

Megan and Brian. The family enjoys weekends at their cottage and spent many years renovating their residence, a century home.

Carolyn Penn, nominated by Juvenile Court Administrative Judge Joseph F. Russo, is a Probation Manager at the Court's Bedford Heights office, where she manages a staff of probation officers and administrative assistants who deal with delinquent, unruly and violent children living in the southeast portion of Cuyahoga County.

A graduate of Central State University with a master's degree from Case's School of Applied Social Sciences Administration, Carolyn lives in Cleveland Heights. The widow of James E. Penn, Jr., and the mother of a grown son, James E. Penn III, Carolyn was also honored by a Cleveland Mayoral proclamation for her years of service to at-risk children and the community.

Carolyn volunteers with senior citizens and participates in charities, along with actively supporting individual political candidates and social service ballot issues. She takes pride in her work and protecting her community.

Pauline Pope is the Assistant Chief of Security in the Bailiffs Department of the Cleveland Municipal court, where she has worked since 1986.

Presiding and Administrative Judge Larry A. Jones's nominee, Pauline previously worked for the City of Cleveland, as part of more than a quarter century of public service. She works hard to assure that the employees and the public enjoys a safe environment in the Court.

Pauline came to Cleveland after graduating from high school in South Carolina. She is active in ministries, nursing homes and prisons. Early in her court employment career, she was assigned to provide security to the late Judge Carl B. Stokes.

On behalf of the people of the 11th Congressional District of Ohio and the United States Congress, I pay tribute to the leadership, dedication, support, and commitment of the 2004 Annual Public Servants Merit Award honorees.

HON. THE WORK OF REVEREND RUBEN LOUIS ARCHIELD, SR.

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2004

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Reverend Ruben Louis Archield, Sr., a great friend, teacher, and counselor. As pastor of Friendship Baptist Church in San Antonio, Texas since 1963, Reverend Archield has served the spiritual needs of his congregation and the San Antonio community.

Under Reverend Archield's direction, Friendship Baptist Church has enjoyed an unparalleled period of growth as many new buildings have been constructed and programs established to serve the ever-changing needs of the surrounding community.

Reverend Archield has also contributed to the community through involvement with organizations such as the Baptist Ministers' Union, the Citywide Brotherhood of San Antonio, the National Baptist Convention, the San Antonio Development Agency, and the Project Drug Abuse Center. For these extraordinary deeds, Reverend Archield received the San Antonio

Register's Pulpit Heritage Award and the Patriarch Award from Greater Love Baptist Church.

February 22, 2004 marks Friends and Family Day at Friendship Baptist Church, a time to come together with special friends and loved ones to worship and express thanks for our many blessings. I wish Reverend Archield and the members of Friendship Baptist Church all the best on this special day.

RECOGNIZING THE FAIRFAX COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 2004 VALOR AWARD RECIPIENTS FROM THE FAIRFAX COUNTY OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2004

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, Mr. MORAN, Mr. WOLF and I rise today to recognize an extraordinary group of men and women in Northern Virginia. Each year, the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce recognizes individuals who courageously have demonstrated selfless dedication to public safety. The hard work, dedication, and perseverance of the Fairfax County Office of the Sheriff have earned several of its members the highest honor that Fairfax County bestows upon its public safety officials—The Valor Award.

There are several types of Valor Awards awarded to a public safety officer: The Life-saving Award, the Certificate of Valor, or the Gold, Silver, or Bronze Medal of Valor. During the 26th Annual Awards Ceremony, 53 men and women from the Office of the Sheriff, Fire and Rescue Department, and the Police Department received one of the aforementioned honors for their bravery and heroism.

It is with great honor that we enter into the RECORD the names of the recipients of the 2004 Valor Awards in the Fairfax County Office of the Sheriff. Receiving the Lifesaving Award: Second Lieutenant Steve J. Elbert, Sergeant William E. Friedman, Private First Class Morris F. Hood Jr., Private First Class Dena M. Hubbard, Private First Class Steven P. Queen, Master Deputy Sheriff Juan L. Romero, Sergeant Mark W. Sites, Second Lieutenant Elaine M. Stanley, Private First Class Zachary D. Taylor, Private First Class Huihao Wang, Private First Class Kenneth W. Wing, Jr.; the Certificate of Valor: Private First Class Peter J. Fox; the Bronze Medal of Honor: Deputy William L. Bishop, Second Lieutenant Gregory A. Merck, Sergeant Eli G. Rejelli.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, we would like to take this opportunity to thank all men and women who serve the Fairfax County Office of the Sheriff. The events of September 11th serve as a reminder of the sacrifices our emergency service workers make for us each day. These individuals' continuous efforts on behalf of Fairfax County citizens are paramount to preserving security, law, and order throughout our community. Their selfless acts of heroism truly merit our highest praise. We ask our colleagues to join us in applauding this group of remarkable citizens.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE MEKHITARIST FATHERS' ARME- NIAN SCHOOL'S 25TH ANNIVER- SARY

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2004

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Mekhitarist Fathers' Armenian School. On Saturday, February 28, 2004, members of the Armenian community in Southern California will gather to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the Mekhitarist Fathers' Armenian School.

