

Total capital improvements to the campus during his watch exceeded \$60 million. He expanded the college curriculum and established the academy's first master's degree, an M.S. in facilities management. Admiral Bresnahan believed that one of his most significant accomplishments at the academy was establishing the Emery Rice Scholarship, an award dedicated to academic excellence that is awarded to five incoming cadets each year.

Admiral Bresnahan's military awards include the Distinguished Service Medal, three Legions of Merit, the Meritorious Service Medal, two Commendation medals, and many other unit and personal awards.

Admiral Bresnahan was an active member of the American Bureau of Shipping, Boston Marine Society, Columbia University Maritime Advisory Board, the Naval Reserve Association and the New York Yacht Club and was past chairman of the Council of Presidents of the Massachusetts State Colleges and past chairman of the Consortium of State Maritime Academies.

He also served as a lay Eucharistic minister at Our Lady of Victory Parish in Centerville, and was a past member of Kiwanis.

Admiral Bresnahan is survived by his wife, Alice; one daughter, Julie Pinero of Sandwich; one son, Maurice Bresnahan III of Columbia, S.C.; and five grandchildren.

TRIBUTE TO ALFRED HICKS

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 19, 2004

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Alfred "Fred" Hicks, from Westbury, New York. Mr. Hicks was the accomplished president of Hicks Nurseries Inc., as well as a devoted leader in his community and a loving father. Mr. Hicks passed away on October 1st due to complications from a rare blood disorder. He was 64 years old.

Mr. Hicks demonstrated a lifelong interest in the gardening industry. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Horticulture and a Master of Business Administration degree in Marketing from Cornell University. In 1963, he took over running his family's establishment, Hicks Nurseries Inc., which was founded by his ancestors in 1853. As the fifth generation in his family to run the business, Mr. Hicks transformed the small family nursery into a leading operation using his quiet strength, skills, and dedication. Hicks Nurseries Inc. is now the oldest nursery and gardening center and the oldest family owned business on Long Island.

A long and distinguished history of community and industry leadership and service follows Fred Hicks. He served as president of the American Nursery and Landscape Association (ANLA), and was inducted into the Association's Hall of Fame last year. He also served as president of Garden Centers of America, past president of the Long Island Nurserymen's Association and the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Nassau County, chairman of the Environmental Commission of the Village of Westbury, board member of HMO Vytra Health Care, and advisory board member of Old Westbury Gardens. A particular interest in health issues led him to serve as a medic in the United States Army in 1960, and

later on the Board of Winthrop University Hospital. Mr. Hicks was named the hospital's Trustee of the Year on October 23rd.

Mr. Hicks has also served his community with great dedication throughout his life. His parents, Edwin and Eloise Hicks, were instrumental in establishing the Westbury Friends School. Fred Hicks gave much of his time to building and organizing the school, and served on its Board of Managers. All of his children attended the school, and all of his grandchildren are presently students there as well. Mr. Hicks believed children learn best by doing, and applied this principle when working with students at the school. His generosity, caring, and desire for students to succeed together were truly inspiring.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding the amazing dedication and numerous accomplishments of Alfred Hicks. Mr. Hicks was a role model in his community and has set a great example for all of us. He leaves behind his wife of 38 years, Marilyn, and a loving family. His three children, Karen Courts, Stephen Hicks, and Marianne Folk, have taken over running Hicks Nurseries Inc. His family, friends, co-workers, and the residents of Westbury community are sad to see him go. He is remembered warmly and will be missed dearly.

PRAISING THE GOVERNMENT OF CYPRUS

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 19, 2004

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to praise the Government of Cyprus for its recent decision to take a monumental step towards peace and reunification of the island. Yesterday marked the beginning of the Cyprus Government's initiative to clear all Cyprus National Guard minefields within the buffer zone that divides the island.

Over the next year, an estimated 2,300 mines will be cleared from eight minefields—an area that covers more than 100 miles. Ever since the Turkish invasion more than 30 years ago—and today with Turkey's continued occupation—Cyprus has been a country that has struggled to achieve peace. The Government of Cyprus' endorsement of this program demonstrates its strong commitment to break down the physical barriers that separate Greek Cypriots from their Turkish Cypriot compatriots.

Further, the program illustrates the government's broader commitment to the international community as it joins the international fight against mine proliferation, and supports the United Nations Policy of Mine Action.

The Cyprus Government has been working with the United Nations Peace Keeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) since January 2002 in order to enact this de-mining project, and it should be praised for this dedication and tenacity.

