

ROSS ALLAN WILLIAMS FOR THE  
AWARD OF EAGLE SCOUT

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 5, 2007*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Ross Allan Williams, 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 167, and by earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Ross has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. For his Eagle Scout project, Ross's leadership helped to build a new enclosed dugout on the third base side for the Winston R-VI School baseball field. This completes the fourth Eagle Scout project that improves the baseball field.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Ross Allan Williams for his accomplishments and for his efforts put with the Boy Scouts of America forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION  
TO SIMPLIFY THE TAX AND  
ELIMINATE THE DRAWBACK FEE  
ON CERTAIN DISTILLED SPIRITS  
USED IN NON-BEVERAGE PROD-  
UCTS MANUFACTURED IN A U.S.  
FOREIGN TRADE ZONE OR DO-  
MESTIC USE AND EXPORT

**HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 5, 2007*

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bill designed to equalize the competitive playing field between domestic and foreign users of certain distilled spirits used in the manufacture or production of non-beverage products.

Non-beverage products include medicines, medicinal products, food products, flavors, flavoring extracts and perfumes, all of which are unfit for beverage purposes.

The bill does this by allowing users that demonstrate to the Treasury Department that they are producing non-beverage products in a U.S. Foreign Trade Zone to avoid the excise tax on distilled spirits, which a foreign manufacturer of non-beverage product that uses distilled spirits does not pay.

A Foreign Trade Zone is a restricted-access site authorized by the U.S. Department of Commerce and supervised by U.S. Customs where companies can use special Customs procedures for importing and exporting materials and finished products. Zones are located in or adjacent to a Customs port of entry and operated pursuant to public utility principles under the sponsorship of a corporation granted authority by the Commerce Department pursuant to the Foreign-Trade Zones Act and regulations.

Authorized companies, of which there are many in New Jersey, therefore will be subject to continuous regulation by the Commerce and Treasury Departments as well as Customs.

The bill preserves necessary safeguards for the government as it monitors which compa-

nies use distilled spirits for beverage purposes and which companies use them for non-beverage purposes.

Such companies will be required to file regular reports with the Department of Treasury showing that the distilled spirits are used in the manufacture of non-beverage products. Currently, such manufacturers pay an excise tax of \$13.50 per proof gallon and then must file for "drawback" with the burden on the claimant to show eligibility for drawback.

Under the drawback procedure, the government rebates all but \$1 per proof gallon, charging the companies a \$1 administration fee. Companies subject to this procedure can have considerable cash flow tied up in this process for an appreciable period of time. Again, a foreign manufacturer of non-beverage products is not subject to such tax and consequently, is not burdened by the need to file for drawback.

The imposition of this tax and burdensome drawback process on American manufacturers and producers put them at a competitive disadvantage, which I believe we should eliminate, while preserving the integrity of the government process to monitor the use of distilled spirits.

TRIBUTE TO MARTIN COUNTY AND  
FAIRMONT, MINNESOTA

**HON. TIMOTHY J. WALZ**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 5, 2007*

Mr. WALZ of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I congratulate Martin County, MN on two milestones it is celebrating this weekend: the sesquicentennial celebration of Martin County and the city of Fairmont, Minnesota, and the centennial celebration of the Martin County Courthouse.

Martin County was founded 150 years ago, on May 23, 1857. The county was named after Henry Martin of Wallingford, Connecticut, who was a resident of Mankato at the time.

The first permanent residents of what is now Fairmont, Minnesota were two men named E. Banks Hall and William H. Budd. In June of 1857, they built their homes beside two lakes that today are named—appropriately enough—Budd Lake and Hall Lake.

The town's original name was Fair Mount, which was later changed to Fairmont. Fifty years after the founding of Martin County, the County Courthouse was commissioned.

Construction on the Martin County Courthouse was completed on November 1, 1907: The building is built from Michigan sandstone and Indiana limestone and is topped by a dome that stands 108 feet above the ground.

The total cost of constructing the Courthouse—including furniture, plumbing and decorations—was just under \$125,000.

Today, this Courthouse is the jewel of the city of Fairmont, where it sits overlooking Lake Sisseton.

Throughout its 100-year history, the Martin County Courthouse has made many changes, but it has not lost its original beauty.

I am pleased to join the State of Minnesota in congratulating Martin County and Fairmont, Minnesota on this important milestone. And I wish them continued growth and success for the next 150 years.

