

Community College this coming fall. In addition to winning the Congressional Art Competition, Juan won top honors for costume designing in the Florida State Thespian Competition last year.

After showcasing "Proud Mother" for a year, I look forward to honoring him as the first winner of the Congressional Art Competition since I came to Washington at a ceremony this Saturday.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to represent Juan Fontanez, and I am proud to praise him on the floor of this House.

COMMENDING HOLY SPIRIT HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS VARSITY CREW TEAM ON THEIR SECOND STRAIGHT PEABODY CUP CHAMPIONSHIP AT THE HENLEY REGATTA

HON. FRANK A. LOBIONDO

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2004

Mr. LOBIONDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Holy Spirit High School girls varsity-eight crew team on their second straight Peabody Cup Championship at the distinguished and well known Henley Women's Regatta in Henley-on-Thames, England on Sunday, June 20, 2004. The girls' varsity-eight crew team defeated St. Andrews School by taking a strong lead from the start of the race and pushed on to victory by winning the 1,500 meter race by 1¼ boat lengths in 5 minutes and 11 seconds.

The team is led by Holy Spirit High School coach John Slattery, and was made up of bow Robyn Brennan, Erin Coyle, Kairie Roehill, Kaitlin Grant, Andria Haneman, Kristen Haneman, Jen Maslanka, stroke Teri Francesco, and coxswain Lynn Cassidy.

On behalf of the residents of the Second District of New Jersey, I offer my congratulations to the Holy Spirit High School girls' varsity-eight crew team on their outstanding second straight victory at the Peabody Cup Championships. These young women showed poise under pressure and share our pride in their outstanding achievement.

TRIBUTE TO SCOTT LILLY

HON. DAVID R. OBEY

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2004

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to take a moment to thank someone who has meant a great deal to the Appropriations Committee, the entire House, and to me.

Earlier this year, Scott Lilly concluded a 31-year career of service in the House of Representatives, mostly recently serving as the Democratic Staff Director of the House Appropriations Committee. Scott's career in the House was marked by dedication, distinction and an eternal sense of duty to serve the American people.

Too often, Members of the House are given all of the credit for what we produce or for the ideas we make real. In fact, the most difficult tasks are often accomplished behind the

scenes by our hard-working staff. Whatever credit I may be due during my service as the Chairman and now Ranking Democrat on the Committee on Appropriations, I must share much of it with Scott Lilly.

Scott first came to the House as a summer intern in 1966. After graduating from college he worked for the Missouri Legislature, spent two years in the United States Army, and in 1971, was central states coordinator for the George McGovern presidential campaign.

My collaboration with Scott first began in 1973 when he joined my staff, working for more than a decade as an associate staff member to both the Appropriations and Budget Committees. In 1985, Scott moved to the Joint Economic Committee, serving as its Executive Director and publishing a number of reports that attracted national attention, including studies on the regional disparities in economic recovery of the mid-1980s, and on the declining earning power of middle class Americans.

In 1988, Scott became the fourth Executive Director of the Democratic Study Group (DSG) serving under Chairmen MARTIN SABO, Robert Wise and Michael Synar. During that period, the DSG played a central role in legislative reform issues within the House Democratic Caucus and provided legislative research to virtually all Democrats and to many Republican members as well.

Following the passing of Chairman William Natcher in 1994, the Democratic Caucus selected me to serve as House Appropriations Committee chairman. I then asked Scott to become the 10th Clerk and Staff Director in the 129-year history of the Committee.

When the Republicans took control of the House the following January, Scott stayed on to serve as the Committee's Democratic Staff Director, a position he held for nine years.

This past January, Scott announced that he would be leaving the Committee. While his service to the House may have ended, his public service has not. Neither has our friendship or my deep respect for Scott. Now, as a part-time professor at the Georgetown University Public Policy Institute, Scott educates a new generation of public servants, who I know will be equal to the task because they are learning from the best. Scott also continues to serve and stand up for progressive principles as a senior fellow at the think tank, the Center for American Progress.

I am hopeful that, in addition to these new duties, Scott will now have the time to enjoy outside pursuits that he could not avail himself of while serving the House. Particularly, I hope that Scott will be able to return to his guitar lessons. As a fellow member of the bluegrass band, the Capitol Offenses, I know that like all of us, Scott might not be able to improve his singing voice, but maybe he can make some progress on his guitar plucking.

