

Public office is a public trust. All elected officials and their staffs must conduct the public's business in public view and in a manner that is above reproach. Congress must take real steps to improve congressional ethics standards and to make congressional procedures more open and accountable to all Americans.

TRIBUTE TO U.S. MARINE LANCE
CORPORAL NICKOLAS D.
SCHIAVONI

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, Marine Lance Corporal Nickolas D. Schiavoni, who gave his life in service to our country.

Lance Corporal Schiavoni lived in my district in Haverhill, and was deployed with the brave men and women serving in our armed forces as part of Operation: Iraqi Freedom. Nickolas died tragically on November 15, 2005 when a suicide, vehicle-borne, improvised explosive device was detonated while he was conducting combat operations against enemy forces near Al Karmah, Iraq during Operation Steel Curtain. He was twenty-six years old.

Nickolas leaves behind his beloved wife Gina, and two young children, Marissa and Alex. He is also survived by his mother, Stephany Kern, his grandfather, David Swartz, and his sister, Vanessa Schiavoni. Nickolas treasured his time with his family and was very fond of their time together at his mother's home in Westerly, Rhode Island.

Nickolas served in Iraq with the 2nd Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force, based in Camp Lejeune, N.C. He was serving on his second tour of duty in Iraq when he was killed. He was very proud to be a Marine.

Nickolas' family is proud of him, not just for the supreme sacrifice he paid on behalf of his country, but for the honor he brought to them as a Marine. He strove to protect his family and his country. His courage will not be soon forgotten.

I have now requested that an American flag be flown over our United States Capitol in memory of Lance Corporal Nickolas Schiavoni to honor his brave service to our country. This flag will be delivered to his family. Nickolas 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 Lance Corporal Nickolas D. Schiavoni, United States Marine Corps, who gave his life in service to his country.

THANKING MRS. ESTELLE JONES
FOR HER 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 her retirement in June 2006, I rise to thank Mrs. Estelle Jones for 29 years of outstanding service to the U.S. House of Representatives.

Throughout the years Estelle has made significant contributions managing the employee benefit programs for the U.S. House of Representatives and providing oversight to the processing of staff employee benefits for the U.S. House of Representatives. She began her career at the House on June 15, 1977, as an Employee Benefits Clerk in the Office of Personnel and Benefits, Office of Finance, under the Office of the Clerk. In January 1980, she assumed the title of Personnel Control Clerk, supervising the paperwork flow of the Employee Benefits Clerk. Estelle later accepted the position of Benefits Counselor, remaining with the Office of Personnel and Benefits. On December 1, 1987, she was promoted to Assistant Supervisor for the Office of Personnel and Benefits until November 12, 1995, when she accepted the appointment as Director of the Office of Personnel and Benefits, Human Resources for the Chief Administrative Officer. As Director of Personnel and Benefits, Estelle also served as the House Benefits Officer for both Health Benefits and Retirement with the Office of Personnel Management. She had the overall responsibility for the quality, accuracy and timeliness of submissions of all benefits records to OPM. She has provided many years of employee benefit support and guidance to the countless House staff members who have worked in this great institution throughout the last 29 years.

On behalf of the entire House community, I extend congratulations to Estelle for her many years of dedication and outstanding contributions to the U.S. House of Representatives. We wish Estelle many wonderful years in fulfilling her retirement dreams with her husband, Jack, and her children, Justin and Stephanie.

RECOGNIZING STEPHANIE HULL

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 10, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Stephanie Hull of Liberty, Missouri. She 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, Stephanie has been an accomplished student. A very active student, she participates in Scholar Bowl, Orchestra, National Honor society, Model UN, Debate, the National Forensic League, her church youth group, and the Senior Girl Scouts. Stephanie would like to become a doctor and is interested in attending UMKC or the University of Chicago.

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

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF KEIL
J. MILLER ON IS APPOINTMENT
TO ATTEND THE UNITED STATES
NAVY 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 Keil J. Miller of Napoleon, Ohio has been offered an appointment to attend the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

Keil's offer of appointment poises him to attend the United States Naval Academy this fall with the incoming midshipmen 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.

Keil brings an enormous amount of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming class at the Naval Academy. While attending Napoleon High School in Napoleon, Ohio, Keil attained a grade point average which placed him near the top of his class. While a gifted athlete, Keil has maintained the highest standards of excellence in his academics, choosing to enroll and excel in Advanced Placement classes throughout high school. Keil has been a member of the Honor Roll, the Drama and German Club and has earned numerous awards and accolades as a scholar and an athlete.

Outside the classroom, Joshua has distinguished himself as an excellent student-athlete by earning varsity letters in track and football where he served as the captain of his varsity team. He has also remained involved in his community by serving as a camp counselor for a youth football program and as an active participant in Big Brothers/Big Sisters. Keil's dedication and service to the community and his peers has proven his ability to excel among the leaders at the Naval Academy. I have no doubt that Keil will take the lessons of his student leadership with him to Annapolis.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Keil J. Miller on his appointment to the United States Naval Academy. Our service academies offer the finest military training and education available anywhere in the world. I am sure that Keil will do very well during his career at the Naval Academy and I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing him well as he begins his service to the nation.

