

levels. Last year, HESTEC reached over 1,500 teachers, 25,000 community members, and 330,000 students from across Texas. The initiative also has generated \$1 million in scholarship dollars for college students.

The University of Texas Pan American has created a model initiative for the Nation. Today, on the eve of the 3rd annual HESTEC and in the midst of our national celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month, I urge my colleagues to join me in saluting this fine institution for its service to the Hispanic community and to the Nation.

CELEBRATING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE COMMISSIONING OF THE USS "OZARK" IN PORTLAND, OR, AND HONORING ITS CREW

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2004

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure today that I welcome the crewmembers of the USS *Ozark* back to Portland, OR to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the ship's commissioning on September 23, 1944. The *Ozark*, built by the Willamette Iron and Steel Corporation here in Portland, crossed the Columbia River bar less than 2 weeks later and played a vital role in our Nation's victory in the Pacific Theater during World War II. The Pacific Theater saw some of the war's most dangerous naval encounters, and the commitment of the USS *Ozark's* crewmembers is a testimony of their bravery and sacrifice.

In the Pacific Theater, the ship and its crew transported troops for the invasion of Iwo Jima and evacuated wounded Marines to hospitals in Guam. After seeing further action in the Pacific Theater, the USS *Ozark* was present in Tokyo Harbor during the historic ceremony where the Japanese surrendered on board the USS *Missouri*. The ship then returned 950 recovered American prisoners of war to the United States via Guam and Pearl Harbor.

I want to take this opportunity to thank those who served aboard the USS *Ozark* for their brave efforts in the defense of our Nation. I wish them a festive 60th anniversary celebration this week in Portland.

TRIBUTE TO MR. LOWELL E. ENSLEN

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2004

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor and pleasure that I stand before you today to recognize the many accomplishments of Mr. Lowell E. Ensenl during 52 years of service in the Northwest Indiana community. Lowell has spent nearly five decades representing his community. His career as a lawyer has allowed him the opportunity to touch the lives of numerous people.

Lowell E. Ensenl was born in Gary, Indiana in 1927. He attended Hobart public schools and Valparaiso University. Lowell was admit-

ted to the American Bar Association in 1952. He was National President of Sigma Delta Kappa from 1963–1964, Town Attorney of Dyer, Indiana from 1957–1960, 1962, and 1964–1972 and of Cedar Lake, Indiana, from 1976–1980. Lowell has accomplished many visionary goals throughout his career. He is a member of Ensenl, Ensenl & Matthews Law Firm, which was established in 1960. Ensenl, Ensenl, & Matthews Law Firm provides general civil, criminal and appellate practice in all State and Federal courts, family/domestic relations, probate and estate planning, insurance, real estate and labor relations law.

Not only has Lowell Ensenl had many constructive accomplishments throughout his career as a lawyer, he has also actively contributed to his community through participation in various programs designed at improving opportunities for the people of Northwest Indiana. Lowell was President of Members Hammond from 1965–1966 and is currently affiliated with Lake County, Indiana State, and American Bar Associations, American Judicature Society, Indiana Trial Lawyers Association, The Association of Trial Lawyers of America, and Fellow Indiana Bar Foundation. Along with his many other accomplishments, Lowell has received numerous certificates and awards.

Lowell has demonstrated his faithfulness by his extraordinary service to Ensenl, Ensenl, & Matthews and his community through his hard work and self-sacrifice. Although Lowell has served on numerous committees and has dedicated his time to Ensenl, Ensenl, & Matthews, he has never neglected to provide support and love to his family.

Mr. Speaker, Lowell E. Ensenl has given his time and efforts selflessly to the people of Northwest Indiana throughout his years of service. He has taught every member of Ensenl, Ensenl, & Matthews the true meaning of service to all members of the Northwest Indiana community. I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating Mr. Lowell E. Ensenl for his outstanding contributions to Indiana's First Congressional District. I am proud to commend him for his lifetime of service and devotion.

TRIBUTE TO INSPECTOR DENNIS WITULSKI AND BIO-OPERATIONS CHIEF ANTHONY MALTESE

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2004

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, September 24, 2004 the Sterling Heights Fire Fighters Union will host their Annual Dinner-Dance, honoring their 2004 retirees. This yearly event, honors Sterling Heights firefighters for their dedication to their community and recognizes their commendable contributions to the city. I am pleased to be associated with this fine organization and to call many of them my friends.

I am proud to rise today to pay tribute to the careers of two retiring firefighters.

Inspector Dennis Witulski, discharged from the U.S. Navy in 1973, was appointed as a Sterling Heights firefighter on July 20, 1981. He was promoted to FEO in 1992 and then

promoted again to Lieutenant in 1996. Mr. Witulski was deemed Firefighter of the Year in 2001 by the city of Sterling Heights and American Legion Post 151. He twice received Perfect Attendance awards in 1996 and 2002. Mr. Witulski received various merits and awards throughout his tenure with the fire department, and retired on July 20, 2004.

