

and 1940s. Additionally, in 2005, Mr. Gallodoro received an Honorary Doctoral Degree from Hartwick College, which recognized a lifetime of extraordinary achievement in music performance and teaching.

After moving to Oneonta in 1981, he has become an active entertainer in our community. Mr. Gallodoro performs each month at Oneonta's very own live music venue, the Sego Café. He is notably one of only thirteen artists who began recording before 1940 that is actively recording today.

Mr. Gallodoro has undoubtedly made an unforgettable impact on the music community and will always be remembered for his invaluable contributions to the field of music. I do not doubt that his 94th birthday celebration at the Sego Café in Oneonta will be one to remember.

Madam Speaker, it is with great pride today that I celebrate the incredible accomplishments of Mr. Gallodoro and wish him a wonderful 94th birthday.

IN RECOGNITION OF ROBERT R.
RICE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2007

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Robert R. Rice, for his lifelong commitment to educating our youth and for sharing his many talents with our community.

Since his days with the United States Armed Service Forces Band, Robert has been graciously sharing his musical talent. In the Band, he played trumpet and sang lead vocals. After leaving the service, Robert dedicated himself to educating children and introducing them to the wonders of music. As a result of his commitment, thousands of children have cultivated an appreciation for music. Harding School has been the fortunate benefactor of Robert's musical talents for 25 years, culminating in his composition of "The Harding March."

Hardly one to hold back his love of music, Robert has also volunteered thousands of hours with community organizations and numerous churches.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Robert R. Rice for a life spent bringing the gift of music to the youth of Northeast Ohio. May all his students who have cultivated a love of music pass it along to future generations.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ALBIO SIRES

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2007

Mr. SIRES. Madam Speaker, on May 16, 2007, I missed rollcall votes Nos. 350, 351, 352. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on rollcall 350, "yea" on rollcall 351, "yea" on rollcall 352, "no" on rollcall 353, "present" on rollcall 354, and "no" on rollcall 355.

IN PRAISE OF ARMY PFC DANIEL COURNEYEA

HON. TIMOTHY WALBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2007

Mr. WALBERG. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and praise Army PFC Daniel Courneyea, a constituent of mine who died while serving his country in Iraq; PFC Courneyea's convoy was ambushed in Iraq on May 12, 2007.

PFC Courneyea of Vermontville was 19 years old. He grew up dreaming of serving in the military. Daniel grew up wishing to carry on the legacy of service to our great Nation which has run through his family. He grew up with the heart of a hero. Enlisting in the United States Army at 17 years old during his senior year of high school, his mother had to sign a waiver to allow her son to enlist.

As a student at Maple Valley High School, Daniel was well known and well respected. Daniel ran track at Maple Valley, played on the soccer team and played the clarinet in the school band.

In Vermontville, the members of the community hold parades to welcome home returning members of the military and have done so to honor PFC Courneyea. What impresses me the most is the way the community has rallied around Daniel's family and provided caring support during this time of grieving.

My thoughts and prayers are with Daniel's family. I thank them for their beloved sons' dedicated service to the United States. May God be with them.

HONORING THE SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE OF MAYORS ON ITS 25TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2007

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Southwest Conference of Mayors, SCM, on its 25th anniversary. Through dedicated and distinguished leadership, the Mayors' Conference continues to foster the improvement of local government, provide services to citizens, and enhance the overall quality of life for residents in southwest Cook County.

Since its inception in 1982, the Southwest Conference of Mayors has served as the regional council of governments, COG, in southwest Cook County. Currently, the Mayors' Conference has five standing committees, which focus on the areas of economic development, legislative advocacy, public works, transportation, and utilities. The committees strive to lower the costs of government, promote managerial expertise, coordinate experience and find solutions to problems of mutual concern, and develop a common voice on municipal concerns.

Today, the Southwest Conference of Mayors encompasses 21 municipalities that include: the village of Alsip; the village of Bed-

ford Park; the city of Blue Island; the village of Bridgeview; the city of Burbank; the village of Chicago Ridge; the village of Crestwood; the village of Evergreen Park; the city of Hickory Hills; the city of Hometown; the village of Justice; the village of Lemont; the village of Merrionette Park; the village of Oak Lawn; the village of Orland Hills; the village of Orland Park; the city of Palos Heights; the city of Palos Hills; the village of Palos Park; the village of Willow Springs; and the village of Worth.

