

struggling with serious health problems caused by 9/11. In particular, I would like to recognize the achievements of the Co-Founders of *Unsung Heroes*, John Sferazo and Marvin Bethea, as well as the organization's treasurer, Mike Arcari, and secretary, Julie Hernandez.

John Sferazo arrived at Ground Zero on the morning of September 12th. A structural iron worker, John immediately began removing crushed vehicles from the site. For the next 30 days, John cut through and removed iron and steel to try to rescue or recover those trapped under the pile. John suffered significant damage to his lungs as a result of his work and has not been able to perform his regular job since August 1, 2004. Since that time, he has poured his considerable energies into helping others, primarily through his work as the President of *Unsung Heroes Helping Heroes*.

An independent paramedic with a private hospital, Marvin Bethea was dispatched to Ground Zero on September 11th by the New York City Fire Department. Marvin was a block away from Ground Zero when the first tower fell. He was buried in the lobby of a nearby bank building, but was able to get out and attend to the medical needs of people nearby. When the second Trade Center tower collapsed, Marvin was again covered in debris. Marvin returned to Ground Zero on September 14th to continue giving medical assistance to victims and to rescue workers. Five weeks later, he suffered a stroke attributed to 9/11. Like his friend and colleague John Sferazo, he has since worked tirelessly, despite major, persistent health problems, to help others.

In a few short years, *Unsung Heroes Helping Heroes* has established an impressive track record of advocacy on the city, state and federal levels. In 2006, the organization worked with the State of New York to extend the deadline for 9/11 responders to apply for workers' compensation benefits. I was proud to work with *Unsung Heroes* in our successful campaign to provide the very first federal funding for 9/11 health care needs. In support of their very worthy cause, John and Marvin have organized countless press conferences, rallies and fundraisers, and have lobbied officials on all levels of government.

Madam Speaker, as John and Marvin and their colleagues would no doubt tell you, we are in the middle of a gathering health crisis. The deaths of at least eight 9/11 responders have been widely documented in the media, although I believe that there are many more untimely deaths out there that have yet to come to light. I strongly believe that we must act now to make sure that tragedies like these never happen again. If we fail to meet our obligation to care for those sickened or injured by 9/11, I fear that no one will be either willing or able to help in the event of a future disaster.

I believe that all Americans should be proud of leaders like John Sferazo and Marvin Bethea and their colleagues at *Unsung Heroes Helping Heroes*, who have dedicated themselves to making sure that in America, we will take care of those who take care of us. Madam Speaker, I ask that my distinguished colleagues join me in saluting *Unsung Heroes Helping Heroes, Inc.*

HONORING FORMER BAY CITY
MAYOR ROBERT KATT

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 14, 2007

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, today I am happy to rise before you and ask my colleagues in the 110th Congress to honor former Bay City Mayor Robert Katt.

Robert Katt was born in Pontiac, Michigan on July 30, 1942. His family then moved to Bay City where he attended Washington Elementary School. In 1960 Mr. Katt graduated from Bay City Central High School. He went on to attend Delta College before joining the U.S. Army. Bob served his country in the U.S. Medical Corps from 1962 to 1965. During that time, he married his wife Barbara. He is also survived by two children and two grandchildren.

In 1981 Robert Katt decided to further serve his community and was elected Bay County Commissioner. He served as 6th Ward Bay City Commissioner from 1987 to 1993 and from 1995 to 2003. Bob served as Commission President from 1991 to 1993 and from 2000 to 2003. In 2003 Mr. Katt decided to begin his campaign for Bay City Mayor, and was elected to the position in November of that year, where he remained until his death in 2006.

Aside from his elected positions, Mayor Katt was active throughout his community. He was affiliated with the Bay City Central Booster Club and served as chairman of the South End Citizens District Council. Bob was a member of UAW Local 362, having worked at General Motors Corporation for 38 years.

Madam Speaker, once again I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Robert Katt and his legacy to Bay City, Michigan.

IN RECOGNITION OF MRS. RUTH
ZISES

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 14, 2007

Mr. ACKERMAN. Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to honor the memory of Ruth Zises, a dear friend and role model, who sadly succumbed to illness earlier this year.

Ruth was a unique woman whose presence brightened the faces and warmed the hearts of everyone she encountered. Ruth was a deeply principled woman who wore her passions with profound pride. She was enormously dedicated to her family and friends and intensely devoted to her beliefs. Ruth translated her convictions into action by founding, together with her family, the Genesis Center in Jerusalem, an academy devoted to enhancing the lives of young adults by incorporating Jewish scholarship with civic engagement and political action. Ruth's service and support of countless other institutions, organizations and charities made her a model of generosity.

While Ruth's attention to the needs of her community was commendable, her family was always the focal point of her life. Ruth's devo-

tion to her husband Bernie, sons Selig, Seymour and Jay, her nine grandchildren and six great-grandchildren inspired all who knew her.