Bio-Operations Chief Anthony Maltese was born in Detroit, Michigan, on June 6, 1950. He was appointed to the position of firefighter January 29, 1973. He received commendation for responding to a house fire in 1974 and a Meritorious Unit Citation for a lifesaving incident in 1986. Mr. Maltese was promoted to Lieutenant in July of 1992, and promoted again to Captain in October of 1995. He received his Associates Degree, Cum Laude, in 1994 and was appointed Battalion Chief in 1997. Mr. Maltese retired as Operations Chief on November 19, 2003.

Many of us embark on a profession that does not call for us to put our lives in danger each day we go into work. These men chose to dedicate their careers and their lives to helping people in their community stay safe and secure, and putting their lives in harm's way to save a life, a family, a home.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing these two heroes, who have dedicated themselves to Sterling Heights and the community at large in a way that few can; with valor, commitment and honor.

TRIBUTE TO GIANNA ANGELO POULOS-DASKALAKI FOR HER OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE 2004 OLYMPIC GAMES

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2004

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise today to extend my sincere congratulations to Gianna Angelopoulos-Daskalaki, the woman who was responsible for the success of the 2004 Olympic Games held in Athens, Greece. As head of the Athens 2004 Organizing Committee, "Mrs. A" was instrumental in ensuring that Athens remained the site of Summer Games and that the massive undertaking of construction and organization was completed.

Preparing for an event that is as elaborate as the Olympic Games is a monumental task—one which was almost lost to Athens. Credit for the success of the Games has gone to the leadership and determination of Mrs. A whose vision, tenacity, and pride in Greece enabled the Athens 2004 Organizing Committee to overcome every challenge they faced.

I was fortunate enough to have the opportunity to attend this summer's games and found myself in awe of all that surrounded me. From the magic of the opening ceremonies and the lighting of the Olympic Torch to the incredible athletic venues, Athens was nothing short of spectacular. As the Games were brought back to their birthplace, the city was reborn—the Old World met the New and people from across the world celebrated in the spirit of competition. Whether spectators marveled at the breathtaking image of the lighted Parthenon in the night sky, or took in the

beauty of the Greek countryside as marathon runners raced along the original route from the city of Marathon to the Olympic Stadium, Mrs. A brought the world to Athens—reminding us of all that this ancient civilization has meant to world history and of all that this great country has yet to offer.

In the days before the opening ceremony, Mrs. A wrote, "Some will call what we have achieved a miracle. It is a miracle, but one that's man-made—a product of hard work, discipline and the pride of the Greek people." She could not have been more accurate. Today's Athens is a unique blend of an ancient civilization and modern marvel—with its rich history celebrated and showcased for the world to enjoy. In ensuring the success of the 2004 Olympic Games, Mrs. A has also brought renewed vigor and beauty to one of the world's most fascinating cities.

For her outstanding contributions to both the 2004 Olympic Games and to the city of Athens, I am proud to stand and congratulate Gianna Angelopoulos-Daskalaki. She has left an indelible mark on our consciousness and shared history.

RECOGNIZING EAGLE SCOUT STEPHEN TYLER STOKES

HON. BRAD MILLER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2004

Mr. MILLER of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I want to acknowledge the perseverance and achievement of Stephen Tyler Stokes in earning the rank of Eagle Scout, Boy Scouts of America, Oconeechee Council—Troop 104, on December 12, 2003, and entered into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD as such. His Court of Honor commenced on July 24, 2004.

While a member of Troop 104 in Wake County, North Carolina, Stephen served in various positions including Librarian, Instructor, Troop Guide, Assistant Patrol Leader, and even Patrol Leader. He learned what it takes to assist his fellow scouts and how to lead them. Stephen attended the National Boy Scout Jamboree in 2001, at Ft. A.P. Hill in Virginia, which influenced him to become an Eagle Scout and a role model for younger boys.

In addition to devoting his time to being an Eagle Scout, Stephen attended Broughton High School in Raleigh, NC, where he helped establish the F.I.R.S.T. Robotics Program, participated in the Chess Club, and served as webmaster for the Literary Magazine and the Japanese Animation Club. Stephen received an Enterprise in Action Certificate of Achievement from Junior Achievement and was listed in the publication Who's Who Among American High School Students.

Stephen's commitment to serving his community and helping others is truly commendable. He has helped construct homes in Charleston and Philadelphia as part of Habitat for Humanity's ongoing inner-city improvement projects. During Stephen's 8 years with the Boy Scouts, he was an active participant in the Citizenship in the Community, Citizenship in the Nation, and Citizenship in the World volunteer programs.

Mr. Speaker, I know his father Steven and his mother Jamie are proud of all that their

son has accomplished and join me in recognizing that the achievement of earning the rank of Eagle Scout is just the beginning of a bright future for their talented and deeply committed son.

