

and notified applicants and my office of their final decision on admittance.

As these highly motivated and talented young men and women go through the nominating process, never let us forget the sacrifice they are preparing to make: to defend our country and protect our citizens. This holds especially true at a time when our Nation is fighting the war against terrorism. Whether it is in Afghanistan, Iraq, or other hot spots around the world, no doubt we are constantly reminded that wars are fought by the young. And, while our military missions are both important and sometimes dangerous, it is reassuring to know that we continue to put America's best and brightest in command.

ACADEMY NOMINEES FOR 2007—11TH
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT, NEW JERSEY

Air Force Academy: Greg W. Bukata, Chatham, H.S. of the Chathams; David Lam, Lake Hopatcong, Jefferson H.S.; Melissa L. Marcial, Parsippany, Parsippany H.S.; Scott Pierson, Parsippany, Parsippany Hills H.S.; and Samantha J. Stibick, Somerville, Somerville H.S.

Military Academy: Brian C. Asman, Livingston, Livingston H.S.; Alexander Boroff, Chatham, H.S. of the Chathams; Hadley A. Johnson, Randolph, Pingry School; Vincent J. Lally, Sparta, Sparta H.S.; Dario Marcelli, III, East Hanover, Hanover Park H.S.; Alexander Z. Pytlar, Califon, West Morris Central H.S.; Jason S. Rothamel, Basking Ridge, Ridge H.S.; Quentin Sica, Stanhope, Lenape Valley H.S.; and Marianne R. Slotten, Mendham, West Morris Mendham H.S.

Naval Academy: Kelsey L. Bergh, Morristown, Academy of St. Elizabeth; Jeffrey R. Bland, Basking Ridge, Immaculata H.S.; David P. Bobo, Florham Park, Seton Hall Preparatory School; Jacob O. Bridge, Stirling, Watchung Hills H.S.; Jesse S. Cohen, Mountain Lakes, Mountain Lakes H.S.; Kevin A. Gaines, Wharton, Morris Hills H.S.; Peter S. Garber, Short Hills, Millburn H.S.; Matthew R. Gregory, Long Valley, Davidson College; Ralph N. Grossmann, IV, Green Pond, Morris Knolls H.S.; Andrew P. Hanko, Montville, Trinity Christian School; Steven R. Kline, Chatham, H.S. of the Chathams; Andrew M. Kramer, Oak Ridge, Jefferson H.S.; William J. Ludlow, Basking Ridge, Ridge H.S.; Jason Mariscal, Fairfield, West Essex H.S.; Nicholas A. Mikula, North Caldwell, Seton Hall Preparatory School; Steven B. Monin, North Caldwell, West Essex H.S.; Joseph P. Palamara, Denville, Morris Knolls H.S.; Christopher K. Schneider, Mendham, Seton Hall Preparatory School; and David R. Weller, Bridgewater, Bridgewater-Raritan H.S.

TRIBUTE TO MR. JAMES (JIM)
HODGE

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 24, 2007

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an educator who spent nineteen years working in public schools, including those in my hometown, Menominee, Michigan. This weekend, Mr. James (Jim) Hodge will celebrate his retirement from a career of community commitment. I would like to commend him for his years of service to Menominee public schools and his long standing involvement in the Menominee community.

Jim is a native son of the Upper Peninsula or a "Yooper" as we refer to them in our part

of the country. Like many Yoopers before him, he worked for some time for the U.S. Forest Service in Ottawa National Forest outside of Ironwood, Michigan. Also like many Yoopers before him, he spent time as a laborer at the Cleveland Cliffs Iron Mine. Jim attended one of the U.P.'s great educational institutions, Northern Michigan University in Marquette, before moving on to the University of Michigan.

Jim's appreciation for the importance of education in a community was fostered early when, through the Mott Foundation, he worked as an Administrative Intern in Flint Public Community Schools. One might say that program was his introduction to the field of education.

