

memory of New York City Firefighter and Army National Guard Sergeant Christian Engeldrum of Edgewater Park, the Bronx, New York, who died serving his country in Iraq on November 29, 2004.

Mr. Engeldrum was a proud member of the New York City Fire Department, most currently serving at Ladder Company 61 in Co-op City in the Bronx.

Sergeant Engeldrum's service to our Nation began in 1986 when he joined the U.S. Army and later served with distinction in Operation Desert Storm. During his tenure in the Army, Sergeant Engeldrum earned numerous accolades for his service including the Southwest Asia Service Medal with Bronze Service, Army Service Ribbon, National Defense Service Medal, Army Lapel Button, Sharpshooter Badge, Parachutist Badge, Army Good Conduct Medal, Army Achievement Medal and the NCO Professional Development Ribbon.

Upon completion of his military service, Sergeant Engeldrum joined the New York City Police Department, and, after successfully completing the Fire Academy in 1999, joined the Fire Department. He was assigned to Engine Company 89 in the Bronx. Moving through numerous fire stations Engeldrum was ultimately placed with Ladder Company 61 in the Bronx. His career in the Fire Department was as distinguished as his career in the Army, including his company's successful rescue of two civilians at a fire.

Among his many accomplishments, Firefighter Engeldrum was also one of the first people to raise an American flag over Ground Zero after September 11, 2001. The events he witnessed that horrible day spurred him to reenlist into the Army to fight for our Nation overseas and ensure our protection here at home. He was deployed to Iraq in November, 2004.

While he left a wife and two growing sons behind, he volunteered so they could live in a safer country, a better world. Tragically, on November 30, he paid the ultimate price for his love of family and country when a roadside bomb exploded near his convoy outside of Baghdad. Firefighter Engeldrum was the first New York City firefighter to die in service to his Nation in Iraq.

Christian Engeldrum is survived by his wife, Sharon who he met as a teenager selling Christmas trees at Engeldrum's Gas Station in the Bronx, as well as two sons, Shaun and Royce. Additionally, to make this sad occasion far more heartbreaking, his wife is now expecting another child. While this child will never get to know his father, may he always know that his father did not die in vain, but died to ensure the world this child is born into is one of safety, justice for all and free of terror. Christian was a patriot, and he loved this country, and died protecting it. Our City and our Nation owe him a true debt of gratitude.

IN HONOR OF THE 63RD ANNIVERSARY OF PEARL HARBOR DAY,
DECEMBER 7, 2004

HON. JACK KINGSTON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 6, 2004

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, December 7, 2004, marks the anniversary of the attack on

Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, a day, which like September 11, 2001, Americans will remember forever.

As the sun came up over the Pacific paradise of Oahu, Hawaii, on that Sunday morning in 1941, U.S. Navy Mess Attendant 1st Class Doris "Dorie" Miller should have been preparing the morning meal but never made it to the mess. Instead, he manned a machine gun on the deck of the U.S.S. *West Virginia*, and successfully shot down several enemy planes. Miller was awarded the Navy Cross for gallantry and continued to serve on active duty. On the morning of Nov. 24, 1943, Miller died when an explosion sank the U.S.S. *Liscome Bay* (CVE-56). Today, many Boys Clubs are named for U.S. Navy Mess Attendant 1st Class Doris Miller.

Since the Revolutionary War, the United States had rarely been attacked. Both Norfolk and Washington were threatened during the War of 1812. During the Spanish American War, port cities along the East Coast stood at high alert against possible attacks by Spanish forces sailing from Cuba. And 60 years after Pearl Harbor, our Nation was deliberately attacked by terrorist evil doers who wanted to do nothing more than kill innocent people—arguably in the hopes that it would scare freedom loving people into isolation.

During Pearl Harbor, many Americans, including some military commanders, had come to consider U.S. lands immune from enemy invasion. That feeling of immunity ended on the morning of December 7, 1941, when the Japanese Navy attacked the island of Oahu, Hawaii in two massive waves of carrier-based warplanes.

Sixty years later, many Americans felt immune once again, especially after the end of the Cold War. But, as terrorist-driven jet liners pounded into the Twin Towers and the Pentagon, with a fourth plane falling out of the sky in rural Pennsylvania, we were reminded that history does indeed repeat itself—we are never immune from those who want to perpetuate evil.

The 2-hour Japanese attack sank 21 Navy ships, destroyed 185 military planes and killed 2,290 military personnel at bases throughout Hawaii, along with 48 civilians. Japan lost 29 planes and five midjet submarines. The hull of the sunken U.S.S. *Arizona* became a tomb for 1,103 U.S. sailors.

