

I thank Speaker Hastert for scheduling this bill and giving us this opportunity to pay tribute to the brave Americans who fought and died in that crucial battle. I know that this is personal to the Speaker. His mentor, the former Republican Leader from Illinois, Bob Michel, received the Purple Heart and other citations for his bravery in that battle. I share the Speaker's respect for Leader Michel. Further, the Speaker's family hails from Luxembourg, and the special ties between our countries that resulted from the Battle of the Bulge have great meaning to him.

This is personal to me as well. My uncle, Johnny D'Alesandro, was one of the heroes who gave their lives for their country in the Battle of the Bulge. Like so many other families, his sacrifice was for us a source of both sorrow and pride—deep sadness over the loss of a wonderful man; tremendous pride that one of our own helped to preserve the freedom and values that we cherish as a nation.

But beyond the personal significance that the battle holds for us is the towering importance it holds for human history. The Allied victory in World War II literally saved the world, and that victory became inevitable when the Allied forces successfully repelled the surprise German attack in what we call the Battle of the Bulge.

With bitter cold and blinding snow, it was the bloodiest single battle ever fought by American soldiers. There were 81,000 American casualties, including 19,000 killed in action. The heroes of that battle rightfully take their place among the bravest and most noble in American history.

We dedicated the World War II Memorial on the Mall this year to pay tribute to all of the veterans of that war, and we will honor the heroes of the Battle of the Bulge with ceremonies by citizens of the United States, Belgium, Luxembourg, and many other nations in the coming months. But we can never truly repay the debt we owe them. We can offer only our words of heartfelt gratitude and our promise to never forget the sacrifice they made for our country.

May God bless the heroes of the Battle of the Bulge. May God bless all of the men and women serving in uniform today. And may God bless America.

CONGRATULATING DAVID SCOTT MOLLOY, JR., 2004 RHODE ISLAND PROFESSOR OF THE YEAR

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2004

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate David Scott Molloy, Jr., for being named the 2004 Rhode Island Professor of the Year. The Professors of the Year Awards are the only national awards that recognize college and university professors for excellence in undergraduate teaching and mentoring. I'm thrilled to recognize and honor Dr. Molloy today, a professor who reminds us all of the invaluable contributions made by our nation's educators.

David Scott Molloy, Jr., of West Kingston, RI, currently serves as a Professor of Labor and Industrial Relations at the University of Rhode Island, where he has been teaching

since 1986. In his tenure at URI, Professor Molloy has relished the opportunity to bring his expertise and unique experience to a range of departments and courses. He has taught courses in the History Department, the Business School, the Honors program, Economics, and in his academic home at the Labor Center.

His contributions to Rhode Island are too numerous to list, but they begin with his desire to highlight and explore the rich and often complex history of our great state. Offering such courses as "Rhode Island History" and "Labor and Immigrant History in Rhode Island," he reminds our students of how important it is to understand where they and their ancestors have come from and the many challenges that our state has faced throughout history.

A true educator, Professor Molloy's contributions are not confined to the classroom. He delivers as many as forty presentations a year to various organizations in his community. He has also shown an eagerness to share his unique style and methods of teaching and instruction—methods that have proven powerful and effective. His passion for the subjects he teaches led him to begin collecting immigrant and labor memorabilia. In 1990, the Smithsonian acquired 9,500 artifacts from him to establish the Scott Molloy Labor Archives.

Professor Molloy is perhaps above all an incredible leader and role model for Rhode Island's youth—a testament to the value of hard work, determination, and hope. The grandson of an Irish immigrant, he began his career as both a bus driver for the Rhode Island Public Transit Authority and a labor activist in Providence. Not one to let an opportunity pass him by, Dr. Molloy chose to pursue a Ph.D. part time while continuing his work as President of the Amalgamated Transit Union, driving a coach, and teaching a course on labor history. His dissertation on the history of public transportation in Rhode Island and the role that transit employees and unions played in its development was published by the Smithsonian Institution. In Professor Molloy's own words, "going from the front of the bus to the head of the class," he is the embodiment of the American Dream. I cannot think of a better example for Rhode Island's bright and aspiring students.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I hope our colleagues will join me in congratulating Professor Molloy.

IN TRIBUTE TO VENTURA, CALIFORNIA, POLICE CHIEF MIKE TRACY

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2004

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Mike Tracy, a Ventura, California, native who joined the Ventura Police Department as a patrol officer in 1975 and who has been chief of police since February 1999. After a distinguished career protecting and nurturing his hometown, he will retire on December 4.

