

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

inclusion through customized services provided by highly qualified staff personnel.

Mrs. Fitzmaurice died in 1978 but the organization she founded has grown over the years under the leadership and vision of her daughter, Mrs. Koster.

Mrs. Koster graduated from East Stroudsburg University after which she began her career as a teacher and then as an associate at her mother's company, rising to president and CEO following her mother's death.

Today, her company assists hundreds of persons with special needs so they can lead meaningful and productive lives by providing housing, education, recreation and medical services.

Mrs. Koster serves on the boards of directors of the Pocono Mountains Chamber of Commerce, Friends of Eastern Monroe Public Library, Leadership Pocono and the ESU Rehabilitation Services Advisory Council. She is a member of the Kiwanis Club of the Stroudsburgs, advisor for the Kiwanis AKTION Club of Stroudsburg and is past president of the Northeast Providers Association, the Pocono Providers Association and past vice chair of the Mental Retardation Committee for Pennsylvania Community providers Association.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mrs. Koster on this occasion. Athena award winners are chosen on the basis of their professional excellence and service to community. Clearly, Mrs. Koster demonstrates those qualities.

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF
MAYNARD W. "DOC" UNGER

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 Maynard W. "Doc" Unger of Lakewood, OH, upon his induction into the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame, Class of 2005.

Mr. Unger is 1 of 20 inductees selected by a 13-member executive committee comprised of veteran leaders from throughout Ohio. Mr. Unger's distinguished service during World War II reflected courage and spirit, and his inner strength and faith guided him through the darkest of times when he was held as a prisoner of war.

Mr. Unger's service to others has continued throughout his life. For 45 years, he volunteered his time to assist and support the youth of our community with the Boy Scouts of America organization. To show their gratitude for his outstanding service, the National Office of the Boy Scouts of America honored him with the International Scouter's Award. Mr. Unger also committed his time as a teacher with the public school program "Growing Healthy Together." For 13 years, he taught students basic health and safety facts, including the significance and long-term impact of healthy eating habits. His lifelong involvement in many civic and veteran organizations includes his tenure as the former State commander of the American Ex-Prisoners of War. He was re-elected to the position of State commander in 2005.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of Maynard W. "Doc"

Unger, upon his induction into the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame. Mr. Unger's lifelong service to his country, community and family enhances the lives of all of us and underscores the true meaning of the words United States citizen.

MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE
HEART SUPPORTS COMPREHENSIVE
ASSISTANCE FOR VET-
ERANS EXPOSED TO TRAUMATIC
STRESSORS ACT OF 2005, H.R. 1588

HON. LANE EVANS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 2, 2005

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, the Military Order of the Purple Heart, whose membership is comprised entirely of combat wounded veterans, fully supports H.R. 1588, which is a comprehensive approach to addressing the mental health needs of service members exposed to combat, including those members of our Armed Forces now serving in Iraq and Afghanistan.

A recent Army survey found that about 28 percent of Iraq veterans—about 50,000 servicemembers in this year alone—returned home with problems from lingering battle wounds to toothaches, from suicidal thoughts to strained marriages. Almost 1,700 servicemembers returning from the battlefield this year had thoughts of hurting themselves or that they would be better off dead. If left undiagnosed and untreated, post-traumatic stress disorder, PTSD, can lead to suicide.

Last year, the New England Journal of Medicine published research that found 15 to 17 percent of front-line troops suffered depression, anxiety or PTSD.

As the MOPH letter states, "We have learned from past wars that the injuries to military members do not stop on the battlefield but may manifest themselves months or years afterward. America must be there to help the healing process. H.R. 1588 would accomplish this goal."

I ask that the letter from the Military Order of the Purple Heart be included in the RECORD.

MILITARY ORDER OF THE
PURPLE HEART,

Springfield, VA, November 1, 2005.

HON. LANE EVANS,
*Rayburn House Office Building,
Washington, DC.*

DEAR CONGRESSMAN EVANS: On behalf of the membership of the Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH), whose membership is comprised entirely of combat wounded veterans, I write to pledge our unequivocal support of H.R. 1588 the "Comprehensive Assistance for Veterans Exposed to Traumatic Stressors Act of 2005".

At a time when our military men and women are engaged in the war on terrorism this act is most appropriate. We have learned from past wars that the injuries to military members do not stop on the battlefield but may manifest themselves months or years afterward. America must be there to help the healing process. H.R. 1588 would help accomplish this goal.

You may count on the MOPH in anyway possible to ensure that this legislation becomes law.

Respectfully,

JAMES D. RANGLES,
National Commander.

RECOGNIZING BURL AND JURLINE
BARKER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 2, 2005

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize two outstanding citizens of Missouri. Burl and Jurline Barker of Mount Vernon, MO celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on June 10, 2005.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in congratulating Mr. and Mrs. Barker. Burl and Jurline have set an outstanding example for all of us to follow. Their marriage of 60 years truly exemplifies the qualities of commitment and dedication.

CONGRATULATING JOHANNA WEAVER AS SHE IS NAMED "HUMANITARIAN OF THE YEAR" BY THE
POCONO MOUNTAINS CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 2, 2005

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Johanna Weaver, of Monroe County, PA, on the occasion of her being named "Humanitarian of the Year" by the Pocono Mountains Chamber of Commerce.

Mrs. Weaver served as executive director of Pocono Services for Families and Children for more than 33 years before her retirement last August.

Over the years, she has distinguished herself as a community leader, volunteer and mentor to children.

She has served the Monroe County Children and Youth Advisory Board, Habitat for Humanity Advisory Board, Drug and Alcohol Prevention Juvenile Task Force, Monroe County Job Center Task Force, League of Women Voters, United Way, Monroe County Association for the Education of Young Children, Welfare Reform Task Force, WNEP-TV Advisory Board, Kiwanis Clubs of the Stroudsburgs, Chamber of Commerce Executive Women's Council and the East Stroudsburg University Women's Center Advisory Board.

On a State and national level, she has served the Head Start program, the National Association for the Education of Young Children and the Pennsylvania Association of Child Care Administrators.

She has also served the East Stroudsburg School District's reading program and was a member of the district's Band, Football and Wrestling Parents Associations.

Mrs. Weaver is married to Michael Weaver, a retired professor from East Stroudsburg University. The couple has two children and three grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mrs. Weaver on the occasion of this honor. Her selfless commitment to family and community and, especially, to the welfare of children has enriched the greater Pocono Mountain region. Mrs. Weaver deserves our gratitude and appreciation.