

HONORING THE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT OF PROSPECT AS THEY CELEBRATE THEIR 60TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 7, 2005*

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to extend my sincere congratulations to Chief Robert Chatfield and all of the members of the Volunteer Fire Department of Prospect, past and present, as they celebrate their 60th Anniversary. This is a milestone for this wonderful organization and I am proud to have this opportunity to honor their outstanding work on behalf of the Prospect community.

The men and women who serve as firefighters face risks that few of us can comprehend. Each day, they must be ready to perform under intense pressure—literally in life or death situations as we have all witnessed in recent days. Few things are more important than feeling safe in our homes and workplaces. Our firefighters provide us with that peace of mind. Their commitment and dedication cannot be questioned and our thanks can never repay those who put their lives on the line to ensure our safety.

Since its incorporation in September of 1945, the Volunteer Fire Department of Prospect has grown from a small building with just two bays to a multi-million dollar state-of-the-art facility which houses 10 bays. The Department serves a community of over 9,000, responding to an estimated 270 fire calls and nearly 600 medical calls annually. Though it is fully dependent on volunteers, there is never a shortage of responders to a call. Though much has changed in the six decades since its inception, the one thing that has not is the reliability and consistency of those who volunteer to serve.

I have always held a deep admiration for those who serve as firefighters—each day facing new challenges and seemingly overwhelming responsibility. It takes an exceptional combination of bravery, compassion, and generosity to serve as a volunteer firefighter. In its 60 years of history, nearly 800 individuals have served in the Department. Every member of the Prospect Volunteer Department has demonstrated a unique commitment and dedication to public service throughout their careers. From the training they must receive to the responsibility of responding to emergencies to the generous fundraising efforts for the Department, they have willingly devoted themselves to their community.

Too often we take for granted the courageous work of our country's firefighters. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of those Prospect residents who have volunteered their time and efforts to the Department. I am proud to recognize and commend the commitment the Volunteer Fire Department of Prospect has made to protect Prospect for 60 years. To reach such an anniversary is a testament to the generosity and civic mindedness of the resident volunteers and the Town of Prospect. My sincere congratulations to you on this very special occasion!

TRIBUTE TO STATE REPRESENTATIVE NELSON R. STARKEY

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

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 7, 2005*

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Alabama State Representative Nelson R. Starkey. Representative Starkey has represented the City of Florence in the Alabama State Legislature since 1978. He plans to retire from public service at the conclusion of his current legislative term in 2006.

I consider it a privilege to have worked with Representative Starkey on a wide variety of issues facing Northwest Alabama. He has done a great deal to help further the quality of life for all individuals in our community. He is most well known for his strong advocacy for increased Alabama school funding.

During his many years of service in the State House, Representative Starkey was elected by his peers to numerous legislative leadership positions. For eight years, he was the Chairman of the House Democratic Caucus and the Joint Highway Committee. He also served as Chairman of the Local Government Committee for four years and Chairman of the State Administration Committee.

Mr. Speaker, Representative Starkey is well respected throughout our local community and the entire State of Alabama. In 1993, he was chosen by the Montgomery Advertiser to receive the Meritorious Public Service Award. This honor was based on his reputation for integrity, effectiveness, vision, trustworthiness, commitment and diligence.

Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday August 23rd, the North Alabama community gathered to honor and celebrate all of Representative Starkey's achievements. I rise today, to join in their celebration and to thank Representative Starkey for his many years of dedicated service.

STATEMENT ON MARIA C. RAMOS

**HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 7, 2005*

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Maria C. Ramos. Ms. Ramos has dedicated her life to educating others and serving her community and country. Maria is retiring after dedicating the past 30 years to serving her community. Maria's efforts to better her community and country will be sorely missed.

Born in Mexico, Ms. Ramos moved to Oakland when she was 14 years old. Since then, she has selflessly devoted much of her life to giving back to the place that has afforded her such an opportunity to succeed.

Maria has, for more than 30 years, worked tirelessly as an educator to ensure that those children would have the same opportunities to succeed as she had. She started working at St. Gertrude's School in 1974, where she served as a bilingual assistant and has since gone on to serve at Marshall Junior High and many other schools in the Stockton Unified School District.

