

Mr. Speaker, today it is my privilege to thank Beth Ashley for what she has given to us and to join with thousands of others in wishing her a happy 80th birthday.

HONORING THE CONSECRATION OF
ELIZABETH CHAPEL UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2006

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is with tremendous joy and celebration that I rise today to honor the consecration of the Elizabeth Chapel United Methodist Church in Chumuckla, FL, where my wife Vicki and I have been members since 2001.

Elizabeth Chapel has been a home for me; a place of solace where I can go to be closer to God and get back in tune with what is really important in my life. Likewise, the church family has acted as a true family to my wife and me, continuously offering us their support, encouragement, and kindness.

Elizabeth Chapel United Methodist Church has served a vital role in the community of Chumuckla since 1937. Originating from the marriage of two smaller churches in the late 1930s, the church has remained a quaint group of adamant believers whose moral fiber and strength is unwavering.

On September 16, 2004, Hurricane Ivan tore through the area, leaving damage, destruction, and heartbreak in its wake. The hurricane left the church building irreparable and it was soon leveled to begin new construction. Though many members of the congregation lost their homes or had significant damage to their own property in the storm, in the week that followed the hurricane, members of the church and others in the community came together descending on the church grounds to help FEMA distribute over 60,000 MRE's as well as ice and water to those in need.

In the months that followed with the glorification of God's work in their hearts, the community, congregation and other churches in the surrounding area came together to begin rebuilding Elizabeth Chapel. It has been nearly two years since Ivan devastated the Gulf Coast, and the reconstruction is complete. On Sunday, June 10, 2006, I will join in the fellowship and celebration of the consecration of the Elizabeth Chapel United Methodist Church.

Mr. Speaker, I truly represent an incredible group of people. It warms my heart that the community, congregation, and other churches have come together, through the hardships and heartache that have been prevalent since hurricane Ivan, to once again provide a house of worship to the amazingly resilient members of Elizabeth Chapel United Methodist Church.

RECOGNIZING KYLE AUSTIN
SPANGLER FOR ACHIEVING THE
RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Kyle Austin Spangler, a very spe-

cial young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 314, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Kyle has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Kyle has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

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

IN MEMORY OF REVEREND B.J.
JACKSON

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2006

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Reverend Brisco James "B.J." Jackson of Crossett, Arkansas. Reverend Jackson dedicated his life to serving others through ministry. He passed on an enduring legacy with his strong leadership, vision, and concern for others. Reverend Jackson passed away on Saturday, May 6, 2006 at the age of 83.

Rev. Jackson was born in Shelton, LA to James and Mittie Jackson and raised in Oak Ridge, LA, by his grandmother, Maggie Lewis. In 1943 he moved to Crossett, where he was employed by Crossett Lumber Co. Throughout his impressive career, Rev. Jackson joined New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church, where he served on the usher and deacon boards. He became a minister in 1949 and served as pastor at Ivory Chapel Baptist Church in Bastrop, LA, Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Monroe, LA, Rose Hill Baptist Church in Dermott, and Holly Springs Baptist Church in Pine Hill. In 1950, he became pastor of New Bethel and became full-time pastor in 1966.

Rev. Jackson's commitment went far beyond his activities as pastor; he was passionate about giving back through other community service as well. In addition to serving as pastor of New Bethel, he was moderator of the Southeast District Baptist Association for 29 years, second vice president of the Regular Arkansas Baptist Association, and instructor of the ministers' seminar in the association for over 20 years. Reverend Jackson was also president of the Williams Daycare Center board of directors, a 32nd degree Mason, a member of Exodus Lodge 403 of Crossett and Scottish Rites Angerona Lodge 78 in Pine Bluff, and a member of Eastern Star of Silver Star Lodge 306 in Crossett.

A man of great character, he returned to high school at the age of 31 and graduated from T. W. Daniel in 1959. He was also a graduate of United Theological Seminary in Monroe.

