

boys' soccer state championship. These young players came painstakingly close to defeat, but rose to victory in a 2–1 double-overtime win, earning Brownsville's first 5A state championship, and the pride of South Texas.

The Cowboys came back from a 1–0 deficit against the highly regarded team of Coppell in a match that went to two 10-minute overtime periods. The agility and perseverance of this team gained the recognition of even the rival coach who could not deny the heart the Cowboys put forth.

Less than a minute later, Porter tied up the game 1–1, after Coppell's only goal. The winning shot scored with 3:42 left on the stadium scoreboard, leaving the Cowboys' solid defense squad to protect the lead. The team left it all on the field to earn the Rio Grande Valley's first 5A title in soccer.

With such dedicated players and skilled coaching, it seems only right that their remarkable qualities led them to this year's championship. Their triumph is significant to both the team and their fans because it tells the story of how the road to victory is paved by those who never give up.

The Cowboys' success comes from sheer persistence and true teamwork. These young men have learned the supreme principles of both sports and life. They have experienced that winning is great but success is sweeter when teamwork and faith defy expectations and confront challenge.

These are the young champions: Eric Chapa, Edgar Sanchez, Aldo Sierra, Juan Razo, Jose Alvarado, Peter Ruiz, Victor Vela, Cristian Sierra, Wilfredo Fernandez, Edgar Acuna, Jorge Briones, Jovanny Briones, Alex Lara, Humberto Lopez, Gerardo Herrera, Mario Perez, Gerardo Martinez, Diego Rodriguez, Michael Cedillo, Angel Cardenas, Jesus Sanchez, Miguel Vasquez, Jose Mojica, Jorge Gandara, Abpsa Cardenas, Jose Sosa, and Abel Perez.

The coaches who led them to victory are Luis Zarate, Arturo A. Puig Jr., Pedro Valdez, and Miguel Marroquin.

I congratulate the Porter Cowboys who through their unwavering endurance and determination have brought great pride and joy to all of South Texas. I ask the House of Representatives to join me today in commending this outstanding band of champions who have learned the most important lessons of competition, faith, and commitment. Mr. Speaker, these young men have inspired us and made us exceptionally proud.

COMMENDING APSEA ON THEIR SUCCESS AND ANNUAL DINNER

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in tribute to California's Asian Pacific State Employees Association as they celebrate their 31st anniversary and honor two of Sacramento's most outstanding citizens. Genevieve Shiroma will receive the President's Award for her distinguished career and advocacy in support the Asian Pacific Islander community and Raynor Tsuneyoshi will be honored with the Members Award for his dedication to APSEA and State employees. I ask all my colleagues to join me

in saluting the Asian Pacific State Employees Association, as well as Ms. Shiroma and Mr. Tsuneyoshi for their accomplishments.

The Asian Pacific State Employees Association, formerly known as the Asian State Employees Association, was founded in 1975 for the purpose of working toward achieving equal opportunity within the State work force through professional development and community empowerment. The Association's vision is one of Asian Pacific State employee serving, enhancing, and leading State government agencies and their community.

Objectives adopted by the Association include advocating for Asian Pacific Islander State employee interests; providing an Asian Pacific network for its members and employers; advancing personal and professional development of its membership; consulting with members facing adverse action or other employment problems; working with the community to promote career opportunities, professionalism, cultural pride, self-esteem, and citizenship; and providing services and interchange with community, academic, and business groups.

Benefits and services offered by the Association include employee development, networking, scholarship opportunities, communications, and celebration of Asian Pacific contributions. At present time, the Asian Pacific State Employees Association has over 1,000 members statewide and includes chapters in the Southern, Central Valley, and Bay Area. Officers frequently serve on legislative fact-finding committees, and provide testimony before the legislative committees regarding advocacy and affirmative action policies.

I also would like to acknowledge and congratulate APSEA's special honorees. Through her work at the Agricultural Labor Relations Board and California Air Resources Board, Genevieve has constantly advocated for policies that benefit all Californians. In Sacramento, she continues to make her mark as a civic leader by working with numerous non-profits and currently serves as president of the Sacramento Metropolitan Utility District's Board of Directors. Ray Tsuneyoshi is the director of the California Department of Boating and Waterways and serves on the National Boating Safety Advisory Council. He is known by many as one who all State employees can turn to for assistance.

Mr. Speaker, the Asian Pacific State Employees Association has evolved into a leading organization within the State, a dynamic force striving to improve the quality of life of its members and the general community. I am confident that Asian Pacific State Employees Association will continue to do great work and yield tremendous benefits to the Asian Pacific Islander State workers of California. I ask all my colleagues to join me in wishing the Asian Pacific State Employees Association continued success in the future.

