

With the capture of Al-Qaeda's number three man, Abu Farraj al-Libbi, last week, we are closing in faster and stronger than ever in the Waziristan region of Pakistan. We need to provide our State Department and intelligence officials with all the possible tools to aid in the capture of the world's number one terrorist. The Terrorist Rewards Enhancement Act will provide one more of these tools.

RECOGNIZING FLINT/GENESEE COUNTY NEIGHBORHOOD ROUNDTABLE

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2005

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I am happy to stand before you today to recognize the Flint/Genesee County Neighborhood Roundtable, a group of men and women committed to improving the quality of life for residents of my hometown, Flint, Michigan, and Genesee County. On Saturday, May 14, civic and community leaders will join the Roundtable to honor fallen neighborhood leaders James Dover II, Melvin McFadden, Adele Smith, C.J. Beasley, Virginia Brown, Genevieve Donnelly, and Guy Rogers.

The Flint/Genesee County Neighborhood Roundtable was formed in 1995, the result of a state initiative known as Communities First. The goal of Communities First was to bring together neighborhood groups and organizations working to improve their areas, providing networking opportunities and the chance to share thoughts, ideas, and strategies toward making their towns a safer and better place in which to live.

In its 10 years, the Roundtable, in conjunction with the University of Michigan-Flint Outreach, the Neighborhood Violence Prevention Collaborative, the Community Foundation of Greater Flint, and the Community Coalition, facilitated the Technical Assistance Training Institute, where future community leaders were trained in coalition building, grant writing, and other subjects designed to strengthen their skills. Many of the Institute's graduates can now be found working with the Roundtable and the Neighborhood Violence Prevention Collaborative, helping others identify potential grants and assisting with many neighborhood projects.

Other partnerships the Roundtable has established have addressed issues including health, youth violence, race relations, and the environment, among many others, and its members can frequently be found on the boards of local and state organizations. In addition, the Roundtable serves as a member of the Prevention Research Center of Michigan's Community Advisory Committee.

Mr. Speaker, as a Member of Congress, I consider it my duty and my privilege to work to promote, protect, defend, and enhance human dignity. I am pleased that the efforts of the Flint/Genesee County Neighborhood Roundtable make this task easier. Their mission to provide training and share information to enable residents to empower themselves, and to develop strong neighborhoods and form partnerships to be a collective voice and positive force in our community will improve Flint and Genesee County for years to come.

I ask my colleagues to please join me acknowledging their success.

IN RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

HON. JOHN T. SALAZAR

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2005

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of National Police Week and the thousands of police officers who serve our communities. A life of public service is not always an easy path, and so I thank the officers and their families who sacrifice so much to keep us safe. Just the other day, James Billings, the Chief of Police for the City of Pueblo in my district, visited the office to discuss crime and drug issues, including recent developments involving the Community Oriented Policing Services, COPS, program. His visit underscored to me the importance of those who work in law enforcement and the difficulties they face each and every day.

To that end, we should take the time to recognize and thank those who work so diligently to protect our families. It is not enough though to simply thank them; it is important that we continue to ensure funding and other necessary support is available for these brave men and women so they might do their jobs unimpaired.

This is why I strongly support the COPS program and urge the congressional leadership to increase, not cut, its funding level. COPS is designed to help police departments hire the officers they need to keep our streets safe, to purchase the equipment so crucial to their work, and to help ensure these stations can pay the overtime and build the support systems they need to allow their officers to do the jobs they carry out so nobly. Funding cuts to the program are unacceptable—a decrease in COPS funding means a decrease in the number of officers on the streets of our communities.

For that very reason, I am also a co-sponsor of a resolution calling for the creation of a Peace Officer's Memorial Day, which would honor those officers killed or disabled in the line of duty. I believe one of our greatest duties is to keep our communities, and our families, safe. Giving police officers the support they need and the recognition they deserve is one of the best ways to serve those we represent.

RECOGNIZING THE ARTISTIC TALENTS OF LINDSAY KILROY

HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2005

Mr. DOYLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the tremendous artistic ability of a young woman from my Congressional District, Lindsay Kilroy of Woodland Hills High School. Lindsay is the winner in the 2005 14th Congressional District of Pennsylvania's High School Art Competition, "An Artistic Discovery."

Lindsay's piece, entitled, "Self Portrait Reflection," is an impressive portrait in acrylic paint of a young woman's face.

Lindsay's artwork was selected from a number of outstanding entries to this year's competition. I am certain that her family is proud of her artistic talents as well as this accomplishment.

