

to also consider that atrial fibrillation is the leading cause of severe stroke, but if properly treated, the risk of stroke can be dramatically reduced. Atrial fibrillation causes only 15 percent of all stroke, however it leads to a much higher rate of debilitating outcomes for patients resulting in their need for long-term care and increasing the burden on our health care system.

Atrial fibrillation is a condition where the atrium of the heart does not pump blood out properly into the ventricle causing the blood to pool in the atrial chamber. The pooling leads to the formation of clots, which can break off and travel into the arteries and to the brain where it may lodge causing a severe stroke.

Atrial fibrillation currently affects over 2.3 million people in the United States. However, the number of those effected will increase significantly as the population ages and improvements in the treatment of other forms of heart disease are made, extending their life expectancy but increasing their chances of developing atrial fibrillation.

The Committee urges the Secretary to recognize that strokes caused by atrial fibrillation are preventable through the use of anticoagulation medications. The use of anticoagulation medications have been shown to reduce the risk of stroke caused by atrial fibrillation by over 68 percent. The American Heart Association, American College of Cardiology, American College of Chest Physicians, American College of Physicians and American Academy of Family Practitioners have all issued guidelines stressing the importance of stroke prevention in atrial fibrillation by the proper use of anticoagulation therapy.

However, a significant number of patients who should be on anticoagulation therapy do not receive the proper medication. Given the severity of stroke in patients with atrial fibrillation and the ability of the proper care to prevent strokes it is important that health care professionals are educated about the current guidelines for treatment and there is an increased public awareness of atrial fibrillation.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO DENNIS BRINKER

#### HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 15, 2004*

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

A lifelong resident of North Park, Dennis has lived and worked on a ranch near Coalmont that was homesteaded by his father in 1914. Graduating from Jackson County High School in 1961, he answered his country's call to duty, serving in the U.S. Army from 1962 to 1965. In 1988, he was elected to the Board of Commissioners of Jackson County where he has dedicated his efforts to serving

the people of Jackson County. Some of the committees and boards Dennis serves on include the Western Interstate Region Board of Directors, National Association of County Officials Public Lands Committee. He was chairman of the Colorado Counties Incorporated Public Lands Committee, and is a member of the Western Interstate Region Strategic Plan for National Association of County Officials Steering Committee. He is also a member of the North Park Stockgrowers Association, Colorado Cattlemen Association, and Jackson County Lions Club.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear that County Commissioner Dennis Brinker has ceaselessly dedicated his time and efforts to serving his county and the people of Colorado as a County Commissioner for Jackson County. I am honored to bring his hard work and commitment to the attention of this body of Congress and this nation today. Thank you for all your service Dennis and I wish you and your wife Mary Lea all the best in your future endeavors.

#### PATRIOTS' RESILIENCE LEADS TO TITLE

#### HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 15, 2004*

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, as major league baseball is in full swing, I would like to take a moment to congratulate a high school in the Sixth District of North Carolina that won a state girls' softball championship. It was not an easy road for the Southern Alamance girls' softball team, but in the end, it was certainly a rewarding one. After losing the first game of the championship round in 10 innings, the Patriots found themselves facing a winner take all game at the Walnut Creek Softball Complex. "I don't expect anything easy with them (his team)," Head Coach Mike Johnson told the Burlington Times-News. In continuing this trend of close games and tension filled finishes, Southern Alamance defeated Enka High School 8-6 in yet another 10 inning battle. Despite the Patriots' history of drama, this title should come as no surprise after a combined record of 30-2 for the year.

One of the key performers during the two day tournament run was senior pitcher Brooke Isley who handled 39 innings and struck out 59 batters. It was Isley who closed out the final game by retiring three straight hitters. This capped off a come from behind victory that was initially sparked by Amanda Johnson's base hit and ensuing RBI from Marybeth Ingle. "We couldn't make anything easy," Isley explained to a local reporter. Perhaps the biggest scare for the Patriots came in the 9th inning when an Enka base runner was thrown out at the plate keeping Southern Alamance's hopes alive. Finally in the 10th inning, with runners in scoring position, Marybeth Ingle came up with, what would be, the deciding hit to secure the title.

This was a special win for the Patriots who were led by a number of senior players. Carla Roger, Whitney Lambe, Amanda Hodge, Brooke Isley, Marybeth Ingle, Maegan Evans, and Stacey Vaughn all finished there high school careers on top. These girls had the help of a strong supporting cast comprised of Tori Thompson, Kim Pardue, Brittany McPher-

son, Brittany Thompson, Magan Campbell, Amanda Johnston, Bethany Hawks, Brandi Haithcock, Ariel Bullock, Amanda Cline, Leslie Scott, Daveda Fox, Tiffany Helton, Erika Winebarger, Kristen Burgess, Olivia McPher-son, Kristen Roach, April Carver, and Janna Holt.

