

held merely for trying to spread freedom and democracy to the Cuban people. I hope that he is one day freed from the shackles of oppression and that the Cuban people can have the opportunity to freely choose their leaders in a democratic system of political pluralism.

Mr. Speaker, what has made this Nation great is that since the signing of the Declaration of Independence, we have been a beacon of freedom and justice. American troops have shed blood confronting tyrants and dictators.

Our belief that there truly are inalienable rights does not end at our borders. We Americans believe that freedom and liberty are rights due all the people of Earth.

I hope to one day soon speak to Félix Navarro Rodríguez and congratulate him on his freedom and thank him for his commitment to justice and democracy.

TRIBUTE TO MR. PAUL QUINN

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 17, 2005

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to read into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD a tribute to my close friend, Mr. Paul Quinn, delivered by former Speaker of the House of Representatives, Tom Foley, on March 16, 2005 at the 13th National Gala of the American Ireland Fund.

They say that on St. Patrick's Day, the 33.7 million Americans who claim Irish ancestry swell to 80 million. As well they should!

And on St. Patrick's Day, we here in Washington celebrate the great day as only Washington can—politically. The Taoiseach pays a call on the President. The Speaker hosts them both at lunch. And the American Ireland Fund holds this dinner, as important a celebration as any of the others, and honors those who have made contributions in advancing peace and reconciliation in Ireland. Like the other events, it has its political side, but with a difference. Here we sometimes honor those whom not everybody knows, although we here know them well.

Tonight I have the honor to introduce a man whom few here can surpass in contributions to peace in Northern Ireland. And almost none of us could surpass him in avoiding praise. Because Paul Quinn keeps out of the limelight. He is one of the most effective advocates on the major policy issues of our times. He has been a tireless and effective friend of Ireland, but he leaves few tracks.

What has he done for Ireland? Twenty years ago, Paul was the first nongovernment figure to invite Northern Irish political leaders to Washington—not to make speeches, because who can stop the Irish from speaking?!

Paul hosted small, informal gatherings with officials, diplomats, legislators and interested Irish Americans to learn what was happening and to exchange views and hopes for an end to the violence we call the Troubles.

Paul was the first to bring John Hume and major Unionist leaders to Washington. He became a tireless lobbyist for peace through dialogue and non-violence. I know, because as Speaker I was frequently the target of Paul Quinn conversations on a brighter future for Northern Ireland.

If there is anyone in this city, from the White House on down, who can claim some small credit for the end of violence that now seems to prevail in the North, it is Paul.

Here at home, of course, he was also a long time Director of the American Ireland Fund, and the national chairman of this gala for many years. There is no Irish American initiative for justice and reconciliation in this city to which Paul has not given both time and strenuous effort. Like everything about which he cares deeply, Paul has made his passion for Ireland a family affair. Besides being a behind-the-scenes advisor to the Clinton Administration, there is brother Tom's service as a U.S. Observer to the International Fund for Ireland, a frequent topic of Paul's friendly lobbying.

Yet, there is always a dark side to every family. Paul and his brothers are Republican in the Irish sense, but there is also the fact, kept from elderly aunts and small children, that brother Gene is also Republican in the Washington sense. Tom believes this is what Paul's grandfather foresaw when he sometimes called the Quinn brothers—minus Paul—the “unholy alliance.”

Besides looking after and reveling in his family—especially his two granddaughters—Paul also doubles as a very effective but unregistered agent for the Irish Tourist Bureau. Many a Senator or Member has asked him his advice on where to go and what to see in Ireland.

That advice is rarely limited to political matters. Paul's single-minded determination to play every Irish golf course, his tireless promotion of University College Dublin—where he serves on the board of the Business School—and his limitless fund of stories recommend him as an all-purpose source of essential information.

Everything I have mentioned about Paul is known to many in this room tonight, but few have the whole picture. That is because life long modesty has masked Paul's dedicated commitment of time and treasure, quiet leadership and persuasive powers to the cause of peace in Ireland. Paul inherited great gifts from his Irish family—education, persistent application and a tradition of giving back—but he alone has applied them so effectively and quietly to the cause that we all share and celebrate tonight, as we honor Paul Quinn as a true champion for Ireland and for peace.

108TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ROGERS BROTHER CORPORATION

HON. PHIL ENGLISH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 17, 2005

Mr. ENGLISH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the one-hundredth anniversary of Rogers Brothers Corporation. Having a history filled with many innovative achievements, it is my hope to see this company continue on a path of growth and prosperity.

