

to families with children who suffered from severe mental disabilities at the Kennedy Krieger Institute in Baltimore, Maryland. In addition, she served on the Board of the California Association of Behavior Analysts and also provided consulting to faculty and students of local public schools.

Dr. Vittimberga's life was cut short on February 16, 2004. Her parents, Bruno and Jacklyn Vittimberga, her two sisters Gwenn and Gail, and her brother, Anthony survive her.

She will always be remembered for her contribution to the field of psychology, higher education, and for brilliantly enriching the minds and hearts of her students and colleagues.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JIM
BAUGHMAN

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 3, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Jim Baughman and thank him for his exceptional contributions to his community and the State of Colorado as a Mesa County Commissioner. A two-term commissioner, Jim will always be remembered as a dedicated public servant and leader of his community. As Jim celebrates his retirement, let it be known that he leaves behind a terrific legacy of commitment to the people of Mesa County and the State of Colorado.

A fifth generation Mesa County native, Jim graduated from Grand Junction High School and attended Mesa State College. He became interested in politics when he attended a Grand Junction City Council meeting, and realized he could make a positive impact on his community. In 1991, he was elected to the City Council where he served until his election as a Mesa County Commissioner in 1996. During his tenure as a County Commissioner, he also served on the Riverfront Commission, the Museum Board, the Community Corrections Board, the Grand Valley Air Quality Board, and Associated Governments of Northwest Colorado. He was Chairman of the Board of Mesa County Commissioners in 1998 and 2003.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to Commissioner Jim Baughman before this body of Congress and this nation, and to congratulate him on an outstanding career of public service. His selfless dedication to his community and the people of Colorado as a Mesa County Commissioner is truly remarkable. I wish him all the best in his future endeavors. Thanks for your service.

FALLEN HEROES

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLES F. BASS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2004

Mr. BASS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Sergeant 1st Class Robert Edward Rooney of Nashua, New Hampshire. He bravely served the U.S. Army National Guard's 379th Engi-

neer Company, supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom. Sgt. Ferguson made the ultimate sacrifice to protect his country and aid the Iraqi people when he died of injuries he sustained in an accident at the Shuabai Port in Kuwait on September 25, 2003.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Sergeant 1st Class Robert Edward Rooney and our other service men and women who have courageously given their own lives in order to protect and defend the democracy we enjoy in America and to extend the freedoms that come with democracy to those who live in fear and oppression worldwide.

FALLEN HEROES

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2004

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, as we approach Memorial Day, I would like to rise in honor of a courageous young soldier who died September 7, 2003, of injuries suffered August 30 when the truck he was driving in a supply convoy was hit by a civilian vehicle in Iraq. United States Army Specialist Jarrett B. Thompson, was a member of the Lewes, Delaware-based 946th Transportation Company, and sadly was our State's first war casualty from a Reserve or National Guard unit.

At only 27 years of age, Jarrett was a brave young reservist who valiantly served his State and Country. A Dover resident who grew up in Millington, Maryland and played high school football, Jarrett joined the Army in March of 1994. Following a 3-year tour of active duty at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, he continued his commitment to service as a member of the Army Reserve. When he was called to active duty in January 2003, Jarrett dutifully accepted service in the Middle East, where his fellow reservists described him as an energetic, mission-oriented soldier.

In civilian life, Jarrett was a design engineer for Ashland Equipment, Inc. A proud son and devoted husband and father, Jarrett will be deeply missed by his parents, Judy Coleman Thompson and Allen B. Thompson, his wife Kelly, and their sons Conner and Collin. At his funeral in September, Jarrett received a 21-gun salute and the Bronze Star Medal in honor of his noble service to our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, it is my sincere privilege to honor the life of a proud soldier and heroic representative of the State of Delaware. Army Specialist Jarrett B. Thompson was an honorable defender of liberty, and he deserves our gratitude and respect.

FALLEN HEROES

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2004

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the brave men and women who have served our nation by paying the ultimate sacrifice in defense of freedom and democracy.

While we should honor all our nation's veterans both living and dead throughout the year, on this particular Memorial Day, we pay tribute to the nation's World War II veterans. On May 29th, the World War II memorial, a fitting tribute to "the Greatest Generation," will be dedicated on the National Mall. Hundreds of thousands of World War II veterans and their families will visit the memorial which is a permanent reminder to us and to future generations that the sacrifices made by the soldiers who served overseas, their families, and the Americans who were on the homefront, saved the world from tyranny. From the beaches of Normandy to the Battle of Midway to the construction of the China-Burma-India Road, these soldiers fought for a cause bigger than themselves.