Mike Tracy is a seasoned law enforcement officer with a reputation for innovation and community outreach.

During the 24 years in which he worked his way up the ranks from officer to police chief, Mike Tracy worked in or was in command of every aspect of the department, including patrol, detectives, administration, training and crime prevention. That experience gave him an insight into his department that few chiefs achieve.

At the same time, Mike Tracy earned a reputation far beyond city boundaries as someone in the forefront of law enforcement who reached out to other departments to share resources and knowledge.

Under his leadership, the department initiated the Crisis Intervention Team program, which trains personnel to better deal with the mentally ill and individuals in crisis—a program that subsequently was adopted county-wide. He was the chief architect of Ventura's Community Problem Oriented Policing Program and instrumental in establishing four police storefronts and acquiring several state grants for gang violence suppression and school safety.

Equally important, Mike Tracy continued to contribute to his community outside the walls of the Ventura Police Department. In addition to his involvement with the Police Activities League, Mike has also worked with the Boys & Girls Club and Salvation Army. He has run in several marathons, the Special Olympics Torch Run and the Baker to Vegas run.

His wife, Linda, recently retired as an elementary school teacher. Their son Matthew is a graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy and lives in Arizona with his wife, Christine, and their 3-year-old son, Nathan.

Mike and Linda plan to stay in Ventura and remain active in the community. His continued support will be appreciated.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues will join me in congratulating Ventura Police Chief Mike Tracy on his retirement; will thank him for a lifetime of dedication to his profession and community; and wish him many years of health and prosperity, both for him and his family.

RECOGNIZING JEWELL DUVALL UPON HER RETIREMENT

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2004

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, we rise to thank and recognize Jewell Duvall for her outstanding service and contributions to the House community during her tenure in the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer.

Jewell was born in the small, coal-mining town of Bellwood, WV, one of a population of 300. As a coal miner's daughter, she worked in the company store during high school until the lure of public service led her to Washington, DC and a job with FBI's Identification Division, then located in the present day Ford House Office Building.

Jewell worked for FBI for four years, started a family and raised two sons. During the course of her career Jewell worked for a variety of employers, from a trade association, to private corporations, but her career always took her back to the service of her country.

Jewell's House employment as Jay Eagen's Executive Secretariat now ends in the same

location where it began, the Ford House Office Building. During her time with the CAO, Jewell has provided support to not only the CAO but also to Leadership, the Committee on House Administration, other House Officers, Member and Committee offices, and the general public. Jewell has always treated each individual with respect and a sense of priority, and her actions have always been driven by a desire to provide courteous and unsurpassed customer service.

Jewell provided extensive administrative support to the Incident Commander during the September 11th and anthrax crises of 2001. She was a valuable asset to this team, going above and beyond the call to duty to ensure that the work of the House continued during those trying times. She has been tremendous in her support of the CAO and my staff at the Committee on House Administration. This institution will truly miss her important contributions, and I wish her nothing but continued success and happiness in her retirement.

IN HONOR OF THE CITIZENSHIP PROJECT

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2004

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Citizenship Project as this year's recipient of the Ralph B. Atkinson Award for Civil Liberties. Each year the Atkinson Award, named for the distinguished civil rights advocate Ralph B. Atkinson, is presented to a local advocate for civil liberties. This year the Monterey County Chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union selected the Citizenship Project, which was founded in 1994 by Teamsters Local 890 in response to the passage of Proposition 187. The project is dedicated to an expanded citizenship and consistently represents such values as education and self-organization through mutual support. In 2004 they became a close partner to the Central Labor Council, and are currently helping the Labor Council form a new coalition for immigrant rights here on the Central Coast.

Maria Echavarria, the Project's Acting Director, and Tony Acosta were extremely instrumental in the success of this project. With the help of over 1,000 immigrant community volunteers, the Citizenship Project has provided low-cost immigration services, registered thousands of new voters, and conducted voter workshops for new citizens. With their assistance, over 15,000 residents of the Central Coast have applied for U.S. Citizenship.

Since 1998 they have sponsored Jovenes en Accion Youth in Action. This immigrant youth leadership development program registers voters, teaches in the school, produces plays about their experience, and has led the struggle in our region for educational & employment rights for undocumented youth.

Furthermore, they build citizenship by helping people form groups to act together. They have launched La Hermandad de Ex-Braceros Brotherhood of Ex-Braceros, Mujeres del Sur Triqui women in Greenfield, and La Alianza para una Mañana Mejor south Salinas Valley Latino political club with this objective in mind.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I would like to honor the accom-

plishments of the Citizenship Project and express my sincere gratitude for their commitment to the community.