The school is the pride of the Armenian community. Its impressive curriculum, dedicated faculty and administration, quality extracurricular activities, devoted parents, alumni and committed Trustees serve as strong pillars of this unique educational institution.

The Mekhitarist Fathers' Armenian school was established in 1979 with dreams of rearing and educating young Armenians about their past. Yet they taught their pupils to appreciate their new home in America and establish respectable, productive and thriving communities as well as the importance of making lasting contributions to society.

In 1998, when the school had prospered to more than 350 students, they leased a campus in La Crescenta. The school was facing unlimited difficulties. Mekhitarist Fathers had a very short time to find a home for those whose educational responsibilities were put upon their shoulders. They proved without a doubt that despite insurmountable obstacles, they fulfilled their seemingly impossible responsibility toward this community when they purchased their own land on Foothill Boulevard, in Tujunga.

Today, the number of students has dropped due to obstacles that the school has had to overcome. Yet, that is what has made this institution stronger. As Fr. Augustine Szekula said, "It is the very existence of nurturing Armenian schools in the Diaspora that supports and indeed, enables our Mother country [Armenia] to exist, and for our rich Armenian cultural heritage to continue to flourish with dignity and grace."

It is my distinct honor to recognize the Mekhitarist Fathers' Armenian School's invaluable service to the community and congratulate them upon their 25th anniversary.

TRIBUTE TO BOEING ENGINEERING TEAM

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2004

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I have the honor to represent NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center and numerous space contractors. Throughout North Alabama, scientists and engineers are working diligently to create the necessary technology to take humans and cargo into space. In addition, the innovative research and development that is being done and managed by the Marshall Space Flight Center and its partners is having significant and positive impact on our Nation's quality of life.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the members of Boeing's Space Launch Initiative TA-2 Self-Reacting Friction Stir Welding Cryogenic Tank Demonstration Team. Recently, these engineers from Huntsville, Alabama and Huntington Beach, California, successfully joined two twenty-seven foot diameter aluminum barrels together using a new process that utilizes friction rather than traditional welding methods. This successful test at the Marshall Space Flight Center was the largest test of the circumferential self-reacting friction stir welding. Boeing officials recognized this significant achievement by awarding this engineering team with the Boeing Silver Phantom Award.

This process will help NASA to overcome many technical obstacles that it will face during its ambitious exploration plans. By using friction, rather than electrical or gas fusion methods, the weld is significantly stronger and performed at a higher quality and lower cost. This process enables a wider range of options as NASA considers designs for future space launch vehicles.

Mr. Speaker, I close by sending my sincere congratulations to the Self-Reacting Friction Stir Welding Cryogenic Tank Demonstration Team for winning Boeing's Silver Phantom Award. I am proud to recognize their hard work and dedication that led to this important technical achievement.

ACADEMY NOMINEES FOR 2003
11TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
OF NEW JERSEY

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2004

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, every year, more high school seniors from the 11th Congressional District trade in varsity jackets for Navy pea coats, Air Force flight suits, and Army brass buckles than most other districts in the country. But this is nothing new—our area has repeatedly sent an above average portion of its sons and daughters to the Nation's military academies for decades.

This fact should not come as a surprise. The educational excellence of area schools is well known and has long been a magnet for families looking for the best environment in which to raise their children. Our graduates are skilled not only in mathematics, science, and social studies, but also have solid backgrounds in sports, debate teams, and other extracurricular activities. This diverse upbringing makes military academy recruiters sit up and take note—indeed, many recruiters know our towns and schools by name.

Since the 1830's, Members of Congress have enjoyed meeting, talking with, and nominating these superb young people to our military academies. But how did this process evolve? In 1843, when West Point was the sole academy, Congress ratified the nominating process and became directly involved in the makeup of our military's leadership. This was not an act of an imperial Congress bent on controlling every aspect of Government. Rather, the procedure still used today was, and is, a further check and balance in our democracy. It was originally designed to weaken and divide political coloration in the officer

corps, provide geographical balance to our armed services, and to make the officer corps more resilient to unfettered nepotism and handicapped European armies.

In 1854, Representative Gerritt Smith of New York added a new component to the academy nomination process—the academy review board. This was the first time a Member of Congress appointed prominent citizens from his district to screen applicants and assist with the serious duty of nominating candidates for academy admission. Today, I am honored to continue this wise tradition in my service to the 11th Congressional District.