In addition to her longstanding commitment to education, Maria is involved in countless social and political organizations. She serves

on numerous boards, including the California State Employees Association, the Democratic Central Committee, the Californians for Justice Committee, the 17th Assembly District Committee, and Comerciantes Unidas, to name just a few.

It is my distinct honor and privilege to call Maria Ramos a friend and to have the opportunity to recognize her longstanding commitment to education and service to her community.

Though her selfless devotion will be missed by all of us in the community, I'm sure her family looks forward to spending more time with her and she certainly deserves some time off.

I am delighted to recognize her service and retirement after 30 years as I wish my very best in the many years to come.

CONGRATULATIONS TO TIFFANY A. MCBATH, RECIPIENT OF THE PRESIDENTIAL FREEDOM SCHOLARSHIP

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 7, 2005*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the superior academic performance of Tiffany A. McBath, a recipient of this year's Presidential Freedom Scholarship. Thirteen students in the 26th Congressional District are receiving this special recognition.

This award recognizes outstanding service and citizenship initiatives by the students who were nominated, and provides an opportunity to acknowledge their leadership. Administered by Learn and Serve America, the scholarship provides \$500 in Federal funds, matched with \$500 from a community organization or business obtained for the student by their high school or Boys and Girls Club. Winners must have completed at least 100 hours of community service, either through a school-based service-learning program or independently through service at a nonprofit or faith-based organization.

Tiffany is a member of the Boys and Girls Club of Cooke County Teen Center. This organization also contributed matching funds worth \$500.

Over 38,000 students to date have received this award and I extend my sincere congratulations to Tiffany A. McBath for being one of them. This student's contribution and services should serve as inspiration to those who wish to make a positive difference in the lives of others.

RECOGNIZING ALEX Q. NEWMASTER FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 7, 2005*

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Alex Q. Newmaster, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Alex has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Alex has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Alex Q. Newmaster for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

TRIBUTE TO THE LAFAYETTE  
LITTLE LEAGUE TEAM

**HON. CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR.**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 7, 2005*

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the achievements of the Lafayette Little League team. This group of young men embarked on a journey at the beginning of this summer that took them over 2,000 miles and ended at the Little League World Series in Williamsport, Pennsylvania.

This team won the Louisiana State championship in August. They then won the Southwest Regional title in Waco, Texas. And then they inspired millions of Americans with two heart-stopping come-from-behind wins en route to the semifinals of the U.S. bracket of the Little League World Series.

Their success on the field earned these "Comeback Cajuns" a finish in this country's top four and the world's top eight teams. When they were eliminated from competition by Ewa Beach, Hawaii—which eventually claimed the world championship—the squad was one of only five teams still alive out of over 70,000 that began Little League postseason play.

These twelve young men exemplify the ideals of Little League Baseball—character, courage, and loyalty. I honor them today for their superb play on the field and their magnificent sportsmanship.

Andrew Stevenson, Connor Toups, Andreas Duplantis, Sam Scofield, Patrick Foreman, Ryan Bergeron, Jace Conrad, Brenn Conrad, Tyler Douglas, Jordan Romero, Alex Stringer, and Alex Miller.

And their coaches, Mike Conrad, Mark Toups, and Ken Douglas.

I am proud of the way they represented our State, our hometown, and themselves.

THE PASSING OF ERIKA HILLS

**HON. NANCY PELOSI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 7, 2005*

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, it is with great personal sorrow that I come to the floor of the House to remember my friend Erika Hills, who died tragically in an automobile accident in Napa Valley on August 17th. Today, her family and friends are gathering in Grace Cathedral in San Francisco to mourn her passing. I extend my deepest sympathy to her husband Austin, her sons Austin and Justin, her father Dr. Max Brunar, and her siblings Dieter Mascen and Eva Pongraz of Graz, Austria.

Her death leaves a void in our lives but her bright light will remain in our hearts forever.

A home design expert, she had owned an antique shop in St. Helena, California. Her husband Austin Hills is a founder and partner in Napa Valley's Grgich Hills Cellar in Rutherford, California, and a descendent of the Hills Bros. Coffee family.

Erika's exuberance was contagious and elevated all the causes she championed. She and her husband were active supporters of the arts; the San Francisco Symphony, the San Francisco Opera and the Museum of Modern Art. She was generous with her time and her resources and dedicated herself to helping people less fortunate than she.

