

Committee. During her years on the committee she has worked on the Personnel Subcommittee, and directly with the General Counsel and the Staff Director. For the past 20 years she has held the position of Professional Staff Member and served as the committee's senior administrator, managing a multi million-dollar annual budget, and organizing Congressional travel, among many other duties. As a result of her position and responsibilities, Rita has regularly interacted not only with Members of Congress, but also with Senators, foreign dignitaries, and high ranking military officials.

Rita's committee service has spanned six presidents, seven committee chairmen, and seven staff directors. I speak for myself, past chairmen and ranking minority members, and any and everyone who has had the privilege of working with Rita, in thanking her for her tireless work and dedication to the House Armed Services Committee.

Rita's charm has always been a trademark of her personality. In a place where many people come and go, Rita has been a symbol of commitment and dedication from which many of us could learn. I congratulate her on her retirement and thank her for over three decades of honorable service to this Congress and her country. On behalf of the House Armed Services Committee and the United States Congress, I wish you the best of luck as you begin this new chapter of your life.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM NEIDIG

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 7, 2004

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor William Neidig, who was recently honored with the prestigious St. Madeleine Sophie Medal by the Schools of the Sacred Heart in Atherton, California.

Bill grew up on the east coast and graduated from Princeton University with an engineering degree before coming West to attend the Business School at Stanford University. After graduation, Bill and his wife Christy settled in Palo Alto because of the city's outstanding public school system, and Bill began in the real estate business.

Fate intervened and the Neidig's enrolled their daughter Stephanie in the kindergarten at St. Joseph's. Bill says that growing up he had never really known a nun. But after meeting the Religious of the Sacred Heart he came to appreciate the well educated women who have devoted themselves to educating his children, and he was sold on the school and wanted to help out.

Bill joined the Building and Grounds Committee in 1990 and joined the board of trustees in 1991, where he has continued to serve ever since, except for a mandatory one year sabbatical. In this capacity, Bill worked diligently to maintain and upgrade the facilities and grounds at Sacred Heart. He has been involved in upgrading St. Joseph's classrooms, offices, and science lab. He developed Spieker Pavilion, the Main Building, the Aquatics Center, the West Wing and the library, the football field, the track and tennis facilities, and most recently the Performing Arts Center. At no other time in the history of Sa-

cred Heart Schools Atherton has so much been accomplished in such a short time period.

Bill has also served on the Finance Committee, where his familiar cry, "Less is more, but will it do everything you need?" has been a guiding principle in the financial decisions of the school.

Bill knows how to ask the right questions and get the right answers. Whenever something needs to be done, he can be counted on to make sure it gets done. He has been extraordinarily giving of his time and talent, and his support for Sacred Heart Schools is an inspiration to all.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this great and inspiring man, William Neidig, as he is honored with the St. Madeleine Sophie Medal.

RECOGNIZING CHRISTOPHER EARLEY

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 7, 2004

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Christopher Earley, 2004 graduate of Chillicothe High School.

This year Christopher completed a distinguished career as a wrestler at Chillicothe High School, under the tutelage of coaches Dave Kinnen and Ken Stull. Christopher was named to the All District Wrestling Team in 2003, and a State Wrestling Qualifier in 2003 and 2004. During his senior season Christopher enjoyed a great deal of success, as he won the Coach's Award, was named to the Midland Empire All-Conference, and won the District Wrestling Championship. Christopher was also a four-year letterman in wrestling. His academic achievements are equally impressive, as he was the recipient of four consecutive academic letters at Chillicothe High School as well.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in congratulating Christopher Earley and wishing him continued success. Christopher is a great role model for student-athletes in our state, and I am proud to serve him in the United States Congress.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF PETER V. KILBANE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 7, 2004

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Peter V. Kilbane—United States Veteran of WWII, thirty-six year member of the Cleveland Police Department; and most significantly, devoted family man; and friend and mentor to many.

Mr. Kilbane's life centered around his unwavering commitment to his family, to community, and to our nation. He embraced his Irish heritage, and embraced the values, traditions and ethics taught to him by his parents, Mihal Moor and Honora Joyce. Together, Peter and his beloved wife of sixty-two years, Margaret Mary, offered these vital life lessons to their

children: Karen, Grace Ann, Peter G., Peggy, and Mary. He will also be remembered as a loving father figure to Mary Lou Wallish, and to the memory of Harry Spencer.