RECOGNIZING MR. WALLY BAILEY  
FOR HIS NATIONAL LEADERSHIP  
IN BUILDING SAFETY AND FIRE  
PROTECTION

**HON. JOHN BOOZMAN**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 5, 2007*

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Wally Bailey, a resident of Fort Smith, Arkansas, and his group's recent visit to Capitol Hill during this year's annual recognition of Building Safety Week. On May 9, Mr. Bailey led a delegation of members of the International Code Council to meet with Congress to discuss nationally focused concerns in building safety and fire prevention. This year ICC's delegation focused specifically on a proposal to create a Community Building Code Administration Grant Program, and Mr. Bailey spoke to me persuasively of how this program would expand and support the quality and effectiveness of building code and fire code administration in underserved areas of our country.

Mr. Bailey serves as President of the Board of Directors of the International Code Council, a volunteer role to which he was elected in national leadership of a membership association of over 42,000 building safety and fire prevention professionals. It is this group that develops the building and fire codes that are in use all across our country for the construction and maintenance of our residential and commercial buildings, including the homes and the business, schools, and places of worship we visit regularly. These codes, created and maintained through a voluntary consensus development process, are in use by over 22,000 U.S. jurisdictions, including those who govern the quality, safety and energy efficiency of building construction at the local, State and Federal levels.

For the past three decades, Mr. Bailey has been a tireless advocate for building safety through superior building codes and effective building code administration. As the Director of Development and Construction for the City of Fort Smith, he supervises activities of a multi-disciplined department that governs codes administration, inspections, plan review, property maintenance, historic preservation and land development. As a matter of note, two years ago he celebrated a quarter century of service to the City.

Since 1999, in addition to his work with the City of Fort Smith, Mr. Bailey has served in leadership positions with the ICC, culminating in his present role as President of the Board. Besides his being a distinguished citizen of my District, in my opinion, ICC's membership elected a leader who is an outstanding public safety professional and a truly dedicated public servant.

I would also like to take this opportunity to recognize the rest of the ICC delegation who visited Capitol Hill during Building Safety Week 2007, and thank them for their efforts to promote and defend a safe and sound built-environment. Those individuals include: Board Vice President Steven Shapiro, Board Secretary/Treasurer Adolph Zubia, Immediate Past President of the Board Henry Green; Board members Gregori Anderson, Edwin Berkel, James Brothers, John Darnall, William Dupler, Gerald George, Greg Johnson, Barbara Koffron, John LaTorra, Ronald Lynn,

Doug Murdock, Ronald Piester, and James Ryan; ICC Government Relations Advisory Committee members Rebecca Baker, James Martin, Betts Nixon, Emory Rodgers, and George Wiggins; ICC Chapter Leaders Paul Aston, Roger Axel, Kurt Kasson, Sheila Lee, and Tina Rakes. Members of ICC's professional staff included its CEO Rick Weiland as well as Dominic Sims, David deCourcy, Sara Yerkes, James Tidwell, Mark Dinneen, Richard Kuchnicki, Laura Scott, Peter Feldman, and International Accreditation Services President Charles Ramani.

ED MATTAS: "AN INSPIRATION TO ALL OF SAN DIEGO"

**HON. BOB FILNER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 5, 2007*

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Ed Mattas, who is being honored with the "Community Service Award" by The San Diego-Imperial Counties Labor Council of the AFL-CIO.

After graduating from Kearney High School in San Diego, California, Ed started his Union career with Hazard Products in 1981. When Hazard closed their manufacturing plant in 1985, he moved on to RCP Block and Brick. While at RCP Block and Brick, Ed served as the Shop Steward.

Ed was then elected as Trustee to Teamsters Local 36 in 2001 and was appointed Vice President in 2006. He was hired as the Training Director for the San Diego County Construction Teamsters in 2002. Along with the job came a tractor trailer that is funded by Teamsters Locals 36, 481, 542, and 683. These Locals have made it easy for him to make the Teamster truck available for volunteer projects whenever possible.

Ed and his students have helped in many events in San Diego and Southern California. These events include the Postal Food Drive, the Christmas food and toy distribution, providing the hauling for the Trail of Hope Charity to the Apache Indians, many projects in assisting the Pacific Southwest Railway Museum in Campo, and helping to transfer food from the San Diego Food Bank to many needy organizations.

Ed Mattas truly has been an inspiration to all of San Diego.

HONORING CHRISTINE WARD-DIAZ, WINNER OF A PRESIDENTIAL AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE TEACHING

**HON. SCOTT GARRETT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 5, 2007*

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Christine Ward-Diaz, a science and math teacher at East Brook Middle School in Paramus, New Jersey, and winner of a Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching this year.

As the Paramus Superintendent Janice Dime has noted, Ms. Ward-Diaz "makes

science learning come alive in her classroom." I had the pleasure of visiting with Ms. Ward-Diaz last year with the EPA Administrator, Stephen Johnson, to discuss energy conservation. Her teaching style clearly invigorates her classroom and challenges her students. The children were well-informed and excited to absorb as much knowledge as they could from their teacher.

Christine Ward-Diaz holds a bachelor's degree in elementary education from the University of Scranton and a masters in environmental studies from my alma mater, Montclair State University. Her superior teaching methods have long been recognized by her peers, earning her East Brook's Teacher of the Year in 2004-05. The Presidential Award is the federal government's highest honor for teaching excellence.

This statement in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD will ensure her well-deserved place in official history. But, more importantly, the generations of students she inspires are a legacy in which we will all always share. I commend Christine Ward-Diaz for her dedication to her students and her community.

TRIBUTE TO MIKE GARRETT

**HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 5, 2007*

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mike Garrett, who will receive the 2007 Leadership Award presented by the Sigma Pi Phi Gamma Zeta Boule Foundation at their Annual Scholarship Luncheon in Pasadena, California on June 10, 2007. Each year, this award is given to a community leader who demonstrates extraordinary commitment and dedication to education and the community.

Raised in Los Angeles, California, Mike Garrett attended the University of Southern California, where he excelled as a football player and set numerous records. As an exemplary student athlete, Garrett was named an All-American twice, awarded the prestigious Heisman Trophy in 1965, and was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame in 1985.

Garrett went on to become a star in the American Football League playing for the Kansas City Chiefs and the San Diego Chargers. He was a two time AFL All-Star, and led the Chiefs to a Super Bowl Victory in 1969. Throughout his entire professional career, Garrett gained a total of 8,049 yards and scored 49 touchdowns.

After his professional football career, Garrett attended the College of Law at Western State University, where he earned his Juris Doctor in 1986. Garrett also held numerous professional positions, which included Director of Business Development at the Great Western Forum, working at the District Attorney's Office in San Diego, and doing color commentary for USC football telecasts. In January of 1993, Garrett returned to USC as the Athletic Director where he has helped the football program regain its status as a dominant football power.

For his success and commitment to promoting education and athletics, I ask all Members of Congress to join me in congratulating Mike Garrett upon receiving the Sigma Pi Phi Gamma Zeta Boule's 2007 Leadership Award.

U.S. TROOP READINESS, VETERANS' CARE, KATRINA RECOVERY, AND IRAQ ACCOUNTABILITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2007

SPEECH OF

**HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 24, 2007*

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, despite my opposition to the war in Iraq, I supported the passage of the U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans' Health, and Iraq Accountability Act of 2007, H.R. 1591, when it came before the House in March. It was a difficult decision but I had to vote my conscience.

For the first time we were requiring accountability standards by establishing benchmarks and a timeframe for redeployment. Another persuasive factor in supporting H.R. 1591 was the funding for body armor, Mine Resistant Ambush Protection vehicles, MRAP, traumatic brain injury, TBI, and post-traumatic stress disorder, PTSD, and veterans health care. Finally, I was encouraged by the fact that we were taking proper care of our soldiers by ensuring that they were properly rested, trained, and equipped. Unfortunately, President Bush vetoed this bill that could not be overturned by the House.

A few weeks ago on May 10, Congress considered and passed version two of the Iraq Supplemental, H.R. 2206. This bill would have provided \$42.8 billion for the Iraq War. Funding would have supported the immediate needs of the U.S. military through July. However, shortly before the August recess Congress would have to decide whether to release an additional \$52.8 billion of war spending that would last until September.

This measure would have placed needed limitations on access to funding based upon the progress reports provided to Congress by the President thereby, bringing the President and his administration back to reality by enforcing accountability standards. However, in an effort to avoid another veto by President Bush, H.R. 2206 has been butchered into a bill hallow and reintroduced without needed provisions that would safeguard this country from continuing a seemingly endless military operations in Iraq. Therefore, I voted in favor of Amendment 1 to H.R. 2206 and voted against Amendment 2.

One of my primary concerns has been to ensure that the troops receive the equipment, rest and training they require and surely deserve. In keeping in line with these key concerns, I voted in support of Amendment 1 to H.R. 2206, which provides support for defense and the global war on terror totaling over \$14.489 billion in funding namely, \$617 million in state and foreign operations, \$3.137 billion for BRAC (fully-funded), \$1.789 billion in Veterans Medical Care (including funding for Walter Reed Medical Center), and \$1.050 billion for Homeland Security.

Moreover, Amendment 1 supports our troops by appropriating \$343 million for our military personnel in the U.S. Army, \$408 million for our service members in the U.S. Navy, about \$108.9 million for our troops in the Marine Corps, \$139.3 million for those in the U.S. Air Force and marked increases in funding for our reserve personnel. Furthermore, it protects