It gives me great pride and pleasure that Lindsay's painting will be representing the 14th Congressional District of Pennsylvania in the national exhibit of high school students' artwork that will be set up in the United States Capitol in the coming weeks. The winners of the Congressional Art Competitions held in each Congressional District will be displayed in that exhibit.

I encourage my colleagues as well as any visitor to Capitol Hill to view Lindsay's artwork, along with all of the other winning artwork that will be on display throughout the next year. It is truly amazing to walk through this corridor and see the interpretation of life through the eyes of these young artists from all across our country.

I would also like to recognize all the other participants in this year's 14th Congressional District High School Art Competition, "An Artistic Discovery." I would like to thank these impressive young artists for allowing us to share and celebrate their talents, imagination, and creativity. The efforts of these students in expressing themselves in a powerful and positive manner are no less than spectacular.

I hope that all of these individuals continue to utilize their artistic talents, and I wish them all the best of luck in their future endeavors.

A TRIBUTE TO MR. JOSEPH B. BLAKE OF DENVER, COLORADO

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2005

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Joseph B. Blake of Denver, Colorado, for his commitment to entrepreneurship, economic development, education and improving the quality of life in one of America's fastest growing communities—Denver, Colorado.

Modern achievement in the West involves two credos: hard work and public service. The ethic of hard work has driven our economy since the early discovery of gold, and the ethic of public service—helping neighbors build a barn or establish a hospital—is what has made our communities thrive. In Colorado, there are few individuals who embody the values of hard work and public service as does Joe Blake.

Since 1999, Joe Blake has held the position of President and CEO of the Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber represents over 3,000 businesses and over 300,000 employees in the Denver metropolitan area. This position gives Joe a vital leadership role in the economic direction of the State of Colorado. When he first arrived as head of the Chamber, Joe brought new and innovative ideas with him. He spearheaded a program to educate corporate leaders from around the country about the favorable business atmosphere of the Denver region. Joe Blake's work helped create an economic expansion in Colorado that defined the "Tech Boom" of the late

1990s and early 2000s. The Chamber continues to promote economic vitality in the Denver region by encouraging personal networking opportunities and entrepreneurial training.

Joe has been a particularly strong voice in bringing needed vision to the Denver metro area's enormous transportation needs. Just as civic leaders in the past brought stagecoach lines and railroads to connect the people of the West, Joe has brought his considerable talents to the task of improving our highways and transportation systems in the Rocky Mountain region. Joe has not been a prisoner of old ways of thinking about transportation, but has embraced 21st century visions of better ways to move people and goods in our communities.

His desire to serve Colorado and its people has not only manifested itself in his professional life. Joe serves on the board of the Denver Foundation, an organization dedicated to charity and civic improvement. Joe also serves on the boards of the Denver Zoological Foundation and the Denver Public Schools Foundation. And if his plate was not full enough, he also volunteers for the Hospice of St. John Foundation.

Among the qualities I admire most in Joe Blake, however, is his ability to get things done in ways that bring people together instead of dividing on ideological or partisan lines. Although Joe has a long history of involvement with the Republican Party, he has never allowed partisanship to inhibit good public works. In large part, I believe Joe's success with people is a direct reflection of his reputation for decency, genuineness and personal warmth. In short, he is a uniter and not a divider and that is why I enjoy working with him and learning from him.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commanding Mr. Joe Blake for the positive impact he has had on the West and in Colorado, through his leadership at the Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce and in so many other ways. Joe Blake is a pioneer in the best tradition of our history.

CONGRATULATING HON. JOSEPH J. CORCORAN ON THE OCCASION OF BEING HONORED AS RECIPIENT OF THE 53RD ANNUAL AMERICANISM AWARD BY B'NAI B'RITH AMOS LODGE NO. 136, SCRANTON, PA

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2005

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to the Honorable Joseph J. Corcoran, former Lackawanna County Pennsylvania Commissioner, who is being presented with the 53rd annual Americanism Award by B'nai B'rith, Amos Lodge No. 36.

Mr. Corcoran's 28 years of public service to the people in Lackawanna County have produced an array of positive improvements to the quality of life in that region. Mr. Corcoran has been a leader in economic development, transportation planning, historic and architectural preservation, tourism and culture, care

for the elderly and abused, library growth, family entertainment and environmental protection.

Although I am relatively new to representing Lackawanna County, I have worked closely with Joe Corcoran on some of his projects but have seen the results of many of his projects firsthand.

Joe always saw the big picture and his body of work reflected the values and work ethic of his constituency. He remained steadfast in his focus on long-range planning and leveraging local dollars with private, state and federal funding.

