

demonstrated the capabilities of American women to undertake the human exploration of space.

The 13 women who participated in this program demonstrated the willingness and capability that women all around the world, past and present, possess, and in many cases must possess to overcome an indictment of sexism and discrimination that our society often presents. Although their participation in these tests and trials yielded no concrete results, the 13 women trailblazers ought to be recognized for having endured and overcome such grueling physical, medical and psychological astronautical fitness examinations.

These 13 women—Jerri Cobb, Wally Funk, Irene Leverton, Myrtle “K” Cagle, Jane B. Hart, Gene Nora Stumbough (Jessen), Jerri Sloan (Truhill), Rhea Hurtle (Woltman), Sarah Gorelick (Ratley), Bernice “B” Trimble Steadman, Jan Dietrich, and the late Marlon Dietrich and Jean Hixson—all surpassed society’s expectations of rejections, by proving that although women are typically smaller and lighter than men, women are still fit to be good occupants in cramped space vehicles. These women attempted the dream that many others only dreamed of—flying the newest and the fastest craft.

Mr. Speaker, though few Americans know the names of the 13 women trailblazers, their valiant attempts to earn the opportunity to fly a spacecraft call for worldwide recognition. Because of the secrecy of the test programs, these women never received the recognition for their accomplishments, which laid that critical groundwork for women who have reached and those who are seeking to reach the skies. We can show our gratitude and appreciation for these women trailblazers by honoring them with the passing of this bill.

As a representative of the 18th Congressional District of Texas, home to an integral number of space exploration projects, centers, businesses, and constituents employed in the space industry, I strongly support legislation that seeks to inspire, motivate and recognize those individuals who assist with the improvement and advancement of space exploration.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting H. Res. 421 to honor the trailblazing accomplishments of the 13 female pilots of Mercury 13.

RECOGNIZING THE TRAVIS REGIONAL ARMED FORCES COMMITTEE ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR 10-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

**HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 11, 2007*

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the Travis Regional Armed Forces Committee (TRAFAC) as they celebrate their 10-year anniversary.

The TRAFAC is comprised of over 150 business and civic leaders who work together to support the men and women of Travis Air Force Base. The mission of the TRAFAC is to “maintain liaison with personnel at Travis Air Force Base, promote the mission of the base

to the community, and enhance the importance of the facility as an instrument of national security.”

The TRAFAC meets monthly on base to receive updates from the Commanders of the 60th AMW, 349 AMW Reserve, and 615 CRW and to recognize airmen from the various wings for going “above and beyond” in their service.

In addition, the TRAFAC hosts various events throughout the year to bring the communities surrounding the base and base personnel closer together. Events include the Military Recognition Night, NCO Night, and Commander’s Night. The TRAFAC also hosts a Contractor’s Breakfast to educate businesses about bidding for contracts on base.

Moreover, the TRAFAC was instrumental in working with the local community to ensure the Base Realignment and Closure Panel understood the vital role of Travis AFB in securing the Nation.

A great deal of the TRAFAC’s success is due in part to the leadership of the Fairfield-Suisun and Vacaville Chambers of Commerce and the Committee’s own leadership. Past Presidents include Don Erickson, 1997–1998, Bev Dorsett, 1998–1999, Al Lavezzo, 1999–2000, Len Augustine, 2000–2001, Gary Falati, 2001–2002, Dale Baumler, 2002–2003, Ben Huber, 2003–2004, Bud Ross, 2004–2005, Ray Schoch, 2005–2006, and Foy McNaughton, 2006–2007.

Over the years I have had the opportunity to work with the TRAFAC to support Travis AFB, both locally and in Washington, and have had the opportunity to support their nomination as the best base support organization in the Air Mobility Command.

As the TRAFAC celebrates their 10-year anniversary, I would like to thank current and past members of TRAFAC for their dedication to the men and women of Travis AFB and recognize them for their support of the base and its vital mission.

IN HONOR OF COLONEL RONALD A. RUTLAND

**HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE**

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 11, 2007*

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize the accomplishments and career of Colonel Ronald A. Rutland. Colonel Rutland is the commander of the 512th Airlift Wing at the Dover Air Force Base. Colonel Rutland is a distinguished member of the Reserves Officers Association with more than 6,500 flying hours in training, airlift and tanker experience. I commend Colonel Rutland for his years of public service defending our Nation.

Colonel Rutland received a Bachelor Degree of Political Science at Mississippi State University in 1973, and in 1977 attended the Squadron Officer School at Maxwell Air Force Base in Alabama. Colonel Rutland’s passion for learning never subsided, and in 1988, he went back to school to receive his Masters of Aeronautical Science at Embry-Riddle University.