IN RECOGNITION OF MIKE KAZAR, NAPA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2004

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mike Kazar, who is retiring as a volunteer firefighter for the City of St. Helena, in California's 1st District. Mr. Kazar's outstanding contributions and dedication to our community are truly appreciated.

Mike Kazar will be leaving the Saint Helena Fire Department after twenty years of service. He currently serves as the Captain of the department. In addition to his duties in Saint Helena, Mike Kazar also volunteers for the Sand Point-Sagle Idaho area Volunteer Fire Department. He served as Captain of the Moraga/Orinda Fire Department for 37 years. He is also a member and safety officer on the State OES Overhead Team.

A native of California, Mr. Kazar was born in Carmel. He graduated from Miramonte High School in Orinda in 1960. While growing up in Moraga, Mike Kazar and his family lived in an apartment over the family owned grocery store. Next-door was a firehouse which peaked his interest in the profession.

He served four years in the Navy as a firefighter stationed in Guam. Mike Kazar has one daughter, Michelle Hill and two granddaughters. Mike loves to spend time outdoors and is especially fond of hunting.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, Mike Kazar set the standard of dependability, bravery and hard work that should be followed in all communities. His commitment to our community has been shown time and time again. For these reasons and countless others, it is most appropriate that we honor him at the time of his retirement and extend our best wishes to him.

CONGRATULATING ELIZABETH FURMANICK FOR RECEIVING THE TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD FOR MIAMI-DADE, BROWARD AND MONROE COUNTIES FROM THE NATIONAL CATHOLIC EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2004

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate a fellow South Floridian educator, Elizabeth Furmanick, for having been awarded the National Catholic Education Association's prestigious Principal of the Year Award for Dade, Broward and Monroe Counties.

The Archdiocese of Miami gave Elizabeth this prestigious award for her work in leading St. John the Apostle School in Hialeah, Florida for the past 12 years. She has been with the school for a total of 28 years, serving as a teacher and vice-principal.

Friends describe her as an extremely dedicated principal whose main concern is the well-being of the children entrusted to her care. She also makes it a point to know all her students by their first names. She has an open-door policy for all students and teachers. She encourages them to talk to her about their concerns and feelings so that they may have a more rewarding educational experience.

Elizabeth Furmanick's receipt of the Principal of the Year Award exemplifies her dedication to educating South Florida's children. For almost three decades, she has worked tirelessly to ensure, inspire and encourage her students to reach higher goals.

Thank you, Elizabeth, for your dedication.

EXPRESSING THE URGENCY OF PASSING POSTAL REFORM LEGISLATION

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2004

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to comment on the urgency of passing meaningful postal reform legislation.

A vibrant and healthy Postal Service is critical to the entire U.S. economy. The nation's mailing industry is an important primary and secondary employer, and contributes approximately \$900 billion dollars, or about 8 percent of the nation's Gross Domestic Product. However, over the past few years, due to declining mail volume, and increased delivery costs, the Postal Service has accrued a tremendous debt. This debt leaves the Postal Service with no alternative but to raise postage rates, which they have done four times in the past five years.

I have been a leader on postal reform for several years, and we have come a long way. During my tenure as Chairman of the Government Reform Committee, I pushed for significant postal reform legislation. In 2003, we passed the Postal Civil Service Retirement System Funding Reform Act. This was a positive step in the right direction, however, it was a temporary fix for a complex issue, and only staved off postage increases until 2006. Again, earlier this year, understanding the necessity of comprehensive postal reform legislation, the Government Reform Committee debated postal reform, and unanimously passed the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act, H.R. 4341, through a comprehensive and broad bi-partisan process.

If this body fails to act within the next few months, double-digit postage rate increases are likely to be proposed in 2006. An increase of this size will undoubtedly lead to a reduction in First Class mail usage, which again would further threaten the financial stability of the Postal Service. A rate increase of this size will ultimately have many negative impacts, not only for the Postal Service, its employees, and the whole mailing industry, but also on the American public, and our nation's economy.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that it is vital that we pass meaningful postal reform legislation immediately, which will ensure the short-term health and long-term vitality of the Postal Service. If we fail to address this issue in a timely manner, we will be guilty of complacency by permitting an unfair, and heavily burdensome \$3.5 billion tax hike on the American economy through increased postal rates.