

Mr. Speaker, education is the foundation upon which we reach our human potential. Students in my District are developing their talents, furthering their education and pursuing their aspirations in life through programs like the Academic All-Star program. Encouragement and recognition develop confidence and achievement among young Americans—the future leaders of our country.

The following students have been nominated for their academic excellence:

Griffin Blane, Gregory Kyle Rader, Ralph King Anderson IV, Kody Douglas Carpenter, Dianne Lisette Rousseau, Lauren Whitney Scott, Jennifer Renea Fowler, Samantha Joy White, Chad Darrel Brown, Casey Jo Calhoun, Bryan Hill, David Clayton Blake, Stephanie Leigh Huntsman, Danielle Diane Brown.

Matthew Wyn Lewis, Kristin Averitt Dickinson, Brittany Nichole Goodenough, Haylee Laura Lynne Ortiz, Drew Martin Swain, Sarah Christine Wilson, Marianne Wynn Lassiter, Amy Beth Shemwell, Brandon Bowron, Jerika Nashea Wilson, Melissa Nail, Kathryn Elizabeth Gill, Jonathan Christopher Bass, Zachary Daniel Ferguson, Erika Elaine MacMillan.

Ryan David Mullen, Andrew Christian Chiles, Barry Eli Knoblock, Paul Thomas Latham, Joshua Allen Fitzhugh, Sarah Christine Wilson, William Matthew Suiter, Amy Nicole Adams, Norman Bradley Fox, Juliana Elyse Patterson, Robert Kyle Whitaker, Pretesh Parmar, Nicholas Pickford Thompson, Dustin Glynn Kostalek, Ann Marie Crabtree,

Kellye Lynn Smiley, Meera Ramesh Patel, John Hayes Lester, Emily Scott, Sarah Beth Vied, Alicia Lynn Morris, Ashley Chewning, Brittany S. Hurt, Brittnee Collins, Chelsea Barnett, Corrinna M. Kinnard, Janelle Nichol Gilmer, Megan Gray, Sam Mitchell.

Sherry Cheatham, Wesley Croom, Bree Raquel Hokulani Goodwin, Brooke Davies, Elizabeth Settle, Emily Beatty, Kate Milani, Laura Beth Baggett, Morgan C. Murray, Sarah C. Hazelmyer, Shelley L. Traylor, Taylor Queen, Wendy A. Johnson, Andrew Landreth, Chelsea Musselman, Jacob Kyle Langston, Jonathan A. Chavez, Megan Jones.

Melissa Starks, Molly Ware Stuard, Nadeem Ramzi Haroun, Rachel Brown, Sarah Elaine Howell, Sarah Elizabeth Fields, Chelsea Rae Prince, Chris Kirkman, Erin Hamilton Oakley, George W. Barnes, Helen G. Crenshaw, Hunter Carroll, John Paul Bointott, Kalleb Anderson Greene, Kelsey Fish, Lindsay Elizabeth Gray, Shane Veteto.

Mr. Speaker, these students embody the spirit, commitment and sacrifice that we all should strive for in our daily lives. I am proud to represent them in my District. I extend my thanks to these students for their efforts, and I am proud to bring their accomplishments to the attention of this House.

ACKNOWLEDGING JASON CRAWFORTH'S CONTRIBUTION TO IDAHO

HON. C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER
OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. OTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to draw the attention of the House to an individual from my district whose initiative and vision might well be paying dividends in Idaho from years to come.

Through hard work and passion, Jason Crawforth gathered support from many medium and large technical institutions throughout my great state in support of a promotional effort in the Wall Street Journal on behalf of Idaho's outstanding business environment.

Companies such as Jason's own Treetop Tech, Micron Technology, Hewlett-Packard, Dell, and Extended Systems are just a few of America's top technology businesses that have chosen to locate large operations in Idaho over the years.

Anyone who spends even a short time in Idaho soon comes to realize the enormous potential of my State and its people, and the great benefits of doing business there.

From the low cost of living and absence of urban congestion to the overall quality of life, Idaho has a lot to offer the technology industry. Jason Crawforth is one of Idaho's greatest advocates, and leaders like him are among our most valuable assets. I hope the House will join me in acknowledging Jason's contribution.

FOR THE RELIEF OF THE PARENTS OF THERESA MARIE SCHIAVO

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, March 20, 2005

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, the heart-wrenching details of Ms. Terri Schiavo's case are well known to all of us. Her personal case, not to mention the family rift that has resulted, is certainly a tragedy and my heart goes out to Terri, her husband, parents, and loved ones who all are trying to do what they believe is best for Terri.

However, Mr. Speaker, this is an issue that should be determined by those very people. This is not a matter for Congress to decide. Unfortunately, since Terri's family has been unable to agree on the best course of action, they have had to undergo, and continue to undergo today, lengthy legal battles. While it is unfortunate, that is what our legal process is for, and it has repeatedly ruled in favor of Terri's husband. Bringing this bill to the floor of the House marks yet another example of the Congressional leadership's subversion of the judicial process. Anytime the leadership disagrees with a ruling by a court, they strip its power. This is not the way these matters should be handled. It is not only subversion of the legal process, but of the Constitution of the United States of America.