One of these heroes, Michel Thomas, resides in my congressional district and recently was awarded the Silver Star for his extraordinary courage during World War II. I, along with Senator John McCain (R-AZ), worked with the Department of Defense on Mr. Thomas's behalf so that he finally would receive the honor he so justly deserves.

Michel Thomas was born in Poland to a Jewish family with a thriving textile business. In 1933, he fled Hitler's regime in Germany for France. Thomas last saw his family in 1937. He later learned they were all murdered at Auschwitz.

During the war, he survived two years of concentration and slave labor camps in Vichy France and narrowly escaped deportation to Auschwitz. He joined the Secret Army of the French Resistance, where he was active for two years as a commando leader. In 1943, Thomas was caught by and escaped from Klaus Barbie, the notorious Butcher of Lyon. The next year Thomas served in Combat Intelligence in the 180th Regiment of the U.S. Army 45th Division, The Thunderbirds, and was nominated for the Silver Star for his bravery.

On April 29, 1945, Thomas, an agent in the U.S. Army's Counter Intelligence Corps (CIC), arrived at Dachau concentration camp on the day of liberation. Thomas interrogated and photographed the crematorium workers. Two days later Thomas captured the "Hangman of Dachau," Emil Mahl, who was subsequently convicted of war crimes.

In early May 1945, Thomas tracked a convoy of trucks to a paper mill outside Munich, where he rescued from destruction the Nazi Party's worldwide membership card file of over ten million members. The Nazi leadership had shipped the cards, along with tons of other important Third Reich government documents, to be pulped in the final days of the war. These documents became the heart of the collections of the U.S.-run Berlin Document Center, and were crucial in the Nuremberg war crimes trials and in the denazification of Germany.

In 1946, Thomas helped to capture Gustav Knittel, who was convicted of war crimes for his role in the Malmedy massacre of American POWs at the Battle of the Bulge. I am proud to honor Michel Thomas for his heroism.

On Memorial Day, it is fitting that we honor all the men and women of the Armed Forces who have served their nation throughout history including those who are currently risking their lives around the world, including in Afghanistan and Iraq. I have been to both countries twice and have visited with soldiers from New York and across the country. I especially

want to note the contributions of the 10th Mountain Division from Fort Drum under General Austin's leadership, and the 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry Division of the New York Army National Guard, located in my district, who just shipped out to Iraq on Monday. While they are serving in Iraq, I will be fighting to pass legislation to ensure that they receive full military retirement credit for their days of service at Ground Zero after the terrorist attacks of 9/11.

I am pleased to note that today we are passing legislation to correct a longstanding inequity in survivor benefits for the spouses of our fallen veterans. The "National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2005" provides for a 5-year phase-in to eliminate the Widow's Tax. This unfair tax penalizes the widows and widowers of military retirees by reducing their Survivor Benefit Plan benefit from 55 percent of the retiree's pension to 35 percent once they reach age 62, normally the same age she or he is eligible for Social Security. The Social Security benefit the surviving spouse receives is often less than the reduction in the benefit, which results in a net loss of income. This legislation brings long overdue relief to the surviving spouses.

I will continue to support the members of Armed Forces in every way that I can. We owe all of them a debt of gratitude which we can never repay. They helped to make this country what it is today, and they have brought peace to other nations across the globe.

I would like to thank my colleagues from New York Representatives RANGEL and WALSH for organizing today's moment of silence for America's fallen soldiers.

FALLEN HEROES

SPEECH OF

HON. MAC THORNBERRY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2004

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, on this Memorial Day, let us remember Marine Lance Corporal Aaron Austin. He was a young man from my district who loved our country and who lost his life fighting for its ideals in Iraq.

Lance Corporal Aaron Austin was a 21-year old from Sunray, Texas. He was part of the 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, and 1st Marine Division, Camp Pendleton, California. Aaron died April 26, 2004 near Fallujah on his second tour of duty in Iraq.

His family and friends described him as a warrior who was not afraid of anything. After joining the Marines, Aaron quickly became a leader of his machine gun team. He was the product of a small town and enjoyed the outdoors, sports and hanging out with his friends.

Survivors of Corporal Austin are parents, Doug Austin of Amarillo and De'on Miller of Lovington, New Mexico; two brothers, Eric Austin of Amarillo and Mike Austin of Las Vegas, Nevada; his maternal grandparents, Harvey Grigsby and Virgie Thomas of Lovington; his paternal grandmother, Juanita Austin of Yorba Linda, California; and many aunts and uncles. Aaron had planned to wed his fiancée, Tiffany Frank of Phoenix, Arizona on December 11, 2004. Aaron was loved by many and will be remembered as a courageous Marine.

