

and sunny. I was giving a speech on the House floor. Soon after I finished, the Capitol building was evacuated. I did not know until I got back to my office that planes had hit the World Trade Center buildings in New York and that a third plane that may have been headed toward the Capitol building was taken down in a field in Pennsylvania. I am profoundly grateful that the passengers aboard United Airlines Flight 93 bravely fought back, thinking of the safety of others, not of their own well-being. Their actions saved the lives of untold numbers of us who were in Washington, D.C. that day.

The resolution on the floor today appropriately honors those who lost their lives due to these heinous attacks. Thousands of husbands, fathers, mothers, wives, daughters, brothers, children, grandparents and others were lost on that day. We must never forget those individuals and their families.

The resolution also honors the heroic actions and sacrifices of our men and women in the U.S. military and their families. I have had the privilege of visiting with dozens of our men and women in uniform, both here at home and in a war zone. I am continually awed by the professionalism, determination, and commitment of our troops.

I am also pleased that H. Res. 757 acknowledges the service and sacrifice of the first responders—emergency personnel, fire fighters, police officers, and others—who aided the innocent victims of the terrorist attacks. While these individuals humbly say they were merely doing their jobs that day, their selfless actions embody some of the best qualities of the American people.

Finally, the resolution congratulates the Congress and the President for various steps taken to improve the security of the American people in the wake of September 11th.

While Congress has adopted some piecemeal improvements on the security front, al-Qaeda will not wait for us to make gradual improvements. Security must be improved today, not after the next attack.

Congress and the Bush administration must stop the finger pointing, turf protection, and minor tweaking that have been the primary features of the Federal government's response to 9/11. It is time for bolder action.

Aviation security is not what it should be. Security screeners need the same upgraded equipment used in congressional office buildings and the White House. We need to deploy technology to detect plastic explosives carried on board planes. We must screen employees and vendors who work on the runways and have access to planes, but who are not currently screened at all. All cargo carried on passenger planes must be tested for explosives. We need effective countermeasures and international agreements to reduce the threat of shoulder-fired missiles. The arbitrary cap on the number of security screeners should be lifted.

A fully unified terrorist watch list that is electronically accessible to necessary Federal and State officials for real-time searches must be put in place now.

Border security is still notably lacking, three years after 9/11. The Federal government should hire 3,000 additional border inspectors and border patrol agents to secure our borders with Canada and Mexico. Existing technologies, like remote sensors, long-range cameras, and unmanned aerial vehicles,

should monitor all 7,000 miles of our border 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Astonishingly, on the 3rd anniversary of the attacks, America's police, firefighters, and emergency response personnel still lack the fundamental ability to communicate with each other by radio. Congress must increase funding to help States and local governments purchase essential equipment.

Our Nation has 95,000 miles of coastline and 361 ports. Yet, the Federal government will spend only \$46 million on port security grants this year while spending \$10 billion to develop a missile defense system that is irrelevant to the threat posed by al-Qaeda. Congress should increase funding for radiation detection equipment to screen every cargo container, beef up the presence of U.S. inspectors at foreign ports to inspect cargo destined for the U.S., and enhance the Coast Guard fleet.

Five times as many Americans travel on trains and transit each day as on planes, but less than two percent of the transportation security budget goes to non-aviation programs. Congress and the Administration should increase funding for passenger rail and transit security. A baseline level of security for the transit systems in the 50 largest metropolitan areas would cost \$2 billion.

Most of the 20 tons of nuclear material at 130 facilities in 40 countries has no more security than a night watchman and a chain link fence. In 2001, a bipartisan commission recommended tripling funding to \$3 billion a year for programs to help secure nuclear materials around the world from terrorists.

Finally, I want to say that I am disappointed that H. Res. 757 contains several whereas clauses implying a link between al-Qaeda and Iraq, and Iraq and the September 11th attacks. A variety of experts, including the 9/11 Commission and the Senate Intelligence Committee, have concluded there was no cooperation between Iraq and al-Qaeda on the September 11, 2001, attacks or anything else. It is also inappropriate to link Iraq to the global war against al-Qaeda. Iraq did not pose an urgent threat to our national security. Iraq did not have ties to al-Qaeda. Iraq had not attacked the United States, nor is there any evidence Iraq planned to attack us. Iraq did not have weapons of mass destruction, nor any delivery system capable of attacking us.