Scott Lilly's departure from the House was a significant loss for this institution. I would note with pride that Scott also leaves with many more friends, from both sides of the aisle, than detractors. Throughout his service, Scott always believed that political opponents don't have to be political enemies. That is a belief that is in too short supply in the Congress and in this town, but it is a belief that Scott lived throughout his service.

Congressional scholar Norman Ornstein noted in a Roll Call column last November the reality that "dedicated professionals," like

Scott Lilly, are what makes this institution work. Ornstein wrote of Scott and others like him, "These are people who could leave at any time and command five or 10 times the pay they receive; instead they have provided the long-term glue that keeps Congressional deliberation and institutional memory together." I could not agree more.

For more than 30 years, Scott Lilly has used his great political talent and judgment to serve this institution and this country. Unlike some in this town, he has never forgotten that political talent is wasted unless it is used for a higher purpose. Whether he was working for the McGovern campaign, or running the Democratic Study Group, the Joint Economic Committee or the Appropriations Committee staff, every day he put that talent to work to make this a stronger, fairer, and more decent and humane country. This House has never been served by two finer staff directors working with each, other across the partisan aisle, than Scott Lilly and Jim Dyer.

Through it all, he has been my best friend and my wisest counselor. What more can be said except thank you and Godspeed in whatever comes next.

IN HONOR OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF INVALIDS AND VETERANS OF WORLD WAR II FROM THE FORMER USSR

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2004

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the American Association of Invalids and Veterans of World War II from the former USSR. As members of the Russian army, this group fiercely fought German occupation from 1941 to 1945, and after fighting post-war anti-Semitism in their own country, they immigrated to the New York City area. Tuesday marked the 63rd anniversary of Germany's invasion of the former Soviet Union. Today, I am pleased to welcome them to Washington D.C. as they visit the World War II Memorial, and to honor their contribution in fighting for peace and liberty in Europe.

The group of Russian Veterans I honor today fought in many battles along the Russian front in World War II, and in major battles in Odessa, Moscow, and Stalingrad. As we recently honored millions of brave Americans with the opening of the World War II Memorial, I also recognize this group of veterans for their contribution to the Allied victory. Through their efforts in the Russian armed forces, these soldiers played an important role in defeating the Nazis—a victory which they celebrated in the streets of Berlin alongside American soldiers.

Their common experiences in the war, in its aftermath, and as immigrants to the United States bind them deeply to one another. As The New York Times explained, "As Jews who shared both the deprivations of a brutal war against Hitler's forces and postwar anti-Semitism under a Soviet system they had risked their lives to preserve, their allegiance is not to the former Soviet Union, nor to the Red Army, nor even to Mother Russia, but to one another." Though the association began in 1995 with only 30 veterans, it now boasts 3,000 members in New York.

For their patriotism, for their commitment to freedom and democracy in Europe, and for their unyielding commitment to each other, it is my privilege to honor the American Association of Invalids and Veterans of World War II from the former USSR, and to warmly welcome them to Washington D.C.

TRIBUTE TO U.S. NAVY SEAL
PETTY OFFICER 1ST CLASS
BRIAN OUELLETTE

HON. MARTIN T. MEEHAN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2004

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a fallen hero, Petty Officer 1st Class Brian J. Ouellette of Maynard, Massachusetts. He gave his life in service to our country, and we will forever be grateful.

Brian was a U.S. Navy SEAL deployed as part of Operation Enduring Freedom and serving with the elite Navy Special Warfare Group Two based out of Little Creek, Virginia. He died tragically on May 29th along with three of his comrades when their Humvee hit a landmine in the Zabul province of Afghanistan.

Petty Officer 1st Class Ouellette grew up in Waltham, Massachusetts and graduated from Waltham High School in 1985. His parents, Jack and Peg, now reside in the town of Maynard in my congressional district.

A fourteen-year veteran of the Navy, Brian joined the service in 1990 and became a member of the elite SEAL team in 1991. Friends remember him as a great teammate and tough opponent on the football field and a fierce competitor in Kempo-style karate.

Brian's parents are proud, not just for the supreme sacrifice he made on behalf of his country, but for the honor he brought to them as a Navy SEAL and loving son. Despite his tough exterior, Brian's family describes him as compassionate and nurturing brother of seven siblings and uncle to nine nieces and nephews. Brian's family deeply impacted his life, and he left an indelible imprint on them.

Petty Officer 1st Class Ouellette was a brave sailor who gave his life to restore freedom and democracy in the war-torn country of Afghanistan and support the global war on terrorism. It is lives like his, taken too soon, that remind us of the true price of freedom.