Erika served on numerous boards and volunteered in many charitable organizations. Her support extended from the cultural life of the San Francisco Bay Area to Roots of Peace, an international humanitarian organization that works to eradicate land mines, returning the land to agricultural use.

Most recently she served on the advisory council of the Land Trust of Napa County, Cal Performances in Berkeley, and the Seven Tepees Youth Program that helps underprivileged children with their education. She and her husband were founding members of the Copia center for wine and food in Napa.

Erika will be missed by all of us fortunate enough to have been touched by her life. Her joy, her generosity, as well as her concern for children around the world, will long be remembered by all who knew her.

I know I speak for all my constituents when I extend condolences to Austin, Austin Jr. and Justin for their heartbreaking loss. My thoughts and prayers and those of my husband Paul and the entire Pelosi family are with her loved ones at this sad time.

JEWISH COMMUNITY SUPPORT  
FOR ISRAEL'S DISENGAGEMENT

**HON. BARNEY FRANK**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 7, 2005*

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, just before we adjourned, the Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Boston issued a very thoughtful statement in support of the disengagement by Israel from the Gaza Strip, and the dismantling by the Israeli government of Israeli settlements in that area.

Mr. Speaker, this was a very wrenching process for many in Israel, and the willingness of the government of Israel—supported by a majority of the people of Israel—to engage in this withdrawal with all of its difficult emotional strains speaks highly of that country's willingness to take steps for peace. The withdrawal from Gaza should not be the last action taken in this process, but it is unreasonable to expect that they will be able to take further actions in the absence of a showing by the Palestinian Authority of its willingness and ability to respond in kind to this disengagement.

The statement of the JCRC is a first-rate statement of what should be done going forward, and it is an appropriate expression of support of a majority of the Jewish Community of Greater Boston for a peace process that is thoughtful, balanced and prudent. I ask that this important statement be printed here.

JEWISH COMMUNITY EXPRESSES SUPPORT FOR  
ISRAEL'S DISENGAGEMENT PLAN

July 19, 2005.

Nancy K. Kaufman, Executive Director and Susan A. Calechman, President of the Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Boston issued the following statement today regarding Israel's plans to disengage from the Gaza Strip and communities in northern Samaria.

"The JCRC fully supports Prime Minister Sharon and the government of Israel as they begin implementation of the Gaza disengagement plan. Israel's vigorous democracy is taking bold and courageous risks in an effort to protect her security and to renew the process of resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. We also support the Israeli government's effort to resolve the conflict through a negotiated two-state solution as expressed in the Road Map. Final borders and other final status issues must be left to the parties themselves to negotiate in a peace process free from violence and the threat of violence.

Disengagement will only lead to a peaceful outcome if there is a commitment on the part of the Palestinian leadership to put an end to terrorism. We call upon the Palestinian Authority (PA) to disarm the terrorist groups and their infrastructure. This includes removal of existing stockpiles of weapons and preventing such stockpiles from being rebuilt; preventing the smuggling of weapons; closing of clandestine weapons manufacturing and preventing attacks, especially during the engagement process. The future of peace, and the stability of the PA itself, is fully dependent on it taking this action.

We recognize the profound sacrifices being made by the families who are being relocated, some after living in their homes for nearly 30 years. The loss of their homes, synagogues, farms, businesses and schools is an immense sacrifice which should be recognized with efforts made to bridge any gaps that develop among Israelis as a result of this effort.

We condemn the rhetoric of a tiny extremist fringe that promotes violence as a response to policies undertaken by the democratically elected Israeli government. At the same time, the rights of free speech and lawful dissent which are basic and indispensable in a democratic society must be protected. It is critically important that those with differing views of the peace process condemn explicit hate speech, venomous language, and threatening words. It is also important that discussion among all the conflicting viewpoints be created to promote an atmosphere in which differences can be expressed with civility and respect.

We call the U.S. Government to continue its work with Israeli and Palestinian leaders to ensure that all commitments are met and that a resolution to this conflict leads to a secure peace for both sides.

HONORING U.S. ARMY SPC. ALVIN  
K. BEAN UPON HIS RECEIPT OF  
THE ARMY COMMENDATION  
MEDAL

**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 7, 2005*

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the exemplary community service of Alvin K. Bean, a resident of Chautauqua County, Town of Panama, upon receiving the Army Commendation Medal with valor device