

by the Pocono Mountains Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Niclaus has been engaged in the engineering field for more than 28 years. His expertise includes civil engineering, land development, environmental sciences and surveying.

Extremely active in his community, Mr. Niclaus served as United Way Campaign Chairman in 2004 and has served as a member of the United Way's board of directors. He is a past president of the Rotary Club of Stroudsburg and he served on the board of directors of the Pocono Mountain Chamber of Commerce.

He is a past president and member of the board of directors of the Slate Belt Chamber of Commerce and is a past vice president of the Bangor Lions Club.

Mr. Niclaus received the United Way President's and Clifford E. Gilliam Awards in 2004 and the Paul Harris Fellow Award from Rotary International in 2003. He was named Rotarian of the Year in 1999.

Mr. Niclaus is a member of many professional associations including the American Society of Civil Engineers, the Environmental Assessment Association and the National Association of Environmental Professionals.

He has also been an active youth baseball and soccer coach.

Having graduated from the New Jersey Institute of Technology, Mr. Niclaus received his professional engineering licenses in New Jersey and Pennsylvania and possesses operator certificates for wastewater and water systems from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection.

Mr. Niclaus resides with his wife, Maureen, their three daughters, Erin, Mary and Elizabeth and their son, Tim.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mr. Niclaus at this time. His professional and community commitment speaks well of his desire to make the Stroudsburg area and the region surrounding it a better place to live and raise families. The recognition associated with being named "Citizen of the Year" by the Pocono Mountains Chamber of Commerce is well deserved.

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF MARSHALL W. BUSEY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 2, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute and recognition of Marshall W. Busey of Cleveland, OH, upon his induction into the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame, Class of 2005.

Mr. Busey was one of 20 inductees selected by a 13-member executive committee comprised of veteran leaders from throughout Ohio. He served our country as a member of the United States Army with honor, bravery and integrity, qualities he continues to bring to all personal, civic and professional endeavors within his life.

Mr. Busey's unwavering service to the veterans of our community has served to uplift the lives of countless veterans and their families. He led the effort to raise funds to purchase a 32-foot motor home converted for use by VA patients. He is President of the Memo-

rial Day Association of Cuyahoga County and was Past President of the Greater Cleveland Veterans' Council. For 39 years, he served as the Sergeant of the Memorial Day "Rough Riders Firing Squad" and as the City of Cleveland Memorial Day Color Guard Sergeant for 14 years. Mr. Busey is an active member of the American Legion and was honored as the Legionnaire of the Year in 1975 and 1976. His service to others extends throughout the community, where he is active in raising funds for many charitable organizations.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of Marshall W. Busey, upon his induction into the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame. Mr. Busey's honorable and dedicated service to his family, community and to our Nation serves to strengthen and give hope to the members of our community, thereby strengthening our entire Nation.

IN HONOR AND MEMORY OF SERGEANT BRIAN R. CONNER

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 2, 2005

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to honor and remember a man who devoted his life to keeping the citizens of the United States safe.

Sergeant Brian R. Conner of Baltimore, MD died on the 14th of October in the year 2005 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Conner's death in Al Taji, Iraq occurred when a tractor trailer rear-ended the vehicle in which he and two other Maryland Guardsmen were riding. The weapons they carried as part of convoy operations were detonated upon impact.

Conner's unit in the Maryland National Guard's 243d Engineer Company was activated for duty in June and they left for Kuwait in August.

Not only did Conner serve his country through the Armed Forces, but he also served as a Lieutenant with the Baltimore City Fire Department.

His colleagues there remember him as a well-respected firefighter and a good friend. Conner was the proud father of three daughters and a devoted and loving brother and son.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join with me today to honor Sergeant Brian R. Conner for the dedication he has shown to his family, friends and the American people.

RECOGNIZES WORLD WAR II VETERANS OF PASCO COUNTY, FL

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 2, 2005

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the brave soldiers of Pasco County, FL who served during World War II.

At a ceremony to be held Saturday, November 12, 2005, I will present representatives from each of the five United States Armed Forces with commemorative coins honoring their service during World War II.

As General George Patton once said, "Wars maybe fought with weapons, but they are won by men. It is the spirit of the men who follow and of the man who leads that gains the victory."

