

charter member to the Black Athletes Hall of Fame.

The Hendersons also endeavored to improve the rights of African Americans in their community. In 1915, their hometown of Falls Church, Virginia, proposed to segregate all African Americans to a designated living area. The couple vehemently challenged the law by uniting people under the Colored Citizens' Protective League (CCPL). The CCPL succeeded not only in defeating the segregation ordinance, but also in advancing numerous civil rights endeavors. The organization later became the first rural branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, in which the couple was highly active.

The Henderson's contributions were extensive and continued to be felt throughout Northern Virginia. Although they coveted no recognition for themselves, these extraordinary individuals not only affected their community, but also helped shape the Nation. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor these great Americans today.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL G. OXLEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 23, 2005

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I was in my congressional district yesterday participating in events in support of the 179th Airlift Wing of the Ohio Air National Guard, which has been slated for closure by the Department of Defense. As a result, I was absent from the floor during yesterday's rollcall votes.

Had I been present, I would have voted against the Watt amendment to H.J. Res. 10, in favor of tabling each of the two appeals of the ruling of the chair on the motion to recommit H.J. Res. 10, in favor of final passage of H.J. Res. 10, in favor of ordering the previous question on H. Res. 334, in favor of H. Res. 334, against the Baird amendment to H.R. 2985, against the Jo Ann Davis amendment to H.R. 2985, against the Hefley amendment to H.R. 2985, against the motion to recommit H.R. 2985, and in favor of final passage of H.R. 2985.

RETIREMENT OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL RICHARD V. REYNOLDS

HON. DAVID L. HOBSON

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 23, 2005

Mr. HOBSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to United States Air Force Lieutenant General Richard V. Reynolds for his 34 years of distinguished and honorable service in the U.S. Air Force and to our country.

On August 1, 2005, General Reynolds will be retiring from his current position as Vice Commander of the Air Force Materiel Command at Wright-Patterson Air Force, Ohio. The command conducts research, development, test and evaluation, and provides acquisition management and logistics support necessary to keep Air Force weapon systems ready for war.

This high level of research and development is critical to our Nation's defense, and requires

effective leadership and experience. It is those qualities that General Reynolds has demonstrated during his service at Wright-Patterson AFB, and throughout his military career.

General Reynolds received his commission as a Second Lieutenant at the U.S. Air Force Academy in 1971. During his career, he has served as a pilot training instructor, a combat-ready bomber air crew commander, and as an experimental test pilot. He has also commanded the 4952nd Test Squadron and has served as a program director for several strategic and tactical aircraft acquisition programs, including the B-2 Spirit.

In addition, General Reynolds was the Air Force Program Executive Officer for Airlift and Trainers at the Pentagon, commanded the Air Force Flight Test Center at Edwards AFB California, and, prior to his current position, was Commander of the Aeronautical Systems Center located at Wright-Patterson AFB. He is also a commanded pilot with more than 4,000 flying hours in 60 types of aircraft.

Throughout his distinguished career, General Reynolds has received military awards for his service, including: the Distinguished Service Medal, the Legion of Merit with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Meritorious Service Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, and the Air Force Commendation Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters.

In closing, I commend General Reynolds for his honorable and distinguished service to our country over the years, and I send my best regards to him and his family as he embarks on this new chapter in his life.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 23, 2005

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I was detained and unable to cast a vote on H.R. 2985, the Legislative Appropriations Act for FY06, on June 22, 2005. I was in Brownwood, Texas attending the funeral of Lance Corporal Mario Castillo, a Marine from the 11th District of Texas. Please let the RECORD reflect that had I been here, I would have voted "yes."

HONORING THE WORK OF THE SENTINELS OF FREEDOM

HON. RICHARD W. POMBO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 23, 2005

Mr. POMBO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the Sentinels of Freedom for the work they do in support of our troops.

This group of business and community leaders in the San Ramon Valley have worked together to help a wounded soldier returning from Iraq. This group, led by Mike Conklin of San Ramon, California has created a scholarship that will provide housing, a handicapped-equipped van, education, and job training and placement for a soldier who lost both his legs in Iraq. For the next four years, a team of mentors will help with his transition from the military back into civilian life.