Located in Albion, Pennsylvania, in Pennsylvania's 3rd Congressional District, Rogers Brothers Corporation was founded by Charles, Louis and Hugh Rogers. They started out fabricating steel for bridges. In 1914, they built their first trailer for commercial use. The production of trailers would go on to become their hallmark. The business of trailer production grew with the continued development of the roadway system and World War I. During World War II, Rogers developed special “tank retriever” trailers for the federal government, earning the Army-Navy “E” Award for excellence in production. They also built a special trailer which was used in the Manhattan Project. Following the war, commercial trailers

were further developed with the creation of the innovative Power Lift Detachable Gooseneck. Under the leadership of Betty Rogers Kulyk, and her husband John Kulyk, the company further developed their trailers, creating new and innovative designs for their customers.

Throughout their century in business, Rogers has overcome many challenging obstacles, including fires, the Great Depression, labor disputes, and a devastating tornado. However, the company has endured the test of time. In addition, it has remained a family-owned and operated business, a trait that makes them unique in the trailer industry. Today, Rogers trailers can be seen in all 50 states and in 65 countries around the world. The company enjoys an outstanding reputation among their customers, a 100,000 square foot facility, and a quality, all-American made product. Now solidly in its third generation, under the leadership of Lawrence and Mark Kulyk, the company looks to expand their customer and product base, and stay the course for the long haul.

America was founded on the principles of hard work and innovation. The very greatness of this Nation is tied to the entrepreneurial spirit of our people. The creativity and innovation of small business, such as Rogers, help to create the very pillars of our economy. Their many achievements and unwavering commitment to excellence in quality production is an outstanding tribute to the very ideals that we hold dear.

Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me in congratulating the Kulyk Family and all of the hard working men and women at Rogers Brothers Corporation on their 100th anniversary.

IN DEFENSE OF 1,100 CLEVELAND, OHIO JOBS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 17, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, Today, I sent this letter in defense of 1,100 Cleveland, Ohio jobs as a result of the BRAC process:

MAY 17, 2005.

Chairman ANTHONY PRINCIPI,
Base Realignment and Closure Commission,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN PRINCIPI: Last week's announcement of the 2005 Department of Defense recommended BRAC closure list has inappropriately targeted the Cleveland area with over 1,100 jobs cuts. Cleveland currently suffers from a severe economic recession. Therefore I find the inclusion of these Cleveland facilities to be a substantial deviation from the selection criteria. These job losses are outrageous, unjust, and unfair.

Specifically, the BRAC list included the following cuts that directly affect the immediate Cleveland area: The Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) in Cleveland is scheduled to lose 1,028 jobs with approximately 175 jobs being spared, to protect the recent Lockheed Martin A76 privatization of the Military and Retired Annuitant Pay Services contract function. The jobs are being moved to DFAS facilities in Columbus, OH, Denver, CO, and Indianapolis, IN. (BRAC Report: Volume 1, Part 2 H&SA 37-39); The Glenn Research Center is also scheduled to lose 50 civilian military research jobs. The

Army Research Laboratory at Glenn is losing the Vehicle Technology Directorate to the Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD. (BRAC Report: Volume 1, Part 2 Tech—22); The Navy Reserve Center in Cleveland is scheduled to close and 25 jobs will be lost. (BRAC Report: Volume 1, Part 2 DoN—29).

As you know, the BRAC Commission has the authority to change the Department's recommendations, if it determines that the Secretary deviated substantially from the force structure plan and/or selection criteria. (Ronald W. Reagan National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2005: Title XXVIII—General Provisions: Subtitle C—Base Closure and Realignment: Sec. 2832. Specification of final selection criteria for 2005 base closure round.)

I believe the Department of Defense has clearly deviated from the selection criteria.

The Secretary is required to consider the economic impact on existing communities in the vicinity of military installations. (Ronald W. Reagan National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2005: Title XXVIII—General Provisions: Subtitle C—Base Closure and Realignment: Sec. 2832. Specification of final selection criteria for 2005 base closure round.) The Department of Defense erroneously states that a 0.1% job loss within the Cleveland Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) has minimal economic impact.

However, the Department of Defense failed to take into account the current economic position of the Cleveland area. Cleveland has been labeled as the poorest city in the country today. Its poverty rate of 31.3 percent is the highest in the nation, according to the most recent Census Bureau data from 2003. (Places within United States: Percent of People Below Poverty Level in the Past 12 Months: 2003 American Community Survey Summary Tables: http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/GRTTable?_bmy=y&-geo id=16000US0820000&-box_head_nbr=R01&-ds_name=ACS_2003_EST_G00_-lang=en&-format=US-32&-sse=on) Cleveland's #1 ranking in poverty rate results from the significant job losses in the steel and manufacturing industries over the past several decades. These job losses continue. For example, the current 2006 budget recently passed by Congress would slash up to 700 high paying federal jobs at the NASA Glenn Research Center. The economy around Cleveland is stagnating.