Colonel Rutland received his undergraduate pilot training at the Columbus Air Force Base in 1973. From 1977 until the present, Colonel Rutland has served in various areas of command, including Air Training, Strategic Air Command, and Air Mobility Command, at six different Air Force Bases within the United States. Most recently, Colonel Rutland served in Iraq as the commander of the 447th Air Expeditionary Group at Sather Air Base.

Ronald has served as a distinguished member of the United States Air Force for 34 years and has been honored on several occasions for his service. He has received countless awards such as the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and the Air Force Longevity Service Award with six oak leaf clusters.

I join with the people of Delaware to thank Colonel Rutland for his continued dedication to the Air Force. He has served in a role that can be difficult at times, but is a necessity to the security of our Nation. I commend him for a life of service and thank him for his tireless dedication to Delaware and the United States of America.

HONORING REV. RICHARD P. OLDHAM

**HON. RON LEWIS**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 11, 2007*

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Rev. Richard P. Oldham, an exemplary citizen and friend from my Congressional District. Rev. Oldham will celebrate his 50th anniversary this month as Pastor of Glendale Baptist Church in Bowling Green, Kentucky.

A native of Louisville, KY, Rev. Oldham began his ministry at the First Baptist Church in Savannah, TN while attending nearby Union University. He later earned an advanced degree from the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and served various churches in Kentucky, Michigan, and Arkansas.

In 1957, he came back to Kentucky to become pastor of Glendale Baptist Church. During his five decades of spiritual leadership, over 250 young men and women have gone on to serve in the pastorate and in other mission assignments all over the world. He has also presided over an estimated 4,000 baptisms.

Rev. Oldham has remained very active in the Glendale community throughout his tenure including over 30 years as director of the Annual Youth Bible Conference at Camp Joy; numerous speaking roles at the annual Kentucky Baptist Convention; and past service as President of the Kentucky Baptist Pastor’s Conference. Rev. Oldham is also the founder of Anchored Christian School in Bowling Green.

It is my great privilege to honor Rev. Richard P. Oldham today before the entire U.S. House of Representatives for his dedicated service to the spiritual needs of members of the Baptist faith and the Warren County community at large. He is an outstanding citizen worthy of our collective honor and appreciation.

HONORING ASTRONAUT WALTER  
MARTY SCHIRRA, AND EXPRESS-  
ING CONDOLENCES ON HIS PASS-  
ING

SPEECH OF  
**HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE**

OF TEXAS  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Wednesday, June 6, 2007*

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 446, to honor and recognize the life of astronaut Walter Marty Schirra, and to express condolences on his passing. Walter Marty Schirra passed away in La Jolla, CA, at the age of 84.

The American community is sad to have lost one of its original space trailblazer—a true pioneer in both innovation and discovery. In attempting to place men in space, Schirra was chosen to serve as one of the original Mercury 7 astronauts for Project Mercury. Serving as an astronaut and naval officer, Schirra became the first man to fly on all three of our Nation's space programs—Apollo 7, Gemini VI-A, and Mercury 8 (Sigma 7). Prior to his passing, "Astronaut Wally Schirra" logged a total of 4577 hours of flight time, with 295 of those being in space. Additionally, he performed 267 landings in an aircraft carrier.

His lifetime of achievement also included a decorated record of service in the United States Military. He flew 90 combat missions in F-84E jets, as well as downing at least one MIG fighter, while serving as an exchange pilot with the 154th Fighter Bomber Squadron during the Korean War. His courage and valor was eventually recognized with three distinguishing flying crosses, two air medals, two NASA Distinguished Services Medals, and induction into the National Aviation Hall of Fame.

Mr. Speaker, Wally Schirra serves as a positive role model and an asset to the space community. Schirra was an accomplished astronaut whose personal and professional career was filled with positive milestones and accomplishments. Schirra always rejected mediocrity by rejecting to conform to commonplace expectations. Schirra pushed the limits of 2 discovery and was determined to work harder and go farther than anyone before him.

Despite his numerous accomplishments, which ranged from educational attainment, military awards, hall of fame inductions, active-ness in diverse clubs and organizations, as well as experiences, his humility was one of his most endearing traits. Although he was a great asset to the space industry, he assumed a very modest character.

As one of the few and profound trailblazers ever known to the United States Naval Academy, NASA, and the space community, he has helped pave the way for much of our knowledge about the operations of the space system. As a Member who represents many NASA-employed constituents and as a strong supporter of the expansion of our space programs, I understand the important role that Schirra played in advancing our scientific explorations in space.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in recognizing the enormous contributions that late astronaut Walter Marty Schirra has made in the space industry and beyond, while also expressing condolences for his passing.