While Rev. Jackson may no longer be with us, his spirit and legacy will live on forever in the lives he touched. My heartfelt condolences go out to his wife of 62 years, Sallie Lee Jackson; their daughters Hazel Hill, Betty Levy, Bobbie Hendrix and husband John; their son Charles Jackson and wife Mary; his sister

Leola Coleman; his fifteen grandchildren; twenty-eight great-grandchildren, and three great-great-grandchildren.

TRIBUTE TO JOSEPH VERDU

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2006

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Joseph Verdu, a man who was loved and admired by many people in my hometown of Petaluma, California. Joe passed away on November 5, 2003, at the age of 69. On May 20, 2006, friends and family gathered for the dedication and renaming of McDowell Field to the Joseph F. Verdu Athletic Field.

Joe deserved this honor. He was active in youth sports in Petaluma, inspiring many young people with his warmth and commitment. He helped organize the Petaluma Youth Soccer League and served as its president for three years. He was also vice president of the California Youth Soccer Association for two years and on the board of the Petaluma Valley Little League. The City honored him with a Community Recognition Award in 1978 and the State of California with the Parks and Recreation Department Outstanding Service Award in 1979.

Born in San Francisco in 1934, Joe graduated from Lowell High School, attended UC Berkeley, and served in the United States Air Force from 1954–1958. He married his sweetheart Sylvia Magnani in 1957. The couple lived in Santa Clara until his job with Kimberly-Clark brought him to Petaluma in 1970.

Joe is survived by his wife Sylvia and their eight sons: Joseph, William, Stephen, Thomas, Mark, David, Paul, and Michael. When he died, he had 16 grandchildren; now there are 17.

Mr. Speaker, Sylvia describes her husband as "a wonderful family man" with a "magnetic personality that made him popular with everyone who knew him." I know that description rings true for me and my family. We miss Joseph Verdu's humor and spirit, and I am proud to honor him for his service to the youth of Petaluma.

MINE IMPROVEMENT AND NEW
EMERGENCY RESPONSE ACT OF
2006

SPEECH OF

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 2006

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 2803, the Mine Improvement and New Emergency Response (MINER) Act of 2006, to provide important Federal safety regulations for coal mines.

The number of coal miners who have died so far this year is alarming and has highlighted the pressing need to revise coal miner health safety standards to ensure miners are equipped with state of the art technologies, tracking devices, and sufficient emergency supplies of oxygen.

Our current Federal mine safety regulations are outdated. We need to act now to protect

the health and safety of our coal miners from future tragedies and enact stiffer penalties for flagrant violations of the law. Further, regulations must be enforced. I have cosponsored Representative MILLER's bill, H.R. 5389, the Protecting America's Miners Act, to improve mine safety regulations to help protect miners in the event of an emergency.

The bill before the House today, S. 2803, while not perfect, includes many important provisions to help save lives. The measure is a step in the right direction and is only the beginning of more mine safety reforms to be considered in the House to ensure our mine workers have the safest measures in place.

I represent southwestern and southern Illinois, a region with a rich coal mining history. Coal mining has played a significant roll in transforming and developing the region since the mid-1800s when substantial coal mining in Illinois began. In 2006, the coal industry continues to be a vital component of our economy, and one we are working to strengthen for the future. Improving mine safety standards is an important part of this process began in Illinois, West Virginia, and other coal producing States. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support S. 2803 to affirm our commitment to the hard working men and women who enter coal mines every day.

RECOGNIZING TREVOR DON ROTH
FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF
EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Trevor Don Roth, 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 314, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Trevor has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Trevor has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

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

IN RECOGNITION OF CHARRE TODD

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2006

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Charre Todd of Crossett, Arkansas who was recently awarded the 2005 Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. This award is the Nation's highest honor for teaching in the fields of math and science.

This annual presidential award was established by Congress in 1983. It provides special recognition to outstanding educators in the

fields of mathematics and science for all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Territories, and the U.S. Department of Defense Schools.