Clearly, a 0.1 percent job loss for Cleveland is far more damaging than such a loss in another city with a better economic base. For example, the three cities scheduled to gain additional jobs from Cleveland's BRAC losses have poverty rates that are half to a third of Cleveland's. The poverty rates (and rankings) are 16.5 percent (35th), 13.6 percent (49th), and 12.6 percent (55th) for Columbus, Denver, and Indianapolis respectively. (Places within United States: Percent of People Below Poverty Level in the Past 12 Months: 2003 American Community Survey Summary Tables: http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/GRTTable?_bmy&-geo id=16000US0820000&-box_head_nbr=R01&-ds_name=ACS_2003_EST_G00_-lang=en&-format=US-32&-sse=on) This BRAC round will secure for the foreseeable future Cleveland's #1 poverty ranking.

This is clear evidence that closures of these facilities in the Cleveland area fall outside the criteria of the BRAC process. I therefore request the BRAC Commission to reverse the job losses in the Cleveland area.

Sincerely,

DENNIS J. KUCINICH,
Member of Congress.

RECOGNIZING THE RECIPIENTS OF THE 2005 ALL-AMERICA CITY CIVIC AWARDS

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 17, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Western New Yorkers whose leadership and service has earned them well-deserved recognition by the Buffalo & Erie County All America City Committee.

In 1995 the Greater Buffalo Region was chosen as one of ten communities nationally to receive the All-America City designation, a lifetime distinction.

Greater Buffalo's All America City Committee has as its 2004–2005 mission to: work with community leaders to strengthen Buffalo's national public image, promote the practice of "civic journalism" by the local media, prompt citizen involvement in their communities to build social capital and enhance community Democracy, and to develop resources to measure social capital and promote intersector civic capacity building activities in the region.

The Committee has recently named Jack Connors, president and publisher of Buffalo Business First; Samuel M. Ferraro, Niagara County Commissioner of Economic Development; Philip L. Haberstro, founder of the Wellness Institute of Greater Buffalo and the Belfast Summer Relief Program as this year's award winners, whose work embodies the spirit of the 2004–2005 mission.

I am proud to stand here today and recognize the many contributions of these great civic leaders who have played a significant role in making Greater Buffalo the fabulous All-America City it is.

TRIBUTE TO THE CALIFORNIA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 17, 2005

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and welcome home true American heroes. In March of 2004, the soldiers of the 1st Battalion 185th Armor left their homes and families to spread the ideals of freedom and democracy to Iraq. They went, not because they had to, but because they chose to—choosing to restore a society and help a people with which they were unfamiliar.

Throughout the last year, these brave men and women were charged with improving the infrastructure of a new Iraq and building new water systems, roads and bridges. They were a part of history when they helped secure peace during the Iraq elections and have been instrumental in rebuilding relationships between the American and Iraqi people.

The commitment of our men and women in uniform to the ideals of liberty, freedom and peace never wavered. Their steadfast belief in themselves and our Nation remains a beacon of selflessness and sacrifice for all Americans.

For those who still defend our country and those who fight for the principles upon which this nation was founded, the 1st Battalion 185th Armor serves as an inspiration.

Their actions will forever stir our hearts and rouse our belief in the human spirit. It is because of this that we are grateful for their sacrifices.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored that I am able to recognize these American heroes and welcome them back. I hope that others will acknowledge our brave soldiers throughout the world.

CONGRATULATING IVANNA EUDORA KEAN HIGH SCHOOL ON REGAINING ACCREDITATION FROM THE MIDDLE STATE ASSO- CIATION OF COLLEGES AND SCHOOLS

HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 17, 2005

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the hard working and dedicated team at Ivanna Eudora Kean High School in St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands on regaining their accreditation status from the Middle State Association of Colleges and Schools.

This has been a difficult year for the school in many respects, but strong leadership and team work have pulled them through. On Friday, May 13th, the principal of the high school, Sharon McCollum-Rogers, received word that the high school was re-accredited, which is a vindication of the principled but difficult stands they have taken together.

At a time when school districts around the country are faced with budget cuts and higher standards, our schools have to do more with less, the school's accreditation team comprised of administrators, parents, community and business leaders set a goal of accomplishing this task by graduation date 2005 and have pulled off a minor miracle.

Mr. Speaker, this year's graduation is a doubly joyous and celebratory occasion for Eudora Kean High School. In June, the graduating class will not only be able to proudly say that they have received their diplomas, but they can also once again say that they have received them from an accredited high school.

I applaud and commend the Eudora Kean High School students, faculty, parents, administration, and their private sector supporters for their unwavering efforts in developing and executing a successful strategy for regaining accreditation.

I am proud of their success and wish the Eudora Kean High School family and 2005 graduates continued success as they continue to "Strive for Success."

CONGRATULATIONS TO JACLYN EINSTEIN

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 17, 2005

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate and honor a young Florida student from my district who has achieved national recognition for exemplary volunteer service in her community. Jaclyn