I wish to make special note that these actions are being taken unilaterally by the Republic of Cyprus. Unfortunately, the Turkish side has not yet agreed to the de-mining of 27 minefields in the buffer zone laid by the Turkish occupation forces. We can only hope that the Turkish side will someday join the Govern-

ment of Cyprus in taking this necessary step towards removing these dangerous explosives.

Recent statements by the Turkish Cypriot leader, Mr. Mehmet Ali Talat, that the Turkish side intends to proceed with the destruction of its minefields in the buffer zone are encouraging. It is my strong wish that the Turkish occupation forces decide to go ahead with the de-mining process, as this would be a positive development that could contribute to further reducing the tension on the island.

COMMENDING THE VOLUNTEER WORK OF SUSAN CARTER

HON. ANDER CRENSHAW

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 19, 2004

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the outstanding volunteerism and community commitment of one of my constituents, Susan "Sue" Carter of Jacksonville, Florida.

Sue Carter, who recently moved back to Jacksonville after following her husband's military career across the globe for 20 years, is one of five individuals chosen by the National Military Family Association to receive the 2004 Very Important Patriot award. Sue was chosen, Mr. Speaker, for the countless hours of volunteer work she donated to the community in which she lived for the last three years, Keflavik, Iceland.

For the three years her husband, U.S. Navy Operations Officer, Commander Ted "Coach" Carter, was stationed at Naval Air Station Keflavik, Sue became very involved in some very important community organizations. Sue was president of the local Parent Teacher Student organization, served as chair of the organization's Activities board, managed a non-profit thrift shop whose proceeds benefit those seeking higher education, organized donations for the Red Cross, worked as a substitute teacher, volunteered as an assisting minister, and provided safety and instruction in small arms to military and civilian members of the community.

Sue performed outstanding work and donated countless hours serving her community. Sue's selfless commitment to volunteering is a vibrant example of the difference people can make in the lives of those around them. Now that she and her husband are stationed back in Jacksonville, I know our community will benefit greatly from her sense of community spirit.

Mr. Speaker, I recently had the opportunity to meet with Sue and her husband Ted and found their positive attitude inspiring. In addition to their service to Country and community, they are the proud parents of two young daughters. I believe our Nation owes a debt of gratitude to Sue and volunteers like her all across America for donating their precious time for the betterment of their neighbors. Volunteers are among the best of what America has to offer the world. As a citizen ambassador and wife to a military officer serving in Iceland, Sue reflected America's values honorably.

For these reasons Mr. Speaker, I commend Sue's public service, I congratulate her on receiving the Very Important Patriot award, and

on behalf of the residents of the Fourth Congressional District of Florida, I extend our sincere appreciation and gratitude.

FREEDOM FOR EDEL JOSÉ GARCÍA DÍAZ

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 19, 2004

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about Edel José García Díaz, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. García Díaz is the founder and editor of Centro Norte del País, an independent news agency amidst the dictatorship's mandated propaganda. He has devoted his efforts to printing the truth about the horrors in Cuba under the totalitarian dictatorship. By founding an independent news agency, Mr. García Díaz knowingly risked the wrath of the tyranny; however, he believed that illuminating the nightmare that is Castro regime was more important than his personal safety.

From 1997 to present, Mr. García Díaz has been harassed by the dictator's thugs. According to Reporters Without Borders, his life was threatened by a functionary of the municipality of Caibarien. He was also subjected to detentions, interrogations, and other official warnings. Yet, despite these threats, Mr. García Díaz always returned to his news agency to publish the truth about the regime's monstrous abuse of the basic human rights of the Cuban people.

On March 18, 2003, as part of the tyrant's deplorable crackdown on peaceful pro democracy advocates, Mr. García Díaz was arrested. According to Amnesty International, Mr. García Díaz was accused of writing about the poor physical condition of a school building in Havana and accompanying the article with a photo of the installation. After the conclusion of a sham trial, he was sentenced to 15 years in the totalitarian gulag.

Mr. García Díaz is languishing in Castro's infamous, inhuman gulag because he believes in freedom and democracy. His bravery in the face of oppression is another example of the courage of the pro-democracy activists in totalitarian Cuba. Recently, over one hundred Cuban opposition activists took part in a symbolic vote on November 2nd in Havana. They participated in a mock election for U.S. President at the residence of James Cason, head of the U.S. Interests Section in Cuba. Once again, the courage of the Cuban activists demonstrated to the world that, despite the consequences of dissent, the Cuban people are unafraid to demonstrate their desire for democracy.

