on Aging, a part of the Prince William County Government, and is one of the over 670 agencies in a national network of Area Agencies on Aging. The center provides many wonderful chances for seniors to connect with one another and their community,

and helps them continue to lead active and entertaining lives. One such program is the Bluebird Bus tours the center sponsors. These trips include both educational and recreational destinations such as Washington area museums, Niagara Falls, and surprise locations on their "mystery tours."

The center also provides local residents with opportunities to volunteer and brighten the day of a senior citizen through programs that include Meals on Wheels, which provides nutritious, hot meals to homebound seniors, and Friendly Visitors Volunteers who visit once a week with seniors that may otherwise be socially isolated. The Loan Closet and Support Services for seniors are two undertakings of the center which provide home care aids and match seniors and family members to the applicable resources available to them.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to thank the Prince William Senior Center at Woodbridge for being a comprehensive resource for the seniors and the community at large. The services provided to maintain the health and quality of life of seniors, the volunteer opportunities, and the educational and recreational programs sponsored by the center truly are an integral part of the life of the area's seniors. I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding this exceptional and notable institution.

SEPTEMBER SCHOOL OF THE
MONTH—NEW YORK'S 4TH CON-
GRESSIONAL DISTRICT

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2003

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I announce West Hempstead High School in the West Hempstead Union Free School District as School of the Month in the Fourth Congressional District for September 2003.

The principal of West Hempstead High School is Catherine Kalina, Roseanne Scully is the Assistant Principal and the Superintendent of Schools is Carol Eisenberg. This is Catherine's first year as Principal and I am confident she is going to do a wonderful job for the students, faculty, and community. West Hempstead High School has over 900 students in grades 9–12.

I chose West Hempstead High School because of the importance they place, not just on the core curriculum, but on music and art as well. Under the guidance of Steven Siracusa and Gail Sachs-McCurdy, the school's music and art directors, respectively, West Hempstead High School has developed an extremely strong program in each area. To receive a diploma, students are required to earn one credit in music or art. Studies have shown students who participate in music and the arts are more creative, imaginative, and receive a more comprehensive education that will benefit them in their future endeavors.

West Hempstead High School offers a comprehensive music program including Music Theory, Band, Marching Band, Orchestra, Chorus and Jazz Band. The arts program offers an equally varied array of classes, ranging from creative crafts to advertising design to studio in cartooning.

The school has reemphasized its commitment to offering a fully comprehensive educational experience that will prepare each student for meaningful post-high school pursuits. A full regents program is offered ensuring the high standards and expectations West Hempstead has for its' students will be met. Students are offered a wide-ranging variety of courses, including advance placement and college credit opportunities.

Mr. Speaker, the faculty and students, along with the community, have created a wonderful learning environment. I am proud to name West Hempstead High School the school of the month for September 2003.

HONORING EDWARD BANAS, COM-
MANDER-IN-CHIEF, VETERANS
OF FOREIGN WARS

HON. ROB SIMMONS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2003

Mr. SIMMONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and honor my constituent and fellow Vietnam veteran, Edward S. Banas, Sr. of Voluntown, Connecticut on his election as National Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Edward S. Banas, Sr. served as a Military Policeman in the United States Army during the Vietnam War. By his honorable service from 1965 to 1968 he was awarded the Vietnam Campaign Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, National Defense Medal and the Army Good Conduct Medal. After Vietnam, Ed Banas joined the Norwich Police Department in 1968, and served with the department for more than 10 years. Whether protecting our Nation and our freedom abroad or protecting and serving the members of his community, Ed Banas has dedicated himself to making life better for our people.

In Vietnam, Ed Banas formed a solid bond with his comrades-in-arms that inspired his volunteer service as a veterans' advocate for more than 30 years. We honor that service here today. His tour of duty in South Vietnam made him eligible for the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and he joined VFW Post 1004 in Jewett City, Connecticut in 1967 where he is a Life Member. Since joining the VFW, Ed Banas has served in a variety of Post-level positions, including Post Commander. At the district level, he earned the honor of All-American District Commander. He served as Department Commander of Connecticut in 1993–94.

Ed Banas never forgot his comrades who fell in battle in Vietnam. In February, while serving as Junior Vice Commander-In-Chief, Ed and a delegation from the VFW took part in a 10-day visit to Thailand and Vietnam to gather information on Americans missing from the war in Southeast Asia and to press the issue of POW/MIAs to the government of Vietnam. Through the efforts of Ed Banas and the VFW, we are working to bring those soldiers home. They are not remains; they are heroes and we will never forget them. Today our men and women in uniform are defending our Nation and our interests in dangerous and distant places. We will honor the sacrifices they and their families are making and we will never forget the sacrifices that have been made by those who went before.