The Pasco County veterans we are honoring this weekend clearly met General Patton's description above. They proved themselves in battle in Europe, Africa and the Far East. Their sacrifices on the battlefield preserved liberty and freedom for millions throughout the world.

Mr. Speaker, true American heroes like these Pasco County World War II veterans should be honored for their service to our Nation and for their commitment and sacrifices in battle. They are truly part of America's greatest generation.

RECOGNIZING REID M. MASON FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 2, 2005

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Reid M. Mason of Kansas City, MO, 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, Troop 301, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Reid has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities and earning numerous merit badges. Reid began scouting as a Tiger Cub, advanced to Bobcat, Wolf, Bear, and Webelo before joining the Boy Scouts in 2002, where he advanced to Scout, Tenderfoot, 2nd class, 1st class, Star, Life, and finally, Eagle Scout.

For his Eagle Scout project, Reid turned a series of small rooms and closets at First Baptist Church in North Kansas City, MO into a large, functional youth area.

Outside of scouting, Reid is a sophomore at North Kansas City High School, where he is active in the marching band, symphonic band, theater, swing choir, basketball, baseball, and the International Baccalaureate program. Reid is also active in his youth group at First Baptist Church and plays guitar in the youth worship band. Somehow he also finds time to play summer baseball, work toward his black belt in Hapkido, and take piano lessons.

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

CONGRATULATING DAMIAN BRAGA AS HE RECEIVES THE CHAIR- MAN'S BUSINESS AWARD FROM THE POCONO MOUNTAINS CHAM- BER OF COMMERCE

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 2, 2005

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the

House of Representatives to pay tribute to Mr. Damian A. Braga, president of Sanofi Pasteur US, located in Swiftwater, Monroe County, PA. Mr. Braga has been named the recipient of the Pocono Mountains Chamber of Commerce "Chairman's Business Award."

Mr. Braga is head of the sole U.S.-based manufacturer of injectable influenza vaccines and other critical immunization products which, last year alone, protected more than 500 million people worldwide.

Responsible for operations nationwide, Mr. Braga oversees more than \$1.5 billion in revenue at Sanofi Pasteur in Swiftwater and has played a vital role in global strategic planning and implementation.

Mr. Braga joined the company in 1988 and moved seamlessly through senior level positions, ultimately reaching the top of the U.S. organization.

Well known for his ability to assess challenging issues and identify achievable solutions, Mr. Braga puts strong emphasis on working with organizations that promote the importance of vaccines, encourage economic growth and assist those in need on both a national and state level. Toward that end, Mr. Braga serves as representative of the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America for the Center for Disease Control's advisory committee on immunization practices. He is also a member of the executive committee of the Pennsylvania Business Roundtable and the state Advisory Council for the Pennsylvania Academy of Science.

Mr. Braga also remains active in the Pocono community. He and Sanofi Pasteur actively support the Pocono Services for Families and Children. A proponent of educational initiatives, Mr. Braga also serves as a member of Northampton Community College's Foundation Board and East Stroudsburg University's board of directors for the Center for Research and Economic Development.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mr. Braga on the receipt of this honor. Mr. Braga and Sanofi Pasteur continually demonstrate how business should contribute to the greater community through a spirit of commitment and service.

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF
JOHN J. NICASTRO, SR.

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 2, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute and recognition of John J. Nicastro, Sr., upon his induction into the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame, Class of 2005.

Mr. Nicastro was one of twenty inductees selected by a 13-member executive committee comprised of veteran leaders from throughout Ohio. Mr. Nicastro holds the distinction as being one of the youngest Commission Combat Officers in the United States Air Force. By age 19, he had risen up the military ranks to Second Lieutenant. His assignment with the 8th Army Air Force, 303rd Heavy Bomb Group, known as the Hell's Angels, took him to the European Theater of Operations, where his exemplary service included the successful completion of 35 combat missions.

