

The passage of the FIRE Act, which will help fire departments across the country better serve their communities for years to come, has been one of my greatest achievements while in Congress. I trust that Chief Imparato feels the same way about this piece of history-making legislation because we accomplished it together. Fire departments across the Nation will long owe Lou an immense debt of gratitude for his inspired work.

Committed to enhancing the work environment for firefighters throughout the State of New Jersey as well as on the national level, Lou served for 3 years as the President of the Local F.M.B.A., and for 10 years as the Local F.M.B.A. State Delegate. His great dedication and personal valor has been widely noted by the people he has served and by his peers—most notably when the New Jersey State F.M.B.A. honored him by asking him to serve as the Chairman of their Valor Awards Dinner.

As you can see, every aspect of Chief Imparato's life's work epitomizes the noble spirit of selfless service that we all strive to achieve. The sense of excellence and initiative that has driven Lou's life work has made him living proof that those who dedicate themselves to helping others are among the most valued and loved members of the community.

Mr. Speaker, the job of a United States Congressman involves so much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to recognizing the efforts of public servants like Lou Imparato. I ask that you join our colleagues, the men and women of the City of Passaic, fire departments across the country, and me in recognizing the invaluable service of Chief Louis Imparato.

TRIBUTE TO THE SHILOH BAPTIST CHURCH AND THE REVEREND JAMES B. RODGERS

HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 8, 2003

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in tribute to The Shiloh Baptist Church and The Reverend James B. Rodgers. On December 21, Reverend Rodgers will officially be installed as the twenty-seventh Pastor of the Shiloh Baptist Church, the oldest African-American church west of the Mississippi River and the first Baptist Church organized by African-Americans in Sacramento. I ask all my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Shiloh Baptist Church family and Dr. James B. Rodgers, Pastor, on this momentous occasion.

The Shiloh Baptist Church, located in the Fifth Congressional District of the State of California, was established in 1856 as the oldest African American Baptist Church West of the Mississippi River and the second oldest African American church in the City of Sacramento. Since the church had no facilities upon its establishment in which to hold religious services, it forged a strong relationship with the Chinese Americans in the area, which resulted in an offer being extended for Shiloh to hold religious services at the Chinese Chapel, located at historic Sixth and H Streets in Sacramento.

Shiloh has overcome many obstacles to its missionary services, including bank foreclosure in the 1860s; significant reductions in

its membership because of relocations; destruction of the church facility by fire in 1861 and 1905; and the inability to secure building loans on several occasions. However, today Shiloh stands firm as a testament to the strong faith, perseverance, determination, character and courage of its founders and early congregations.

Since its establishment, Shiloh has provided dedicated service to the citizens of the Capital Region, much of which was accomplished during 26 plus years of outstanding leadership by Pastor Emeritus Willie P. Cooke. Shiloh has provided many services through its many ministries and has participated in numerous community based programs, including but not limited to, establishment of an Elderly Appreciation Day; the participation in the annual Sacramento Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration; host church for the Sacramento Children Summer Food Program; organized a prison ministry for youth incarcerated in the California Youth Authority and the Sacramento County Probation Department; and instituted a Caregiver's Program to provide services to sick and residence-bound citizens.

In recognition and appreciation of these community services, Shiloh has received numerous Presidential, Congressional, Gubernatorial, and State Legislative commendations dating back more than 40 years.

For the past 18 months, Shiloh has continued its mission under the direction of Pastor Emeritus William P. Cooke. However, Shiloh recently called on Dr. Rodgers to serve as its 27th pastoral leader and to add to the rich religious and community history it has developed over the past 147 years.

The Reverend James B. Rodgers has served faithfully in the ministry, preaching and teaching the gospel for over 32 years. In preparation for his calling to the ministry and in continuation of his ministerial duties, Dr. Rodgers commenced his academic studies with the United States Naval Academy and has earned an Associate of Arts Degree in Business; a Bachelor of Arts in Theology; a Masters of Theology; a Doctorate of Theology; and a Masters in Education Administration.

