

has already spent \$543 million to comply with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) rulings, including the requirement that power companies significantly reduce nitrogen oxide emissions from coal-fired power plants. The Utility is currently making separate plans for future investments in compliance with the EPA's new Clean Air Interstate Rule and the Clean Air Mercury Rule, the first-ever rule for reducing mercury emissions. Today, the air in Michigan is clean, and the policies pursued by Consumers Energy will continue the forty year trend of improved air quality.

Consumers Energy operates in the belief that economic growth, energy demands, and environmental quality are inextricably linked. In the past 25 years, as our Nation's economy has expanded, demand for electricity and other forms of energy have substantially increased. At the same time, Consumer Energy consistently lowered emissions from its coal-fired power plants: the rate of nitrogen oxide emissions has been reduced 70 percent and the rate of sulfur dioxide emissions has been reduced 80 percent. Consumers Energy is actively planning to reduce these emissions even further as it implements the new Clean Air Interstate Rule. In addition, the company is preparing to implement the first-ever mandate to reduce mercury emissions under the Clean Air Mercury Rule. Consumers Energy is also participating with peer companies in the Administration's voluntary greenhouse gas reduction program to reduce carbon intensity, even though this greenhouse gas is not federally regulated.

On behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to offer my highest praise to Consumers Energy for its extraordinary efforts to address air quality in the United States. This company's initiative and forethought will not only benefit the people of the Seventh District and the State of Michigan, but the United States as a whole.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 14, 2005*

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, on June 13 and 14, 2005, I was unavoidably absent and rollcall votes 241–243. For the record, had I been present, I would have voted: No. 241—Yea; No. 242—Yea; No. 243—Yea.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 14, 2005*

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, on the evening of June 13, I missed three Rollcall votes.

I respectfully request the opportunity to record my position on Rollcall votes 241 and 242.

It was my intention to vote:

“Yes” on Rollcall 241 for S. 643—A bill to amend the Agricultural Credit Act of 1987 to reauthorize State Mediation programs.

“Yes” on Rollcall 242 for H.R. 2326 to designate the facility of the United States Postal

Service located at 614 West Old County Road in Belhaven, North Carolina, as the “Floyd Lupton Post Office”.

At this time I would ask for unanimous consent that my positions be entered into the RECORD following those votes or in the appropriate portion of the RECORD.

#### HONORING THE GRADUATING SIXTH-GRADE CLASS OF ATLANTIC AVENUE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

#### HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 14, 2005*

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the sixth grade class of Atlantic Avenue Elementary School for its fundraising efforts to aid South-East Asia's tsunami victims during their epic crisis. The class's touching response to an event half a world away reflects the students' broad horizons and a mature appreciation for how connected we are to others.

In response to the tsunami, these students organized a spirit week with fun activities requiring a donation to participate. During the course of this week, under Mrs. Elizabeth Smith's leadership, Jacquelyn Andrews, Claudia Biddle, Peter Capano, Tyler Carr, Caitlin Cohen, Tyler Franceschini, George Gans, Gregory Gardner, Theodore Hagenbucher, Benjamin Huber, McKenna Knoetner, Marisa Konopka, Nichole Landis, Joshua Matchett, Angela Mongoni, Alexander Oswald, Jillian Pauls, Kathleen Quinn, John-Patrick Rabena, Yelaila Ramos, Andrew Snyder, Tori Southern, Michael Wasienko, and Samantha Wentz, significantly surpassed their fundraising goals and raised an incredible \$1000 to help those in need. These students have grown into empathetic citizens and will continue to contribute their extraordinary talents to the betterment of humankind. In their dedication, ability, and contribution to the tsunami relief effort, the sixth graders of Mrs. Smith's class are an inspiration to students everywhere, and indeed to all citizens of the Great Nation of the United States of America.

On June 17, 2005, Mrs. Smith's class will be joined by family and friends to celebrate graduation to junior high school. I am certain that they will carry proud memories of their admirable efforts throughout their lives. I congratulate the graduating sixth grade class of Atlantic Avenue Elementary School for its noble fundraising efforts, and look forward to the continued success of these future leaders.

#### HONORING THE MURFREESBORO FIRE DEPARTMENT FOR ITS SAFETY EXCELLENCE

#### HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 14, 2005*

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the accomplishment of a dedicated group of men and women who work together to protect and educate their community about fire safety: the Murfreesboro, Tennessee, Fire Department.

The department has earned the Achievement Award for Excellence in Fire Safety from the Tennessee Municipal League.

Each day, these men and women put their lives on the line to protect and help their community. They have joined with Murfreesboro Police and Emergency Medical Services to establish a top-notch first-responder program.

Residents of Murfreesboro, Tennessee, can be proud of their fire department for receiving such a prestigious award. I congratulate each member of the department for making my hometown a safe and exceptional place to live and raise a family.

