

After serving his country for just over a year fighting in the Pacific, Corporal Compton was injured in a blast in June of 1945. The force of the blast knocked him unconscious. He was evacuated to a hospital ship but returned to the front lines to continue fighting the enemy.

I presented Corporal Compton with the Purple Heart, the oldest military decoration in the world, more than 50 years overdue.

Though he earned this honor, he never received it from the Defense Department and I am honored to have the opportunity to present to him the Purple Heart for his selfless devotion to duty and service to the United States.

IN HONOR OF ANGELICA
HARRISON

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 21, 2004

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Angelica "Angel" Harrison for her outstanding commitment to serving her community. She is being honored today, September 21, 2004, with the Mary T. Norton Memorial Award by the United Way of Hudson County at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Secaucus, New Jersey.

Mrs. Harrison has shown remarkable passion for helping the homeless. She has helped countless people make the transition from poverty to self-sufficiency and has helped raise critical funding for those in need. For 33 years, she has worked at the Hudson County Division of Welfare, serving as a social worker, supervisor, administrative advisor, and deputy director. Since 1983, Mrs. Harrison has been the director of the agency.

Mrs. Harrison's dedication to public service is demonstrated by her participation in numerous agencies throughout the community. She is a member of the State Medicaid Planning Committee, the State Corrective Action Panel, and the Hudson County Child Care Committee. Mrs. Harrison has also shown great leadership, serving as a board member for the Human Services Advisory Council; chairperson for the Comprehensive Emergency Assistance System; two-time past president of the New Jersey County Welfare Directors' Association; and current president of the Hudson County Pension Committee.

Over the years, Mrs. Harrison has worked tirelessly to improve the lives of those in need. She opened a food pantry at the County Welfare Agency to help those ineligible to receive food stamps. In addition, she established the Supportive Assistance to Individuals and Families (SAIF) program, which aids clients in the transition from welfare to self-sufficiency. She successfully secured a \$1.8 million grant for this program in Hudson County.

Mrs. Harrison was born and raised in Jersey City, New Jersey. She received her bachelor's degree in both education and psychology from Jersey City State College.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Angelica Harrison for her remarkable work in Hudson County and her outstanding contributions to the social welfare and outreach programs in her community.

IN HONOR OF THE DEDICATED
SERVICE OF MARVIN C. SHARP
TO THE DELAWARE FIRE-
FIGHTER COMMUNITY

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 21, 2004

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, during my service as a Member of the House of Representatives, it has been my honor and privilege to rise and pay tribute to organizations and people who really make a difference in the Delaware community. Today, I rise to recognize Marvin C. Sharp, President of the Delaware Volunteer Firemen's Association (DVFA).

Marvin C. Sharp has been an extremely active and influential member of the fire prevention community for years. President Sharp is a Life Member of the Carlisle Fire Company of Milford where he served in several capacities as an emergency responder—including Ambulance Captain. He was "Fireman of the Year" in 1980 and "Ambulance Attendant of the Year" in 1986.

Marvin Sharp was formerly the President of Kent County Volunteer Firemen's Association. He served as President of the Kent County Ambulance Association and as President of the Delaware State Ambulance Association. As a result of his demonstrated leadership Marvin was subsequently nominated and elected as the Second Vice President of the Delaware Volunteer Firemen's Association in 2001. He was elected First Vice President in 2002, and President in 2003. This year he was elected Fourth Vice President of the Cumberland Valley Volunteer Firemen's Association. His various positions within the fire services community are a testament to his dedication to the public, as well as the faith that President Sharp's leadership resulted in an amendment to the by-laws of the DVFA which allowed the Wilmington Fire Department, our state's only fully career fire department, to join the Association as a full member. In an era where some volunteer and career fire departments are experiencing problems in working together, Delaware again stands tall by including every fire company in Delaware under the DVFA banner.

The Delaware Volunteer Firemen's Association has been served well by President Marvin C. Sharp. Along with my fellow Delawareans, I would like to commend Marvin, not only for his tireless efforts on behalf of the First State, but also for his tremendous contributions to the DVFA. Marvin is an exemplary model of commitment and excellence, and a valuable member of the Delaware community. I salute Marvin C. Sharp for his efforts to keep the Delaware Volunteer Firemen's Association a strong and vital part of Delaware.

HONORING THE COMMUNITY SERVICE OF CHRISTINE HUDDLESTON

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 21, 2004

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding community service of Christine Huddleston, who has taken care

of the needs of the homeless for 50 years. In fact, she has been running a homeless shelter in my hometown of Murfreesboro, Tennessee, for nearly 18 of those years.