After such a remarkable season much credit goes to the Southern Alamance coaching staff who guided the Patriots to the championship. Congratulations to Head Coach Mike Johnson and assistant coaches Chris Miller, Cully Lambeth, Mike Thompson and John Miller. Further recognition should be awarded to Principal Kent Byrd and Athletic Director David Vaughn after this memorable season. On behalf of the citizens of the Sixth District of North Carolina, we congratulate the Patriots of Southern Alamance for winning the state 3-A girls' softball championship.

#### TRIBUTE TO RICHARD CARRIÓN

#### HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 15, 2004*

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Richard Carrión, who served as a National Grand Marshall for the Puerto Rican Day Parade in New York City on June 13, 2004 and has promoted the Puerto Rican Community in all of his life's work.

Richard was born in San Juan, Puerto Rico in November of 1952. He received a Bachelor's degree from the Wharton School of Finance and Commerce at the University of Pennsylvania and a Masters degree in Management Information Systems from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. In 1976 he began working for Banco Popular, the leading banking institution in Puerto Rico. In his early years, he oversaw the installation of the ATM system throughout the extensive branch network in Puerto Rico and the United States. Today, I am proud to say that Richard serves as president and CEO of the company.

Mr. Speaker, empowerment of the Puerto Rican people remains one of Richard's top priorities. He serves as president of the Committee for the Economic Development of Puerto Rico and actively participates on the boards of several other civic organizations committed to solving problems on the island.

In 1990 Richard was named a member of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and has been named to several of its commissions including chairman of the Finance Commission and member of the TV and Internet Rights and Marketing Commissions. In addition, he has served as a member of the Puerto Rico Olympic Committee, president of the Puerto Rico Olympic Trust and as a member of the 2004 Olympiad, a non-profit organization that sought to garner international support for Puerto Rico's efforts to stage the 2004 Olympic Games.

Mr. Speaker, what impresses me the most about this remarkable man is his willingness to put his knowledge to work for the benefit of Puerto Ricans. For his extraordinary achievements and his outstanding service to the people of Puerto Rico, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this outstanding man.

IN RECOGNITION OF RUBY  
LEHRMANN

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 15, 2004*

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the retirement of Ruby Lehrmann, Chief United States Probation Officer for the Western District of Texas. I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge Ruby's long and prestigious career, as well as the countless contributions she has made to her community.

Ruby's professional life reflects hard work, determination, and commitment that began during her college years at Sam Houston State University, where she earned both her Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts in the field of Health Education. During her undergraduate studies, Ruby was a summer intern with the Goree Unit of the Texas Department of Corrections. Through this internship experience, Ruby began to lay the foundation for her impressive career.

After obtaining her Master's degree, Ruby continued a steady climb up the ranks in the Texas Department of Corrections until she became Assistant Warden for the Goree Unit. In September of 1975, this remarkable woman became the first female U.S. Probation Officer for the Western District of Texas. She was then promoted to Deputy Chief United States Probation Officer in 1983 and was named Chief United States Probation Officer for the Western District of Texas in January of 1995.

Throughout her admirable career, Ruby has always maintained her commitment to education. She has served as an adjunct professor for St. Mary's University and Our Lady of the Lake University. In this capacity, Ruby has shared her knowledge and experiences with others in order to help them achieve success as she has. She has also served as a co-chairman and mentor for Burnet Elementary school in the San Antonio Independent School District.

Ruby's dauntless commitment to her community has been very impressive. She has contributed to San Antonio through volunteer service for many organizations, including the San Antonio Conservation Society and the United Way. In addition to these activities, Ruby is also deeply involved in her church, Concordia Lutheran. There, she has served on a number of committees and has been a coach and a Sunday School teacher.

I deeply appreciate Ruby's many contributions to the Texas Department of Corrections, the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Texas, and the city of San Antonio. Her dedication to her career and the humanitarianism she consistently exhibits in her community have made Ruby a role model for all of us. I am proud of Ruby's accomplishments and I wish her continued happiness and success upon her retirement.

60TH ANNIVERSARY OF D-DAY  
SPEECH BY SPEAKER HASTERT

SPEECH OF

HON. RALPH REGULA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 15, 2004*

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, at the ceremony recognizing the 60th Anniversary of D-Day held at the United States Memorial Cemetery at Omaha Beach, you, Speaker DENNIS HASTERT, delivered a moving tribute to the courage and sacrifice of those who fought and died for freedom. The text of these thoughtful remarks follows:

D-DAY MINUS 1

REMARKS BY SPEAKER J. DENNIS HASTERT FOLLOWING A MASS BY HIS EMINENCE FRANCIS CARDINAL GEORGE OF CHICAGO  
[From the Omaha Beach Cemetery, France, June 5, 2004]

Thank you Cardinal George for your inspirational words.