IN HONOR OF RICHARD ZEAGER
AS HE CELEBRATES HIS 90TH
BIRTHDAY

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 Richard Zeager as he celebrates his 90th birthday. Richard

worked hard throughout his life, served his country and raised a family. His accomplishments and contributions to his community are worthy of recognition.

Mr. Zeager was born on May 14, 1916, at home in Rocky River, Ohio, where he would spend the rest of his life serving his community and country. Much of his childhood was spent working and playing with his four siblings. After receiving his diploma from Rocky River High School in 1934, Richard worked a number of jobs as a gardener, hunter, fisherman, and truck driver and worked in the Pepsi-Cola factory in Cleveland. Mr. Zeager found a career as a warehouse manager at Lifetime Cookware, where he worked for 52 years, just retiring last year.

In 1942, Richard answered the call of duty to fight for America during World War II. As a decorated Sergeant of the 7th Airdrome Squadron of the 13th Air Force Division, Richard served as an Aircraft Electrical Specialist. From 1942–45 he served in the Philippines, Guadalcanal, and New Guinea. Since his return home in 1945, Richard became an active member of the VFW in Rocky River, where he was a past commander, and also a member of the American Legion in Bay Village. He participated in parades and veteran reunions for his squadron, continuing close friendships with his fellow soldiers. Richard enjoys sharing his stories from the war with his family and friends. Besides his involvement with the VFW, he is also a member of the Danish Brotherhood Lodge where he continues the traditions of his heritage.

After his honorable service in World War II, Richard married Edna Klavon in March 1946. Throughout their 57-year marriage they had 3 sons, Terry, Stanley, and Edward. Richard and Edna also were loving and supportive grandparents to their six grandchildren. Besides spending time with family, Richard is an avid stamp and coin collector.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of Richard Zeager on his 90th birthday. His contribution to his community, family, and country are irreplaceable and we are ever grateful for his service.

CONGRATULATING WE THE PEOPLE KANSAS CLASS ON RECEIVING MOUNTAIN/PLAINS STATES REGIONAL AWARD AT NATIONAL COMPETITION ON THE CONSTITUTION

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 10, 2006

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, from April 29 to May 1, 2006, approximately 1,200 students from across the country participated in the national finals competition of We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution, the most extensive educational program in the country developed specifically to educate young people about the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights. I am pleased to announce that Saint Thomas Aquinas High School from Overland Park, Kansas received the Mountain/Plains States Regional Award in the competition. The We the People program is administered by the Center for Civic Education and funded by the U.S. Department of Education by act of Congress.

The We the People national finals is a three-day academic competition that simulates a congressional hearing in which the students testify before a panel of judges on constitutional topics. Students demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of constitutional principles as they evaluate, take, and defend positions on relevant historical and contemporary issues. Among the questions students responded to in the competition includes: Is judicial review essential for the functioning of our American constitutional democracy? Explain and justify your position.

Mr. Speaker, I'm proud of these outstanding students from Saint Thomas Aquinas High School: Danny Akright, Carrie Brand, Rob Conard, Andrew Conde, John Darnell, Evan Daugharthy, Kelsey Gustafson, Ben Haeefe, Anthony Halling, Steve Hengeli, Jennifer Kinkade, Sarah Kuhlmann, Sinom Longhi, Christy Millward, Evan Pederson, Sarah Potter, Patrick Short, Caitlin Thornbrugh, Jenny Timmons, Patrick Trouba, and Paul Wooten.

I also wish to commend the teacher of the class, Spencer Clark, who was responsible for preparing the student class for the national finals competition. Also worthy of special recognition are Lynn Stanley, the state coordinator and Ken Thomas, the district coordinator, who are among those responsible for implementing the We the People program in my district.

Mr. Speaker and my colleagues in the House, please join me in congratulating these young constitutional experts for their outstanding achievement.

RECOGNIZING RYAN STANDER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 10, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Ryan Stander 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, Ryan has been an accomplished student. This year's entry in the National Science Bowl was his second entry in the national tournament. Ryan is very involved as a member of the Liberty Scholar Bowl team, Science Knowledge Bowl, National Honor Society, Young Democrats, and Serteens. After graduation, Ryan will attend Truman State University in the fall to major in history and political science.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Ryan Stander, an outstanding student from Liberty, Missouri. As a top student who is committed to science and mathematics, Ryan 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 JOSHUA R. MINTON ON HIS APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND THE UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY AT WEST POINT

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 Joshua R. Minton of North Baltimore, Ohio has been offered an appointment to attend the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York.

Joshua's offer of appointment poises him to attend the United States Military 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.

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

Outside the classroom, Joshua has distinguished himself as an excellent student-athlete. On the fields of competition, he has earned varsity letters in basketball and football where he served as the captain of the varsity team. Joshua's dedication and service to the community and his peers has proven his ability to excel among the leaders at West Point. I have no doubt that Joshua will take the lessons of his student leadership with him to West Point.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Joshua R. Minton on his appointment to the United States Military Academy at West Point. Our service academies offer the finest military training and education available anywhere in the world. I am sure that Joshua will do very well during his career at West Point and I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing him well as he begins his service to the Nation.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF MIKE ZAPPONE, SR.

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 Mike Zappone, Sr., beloved husband, father, successful restaurateur and friend. Mr. Zappone, Senior leaves behind a legacy that reflects his joy for