

Travis's offer of appointment poises him to attend the United States Air Force Academy this fall with the incoming cadet class of 2010. Attending one of our Nation's military academies is an invaluable experience that offers a world-class education and demands the very best that these young men and women have to offer. Truly, it is one of the most challenging and rewarding undertakings of their lives.

Travis brings an enormous amount of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming class of Air Force cadets. While attending Norwalk High School in Norwalk, OH, Travis attained a grade point average which placed him near the top of his class. While a gifted athlete, Travis has maintained the highest standards of excellence in his academics, choosing to enroll and excel in advanced placement classes throughout high school. Travis has been a member of the Honor Roll, the Academic Challenge Team, and the Key Club.

Outside the classroom, Travis has distinguished himself as an excellent student-athlete by earning varsity letters in football, swimming and track. Travis's dedication and service to the community and his peers has proven his ability to excel among the leaders at the Air Force Academy. I have no doubt that Travis will take the lessons of his student leadership with him to the United States Air Force Academy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Travis S.C. Root on his appointment to the United States Air Force Academy at Colorado Springs. Our service academies offer the finest military training and education available anywhere in the world. I am sure that Travis will do very well during his career at the United States Air Force Academy and I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing him well as he begins his service to the Nation.

IN HONOR OF CHARLOTTE CREWS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 10, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Charlotte Crews, upon her retirement as center director of the Barton Center of Lakewood, whose dedication and devotion to the residents of the Barton Center has brought joy and energy to their lives for more than two decades.

Mrs. Crews began volunteering at the Barton Center nearly 21 years ago. Though busy with family and her own job at a local insurance company, Mrs. Crews made time to prepare meals, and she also utilized her creative theatrical talent and experience by writing and directing countless performances and shows at the center. Her husband, Curt, was program director at the time, and she also volunteered as his assistant. In 1995, she was offered the position of center director. As center director for 11 years, Mrs. Crews went above and beyond the usual call of duty. Her care and compassion for the elderly and disabled residents of the center was equally matched by her energetic drive and dedication that focused on enriching their lives.

Mrs. Crews worked overtime to cook dinner for more than 100 people for the monthly din-

ner show. She set the menu, shopped, cooked and served the food. She also continued to channel her talents by writing, producing and directing the annual staff show. Additionally, she created a small grocery called the Corner Store, located in the building, for residents unable to leave the center. Mrs. Crews added a computer to the center, created several new programs for residents, and initiated a successful fundraising plan, known as the Annual Campaign. Moreover, Mrs. Crews' approachable demeanor and great sense of humor easily drew others to her, and her presence brightened the spirits of residents, staff and volunteers.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor, recognition and gratitude to Charlotte Crews, for her unwavering dedication, generous heart, expansive talent and true sense of giving that has framed her presence at the Barton Center for the past 21 years. Her achievements are numerous, yet her most significant accomplishment is the love and compassion that she shared with the most frail citizens of our society—bringing them joy, great care and hope, and the foundation of friendship that Mrs. Crews created has raised the lives of every resident at Barton Center, and has strengthened our entire community.

RESPECT FOR AMERICA'S FALLEN HEROES ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 9, 2006

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5037, the Respect for America's Fallen Heroes Act. I read with disgust the article on the protests that occurred at the military funeral for Army SSG. Jeremy Doyle, who was killed in Iraq, earlier this year. It especially saddens me that the individuals who protested at Staff Sergeant Doyle's funeral were from the Westboro Baptist Church in Topeka, KS. The church's founder, Rev. Fred Phelps, says that American soldiers are being killed in Iraq as vengeance from God for protecting a country that harbors gays.

I find it abhorrent that individuals and groups feel a military funeral is an appropriate forum to display their beliefs on gay rights. Losing a family member during military service is a very difficult and devastating thing. It is unfortunate that some individuals and groups add to the anguish and grief of those who have lost a loved one by protesting outside of the funerals of fallen soldiers. Our military heroes who make the ultimate sacrifice for our country deserve our respect and gratitude. I condemn these actions in the strongest terms possible and I'm proud to support H.R. 5037.

TRIBUTE TO U.S. ARMY SERGEANT PIERRE A. RAYMOND

HON. MARTIN T. MEEHAN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 10, 2006

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a true hero, Army Sergeant Pierre A.