I have requested an American flag be flown over the United States Capitol in memory of Brian to honor his brave service to our country. This flag will be delivered to his family.

Brian died fighting for the country he loved, alongside the fellow sailors he respected and with the family he adored forever in his heart. Our Nation is humbled and grateful for his sacrifice.

Mr. Speaker, we should all take a moment to recognize Petty Officer 1st Class Brian Ouellette of the United States Navy SEALs for his ultimate service to our Nation.

HOMEOWNERSHIP BUILDS STRONG COMMUNITIES

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2004

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, June is National Homeownership Month. Stronger families, better schools, and homeownership produce healthy neighborhoods and communities.

When people own their homes, other benefits follow, such as economic security and family stability. Over the years, home values have generally increased, making them a good investment and a great way for families to build up assets that can be used for everyday needs, unexpected setbacks, and even helping to send a child to college.

Neighborhoods where people own homes are more stable. People tend to take better care of property they own and care more about the rest of the neighborhood as well. Homeownership also leads to a more vibrant community because home sales attract grocery stores, restaurants and other small businesses that add stability and job opportunities.

With all these benefits, it is discouraging that there are some areas in our country where the homeownership rate is very low. In my home state of Ohio, the City of Cincinnati's homeownership rate is 39 percent, far below the national average of 68 percent. And even in the rural areas of my district where the percentage of home owners is higher, we are still well below the national average.

Ohio has a shortage of affordable homes in inner-city and rural areas. This is also true in many other states. To help address this problem, Representative BEN CARDIN and I introduced H.R. 839, the Renewing the Dream Tax Credit Act, which is based on a proposal advanced by President Bush. The measure would make a tax credit available to developers or investors that build or rehabilitate homes for sale to low- and moderate-income buyers in these areas. H.R. 839 has the support of nearly 300 House members, and would make it more attractive for developers to create affordable housing in urban and rural areas in which the need is greatest.

Mr. Speaker, when people buy a home, they make an investment in that community. Enacting H.R. 839 will help make homeownership achievable for more Americans.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM KOLBE

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2004

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I missed the vote on agreeing to the Rogers (MI) amendment to H.R. 4548, the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2005 (#293). I intended to vote "aye."

HONORING FUTURE UNLIMITED AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. JEB BRADLEY

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2004

Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to 17 New Hampshire students who graduated at the top of their high school class and are being recognized for their academic achievements by the Knights of Columbus in Rochester, New Hampshire.

The Rochester Knights of Columbus Council founded the Future Unlimited Banquet in June of 1998 to honor students from the Greater Rochester area who have achieved high levels of scholastic excellence. The "brainchild" of Don Leeman, the banquet honors valedictorians and salutatorians from eight high schools in the region for their academic excellence and contributions to the community. The Council has had much positive feedback from the greater community for their efforts to promote intellectual fellowship, and plan to extend this successful recognition banquet across the state and country.

The students to be honored for their scholastic achievements are:

Bryn Paslawski of Durham, valedictorian at St. Thomas Aquinas High School; Marie Osborn of Portsmouth, salutatorian at St. Thomas Aquinas High School; David Thompson of Kittery, Maine, salutatorian at St. Thomas Aquinas High School; Trevor Sherwood of Barrington, valedictorian at Dover High School; Brittany Soper of Dover, salutatorian at Dover High School; Kristen Couture of Somersworth, valedictorian at Somersworth High School; Danielle Daigle of Rollinsford, salutatorian at Somersworth High School; and Khari Lizotte of Rochester, valedictorian at Spaulding High School.

Kimberly Montini of Rochester, salutatorian at Spaulding High School; Katy Huppe of Farmington, valedictorian at Farmington High School; Casey Raasumaa of Farmington, salutatorian at Farmington High School; Jacqueline Elliott of Milton, valedictorian at Nute High School; Kayla Gagne of Milton, salutatorian at Nute High School; Tonya Prescott of Laconia, valedictorian at Alton High School; Meredith Roy of Alton, salutatorian at Alton High School; Meaghan Maguire of Wolfeboro, valedictorian at Kingswood Regional High School; and, Jamison Costello of Wolfeboro, salutatorian at Kingswood Regional High School.

These 17 students are excellent examples of the hard work, energy and dedication that is necessary to pursuing higher academic goals. They are among the brightest students in the state and offer much hope for the future. They truly exemplify what is good about today's youth. I congratulate all of the students for a job well done, and I also congratulate the members of the Rochester Knights of Columbus for their efforts to recognize outstanding students.