Jim returned to the U.P. in 1968 where he began a nineteen year stint in Menominee public schools. His first job in Menominee public schools was Community School Director and, for the next six years, Jim would hold a range of responsibilities in the school system, such as Athletic Director, Department Head of the Physical Education Department and City Recreation Director. During this six year period, Jim was also Principal of the Menominee Area Public Schools.

In 1976, Jim was promoted to Administrative Assistant to the Menominee Area Public Schools Superintendent. In this role, Jim performed a range of duties, supervising a variety of operational aspects of the Menominee school system. In 1985, Jim became Superintendent of Menominee Area Public Schools, a crowning achievement on a lengthy career with the Menominee educational system.

During his tenure in the Menominee public school system, Jim was honored with several awards, including the Jaycee Young Educator of the Year award; the U.P. Community Education Association's Outstanding Educator Award and Lifetime Member Award; and the Menominee Chamber of Commerce Educator of the Year Award.

In 1987, Jim left the Menominee school system, but he did not leave behind his involvement in the community. In 1988, Jim joined State Farm Insurance, establishing his own local business and providing insurance to many of the same people he had served for so many years as a school administrator. Working for State Farm, Jim earned numerous awards with the help of two faithful employees, Jane Yager and Mary Tickler.

Throughout his career, in both the private sector and public education, Jim has remained an active member of his community on many other levels. He served as President of the Emmanuel Lutheran Church Council and spent two terms as President of Big Brothers/Big Sister of Menominee. Jim was also a Trustee of the Greater Menominee & Marinette YMCA Board of Directors.

While Jim has enjoyed an active and successful career, he has always set aside time for family. He married Greta Theuerkauf in Menominee in 1970. Together, Jim and Greta raised three children, Wade, Tiffany, and Tarra.

Now that Jim has entered a well-deserved retirement, he will undoubtedly have more time to spend with Greta and his children. Hopefully, he will also be able to further indulge in his life long hobbies of skiing, camping and other outdoor activities, perhaps with his loyal dog and best friend, Reggie, at his side.

Madam Speaker, my father was a public school administrator. Therefore, I am well ac-

quainted with the dedication, commitment and time required for an individual to succeed in that field. Those who choose to pursue a career in public education do so less for personal gain and more to play a constructive role in their community. Jim Hodge clearly fits that description, having dedicated nearly two decades to Menominee's public school system.

As Mr. Hodge and the Menominee community celebrate his career and honor his retirement, I ask that the entire U.S. House of Representatives join me in thanking him for his service and in wishing him, Greta, their children, and their newest grand child all the best for many years to come.

HONORING THE DALE CITY
BENGALS

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 24, 2007

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Dale City Bengals, who on December 9, 2006, won the American Youth Football Pee Wee "AA" Division National Championship.

After a stellar regular season the Bengals advanced through local and regional qualifiers to gain a berth in the national tournament in Tampa, FL. Over a period of 5 days, the Bengals played against the best football teams in the Nation and emerged victorious with the "Taft" National Championship Trophy.

The tournament started with a seeding game, where the Bengals drew a match up against the Brooklyn Chiefs. The Bengals got off to a rocky start as they were routed 27-6. Their four coaches, Jim Spellman, Jovaire Yarbo, Joel Avent, and Moses Webb, knew it was time to refocus. Through an extra practice and a new attitude they were able to do just that.

In their next game against the Westchester Raiders the Bengals came out with a chip on their shoulder, and they were forced to invoke the mercy rule on the way to a 48-13 victory. In the meantime, Brooklyn had won their semifinal game as well, setting the stage for an epic rematch.

Prior to the final game, Assistant Coach Yarbo brought the team together and during an inspired speech told the players, "it doesn't matter how you get there—it matters what you do when you get there." Drawing on these words and a power ground game, the Dale City Bengals persevered to create a 13-6 lead late in the game. With the Chiefs driving on what would prove to be their final possession, middle line backer Jacob Spellman intercepted an errant pass that sealed the outcome of the game, earning him MVP honors.

