

Last year, 145 law enforcement officers gave their lives in the line of duty. Today, I would like to recognize and honor a fellow Alaskan: Officer John Patrick Watson, who gave his life Christmas Evening, 2003 while responding to a possible domestic dispute call. Officer Watson, an eighteen-year veteran of the force and resident of Kenai, Alaska was shot to death with his own weapon, allegedly by one of the individuals on whose welfare he was checking. Officer Watson is the first member of the Kenai Police Department to lose his life in the line of duty but his loss was not in vain. He will be remembered for his commitment to his job, his friends and most of all his family. He along with the other fallen members of the law enforcement community share a special bond with one another. They will be regarded as heroes, a bond they will share for eternity. It is only fitting that we celebrate their lives not for the way they died, but for the way they lived.

Officer John Patrick Watson went to work on Christmas Day as a hero and that is the way he will always be remembered. I pray for his wife Kathy, his daughter, six stepchildren and his family in Michigan. Officer Watson is a true Alaskan Hero.

CONGRATULATING MONSIGNOR
CONSTANTINE SICONOLFI HON-
ORED FOR THE 2004 AMERI-
CANISM AWARD

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 13, 2004

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, today I call the attention of the House of Representatives to Monsignor Constantine Siconolfi as he is honored by Amos Lodge No. 136 of B'nai B'rith with the 2004 Americanism Award at the 52nd annual awards dinner this Sunday at the Jewish Community Center in Scranton, Pennsylvania.

Monsignor Siconolfi has dedicated his life to ministry in Northeastern Pennsylvania. Ordained in 1959, he was an assistant pastor at St. Patrick's in Milford, St. Cecelia's in Exeter and Holy Family in Scranton. In 1970, he was appointed as the Diocese of Scranton's director of ecumenism and human affairs, director of Catholic cemeteries, rector of Villa St. Joseph in Dunmore and director of the Campaign for Human Development.

Monsignor Siconolfi also served as the Bishop's Representative to the Pennsylvania Conference on Inter-Church Cooperation and to the Community Action Department of the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference. In 1985, Monsignor was named pastor of Holy Family Church in Scranton.

Monsignor Siconolfi founded and continues to serve as executive director of St. Francis of Assisi Kitchen, which has served free daily meals to the needy of our area since 1978. Monsignor Siconolfi has been involved in a variety of other community and civic activities. He founded the Scranton-Lackawanna Labor Management Committee and the Marion Center for Women. He has served as director of the Scranton-Lackawanna Human Development Agency, Scranton Neighbors Inc., the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Council and Meals on Wheels of Lackawanna County. He continues

to serve on the boards of the Mayor's Human Relations Commission, UNICO, the Columbus Day Association and La Festa Italiana.

It is an honor and a privilege for me to represent this remarkable gentleman who gives of himself so freely. Mr. Speaker, today I ask you and my esteemed colleagues to join me in congratulating Monsignor Siconolfi on receiving this great honor.

TRIBUTE TO MR. WILLIAM SCHATZ
OF CLEVELAND, OH, PRESIDENT
OF THE ASSOCIATION OF METRO-
POLITAN SEWERAGE AGENCIES

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 13, 2004

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mr. William B. Schatz, General Counsel of the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District (NEORS), in Cleveland, Ohio. Mr. Schatz serves as the district's representative to the Association of Metropolitan Sewerage Agencies (AMSA). On May 24, 2004, the members of AMSA elected Mr. Schatz to be the president of the Association stemming from his exemplary commitment and dedication to a clean-water community.

AMSA's mission is to effectively maintain a strong leadership role in the development and implementation of scientifically sound, cost-effective, and environmentally friendly policies for the protection of the health of the public and the environment. In May of 2004, AMSA celebrated 34 years of service to the clean-water community and the nation.

Mr. Schatz has served with distinction at NEORS from 1979 and for over 20 years has been a leader in the water quality arena working on many projects on behalf of the district and AMSA. His distinguished background includes service as the ad hoc legal advisor to the Ohio Association of Metropolitan Wastewater Agencies, as a member of the Advisory Board of the National Enforcement Training Institute, and as a member of EPA's Quality Review Committee on grant audits. Mr. Schatz has served in several capacities with AMSA, including chairing the Legal Affairs Committee, Water Infrastructure Funding Task Force, Joint AMSA-AMWA Insurance Committee, as well as serving on AMSA's Board of Directors.