A native of Scranton, Joe earned an associate degree in business administration from Lackawanna College and a bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of Scranton.

In 1975, at the age of 24, he was elected as the youngest ever Scranton controller, serving two terms. In 1984, he became Lackawanna County majority commissioner, serving five terms, until 2004.

In reviewing his accomplishments, he implemented the first-ever annual audit by national "Big 8" accounting firms which upgraded Lackawanna County's municipal bond rating. He created the County Railroad Authority, Multi-Purpose Stadium Authority, Solid Waste Management Authority, Performing Arts Center Authority and Heritage Valley Authority.

He funded the start-up of the Steamtown National Historic Site; constructed a dedicated children's library in downtown Scranton and new libraries in the Abingtons, Carbondale and Mid-Valley; directed the opening of the Lackawanna Coal Mine Tour, Lackawanna Valley Railway, Lackawanna County Recycling Center, Lackawanna County Visitor center and Lackawanna Trolley Museum. He also revived the 1905 Laurel Line Tunnel Electric Trolley Excursion and the Lackawanna Stadium on Ice.

He championed the restoration of Court House Square, the Koch-Conley Building, the PG&W Building on Jefferson Avenue and the Adams Avenue County Administration Building. He managed the rescue of the Montage Mountain Ski Resort and development and operation of the Montage Performing Arts Center. He oversaw the development and financing for both the \$35 million Lackawanna County Prison and the \$8 million, 68-bed, Alzheimer's Wing at the Lackawanna County Health Care Center.

He chaired the Wilkes-Barre Scranton International Airport Board of Control and helped develop the master plan and financing program for the current \$65 million capital expansion underway at the airport. He implemented the region's first Tax Incremental Financing to fund construction of Glenaura Corporate Center and to facilitate the Fleet Pennsylvania Services relocation on Montage Mountain.

Mr. Corcoran recognized the future transportation needs of our region when he helped keep intact the rail connections between Lackawanna and Monroe counties for the eventual future resumption of rail passenger service between Scranton and Hoboken, NJ. But his most distinguished achievement is his key role in the funding and construction of the \$25 million Lackawanna County Stadium and the acquisition of the area's Triple A Baseball team, the Scranton/Wilkes-Barre Red Barons.

Mr. Corcoran is the son of the late John J. and Lucille M. Dougher Corcoran. He resides

in his family neighborhood in Scranton with his wife, the former Jean Gallagher, and their son, Jack, a student at the University of Scranton.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mr. Corcoran, one of the finest public officials I have ever had the pleasure of working with, on this proud occasion. The Lackawanna County community is far better off today because of the remarkable service record of Joseph J. Corcoran.

TRIBUTE TO MR. WALLACE
EDGEcombe

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2005

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Wallace I. Edgecombe for over 30 years of service to Hostos Community College in the Bronx. On Thursday, May 12, 2005, Hostos will honor Wally with a celebration that will also serve to raise funds for students who wish to study the Arts at Hostos.

In 1982, Wally oversaw the founding of Hostos' Culture and Arts Program, of which he became director. Twelve years later the Center for the Arts and Culture was constructed and under Wally's leadership the Center has become one of the premier multi-arts centers in the New York metropolitan area, presenting a virtual who's who of visual and performing artists of color. Now one of the pre-eminent Latino arts centers in the nation, the Hostos Center has presented and/or commissioned works by such internationally known musicians as Tito Puente, Celia Cruz, Orquesta Aragon, Ruben Blades and Dizzy Gillespie.

Born and raised in Havana, Cuba, Wally holds a Bachelor's degree in History and Master's degree in Journalism from Columbia University. He has served as a panelist and site evaluator for the National Endowment for the Arts, the New York State Council on the Arts, the Lila Wallace-Readers Digest Arts Partners Program, and the Rockefeller Foundation. Wally has also served on the boards of the Museums of Contemporary Hispanic Art, the Bronx Council on the Arts, the Bronx Arts Ensemble, and the South Bronx Community Action Theatre.

Mr. Speaker, what makes Wally so special is his commitment to ensuring that the students of Hostos and the entire Bronx community are able to experience the beauty and richness of the Arts. I am thankful to Wally for helping to brighten the lives of so many of my constituents and I hope he continues his commendable work in the heart of the South Bronx.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring a great man and a dear friend of mine, Mr. Wallace I. Edgecombe.

HAPPY 40TH BIRTHDAY TO MR.
PAUL ARTHUR RZEPECKI

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2005

Mr. McCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, I warily rise today to reluctantly acknowledge Mr. Paul Arthur Rzepecki on the unexpected occurrence of his 40th birthday.