I supported the war against the Taliban and al-Qaeda in Afghanistan, and I continue to support military action against al-Qaeda. But, to use a resolution commemorating the anniversary of 9/11 to peddle discredited theories about Iraq in order to cover for the failures of the Bush administration in Iraq and justify the diversion of resources from the war against our real national security threat—al-Qaeda—does a disservice to the American people.

I will vote in favor of H. Res. 757 because I want to honor those I mentioned at the outset of my statement—those who lost their lives in the attacks, those who tried valiantly to save lives on that day, and our men and women in uniform. But, I want to state for the record that I disagree with some of the rhetoric in the resolution.

RECOGNIZING MATTHEW EMERY ECKARD FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 13, 2004

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Matthew Emery Eckard, an outstanding young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 444, and by earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Matthew has been active with his troop by participating in many Scout activities. Over the 14 years Matt has been involved with Scouting, he has earned 29 merit badges. Matt set the goal in 2001 to be the youngest Eagle Scout in Kansas City. I am proud of him for achieving this goal and becoming the fifth youngest Eagle Scout in the whole United States. He was a 3-year camper at H. Roe Bartle Scout Reservation, and is a Brotherhood member in the Order of the Arrow.

For his Eagle Scout project, Matt repainted and surveyed the only Corp of Engineers flood gauge on Line Creek beneath Vivion Road in Riverside, Missouri. This gauge is the official marker used to measure the creek in the flood of 1993.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Matthew Emery Eckard for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

CENTENARY OF ST. MICHAEL'S COLLEGE

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 13, 2004

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, this is a time for celebration of higher education in the Green Mountain State: One hundred years ago Saint Michael's College was founded in Winooski, Vermont.

In the past century the college has seen its enrollment burgeon from 34 students to 1,900 students. It has grown from very modest beginnings into a major institution of higher education, widely known as one of the finest liberal arts colleges in the Northeast, and one of the premier Catholic colleges in America. With the diversity of its student body, and its long history as one of the first schools to offer education in teaching English as a second language, its reputation for academic excellence is not just national but international.

Priests of the Society of St. Edmund emigrated to North America, fleeing religious persecution in France in the late nineteenth century. They settled in Vermont, and changed forever the shape of education in their adopted state.

As an order dedicated to education, the Edmundites founded Saint Michael's College in 1904. With an initial investment of \$5,000 they began the college on the Kelly Farm in Winooski Park. Their initial effort was modest, just under three dozen students ranging in age from 10 to 22. Few, except the visionary

founders, would have believed that from such small beginnings would emerge the thriving institution which, a century later, is widely known for both its rigorous academic program and its deep commitment to service.

The founders themselves probably did not foresee that the college, originally open only to men, would go co-educational in 1970, or that its commitment to excellence in every pursuit—in developing the ethical as well as the intellectual and spiritual side of human existence, in improving the body as well as the mind—would lead to the Ice Knights winning the NCAA Division II hockey championship. (Nor have the women far behind: in 2000 the St. Michael's field hockey team advanced to the NCAA Division II Final Four.) The founders knew they were sowing the seeds for building character and giving a base for achievement in the secular world, but even they could not have foreseen that graduates of St. Michael's would serve in the United States Senate, and head some of America's largest and most important corporations, or win the Pulitzer Prize. Many graduates serve their fellow men and women, here and abroad, with great dedication, though that they could have foreseen, for commitment to the welfare of the underprivileged and dispossessed has always been central to the Edmundite mission.

Today, the 1,900 full-time undergraduate students at St. Michael's reside in an environment in which learning takes place both in and out of the classroom. In addition to its undergraduates, a multitude of graduate and international students experience its commitment to moral and ethical development, a commitment inspired by the strong Edmundite tradition of service. Although it is now run by a secular Board of Trustees, and no longer are the majority of its teachers Edmundite priests, St. Michael's still is guided by the spirit of its founding order, the recognition that service and education are inextricably linked, and intellectual growth must proceed in concert with spiritual and ethical deepening.

St. Michael's was one of the first colleges to institute an Alternative Spring Break, enabling students to work in inner cities and rural areas to rebuild communities and provide needed services. Today, the college lives out its commitment to service in many ways at home and abroad. In the past few years, student programs have gone to Calcutta, Tanzania, Haiti and elsewhere to learn and do good work. St. Michael's remains dedicated to teaching biology and literature, history and philosophy—but is also enduringly dedicated to working with the impoverished, the homeless, and the victims of AIDS.