Madam Speaker, words can not capture the generosity of spirit and warmth that Ruth Zises exuded. All that can be said is that she will be terribly missed by the scores of people fortunate enough to have had known her.

Madam Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in recognizing and remembering the exemplary life of Ruth Zises.

IN RECOGNITION OF COLONEL
TODD R. SMITH

HON. BRAD ELLSWORTH

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 14, 2007

Mr. ELLSWORTH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Colonel Todd R. Smith for his extraordinary service as Commander of Crane Army Ammunition Activity (CAAA) in Crane, Indiana. Colonel Smith has been selected to serve as the Chief of Staff for the Joint Munitions Command in Rock Island Arsenal, Illinois. Rock Island's gain is Crane Army's loss. I know I speak for everyone at Crane when I say that Colonel Smith leaves a strong legacy of achievement and CAAA is a more efficient operation because of his leadership and service.

Colonel Smith, a native of Bluefield, West Virginia, arrived at Crane Army in July 2004 as a highly regarded and decorated leader in the Army having served in leadership positions in Germany, Korea and the U.S. He also commanded the Lone Star Army Ammunition Plant in Texarkana, Texas from July 1999 to July 2001. Prior to arriving at CAAA, Colonel Smith served as Chief, C/J4 Munitions Division, Combined Forces Command and United States Forces Korea.

Colonel Smith's vision and leadership at Crane Army, particularly through his focused implementation of the Lean Six Sigma and Continuous Improvement, has resulted in the creation of an organizational culture that resulted in increased efficiency and quality of service throughout all operational areas at CAAA. In fact, Colonel Smith was able to decrease annual project costs by \$2.6 million while maintaining the expected high level of production.

The Crane Continuous Improvement program highlights the determined leadership Colonel Smith has provided at CAAA. Under his leadership, CAAA has produced 6 Lean Six Sigma Black Belts, 40 Lean Six Sigma Green Belts, 22 Lean Six Sigma Executive Leaders, and 24 Lean Six Sigma Project Sponsors. CAAA's establishment of the Ammunition, Transportation, Tracking, and Control Center (ATTACC) remains the hallmark of the Continuous Improvement program. ATTACC, located on base at CAAA, allows depot operators to utilize proactive logistics through a shared computer application. The result is more accurate schedules and efficient planning for the processing of ammunitions receipts and issues. ATTACC is a sterling example of Crane Army's mission statement, "Only Our Best for the World's Best!"

It is a testament to Colonel Smith's leadership that CAAA has been nationally recognized for excellence. CAAA was honored with

a 2006 White House Closing the Circle Award for environmental contributions by the Office of the Federal Environmental Executive. CAAA was also honored in 2006 with the Indiana Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence. On a personal level, Colonel Smith has been awarded with many honors throughout his distinguished career in the Army. Among these awards are the Defense Superior Service Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Parachute Badge, and the Army Staff Identification Badge.

Madam Speaker, I commend Colonel Smith for his outstanding service to his country and to Crane Army. I wish him the best as he takes his new leadership position with the Joint Munitions Command.

TRIBUTE TO FLAG DAY

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 14, 2007

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, on June 14, we will once again celebrate our National Flag, Old Glory itself. In West Virginia, we love our flag. We fly it with pride, and treat it with the reverence that such a flag, which thousands of brave West Virginians have fought and died to protect, deserves.

We understand that the flag is not just a patchwork of fabric and embroidery. It is the very embodiment of our country's values, our freedom, our hopes, our dreams, and our pride. The Stars and Stripes are a sign of our nation's rich heritage. The thirteen stripes and the 50 stars are the embodiment of America itself. The twinkle in each West Virginian's eye, and the blood and sweat from our hard-working men and women are represented in the red, white, and blue that hangs over our porches, flies proudly in our ballparks, and drapes the coffins of our fallen heroes.

Harrowing events often serve to remind us of the importance of our flag. We can all recall the image of six brave soldiers raising the flag of the United States atop Mount Suribach during the Battle of Iwo Jima. And none of us will forget the tattered Stars and Stripes raised by three weary firemen over the remains of the World Trade Center to honor the thousands who perished on September 11th.

The Stars and Stripes are more than just a sign of our heritage—they represent our hopes and dreams, and the pride of our nation. The flag was the inspiration for our Star Spangled Banner, and will always be the focal point when we recite our Pledge of Allegiance.

For these reasons, and so many more, I have always fought for a Constitutional amendment to protect our flag from desecration. I believe one absolute truth of being a citizen of the United States of America is that our flag, the symbol of the sacrifices, which so many gave to preserve our freedom, must be protected from such abuse.