Room at the Inn is a clean, safe place for the homeless to get their lives back in order. While Christine compassionately nurtures those who stay at the shelter, she expects everyone to pull his or her own weight. Accordingly, residents are expected to get gainful employment and do their fair share of chores around the facility.

She has helped everyone from college professors to the working poor get back on their feet again. That's why many who stay at the shelter lovingly refer to her as "Ma." Christine's unique understanding of human nature has allowed her to help people strengthen their self esteem and make a better life for themselves. But make no mistake about it, she is not a push over and knows when to practice tough love.

Christine's dedication to her work and the Room at the Inn has garnered her much support and admiration from the community. What started out as a small operation supported by only seven local churches has evolved into a community-wide effort aided by 70 churches, the business community and the city of Murfreesboro. I commend Christine for her hard work and tireless service to the homeless. She epitomizes what it means to be a Christian.

CONGRATULATING ST. MARY'S
ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH
ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 100TH
ANNIVERSARY

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 21, 2004

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call the attention of the House of Representatives to St. Mary's Antiochian Orthodox Church in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, on the joyous occasion of its 100th anniversary.

This church has a rich history in Northeastern Pennsylvania. The first immigrants to the area from Syria and Lebanon traveled to our region in the 1890s. By 1904, there were about 35 families who grouped together to form the first parish of St. Mary. On March 13, 1904, Archimandrite Raphael Hawaweeney organized St. Mary's Syrian Orthodox Men's Group. In the Spring of 1904, a young man named John Michael Curry Saba was ordained as the first priest of St. Mary's.

The parish bought the land on which to build a church at 132 High Street for \$300. From 1904 through 1908, the congregation gathered in a private home. In 1907, Father George Kattouf was ordained and became pastor of St. Mary's.

By 1907, the parish had grown to about 65 families. A Russian Orthodox contractor named Michael Hlipko offered to build the church for \$8,500.

St. Mary's was the first Antiochian parish established in the United States. On November 3, 1908, the parish received its official charter of incorporation for Luzerne County and the state of Pennsylvania. The official name was St. Mary's Syrian Greek Orthodox Catholic Church of Wilkes-Barre and vicinity.

The first liturgy was held in 1908 and the Church was consecrated by Bishop Raphael during a visit in 1911 to celebrate the burning of the church's mortgage.

A rectory was built in 1912 and the old part of the Church cemetery in Hanover Township was also acquired. Father Joseph Elia Xanthopoulos became the pastor in 1912 when Father George moved to Allentown. Father Joseph was fluent in Arabic and Greek, and he chanted in Byzantine. He started a Syrian school for young people, who had begun to chant with him during the service.

The community began to split in 1914 because the Syrian Mission in America began to divide. During this time, services were held at the church on High Street for those following the Russian Patriarch, and at 107 Blackman Street, for those following the Antiochian Patriarch.

Several pastors served the Church through the years: Father Daniel George, Father Abdallah Khoury, Father Constantine Abou-Adal, Archbishop Affirmos Ofeish and Father George Mitchell, Father Anthony Sakey, Father Nicholas Hussan and Father Herbert Nahas.

In 1958, the parishioners decided they wanted to build a new Church, Hall and Rectory. They chose a site at the south end of Main Street and purchased it for \$28,500 in 1964. This turned out to be a blessing in disguise, as the other three sites that had been considered were completely submerged in 16 feet of water by Hurricane Agnes in June 1972.

When Agnes hit Wilkes-Barre, 108 families from the parish were left homeless. The businesses of 35 parishioners were closed for months. Miraculously, the flood waters stopped just outside the parish hall doors, and the building became one of many shelters. The men and women of St. Mary's worked tirelessly to help the victims of the devastating flood.

In 1985, Father Edward Hughes became pastor of the Church, followed by Father Mark Sahady in 1994. Father Thomas Zain came to St. Mary's in 1994 and served as pastor until 1997. Father John Winfrey became pastor of the Church in 1997. The Very Reverend Father David Hester came to St. Mary's in 2000 and currently serves as pastor.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to represent a parish community with such a rich history. The parishioners at St. Mary's have preserved their heritage and kept meticulous records of their history to pass on to future generations, and I congratulate them on the joyful occasion of the Church's 100th anniversary.