In a truly inspirational story, the Dale City Bengals represent all that is great about youth sports. Drawing on the support of their parents, coaches and community, the Bengals' team performance shows that anything is possible when people come together to achieve a common goal. I honor the efforts of every player: Daniel Amendolaro, Jaylen Avent, Juan Bennett, Shakeem Copeland, GeJuane Dalrymple, Xavier Dashiell II, Typer Donnelly, Easton Hawk, Khalil Jackson, Jamil Jackson, Kinte Johnson, T.J. Middleton, Kamel Montgomery, Tariq Qawiyy, Darnell Rife, Michaiiah

Smith, Jacob Spellman, Joseph Walker II, Moses Webb, Jr., and Ji Wright.

Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to honor the Bengals on their championship and to wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

FREEDOM FOR VICTOR ROLANDO
ARROYO CARMONA

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 24, 2007

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak about Victor Rolando Arroyo Carmona, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Arroyo Carmona is an independent journalist in a country oppressed by a regime that mandates official propaganda and prohibits news of the truth. He believes in writing and speaking the truth about the monstrous regime and that Cuba should and will be free from the totalitarian nightmare that is the Castro dictatorship. Because he believes in freedom for the Cuban people and because he actively and peacefully advocates for change, Mr. Arroyo Carmona has been repeatedly harassed and incarcerated by the tyrant's machinery.

According to Human Rights Watch, Mr. Arroyo Carmona has been detained numerous times for his pro-democracy activism. In January 1995, he was beaten and jailed for 9 days after organizing a ceremony commemorating the birth of Jose Marti. In January 2000, he was charged with "hoarding" and "sentenced" to 18 months in the hellish totalitarian gulag for organizing a toy drive and distributing toys to needy Cuban children. He served 6 months of his sentence before being released only to be severely beaten on three separate occasions in October of that same year.

Subsequently, on March 18, 2003, as part of the dictator's condemnable crackdown on peaceful pro-democracy advocates, Mr. Arroyo Carmona was arrested because of his belief in liberty over repression. In a sham trial, he was "sentenced" on trumped-up charges that he "undermined national independence and territorial integrity" to 26 years in the condemnable totalitarian gulag.

Mr. Arroyo Carmona has bravely participated in hunger strikes to protest the abhorrent conditions in the gulag and the depraved treatment of fellow political prisoners. Tragically, his daily struggle and suffering in an infernal roach infested gulag with hardly any contact with the outside world is not enough for the Cuban dictatorship, a regime of gangsters, by gangsters, and for gangsters, run by a gangster in chief. According to Reporters Without Borders, Mr. Arroyo is subjected to constant humiliation, physical torture and threats that he will never leave prison alive.

Mr. Arroyo Carmona is just one of the many heroes of the peaceful pro-democracy opposition on that oppressed island. Despite incessant harassment, incarceration and abuse, he remains committed to the conviction that freedom and democracy are inalienable rights of the Cuban people.

Madam Speaker, it remains categorically offensive that men and women who demand freedom from tyranny are locked in the dungeons of monsters. Here, under the dome that

represents representative democracy, we must demand the liberation of all who suffer in the darkness of totalitarianism. My colleagues we must demand the immediate release of Victor Rolando Arroyo Carmona and every prisoner of conscience in totalitarian Cuba.

TRIBUTE TO THE UNION MEMO-
RIAL AFRICAN METHODIST EPIS-
COPAL CHURCH

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 24, 2007

Mr. UPTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Union Memorial African Methodist Episcopal Church in Benton Harbor, Michigan. On Sunday, January 28, the Union Memorial A.M.E. will be celebrating her 139th Anniversary.

Since the church's original dedication in 1868, the first African Methodist Episcopal Church in the Twin Cities of Benton Harbor and St. Joseph has stood as a symbol of faith, hope, and compassion for the citizens of Berrien County and the surrounding area. Its 139 years of commitment have had a tremendous impact on its congregation as well as the greater community.