Dr. Rodgers' official installation as pastor will occur during a three-day ceremony at Shiloh Baptist Church commencing with a community night on Friday, December 19, 2003, and concluding with the installation on Sunday, December 21, 2003. These services are designed to introduce Dr. Rodgers to the Shiloh family and to the Greater Sacramento community.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to thank and congratulate the Shiloh Baptist Church for nearly 150 years of invaluable service to the City of Sacramento. I would like to especially welcome Dr. James B. Rodgers to our community and to the Shiloh Baptist Church. I ask all my colleagues to join me in wishing the Shiloh Baptist Church and Dr. Rodgers continued success in all their future endeavors.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO TABETHA SALSURY

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 8, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to rise and pay tribute to a remarkable young

lady from my district. Tabetha Salsbury is a fifteen-year-old resident of Pueblo, Colorado who spent last summer restoring a 1935 John Deere tractor. Tabetha did a wonderful job that resulted in a finely renovated machine. Recently, Tabetha's hard work paid off when she became a national champion in tractor restoration. I am proud to recognize her accomplishments here before my colleagues today.

All summer, Tabetha worked tirelessly disassembling, fixing and reassembling the tractor. When she had finished, Tabetha and her family took the time to transport the newly refurbished tractor to its previous owner so that he could see his old machine in its newfound glory.

Through her talent and dedication in the garage, Tabetha has achieved a historic first. As national champion, Tabetha is the first female that has ever finished in the top three in the national competition. She has proven herself as capable as any young tractor mechanic in Colorado.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to rise and pay tribute to Tabetha Salsbury. She has proven what can be accomplished through hard work. Tabetha's tenacity and dedication set a fine example for young men and women throughout our nation and it is my honor to rise and congratulate her on a well-deserved award.

TRIBUTE TO STAFF SGT. JOHN FOLSOM

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 8, 2003

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Staff Sgt. John L. Folsom, a Korean War veteran from Lady Lake, Florida in my Fifth Congressional District.

On Sunday, November 2nd, I had the pleasure of recognizing Staff Sgt. Folsom for his heroism and bravery as a United States Soldier who fought in the Korean War from January 1951 to February 1954. He continued his service to the Nation for 10 years after the conclusion of the Korean War, retiring in November 1964, having achieved the rank of Staff Sergeant (E-6).

On February 5, 1953 Staff Sgt. Folsom was wounded in his right leg by a sniper attack as his unit was "digging in" at the top of a hill in Seoul.

I will present Staff Sgt. Folsom with the Purple Heart, the oldest military decoration in the world, 50 years overdue.

Though he earned this honor, he never received it from the Defense Department and I am honored to have the opportunity to present to him the Purple Heart for his selfless devotion to duty and service to the United States.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING JOSEPH BRUNO MANASSE

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 8, 2003

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker:

Whereas, Donald and Dilla Manasse are celebrating the birth of their son, Joseph Bruno Manasse; and

Whereas, Joseph Bruno was born on the Twenty-third Day of September, 2003 and weighed 3.3 kilograms; and

Whereas, the Manasse's have all occasion to celebrate with friends and family as they welcome Joseph Bruno into their family, and

Therefore, I join with Members of Congress and their staff in congratulating Mr. and Mrs. Manasse and wishing Joseph Bruno a very Happy Birthday.

CONGRATULATING MIDDLE SCHOOL EDUCATORS OF THE YEAR

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 8, 2003

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the educators honored by the California League of Middle Schools as "Educators of the Year." It is an honor to acknowledge the contributions they have made in the effort to implement education reform in California's middle school curriculum.

The California League of Middle Schools (CLMS) Educator of the Year Award Program annually recognizes the achievements of 11 educators from regions throughout California. Awardees exemplify educators who are able to inspire and motivate diverse groups of students in their educational endeavors. I am proud to nominate these eleven distinguished recipients of this award along with the thousands of educators from the State of California for the tremendous and exemplary work they do everyday in the classroom.

CLMS honors those displaying outstanding understanding of their teenage students and who are supportive of upward middle school movement. They are committed to employ the principles of Caught in the Middle, Turning Points, and Taking Center Stage, and incorporate State Frameworks and Standards into their curriculum. These leaders are dedicated to motivating and inspiring students while utilizing innovative educational tools. As enthusiastic role models, these educators are proactive in the pursuit of improving Middle School education for students now and in the future.

I am pleased to honor the following Middle School Educators: Jane Karcher, from Washington Middle School, Raiford Henry, from Roosevelt Middle School, Gabriele Calvin-Shannon, from Madison Middle School, Jami Phillips, from Woodland Park Middle School, Teresa Allen, from San Marcos Middle School, Julie Doria, from Olive Peirce Middle School, Mehrak Selby, from Marston Middle School, Steve Rodriguez, from Montgomery Middle School, John Lazarcik, from Kennedy Middle School, Lawrie Kueneman, from Oak Crest Middle School and Dr. Larry Maw from the San Marcos Unified School District.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize the Middle School Educators of the year today for the outstanding contributions they have made to the education system. I thank them for their service and wish them continued success in the future.