Mr. Kilbane served our country with honor and courage. His decorated service during WWII reflected his heroic actions in France, Belgium, Holland and Germany, including the Battle of the Bulge. From the front lines fighting for liberty during the war, to the front lines fighting crime along the streets of Cleveland, Mr. Kilbane exhibited the same unyielding dedication and concern for others. He worked in every district within the Cleveland Police Department, and held the position of Lieutenant of Special Operations, Detective Bureau, when he retired in 1987. Beyond his professional commitments, Mr. Kilbane consistently reached out into our community. He held board positions and was an active member of many civic organizations, including St. Malachi Parish, the Holy Name Society, the Fraternal Order of Police, the Emerald Society, and the Retired Irish Police Society. In 2000, the Retired Irish Police Society named him the Retired Irish Police Officer of the Year.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor, gratitude and remembrance of Mr. Peter V. Kilbane—a man of heart, courage and integrity, who lived life with a joyous focus on family, friends and helping others. I extend my deepest condolences to his beloved wife, Margaret Mary, to his children, grandchildren, great-children and to his extended family members and many friends. His kindness, heart and courageous service has served to uplift our Cleveland community, and his shining legacy, spirit and memory will live on forever within the minds and hearts of all whom knew and loved him well.

IN HONOR OF ADM SAMUEL LEE GRAVELY

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 7, 2004

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of an extraordinary American, ADM Samuel Lee Gravelly, Jr.

Admiral Gravelly passed away recently, but he leaves behind a legacy of stunning accomplishment, which undoubtedly renders him as one of the most significant figures in American military history.

Admiral Gravelly was born in Richmond, Virginia on June 4, 1922. After attending Virginia Union University for 2 years, he enlisted in the Navy Reserve in 1942 and was trained as a fireman apprentice.

In 1943, he participated in a Navy program known as V-12, which was designed to select and train highly qualified men for commissioning as officers in the Navy. As part of his V-12 training, he attended the University of California in Los Angeles and the Midshipmen School at Columbia University in New York City.

On December 14, 1944 Admiral Gravelly successfully completed midshipman training, becoming the first African American commissioned as an officer from the Navy Reserve Officers' Training Course, ROTC.

As a newly commissioned ensign, his first duty assignment was at a naval training station in Illinois, where he was assistant battalion commander for new recruits. Following

that assignment, he began his seagoing career as a sailor aboard the PC 1264, one of only two World War II ships with a predominantly African-American crew.

In April 1946 he left active duty, but remained in the Naval Reserve. He returned to his hometown of Richmond, Virginia, and completed his bachelor's degree in history. Soon after obtaining his degree he was recalled to active duty during the Korean war. His service during that time earned him a Legion of Merit Award, Bronze Star, and the Meritorious Service Medal.

In the 1960's, Admiral Gravely became the first African-American to command a navy warship when he was appointed executive officer, and later, acting commanding officer of the destroyer *Theodore E. Chandler*. That momentous milestone was just one of many in Admiral Gravely's career.

Some historic firsts that he has achieved include: the first African-American to command an American warship under combat conditions since the Civil War, USS *Taussig*; the first African-American to command a major naval warship, USS *Jouett*; the first African-American admiral; the first African-American to rise to the rank of vice admiral; and the first African-American to command a U.S. fleet, commander, Third Fleet.

Admiral Gravely belongs to a group of African-American military heroes whose belief in self and country gave them strength to overcome incredible obstacles and reach unprecedented heights. In so doing they have given hope and pride to the generations that have proceeded them.

Known as a quiet and unassuming man, his life exemplified the words of the politician Adlai Stevenson, who once said "Patriotism is not short, frenzied outbursts of emotion, but the tranquil and steady dedication of a lifetime." If this is the measure of a patriot, then Admiral Gravely was one of our greatest.

I find it appropriate to end with Admiral Gravely's own words: "Perseverance is the ability to steadfastly proceed to your goal despite all obstacles. It is the ability to overcome." The spirit of Admiral Gravely will always be with us, just as his words will forever ring true.

HONORING DR. TAMMIE LEE DEMLER

HON. THOMAS M. REYNOLDS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 7, 2004

Mr. REYNOLDS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise to pay tribute to Dr. Tammie Lee Demler of Wheatfield, NY, for recently being honored as both a New York State Senate "Woman of Distinction" and the "2004 Pharmacist of the Year."

Since receiving a Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University at Buffalo School of Pharmacy, Dr. Demler has received a number of accolades. She became the President of the Pharmacists' Association of Western New York (PAWNY), and this year was named "2004 Pharmacist of the Year" by the association. Dr. Demler currently serves as the Director of the University's Psychiatric Pharmacy Post Doctoral Residency Program where she mentors graduate students. She has made nu-

merous contributions to both the association and the pharmacology profession.