The African Methodist Episcopal Church has had a proud history since starting in the home of Steven Busby in 1868. This small Christian assembly back then was known as the "House of Praise." The area was home to two A.M.E. churches in the 1890s, and in 1901 the church in Benton Harbor was destroyed by a fire. The church was rebuilt and in 1929 the Benton Harbor and St. Joseph churches united under the name Union Memorial African Methodist Episcopal Church. In 1969 the church moved to its current location at Empire and Crystal A venues.

In its 139 year history, the church has never wavered from the ministry of saving lost souls, preaching the gospel, feeding the hungry, helping the homeless, and reaching out and renewing the spirit of folks in need. I want to commend the members of Union Memorial African Methodist Episcopal on their anniversary and on their commitment in the future to serving the greater community.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE
MICHAEL ANDEREGG

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 24, 2007

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to one of my constituents who has dedicated more than thirty years of his life to serving our justice system, Marquette County and the entire Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

The Honorable Michael Anderegg began his service to the Upper Peninsula in 1972 as a Staff Attorney for Upper Peninsula Legal Services. After a two-year stint with Upper Peninsula Legal Services, Judge Anderegg went on to become Assistant Prosecutor and Chief Assistant Prosecutor of Marquette County. In seeking his first elected office, Michael Anderegg was chosen as Marquette County Probate Judge in 1977.

Twenty years later, Michigan eliminated the Probate Court and Judge Anderegg became the Presiding Judge of the Family Division of the Marquette County Circuit Court. Judge Anderegg has become a national leader in developing new approaches to the closely linked problems of substance abuse, juvenile delinquency and repeat offenders.

In Marquette, Judge Anderegg has been one of the driving forces behind Reclaiming Futures Project WEAVE. WEAVE stands for Willingness to Explore Approaches that Validate and Embrace youth. Reclaiming Futures Project WEAVE is a unique program that is working in Marquette to improve the quality of alcohol and drug treatment services available to youth who are in the justice system. Reclaiming Futures Project WEAVE's cross-disciplinary approach pulls together varied partners from recovery and treatment centers, the Marquette Area Public Schools, law enforcement, the juvenile justice system and other cornerstones of the Marquette community to assist youthful offenders to become a contributing adult in our society. Together, through Project WEAVE, these institutions identify, assist, encourage and reclaim children struggling at home, in schools and in our communities.

Reclaiming Futures Project WEAVE's successes have become a model for other juvenile delinquency systems around the country. As Judge Anderegg and the Project WEAVE staff joke: "What happens in Alaska stays in Alaska and what happens in San Antonio stays in San Antonio, but what happens in Marquette is disseminated across the nation!"

The Michigan legal community, indeed legal professionals across the country, have benefited immensely from Judge Anderegg's sharp intellect, vast knowledge and wealth of experience. A graduate of Harvard College and the University of Michigan Law School, Judge Anderegg has served on Michigan Supreme Court Committees on: Juvenile Court Rules; Family Division Rules; and the Probate Court Academic Advisory Benchbook. He has lectured extensively, addressing the Michigan Supreme Court's Michigan Judicial Institute; the Federal Bar Association's Indian Law Section; and the Colorado Juvenile and Delinquency Prevention Council, to name only a few of the prominent organizations that have benefited from his insights. In 2001, he received the President's Award for meritorious service as a trustee of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges.

Judge Anderegg spends a great deal of personal time traveling across the country in order to share his insights. The Project WEAVE staff estimate that he has easily traveled 150,000 miles in his quest to learn more, share more and improve America's juvenile justice system.

In many pursuits and professions it is often easy to accept the status quo and to resist new thinking. It is rare to find individuals who constantly challenge pre-conceived notions and basic assumptions in order to perfect more effective solutions to long standing problems. An outspoken advocate for bold, new approaches to solving juvenile delinquency, Judge Michael Anderegg is one of those rare individuals who embraces change.

Madam Speaker, Judge Anderegg has accomplished much in his thirty years of service. His parents, Robert and Anita were proud that he was elected a judge at the relatively young age of thirty. During his early years on the