Perhaps the nineteenth-century writer Henry Ward Beecher described it best: "A thoughtful mind when it sees a nation's flag, sees not the flag but the Nation itself. He reads chiefly in the flag, the government, the principles, the truths, the history that belongs to the nation that sets it forth. The American flag has been the symbol of Liberty and men rejoiced in it."

May we all take heed to the wise words of Mr. Beecher as we fly the Stars and Stripes high and proud, not just today, but every day.

IN HONOR OF JOAN LUNDY—JUNE
16, 1938—JUNE 7, 2007

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 14, 2007

Mr. BECERRA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Joan Lundy, a passionate community activist and loving family woman, who passed away on June 7, 2007. Family and friends will gather on Saturday, June 16, in Los Angeles to honor Joan's full life which was marked by dedicated community leadership, a devoted family and tireless advocacy.

Mother Teresa is known to have said: "Do not wait for leaders; do it alone, person to person." Joan never waited for leaders to enact what she knew was right, instead she became a leader and influenced people one-by-one throughout her life. When she passed away at the age of 68 she had bestowed her strength and wisdom unto many through the years.

In the early 1980s, after raising her five children, Joan put herself through California State University of Los Angeles' geology program, and went on to practice engineering geology for many years—a career in which she thrived.

Joan possessed a passion for fairness and social justice throughout her life—she served as the president of her community parent teacher association and worked to desegregate schools in Altadena. Her community activism continued to flourish when she moved to Northeast Los Angeles in 1987. She led the Glassell Park Improvement Association for more than a decade and was president from 1996 to 1999. Joan spearheaded the effort to adorn neighborhood streets with beautiful, flowering jacaranda trees. The rows of jacarandas that were planted along San Fernando Road and Eagle Rock Boulevard have become a well-recognized symbol of Glassell Park. In the spirit of community pride and improvement, Joan negotiated the upgrading of Glassell Park's community center and the completion of many public works projects.

Joan was the best kind of constituent any elected representative could ask for: she not only committed herself to creating solutions for the community and presenting them to her representatives, she also knew how to mobilize her friends and neighbors toward civic engagement.

I extend my deepest sympathies to her beloved husband, Bill; her children: Beth Oberholtzer, John Oberholtzer, Laurie Oberholtzer, Margie Oberholtzer, and the late Tim Oberholtzer; and her 10 grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, it is with heartfelt sorrow, yet deep pride and admiration, that I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing Joan Lundy. Her influence lives on, especially in those hearts and minds she touched so deeply in Glassell Park and Northeast Los Angeles.

CLOSE "HUMMER TAX LOOPHOLE"

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 14, 2007

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to close the "Hummer Tax Loophole," which fixes a serious mistake in the Tax Code that provides an additional incentive for business purchases of luxury SUVs weighing over 6,000 pounds, such as the Hummer. This legislation is co-sponsored by my colleagues ED MARKEY, RAHM EMANUEL, and ALLISON SCHWARTZ.

The tax code allows small businesses to get a tax break for vehicles they use in business. In 1984, a limitation was put in place to make sure businesses didn't just buy luxury vehicles and write them off. These vehicles were described as under 6,000 lbs because, at that time, luxury vehicles over 6,000 lbs were not as pervasive. Today, there are many luxury SUVs that are more than 6,000 lbs, such as the BMW X5, the Hummer H1 and H2, and the Cadillac Escalade. Buying these vehicles entitles small businesses to an extra tax break, which constitutes the loophole.

This legislation closes the Hummer Tax Loophole by applying the limitation that currently applies to vehicles under 6,000 pounds to those over 6,000 lbs. In other words, businesses will no longer have an incentive to buy the biggest, most gas guzzling SUV on the market. Legislative language and regulations would guarantee that the limitation not apply to trucks or vans used for legitimate business purposes, such as farm vehicles, fork lifts, cranes and derricks, school buses, flatbed trucks, cement mixers, and other vehicles as designated by the IRS.

This bill will make sure that U.S. tax policy no longer encourages the purchase of the heaviest, most polluting, and least fuel-efficient vehicles for business use.

IN PRAISE OF THE MUSEUM OF
THE HISTORY OF POLISH JEWS
IN WARSAW, POLAND

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 14, 2007

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my support for the Museum of the History of Polish Jews in Warsaw, Poland.

Last month, I had the opportunity to travel to Poland, and I was deeply inspired by my meeting with Jerzy Halbersztadt, the Executive Director of the Museum, and Ewa Wierzynska, the Deputy Director. I commend them for their extraordinary hard work and vision in bringing this museum to life. A groundbreaking ceremony for the museum, located in the heart of the pre-World War II Jewish district, will be held on June 26th. I also commend the municipality of Warsaw and the Government of Poland for supporting the establishment of this important institution.

Jews arrived in the medieval Kingdom of Poland almost one thousand years ago, as they escaped persecution in neighboring countries. Indeed, the Hebrew word for Poland is