

in developing the strong sense of history and community that are important to the educational mission of 4-H.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Harry Broermann, one of Missouri's finest citizens. Harry's commitment to the community is remarkable, and I am honored to represent him in the United States Congress.

IN HONOR OF STATE REPRESENTATIVE GERALD A. BUCKWORTH

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 21, 2006

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to pay tribute to State Representative Gerald A. Buckworth, who after 26 years of service in the State House has chosen not to seek another term in office. Throughout his political, professional, and private life, he has tirelessly worked to better the Delaware community.

In addition to raising four children, and six grandchildren, with his wife Vicki, he served as a teacher, principal, and coach in the Caesar Rodney School District for more than 30 years. His extensive involvement in the Delaware public school system made him one of the General Assembly's foremost authorities on public education. His dedication to helping Delaware youth has eased the transition to adulthood for many young Delawareans. He is a key supporter of the State Police Cadets, a program in which college students learn skills in preparation for careers in law enforcement. Without a doubt, one of his top priorities has always been encouraging children to realize their goals.

As his thirteen consecutive terms in office demonstrate, he has been a prominent and well-respected member of the Delaware General Assembly. In addition to serving 5 years as the Majority Whip, he also served on multiple committees including: appropriations, corrections, joint finance, labor, public safety, and tourism. Additionally, he chaired the Family Law Commission, a General Assembly organization that examines family court proceedings in an effort to make recommendations for improvement.

I congratulate and thank State Rep. Gerald Buckworth for his valuable contributions and many years of admirable service to the State of Delaware. I am sure that as he begins to spend more time with his family and enjoy retirement, that he will remain an active and influential member of the community. Thank you, for all you have done and continue to do for the people of our State.

TRIBUTE TO THE MEMORY AND LIFE OF CON CASSIDY, DEDICATED COMMUNITY LEADER

HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 21, 2006

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, there are few among us who have given more of themselves to making the world a better

place than Con Cassidy, who passed away last year on September 24, 2005. As we continue to mourn the passing of our dear friend Con, I want to take a few moments to remember his life and his work in the community he served so faithfully in so many different ways.

One of Con's greatest pleasures during his lifetime was helping those in need. He leaves behind an impressive list of accomplishments that most people can only dream of achieving in their lifetime. Con will be remembered for many reasons, not the least of which is his inspirational leadership that has had a profound effect on people trying to better their lives. Even with all of his work in public service and with community organizations, Con also endeared himself to many because of his generous spirit and wise counsel. Whether it was a local concern or just a relaxed visit with an old friend, Con's friends always knew they would find the support and guidance they were looking for in a chat with Con. While in his presence, you were immediately put at ease with his warm smile, his firm handshake, his reassuring voice and his admirable character.

We have all felt his loss in one way or another, however those individuals that have special needs due to unforeseen circumstances or serious illness are the ones that will suffer most from the loss of their friend, Con. Anyone who knew Con knew that he was a person who spent countless hours volunteering his time and energy to benefit individuals and organizations in need.

The Con Cassidy Foundation has been established by a group of his friends and family in his honor with the hope of continuing his tradition of giving. The "Make a Wish Foundation" will be the primary benefactor of proceeds raised and will be given in Con Cassidy's name. Con's legacy and his tradition of giving will endure in the wonderful work being done by the Foundation established in his honor.

Mr. Speaker, as the Con Cassidy Foundation gathers to honor his memory and life on June 22—the anniversary of his birthday—I ask my colleagues to join me in tribute for all he has done to strengthen our community and better the lives of others. Con Cassidy's life is truly an eloquent statement about what one committed citizen can do.

CONGRESSMAN RANGEL APPLAUDS PRESIDENT BUSH FOR SIGNING PROCLAMATION DECLARING JUNE AS CARIBBEAN HERITAGE MONTH

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 21, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend President Bush for his support of the resolution that acknowledges the contributions of Caribbean peoples in America and declares June as Caribbean Heritage Month. I also would like to congratulate the Honorable BARBARA LEE for her efforts in bringing about this initiative, receiving 81 co-sponsors and getting this monumental legislation passed in both chambers of Congress. As one of the co-sponsors, I am extremely proud to be a part of the effort to recognize the Caribbean-Ameri-

cans nationwide who have been a colorful thread of our Nation's fabric.

This proclamation recognizes the millions of Caribbean peoples in the United States for their contributions to American society since its foundation. As a representative of a large Caribbean constituency, I have always felt the need to advocate on behalf of this distinctive community while educating others that Caribbean cultures have influenced our educational and political structures as well as popular culture.

Since 1619, immigrants from the Caribbean islands began to populate America, bringing with them elements of cultural, religious and linguistic diversity. I appreciate the emphasis that this resolution places on shedding light on our Nation's history as many great political thinkers, such as President Alexander Hamilton, were born in the Caribbean. This little known fact was largely unheard of because of the taboos, discrimination and racism that existed in our country's past.

Today, as our Nation's third border, Caribbean nations and our relations with them are fundamental to our interdependent successes in sharing medical advancements, fighting terrorism and promoting diversity appreciation.

In celebration of Caribbean Heritage month, this June, I will promote participation in local festivities. I am glad to support activities such as parades, carnivals and festivals that are being held in my district and nationwide in true Island fashion and flair.

RECOGNIZING SCOTT FLORENCE FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 21, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Scott Florence, 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 495, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Scott has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Scott 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 Scott Florence for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

TRIBUTE TO JIM WILLIAMS

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 21, 2006

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the service of Jim Williams, the Director of the US-VISIT program at the Department of Homeland Security. Mr. Williams is leaving his position in the coming weeks to become the Commissioner of the

Federal Acquisition Service at the General Services Administration. I want to thank him for his years of public service and his leadership at the Department of Homeland Security.