HONORING THE LIFE OF PHILIP THORNTON HAIRE

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Philip

Thornton Haire, a very good friend and a beloved figure in Clewiston, Florida and the surrounding Glades area.

Phil led a remarkable life. As a marine in World War II, he fought in the Pacific Theater, winning a Bronze Star and a Purple Heart. Following his military service, Phil began a career as a radio sales executive working throughout the West and Midwest. In 1950, he moved to the Glades area, where he began his long association with radio station WSWN, known as "Sugar 900." In addition to his duties in sales, he became a sports announcer, copywriter, and eventually, Vice President and General Manager.

Phil Haire was an honest, decent man who always had a smile and a kind word for people he met. He was loved and respected throughout the Glades area. Phil truly left his mark on his community and on everyone who knew him. We will all miss him greatly.

On behalf of the Members of the House of Representatives, I would like to pass along our deepest condolences to Phil's family, friends, and loved ones.

IN HONOR OF OFFICER CARTER JONES, RESERVE OFFICER SCOTT CHRISTIE, AND DEPUTY STEFAN FISH

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the exceptional courage demonstrated by Officer Carter Jones, Reserve Officer Scott Christie, and Deputy Stefan Fish on February 2, 2006. The circumstance in which this heroic act was carried out is indeed incredible and it is my privilege to honor the selfless actions these officers performed.

On February 2, 2006, these three individuals assisted in a pursuit of a wanted parolee trying to evade arrest. The wanted parolee was driving a stolen vehicle and had an extensive criminal history, including weapon and narcotic violations.

Officer Jones and Reserve Officer Christie pursued the suspect as he dangerously attempted to evade arrest. Eventually the suspect crashed head-on into another vehicle, engulfing it in flames and pinning his own vehicle against the victim's car.

The suspect had managed to escape from his vehicle and attempted to flee on foot. The initial officers on the scene physically apprehended the suspect, despite his continued efforts to resist their arrest. They removed the suspect from the area due to the intense heat of the burning vehicle, only to return moments later to rescue the victims. Deputy Fish attempted to open the victim's cars doors but could not due to its precarious position. As smoke quickly filled the car, Deputy Fish used his baton to smash the rear window. Immediately, Deputy Fish, Officer Jones, and Reserve Officer Christie rushed in and successfully evacuated two children; a 7-year-old girl and her 5-year-old sister; and two adults.

Mr. Speaker, Officer Jones, Reserve Officer Christie, and Deputy Fish risked their lives to rescue four innocent people. Without their quick response under extreme emergency conditions, this incident could have turned

deadly. Their exceptional efforts are admirable and I applaud them for their courage and dedication under pressure.

THE MILITARY DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE RESPONSE ACT

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, today, I am proud to introduce the Military Domestic and Sexual Violence Response Act. This important piece of legislation will ensure greater protections for service members and their families if they become victims of violence. It also will strengthen programs to prevent violence against fellow soldiers and military families.

Unfortunately, sexual assault and domestic violence are pervasive and serious problems throughout all branches of the military. In March 2006, the Department of Defense (DoD) released their second annual sexual assault report, which stated that there were 2,374 allegations of sexual assaults reported in 2005; this is up from 1,700 the previous year. In 2004, the DoD reported 9,000 incidents of spousal abuse. A 2005 Sexual Harassment and Assault Survey of the Service Academies found 6 percent of females and 1 percent of males said they were sexually assaulted in 2004–2005, and less than half the females who experienced sexual assault reported it. In this same survey, 60 percent of female cadets indicated sexual harassment was about the same as when they first enrolled at their academy.

While the DoD has been making efforts to improve its prevention and response to domestic and sexual violence, victim services remain incomplete and inconsistent among the various branches. There have been reports that victims advocates, charged with protecting the victim's rights, have been denied resources to do their job, and in some instances been forced off the base all together. Furthermore, DoD policies are not codified in the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) and do not offer the same level of rights and protections afforded to civilian victims. Perhaps most importantly, victims are unable to seek confidential counseling and treatment without fear that their records might become public if they press charges against their assailant.

My bill, the Military Domestic and Sexual Violence Response Act, seeks to bring military law up to par with civilian laws by establishing a comprehensive approach for the military to address domestic violence and sexual assault among our soldiers. Specifically, this bill will:

Establish an Office of Victims Advocate (OVA) within DoD, bring the Family Advocacy Program under OVA, and create a Director of OVA to oversee and coordinate efforts to prevent and respond to cases of family violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking with the military and among military families;

Codify rights, restitution policies, treatment and other services for victims within the UCMJ, including creating comprehensive confidentiality protocols to protect the rights of victims within military law;

Strengthen policies for reporting, prosecuting and treating perpetrators of violence; and

Create counseling and treatment programs through the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The military should be at the forefront of prosecuting assailants and setting the highest standards for treatment of servicemen and women, or military family members, victimized by sexual assault and domestic violence. Our Armed Forces must be able to guarantee the most basic protections to ensure these victims can receive necessary counseling, treatment, and justice.