From the death and destruction in the aftermath of the attack on Pearl Harbor rose a resolve to duty on the part of the American people that would culminate on September 2, 1945, with the surrender of Japan. And today, the American people share the same resolve—an undying commitment to defeat the evil of terrorism. History will repeat itself. We will prevail.

HONORING JOHN AND JULIA KOMAI

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 6, 2004

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor John and Julia Komai of Jackson, Michigan.

Born in Liberia, both John and Julia have dedicated their lives to improving the plight of

Liberians and restoring peace and democracy to Liberia.

John first came to the United States in the 1950's to attend Spring Arbor High School and later Spring Arbor College. He completed degrees at Greenville College in Greenville, Illinois; Chicago State University in Chicago, Ill.; McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago, Illinois; and Loyola University Graduate School of Education. An ordained Presbyterian Minister, Dr. Komai was Pastor-at-Large and Supervisor of Missions for the Community Presbyterian Church in Liberia, as well as Founder and President of Jobai International Development Corporation to support mission development. In 1984, Dr. Komai was appointed to the Ministry of Education, and served as the Director of the World Bank and African Development Bank education projects for the Republic of Liberia.

Born in Zlehtown, Liberia, June 7, 1947, Julia grew up there and in Monrovia. A strident and outspoken believer in the dignity of all people, she was jailed as a political prisoner in 1979 for speaking out against human rights abuses committed by then-President William Tolbert. She was freed in 1980 when Samuel Doe came to power. Julia served as the Assistant Director of the African Unity Conference Center from 1982 to 1990. She and John fled Liberia during the coup-de-etat of 1989, walking 300 miles to reach Sierra Leone, surviving on grass and sleeping wherever they could.

Julia passed away suddenly on November 23, 2004 in an automobile accident. She will be forever remembered for her generous spirit and enthusiasm for life. In the face of hardships most Americans cannot begin to imagine, she persevered. Hers is a story of hope and boundless optimism, of dedication to ideals greater than herself. She loved her native land and hoped to return there someday.

I am proud to join the many friends and admirers of John and Julia Komai in recognizing their dedication to the restoration of peace and democracy to their homeland of Liberia. I extend my condolences to Julia's family and friends. May she rest in peace, and may her memory live on in those whose lives she touched.

RECOGNIZING ANN SCHLUETER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 6, 2004

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Ann Schlueter, a dedicated member of my congressional staff who will be leaving my office on November 30, 2004. Her work ethic, professionalism, and dedication to Missouri's Sixth Congressional District will be sadly missed. I consider myself fortunate though, because Ann will soon start a new career as Atchison County Economic Developer, which means that my home county will continue to benefit from her expertise and commitment to service.

Ann has been affiliated with my office for over three years now, and has held just about every position available. She began her service as an intern in my Liberty, Missouri district office in 2001, and since then has held the positions of caseworker, scheduler, and field representative among others. In January of 2003,

she began working in my Saint Joseph, Missouri district office and I know her colleagues there will miss her just as much as I will. While she excelled at every task, in my mind the highlight of Ann's tenure on my staff was her organization of the Tarkio Fly-In on June 5, 2004.

Ann has also excelled outside of the office. She is a graduate of Tarkio High School and the University of Missouri—Columbia. Ann and her husband Matt currently reside in my hometown of Tarkio with their son Aaron, who was born in 2003.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Ann Schlueter for her many important contributions to myself, my staff, and Missouri's Sixth Congressional District. Ann exemplifies the qualities of dedication and service and I am extremely proud of her accomplishments. While she is leaving my congressional staff, I am proud that I will still be able to represent her in the United States Congress.

CONGRESS SHOULD NOT ABUSE TAXPAYER PRIVACY

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 6, 2004

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in complete support of the unanimous consent agreement to strike the FY '05 omnibus spending bill provision that would allow congressional staff and appropriators access to individual tax returns. But I must point out that Congress has made a similar mistake by dropping from the same bill a House amendment advocated by Representative CAPITO and me, that would have prevented 2.6 million tax returns a year to be turned over to private contractors for the purposes of tax collection. While Congress is attempting to correct what is clearly a bad idea to allow congressional staff and Members of Congress to peruse individual tax returns, taxpayers are also vulnerable to potential abuses of tax return disclosure through private debt collection agents.

Prior to the 2004 election, Congress enacted H.R. 4520, the corporate tax bill that will give the IRS private tax collection authority. The enacted language allows the IRS to use private collection agencies to collect tax debt. This means that up to 2.6 million tax returns—which are currently only scrutinized by federal government employees—will now be open to at least 10 private collection agencies within the first 6 months, and an untold number of private debt collection staff.