Since May 2003, Mr. Williams has managed a team to create and maintain the US-VISIT program, a critical border management program that collects point-of-entry and exit information on visitors traveling to and from the United States. The program uses biometric identifiers and digital photographs to aid legitimate tourists, students and business travelers entering the United States, while making it more difficult for those who might do harm to the United States or enter and stay in the country illegally. Though the job of completing the full installation of US-VISIT program is still underway, so far, in two and a half years, it has processed nearly 60 million visitors to date and denied entry to more than 1,100 criminals and immigration violators at our ports of entry, reduced wait times at several land border ports of entry, and provided information to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement leading to the apprehension of more than 200 aliens who overstayed their visas.

Mr. Williams has been a model public servant and leader. He has left a tremendous imprint on the US-VISIT program, and on the many people who work with him at US-VISIT and across the government.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you and our colleagues to join me in a salute to Jim Williams and the talented team at US-VISIT.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARK R. KENNEDY

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 21, 2006

Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, had bad weather not delayed my flight back to Washington on Monday, (June 19, 2006), my votes on the following rollcall votes would have been as follows:

Rollcall vote No. 289, H.R. 5540—"yes".

Rollcall vote No. 290, H.R. 5504—"yes".

HOUSTON ASTROS VISIT WALTER REED ARMY HOSPITAL

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 21, 2006

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on May 23, 2006, for the second year in a row, I joined many of my colleagues from our Texas Congressional Delegation at a barbeque hosted by the Houston Astros and the USO for injured soldiers at the Walter Reed Army Hospital. The team held a similar event at the Bethesda Naval Hospital. I cannot speak highly enough of the Astros' players, managers, staff, and the owner Drayton McLane for taking time to visit the wounded troops.

Until the Astros hosted the event last year, no other Major League teams had done such an event, and while many players have visited since last years' barbeque, the Astros are the only team to visit the troops as a group. It was remarkable to see players interacting with the

troops—many of whom are close in age—and each taking away something valuable from the experience.

The troops at Walter Reed and Bethesda are among the most seriously wounded, many being injured by improvised explosive devices, rocket propelled grenades, and other battlefield hazards. Many are confined to beds, wheel chairs, or rehabilitation facilities, and the opportunity to be outside having lunch with Major League Baseball players was a tremendous morale boost. The Astros' organization provided hats, and players autographed items and took photos with the troops, but most importantly, they spent time talking with the injured soldiers.

After last years visit, Astros' players commented in several newspaper columns on the optimism of the wounded soldiers and the perspective visiting with the soldiers gave them. Mr. McLane said it was the most moving experience in his 12 years of owning the team.

With Memorial Day weekend approaching, I think it is important that we all realize what a sacrifice the men and women of our Armed Forces make each and every day. As Franklin Delano Roosevelt once said, "Those who have long enjoyed such privileges as we enjoy forget in time that men have died to win them."

The men and women of our military endure a tremendous burden so that we may enjoy the freedoms we often take for granted. It was an honor to join the Astros' organization at Walter Reed and it reminded each person there that war has a price. Memorial Day represents one day of national awareness and reverence, honoring those Americans who died while defending our Nation and its values. While we should honor these heroes every day for the sacrifices they have made for our Nation, it is especially important that we do so on Memorial Day.

To use an appropriate metaphor, the Astros' stepped up to the plate for our injured troops at Walter Reed and Bethesda. On this Memorial Day, let's follow their example. Please keep our troops and their families in your prayers, and remember the sacrifices so many have made to defend our great Nation.

RECOGNIZING ANDREW BRADFORD FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 21, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Andrew Bradford, 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 495, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Andrew has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Andrew 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 Andrew Bradford for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

TRIBUTE TO BAYAUD INDUSTRIES

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 21, 2006

Ms. DEGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding work being done by Bayaud Industries, a non-profit organization dedicated to creating employment and training services to individuals with mental, emotional, physical, and economic disabilities and challenges in the City of Denver and throughout Colorado. Celebrating its 37th anniversary this year, Bayaud has been able to help over 5,000 individuals find jobs and currently serves over 300 each year.

Bayaud uses an integrated approach to help those who have had minimal success in the mainstream work environment mostly because of the stigma associated with disability and mental illness. This approach includes a comprehensive vocational evaluation to assess skills and capabilities, work adjustment and personal adjustment training, and general office skills training. Bayaud also provides job placement services for its clients, and even works with the City of Denver to help move people from welfare to work.

Helping those who are disabled to find and keep work is good for both individuals and our economy. Employment gives people a sense of accomplishment and the satisfaction that they are contributing to their community. Sadly, according to the National Mental Health Association, "the unemployment rate in the United States for individuals with disabilities is approximately 75 percent; the unemployment rate for individuals with psychiatric disabilities is even higher at 80 percent." With training and assistance from organizations like Bayaud, people with disabilities are able to hold a job and contribute to the economy of our country.

Mr. Speaker, Bayaud Industries should be considered a model for how we help all our citizens become productive. Bayaud is ensuring that the disabled of my community are able to play a vital role. I commend the important work this organization is doing and I know that both those in the disabilities and business communities have benefited greatly from the good work it has done for over the past 37 years.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 21, 2006

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, June 20, 2006, I was absent due to a family obligation. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following way:

"Aye" on rollcall No. 295, an amendment by Mr. SCHIFF to H.R. 5631, Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2007.

"Nay" on rollcall No. 296, an amendment by Mr. KING to H.R. 5631, Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2007.

"Nay" on rollcall No. 297, an amendment by Mr. CHOCOLA to H.R. 5631, Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2007.

"Nay" on rollcall No. 298, an amendment by Mr. FLAKE, No. 2 to, H.R. 5631, Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2007.