

Mr. Speaker, Officer Silvra knew the dangers of his profession, but he also knew of its importance. He genuinely loved helping people, and he touched countless lives before his tragic death.

Officer Silvra was a true American hero, and I extend my deepest sympathies to his family for their loss.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENT OF THE AASU TENNIS TEAM

HON. JACK KINGSTON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 20, 2005

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I come forth today with the honor of recognizing Georgia's Armstrong Atlantic State University women's NCAA National Champion tennis team. The Armstrong Atlantic women's tennis team did an outstanding job capturing the school's third NCAA Division II National Championship in 2005, defeating BYU—Hawaii by a score of 5–3 to win the title.

The No. 2-ranked Lady Pirates ended BYU—Hawaii's NCAA record of 130-match winning streak with the victory and finished a hard undefeated season of their own at 30–0.

One of only 10 teams across every sport and division of the NCAA put together an undefeated campaign.

AASU, who's other National Championships came in 1995 and 1996, accomplished the feat with unprecedented team depth as all six starters on the squad earned All-America honors from the Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA).

Junior Luisa Cowper (Sutton Coldfield, England) finished the year as the No. 3-ranked singles player in the Nation and was named the Peach Belt Conference's Player of the Year.

Sophomore Dziyana Nazaruk (Minsk, Belarus) was the No. 8-ranked singles player and was named the ITA's "Player to Watch" in 2005.

Freshman Johanna Dahlback (Hasselby, Sweden) won the clinching match in the national championship victory and was the No. 9-ranked singles player in the Nation.

Juniors Caroline Grage (Hamburg, Germany) and Manuela Emmrich (Magdeburg, Germany) teamed together to make up the No. 8-ranked doubles team in the Nation, while senior Laura Peaty (Loughborough, England) teamed with Cowper to make up the No. 3-ranked doubles team in the Nation.

The man who provided guidance for the women's success is Head coach Simon Earnshaw. He was named the Peach Belt Conference Coach of the Year for his efforts in earning his first National Championship.

I am very proud of this team for displaying such hard work and sportsmanship throughout the season and can only hope that they might bring the National Championship title back to Georgia in 2006.

SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY FIRE MARSHALL PETER BRIERTY IS A TRUE NATIONAL FORESTRY HERO

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 20, 2005

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure today to honor San Bernardino County Fire Marshall Peter Brierty, who has been recognized this month as a National Forestry Hero. I know from personal experience that this award is justly deserved, for Peter Brierty is widely regarded among my constituents as one of the heroes who saved thousands of people and their homes from the terrible fires of 2003 in the San Bernardino Mountains.

Many of my colleagues have heard me speak on the urgent need to get rid of millions of trees killed by a drought and insect attacks in and around the San Bernardino National Forest in my district. The fire danger from these trees jeopardizes the lives and homes of tens of thousands of people and homes that make this one of the most urbanized forests in the Nation.

One of the first people to understand the potential danger from this situation was Peter Brierty. More importantly, Peter Brierty realized the need to act quickly and bring the whole community together to reduce the danger and be ready to evacuate if fires struck. For most of the past three years, Fire Marshall Brierty has worked tirelessly, pushing his staff and other public officials to develop these plans. He has become a well-known figure at countless meetings with residents, convincing them of the need to cooperate to save lives and property.

Under Fire Marshall Brierty's direction, San Bernardino County launched an ambitious effort to eliminate dead and dying trees on private and public lands outside of the national forest. The operation he created has been highly praised by the Natural Resources Conservation Service, which has funded the effort, as extremely cost-efficient and effective.

But the danger was too great in 2003, and the "Old Fire" struck before we could even begin to cut enough trees to stop it. Nearly 70,000 people were in danger, but the plan devised by Fire Marshall Brierty and other county, state and federal officials safely evacuated all of them. Not one life was lost in the fire, even though 350 structures and more than 800,000 acres were ravaged by the blaze.

Mr. Speaker, many people have devoted countless hours and unlimited energy to reducing the fire danger and restoring the forest in the San Bernardino Mountains. The task is far from finished, but we have seen two fire seasons now in which no major blaze has threatened homes to the extent of the Old Fire.

In recognition of the role he played in confronting this threat to whole communities, Fire Marshall Peter Brierty was presented the 2005 National Forestry Heroism Award by the STIHL Incorporated this month. I would ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating him for this recognition, and thanking him for his unwavering devotion to public service.

HONORING CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER PAUL PILLEN

HON. STEPHANIE HERSETH

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 20, 2005

Ms. HERSETH. Mr. Speaker, I am saddened to report the passing of Chief Warrant Officer Paul Pillen. He was killed while serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The lives of countless people were enormously enhanced by Paul's goodwill and service. He inspired all those who knew him. Our Nation is a far better place because of his life. All Americans owe Paul, and the other soldiers who have made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of freedom, a tremendous debt of gratitude for their service.

Every member of the House of Representatives has taken a solemn oath to defend the Constitution against all enemies, foreign and domestic. While we certainly understand the gravity of the issues facing this legislative body, Chief Warrant Officer Paul Pillen lived that commitment to our country. Today, we remember and honor his noble service to the United States and the ultimate sacrifice he has paid with his life to defend our freedoms and foster liberty for others.

Mr. Speaker, I express my sympathies to the family and friends of Chief Warrant Officer Paul Pillen. I believe the best way to honor him is to emulate his commitment to our country. I know he will always be missed, but his service to our Nation will never be forgotten.

RECOGNIZING THOMAS SCHELLING'S NOBEL PRIZE

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 20, 2005

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I often talk with great pride about the University of Maryland, both as an outstanding academic institution and as my alma mater. Today is no different. While this latest achievement revolves around the concept of games, it is not Gary Williams or Ralph Friedgen who are bringing home the hardware. Instead, it's Thomas Schelling, a University of Maryland professor and 50-year expert in the concept known as "game theory," who was awarded the Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences last week.

The Fifth Congressional District congratulates Professor Schelling, whose contributions to economics will influence generations of policy-makers, diplomats, and strategic thinkers. Schelling is best known for his book, "The Strategy of Conflict," a groundbreaking effort to deter the use of nuclear weapons. Schelling used his "game theory" to explain how the Cold War could effectively be prevented from turning into a nuclear holocaust. As Michael Kinsley recently noted in the Washington Post, Schelling's theory was born to deal with interdependence. "The other side had to be confident that it could survive and retaliate if you went first," he said. "Otherwise, in a crisis, it would be sorely tempted to go first."

Fortunately, the world averted disaster in the case of the Cold War, but many modern day security threats remain. With nuclear terrorism the most glaring and preventable

homeland security challenge of our time, world leaders would be wise to consider Professor Schelling's theory wherever possible.

Professor Schelling has spent the majority of his adult life championing the most patriotic of causes: applying behavioral and economic sciences for the promotion of peace. The Nobel Academy rightly recognized his distinguished career, and the Nation should be proud of his accomplishments. As a native of Maryland and an alumnus of the place Schelling calls home, I take special pride in saluting his success.

CONGRATULATING CITIZENS FINANCIAL GROUP ON THEIR RECEIPT OF THE 2005 SECRETARY OF DEFENSE EMPLOYER SUPPORT FREEDOM AWARD

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 20, 2005

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate Citizens Financial Group, recently chosen as a recipient of the 2005 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award. The award recognizes employers that were nominated by their employees who voluntarily serve in the National Guard and Reserve, for exceptional support above the requirements of the Uniformed Services Employment and Re-employment Rights Act of 1994. This is the highest national award a company can receive for its support of the National Guard and Reserve.

Citizens is the first Rhode Island employer to win the highest national award for their outstanding support of colleagues serving in the National Guard and Reserve and their families. Citizens is one of only 15 employers in the United States to receive this prestigious award from among 1,492 nominees.

The Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award reflects the exceptional support, leadership, and devotion provided by employers to our brave men and women of the Reserve Forces. The importance of employers who are supportive of our enlisted men and women should never be underestimated, and Rhode Island is proud to have employers like Citizens Financial Group hard at work in our community. On behalf of my home state, I would like to thank Citizens Financial Group for their dedication, and I wish them much success in the future.

ENCOURAGE INITIATIVE AND SELF-ESTEEM

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 20, 2005

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge support for a bill I have just introduced, H.R. 4095, the Encourage Initiative and Promote Self-Esteem Act of 2005.

There are many people in our country who receive Social Security Disability benefits (SSD) because they have a "waxing and waning" disease—Behcet's Disease, Multiple Sclerosis, Lupus, Parkinson's, Cancer, AIDS and

Arthritis are examples of "waxing and waning" diseases. Eric Peterson, who lives in my Congressional District, has taught me a great deal about these diseases and the need for a better way for people to seek and keep SSD.

This process of seeking SSD and keeping it is often times an adversarial one. The climate of suspicion that applicants and recipients say they feel leaves many to view the Social Security Administration, SSA, with a jaundiced eye. Everyone who actually gains disability benefits remembers the hoops of fire they had to jump through during the application process. As a result, many people often do not consider a try at working, fearing that the SSA will use that against them to deny future benefits. With concerns over fraudulent claims, I can understand how this environment came to be. But that doesn't make it right.

For people with "waxing and waning" diseases and conditions, they know that they will have good days and bad. They know that, barring a cure, they will always be sick, but that does not diminish their spirit. There needs to be a program that encourage people in this situation to secure temporary employment when they feel they can work without placing their SSD at risk for the times they cannot work.

Currently, if a person makes more than \$810 a month, disability benefits will stop. If one makes \$810 but then has less money than his SSD, there is no incentive to work. H.R. 4095 would install a system based on a sliding scale. The more money one earns, the fewer benefits he or she receives. But there will be a built-in incentive to stay the course because the total monthly income when working will be more than either the work income or SSD.

In addition, if a person makes \$300 or more a month, their review is put aside. This incentive will further encourage people to push themselves to continue working if at all possible.

Imagine a situation where those on SSD who have diseases that "wax and wane" could work, without fear, when able. That would be a lot of money put back into the Treasury in payroll withholdings and taxes—and more money put into the economy in increased purchasing, not to mention the contribution to society and elevated self-esteem of the workers. Think about the faith these people would have in a system of government that treats its people with dignity and respect instead of suspicion and contempt.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4095 to improve the lives of thousands of Americans.

HONORING SHELDON LATZ

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 20, 2005

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sheldon Latz who was named the 2004 Urban County Engineer of the Year award from the National Association of County Engineers during its annual conference. Sheldon was recently named Urban Engineer of the Year by the Illinois Association of County Engineers. That nomination put him in the running for the national award.

Sheldon has been employed by Will County since June 11, 1961 and has been the County

Engineer since 1996. When Sheldon first started working for the County, Interstate 55 was new and Interstate 80 did not even exist. A lot of the local roads were graveled and less than two lanes wide. Today, those same roads are paved and are four or five lanes wide. Will County has gone from a quiet rural area to one of the fastest growing counties in the United States. According to Sheldon, he is most proud of the CenterPoint development in Elwood which is located on the former Joliet Arsenal property. Bringing roads into the development has been a highlight of his career.

Sheldon's dream as a child was to be an engineer. He has a passion for road work that has never left his system. His love for the profession has prompted Sheldon to become a Joliet Junior College Adjunct Professor in 1974 where he has taught several courses in architecture, engineering and construction. Sheldon served in the United States Army as an Army medic and a Preventive Medicine Specialist teaching sewage and water treatment process and prevention of water borne diseases.

Not content to stay on the sidelines, Sheldon also serves on several local boards which includes Howell Shooting Club and the Howell Youth Shooting Camp. The camp gives girls and boys an opportunity to come together under a formal program to experience and grow in their appreciation of shooting sports. Sheldon and his wife Janice have four children and seven grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I urge this body to identify and recognize other individuals in their own districts whose actions have so greatly benefited and strengthened America's families and communities.

HONORING PROFESSOR RICHARD P. BERG

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 20, 2005

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Professor Richard P. Berg for 31 years of teaching, scholarship and service to the Santa Clara University School of Law.

Professor Berg has served as a Professor of Law at the Santa Clara University School of Law for 31 years. Throughout his tenure, Professor Berg has dedicated himself to serving the public and working for social justice. He was chair of the Santa Clara University School of Law Public Interest and Social Justice Endowment, which funds financial assistance programs for volunteers and attorneys working in public interest and social justice fields. Last year alone, the Endowment provided \$66,750 in summer grants for 23 students working as volunteers with public interest and social justice programs, and \$17,000 in Income Supplement Grants for attorneys working with similar organizations.

Professor Berg also has served on the board of directors of several public interest organizations, and has been active in international issues, particularly in the Asia-Pacific region. He has been the director of the Singapore-Bangkok summer law program since 1984 and is active in dispute resolution organizations such as the American Arbitration Association and Asia Pacific Organization for Mediation.