Following his service in WWII, Mr. Nicastro became an installer with the Ohio Bell Tele-

phone Company. Like his service in the military, he ascended the corporate ladder, attaining the position of Account Executive. During his tenure at Ohio Bell, Mr. Nicastro led the effort to upgrade communication systems throughout the county, including the implementation of the 911 emergency calling system. Aside from his professional career, Mr. Nicastro continues to reflect a life-long focus on service to his community. He served as a member of the Independence City Council for sixteen years, served as President of the Independence Board of Education, and has held numerous leadership positions in veterans and civic organizations. Mr. Nicastro was awarded the Legion of Honor Award for his forty-five years of exemplary service with Kiwanis International of Independence, OH.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of John J. Nicastro, Sr., as he is inducted into the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame. Mr. Nicastro's significant contribution to his country, and his focused dedication on family and community, continue to strengthen and uplift our community and our Nation.

RECOGNIZING THE OUTSTANDING
EFFORTS OF ABERDEEN TEST
CENTER

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 2, 2005

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to commend the significant contributions of Aberdeen Test Center (ATC) located in Aberdeen, MD, for their outstanding efforts to protect American troops.

In August of 2003, the M1 tanks moving toward Baghdad were assailed by Rocket Propelled Grenades (RPG). This situation highlighted a potential vulnerability to the Abram M1 fleet of tanks.

Based on this concern, ATC was requested to provide modifications to the tanks to remedy the potential vulnerability. ATC employees developed the Slat Armor System designed to address the issue. Because of their diligence and motivation, the modifications were completed in only three days. The efficiency demonstrated by ATC enabled the vulnerability to be rectified in less than ten days.

As the initial Stryker brigade prepared to enter combat in Iraq, ATC was again contacted requesting similar modifications to the Strykers, addressing a potential vulnerability to RPGs. These modifications were designed, prototyped and tested in under 10 days for mass production and fielding. Each Stryker was outfitted with this slat armor solution prior to entering combat in Iraq.

In the course of one year the Stryker Brigade Commander reported one hundred fifteen incidents of RPG attacks on Stryker vehicles. Because of the modification to the Slat Armor System, there have been no fatalities as a result of these RPG attacks.

Mr. Speaker, please join with me to acknowledge the exceptional work Aberdeen Test Center has done on the Abram M1s and Strykers. The elite attention and enthusiasm shown in this matter has saved the lives of many soldiers fighting the War on Terror.

RECOGNIZING BRIAN KIDWELL

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 2, 2005

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Brian Kidwell, son of Douglas and Teresa Kidwell. Brian will receive his Eagle Award on August 7, 2005 at a Court of Honor in Saint Joseph, MO.

Brian began his scouting career in 1995 as a Tiger Cub. In 1996, he joined Pack 218 and proceeded through the ranks of Bobcat, Wolf, Bear, and Webelo. While a Webelo, Brian earned all the activity badges and the Arrow of Light. He also received a Service Star for five years of active scouting and the God and me award.

Brian became a member of Troop 218 in 2000, where he earned the ranks of Tenderfoot, 2nd Class, 1st Class, Star, Life, and now Eagle. Brian received 27 merit badges, and served in numerous leadership positions including Librarian, Patrol Leader, Chaplain Aide, Troop Guide, and Junior Assistant Scout Master. He is also a Fire Builder in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say.

In June of 2003, Brian and his father Douglas went to Philmont Scout Ranch, where they earned the 50 Miler Award.

Aside from scouting, Brian is a lifetime resident of Country Club Village. He attended John Glenn Elementary School then Savannah Middle School. He is currently a junior at Savannah High School and has been involved in the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and FFA. He has been on High Honor Roll since 4th grade.

Brian is a member of Faith United Church, Hope Youth Group, and the Sons of the American Legion, which he joined through his late grandfather, Darryle Bartlett.

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

HONORING ELIZABETH KOSTER AS
SHE RECEIVES THE 2005 ATHENA
AWARD FROM THE POCONO
MOUNTAIN CHAMBER OF COM-
MERCE

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 2, 2005

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Elizabeth Koster, of Smithfield Township, Monroe County, PA, who was chosen by the Pocono Mountain Chamber of Commerce to receive its 2005 Athena Award.

Mrs. Koster is president and chief executive officer of Fitzmaurice Community Services, Inc., which has been serving the needs of special populations in the Pocono area for 30 years.

Founded by Mrs. Koster's mother, Johanna Fitzmaurice, in 1966, the business strives to create environments for persons with disabilities that support independence, productivity and