Given the outstanding service and direction of the Southwest Conference of Mayors, I am especially privileged to acknowledge the founding and current SCM President, Mayor Jerry Bennett of Palos Hills; SCM vice president, Mayor Gene Siegel of Chicago Ridge; SCM vice president, Mayor Jim Sexton of Evergreen Park; and SCM treasurer, Mayor Bob Straz of Palos Heights. The hard work, insight, and leadership of these mayors ensure the future success of the Mayors' Conference and its positive impact on southwest Cook County.

The contributions made by the Southwest Conference of Mayors to the citizens of southwest Cook County are extraordinary. Today, I am pleased to recognize the organization's current and past leadership, member villages and cities, staff members, and all those who make the activities of the Mayors' Conference possible. As we celebrate this 25-year milestone, I look forward to continuing to work with SCM leaders to serve our communities and improve the lives of all area residents.

IN SUPPORT OF ONCOLOGY NURSES

HON. MICHAEL R. McNULTY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2007

Mr. McNULTY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to call attention to the important and essential role that oncology nurses play in providing quality cancer care and to recognize May as Oncology Nursing Month.

Oncology nurses are the health professionals involved in the administration and monitoring of chemotherapy and managing the associated side-effects patients may experience. Every day oncology nurses see the pain and suffering caused by cancer and understand the physical, emotional and financial challenges that people with cancer face throughout their diagnosis and treatment.

Since 1975, the Oncology Nursing Society (ONS) has been dedicated to excellence in patient care, teaching, research, administration and education in the field of oncology. The Society's mission is to promote excellence in oncology nursing and quality cancer care. I am pleased that ONS has 13 chapters throughout New York State which support oncology nurses in their efforts to provide high quality cancer care to patients and their families.

I urge my colleagues to support ONS in its important endeavors and to recognize the oncology nurses in their communities for all they do for people with cancer.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1585, NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. THOMAS H. ALLEN

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2007

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Chairman, the amendment I offer today seeks to bring hope from tragedy. CAP Patrick Damon, who lived in Falmouth, ME, with his wife and two children, was a loyal public servant, both in State government and in the Maine National Guard.

In early 2006, Captain Damon was deployed with the Maine Guard's 240th Engineer Group to Afghanistan. On June 15 of that year, Patrick collapsed in his bunk after a run. Initial reports were that he died of a heart attack, even though he had no previous or family history of heart problems.

Captain Damon's mother, Barbara Damon-Day, has been persistent in seeking to get more information from the Army about the cause of her son's death. The Army lists the death as "sudden unexpected," and the exact cause remains inconclusive.

Based on her own investigation, Ms. Damon-Day believes her son's death was brought about by an adverse reaction to multiple vaccinations in a 24-hour period. Her investigation has revealed a lack of clarity in the Defense Department's guidelines and regulations on administering multiple vaccinations in a 24-hour period.

My amendment seeks to focus needed attention on this issue. It requires the Defense Department to report to Congress on its policies on administering and evaluating multiple vaccinations within a 24-hour period to members of the Armed Forces, including the Guard and Reserve. It requires information on whether the department's policies conform to the regulations and guidelines of federal health agencies.

The amendment also requests data on the number of deaths that have been investigated for vaccines-related causes, and information on how medical records are shared with the Adjutant General of the states.

Finally, the amendment requires the Department to perform a study on the safety and effectiveness of administering multiple vaccines with a 24-hour period to service personnel.

Since her son's death in June 2006, Mrs. Damon-Day has worked tirelessly to improve the Defense Department's medical screening of Armed Forces prior to their deployment overseas. The Maine Legislature is currently considering legislation to create a commission to improve medical screening of Maine Guard personnel before they go overseas.

Barbara Damon-Day has honored her son's memory by making it her mission to improve the health screenings given our military, and to improve the information they receive, before they leave to serve on our behalf in Afghanistan, Iraq and around the globe. We owe her our gratitude for her efforts and our support to help advance her cause. I hope that my amendment can play a part in that mission.

I urge support for the Allen amendment.