In fact, in a 1990 case before the Supreme Court that pertained to some of the very same issues of the Schiavo case, Justice Antonin Scalia, one of the most conservative justices on the court, stated that he wished that the Supreme Court had stated, "clearly and promptly, that the federal courts have no business in this field." He went on further to say, "the point at which life becomes 'worthless' and the point at which the means necessary to preserve it become 'extraordinary' or 'inappropriate' are neither set forth in the Constitution nor known to the nine justices of this court any better than they are known to nine people picked at random from the Kansas City telephone directory."

Justice Scalia's statement highlights both the difficult nature of the issues involved, as well as his clear belief that matters such as these have no business in the federal courts. This is a highly private issue, and though it is unfortunate that Terri's family was forced to go to the courts, it should remain at the state level.

Congress should not have interfered by passing S. 686. It represents a gross overreach of Congressional power into a highly private issue. An issue, Mr. Speaker, that is at root between Mr. Schiavo and his wife Terri, and on the immediate periphery, between Mr. Schiavo and the Schindlers. It is amazing that some have chosen to play politics with this tragic family situation. My prayers are with the entire family, especially now that Terri has passed away.

This case does highlight, however, the need for individuals to make their personal and private health care decisions and embody them in a living will. At the very least, family members should have the comfort of knowing they're doing what their loved ones would have wanted. One of the best things that can emerge from this heartbreaking case will be an increase in families discussing and creating living wills.

Finally, I regret that I was unable to return in time for the debate and vote on S. 686. Once I received official notice of a recorded vote, it was impossible for me to arrive in Washington, DC in time for consideration of this measure. That being said Mr. Speaker, I rise now to state for the record that I would have voted against S. 686.

TRIBUTE TO MASTER SGT MICHAEL T. HIESTER

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, it is written if you owe debts, pay debts; if honor, then honor; if respect, then respect.

I rise humbly today to pay a debt of honor and respect to Army National Guard Master Sergeant Mike Hiester of Bluffton, Indiana.

As I saw firsthand last December at Camp Phoenix in Kabul, Afghanistan, Hoosiers have made an extraordinary difference for freedom in Operation Enduring Freedom, and Master Sergeant Mike Hiester was a leader of men in that place. His military awards include the Bronze Star Medal (posthumous), Purple Heart (posthumous), two Meritorious Service Medals, four Army Commendation Medals, two Army Achievement Medals, four Good Conduct Medals, three Reserve Components Achievement Medals, two National Defense Service Medals, Global War on Terrorism expeditionary and Service Medals, Armed Forced Reserve Medal with M device and Bronze Hour Glass device, NATO Medal, NCO Professional Development Ribbon with "3" device, Order of St. George, Pathfinder Badge, Combat Infantryman Badge (posthumous) and the German armed forces Schutzenschnur. His state awards include the Indiana Long Service Medal (2nd award), Indiana Overseas Service Ribbon, and Indiana Outside Continental United States Ribbon (2nd award).

On March 26, 2005, Mike lost his life while fighting to defend America in Afghanistan. His military vehicle, with the 76th Infantry Brigade, Army National Guard, Indianapolis, struck a land mine 30 miles west of Kabul, Afghanistan claiming his life and the lives of three other Indiana Army National Guard.

At his home in Bluffton, Indiana he was known as a loving husband and father. He was a member of the Bluffton Fire Department and he will not soon be forgotten by this grieving community of Bluffton, which will say goodbye to him this week. According to his wife Dawn, "Mike very much believed in the cause for which he gave his life. His entire family and friends have supported him in his endeavors."

I rise to offer my deepest condolences to his wife, Dawn; his two children, Emily and Adam; his parents Thomas and Kay Hiester; his two sisters, Megan and Michele; his nephews Casey, Jesse, Kyle and Jared; his niece Carley; and all those across northeastern Indiana and all of our state who cherish the memory of this hero.

Master Sergeant Michael Hiester is a hero, whose service and sacrifice bolstered the hopes of millions of Americans and Afghans. The memory of his sacrifice and service will forever be emblazoned on the hearts of two grateful nations.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I voted in favor of H. Con. Res. 18 and H. Con. Res. 32.

Mr. Speaker, I agree with the sentiments that these resolutions advance. There is no doubt that there must be an end to brutal human rights violations against the Syrian people and that a Syrian-occupied Lebanon poses a threat to the stability of the Middle East.

However, Mr. Speaker, I am firm in my belief that we must find a peaceful, nonmilitary solution to foster peace in the Middle East.

These resolutions, while overwhelmingly approved by the House, must not be cited as tacit approval for any future preemptive military action against Syria.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

HON. ED CASE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, I wish today to express my unqualified support for House Resolution 55, reprinted below and of which I am a proud cosponsor, recognizing the 100th anniversary of Rotary International, and in doing so to acknowledge the truly inspiring work of generations and millions of Rotarians over the last century.