The Academy Review Board is composed of six local citizens who have shown exemplary service to New Jersey, to their communities, and to the continued excellence of education in our area—many are veterans. Though from diverse backgrounds and professions, they all share a common dedication that the best qualified and motivated graduates attend our academies. And, as true for most volunteer panels, their service goes largely unnoticed.

I would like to take a moment to recognize these men and women and thank them publicly for participating in this important panel. Being on the board requires hard work and an objective mind. Members have the responsibility of interviewing upwards of 50 outstanding high school seniors every year in the academy review process.

The nomination process follows a general timetable. High school seniors mail personal information directly to the Military Academy, the Naval Academy, the Air Force Academy, and the Merchant Marine Academy once they become interested in attending. Information includes academic achievement, college entry test scores, and other activities. At this time, they also inform my office of their desire to be nominated.

The academies then assess the applicants, rank them based on the data supplied, and return the files to my office with their notations. In late November, our Academy Review Board interviews all of the applicants over the course of 2 days. They assess a student's qualifications and analyze character, desire to serve, and other talents that may be hidden on paper.

This year the board interviewed over 50 applicants. Nominations included 9 to the Naval Academy, 10 to the Military Academy, 5 to the Merchant Marine Academy and 8 to the Air Force Academy—the Coast Guard Academy does not use the Congressional nomination process. The recommendations are then forwarded to the academies by January 31, where recruiters reviewed files and notified applicants and my office of their final decision on admission.

As these highly motivated and talented young men and women go through the academy nominating process, never let us forget the sacrifice they are preparing to make: to defend our country and protect our citizens. This holds especially true at a time when our nation is fighting the war against terrorism. Whether it is in Afghanistan, Iraq, or other hot spots around the world, no doubt we are constantly reminded that wars are fought by the young. And, while our military missions are both important and dangerous, it is reassuring to know that we continue to put America's best and brightest in command.

ACADEMY NOMINEES FOR 2003 11TH
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT, NEW JERSEY

AIR FORCE ACADEMY

Ryan M. Cortner, Scotland, International School
Michael P. Dickson, Flanders, Mt. Olive H.S.
Marc D. Honrath, Dover, Morris Knolls H.S.
Asha Padmanabhan, Raritan, Bridgewater—Raritan
Heather G. Pinsky, Morristown, Morristown H.S.
Edward J. Schmeltz, Chatham, Chatham H.S.
Anthony Stegman, Sparta, Sparta H.S.
Christopher A. Wolff, Mendham, West Morris Mendham H.S.

MERCHANT MARINE

Steve R. Kline, Chatham, Chatham H.S.
Vincent J. Lusardi, Rockaway, Morris Hills H.S.
Jarrod M. Prill, Boonton, Boonton H.S.
Eric B. Warner, Morris Plains, Parsippany Hills H.S.
Richard W. White, Bloomingdale, Butler H.S.

MILITARY ACADEMY

Corey R. Belton, Brookside, West Morris Mendham HS
Assison T. Gaydosh, Bridgewater, Syracuse University
Sean P. Groome, Andover, Lenape Valley H.S.
Ross Kuskovsky, Livingston, Livingston H.S.
Anthony A. Margue, Randolph, Randolph H.S.
Michael A. Robinson, Brookside, West Morris Mendham H.S.
Allen J. Rooney, Madison, Madison H.S.
Stephane M. Slotten, Mendham, Newark Academy
Christopher M. Tarney, Chatham, Seton Hall Prep
Ernie Young, Whippany, Whippany Park H.S.

NAVAL ACADEMY

Sean K. Bergstrom, Mendham, Delbarton
Bradley C. Fromm, Madison, Madison H.S.
Chris Lakhiani, Mountain Lakes, Mountain Lakes H.S.
Julie-Ann Latona, Madison, Madison H.S.
John S. Quick, Liberty Corner, Oratory Prep
Jonathan V. Salmon, Bridgewater, St. Joseph's H.S.
Brian M. Schenig, Pompton Plains, Pequannock H.S.
Sarah A. Shewmaker, Short Hills, Millburn H.S.
Michael R. Wooters, Morristown, Seton Hall Prep
Michael J. Zecca, Bridgewater, Bridgewater—Raritan H.S.

HONORING U.S. MARSHAL MARK
TUCKER

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2004

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of one of North Carolina's most respected law enforcement officers, a man whom I am proud to have called a friend.

Deputy Mark Reid Tucker served our community as both a Wake County Sheriff's Deputy and a U.S. Marshal for eastern North Carolina. No matter the rank, law enforcement was a job he loved—and a job he did exceedingly well. He was killed in the line of duty earlier this month at 49 years of age.