

crown championship win in 11 years for the school. The Panthers won the WCAC with six of their seven allowed athletes in the top 20, won the Virginia State Catholic Championship with seven athletes in the top 12, and won the VIS with five of 10 allowed runners in the top 22.

Virginia Independent Schools Cross Country Association sponsors the highest level championship among all private schools in the Commonwealth. In the VIS Championship, the Panthers' top five runners completed the 3.2-mile course before 218 of the State's best female long distance runners.

Led by Head Coach Melanie Kiernan and assistants Keith Mitchell, Joe Gesker, and Mike Kiernan, the Panthers trained intensively throughout a dramatic and triumphant season.

I congratulate all the talented members of the Paul VI Girl Cross Country Team: senior Jen Scolese; juniors Kelsey Budd, Nichole Kauffmann, Michelle Kew, Caroline Manning, Rosie Loftus, Tessa Reed, and Lee Shine; sophomores Meg Clark, Mackenzie Singh, and Kate Still; and freshman Natalie Cowden.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to honor their championship, and to wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING ZACHARY LEE WILSON FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Zachary Lee Wilson, a very special young who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 216, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

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

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TRENT FRANKS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2006

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I regret that I was unable to be present for rollcall votes No. 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, which occurred on May 18, 2006. I was unable to cast votes on these important matters because I was traveling on official business in Arizona.

HONORING PAM KOCHER, RECIPIENT OF THE 2006 CONGRESSMAN JOHN JOSEPH MOAKLEY AWARD FOR EXEMPLARY PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. JEB BRADLEY

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2006

Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Pam Kocher of New Hampshire, the recipient of the 2006 Congressman John Joseph Moakley Award for Exemplary Public Service, which is given each year by the Greater Boston Federal Executive Board and the Moakley Family. Initiated in 2002, the Moakley Award is given to a staff member of the New England Congressional Delegation who demonstrates strong innovative methods of thinking and effectively works on behalf of their constituents.

Anyone who knows Pam knows she is a perfect choice for this honor. Pam's public service extends over three decades and includes serving in elected office at the local level and working for Former Senator Warren Rudman, Former Congressman Bill Zelliff, and currently as State Director for Senator JOHN SUNUNU. She has worked on a number of projects important to our State for each of her bosses, including the redevelopment of the Pease Air Force Base and acting as an intermediary for small businesses during the bank failure of the early nineties. Her many years of service on the Federal level, coupled with her strong working relationships, came in very handy last summer when the Maine and New Hampshire Congressional Delegations were faced with the daunting task of convincing the BRAC Commission to keep the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard open. Pam's leadership in bringing together a broad community-based coalition was one of the driving factors in our success.

Pam credits her driving force as wanting to make government work for people. She stands for hard work, is a problem solver, and knows how to bring people together to work toward a common goal.

Pam exemplifies what good citizenship and leadership is all about. Her efforts to make New Hampshire a better place have made a lasting impact on the people that know her and know of her. I congratulate and thank Pam on her years of hard work and dedication to New Hampshire; New England, and our great Nation.

RECOGNIZING HUNTER C. GOULD FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Hunter C. Gould, 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 288, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Hunter has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the

many years Hunter 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 Hunter C. Gould for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

COMMEMORATING THE 65TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF CRETE

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2006

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 65th anniversary of the Battle of Crete.

This historic battle contributed to the Allies' victory of World War II. On May 20, 1941, thousands of German paratroopers and gliders began landing on Crete. Both the Allies and Nazis wanted Crete because of its strategic location as part of the lifeline to India and its proximity to both Palestine and Egypt. At that time the British controlled the island.

The Nazi invasion force included the elite German paratroopers and glider troops. Hitler felt this was to be easy victory, yet he is quoted to have said shortly after the invasion, "France fell in 8 days. Why is Crete free?"

During the 11-day Invasion of Crete, more than 6,000 German troops were listed as killed, wounded, or missing in action. The losses to the elite 7th parachute division marked the end of the German Military's large-scale airborne operations.

This valiant fight by the Cretan people began in the first hour of the Nazi airborne invasion while other underground movements did not begin until a year or more after being invaded.

Young boys, old men, and women displayed breath taking bravery in defending Crete. Because German soldiers were not accustomed to facing women in battle, they would tear the dress from the shoulders of suspected Cretan women to find bruises from the recoil of the rifle. The penalty was death. On July 28, 1941, The Times (London) reported that "five hundred Cretan women have been deported to Germany for taking part in the defense of their native island."

Another surprise for the German soldiers who invaded Crete was the heroic resistance of the clergy. A priest leading his parishioners into battle was not what the Germans anticipated. At Paleochora, Father Stylianos Frantzeskis, hearing of the German airborne invasion, rushed to his church, sounded the bell, took his rifle and marched his volunteers toward Maleme.

This struggle became an example for all Europe to follow in defying German occupation and aggression.

The Cretans paid a steep price for their valiant resistance to Nazi forces with thousands of civilians executed, starved, or imprisoned. The Germans burned and destroyed entire communities as a reprisal for the Cretan resistance movement. Yet this resistance lasted for 4 years.

The Battle of Crete changed history by delaying Hitler's plan to invade Russia. The invasion was delayed from April to June of 1941.

The 2-month delay in the invasion made Hitler's forces face the Russian winter.

The Russian snowstorms and the sub zero temperatures eventually stalled the Nazi invasion before they could take Moscow or Leningrad. This was the beginning of the downfall of the Nazi reign of terror.