Mr. Speaker, can there be a better example of selfless public service than that of Rotary International? From humble beginnings in Chi-

cago in 1905, the world's first service club now claims 1.2 million Rotarians in some 31,000 Rotary clubs in 166 countries. And it has found a special home in my own great State of Hawaii, with 41 clubs operating in all four counties, from Hanalei Bay to Hilo Bay.

The secret of Rotary International's success is that it evokes our innermost desire to give back to our worldwide community, as captured in its motto: Service Above Self. Its now famous Four-Way Test—Is it the truth? Is it fair to all concerned? Will it build goodwill and better friendships? Will it be beneficial to all concerned?—is a lighthouse not only for its own efforts but for those of all of us.

One hundred years of individual, community, statewide and countrywide projects have solidified Rotary International's reputation and collectively earned it widespread recognition. But no project better exemplifies the spirit, success and potential of Rotary International than PolioPlus, its partnership with the World Health Organization, United Nations Children's Fund, and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to eradicate the scourge of polio from the face of our earth.

Most of us of adult age in our country remember the polio scares and tragedies of decades past, but we do not regard polio as a credible threat to our own children due to widespread immunization and other advances. That is not true universally: polio still exists and strikes randomly, especially in South Asia and Africa.

In 1985, Rotary International undertook a truly breathtaking endeavor: to eliminate polio through universal immunization. And with its partners in the U.S. Agency for International Development's Polio Eradication Initiative—and funding from many governments including \$260 million since 1996 of our own—it has brought polio to its knees: 1988's 350,000 cases internationally are today's couple hundred.

But we all know that the last few steps of any marathon are often the hardest, and so it is with polio. I certainly saw the challenges in my trip last year to Afghanistan—one of just six countries where polio is still endemic—where the challenges in simply reaching some of the most remote and isolated communities in our world are staggering.

Yet with the end so near Rotary International's efforts have been redoubled, and I want to tell you about just one inspiring contribution: that of Rotarian Bob "Motorcycle Bob" Mutchler and his wife, Patti. For the last seven years Bob, himself a victim of polio, and Patti have undertaken several marathon motorcycle rides across our country and world to highlight PolioPlus and raise funds for polio's endgame.

Bob and Patti recently kicked off their last PolioPlus Ride, the "Centennial Ride", in our Hawaii, aiming to cover all fifty states ending in Alaska this summer. On Tuesday, March 15th, they and local Rotarians and other well-wishers started their engines in my hometown of Hilo and set off on the first leg of their latest adventure, a trip around my Big Island, followed by rides around Maui and Kauai and capped by a journey around Oahu on Saturday, March 26th, which I was honored to start. They're now off riding the Mainland, taking our aloha with them; you can follow their journey at www.polioplusride.org. where Patti's keeping a journal.

Bob and Patti Mutchler exemplify the spirit of Rotary International, as did Mike Nelson,

President of the Rotary Club of Volcano on the Island of Hawaii. Mike embraced the Mutchlers' efforts and chaired their Centennial Ride in Hawaii. Tragically, he lost his life in an auto accident on February 23rd; the ride was dedicated to him, and we remember him with the deepest appreciation and admiration as representing the true essence of Rotary.

Mr. Speaker, what an incredible century Rotary International has had, epitomizing the very best of our country, our world and our human race. We pause, in House Resolution 55, for a brief moment to recognize and honor Rotary's achievements, but I know that Rotarians everywhere, while appreciating our actions on behalf of all of our citizens, would have us move beyond as soon as possible to the remaining and urgent tasks at hand.

Mahalo, and aloha!

TRIBUTE TO SAUL STERN

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to Saul Stern who will receive the Project Interchange Am Yisrael Chai Award on May 25, 2005. Saul Stern has worked tirelessly on behalf of Project Interchange to provide American political and civic leaders with a first-hand look at the vibrant democracy of Israel. His efforts have increased the understanding of many American leaders of the special bond shared by the United States and the State of Israel.

Saul has made involvement with international, national and local Jewish and secular communal affairs a lifetime commitment. Over the years, Saul has accompanied many political and military leaders to Israel to help educate them about the complex issues affecting Israel. A passionate supporter of Project Interchange, he believes that the most effective way to help people understand the value of the U.S.-Israeli relationship is by becoming a true eyewitness to life in Israel.

I hope my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives will join me in saluting Saul Stern for his commitment and dedication to fostering understanding between the United States and Israel.

FREEDOM FOR RICARDO SILVA GUAL

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about Ricardo Silva Gual, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Dr. Silva Gual is a Medical Doctor and member of the Christian Liberation Movement. He believes that the men and women of Cuba deserve freedom, democracy, and basic human rights. Dr. Silva Gual is dedicated to bringing liberty to Cuba and ending the nightmare that is the Castro regime.

Because of his belief in the non-negotiable rights of all people to freedom, democracy and