I am deeply supportive of the tireless work Mr. Conklin has done in support of the brave

men and women of our Armed Services. Along with the Blue Star Moms, SBC Communications, Shapell Industries of Northern California, the community of San Ramon, California, the United States Army and Walter Reed Army Hospital, the Sentinels of Freedom have developed a great program to support our troops. This group is a tremendous inspiration and an example of the best spirit and values the American people have to offer.

Please join me in thanking the Sentinels of Freedom and encouraging communities and businesses around the country to follow their lead. The brave men and women returning from Iraq and Afghanistan give so much for our Nation and deserve nothing less than our complete support as they transition back to civilian life.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 23, 2005

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, on June 22, 2005, due to a death in the family, I was unable to be present for rollcall vote No. 293, on agreeing to the Watt amendment to H.J. Res. 10; for rollcall vote No. 294, on moving to table the appeal of the ruling of the Chair; for rollcall vote No. 295, on moving to table the appeal of the ruling of the Chair; for rollcall vote No. 296, on final passage of H.J. Res. 10; for rollcall vote No. 297, on ordering the previous question to H. Res. 334; for rollcall vote No. 298, on agreeing to H. Res. 334; for rollcall vote No. 299, on agreeing to the Baird amendment to H.R. 2985; for rollcall vote No. 300, on agreeing to Representative JO ANN DAVIS's amendment to H.R. 2985; for rollcall vote No. 301, on agreeing to the Hefley amendment to H.R. 2985; for rollcall vote No. 302, on agreeing to the motion to recommit H.R. 2985; and for rollcall vote No. 303, on final passage of H.R. 2985.

Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on rollcall vote No. 293, "yes" on rollcall vote No. 294, "yes" on rollcall vote No. 295, "yes" on rollcall vote No. 296, "yes" on rollcall vote No. 297, "yes" on rollcall vote No. 298, "no" on rollcall vote No. 299, "yes" on rollcall vote No. 300, "no" on rollcall vote No. 301, "no" on rollcall vote No. 302, and "yes" on rollcall vote No. 303.

COMMENDING THE FEDERAL TRIO PROGRAMS

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 23, 2005

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an important group of Federal Education Programs known as the TRIO programs. In short, TRIO programs help to support and prepare low income students for post high school education.

TRIO is funded through the Labor, Health and Human Services Appropriations Bill that this body passed earlier today. I was proud to vote for this bill that included full funding for all TRIO programs. Two of the TRIO programs,

Upward Bound and Talent Search had been slated for elimination in the Administration's Fiscal Year 2006 budget request. As the co-chairman of the Congressional TRIO Caucus and a member of the Appropriations Committee, I worked with my colleagues on that Committee to make sure that these programs were restored to Fiscal Year 2005 funding levels.

I have received countless emails, letters and faxes from constituents in my district and other districts around the country urging me to spare Upward Bound and Talent Search. It is easy to understand why so many were concerned about the potential end of these two valuable TRIO programs that help over 3,500 low income Idaho students prepare for college. Parental income is one of the top predictors of whether or not a child will succeed in college or even go to college in the first place. Upward Bound and Talent Search help students exceed societal expectations and predictions by providing tutoring in college preparatory classes and help in navigating through the sometimes daunting maze of required forms and tests known as the college admission process.

Like so many other members of this House who joined me in the effort to save TRIO, several of whom are TRIO graduates themselves, I fully understand the worth and importance of these programs, and I will do everything I can to ensure that these programs continue to receive funding for many years to come. While the cost of Upward Bound and Talent Search may seem an unnecessary expense to some, I would ask them to consider the long term savings in public assistance generated by graduates of TRIO who go on to earn college degrees and become productive, self sustaining citizens.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the over 900,000 students currently enrolled in TRIO programs nationwide, I would like to thank and commend all those involved in the TRIO programs for a job well done. You are truly changing lives and making the impossible a reality for many of our Nation's students.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 23, 2005

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, June 22, 2005, I missed rollcall vote 296 regarding a proposed amendment to the Constitution authorizing Congress to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States. I fully regret not being able to participate in the vote. As a cosponsor of this legislation, I would have voted "yea."