Now more than ever we need strong leadership from our veterans' service organizations to help us keep the promise to our veterans and their families. From ensuring our veterans have continued access to timely, quality healthcare to supporting our soldiers currently serving overseas, the VFW is working hard on many battlefronts.

In his message to the VFW National Convention in San Antonio last month, Ed Banas reminded us, "We are the veterans' voice on Capitol Hill and while our battlefields may have shifted from the sands of Iwo Jima to the Halls of Congress that does not mean that we are any less resolved to accomplish our mission today than we were then."

From the moment he first wore the uniform of our great Nation to this very day, Ed Banas has been a courageous, tireless and honorable servant of our Nation and our people. He has more missions to accomplish and I will be proud to help him. As a Vietnam veteran, I am keenly aware of the important role that the VFW plays in the lives of America's veterans. Through its vast network of posts, the VFW helps veterans build strong communities, and serves as a vital resource to its members, from World War II era veterans up to our newly returning soldiers from Iraq. I know that Ed Banas has all the energy and enthusiasm necessary to make his year as Commander-in-Chief of the VFW a successful one.

Ed and his wife Sandra, a nurse at the Westerly Hospital, are the proud parents of five children, and live in Voluntown, Connecticut.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize my friend and constituent, Edward Banas, Sr. and to extend to him my heartiest congratulations for his years of wonderful service. I wish him and his family all the best as he begins his new tour of duty as the Veterans of Foreign Wars National Commander-in-Chief for 2003–2004.

TRIBUTE TO ALICE ERRINGTON

HON. CANDICE S. MILLER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2003

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, in the hustle and bustle of doing the people's work here in the Nation's capital, we sometimes neglect to recognize the people who make America the great nation that she is. America's greatness can be found in everyday people who work hard, raise their children as best they can, and sacrifice for their country. In short, America's greatness can be found in people like Alice Errington of Harrison Township, MI.

Alice was born and raised on Staten Island, New York, and attended Hunter College in Manhattan. In 1951, she married Bill Errington just after he completed pilot training in the United States Air Force. The couple lived in Texas, Arizona, Florida, Bermuda, California, and New Mexico before moving, to Michigan in 1966. Their first two children, Glenn and Claire, were born in Arizona, son Daniel in Bermuda, and daughter Joan in California. After Bill retired from the Air Force, the family moved to Harrison Township, MI.

Alice started her career in public affairs in 1973 as a GS-03 clerk-typist at the Selfridge

Air National Guard Base. As the organization of the Guard units at Selfridge evolved, Alice remained in public affairs and became a public affairs specialist. In 1992, she became the public affairs officer.

In addition to being a busy Air Force wife and mother to four children, Alice worked as a substitute teacher in the public schools, and was active in chapel and garden club activities. Since 1972, she has been a member of Knox Church, where she is a Sunday School teacher and treasurer of the adult Sunday School class. Alice is also a board member of the Michigan Air Guard Historical Association, a volunteer at the Selfridge Air Museum, and a member of the Mount Clemens Chapter of the Air Force Association, where she serves as military liaison.

Alice will soon be retiring, and she looks forward to spending more time with her family, which now includes eight grandchildren. She will combine that with the pursuit of studies and hobbies that she has placed on the backburner for awhile.

Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing the greatness of America as found in Alice Errington and people like her. I yield back the remainder of my time.

RECOGNIZING THE OUTSTANDING
EFFORTS OF SABRINA MONN

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2003

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend and highlight the heroic acts of one of my constituents who has taken a leading role in the rebuilding of Afghanistan.

Sabrina Monn, a 1998 graduate of James Buchanan High School in the Mercersburg area, was among the reserves called up to serve with the U.S. Army's 109th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment in Afghanistan.

Sabrina made the most of her tour. Through e-mails to Mrs. Mary Stoner, a former teacher of hers at James Buchanan, Sabrina has brought to life what an amazing job our troops are doing in Afghanistan. Sabrina has also eloquently outlined to current students the hardships of what the citizens of Afghanistan endured while under the oppression of the Taliban.

Equally as important, Sabrina has highlighted the amazing work she and other members of our reserves are doing in Afghanistan to rebuild their country and to return freedom to the people.

In her correspondence, Sabrina rightly notes that the effort we are making in Afghanistan goes a long way in helping the country rebuild, not only with concrete and pavement, but with compassion and support.

The students at Sabrina's old high school have responded remarkably. Recently, they took up Sabrina's call to action and collected well over \$1,000 to send to the village where Sabrina was stationed. They did not stop there, they also have sent more than 50 boxes of school supplies, clothing and toys. The efforts of Sabrina and the community have truly made a difference.

This is America at its best. The attacks of September 11th have shown to the world that the United States will act swiftly to rid the