HONORING COLONEL ROBERT N. AGEЕ FOR HIS 32 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE MISSOURI AIR NATIONAL GUARD

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 21, 2004

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Colonel Robert N. Agee, Vice Commander for 139th Airlift Wing at Rosecrans Air National Guard Base in St. Joseph, Missouri. Colonel Agee is retiring on October 1, 2004 after 32 years of service to the Missouri Air National Guard. Colonel Agee cur-

rently resides in St. Joseph with his wife Sheila, and together they have two daughters, Rachael and Jennifer, and a son R.J.

Colonel Agee was born on December 25, 1949 in St. Joseph. He joined the Missouri Air National Guard in 1970, and graduated from the first Air National Guard Officer Preparatory Academy in May of 1971. Following his graduation, he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant. Colonel Agee attended pilot training at Williams AFB in Arizona, and earned his pilot wings on September 9, 1972. In 1976, Colonel Agee graduated from Missouri Western with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration Management. Additionally, he has completed Squadron Officer School, Air Command and Staff College, and the Air War College.

Colonel Agee has performed duties in training, safety, tactics, standardization/evaluation and was the director of operations for the flying squadron prior to his current assignment. He was activated in December 1990 for Operation Desert Shield/Storm and served as the director of operations for the 180th Airlift Squadron in theater until their release from active duty in June 1991. In addition to training aircraft, he has flown the C-97G, KC-97L, C-130A, and the C-130H.

Among his military decorations are the Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal with one oak leaf cluster, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with the three oak leaf clusters and "V" device, Air Force Expeditionary Medal, Southwest Asia Service Medal, and Kuwait Liberation Medals from Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

As the former Operations Group Commander he had responsibility for our units, the 180th Airlift Squadron, the 139th Operations Support Flight, the 139th Aerial Port Flight, and the 241st Air Traffic Control Squadron in addition to the Standardization/Evaluation section. These squadrons are the support and execution component of the C-130 airlift mission. The unit continuously supports real-world airlift commitments in the United States and overseas in addition to local air training.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending the career of Colonel Robert N. Agee, who has exemplified the qualities of dedication and service throughout his tenure with the Missouri Air National Guard.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MATT ZISKA

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 21, 2004

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of my constituents, Matt Ziska. Mr. Ziska recently received national recognition from the National Disaster Medical System (NDMS) for his hard work and dedication in his field. The Departments of Homeland Security, Health and Human Services, Defense, Veterans Affairs, and FEMA, all partnered with the NDMS, to grant this award.

Mr. Ziska has been employed as a hazardous materials technician at the Tri-County Health Department based in Aurora. His advice to the Disaster Medical Assistance Team has helped them enhance and improve protective measures designed to safeguard against the dangers of hazardous materials.

Mr. Ziska was selected from a field of 130 team members.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to join in paying tribute to Matt Ziska, and wish him the best in all his future endeavors.

HONORING THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF AGUDAS ACHIM CONGREGATION AND RECOGNIZING THE MILITARY VETERANS OF THE CONGREGATION

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 21, 2004

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 90th anniversary of the Agudas Achim Congregation, a conservative synagogue located in the city of Alexandria, Virginia.

In conjunction with this anniversary, honor is being paid to the military veterans of the congregation throughout the Veteran's Day weekend of November 12-14, 2004.

Jewish servicemen and servicewomen have served and continue to serve proudly in all branches of the United States as career and reserve servicemen and servicewomen. From Bunker Hill and the Battle of Springfield (NJ) to Omaha Beach and the Battle of the Bulge, from Pusan, South Korea to the Mekong Delta in Vietnam as well as Afghanistan and Iraq, Jewish servicemen have worn the uniform of the United States proudly—defending democracy and the freedoms we all cherish as Americans.

We remember those who fearlessly paid the ultimate price in defending the United States of America during times of war. We also recall those who have bravely fought and returned home as well as those who continue to fight for the freedoms and liberties that make this nation great—the same freedoms and liberties such as freedom of religion that brought hundreds of thousands of Jewish people to the United States escaping despotism and religious tyranny.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to congratulate Agudas Achim Congregation on their 90th anniversary. I call upon my colleagues to join me in honoring the congregation's military veterans.

TRIBUTE TO STAFF SERGEANT JOSEPH FALES

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 21, 2004

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Staff Sergeant Joseph Fales, a World War II veteran who gave his life fighting against tyranny so that we might live free.

In honor of Memorial Day, I had the pleasure of recognizing Staff Sergeant Fales for his heroism and bravery as a U.S. Soldier who fought in the Second World War until his death in October 1943.

Staff Sergeant Fales served in the Army Air Force and heroically performed the perilous job of a waist gunner aboard a B-17 Bomber.