#### IN MEMORIAM

#### HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 14, 2005*

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, the editorial page of The Richmond Times-Dispatch of Richmond, Virginia, recently carried the names of all the service men and women from Virginia who have made the ultimate sacrifice in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom from September 11, 2001, through May 29, 2005.

I submit for the RECORD a copy of the editorial, titled, “In Memoriam.” Words cannot express the appreciation of a grateful nation to the families of these brave men and women.

#### IN MEMORIAM

Virginians who have died in Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom in America's defense since September 11, 2001—listed in the order of their death. R.I.P.:

Marine Staff Sgt. Donald C. May, Jr., 31, of Richmond.

Marine Sgt. Michael V. Lalush, 23, of Troutville.

Army Capt. James F. Adamowski, 29, of Springfield.

Air Force Maj. William R. Watkins, III, 37, of Danville.

Army 1st Lt. Jeffrey J. Kaylor, 24, of Clifton.

Marine Lance Cpl. David Edward Owens, Jr., 20, of Winchester.

Army Pvt. Jason L. Deibler, 20, of Coeburn.

Army Sgt. Michael E. Dooley, 23, of Pulaski.

Army Command Sgt. Maj. James D. Blankenbecler, 40, of Alexandria.

Army Capt. John R. Teal, 31, of Mechanicsville.

Army 1st Lt. Joshua C. Hurley, 24, of Clifton Forge.

Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Michael J. Gray, 32, of Richmond.

Army Spc. Frank K. Rivers, Jr., 23, of Woodbridge.

Army Pfc. Andrew L. Tuazon, 21, of Chesapeake.

Army 2nd Lt. Leonard M. Cowherd, 22, of Culpeper.

Marine Pfc. Michael M. Carey, 20, of Prince George.

Army Spc. Leslie D. Jackson, 18, of Richmond.

Army Capt. Humayun S.M. Khan, 27, of Bristow.

Army Spc. Jeremy M. Dimaranan, 29, of Virginia Beach.

Army Staff Sgt. Gregory V. Pennington, 36, of Glade Spring.

Army Staff Sgt. Robert K. McGee, 38, of Martinsville.

Marine Sgt. Krisna Nachampassak, 27, of Burke.

Army Staff Sgt. Craig W. Cherry, 39, of Winchester.

Marine Lance Cpl. Tavon L. Hubbard, 24, of Reston.

Marine Staff Sgt. John R. Howard, 26, of Covington.

Army 1st Lt. Timothy E. Price, 25, of Midlothian.

Army Spc. Clarence Adams, 28, of Richmond.

Marine 1st Lt. Alexander E. Wetherbee, 27, of Fairfax.

Marine Lance Cpl. Brian A. Medina, 20, of Woodbridge.

Marine Lance Cpl. Demarkus D. Brown, 22, of Martinsville.

Marine Cpl. Bradley T. Arms, 20, of Charlottesville.

Army Sgt. Jack Bryant, Jr., 23, of Dale City.

Army Chief Warrant Officer Travis W. Grogan, 31, of Virginia Beach.

Marine Gunnery Sgt. Javier Obles-Prado Pena, 36, of Falls Church.

Marine Cpl. Binh N. Le, of Alexandria.

Army Capt. Mark N. Stubenhofer, 30, of Springfield.

Navy Chief Joel Egan Baldwin, 37, of Arlington.

Army Sgt. David A. Ruhren, 20, of Stafford.

Army Spc. Nicholas C. Mason, 20, of King George.

Army Sgt. Maj. Robert D. Odell, 38, of Manassas.

Army Staff Sgt. Nathaniel J. Nyren, 31, of Reston.

Marine Sgt. Dayton D. Patterson, 26, of Sedley.

Marine Lance Cpl. Darrell J. Schumann, 25, of Hampton.

Marine Cpl. Christopher L. Weaver, 24, of Fredericksburg.

Marine Lance Cpl. Karl R. Linn, 20, of Chesterfield.

Marine Cpl. Jonathan W. Bowling, 23, of Patrick.

Marine Lance Cpl. Jason C. Redifer, 19, of Stuarts Draft.

Army Staff Sgt. Kristopher L. Shepherd, 26, of Lynchburg.

Army Pfc. Lee A. Lewis, Jr., 28, of Norfolk.

Marine Lance Cpl. Tenzin Dengkhim, 19, of Falls Church.

Army Pfc. Pendleton L. Sykes, II, 25, of Chesapeake.

Marine Capt. James C. Edge, 31, of Virginia Beach.

Army Sgt. Tromaine K. Toy, Sr., 24, of Eastville.

Marine Lance Cpl. Nicholas C. Kirven, 21, of Richmond.

Marine Lance Cpl. Jourdan L. Grez, 24, of Harrisonburg.

Army Pfc. Kyle M. Hemauer, 21, of Manassas.