Mr. Schatz was instrumental in establishing NEORS as a leading agency in the wastewater industry and in helping to guide its capital programs. Mr. Schatz has also had an influential voice in convincing Congress to fund the conversion of NEORS's physical chemical Westerley Plant to a conventional biological process. Mr. Schatz has also played an important role in helping shape critical national policy issues on infrastructure funding, enforcement, and construction grant audit appeals.

Cleveland, Ohio is honored to be the home to Mr. Schatz. It is no secret that he is a man who, day in and day out, goes above and beyond the call of duty. He is to be commended for his extraordinary efforts on behalf of the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District and on his election to lead the Association of Metropolitan Sewerage Agencies.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JOHN OIEN

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 13, 2004

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to John Oien of Delta, Colorado for his outstanding career in the U.S. Forest Service and to congratulate him on his recent retirement. Over his thirty-seven year career, John helped preserve the beauty of the national forests in Colorado and other Western states, while making them more accessible for the public to enjoy. His service to this nation is commendable and worthy of recognition by this body of Congress and this nation.

John graduated from California Polytechnic State University with a degree in environmental design while working for the Forest Service in the Angeles National Forest. Following his graduation, he worked in National Forests in California, Nevada, and Idaho focusing on the planning of recreational areas. In 1979, John arrived in Delta, Colorado, where he began to work on the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison National Forests. He has also done scenery management work on the Grand Mesa Scenic Byway and the San Juan Skyway, and worked with the Western Colorado Interpretive Association to allow the public to better understand the many qualities of the national forests.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear that John Oien has been an invaluable resource for the State of Colorado and to our National Forest System. His selfless dedication to preserving a priceless part of America's landscape is worthy of acknowledgment before this body of Congress and this nation today. Thanks, John, for all your hard work, and I wish you and your wife, Jennifer, all the best in your well-deserved retirement.

A TRIBUTE TO LISA DAVIS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 13, 2004

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Lisa Davis in recognition of her commitment to public service and help of those in greatest need.

Lisa is the third of four children born to Blackwood and Eliza Davis. She is proud to have grown up in Crown Heights and is now a longtime resident of Bedford-Stuyvesant.

A graduate of Ohio University, with a Bachelor of Science in Recreational Therapy, Lisa sought employment with the New York City Housing Authority as a Youth Community Center Director upon her return to Brooklyn. After 4 years, she left the Authority to work as a case manager for the Bureau of Child Welfare. Shortly afterward, she became a New York State Parole Officer, assigned to a special unit named S.H.O.C.K. This program managed only parolees younger than 22 years old and convicted of a drug-related crime. After several years of providing her services to the city and State, she left the public sector for 7 years to assist with the management of the family business.

Five years ago, Lisa returned to the NYC Housing Authority as a Community Coordinator for Brooklyn South and quickly advanced to the position of Citywide Program Manager. She was soon promoted to Senior Program Manager.

As Senior Program Manager, she develops, implements, manages and evaluates youth and senior center programs throughout the borough. Lisa is the creator of NYC Housing Authority Kids Walk, which is approaching its third event year. She is putting forth a great deal of effort to connect health care services to the Brooklyn Housing Developments, Brookdale University Hospital, adolescent obesity program, Fit for Life; SUNY Downstate Hospital, Asthma Mobile Unit and the Arthur Ashe Institute for Urban Health.

Lisa has also committed herself to a number of volunteer activities. Currently, her highest priority is PowerPlay NYC Inc, which empowers young women through play.

Lisa's mantra of "Not everyone thinks like me, and that's okay," has allowed her to have a successful professional life as well as a fulfilling personal life.

Mr. Speaker, Lisa Davis has dedicated virtually all her professional life to improving the lives of young adults and seniors in need. As such, she is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable person.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 13, 2004

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, during an absence yesterday, I regrettably missed rollcall votes 165–168. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner: rollcall No. 165, "yea;" rollcall No. 166, "no;" rollcall No. 167, "yea;" and rollcall No. 168, "yea."

IN RECOGNITION OF THE GIRL SCOUT RESEARCH INSTITUTE'S PUBLICATION OF "FEELING SAFE: WHAT GIRLS SAY"

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 13, 2004

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address an issue that is of concern to every member of this body and every citizen of our Nation. That issue is the safety of our children.

Recently, the Washington Post featured an article describing the findings of a national survey conducted by researchers from Duke University and the nonprofit Foundation for Child Development. The title of the article tells the story of their results; "Baby Steps Made in the Well-Being of Children." The good news it shares is that children and teens are safer today than they have been in the past 30 years—less likely to commit or be victims of crime, to become young parents, and less likely to smoke, drink or use drugs.