If a victim cannot access essential care for fear of stigma, public embarrassment, threats to their career, or because they just do not know what resources are available, the military will continue to lose valuable female and male soldiers. These service members put themselves in harms way to protect us and our Nation from threats at home and abroad. They should not be given lesser rights and protections than the civilians whose freedoms they protect. My bill ensures they are adequately protected when dealing with the horrible tragedy of sexual assault or domestic violence.

Do not allow our brave service members to be victimized twice, once by their perpetrator and then again by the military's lack of appropriate, compassionate, and confidential treatment and response.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all Members to join me in cosponsoring the Military Domestic and Sexual Violence Response Act.

RECOGNIZING REVEREND JOHN H. ROUSE, ON THE OCCASION OF HIS 51ST ANNIVERSARY OF SERVICE IN THE MINISTRY AND 31ST ANNIVERSARY AS PASTOR OF THE MOUNT ZION MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH IN EAST ST. LOUIS, ILLINOIS

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Reverend John H. Rouse, of the Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church, in East St. Louis, Illinois, on the occasion of his 51st anniversary of service in the ministry and 31st anniversary as Pastor of Mt. Zion.

John Rouse is the son of Dr. W.B. and Evelyn Rouse. A native of Nashville, Tennessee, Rev. Rouse graduated with honors from Lincoln High School in East St. Louis, Illinois. Even though he was the president of his graduating class, Rev. Rouse was once counseled at Lincoln High School to compromise his ambition and settle for employment that did not require public speaking. How fortunate for all those who have benefited from his years of ministry that Rev. Rouse did not follow that advice.

Rev. Rouse began his formal ministry at the First Ward Baptist Church, in Clarksville, Tennessee, where he was pastor until 1970. During his time in Tennessee, Rev. Rouse continued his extensive education at American Baptist Seminary and College of the Bible, Tennessee State University, Austin Peay State University and George Peabody College.

Also during his years in Tennessee, Rev. Rouse became very involved in the civil rights

struggle. His work to end segregation in Tennessee and later in Henderson, Kentucky has continued throughout his years of ministry as he has been a constant champion of civil rights and social justice.

It was through activities as a member of the NAACP that Rev. Rouse met Mary G. Avent, who would become his wife and mother of their four children.

In 1975, Rev. Rouse returned to East St. Louis to begin his pastorate at Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church where he still serves as pastor today. While at Mt. Zion, Rev. Rouse has expanded his ministry to include Mt. Zion Baptist Mission East, as well as a community-based prison ministry. In addition to their own four children, Rev. and Mrs. Rouse have taken in a number of foster children and opened their hearts and helping hands to many within their congregation.

While Rev. Rouse has built an impressive congregation in East St. Louis, he has extended his ministry through speaking engagements, workshops and revivals across the country and as far away as Seoul, South Korea. Rev. Rouse has officiated at over 2,000 weddings and over 5,000 funerals. He has served on governing boards and commissions serving the church, education, government and community.

Rev. Rouse has traveled far and wide in his service to the Lord. He has also been a teacher, coach and funeral director. He has built congregations and mentored others in their quest to become ministers. The good work that he has done has extended far beyond the boundaries of his present congregation and will be felt for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in an expression of appreciation to Reverend Rouse for his 51 years of dedicated ministry and to wish him and his family the very best in the future.

HONORING NEIL ARMSTRONG AS HE RECEIVES THE NASA AMBASSADOR OF EXPLORATION AWARD

HON. JEAN SCHMIDT

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Neil Armstrong, a war hero, teacher, businessman, and one of the world's greatest explorers, who received the prestigious National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Ambassador of Exploration Award on April 18, 2006 at the Cincinnati Museum Center in Cincinnati, Ohio.

An Ohio native son, Neil Armstrong rewrote history in July of 1969 when he was the first man to set foot on the moon. Mr. Armstrong served as commander of Apollo 11, the first manned lunar landing mission. He was accompanied on this historical journey to the moon by Command Module Pilot Michael Collins and Lunar Module Pilot Edwin (Buzz) Aldrin.

Born in 1930, Mr. Armstrong always had a fascination for airplanes and space travel. He started taking flying lessons at the age of fifteen and received his pilot's license at the age of sixteen.

After graduating from high school in 1947, Mr. Armstrong entered Purdue University with