Dr. Demler received another prestigious award from the New York State Senate this past June, being named a "Woman of Distinction." The award was created to honor women throughout New York that have played an important role in "adding strength, understanding, and inspiration to the diversity and quality of life" in the state; I can think of no one more deserving of this award than Dr. Demler.

Dr. Demler spends much of her free time working for the betterment of the community, such as helping organize the "Taste of Buffalo," a very important annual event. Dr. Demler has made a considerable and lasting contribution to both her profession and our community, and for that she deserves our deepest gratitude.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that this Congress join me in congratulating Dr. Tammie Lee Demler for being named as both a "Woman of Distinction" and the "2004 Pharmacist of the Year."

IN HONOR AND IN MEMORY OF LCPL BRAD FAIRCLOTH OF MOBILE, AL

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 7, 2004

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a young man from the First Congressional District of Alabama who recently made the ultimate sacrifice in the defense of freedom abroad.

Lance Corporal Brad Faircloth, a native of Mobile, Alabama, was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 8th Marines, based at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. In July of this year, Brad's unit was deployed to Iraq in support of ongoing military operations in that country. It was there that, on November 25, 2004, he was killed while he and other members of his unit conducted house-to-house searches in Fallujah, Iraq, looking for members of that country's insurgent movement.

Brad set a standard of excellence and displayed the qualities of discipline, devotion, and dedication to country that are hallmarks of men and women throughout the long and distinguished history of the American military. Following his 2002 graduation from Murphy High School in Mobile, Alabama, and after one year as a student at Delta State University in Mississippi, Brad chose to join the Marine Corps. In recent days, many members of his family said he did so in large part in response to the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, because he felt he should do his part in the fight to protect his country. Brad was an extremely conscientious and dedicated marine, and he was honored recently with the presentation to his family of three Purple Hearts and the Distinguished Service Medal.

Mr. Speaker, I feel certain his many friends in Mobile County and his comrades in the United States Marine Corps, while mourning the loss of this fine young man, are also taking this opportunity to remember his many accomplishments during his brief 20 years, and to recall the fine gift they each received simply from knowing him and having him as an integral part of their lives.

I urge my colleagues to take a moment and pay tribute to Lance Corporal Brad Faircloth and his selfless devotion to not only our country and the freedoms we enjoy, but to a people who are but now in the infancy of a new life—a new freedom—in their own land.

We should also remember his mother, Kathleen Faircloth-Smith; his stepfather, Paul Smith; his grandparents, Dewey and Helen Faircloth; his uncle, Tim Faircloth; and his other family members and many friends. Our prayer is that God will give them all the strength and courage that only He can provide to sustain them during the difficult days ahead.

It was Joseph Campbell who said, "A hero is someone who has given his or her life to something bigger than oneself." Make no mistake, young Brad Faircloth was not only a dedicated marine who made the ultimate sacrifice serving in the uniform of his country, but he was also a true American hero.

TRIBUTE TO LA HABRA HIGH SCHOOL AS THEY CELEBRATE THEIR GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 7, 2004

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to La Habra High School in La Habra, California as they celebrate their Golden Anniversary.

For the past 50 years, La Habra High School has been more than just an institution for learning; it has become the pride and joy of a community. The teachers and administration work together to inspire students to become life long learners. The school boasts alumni that are not only productive members of society, but have paved a path for future generations to follow. Most importantly, the students of La Habra High School understand the importance of learning and the value of a proper education. Over the years the school has earned many distinctions including the coveted Blue Ribbon Award by the U.S. Department of Education.

Mr. Speaker, La Habra High School has proven to be a first rate educational institution that fosters a positive learning environment for the future of our children. I ask my fellow colleagues in Congress to join me in congratulating the teachers, administrators, alumni, students and parents as they celebrate the school's 50th Anniversary.

IN HONOR OF HENRY MELLO

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 7, 2004

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, Congresswoman ANNA ESHOO, Congresswoman LOIS CAPPAS, Congresswoman BARBARA LEE, Congressman GEORGE MILLER, Congressman MICHAEL HONDA, Congressman JOE BACA, Congressman MIKE THOMPSON, Congressman TOM LANTOS, Congressman PETE STARK, Congressman BOB FILNER, Congresswoman ZOE LOFGREN, Congresswoman DIANE WATSON, Congresswoman LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD, Congressman HOWARD BERMAN and Congresswoman