TRIBUTE TO THE JAVITS-WAGNER-O'DAY PROGRAM

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 23, 2005

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a small Federal program that is

often overlooked as a way to provide employment opportunities for people with disabilities. The Javits-Wagner-O'Day Program, often referred to as JWOD, provides more than 40,000 Americans who are blind or who have other severe disabilities with the job skills and training necessary to receive good wages and benefits and gain greater independence and quality of life. The JWOD Program empowers people with disabilities who traditionally face an unemployment rate of 70 percent and rely heavily on social programs such as welfare and SSI.

National Industries for the Blind (NIB) and NISH daily are creating new employment opportunities for people with severe disabilities, along with local nonprofit organizations in the State of Michigan. Demonstrating an excellent Federal-private sector partnership, NISH, National Industries for the Blind, and local nonprofits such as Goodwill Industries of Southwestern Michigan, Inc. enhance opportunities for economic and personal independence of people who are blind or who have other severe disabilities, primarily through creating, sustaining, and improving employment.

On behalf of people with disabilities, I rise to salute the important contributions of JWOD and Goodwill Industries of Southwestern Michigan, Inc. to the city of Kalamazoo and the community as a whole; and hereby commend all persons who are committed to and work towards enhancing employment opportunities for people with visual and other severe disabilities.

TRIBUTE TO CYRIL WRABEC

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 23, 2005

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, let me take this means to recognize the fine accomplishments of a fellow Missourian and Sigma Chi brother, Mr. Cyril Wrabec.

Mr. Wrabec will be graduating in May 2005 from the University of North Dakota's School of Aerospace Sciences with a Bachelor of Science Degree, Summa Cum Laude, in Commercial Aviation. He has been an exemplary student and has been named to the President's Honor Roll five times. While at the University of North Dakota, he spearheaded the re-establishment of the UND Flying Club.

Mr. Wrabec is a brother of the Beta Zeta chapter of the Sigma Chi fraternity at the University of North Dakota. During his time as a brother, he has served two terms as president of the fraternity.

Community work has been an important part of Mr. Wrabec's life. In his home state of Missouri, he provided an aviation course for school children and has been an active volunteer at his church. Also, he is a Certified Homeland Security Volunteer Pilot.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Wrabec is a fine, young man, and I know my fellow Members of the House will wish him all the best in the years to come.

RECOGNIZING MR. CARL
"BRONKO" STANKOVIC

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 23, 2005

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I recognize Mr. Carl "Bronko" Stankovic, a proud World War II veteran, and the men of the Eighth Armored Division Association. Bronko is also a dear friend of mine.

Bronko has recently brought to my attention an inspirational poem written by A. Lawrence Vaincourt, a newspaper columnist and Canadian World War II veteran himself, in 1987. This poem speaks powerfully about the aging of our heroes. The emotions it represents rings true with Bronko and many other veterans that this poem has touched in its years of existence.

It is with great pride that I submit an excerpt of the poem, *Just a Common Soldier*, as a tribute to the memory of all our World War II veterans:

JUST A COMMON SOLDIER

(A SOLDIER DIED TODAY)

(By A. Lawrence Vaincourt)

He was getting old and paunchy and his hair was falling fast,
And he sat around the Legion, telling stories of the past.
Of a war that he had fought in and the deeds that he had done,
In his exploits with his buddies; they were heroes, every one.
And tho' sometimes, to his neighbors, his tales became a joke,
All his Legion buddies listened, for they knew whereof he spoke.
But we'll hear his tales no longer for old Bill has passed away.
And the world's a little poorer, for a soldier died today.
He was just a common soldier and his ranks are growing thin,
But his presence should remind us we may need his like again.
For when countries are in conflict, then we find the soldier's part
Is to clean up all the troubles that others often start.
If we cannot do him honor while he's here to hear the praise,
Then at least let's give him homage at the ending of his days.
Perhaps just a simple headline in a paper that would say,
Our Country is in mourning, for a soldier died today.

Mr. Speaker, I hope this poem inspires my distinguished colleagues as it has inspired me. The Greatest Generation has given so much to younger generations that I am happy to give something back by submitting this poem to the House of Representatives. I would ask my colleagues to join me in honoring World War II veterans with a moment of silence.