#### CONGRATULATIONS TO PLUM BOROUGH SENIOR COMMUNITY CENTER

#### HON. MELISSA A. HART

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 14, 2005*

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Plum Borough Senior Community Center on its 25th Anniversary, and recognize the exemplary performance of service that the organization provides the 4th District of Pennsylvania.

Founded in 1980 by two senior activists, Henry and Alice Corvino, the Plum Community Senior Center has been providing Plum Senior

Citizens with a "home away from home" for the last quarter century. Initially, the Plum Senior Citizens Center was open 3 days a week for 6 hours per day. Patrons, however, complained and demanded more from the Center as its popularity grew. Eventually, every activity from cards, crafts and meals were provided at the center. In 1985 a large room addition was added to the center so bingo games could be held. Today, the center is open 5 days a week, eight hours each day and has over 1,800 members. In 1992, the center began its home delivered meals program and delivers an average 40 meals per day to homebound seniors. In 1995, a multipurpose room was added and now serves as a computer lab where hundreds of the center's members can surf the internet.

I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in honoring the Plum Borough Senior Community Center. It is an honor to represent the Fourth Congressional District of Pennsylvania and a pleasure to salute the service of organizations like the Plum Senior Center that make the communities that they live in truly special.

#### CONGRATULATING RON CROWDER, RECIPIENT OF THE ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON NATIONAL COMMUNITY HEALTH LEADERSHIP AWARD

#### HON. JIM COOPER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 14, 2005*

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Ron Crowder for his extraordinary accomplishments as the founder of the Street Works HIV prevention and education center in Nashville, Tennessee. Ron was recently selected as one often people to receive the nation's most prestigious community health leadership honor—the Robert Wood Johnson Community Health Leadership Program Award.

This recognition, which carries with it a \$120,000 award, is given to those who have overcome significant challenge and demonstrated an exceptional and effective approach to addressing the many health care challenges facing communities across the country. After hearing Ron's remarkable story, I can think of no one more deserving of this distinguished award.

Ron Crowder, an African-American, grew up in a home with nine other children in a segregated, impoverished section of Nashville. After dropping out of high school at the age of 17, he served his country as a rifleman in the Vietnam War. The constant fear and stress of combat led to his 20-year drug addiction and contraction of HIV. Ron turned his life around in 1991 and has been drug free for 14 years. He graduated from Tennessee State University in May 1993 with a Bachelors Degree in Accounting. In 2000, he completed the Institute for HIV Prevention Leadership Program that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention—Association of Schools of Public Health, and has since devoted his life to uplifting and educating others.

Ron's personal battle with drugs and HIV fueled his desire to start Street Works, which he founded in 1997 on a shoestring budget.

Using his car as his headquarters, Ron walked the streets distributing HIV and AIDS prevention information to those in the community whom no one else had tried to reach: drug dealers, addicts, prostitutes, and inner-city youth exposed to drugs and sexual promiscuity.

Today, thanks to his tireless leadership and dedication, Street Works operates two all night drop-in centers and helps over 5,600 Tennesseans annually, with a focus on reaching minority populations. Street Works provides a variety of HIV and AIDS-related prevention and care services at locations where high-risk behavior is most likely to occur and at the hours when most other outreach services are closed.

On behalf of the 5th District of Tennessee, I congratulate Ron Crowder for overcoming adversity and committing his life's work to improving the conditions of others through HIV and AIDS education and prevention. Through Street Works, he has brought help to Tennessee's disenfranchised and is an inspiration to all who work to end this terrible disease.

#### DEDICATION OF THE ST. IGNACE PUBLIC LIBRARY

#### HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 14, 2005*

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the dedication of a small town public library that was once a vision for a better place to learn and discover. The vision became a dream and today the vision is a reality. It can best be described through the words of the American Writer Normal Cousins—"a library, to modify the famous metaphor of Socrates, should be the delivery room for the birth of ideas—a place where history comes to life". On June 18th, 2005, the City of St. Ignace, Michigan will dedicate their new library that will serve as the central location to explore historic knowledge, current cultural awareness and unlock future technological advancements.

To fully embrace the significance of the work and commitment that went into the completion of this new library, we must understand the humble beginnings of the original public library in St. Ignace. In 1924, the first library began as a Civil League Library in the old City Hall comprised of only 100 books donated by the local League. For a short time following, the books were transferred to the LaSalle High School Library. However, upon the completion of the new Municipal Building in 1940, the Civic League was given a new home for their growing collection of over 1,000 volumes.

The League understood that if the library was to continue to grow at the successful rate it had been, they would need an oversight group to maintain the collected works, so they established a Library Board in 1944. Within a short 10 year period, the library had 4,000 volumes and a circulation of 10,000. In 1969, when the Civil League dissolved, the Library Board continued on with a new mission of creating a building to permanently house their library resources.

Fourteen years later, in 1983, the 10,000 volume collection moved out of City Hall and into the Spring Street building where it would