We must always remember and honor this significant battle and the heroic drive of the Cretan people. Democracy came from Greece, and the Cretan heroes exemplified the courage it takes to preserve it.

To honor these heroes, I have introduced H. Res. 290, which recognizes and appreciates the historical significance and the heroic human endeavor and sacrifice of the people of Crete during World War II and commends the PanCretan Association of America.

Today, the courage and fortitude of the Cretan people are seen in the members of the United Cretan Associations of New York which are located in Astoria, Queens.

I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring the Cretans in the United States, Greece, and the diaspora.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF RICHARD SHOEMAKER

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2006

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to my dear friend Richard "Dick" Shoemaker on the occasion of his retirement as the vice-president of the United Auto Workers after 49 distinguished and exemplary years of service.

Born in St. Clair Shores, Michigan, Dick joined UAW Local 865 in 1957 at the age of 18. By the time he was 27, he was elected the youngest president of that local in its history. This rapid ascent in leadership would continue throughout his life. In 1969 he was appointed as an International Representative and in 1982 he was named as the Administrative Assistant to the Vice President of the UAW. Through a course of many other prestigious promotions, Dick eventually rose to become a Vice President himself.

A constant champion of working America for nearly half a century, Dick's successful negotiations with companies including Ford, DaimlerChrysler, General Motors, Mazda, Toyota and Mitsubishi created opportunities and advancements for tens of thousands of workers. His inspiring work shows remarkable results such as record raises in wages, job security, and a measure which ensures that employment at GM and its suppliers remains at healthy levels. The members of the UAW and their families, are fortunate to have prospered under his strong and courageous leadership.

In addition to tirelessly advancing the rights of the working-class, Dick is also a member of the Michigan Democratic Party, the ACLU, and a lifetime member of the NAACP. His activity in the community and state extends even further as he serves on the boards of the Metropolitan Detroit AFL-CIO and Blue Cross-Blue Shield of Michigan.

Dick once said that those in the labor movement "have [their] walking shoes on every day." Mr. Speaker, I would ask you to join me and all of my colleagues as we congratulate

Dick Shoemaker on phenomenal career and wish him a happy retirement with his children, grandchildren, and his wife Mary. Even in retirement, I know that Dick will never take off his well-worn walking shoes.

RECOGNIZING ANDREW J. GREEN FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Andrew J. Green, 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 288, 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 J. Green for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING THE 31ST ANNUAL CAPITAL PRIDE FESTIVAL

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2006

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the 31st Annual Capital Pride Festival, a celebration of the National Capital Area's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender, (GLBT) communities, their families and friends. The Capital Pride Festival has grown from a small block party in 1975 to the current week-long celebration. This year, Capital Pride culminates with the Pride Parade on June 10th and "The Main Event," a street fair on Pennsylvania Avenue in the shadow of the Capitol, June 11th.

I have marched in the Pride parades since coming to Congress to emphasize the universality of human rights and the importance of enacting Federal legislation to secure those rights for the GLBT community. This year's theme, "Many Communities, All Proud," holds special meaning for the citizens of the District of Columbia and its GLBT community in particular. Washingtonians live in distinct, diverse neighborhoods such as Colonial Village to the North; Fort Drum to the South, Northeast Boundary to the East, and Spring Valley to the West. Yet, we unite in our quest for all the rights guaranteed U.S. citizens by the Constitution.

In 1994, the District of Columbia lost the first vote it ever won on the floor of the House of Representatives, the delegate vote in the Committee of the Whole. The Republicans retracted the District's vote when they assumed control of the House. Our city of 550,000 residents, 10 percent more residents than the en-

tire State of Wyoming, who pay more taxes per capita than 49 of the 50 states, remains the only jurisdiction in the United States subject to Taxation Without Representation. Our Nation's Capital is entitled full voting rights in the House and the Senate. On May 18, 2006, the House Committee on Government Reform reported out the District of Columbia Fair and Equal House Voting Rights Act of 2006. This is the first milepost on DC's road to full and equal representation.

This one success is a reminder of the pending legislation that the 109th Congress must pass. The Clarification of Federal Employment Protections Act, The Domestic Partner Health Benefits Equity Act, The Domestic Partnership Benefits & Obligations Act, The Early Treatment for HIV Act, The Employment Non-Discrimination Act, The Family & Medical Leave Inclusion Act, The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act, The Military Readiness Enhancement Act, The Responsible Education About Life Act, The Tax Equity for Health Plan Beneficiaries Act, and The Uniting American Families Act.

I ask the House to join me in welcoming the celebrants attending the 31st Annual Capital Pride Festival in Washington, DC, and I take this opportunity to remind the celebrants that United States Citizens who reside in Washington, DC are taxed without full voting representation in Congress.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 18, 2006

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5386) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes:

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in reluctant support of H.R. 5836, the bill making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, Environment, and related agencies for fiscal year 2007. I support this bill because so many people and places in northern New Mexico rely on the funding that is controlled by this bill. But my reluctance rests in that very same reason.

Many people, such as the Native Americans I represent, the Forest Service employees who care for the watersheds that are vital to everyone in my State, and the Federal land managers who make sure we are extracting carefully the oil and gas that is becoming more expensive every day, look to Congress year after year for wise guidance to help them care for their people and do their jobs. In my opinion, this bill we are debating today could do much better.

We are cutting the funding States and communities need to protect their clean water, precious lands and dwindling wildlife. For example, the Clean Water State Revolving Fund, which provides low-interest loans to upgrade sewage treatment plants and improve water