TRIBUTE TO THE OLATHE NORTHWEST HIGH SCHOOL RAVONICS REVOLUTION ROBOTICS TEAM UPON THEIR PARTICIPATION IN THE 'FIRST ROBOTICS' NATIONAL COMPETITION

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2007

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to have this opportunity today to recognize the Ravonics Revolution robotics team from Olathe Northwest High School in Olathe, KS. The Ravonics Revolution team was one of over 1,100 schools across the country to participate in the 2007 FIRST Robotics competition, and were so successful that they were named Midwest Regional Champions.

FIRST Robotics, which was founded by Dean Kamen, the inventor of the Segway, is creating programs where kids can compete in sports-like environments, using math/engineering/technology/science skills rather than traditional athletic skills. The organization's vision is: "To create a world where science and technology are celebrated . . . where young people dream of becoming science and technology heroes."

Olathe Northwest High School formed their FIRST Robotics team two years ago and has been led by Sue Rippe, a Kansas Teacher of the Year in 2000. Sue and her husband, Cliff, have dedicated themselves to this program, providing guidance and support, but the kids are the real leaders of the team. They appointed a CEO, COO, CIO, CFO and other leaders within their group to divide responsibilities.

The team raised their own money to attend competition—more than \$38,000 this year—and obtained sponsorships from over 25 companies and individuals. And, their hard work and dedication has not gone unnoticed. In addition to winning their regional championship in Chicago, IL, earlier this year, they won other awards in entrepreneurship, website design, video production and safety. They were further recognized at the championship event in Atlanta, GA, with the Autodesk Visualization Award for Best Lighting (CG Animation).

Success isn't enough for them, however, which is why they will be hosting a robot scrimmage this summer for all area teams to encourage more students and schools to join the FIRST Robotics league.

Thanks to their teacher, Sue Rippe, the leadership of the Olathe school district and the FIRST Robotics organization, these students are able to focus on subjects they enjoy and on what they're good at. The program not only allows kids to be surrounded with teachers and classes that help to build on their strengths, but it also brings together kids with like interests so that they can learn from each other and develop their leadership and teamwork skills.

A very wise man once said that the really fundamental debts, like the ones that students owe to their teachers and parents, can't be paid back. They are too big for that. They can only be paid forward to those who will come after us. I know that each of these students

will find a way to "pay forward" the debt they owe by using their amazing talents to help explore worlds and ideas we never thought possible.

Madam Speaker, the Ravonics Revolution team at Olathe Northwest High School is an example of what happens when students work together to create a highly talented, focused team and seek to achieve a goal greater than themselves. I join the residents of the entire Third Congressional District of Kansas in applauding the Olathe Northwest High School Ravonics Revolution team for their success in the 2007 FIRST Robotics competition and look forward to their continued success in all future endeavors.

IN HONOR OF THE CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF THE EAST END NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2007

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of the East End Neighborhood House, EENH, whose leaders, staff and volunteers have uplifted and energized all aspects of Cleveland's urban neighborhoods for 100 years.

In 1907, Miss Hedwig Kosbab formed the EENH in her mother's home as a place that offered sewing classes for immigrant women. As the classes quickly began expanding to include others, the location of EENH changed several times but found its final home on the Van Sweringen estate in 1916.

Beyond providing services to residents on an individual level and six major programs for those young and old, the EENH nurtures community pride and identity while assisting individuals in uniting to identify and resolve its issues collectively. As public needs change, EENH redirects its efforts to focus on the eroding areas of community influence and life such as church, family and schools. Their efforts and services help to maintain stability in those areas and provide the lacking influence that is necessary for neighborhood prosperity, especially for children. One program provided by the EENH is the Cleveland Foster Grandparent Program, which brings neighborhood seniors and youth together. The unification of these two generations allows elders to continue to contribute by leading and sharing wisdom with the young people of the community, while providing the youth with the support and guidance that they need to become active members of the community as well.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of the volunteers, staff and leaders, past and present, of the East End Neighborhood House. Their collective dedication, vision, volunteerism and work on behalf of all residents has served to preserve the historic integrity and pride of the neighborhood, promote community accord and maintain a healthy sense of neighborhood unity for residents, young and old.