The journey a young man makes to earn the rank of Eagle Scout requires not only a scout's dedication to his community, but also the community's dedication to the scout. I would like to extend my congratulations and best wishes to Stephen Tyler Stokes, his family and Troop 104.

CONGRATULATIONS, TAMI DOETCH

HON. PAUL RYAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2004

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, what an honor it is to be able to congratulate Tami Doetch, a teacher at Wilson Elementary School in my hometown of Janesville, Wisconsin, for being recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as a No Child Left Behind American Star of Teaching.

Every day, Tami Doetch goes to school committed to helping students learn to read and master the building blocks that will form the foundation of their education. She teaches third- and fourth-graders and has put a lot of time and energy into helping English language learners.

By using effective teaching techniques to open up the world of reading to her students, she is giving them the tools to achieve their dreams, not to mention countless hours of reading enjoyment throughout their lives.

Tami Doetch has also taken a leadership role, going above and beyond her work in the classroom. She oversaw the incorporation of the Harcourt Brace Reading Program into instruction at Wilson Elementary. And she has led tutoring and after-school reading programs.

For many of us, our most challenging teachers are the ones we remember most fondly because they pushed us to think and taught us lessons that we still rely on today. I have no doubt that Tami Doetch's students will remember her fondly and gratefully for her dedication to their reading instruction and overall education.

ESSAY BY BROOK ROBISON "MY COMMITMENT TO AMERICA'S FUTURE"

HON. ROB BISHOP

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2004

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that Brooke Robison, a high-school student at Layton High School in The First Congressional District of Utah was selected earlier this year as a recipient of the Veterans of Foreign Wars' 2004 "Voice of Democracy" scriptwriting contest. I commend to my colleagues her essay which speaks so movingly of the sacrifices of her grandfather and, indeed, all members of the U.S. Armed Forces in protecting our freedom.

MY COMMITMENT TO AMERICA'S FUTURE

(By Brooke Robison, Utah)

On a stormy afternoon in February I was working towards an easy "A" for my history class. The assignment was to write an essay on a veteran's most memorable war experience. "Piece of cake," I thought. "I'll just interview my Grandpa, he fought in World War II. He might even have a story written up for me by the time I got there and I could be on my way." But, when I arrived at my grandparent's home, I saw that he had brought out piles of war memorabilia to show me. "Great," I thought, "this is going to take longer than I thought. I'm actually going to have to act interested." I picked up a photograph and was drawn in by the dashingly handsome young pilot that smiled up at me. The other aged photographs began to intrigue me and I gently fingered the old uniforms and medals and read the letters he had saved. I had never really thought of him as a young guy. I mean he was always, you know, GRANDPA! I was surprisingly fascinated about the life he had when he was barely older than I am now. I became anxious to hear the story he had selected to share with me for my project. Little did I know that his story would rock my shallow little world.

Near the end of the war a group of cocky young pilots emerged from their mess tent in Germany. They nearly ran into a truck full of sandy material parked near them on the street. My grandfather, a bright and promising mining engineer before the war, prided himself on being able to quickly identify almost any rock or mineral. He boasted that he could probably tell the make up of the sand just by touching it. He thrust his hand in and let it run through his fingers. Puzzled, he did it again and again, sniffing it and rubbing it between his palms. "What is this?" he thought, "I must be losing my touch!" He approached the driver of the truck and explained his professional background. "What is this stuff?", he asked, "I just can't figure it out!" The driver answered with a tone of one who had learned to distance himself from the daily horror of his job. "Ashes," he replied flatly, "human ashes."

The driver's answer struck me as hard as it did my grandfather decades ago. I felt as if my eyes had been opened for the first time. Wars weren't just a flash of information on the news or something that starred Tom Hanks. My young, handsome grandfather had watched the remains of thousands of innocent lives run through his fingers like common playground dirt. His efforts, and those of thousands of others, made sure that this carnage would stop. Brushing aside tears he whispered to me, "Tell this story, tell it, so this can never happen again." I came away from that visit with my grandfather knowing I had lived a shallow and ungrateful life. As corny as it may sound, my grandfather's story changed who I am and what I will do with my future. I learned that day that I have a responsibility to my country. The sale at the mall or having a date on Saturday night is nowhere near as important to me as my latest service project. I feel that if America's soldiers can endure so much to make our world a better place, I can certainly do all I can to improve my little corner of it. I have developed a passion to learn about wars and conflicts in our history. I have joined political youth groups so I can be well informed when I'm old enough to vote. I collect food for the local food pantry, fill and deliver bags of supplies for children in shelters, and make blankets for homeless. I wrote a song that encourages young people to get involved in community service. I was honored to perform it this past summer at a national award ceremony honoring outstanding youth in service. Performing with