RECOGNIZING THE DEDICATION OF  
JOHNNY W. WELTON

**HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER**

OF CALIFORNIA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Monday, June 11, 2007*

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Johnny W. Welton, as he retires as the director of Contra Costa Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA), after 40 years of serving students in special education.

Johnny W. Welton's career in special education encompasses 12 years as a classroom teacher, 3 years as a resource teacher, 8 years as a site and central office administrator and 16 years as the Director of the Contra Costa SELPA.

In his role as director of SELPA, Welton established a Resource Parent Program, initiated Facilitation Skills training for staff IEP teams, and introduced Solutions Panel mediation training. Throughout his career, Johnny W. Welton has worked for equity, quality, reforms, and results in special education and conflict resolution.

On many occasions during his illustrious career, Johnny W. Welton received national, State and local awards and recognition for his service to the children of Contra Costa County.

Among these are: the first "Peacemaker of the Year Award" from the California Department of Education; the "Outstanding Administrator of the Year Award" presented by the Association of California School Administrators; a certificate of Appreciation awarded by Contra Costa Children and Adults with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder; and the first Alternative Dispute Resolution grant from the California Department of Education in 1993, and in each year to follow.

Johnny W. Welton's outstanding service to special education and dispute resolution more than validates his awards. He assisted in the reorganization and establishment of the California Department of Education Procedural Safeguards Unit, Compliance Monitoring Unit; he built partnerships between Education and other local agencies serving children with special needs; and he chaired the state of California Alternative Dispute Resolution Steering Committee.

As Johnny W. Welton retires, I would like to thank him for his dedication to the quality of education of the children of Contra Costa County, and his leadership in the field of special education as an exceptional educator and SELPA Director. I wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors.

IN HONOR OF THE 100TH ANNIVER-  
SARY OF MINQUAS FIRE COM-  
PANY NO. 1 OF NEWPORT, DE

**HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE**

OF DELAWARE  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Monday, June 11, 2007*

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to commemorate an important anniversary of service to the Town of Newport and the entire State of Delaware.

On May 21, 1907, concerned citizens met in the historic town of Newport to discuss the for-

mation of a fire company. At the time, there had been numerous fires which destroyed properties before the already established fire companies in Wilmington, New Castle and Newark could arrive and fight the blazes. After much discussion and debate, Lt. Governor John M. Mendenhall suggested to the 68 founders that the company should be named the Minquas Fire Company No. 1 commemorating a tribe of Native American Indians who traded with early settlers along the Christiania River.

From its genesis, the Minquas Fire Company has taken great pride in providing volunteer fire rescue and emergency medical services to the citizens of greater Newport. They began by purchasing property in the unit block of North James Street. Several extensions and expansions have taken place over the years the most recent being the erection of an ultra modern facility in 2005.

Minquas' first President Howard P. Weldin and Chief Thomas Bullen oversaw the original building project and the construction of the first fire house. In 1908, a horse drawn chemical engine was purchased from Radnor Fire Company of Pennsylvania for \$1,000 and put in service at the brand new station.

Today President Curtis Clifton and Chief Michael Saggione command the Fire Company. Through their leadership, Minquas has continued to acquire the latest fire, rescue, ambulance apparatus and equipment to respond to the emergency service needs of their community. The Company's Motto "We go where duty calls" exemplifies the volunteer spirit of the men and women of the Minquas Fire Company No. 1.

I am proud of the contributions the volunteers of Minquas have made to Delaware over all these years and I congratulate them on this important milestone of 100 years of service.

IN TRIBUTE TO SAM CARMEN

**HON. GWEN MOORE**

OF WISCONSIN  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Monday, June 11, 2007*

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a leader and volunteer from the Fourth Congressional District, Sam Carmen. Mr. Carmen is a recognized leader at the national and local level for his work in the area of educational innovation and reform. Mr. Carmen is retiring from the Milwaukee Teacher's Education Association (MTEA) after 28 years of faithful service.

Sam Carmen graduated from Cornell University with a bachelor's degree in Industrial and Labor Relations. Following graduation, he worked for both public sector and private sector unions in various capacities.

Mr. Carmen joined the staff of MTEA in 1979. In 1986, he became MTEA's chief spokesperson in contract negotiations with the Milwaukee Public School (MPS) Board. While he was serving as chief negotiator, MTEA developed a portfolio of educational reforms that were incorporated into the collective bargaining agreement and became national models. For example, Mr. Carmen negotiated an interview process for filling teacher vacancies replacing the traditional seniority model. MPS utilizes this process to select teachers who best fit their needs with the input of teachers, administration, and parent representatives.