Raymond, who gave his life in service to our country.

Sergeant Raymond was a resident of Lawrence, MA, and was deployed with the brave men and women serving in our armed forces as part of Operation: Iraqi Freedom II. David was in Iraq just one week before sustaining fatal injuries from an explosion that ripped through his barracks in Ramadi, Iraq. He died five days later on September 20, 2005, surrounded by his family in the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Landstuhl, Germany.

Pierre was preparing to celebrate his 29th birthday in early October. He looked forward to returning to his family and his girlfriend, with whom he had lived before deployment, and was planning to finish a college degree in psychology. His friends and family recall his playful nature and his wonderful laughter. He was courageous to the end. Even as he lay wounded in his hospital bed, he is reported to have been talking and joking with doctors and nurses and was in good spirits. Friends and family also remember David's passion for cars and his talent for repairing them—a technical ability that served him well as an Army mechanic maintaining Bradley Fighting Vehicles in the Army Reserve's 228th Forward Support Battalion, 28th Infantry Division. His zest for life should be an inspiration to us all.

Pierre graduated from Salem High School in New Hampshire in 1994, and joined the Army in 1998, serving for thirteen months in Bosnia as a member of the U.N. peacekeeping force before being discharged in 2001. As a member of the Individual Ready Reserve, he was recalled in June of 2005 to serve in Iraq. While he was overseas, he called his family every morning. In his final hours, they joined him at his bedside in Germany, and his mother accompanied him on his journey home to the United States after his tragic death.

Pierre's family is proud of him for the supreme sacrifice he made on behalf of his country. He will always be remembered for his kindness, enthusiasm, his faith, and his desire for peace. He will be sorely missed.

I have now requested that an American flag be flown over our United States Capitol in memory of Sergeant Pierre Raymond to honor his brave service to our country. This flag will be delivered to his family. Pierre died fighting for the country he loved, alongside comrades he respected and with the family he adored, forever in his heart. Our nation is humbled and grateful for his sacrifice.

Mr. Speaker, we should all take a moment to recognize Sergeant Pierre A. Raymond, United States Army, who gave his life in service to his country.

THANKING JAMES S. MURPHY FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE HOUSE

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 10, 2006

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of his retirement at the end of May 2006, I rise to thank Mr. James S. (Jim) Murphy for his 29 years of outstanding service to the United States House of Representatives.

Jim began his career with the House on October 11, 1977, and served in positions within the Office of the Clerk and the Finance office

of the Chief Administrative Officer. As a Team Leader within the Office of Financial Counseling, he provided financial assistance and guidance to all Member and Committee offices including monitoring and projecting available fund balances and ensuring expenditures comply with both House and Committee rules and regulations.

Jim has provided financial guidance to every entity of the House, assuring that House staff and vendors are paid accurately. His passionate customer service and tireless commitment to the countless House staff members who have worked with him will be deeply missed.

On behalf of the entire House community, I extend congratulations to Jim for his many years of dedication and contributions to the financial management of the House. We wish Jim many wonderful years enjoying his retirement.

RECOGNIZING JOHN AHLFIELD

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 10, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize John Ahlfield of Liberty, Missouri. He has spent many hours of study and preparation as a member of the Liberty High School Science Bowl Team. After numerous competitions and a victory in the regional competition, the Liberty High School Science Bowl Team earned a spot to compete in the 2006 National Science Bowl Competition in Washington, D.C.

As one of America's best and brightest, John has been an accomplished student. He is a member of Serteens and the National Honor Society. He joined the Liberty Scholar Bowl Team as a sophomore, then became a Varsity member and captain his junior year. Among his favorite subjects are science and mathematics and he hopes to pursue a degree in chemical engineering after graduating from Liberty High School.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing John Ahlfield, an outstanding student from Liberty, Missouri. As a top student who is committed to science and mathematics, John will certainly have a bright and fulfilling future. I commend him for his achievements and I am honored to represent him in the United States Congress.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF PETER D. GUZOWSKI ON HIS AP- POINTMENT TO ATTEND THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 10, 2006

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to an outstanding young man from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. I am happy to announce that Peter D. Guzowski of Tiffin, Ohio has been offered an appointment to attend the United States Air Force Academy at Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Peter's offer of appointment poises him to attend the United States Air Force Academy this fall with the incoming cadet class of 2010. Attending one of our Nation's military academies is an invaluable experience that offers a world-class education and demands the very best that these young men and women have to offer.