Mr. Speaker, it is unconscionable the Mr. García Díaz is confined in an infernal gulag because he believes in writing the truth, freedom of the press, and basic human rights for the Cuban people. As we celebrate the successes of the American democratic process, we must never forget those who continue to fight the evil tyranny 90 miles from our shore. My Colleagues, we must demand the immediate release of Edel José García Díaz and every prisoner of conscience in totalitarian Cuba.

HONORING TEDDY "PILLAR OF TRUTH" BENNETT

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 19, 2004

Ms. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, in East Prairie, Missouri, there is no more well-known or better-loved gentleman than Teddy "Pillar of Truth" Bennett. Across our Nation, many fine Americans have met Mr. Bennett and he has had a great effect on their lives. I am certainly one of them.

Mr. Bennett was born in the spring of 1930. He grew up on the banks of the wild and mighty Mississippi River. The usual entree in his Depression-era lunch was a gravy sandwich. Mr. Bennett served our Nation in the Korean war in the U.S. Army. When he returned, he came back to East Prairie. Eventually, Mr. Bennett formed his own business and began to gain fame for his fabulous fish fries. His cooking skills are renowned throughout the Nation—as are his character and his pure heart. The "Pillar of Truth" is a man who knows the age-old axiom that you nourish people with fish as well as with ideas.

Teddy Bennett is more than an entrepreneur or a "people person" or a great storyteller. His whole life teaches us what it is about to grow up in Southern Missouri and make something of yourself. Teddy began his life's journey during the Great Depression. He learned the lessons of hard work and overcoming challenges as he grew up. He didn't set out to inspire us. It just happened that way.

You hear a lot of stories about the Pillar of Truth—but I know lots of things that are true about him: Though he has made many friends, he has never lost one. He makes his living, and his life, out of bringing people together. And he knows that you feed people with more than food. Teddy is a sage—an intelligent, dedicated man who is just as proud of his community as we are of him.

In recent years, Teddy Bennett has fought a war of his own with cancer, but he has not been alone. Every one of his many friends has stood shoulder to shoulder with him. They deserve the thanks of our Nation. Most of all, however, I would like to thank Mr. Bennett for being a trusted friend to the Emerson family and an inspiration in our world. You are our Pillar of Truth.

HONORING JOHN RITTER FOR HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 19, 2004

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank and honor John Ritter for his contribution to Clark County Legal Services through the Ritter Charitable Trust. This important contribution of \$175,000 will ensure that victims of violence against women will continue to have access to the legal support they need to protect themselves and their families.

John Ritter has long been a leader in the economic development of Clark County, Nevada. This gift, and other charitable donations

he has made, shows that he is also a leader in meeting the humanitarian needs of our community. John Ritter has shown that, as Southern Nevada continues to experience the fastest growth in the Nation, our community will meet its challenges with the same spirit that has made Las Vegas a world capital of culture, entertainment and quality of life. I look forward to continuing to work with John Ritter and Barbara Buckley, Director of Clark County Legal Services, to fight violence against women. I urge the House to join me in honoring John Ritter for his philanthropy and leadership.

CELEBRATING 35-YEAR CONGRESSIONAL CAREER OF THE HONORABLE PHILIP M. CRANE OF ILLINOIS

SPEECH OF

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a distinguished member of this chamber, Congressman PHIL CRANE. Since 1969, Rep. CRANE has served his constituents in the 8th District of Illinois with distinction and dedication. I join my colleagues in celebrating his career in the House.

Born in the midst of the Great Depression, Phil served his Nation in the Army, and went on to earn his doctorate degree from Indiana University. He then began a career in academia, before being elected to Congress. He continued his intellectual interests, going on to write three books, and contributing to various publications.

Congressman CRANE's interest and extensive knowledge of economic issues is well known. He is a champion of free trade, and played a pivotal role in the House passage of NAFTA and the 1994 General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. As vice chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, Rep. CRANE has taken a leadership role on issues of great importance to all Americans, such as Social Security, taxes, and Medicare.

As a leader in the conservative movement and as the senior Republican member in the House, PHIL CRANE has created a record of accomplishment for his constituents and his Nation during his tenure in the House. His legislative accomplishments have made a lasting and positive impact on our Nation, and his leadership in the House has inspired his colleagues.

Although Congressman CRANE will soon leave this chamber, his accomplishments and his legacy will continue to live on. All of us who have had the opportunity to serve with PHIL CRANE are better for the experience, and I congratulate him on his distinguished career.

CONGRATULATING TEMPLE SAMUEL OR OLOM IN MIAMI, FLORIDA

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 19, 2004

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate