

each recipient and award the representative with a plaque. Receiving the award for Crescent Elementary School will be Principal Danny Pettry, along with speech teacher Stephanie Anderson and first-grade teachers Mary Haynes and Pat Hudson. I am very proud of the many achievements this school has made in its pursuit to educate the future leaders of this country. Having an educational institution such as Crescent in my State and my district is something in which to take pride.

ESSAY ON THE PLEDGE

HON. MARK R. KENNEDY

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 26, 2005

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit for the RECORD, the text of an essay by Katelin Richter of Watertown, Minnesota, as published in the Minneapolis Star-Tribune on October 3, 2005.

Of course the pledge is still relevant. How does a trait such as loyalty cease to be relevant? How do liberty and justice for all cease to be relevant? How does God cease to be relevant? Just because our America is a little different than our Founding Fathers' America doesn't mean that the core values that built this Nation have changed. Deep down, we are still the same, members of the greatest democracy on Earth, where liberty and justice are truly for all.

We have to remember, when pledging, that our great Nation is not totally infallible, and will never be. We can only try our hardest, with the powers we have, to make our Nation live up to the pledge. Americans will constantly work to see this goal.

RECOGNIZING THE NEW MEXICO HOMETOWN HEROES COMMITTEE

HON. HEATHER WILSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 26, 2005

Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the New Mexico Hometown Heroes committee and the remarkable work it has done to find and mark the gravesites of recipients of the Congressional Medal of Honor. Mr. Paul Layer Jr., who has served as this organization's president and his team of volunteers worked for many years on this project. They spent hundreds of hours researching archived records, excavating historical battle sites, and exploring cemeteries. As a result, our soldiers have a resting place that acknowledges the extraordinary deeds that they accomplished during their lifetimes.

The actions taken by Mr. Layer and the New Mexico Hometown Heroes Committee will allow generations of New Mexicans to remember the courage these soldiers showed on the battlefield.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Layer and the other members of the New Mexico Hometown Heroes Committee for their efforts.

CONGRATULATING JORDAN HUNT
HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 26, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Jordan Hunt for receiving the Gold Medal of Achievement in Royal Rangers.

Royal Rangers is an achievement program of the Assemblies of God which utilizes an outdoor theme to teach positive character, responsibility, leadership, citizenship and service to God, men and country. The Gold Medal of Achievement is the highest achievement that can be earned in the Royal Ranger Program.

Mr. Hunt is a freshman at Marcus High School in Flower Mound, Texas. His achievement represents many years of diligent work completing merits, camping and nature skills, leadership training camps, memorization, essays and service projects. A special service honoring Mr. Hunt's accomplishment is planned for November 27, 2005 at Grace Community Assembly of God in Flower Mound, Texas.

I extend my sincere congratulations to Mr. Jordan Hunt on receiving the Gold Medal of Achievement. His hard work and dedication to excellence warrants the highest achievement given by the Royal Rangers Program.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MR. RICHARD KRAMER
HON. PETER J. VISCOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 26, 2005

Mr. VISCOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and honor that I congratulate Mr. Richard Krame on his retirement from the Town of Schererville. Dick has spent nearly 50 years dedicating his life to the interests of the residents of Schererville, Indiana. His career has allowed him the opportunity to touch the lives of numerous people. In honor of his gracious service to the community, there will be a celebration of his accomplishments on November 3, 2005.

Dick Krame has accomplished many visionary goals throughout his career. Dick was born in Chicago, Illinois and entered the United States Army in 1943, where his first mission was D-Day 1944. Dick was awarded the Croix De Guerre-with Star, which was the highest decoration a soldier could earn from French President Charles De Gaulle. He also received a number of U.S. awards for his service in the European, African, and Middle Eastern theaters. Dick felt tremendous pride for his country, and he was willing to endanger his own life to protect the lives of his fellow Americans. His courage and heroism will always be remembered, and his sacrifice will forever live in the hearts and minds of those for whom he battled.

After the War, Dick resumed his career with Inland Steel. He moved to Schererville, Indiana in 1954, and he became involved with the community in 1964. He served as an elected member of the Town Board and was Town Board President in 1970, 1971, and 1979. In 1982, Dick retired from his position as a General Foreman with Inland Steel. In 1989, he

came out of full-time retirement from Inland Steel to fill many positions with the Town of Schererville. He served as Chairman of the Schererville Planning Commission, a member of the Police Commission, President of the Chamber of Commerce, Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce Corn Roast, a member of the Chamber's Economic Development Commission, and a member of the Quad Town Economic Commission. In 1998, Dick became the Schererville Town Manager.

While Dick has dedicated considerable time and energy to his work, he has always made an extra effort to give back to the community. Dick has been an active member of the Schererville Lions Club for over 42 years, and he was named President of the Lions in 1973 and 1986. Some other of his involvements include the Parade Picnic Committee and the St. Michael Church Council. The Rotary Club of Schererville also presented Dick with their 2004 Outstanding Citizen Award.

His work has been improving his community for over forty years. Though Dick is dedicated to his career and the community of Schererville, he has never limited his time and love for his family. Dick and his wife, Eleanor, have been happily married for thirty years.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating Mr. Richard Krame for his outstanding devotion to Indiana's First Congressional District. His unselfish and lifelong dedication to those in need is worthy of the highest commendation, and I am proud to represent him in Congress.

HONORING THE GEMPERLE FAMILY
HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 26, 2005

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Gemperle Family of Turlock, California upon receiving the 2005 Distinguished Citizens Award from The Greater Yosemite Council, Boy Scouts of America. The family will be honored on Wednesday, October 26, 2005 at The Greater Yosemite Council, Boy Scouts of America 2005 Distinguished Citizens Award Dinner in Modesto, California.

As a leader in the egg production business in the Turlock area since the 1950's, the Gemperle Family has transformed a small family business into an industry-leading, technology driven company. In addition to the great successes achieved in business, the Gemperle Family has distinguished itself through its leadership and generosity to many communities throughout California's Central Valley.

Ernie T. Gemperle, the family patriarch, has served in many positions, including President, on his local Boy Scouts of America Executive Board. For over 35 years, the Gemperle Family has hosted an annual fundraising event to benefit the Boy Scouts of America. Moreover, the Gemperle Family has earned a well deserved reputation for supporting numerous causes, including Catholic Charities, California State University-Stanislaus, and the arts.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Gemperle Family upon receiving the 2005 Distinguished

Citizens Award from The Greater Yosemite Council, Boy Scouts of America. I invite my colleagues to join me in congratulating and thanking the Gemperle Family for their leadership and tremendous generosity.

RECOGNIZING THE 25TH
ANNIVERSARY OF AKAL SECURITY

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 26, 2005

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am proud today to congratulate Akal Security, the second largest U.S.-based security guard company, on its twenty-fifth anniversary. Since 1980, Akal Security has grown from just a handful of earnest entrepreneurs to almost 15,000 employees in 48 States and around the world.

Today, the company provides 80 percent of guards for the Department of Justice's Marshals Service and, through a subsidiary, 80 percent of cleared American guards for embassy construction. Akal's employees work in several Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement detention centers, airports and military installations; Federal Protective Service operations; and local government and commercial properties.

Although the tremendous growth of this company is important, I am also impressed by the unique inspiration of its founders and their continued record of hiring disabled veterans.

Gurutej Khalsa and Daya Khalsa, the founders of Akal Security, incorporate the practices of Sikh Dharma into their day-to-day business lives. They describe Sikh Dharma as a peaceful, monotheistic religion brought to the West from India by Yogi Bhajan, who was only the fourth religious leader to receive a joint resolution of recognition from Congress.

Akal Security also has a distinguished history of hiring veterans of law enforcement and the military, including many decorated heroes and even a few U.S. Marshals. These veterans are patriotic, experienced, and committed to their jobs. This year, Akal Security received the Large Employer of the Year Award from the Disabled American Veterans organization for the company's continued commitment to serving disabled Veterans.

Today, I am pleased to congratulate Akal Security on its remarkable record of accomplishment over the past 25 years.

ANNOUNCING PASSING OF
FORMER CONGRESSMEN ED ROYBAL AND BOB BADHAM

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID DREIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 25, 2005

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, a dear friend, a great man and the father of one of our colleagues, former Congressman Ed Roybal, passed away.

Ed was a man of tremendous passion and compassion. He saw no limits, only possibilities. He was a trailblazer for the Hispanic community who aimed high without fear of failure.

Ed moved to Los Angeles when he was a child, and he became as much a part of the city as it became part of him. Upon returning from service in World War Two, Ed became director of health education for the Los Angeles County Tuberculosis and Health Association. Healthcare and the well-being of his fellow citizens would be a hallmark of Ed's long career of public service.

When Ed was elected to the first of his nearly 30 years in Congress in 1962, he was only the second Hispanic-American to represent California. While Ed was at the center of issues facing Los Angeles, he was a strong advocate for the region and all of California.

Ed's sincerity and heartfelt speeches on the floor of this body are legendary, and so was his decency. The attention and care he devoted to his constituents, he also paid to his colleagues.

Through Ed's example, we learned patience, kindness and generosity. He was unfailingly gracious, determined and effective, all at once.

His legacy is found in the successes of his constituents who were inspired by his example. His legacy is found in community programs in Los Angeles. And his legacy is found right here in the Capitol.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Ed's daughter, Congresswoman LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD, as she carries on his example of public service, and also with the entire Roybal family.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FEDERAL DISASTER PROFITEERING PREVENTION ACT OF 2005

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 26, 2005

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the "Federal Disaster Profiteering Prevention Act of 2005," legislation that imposes tough new criminal and civil penalties on would-be profiteers who intentionally overcharge the Federal Government for the provision of goods or services tendered in response to a presidentially declared major disaster or emergency. I am joined by Representatives EMANUEL, DEFAZIO, GRIJALVA, HINCHEY, KILPATRICK, SERRANO, McDERMOTT, MALONEY and SANDERS.

One need not look beyond the ongoing reconstruction efforts in Iraq and the current controversy surrounding Halliburton to understand the need for such legislation. To date, Halliburton has been accused of overcharging the Federal Government by more than \$1.4 billion in "questionable" and "unsupported" reconstruction costs. Nearly two-thirds of these costs have been characterized as "questionable" because, according to government auditors, they are "unreasonable in amount" and "exceed that which would be incurred by a prudent person." Such costs include, but are in no way limited to, \$617,000 in overpriced and double-billed soft drinks; \$152,000 in movie rental charges; \$1.5 million in excessive tailoring and seamstress charges; and over \$560,000 in unnecessary heavy equipment charges.

The "Federal Disaster Profiteering Prevention Act of 2005" is designed to prevent such

acts from occurring in the future. It achieves this objective by cracking down on anyone who, in a matter involving a contract with the Federal Government, develops a "scheme or artifice to defraud the United States." The civil penalties associated with a violation of this prohibition are the greater of \$1 million dollars or triple the gross profits or received proceeds.

The potential for additional future abuse of the Federal contracting and procurement process is quite clear. According to recent press reports, FEMA and the Army Corps of Engineers already have awarded at least seven no-bid contracts to several politically well connected firms, including Halliburton. For example, Kellogg, Brown & Root, a subsidiary of Halliburton, is currently repairing damaged naval facilities under a \$500 million Defense Department contract. Additionally, no-bid housing contracts have been awarded to the Fluor Corp, a major Republican Party donor, and to the Shaw Group, a client of the lobbying and consulting firm run by friend of the president and former FEMA chief Joe Allbaugh. With such large sums being spent in this manner, it's more important than ever that we send a clear message that we will not tolerate the overcharging of our government during times of federal emergencies.

I am hopeful that Congress can move quickly to enact this worthwhile and timely legislation.

CONGRATULATING LUCAS FLEMMING

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 26, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Lucas Flemming for receiving the Gold Medal of Achievement in Royal Rangers.

Royal Rangers is an achievement program of the Assemblies of God which utilizes an outdoor theme to teach positive character, responsibility, leadership, citizenship and service to God, men and country. The Gold Medal of Achievement is the highest achievement that can be earned in the Royal Ranger Program.

Mr. Flemming is a senior at Flower Mound High School in Flower Mound, Texas. His achievement represents many years of diligent work completing merits, camping and nature skills, leadership training camps, memorization, essays and service projects. A special service honoring Mr. Hunt's accomplishment is planned for November 27, 2005 at Grace Community Assembly of God in Flower Mound, Texas.

I extend my sincere congratulations to Mr. Lucas Flemming on receiving the Gold Medal of Achievement. His hard work and dedication to excellence warrants the highest achievement given by the Royal Rangers Program.

HONORING EDWARD CONNER

HON. GEOFF DAVIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 26, 2005

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Edward Conner, a young