While IRS employees are explicitly forbidden from being evaluated on the basis of revenue collected, the private collection scheme would actually link contractor pay to the amount of revenue collection. This policy encourages contractors to use aggressive collection techniques to boost their remuneration. Furthermore, the IRS is currently liable for damages to a taxpayer resulting from the misuse of confidential information by an IRS employee, but taxpayers will not be able to recover damages from the federal government where contractors are guilty of malfeasance.

What's more worrisome is the IRS' inability to oversee the work of these private debt collectors. A 1996 pilot program for private col-

lection was so unsuccessful that a similar pilot program planned for 1997 was cancelled outright. The contractors used in the pilot programs regularly broke the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, did not protect the security of personal taxpayer information, and even then failed to bring in a net increase in revenue.

The IRS has said that it has learned from the 1996 project and is better equipped to address the problems raised. However, even recent evidence is to the contrary. An eye-opening report by the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration (TIGTA Audit #200320010) shows how IRS contractors put taxpayers' data at risk. The TIGTA audit found that the "lack of oversight of contractors resulted in serious security vulnerabilities." The report, found that, "contractors blatantly circumvented IRS policies and procedures even when security personnel identified inappropriate practices."

The objective of the review was "to determine whether the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has adequately protected Federal Government equipment and data from misuse by contractors." The review found: "The involvement of non-IRS employees in critical IRS functions increases the risk of misuse or unauthorized disclosure of taxpayer data, and could lead to loss of equipment or sensitive taxpayer data through theft or sabotage."

Under the current conditions of rampant identity theft and deteriorating privacy here in the U.S., the federal government ought to be strengthening and protecting taxpayer privacy where it can. A first step is to eliminate the egregious provision placed in the Omnibus Bill. But a second, and more critical step, is to abolish the IRS' plan to place 2.6 million tax returns in front of private collection agencies and their staffs. This proposal sets a dangerous precedent down a path of contractor abuse and taxpayer distrust.

I urge my colleagues to join me in the 109th Congress in working with the IRS to find a more effective means of collecting delinquent tax debt collection and avoid this risky scheme altogether.

IN HONOR OF JOHN W. VAN HISE,
JR.

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 6, 2004

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Commander John W. Van Hise, Jr., upon his retirement after over 35 years of service in the Naval Security Group Reserve. Commander Van Hise has commendably served his country in a variety of assignments at key duty stations around the world. I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations on his retirement, and express my appreciation for his service to our country.

In 1969, Commander Van Hise enlisted in the United States Navy, and after completing Basic Training was assigned to the Russian Language School at Syracuse University. Shortly after, CDR Van Hise served active duty in Japan as an aircrew and plane captain, flying over 100 missions in the Sea of Japan, the Gulf of Tonkin, and off the USS *Coral Sea*. Upon returning to the United States he continued his career in the Naval

Reserve in California. After relocation to Florida, he served as both Training Officer and Operations Officer at the Naval Reserve Security Group in Tampa. In 1986 CDR Van Hise transferred to Charleston and created the first Direct Support Program for Security Group reservists and as a result, was selected as Commanding Officer. Returning to California in 1991, he served two more tours as the Commanding Officer of Naval Reserve Security Group Santa Ana and Naval Reserve Security Group Ft. Lewis, Washington. In 1996, he enrolled in the Naval War College at the Naval Postgraduate School where he graduated with honors in 1999.

In his exemplary career in the Navy, Commander Van Hise has received many promotions, and has been awarded with many honors and medals. His first Navy Commendation Medal was awarded to him after serving as the Operations Officer of the Naval Reserve Security Group San Francisco from 1994 to 1995. In 1995, the Commander was awarded the Joint Commendation Medal by US European Command for his planning and execution of 40 Military-to-Military contact events between Albanian and US forces. He received a second Navy Commendation Medal in 2000 after serving as Action Officer for Joint Secure Communications under the Director of Naval Intelligence.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to personally congratulate Commander Van Hise on his upcoming retirement, and thank him for his dedicated service in the Navy. I wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING NATHAN OLSON FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 6, 2004

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Nathan Olson, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America Troop 214 and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Nathan has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities and earning 30 merit badges. Nathan is an Ordeal member in the Order of the Arrow Camping Honorary and is a Warrior in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say.

For his Eagle Scout project, Nathan supervised the pouring of a concrete slab foundation for the bleachers at St. James Catholic Church baseball field. In addition, he supervised the pouring of two additional slabs for players and coaches to stand behind the backstop.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Nathan Olson for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.