

27th year as a teacher in Jefferson City. Currently, she is a third grade teacher at West Elementary School in Jefferson City.

Last spring, Mrs. Eisinger was chosen from more than 100 applications as the Jefferson City District's Teacher of the Year. Then, out of a group of six teachers competing for the State honor, she was chosen as the Missouri Teacher of the Year. As Missouri's Teacher of the Year, Mrs. Eisinger automatically will be entered in the National Teacher of the Year Competition.

Mr. Speaker, once again, I wish to extend my congratulations to Mrs. Linda Eisinger. It is with great pride that I honor her for being named the Missouri Teacher of the Year.

OXI DAY SPEECH

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2004

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join the Hellenic-Americans and Philhellenes in my district and throughout the country in celebrating "OXI Day (No Day)," which falls on the 28th of October. This year marks the 64th anniversary of a very important day in Hellenic history, the day on which brave Greek patriots said "No" to fascism, "No" to injustice, and "No" to slavery.

For those individuals who lived through that momentous period and their descendants, many of whom live in the 14th Congressional District of New York, "OXI Day" is more than a memory: It is the embodiment of Hellenism and its highest ideals.

On October 28, 1940, a terrifying sound went up throughout all Greek cities and towns, the sound of sirens and klaxons announcing the invasion of Greece by the Nazis. Walls that before had echoed only with the tolling of church bells now reverberated with the din of alarms.

At a time when Europe was descending into the inferno of another world war, the people of Greece did not panic. Men went calmly to their closets and retrieved their military uniforms and weapons. Women went about their necessary tasks, and the children assisted as they were able. With level-headed determination and steadfast resolve, the citizenry of Greece mobilized against the coming invaders and delivered their resounding "No!" to the Axis aggressors.

On OXI Day, the people of Greece chose the harder path, the path of resistance. If they had opened their gates to the invaders, much bloodshed and many deprivations might have been avoided. That brave generation of Hellenes, refused to submit to oppression, even at the cost of their homes, their land, and their lives. They chose to fight and even to die so that their children and the children of other nations might live in liberty. Theirs was an act of self-sacrifice that clearly proclaimed the humanitarian ideals of their Orthodox Christian faith and their ethnic heritage.

Demonstrating poise under pressure, the heroes of that period fought against tyranny and delayed the Axis onslaught in the Balkan Peninsula. The Greek nation which said "OXI" contributed to the eventual downfall of the Fascist powers in Europe.

This year the Hellenic community is celebrating another great moment in their history,

having successfully hosted a magnificent and peaceful Olympics at a time when terrorism imperils every public gathering. The smallest nation to ever host the Olympics, Greeks once again showed that they always rise to the occasion.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting the heroes of OXI Day. In their brave words and deeds we see all of the highest virtues of Hellenic heritage: Passion for justice, courage at a time of trial, unity in the midst of conflict, and willingness to sacrifice one's life for the good of others. On this day, we thank Greece for saying "OXI."

RECOGNIZING ROBERT T. "TOM" FLESH

HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2004

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, on October 9, 2004, the Los Angeles Police Reserve Foundation will recognize Robert T. "Tom" Flesh for his untiring and committed efforts on behalf of his community, the county of Los Angeles, and the State of California. He will be presented with the coveted "Twice A Citizen" Award for his extraordinary volunteer work, as well as his long record of dedicated support and service to the law enforcement community.

Tom is the Vice Chairman of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Youth Foundation, an organization dedicated to the creation and implementation of effective programs for at-risk children and active intervention with their development. He also serves on the LA County Sheriff's Office Foundation, and he is on the Board of Directors of the Sinai Temple in Los Angeles. For many years, he served the West Los Angeles Little League as a commission, coach, and held offices on the Board of Directors. In addition, he is a member of the Board of Councilors in the School of Gerontology at the University of Southern California, the State Bar of California, a USC Associate, a member of the Los Angeles Business Council and many other professional and charitable organizations.

Mr. Flesh is a Public Member and President Emeritus of New Motor Vehicle Board of California. Tom was originally appointed by former Governor Pete Wilson and later reappointed by former Governor Gray Davis. Among his many accomplishments was the creation of a forum for industry manufacturers and dealers to dialog and exchange ideas in an effort to foster good relations. The forum has received national attention and has now been replicated in several states.

Tom's community leadership began in Los Angeles, where he attended local public school, graduating from Palisades High School and the University of Southern California. Later he attended Loyola Law School where he graduated with a Juris Doctorate Degree in 1975.

Tom started his career with Thrifty Oil Company, where he rose to the level of senior Vice President/General Counsel. Today, he is President and CEO of Safety Investment Company and Community Asset Management, a national real estate acquisition, development and management company emphasizing man-

ufactured housing communities. The company has been in business since 1989.

Tom Flesh and his wife, Judy, live in Los Angeles. They, along with four children, Daniel, Jacqueline, Jamie and Michelle make community and civic endeavors a priority in their lives.

Because he exemplifies all that is right with our nation's grassroots volunteer efforts, I am pleased to have the opportunity to recognize Tom Flesh for his dedication, compassion and commitment.

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL MICHAEL SMITH ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE 440TH AIRLIFT WING

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2004

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, October 23, 2004, the 440th Airlift Wing will be honoring its Commander, Colonel Michael L. Smith, as he enters retirement following an illustrious thirty-three year career in the Air Force and Air Force Reserve.

Growing up in the cornfields of Iowa, Colonel Smith looked to the sky and dreamed of flying and serving his country. He pushed himself academically and entered United States Air Force Academy as a cadet in 1967, distinguishing himself as a student in engineering management. Following graduation, he attended pilot training, served actively in the Air Force for four years, and then transferred to the Air Force Reserves where he utilized what he learned at the academy by serving as an advisor to the director at the Headquarters of the Military Airlift Command and Air Force Reserves.

For the past nine years, he has become a fixture in Milwaukee as the 440th's Commander. He has trained his base and troops to be ready for any challenge that may come. Committed to the Air Force motto, "integrity first, service before self, and excellence in all [the members] do," Colonel Smith has shown himself to be an embodiment of those core values and has expected the same from those who serve with him.

Although Col. Smith is leaving his current post, he will continue to serve the men and women of the Armed Forces as an Ombudsman with the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, ensuring that Wisconsin National Guard Members and Reservists receive the necessary support from their employers.

The same precision, enthusiasm and skill he shows when flying and leading the Airlift Wing will be useful when he is pursuing his other passions: golf, woodworking and photography with his wife Joni, and children, Brett and Abigail.

It is with both great appreciation and sadness that I join the 440th Airlift Wing, his family, and Milwaukee area as a whole in thanking Col. Michael Smith for his 33 years of exemplary service. I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2004

Mr. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on October 4, I was detained in Florida due to a speaking engagement and as a result, missed three votes. I ask that my absence be excused and the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD show that had I been present:

For rollcall No. 487—the motion to suspend the rules and pass S. Con. Res. 76, I would have voted “aye;” for rollcall No. 488—the motion to suspend the rules and pass S. 1814, I would have voted “yea,” and for rollcall No. 489—the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 567, I would have voted “yea.”

INDIANA STATE DELEGATION
WORKING TO PROMOTE CIVIC
EDUCATION**HON. BARON P. HILL**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2004

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, Alexander Hamilton once said, “Here, sir, the people govern.” These words grace the entrance to the House of Representatives to remind us of the promise of our representative democracy. The Founders of this nation understood that a free society must rely on the knowledge, skills, and virtue of its citizens and those serving in public office on their behalf. That is why civic education in our schools is so important. In my state of Indiana, and throughout the nation, I am pleased to learn that a proactive effort has recently been initiated to improve civic learning and instruction.

On September 20–22 of last year the First Annual Congressional Conference on Civic Education was launched. The conference was sponsored by the Alliance for Representative Democracy and co-hosted by the four leaders of the U.S. Congress.

One of the very positive outcomes of the congressional conference was the establishment of state delegations that would return to the state to enact specific policies designed to restore the civic mission of our schools. I would like to recognize John J. Patrick, the facilitator of the Indiana delegation, for leadership in working to design an action plan to improve civic education in our state. These state activities include: (1) organizing conferences for professors of Indiana colleges and universities to emphasize civic education in the preparation of teachers; (2) producing reports about exemplary practices of civic education; (3) supporting programs to improve teaching and learning about the United States Constitution in schools, and (4) building a network of organizations and individuals to promote civic education in Indiana.

Mr. Speaker. I look forward to the success of the Indiana civic education delegation and their participation at the Second Annual Congressional Conference on Civic Education on December 4–6 of this year.