Today we stand in this now peaceful cemetery, on the cliffs overlooking the sea, in this field of white crosses and Stars of David—straight and tall—as if they were young men standing at attention.

Together we have made a pilgrimage to this “hallowed ground”—as Abraham Lincoln would have phrased it—to bear witness to what took place here and to spend, at least a fleeting moment, with our brothers that lie beneath this ground—men who sacrificed on this foreign shore so that we might live as free men and women.

It is our privilege, and our duty, to reflect upon the courage and the heroism of those who were called upon to defend our freedom. We honor those who lie here, but we also embrace those who survived, and returned home to raise their families and to build our nation as a beacon to freedom loving people around the world.

Not far from here, at Pointe du Hoc, are the cliffs they said no man could scale. But they were scaled by determined men with ladders and ropes and grappling hooks in the midst of a merciless hail of bullets and shrapnel.

Twenty years ago, on the 40th Anniversary of D-Day, President Reagan looked out at those cliffs and asked, “who were these men?”

They were ordinary men doing extraordinary things. Men who sought no territory—who sought no plunder—and who sought no glory. They simply came, and many died, so we could live in freedom.

“Where do we find such men?” asked President Reagan. He knew the answer. Over there—across the sea—in America.

Sixty years ago today, D-Day minus One, what were those young men thinking as they waited to embark on one of the great crusades of the millennium?

In those tension filled hours some found comfort in quiet prayer. Others may have wondered why they were here.

What threat forced these farmers, accountants, factory workers, college students, athletes and assorted other laborers and professionals, to leave their families, their careers and their American way of life?

They knew the answer. Hitler's Germany was that threat. Hitler's hatred of freedom, his assault on common decency, his brutal murder of millions of his own citizens, and his determination to impose his sick vision of the future on the free world.

To end Hitler's regime and restore common decency in the world: that is why they were there.

Operation Overlord, as with the entire war effort, caused great hardship. But out of such hardship was drawn great courage, and from great courage were forged great leaders. Some of that “greatest generation” returned home and entered politics and went on to serve our Nation in the Congress of the United States.

Sam Gibbons parachuted behind the lines here in Normandy, preparing the way for the invasion that would follow. He would later become a leader on the Ways and Means Committee.

Bob Michel, our beloved leader from Illinois, went ashore here in Normandy and fought the Nazis all the way to Bastogne, where he was wounded at the Battle of the Bulge.

The list of members who served our nation in the Second World War, and still serve in the House of Representatives, is growing ever shorter with the passage of time.

But those proud members—Henry Hyde of Illinois, Cass Ballenger of North Carolina, John Dingell of Michigan, Amo Houghton of New York, Ralph Hall of Texas, and Ralph Regula of Ohio, still bring great honor to the United States House of Representatives.

These Members of Congress and the men of the 1st Division, some of whom are here today, and their millions of comrades-in-arms, understood that the world-wide threat of fascism, if left unchecked, would destroy the free world. They faced that threat and they beat it.

I want to tell you that the “Greatest Generation” still lives today and like the boys of the 1940s, it has a very young face. They are the grandsons and the granddaughters of those who hit this beach in France or raised that flag on Iwo Jimi or pushed the communists back in Korea or in Vietnam.

How do I know that these young warriors of the 21st century are also part of “The Greatest Generation?” Because I have met some of them. I have visited them in hospital wards at Walter Reed and in Landstuhl in Germany.

When you visit these young men and women—some of whom have been severely wounded, and you ask them what they want, you always get the same answer, “I just want to go back and join my unit, sir, to be with my comrades and do my job.”

It happens over and over again, the same response given with pride and determination. I ask myself, often with tears in my eyes as I walk away, “Where do we find such men and women?” And I know the answer. All around me. Everywhere I look. In America.

Today we face the threat of world-wide terrorism. Like the Nazis of the 1930's, the terrorists of the 1990's were a threat too often ignored.

But like Pearl Harbor, September 11th, 2001, shocked us out of our complacency. As Americans, we love peace, but we love freedom more. So we are facing the threat. And we will beat it.

In war, we often sacrifice some of the best and the brightest to further the cause of freedom. But we also forge the leaders for the next generation.

We cannot know who will be the Bob Michel, or Bob Dole, or Sam Gibbons of this new generation. But they are out there. Perhaps serving today in a remote mountain camp in Afghanistan, or in a village in Iraq, or on a ship at sea.

Their mission is not very different from that of 1944—to preserve the freedoms that we cherish and to restore freedom to oppressed people. They are fighting to make our homeland safe. They are sacrificing for others.

Who are these ordinary men and women doing extraordinary things you ask? I cannot tell you their names. But this I know: They are Americans.