

crosses, and the surviving veterans who returned to France some six decades later. Glen Dunlap, 86, of Chardon Township was one of those veterans to return to Normandy.

Glen Dunlap served as a U.S. Army staff sergeant in World War II. There were a number of young guys who served from our area, and from Hamden and Concord townships, particularly. Even though Glen was in his early 20s, Mr. Speaker, he was considered the elder statesman of the group. The local guys actually called him "Pop."

Glen Dunlap worked hard, put his own life in danger every single day, and had his men's backs. He was the guy who made sure that supplies got from the factory to the foxhole, and he's part of what Tom Brokaw calls "The Greatest Generation." Glen was away at war for 2 years, and left behind his wife, a daughter and his two boys. When he returned home, he resumed his life and work, raised his family, and never once complained. He felt blessed to have survived when so many didn't.

On Saturday, Glen and 99 other Americans who traveled to Normandy were awarded the French Legion of Honor Medal, which is akin to our Congressional Medal of Honor. It is the highest honor bestowed by the French government and rarely is given to foreigners.

No one is more deserving of this award than Glen Dunlap, who fought for the survival of democracy. On behalf of the 14th Congressional District of Ohio, I thank Glen Dunlap for his service to our country, and congratulate him on receiving the Legion of Honor Medal. May God bless Glen Dunlap and his family, and may He bless the United States of America.

#### RECOGNIZING SHERRI AND ROBERT VINES FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE IN SAN BERNARDINO, CALIFORNIA

#### HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 8, 2004*

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, today it is my pleasure to recognize Sherri and Robert Vines for more than 30 years of community service in San Bernardino County, California. The Vines, who are being honored with the Norman F. Feldheim Award from Congregation Emanu El in our community, exemplify the volunteerism that is the backbone of our American communities.

Currently the President of the United Jewish Welfare Fund of San Bernardino County, Robert Vines has been serving his Congregation and his community for 30 years. Robert has been a respected member of the California State Bar since 1973 and served as the Deputy District Attorney for the County of San Bernardino from 1973–1975. As a member of Congregation Emanu El, Robert has served in a number of important positions, including Financial Secretary of the entire Congregation.

His wife Sherri has served Congregation Emanu El in many capacities, including teaching at the School of Jewish Living, chairing the Community Sedar and three terms as Sisterhood President.

Mr. Speaker, together they have been leading members of their community serving as of-

ficers in the Arrowhead United Way, as host family for the Western Regional Little League Tournament, and as coaches in the local Little League and AYSO. They have contributed their skills and resources to programs of Congregation Emanu El, including sponsoring temple events and serving as a host family for NTTY Conclave.

Sherri and Robert Vines will receive the Rabbi Norman F. Feldheim Award on June 12, 2004 on the 113th anniversary of the founding of their Congregation. They are certainly deserving of the award, which pays tribute to members who most closely resemble the Rabbi Feldheim's qualities of love and loyalty to the synagogue, service to the community, and personal traits of humility, kindness, care and love. Please join me, Mr. Speaker, in recognizing Sherri and Robert for their outstanding service to their community.

#### CONGRATULATING THE CHESTNUT RIDGE LIONS CLUB ON ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

#### HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 8, 2004*

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Chestnut Ridge Lions Club on its 50th Anniversary and to recognize the club's unyielding service to the community.

The selfless desire to help those in need is rare throughout the world, yet here in America the culture of charitable giving thrives. This is a nation that takes enormous pride in its legacy of generosity and equality. It is out of this legacy that numerous organizations have sprouted and grown upon the foundation of service to others.

At its inception, the Chestnut Ridge Lions Club adopted the creed, "we serve," which reflects the very cornerstone upon which this nation was built. Since 1954, the club has maintained its commitment to service by contributing to countless scholarship funds, school activities, and community projects. Members of the club have worked tirelessly to improve the community in any way possible and have dedicated much of their time to inspiring children to make their mark in society.

Without the Chestnut Ridge Lions Club, numerous high school students would not have gone to college, countless public works projects would have remained incomplete, and many of those in need would still be without aid. Additionally, the festivities organized to celebrate holidays, the changing of seasons, and local milestones have provided an atmosphere in which the community has been able to strengthen its cohesion as well as its culture.

The legacy of service that instills a unique pride in the hearts of every American citizen has penetrated the walls of the Chestnut Ridge Lions Club and influenced the lives of scores of people. For its commitment to the citizens of Pennsylvania throughout the last 50 years, I am extremely grateful to the Chestnut Ridge Lions Club.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF THE SERVICE OF NANCY OSTAPOWICZ TO THE RESIDENTS OF MICHIGAN'S THIRD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

#### HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 8, 2004*

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to one of my staffers, Nancy Ostapowicz, who last month retired after serving the residents of West Michigan for 25 years.