Those who wish for the liberty of all people will forever owe a debt to Corporal Austin. This young man from the Texas Panhandle became a hero when he refused to be governed by fear and sacrificed his life for us and our safety.

Lance Corporal Aaron Austin has joined an unbroken line of patriots who dared to die so that freedom might live and grow and increase its blessings.

May God continue to bless our Nation with such heroes.

HONORING THE CITY OF WARSAW ON ITS SESQUICENTENNIAL

HON. MARK E. SOUDER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 3, 2004

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to rise today to congratulate the City of Warsaw, Indiana, and its residents on the city's sesquicentennial anniversary.

When Mathew Springer built Warsaw's first permanent residence—a tamarack log cabin on the edge of a swampy wilderness—in 1836, America was a young, vibrant nation, expanding rapidly across the continent from its eastern shores. Warsaw then was in the crossroads of this westward movement, and the region was rapidly populated by an intrepid collection of settlers much like Springer. Among those who came to inhabit this western land were traders, trappers, merchants and farmers, who put down roots and laid the foundation for the thriving community we see today.

Within two short decades of the construction of Springer's cabin, Warsaw had become a permanent community, a county seat worthy of incorporation in its own right. The original traders and merchants had constructed stores to sell their wares, community associations had formed, schools were constructed and a local government was firmly in place. The majestic courthouse, built by the citizens of Warsaw during this time of exciting development, still stands in the heart of the city as a symbol of the longevity of the city and its institutions.

It is striking to imagine the extent to which Warsaw's 19th century commercial enterprises have developed and informed the current economic engines of the region. In 1895, for example, Revra DePuy founded a small company to manufacture rather innocuous medical equipment like wire mesh and wooden splints. Today, firms such as Zimmer, Biomet, and DePuy have made Kosciusko County the center of the world's orthopedic manufacturing industry.

When thinking of the history of Warsaw and Kosciusko County, one cannot forget the natural splendor of the surrounding region, which has served as an attraction for settlers and visitors, alike, since the early 19th century. In addition to the simple enjoyment that the local community derives from them, Kosciusko's many lakes are a foremost recreational and tourist center in the State of Indiana. Kosciusko not only hosts visitors from across the state, but, indeed, from across America because of the county's beauty.

As Warsaw celebrates the 150th anniversary of its incorporation, it is my sincere pleasure to join in recognizing the valuable con-

tributions that the City of Warsaw and Kosciusko County have made to the region, the State of Indiana and America itself.

RECOGNIZING MICHAEL A. FELIX

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 3, 2004

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Michael Felix, a leader in my district who has dedicated his life to educating students of all ages and improving the quality of life of military veterans in El Monte, California.

Mr. Felix served his country proudly during the Vietnam War and is a decorated army veteran. Motivated and eager to realize his full academic and professional potential, he enrolled in Citrus Junior College where he received his Associate of Arts degree in 1970. Immediately after, he enrolled in California Polytechnic University, Pomona (Cal Poly) and in 1973 Mr. Felix earned his Bachelor of Science in Physical Education and Recreation Administration.

Throughout his illustrious career, Mr. Felix has been a devoted educator, counselor, and leader for those in need. Whether in teaching children in elementary school or adults English as a Second Language and General Education Development courses, his commitment to education is admirable. Mr. Felix serves as a Senior Counselor and Administrator for the El Monte Union High School District, is an active member of professional organizations such as the California Teachers Association and the California Council for Adult Education, and is a member of my district's Congressional Nomination Committee for Military Academy Admissions.

Mr. Felix is a strong advocate for military veterans. He is a role model and a leader for countless veterans seeking federal and state assistance and serves as the Chairperson and Commissioner of the Veterans and Homeless Affairs Commission of El Monte. Mr. Felix is also a founding member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 10218 of Greater El Monte and an active member of American Legion Post 261.

Mr. Speaker, I salute Michael Felix for his numerous years serving the people of El Monte and my Congressional District, and I wish him the best of luck in all his future endeavors.

A TRIBUTE TO INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE COMPETITION FINAL- ISTS KYLE PLUM, COURTNEY DUNAR AND OLIVIA LITSEY

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 3, 2004

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to three special students from my district. Kyle Plum, Courtney Dunar and Olivia Litsey have been recognized for their outstanding achievement in science and are finalists in the International Science Competition, sponsored by Toshiba and the National Science Teachers Association. Mr.