TRIBUTE TO RUSSELL STOVER CANDIES

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 8, 2003

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to rise and pay tribute to an outstanding business in my district. Russell Stover Candies in Montrose, Colorado recently celebrated its thirtieth anniversary. Russell Stover is dedicated to bringing smiles to Americans throughout the nation and it is my honor to call the attention of this body of Congress to their contributions.

Russell Stover first opened the doors to its Montrose factory in 1973. Since that time, the staff and management have managed to find a delicate balance between traditional hand-craftsmanship and twenty-first century technology. The dedication and artistry that Russell Stover employees put into their work results in a product that is unparalleled.

Since its inception, Russell Stover has benefited the economy of Montrose. The 600 employees at the factory love their work and there is very little turnover. The length of tenure for the factory's employees is a testament to the loyalty the company has to its employees.

In addition to bringing joy to others through its production of candies, Russell Stover is also involved in the community. Each year, the factory dedicates time and resources to various non-profit organizations and charitable activities throughout the region.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to call the attention of my colleagues and our nation to Russell Stover Candies. The company has done a great deal for the betterment of the Montrose community. I would like to congratulate Russell Stover on thirty years of service in Montrose and wish them the best in the years to come.

TRIBUTE TO ROSE PELLGRIN

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 8, 2003

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Rose Pellgrin, a dedicated, loving mother in my Fifth Congressional District of Florida. At 91 years old, Rose continues to be a shining example of devotion and selflessness for mothers young and old.

In 1949 at the age of 40, Rose Pellgrin became a mother to a baby girl she named Marian. Unfortunately Marian was born with a mental disability and Rose was advised that she would not live very long. Her doctors even told her to have another child and to not worry about Marian.

Rose insisted that she would raise Marian and did just that. She raised Marian despite several obstacles. When her husband's affliction with cancer forced the family to move from her native New York to central Florida, Rose learned that there was no school in the area for mentally disabled children. She then had to drive Marian to a school at the Key Training Center, nearly an hour away.

When her husband's cancer finally took his life, Rose had to make the difficult decision to place Marian at the Key Training Center to live and return to teaching, retiring at the age of 82.

Years later a nephew of Rose's who had a fondness for Marian died and left his inheritance to the women. Rose took the inheritance and bought a house with it. The house, which will become a licensed group home, will be maintained by the Key Training Center as one of its own group homes. This made it possible for Marian, and two other disabled adults, to have a place to live.

Mr. Speaker, with this act Rose Pellgrin made an incredible donation to the Key Center and to her daughter. What's more amazing is that she views it as nothing special, but as what mothers do for their children.

I am honored to be her representative in Congress and want to take a moment before this body today to call attention to her sacrifice and devotion to her daughter. We should all be so lucky as to have a mother like Rose.

WARS OF CHOICE

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 8, 2003

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, one of the most important debates now being carried on in the United States has to do with the reasons for our war in Iraq. The administration and its defenders have argued that we had to go to war as a matter of self-defense. In varying combinations, the administration has argued that Iraq was deeply involved with al Qaeda and that the Iraqi war to a great extent was a logical next step after the war in Afghanistan, and also that Iraq possessed weapons of mass destruction that were ready to be used against us. In short, they argued that this was a war of necessity.

Many of us believe to the contrary that the linkage between Iraq and al Qaeda was slight, and that the weapons of mass destruction argument had been grossly exaggerated. Of course evidence since America's military victory have strengthened greatly the case of those of us who were skeptical on both counts.

But the debate continues to be an important one. I was therefore struck by the article in the November 23 Washington Post by Richard Haass. Mr. Haass who is now the President of the Council on Foreign Relations was a very high ranking national security official of the Bush administration from its early months in office until June of this year—after the major military activity in the war against Iraq. While he does not explicitly rebut the Bush administration's case for the war, his article is in fact a strong argument against it.

Talking of the distinction between wars of necessity—which is how the administration has characterized the war in Iraq—and wars of choice, in which countries use war as a means of policy, Mr. Haass, the Director of the State Department's policy planning team while the war was being planned and carried out, clearly asserts that Iraq was an example of the latter.

As he notes, "the debate can and will go on as to whether attacking Iraq was a wise decision, but at its core it was a war of choice. We