

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### RECOGNIZING PHILIP SHAY MEEKS FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

#### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 25, 2006*

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Philip Shay Meeks, 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 376, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Philip has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Philip has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Philip has served in the leadership positions of assistant senior patrol leader and senior patrol leader, among others. He is an ordeal member of Order of the Arrow and a tom tom beater in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say. For his Eagle Scout project, Philip planned and supervised the building of ladders for a storage area, donating money for shades, and painting the stage area at the Liberty Christian Fellowship Church Building in Liberty, MO.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Philip Shay Meeks for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

### HONORING EVANS MAPLES FOR HIS SERVICE TO RUTHERFORD COUNTY

#### HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 25, 2006*

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Evans Maples, a lifelong Rutherford County resident who has served as county trustee since 1994. Evans has decided he will not seek another term, and I want to thank him for all he has done for his community, which I have the honor of representing in this esteemed body.

For nearly 12 years, Evans has been responsible for collecting the county's property taxes, as well as overseeing idle funds of the county. While most people might dread being in charge of such tasks, Evans has instead embraced his responsibilities as county trustee and has even managed to transform his position into one that has helped people in his community.

One of Evans' most notable contributions to Rutherford County involves the tax relief program he initiated. The program is designed to help retired persons on fixed incomes keep their homes in the face of rising property

taxes. Under this program, the State pays a portion of the taxes, which are matched by the county. Right now the program serves close to 800 county residents.

Evans also worked with the county commission's budget, finance, and investment committee to develop the county's first investment policy, which describes the parameters under which county funds may be invested.

Evans, today I want to thank you for your service to Rutherford County, and I wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

### ON THE OCCASION OF MR. JIM PADILLA'S RETIREMENT

#### HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 25, 2006*

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Jim Padilla on the occasion of his retirement. Mr. Padilla dedicated 40 years of his life to the progress of Ford Motor Company and prepared it for the challenges of the 21st century. I wholeheartedly commend Mr. Padilla for his hard work and dedication to such a deeply cherished American legacy as Ford Motor Company.

Mr. Padilla first joined the Ford family as a quality control engineer. Through years of hard work that spanned three continents, Mr. Padilla consistently proved himself a capable leader. Over those 40 years his steady climb through the company rungs ultimately led him to the top as president and chief executive officer.

Mr. Padilla's career is worthy of yet another distinction: He became Ford Motor Company's first Hispanic president and CEO. By taking the helm of one of America's top 10 corporations, Mr. Padilla shattered stereotypes and showed that all Americans have the potential of realizing tremendous success. It is fitting that Ford's Hispanic Network Group has created a scholarship program in his name, the "Padilla Scholars," to benefit deserving college-bound students. Mr. Padilla has proven that in our country, a person who works hard and accepts no limits can reach any goal. His life is an inspiration to young Hispanics and all young Americans as they commence the steady climb toward their dreams.

I know that Ford Motor Company will deeply miss Mr. Padilla's leadership. I also know that his numerous contributions over the last four decades have helped to transform that company into the modern powerhouse that it is today. Mr. Padilla has earned himself a permanent place in the rich history and great American heritage that Ford Motor Company represents. Like the company he so effectively led, Mr. Padilla is a true American success story.

### IN RECOGNITION OF THE 2006 U.S. PHYSICS OLYMPIAD TEAM

#### HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 25, 2006*

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the achievements of the members of the 2006 United States Physics Olympiad Team. These 24 individuals have shown tremendous aptitude in physics and leadership amongst their peers.

It is very challenging to earn a spot on this prestigious team. After being nominated by their high school teachers and taking a preliminary exam, 200 students qualified to take the second and final screening exam for the U.S. Physics Team. The 24 survivors of that group represent the top physics students in the U.S., and they are now at a nine-day training camp of intense study, examination and problem solving. Five of these exceptional students will advance and represent the United States in a tremendous international competition in July at the International Physics Olympiad in Singapore.

Members of the 2006 team include: Sophie Cai, ZeNan Chang, David Chen, Otis Chodosh, Kenan Diab, Jiashuo Feng, Yingyu Gao, Sherry Gong, Timothy Hsieh, Rui Hu, Ariella Kirsch, Jason LaRue, Men Young Lee, David Lo, Benjamin Michel, Hetul Patel, Veronica Pillar, Nimish Ramanlal, Ingmar Saberi, William Throwe, Arnab Tripathy, Henry Tung, Philip Tynan and Haofei Wei.

Mr. Speaker, as a nuclear physicist and former physics professor, I have worked to promote math and science education and to recognize the pivotal role these fields play in our nation's economic competitiveness and national security. Educating our K-12 students in math and science is very important. It is encouraging to see so many young, outstanding physics students enthusiastic about science, and I note that many of them chose to pursue science as a result of a teacher or family member who encouraged them along the way. Making sure our teachers are well-equipped to teach science and math is very important in fostering the interest of future generations in these subjects.

I hope the composite enthusiasm of these students and the other semifinalists will allow them to consider future careers in science, technology, engineering and math. Furthermore, I hope some of them consider running for public office and add their expertise to the policy world! I am very thankful for these future leaders and ask that you please join me in congratulating them on their wonderful achievements and wishing the top five the best of luck as they represent the United States in Singapore.

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