As most of us know, being a staff member in a Congressional district office is often a thankless and relatively anonymous job. They usually do not receive the credit they deserve for a job well-done, and all too often they must deal with concern, frustration or anger of constituents who are upset by government actions or have been ill-treated by the bureaucratic system.

Nancy, who has directed my constituent services since I joined Congress in 1993, handled such situations with incredible aplomb, working tirelessly and compassionately with the people who contacted our Grand Rapids office in search of assistance. I was fortunate to have inherited Nancy, as she first started working for Congressman Hal Sawyer in 1979, then continued with Congressman Paul Henry when he took office in 1985.

Over the past quarter-century, Nancy helped literally thousands of people with a wide variety of problems too numerous to list here today, although it is safe to say that she was especially gratified by her efforts helping immigrants and reuniting families so that they could come to the United States and pursue the American dream.

Without a doubt, Nancy's biggest legacy is that those thousands of people would be willing to line up and thank her for the help she gave them. She has served so many people over the years that it is not unusual to see someone walk up to Nancy to thank her for assistance that she provided 10 or 20 years ago.

And so, today, add me to the list of people who have said "Thank you" to Nancy Ostapowicz. Others will ably do her job, but no one can ever replace her.

Congratulations, Nancy, on a fine career of public service, and best wishes to you and Dan in your retirement.

#### RECOGNIZING AND HONORING FIREFIGHTERS, POLICE, PUBLIC SERVANTS, CIVILIANS, AND PRIVATE BUSINESSES WHO RESPONDED TO DEVASTATING FIRE IN RICHMOND, VIRGINIA, ON MARCH 26, 2004

SPEECH OF

#### HON. ROBERT C. SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 1, 2004*

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. I rise today in support of H. Res. 612, introduced by my colleague from Virginia, Mr. CANTOR.

On March 26, 2004, there were a series of devastating fires in Richmond, Virginia. The

first fire began shortly after 12:30, and spread quickly. Wind gusting to nearly 20 mph blew burning debris onto other buildings.

The fires resulted in the destruction of numerous buildings and property, and spread through city blocks and a section of the Virginia Commonwealth University campus. A total of 29 buildings suffered damage, with 19 being condemned by either water or structural damage. Yet, the destruction and damage could certainly have been worse. It was only through the combined efforts of the firefighters who responded to the scene that the fire was contained as quickly as it was. Local firefighters who initially answered the call were later assisted by firefighters from fire stations throughout the region. There were about 200 firefighters on the scene, along with 50 pieces of equipment. Together, they worked to defeat the blaze—and fought the challenging wind, smoke and heat conditions in order to save the remaining area. We thank them today for their heroic efforts to contain the damage and to protect human lives.

It is appropriate for us to also recognize the efforts of the police on March 26th. As always, they were instrumental in keeping our citizens safe. For example, they evacuated several buildings and about 50 nearby homes, going door to door.

And last, today, we recognize the countless private citizens, volunteers and organizations that—along with the firefighters, police, and public servants—worked as a seamless team preserving and protecting human lives, defending property, and providing food and comfort to all affected.

All of these individuals deserve our recognition, and our gratitude. They met their community's call to duty by providing brave and steadfast assistance and upholding the finest traditions of the Commonwealth of Virginia. We, and all Americans, thank you for your supreme efforts.

## FALLEN HEROES

SPEECH OF

**HON. TOM DELAY**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 20, 2004*

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, James Vincent DePierri was a soldier of the greatest generation and one of my constituents. He passed away on August 7, 2000. The following eulogy was written by his son-in-law, Dalton Smith, and delivered at the funeral by his son, Jim DePierri.

JAMES VINCENT DEPIERRI—SOLDIER,  
SURVIVOR

He was only 21 years old that cloudy overcast day. It was the 6th of June, 1944. He had been anxiously waiting just offshore for hours that seemed like days. Men beside him were saying prayers and writing their last letters to their loved ones, for they knew what lay before them that fateful day, D-Day—the Allied Invasion of Normandy. Thousands of American soldiers died that day on the beaches of Normandy, the worst casualties having been inflicted on Omaha Beach. As luck would have it, that is where a young soldier named James Vincent DePierri would be going ashore.

Young Jim DePierri would be lucky that day. He survived one of the worst battles and

the greatest infliction of casualties the United States Armed Forces has ever endured. Jim DePierri was a survivor.

It no doubt comes as news to even his closest friends that Jim was even in World War II, much less that he was one of those brave souls who stormed Omaha Beach on D-Day. Jim was not the kind to brag of his exploits or for that matter even mention his experience. It would probably also be news that Jim DePierri participated in 4 other of the major battles of World War II, including the Battle of the Bulge. Jim DePierri was a survivor.