This is good news indeed, but as we all know, there is a difference between being safe

and feeling safe. We can understand this distinction because we all experience some anxiety when the threat level moves from yellow to orange or when we become aware of terrorist acts. As adults, we work to manage our reactions to these incidents. Likewise, our children struggle daily with feelings of safety that impact their quality of life.

The Girl Scouts of the United States of America is an esteemed organization, founded in the State of Georgia in 1912 and chartered by the U.S. Congress in 1950. Throughout its history, the Girl Scouts have worked to improve the lives of young women through traditional scouting and other educational programs. Now the Girl Scout Research Institute has produced a report titled "Feeling Safe: What Girls Say" based on original research. Through this publication, young women speak to us about what factors in their homes, schools and communities cause them to feel safe or unsafe and talk about their strategies for coping with such feelings.

For example, the report reveals that while physical safety is a key concern for urban and suburban girls, girls who live in rural communities are concerned about emotional safety, specifically about being teased. This finding supports the incorporation of anti-bullying and conflict resolution programs into our public schools. Feeling Safe also emphasizes that families and supportive friends can help girls strategize about ways to increase their feelings of safety and by so doing, become more empowered. This finding supports what we have already learned about the important role volunteer mentors can play in a young person's life.

I would like to commend the Girl Scouts of America for this research and the production of a user-friendly report that can be a guide for local, State and Federal policy makers. I recommend it to each of my colleagues and hereby pledge my continued support for this exemplary organization that has made all the difference in the lives of so many girls.

MILLER MOTION TO INSTRUCT CONFEREES ON OVERTIME

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 13, 2004

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Miller Motion on Overtime which would instruct conferees to adopt provisions to prohibit overtime cuts, while allowing the administration to improve overtime rules. I am proud that in my home State of Illinois on March 31, the State House and Senate passed legislation that made Illinois the first State in the country to exempt the State from the changes to overtime pay rules. This legislation was signed into law by our former House colleague, Governor Blagojevich.

This legislation will preserve overtime compensation for 375,000 workers in Illinois. Unfortunately, not every State will be able to pass legislation to protect their workers. The Department of Labor's new regulations will cut the pay and lengthen the hours for workers making as little as \$23,660. This would mean a pay cut for middle-income Americans, when millions depend on overtime pay to make ends meet at a time when the median income has

declined with an increase in cost for education, child care, basic health care, health insurance, heating and cooling and gasoline.

In 2000, overtime pay accounted for about 25 percent of the income of employees who worked overtime. With the new regulation middle-income workers making between \$23,660 and \$100,000 will lose their overtime—this includes our police, fire fighters, day care workers, chefs, plumbers, electricians, nurses, and journalists. With over 60 percent of women with children under the age of two being part of the workforce, nursery and pre-school teachers are playing more important roles in our children's lives. As the work day extends for parents, so does the work day for nursery and pre-school teachers. The average pay for these teachers is \$8 an hour, with many working 10 hours a day. Yet they will no longer qualify for overtime.

An average police officer starting salary is around \$40,000. They protect us, keep us safe, walk the streets—put their lives on the line. After September 11th, our Nation became more grateful and devoted more respect to our officers and first responders. Yet we now want to take overtime away from them which could be used to benefit our economy and the lives of their families. There are already some police departments that do not pay overtime but offer comp time. Although, comp time is nice—with heightened security alerts and the need for more police on our streets, many do not get the opportunity to use this comp time when they would like. Instead, many police officers retire 20–30 years later receiving a check for their unused comp time.

Mr. Speaker, we can not turn our backs on our working Americans. Without overtime, many will have to struggle to maintain their current way of living. I am not just pro-labor, I am proud to be pro-family. And I know that these new regulations would be destructive to our working families. These regulations mean more work hours, less time with families, and even worse, less job creation.

The Illinois State Government understands. Our other body, the United States Senate understands—now the House needs to realize the importance of these new regulations. I ask my colleagues to support this motion.

HONORING BARBARA NOEL

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 13, 2004

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Barbara Noel, a Santa Ana High School teacher, who was recently honored with the Bravo Award.

The Bravo Award was established in 1983 by the Music Center Education Division to recognize teachers for creativity and innovation in Arts education. Three Bravo Awards are handed out each year: one to a school, one to an arts specialist, and one to a general classroom teacher.

Barbara is only the second dance teacher in 22 years to win this prestigious award and I am very excited for her. I wish to thank her for innovation and dedication in teaching the arts to out school children.