Peter brings an enormous amount of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming class of Air Force cadets. While attending Tiffin Columbian High School in Tiffin, Ohio, Peter attained a grade point average which placed him near the top of his class. While a gifted athlete, Peter has maintained the highest standards of excellence in his academics, choosing to enroll and excel in Advanced Placement classes throughout high school. Peter has been a member of the National Honor Society, Honor Roll and has earned awards and accolades as a scholar and an athlete.

Outside the classroom, Peter has distinguished himself as an excellent student-athlete by earning letters in varsity tennis and golf where he served as the captain of his varsity team. He has also remained involved in his community by coaching youth basketball and serving as an altar server. Peter's dedication and service to the community and his peers has proven his ability to excel among the leaders at the United States Air Force Academy. I have no doubt that Peter will take the lessons of his student leadership with him to the United States Air Force Academy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Peter D. Guzowski on his appointment to the United States Air Force Academy at Colorado Springs. Our service academies offer the finest military training and education available anywhere in the world. I am sure that Peter will do very well during his career at the United States Air Force Academy and I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing him well as he begins his service to the Nation.

IN HONOR OF THE 90TH ANNIVER- SARY OF THE LAKEWOOD LI- BRARY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 10, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of the Lakewood Library, as we join in celebration of their 90th Anniversary.

For the past nine decades, the library, located on Detroit Avenue, has served as a vital source of learning, entertainment and enlightenment for residents of all ages, at no cost or low cost. Founded in 1916, the Lakewood Library has evolved over the years from a small space where books were exchanged, to a peaceful haven of energy where information and ideas are exchanged, learning flourishes and computer technology is presented on the cutting edge.

The Lakewood Library lends out thousands of books, and CD's every year, and also lends its rooms to community organizations where members gather on a regular basis. The Library offers programs for children, adults and seniors, literary programs, workshops, commu-

nity volunteer programs and a variety of family entertainment programs and classes, including reading circles and the visual arts.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of staff, administrators, volunteers and visitors, past and present, of the Lakewood Library. The library's collection of books, resources, historical documentation and advanced technology, offered free to the public, is a priceless component that continues to shape our culture, broaden our horizons and raise our collective and individual dreams into the light of reality—through imagination, discovery and learning, with every turn of the page.

H.R. 4975, THE SO-CALLED "LOB- BYING ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY ACT OF 2006"

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 10, 2006

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, May 3, 2006, I voted against final passage of H.R. 4975, making changes to congressional ethics procedures and campaign finance laws.

As a member of Congress first elected to the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES in 1998, I have supported and continue to support efforts to reduce the influence of money in politics because I believe that public cynicism is eating away at voter participation, causing citizens to tune out discussions of very serious issues, and turning a whole generation of young people away from our political system as a means of social change. There is a national crisis of confidence in our political system because of the influence of money in the legislative process. The American people share a widely held belief that special interests, lobbyists, and the very wealthiest campaign contributors wield too much influence in government.

Unfortunately, these concerns have been warranted, as recent scandals have come to light involving, among others, the transgressions of former Rep. Randy "Duke" Cunningham and lobbyist Jack Abramoff. For this reason, I joined as an original cosponsor of H.R. 4682, the Honest Government and Open Leadership Act. This legislation, among other things, takes steps to ban all gifts, including meals, tickets, entertainment and travel, from lobbyists and non-governmental organizations that retain or employ lobbyists; requires Members to pay full charter costs when using corporate jets for official travel; and establishes a new Office of Public Integrity under the Inspector General of the House.

H.R. 4975 falls short in all of these areas and instead chooses to maintain the status quo. Furthermore, the final rule reported out of the Rules Committee did not allow for the consideration of amendments on the House floor that would have addressed these concerns. Instead, the Rule included H.R. 513, controversial campaign finance legislation that would limit the ability of the public to mobilize voters and to hold incumbents accountable for the very misconduct that this bill purports to change. This kind of closed door process is indicative of the problems we are now experiencing in Congress.