I have always held education in the highest regard. As parents, educators, and public officials, we have an obligation, a moral duty, to ensure that students, from pre-school to high school and beyond receive the highest quality education possible. By properly educating our students and providing them with the tools they need in order to become successful adults, they will thrive in today's fast-paced and technological world.

The most important component to our children's education is our teachers. Today, more than ever, our educators face new obstacles and challenges. As the son of public school educators, I have a deep respect and gratitude for all educators and their personal commitment to our children.

America is deeply indebted to top-notch educators, such as Charre Todd, for their continued excellence in the classroom and commitment to our students. Today's teachers shape the very foundation of America's future. I am honored to recognize Mrs. Todd for her outstanding work, and extend my sincere gratitude for her dedication to educating our young people. Mrs. Todd is an inspiration to us all, and I consider it a privilege to serve as her United States Congressman in the House of Representatives.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2006

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, due to illness, I was not present in the Chamber to cast my vote on rollcalls 227 through 234 on Wednesday, June 7.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcalls 229, 230, 231, 233, and 234.

I would have voted "nay" on rollcalls 227, 228, and 232.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF
WORLD WAR II NAVAJO CODE
TALKER, ROBERT YAZZIE

HON. JIM COOPER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2006

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Robert Yazzie, a remarkable American who served his Nation with great courage and honor as a code talker during World War II. We lost a great Tennessean, veteran and patriot when Mr. Yazzie passed away on Memorial Day—Monday, May 31, 2006—at the age of 81.

Robert H. Yazzie was born on June 1, 1924 in Arizona and grew up in an Episcopal orphanage on a Navajo Indian reservation. At the age of 17, he enlisted in the Marines to serve as a code talker in World War II. Yazzie and the other code talkers developed a code based on their native language for military communications in battles with Japan. They used the code in telephone and radio mes-

sages to transmit commands, tactics and troop movements. The Navajo code was used in every Marine assault in the Pacific and played a large role in the U.S. victories at Guadalcanal, Peleliu, Iwo Jima and other major battles in the Pacific between 1942 and 1945. It was never once decoded by the Japanese.

After the war, Mr. Yazzie was discharged as a Private First Class in 1945. He married Carrie A. Yazzie of Gainsboro, TN and moved to Nashville in the early 1950's. He raised a family while earning an honest living as a welder. Mr. Yazzie battled diabetes for the last 35 years of his life and suffered heart problems and a blood infection. He passed away peacefully at his home in Madison, TN.

Mr. Yazzie was always very humble about his contributions to the war effort, "We just sent messages," he said in 2003. "We were sending codes on the radio, and we would just talk on the radio using my language."

Because the code talkers were considered such valuable assets to the military after the war, they never received public recognition for their contributions in the Pacific. Finally, in 1992, Mr. Yazzie was among 35 Navajo code talkers to receive official recognition for their service from the Pentagon outside of Washington, D.C. In addition, I had the great honor of awarding Mr. Yazzie a Congressional Silver Medal for Distinguished Service at a special ceremony in Nashville on July 4, 2003.

I am proud to salute the remarkable life and contributions of Mr. Robert Yazzie and his legacy of courage and patriotism that will live on. On behalf of the Fifth District of Tennessee, I offer my most sincere condolences to his family—Bruce M. Yazzie, Martha Prater, Marjorie Lowe, Charlie Burris and Harvey Lee Burris—and the loved ones he leaves behind.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, May 22, 2006 I was unavoidably delayed and thus missed rollcall votes Nos. 177 and 178. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on both votes.

TRIBUTE TO JACK AND EVON
KECK

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2006

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jack and Evon Keck who recently pledged \$1 Million to assist in the funding of Silver Cross Hospital's Emergency Department expansion. Jack and Evon Keck are constituents in my 11th Congressional District.

The newly expanded Silver Cross Emergency Department will have the capacity to care for 60,000 patients annually. A new waiting area will also be added for children, with amenities like video games, flat screen TVs with VCR/DVDs and an aquarium that will catch the attention of the children and make the wait a little bit easier for parents.