It may be that having seen so many of his fellow soldiers die all around him that Jim considered every day he had on earth thereafter to be a blessing. His service to the church may have been his way of trying to silently repay what I am sure he believed to be a gift from God, the gift of life.

The real benefactors of that gift are here today embodied in his children, Carol, Patty, Jim and Sharon along with the love of his life, his wife, Rose, and their grandchildren.

His first grandson, my son Jordan Vincent Smith, asked me one day if Papa Jim had been in the war. When we inquired, we were astonished to learn of how much Jim, who never spoke of the war, was involved in World War II. That was many years ago, but I had read of soldiers who had never received their medals, so I gave the information to Jim and he wrote off to the Army. What came back was a box full of medals, that would have filled the chest of any soldier's uniform, including a medal for 114 days of duty on the front lines. But you would have never known from Jim that he had even been in the Army.

It has been said that his was the greatest generation. With quiet heroes like Jim DePierri, a man of character, determination and forthrightness, there is no doubt in my mind that his was the greatest generation.

Those of my generation can only read about or see the film of those great battles. To have been there was clearly a privilege. They considered it their duty. A duty owed to one's country that those of us who were not there can only imagine. That is not to say that we should forget or let pass into distant memory, the heroes of this country. Soon they will all be gone, but to those of you who knew Jim DePierri, who know a silent hero like Jim, or who may have been one of those fortunate souls to have been afforded the honor of fighting for their country and the freedom that we now enjoy, please do not let another day go by without thanking them and their generation of heroes or knowing how much you are appreciated.

Luckily, we had the opportunity to thank Jim. On the 50th anniversary of D-Day, we took Jim and Rose out to dinner, without saying why (I am not sure I even told his daughter, Patty, my wife). The Italian restaurant was full that evening, but I took it upon myself to stand up, get the attention of the whole restaurant and propose a toast to Jim DePierri and all of the soldiers who risked their lives for us on that 6th day of June 1944. Jim was embarrassed, but glad someone cared.

In subsequent years, I would send Jim clippings of editorials on Veterans Day and subsequent anniversaries of D-Day. He would not say anything to anyone else, except maybe Rose, but he always appreciated someone remembering.

Today we are here to remember Jim DePierri, a soldier, a survivor, that most never heard of, but without whom we may not be here today enjoying the freedom he helped to preserve.

Thank you Jim DePierri and I will assure you that your grandchildren and all future generations will remember their grandfather

and great grandfather and his service to his country.

Jim DePierri, a hero, of the greatest generation.

## NORTHWEST INDIANA FEDERATION OF LABOR AFL-CIO

**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 8, 2004*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to congratulate some of the most dedicated and skilled workers in Northwest Indiana. The Northwest Indiana Federation of Labor AFL-CIO will recognize these individuals for their dedication during a banquet to be held at the Avalon Manor Banquet Hall in Hobart, Indiana, on Thursday, June 10, 2004. These individuals, in addition to the other Northwest Indiana Federation of Labor members who have served Northwest Indiana so diligently for such a long period of time, are a testament to the exemplary American worker: loyal, dedicated, and hardworking.

Mr. Johnathan Comer will receive the Old Warrior Award. Mr. Comer was the first African American to be elected to a major basic steel local—Youngstown Sheet & Tube, USWA 1011. He has spent many years dedicating his life to the interests of the labor community as well as his community in Northwest Indiana. The years of hard work he has put forth are a true inspiration to all.

Mr. Robert Cashman will receive the George Meany Award. Mr. Cashman has contributed graciously to the youth of our community. His dedication and devotion to the youth of our nation is a goal we should all strive to achieve.

Ms. Robin Rich is being honored with the Service to Labor Award. She has been a devoted organizer for the United States Steelworkers of America in District 7. Ms. Rich is a bold, strong, and loyal person, and is willing to fight for what she believes in. She has organized various events and programs for USWA District 7. Ms. Rich has given her time and effort selflessly to the people of Northwest Indiana and Illinois throughout her career.

Mr. Bob Anadell is being honored with the Community Service Award. Bob has spent nearly 40 years dedicating his life to the interests of Local 697 as well as his community in Northwest Indiana. His career at Loom 697 has allowed him the opportunity to touch the lives of numerous people.

Portage Mayor Doug Olson and City Council Members Elizabeth Modesto, David Fagen, David Highlands, Ed Gottschling, Richard Turnak, Mark Oprisko, and Olga Velazquez, are being honored with the Union Label Award. The exceptional service they have provided to the community deserves our admiration and respect. The dedication and commitment these elected officials have demonstrated for their community is exemplary of the values we cherish in Northwest Indiana.

David Chlebek is being honored with the 23rd Annual President's Award. David is a fine example of the tenets embodied by those who have dedicated their lives to enhancing the well being of workers throughout Northwest Indiana. He has mastered his trade and has consistently performed at the highest level throughout his hard work and self sacrifice.