It is a particular mark of St. Michael's excellence that it was recently invited to join the elite ranks of colleges and universities hosting Phi Beta Kappa chapters on campus.

And Saint Michael's continues to grow ever stronger academically. For fourteen consecutive years it has been highly rated in rankings of colleges by US News and World Report, and in 2003 it was identified by Newsweek magazine as one of thirty "hidden treasure" colleges that deserve wider national recognition.

Under the able leadership of President Marc vanderHeyden, a dedicated and excellent faculty teaches courses which are at the cutting edge of knowledge, while still rooted in the great traditions of learning. The staff at the college are as committed to excellence and

the growth of students as are the faculty. The alumni, those prior generations of St. Michael's students, have gone on to do significant work in the world, serving as models for the engaged students of today, and contribute as generous benefactors to the fiscal well-being of the college.

I have spoken at St. Michael's, met with classes there, and had its students serve as interns in my office. So I say with confidence that its students are remarkable young people, for they embody that dedication to conjoining learning with service which is the hallmark of the college.

As St. Michael's College moves into its second century, the people of Vermont salute its past achievement and its present accomplishment. Situated above the Winooski River, overlooking the splendors of Mount Mansfield, it is my firm expectation that St. Michael's College and its campus community will continue to sparkle, a bright jewel in the Green Mountain State.

RECOGNIZING DANIEL BRYAN DUDDY FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 13, 2004

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Daniel Bryan Duddy, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 444, and by earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Bryan has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the 10 years Bryan has been involved with Scouting, he has earned numerous merit badges and held several leadership positions. Bryan served as both Patrol and Senior Patrol Leader, was a 2-year camper at H. Roe Bartle Scout Reservation, and is a Firebuilder in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say. Bryan is also a current Brotherhood member in the Order of the Arrow.

For his Eagle Scout project, Bryan constructed several permanent seating benches around the campfire rings at Tall Oaks Christian camp.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Daniel Bryan Duddy for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

2004 TEXAS HONOR SCHOOL BOARD FOR LEWISVILLE

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 13, 2004

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to congratulate one of my hometown school districts for its outstanding achievements and recently being named a 2004 Texas Honor School Board by the Texas Association of School Administrators.

Among the factors that resulted in the recognition of the Lewisville School Board were

its vision, commitment, and leadership as policy makers; commitment to the improvement of student performance and evidence of academic achievement; evidence of strong community support for the district; cooperation among board members and the superintendent; and evidence of successful school-business partnerships.

Congratulations to the following members of the Lewisville district school board: Mark Shaw, Fred Placke, Carol Kyer, Anita Nelson, Tom Kim, Mike McDaniel, and Tom Ferguson for the honor.

I am delighted that your award-winning performance has garnered you this recognition. Your work is greatly appreciated.

The Lewisville school district has a history of outstanding distinction throughout the State of Texas and continues to pursue educational excellence. Every member is vital to the overall goal and performance of the board.

HONORING STEPHEN C. ROBERTS FOR HIS 30 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE UNITED STATES DE- PARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 13, 2004

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Stephen C. Roberts, Senior Auditor for the United States Department of Agriculture Great Plains Region. Mr. Roberts has exemplified the finest qualities of leadership and service and is being honored for his 30 year commitment to Federal service.

Mr. Roberts began his career with the Office of the Inspector General in 1978, as an auditor in Marlboro, Massachusetts, and transferred to the Beltsville, Maryland, office later that year. In 1982, Mr. Roberts moved to our Kansas City office. Mr. Roberts rapidly progressed with the Office of the Inspector General to Supervisory Auditor in 1985 where he has served until his August 21, 2004 retirement.

During his illustrious career with the USDA, Mr. Roberts was recognized for directing complex audits of management and security of information technology, as well as serving on Quality Assessment Review teams in Chicago, Illinois, and San Francisco, California.

He also received awards for audits of food service management companies and vendors performed at school districts located in seven States and Puerto Rico. Mr. Roberts was also one of the original instructors at the Office of the Inspector General Audit Academy started in 1988 and he also developed an Audit Survey Techniques training course for the agency. In 1984 and 1985, Mr. Roberts was detailed to the North Atlantic Region to act as a Supervisory Auditor over work being conducted in Puerto Rico. Mr. Roberts has had a diverse and exemplary career with a consistently high level of accomplishments in his many years of Federal service for the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending the career of Stephen C. Roberts, who exemplifies the qualities of dedication and service to the United States Department of Agriculture Great Plains Region and the people of the United States of America.