TRIBUTE TO 100TH ANNIVERSARY
OF TRINITY EVANGELICAL LU-
THERAN**HON. FRED UPTON**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2004

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the 100th year anniversary of the Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kalamazoo, Michigan. This celebrated Church has stood and continues to stand as a symbol of faith, hope, and reverence.

The Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church began as a mission congregation on December 4, 1904. The first service was held at “The Auditorium” on Portage Street, and the church was referred to as the English Lutheran in the 1905 Kalamazoo City Directory. When the congregation had grown to need a larger facility, the present site was purchased on April 11, 1926 for \$7,200.00. The “new” Trinity Lutheran Church construction began September 12, 1927, with the cornerstone being laid on Reformation Sunday. The building was dedicated June 10, 1928, and 262 members moved into the new building.

Another stint with over crowded conditions and the need for more space led to another building project—the 34-room Parish Education Building. The cornerstone was laid in 1956 and the new \$160,000.00 project was dedicated on October 13, 1957. Several projects over the years have changed the appearance of this wonderful church building, both “inside and out,” bringing it to the current configuration 100 years later.

It goes without mention that God has richly blessed Trinity Lutheran Church in Kalamazoo and there is and always has been much talent, enthusiasm, and dedication among Trinity’s members. Of even greater significance has been their repeated desire for and response to the Word of God for direction.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT
OF CAPTAIN ROBERT J. APRILL**HON. MIKE ROGERS**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2004

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of Captain Robert J. Aprill of the United States Naval Reserve. Captain Aprill joined the Reserve Officer Candidate program in February of 1974 while pursuing dual degrees at Eastern Michigan University in Political Science and History. After his graduation, Captain April attended Officer Candidate School in Newport, Rhode Island and received his commission in the Naval Reserve in December 1975.

In his twenty nine years with the Naval Reserve, Captain Aprill has served America honorably. His many reserve duty assignments included: Training Officer and Executive USS *W.S. Sims*, Commanding Officer USS *Elmer Montgomery* and Gaining Command Liaison Officer USS *Elmer Montgomery*.

Mr. Speaker, since 1915 it has been the mission of the United States Naval Reserve to maintain a state of constant readiness and availability, able to deploy rapidly and effec-

tively in times of peace or war. With the new threats facing America in the War on Terror, this mission has been paramount to America’s security, but it cannot be accomplished without dedicated civilian soldiers like Captain Aprill. I would like to ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Captain Aprill for his service to America and to wish him the best in his retirement.

9/11 COMMISSION
IMPLEMENTATION**HON. TOM DeLAY**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2004

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, in this, the final week of this legislative session, Congress will cap off two years of diligent, important work protecting America’s security, prosperity, and families. We have strengthened and improved health care for American seniors, funded the liberation of two enslaved nations, protected our homeland, outlawed partial-birth abortion and protected pregnant mothers, held the line on spending, and provided pro-growth tax relief to millions of American families.

And this week, the House will finish its work on the most sweeping homeland security and intelligence reform legislation in decades: the 9/11 Commission Implementation Act.

When the 9/11 Commission first released its report, many sought for Congress to either rubber-stamp or reject outright the commission’s findings. But we in the House took a novel approach: we read them. And we studied them, in six committees, in more than 20 hearings.

The bill has been marked up by five full committees—Armed Services, Intelligence, Judiciary, Government Reform and Oversight, and Financial Services—and two more committees have approved it without markup. In other words, Mr. Speaker, we set out to craft a comprehensive, thoughtful, and valuable reform package, and that’s exactly what we’ve got.

The 9/11 Commission Implementation Act takes the findings of the commission, shapes them into legislative language, and then adds in necessary details where the report lacked specifics. The 9/11 Commission’s report is not just 41 recommendations. It is 567 pages of problems we face defending America. This bill goes right to those problems and begins the process of solving them one at a time.

The bill will reform America’s intelligence infrastructure by establishing a National Intelligence Director and a National Counter-Terrorism Center, both strong recommendations of the commission. We will also include provisions that will help our intelligence and homeland security officers better fight terrorists, prevent them from ever endangering the American people, and prosecute those who do. And we will work to better secure our borders from penetration by terrorists, and make it easier for authorities to throw terrorists out once they do get in.

These are important reforms, all necessary to the protection of the American people and our victory in the war on terror, the most critical priority of this Congress and the entire government. Passage of these reforms will mark a fitting close to the legislative session, and, I should add, the debate surrounding it