

today. The Cobb County Chamber of Commerce recently presented two awards for notable devotion to public safety and awareness. The presentation of these awards marked the beginning of Public Safety Awareness Week, a celebration of the men and women who work every day throughout Cobb County to keep our communities safe and secure.

On October 1, 2007, the Cobb Chamber Public Safety Employee of the Year Award was presented to Mr. James Arrowood, the Director of Public Safety for Cobb County Schools. This award is a notable highlight in a distinguished 35-year career in public safety for Mr. Arrowood. Each day Cobb County parents place their trust in Director Arrowood, as he ensures a safe learning environment for all Cobb students. I applaud Mr. Arrowood on this exceptional honor and all he does for our community.

Also recognized for their pursuit of public safety, the Cobb Chamber Award of Merit was presented to the Wildland Fire Response Team of the Marietta Fire Department. The Team courageously traveled to fire-ravaged South Georgia in May of 2007 to assist in a vital fight to extinguish the out-of-control blazes. When Georgians needed help the most, the Marietta Wildland Fire Response Team responded as true heroes would. Sacrificing their safety to ensure the survival of an endangered area of the State, the Team epitomizes strength and character of our public safety professionals.

The countless hard working men and women of public safety too often go unnoticed. It is necessary and responsible that we honor them this way, and I commend the Cobb County Chamber of Commerce for their support of this initiative. Public Safety Awareness Week serves as an important reminder that our safety is not assured without the hard work of public safety professionals and volunteers.

Madam Speaker, I join with the House of Representatives today in declaring a sincere appreciation for these honorable award winners and dedicated public servants. Congratulations, Director Arrowood and the Marietta Wildland Fire Response Team.

COMMISSION ON THE ABOLITION
OF THE TRANSATLANTIC SLAVE
TRADE ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 2, 2007

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3432, an excellent bill that commemorates the abolition of the Transatlantic Slave Trade.

This year marks a very important anniversary in history—the 200th anniversary of the enactment of the Transatlantic Slave Trade Act. It was in 1807 when then President Thomas Jefferson signed into law this vital Act. Nearly 200 years prior, in 1619, twenty Africans arrived in Jamestown, Virginia aboard a Dutch ship. This was the beginning in America of the atrocity of slavery which unfortunately lasted for more than 2 centuries.

While America was in deep turmoil over the morality of slavery, William Wilberforce, a

Member of the U.K. Parliament, led the campaign to abolish the transatlantic slave trade in Britain. This great man was a statesman, an avowed and practicing Christian, and a champion of the underprivileged.

Early on, Wilberforce wrestled with whether he should pursue a calling from God or serve as a driving force in the House of Commons. He successfully accomplished both. Wilberforce was an example of faith in action, modeling that we do not have to abandon our values to be effective in our jobs—whether as a business owner, nurse, mechanic, working mom or Member of Congress.

We must stand up for our beliefs and fight passionately for our causes. We must not betray our values or our faith, and never cease to help those in need. On the 200th anniversary of the 1807 abolition of the U.K. and U.S. slave trade, we should reflect on the greatness of those who stood up for what was right and true—even though it was not popular.

It wasn't until 1865 that slavery in the United States was abolished through the passing of the Thirteenth Amendment. Then President, Abraham Lincoln, helped push the bill through Congress. Earlier in his presidency, he issued the Emancipation Proclamation freeing all slaves. He believed this was “the central act of my administration, and the great event of the nineteenth century.”

While slavery ended, discrimination continued. It is my hope that we will remember the struggles of this great Nation and continue our efforts to stand for what is right. We can build momentum and engage communities to find new ways to improve our culture.

I am honored each day to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives and stand faithfully for what is right. It is a privilege to cast my vote in favor of a bill that honors a great moment in our history.

I look forward to today's passage of H.R. 3432.

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE
OF IMPROVING THE HIGH
SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE OF
FOSTER YOUTH

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Mr. WELLER of Illinois. Madam Speaker, today I introduced a resolution to recognize the importance of improving the high school graduation rate of foster youth. I was accompanied by my colleagues JIM McDERMOTT, the Chairman of the Income Security and Family Support Subcommittee on which I serve as ranking Republican, PHIL ENGLISH, and JOHN LEWIS.

A recent series of hearings in the subcommittee reflected on the fact that school stability and high school completion are strongly associated with better outcomes for young people making the transition to adulthood. We know that connecting kids with their schools means strengthening the circle of friends, teachers, coaches, and other mentors that can help them become more independent and develop the habits and skills needed to succeed for life on their own.

Over 20,000 youth “age out” of the Nation's foster care system each year. Among many

serious challenges, these young people have lower high school graduation rates, higher rates of homelessness, and a greater chance of becoming incarcerated than other youth their age. Too many youth who age out of foster care stumble and fall on their way to adulthood. Some never recover. Others find their way only through extraordinary personal effort, the involvement of dedicated relatives and other adults, a little luck, or all of the above.

We should be doing everything we can to increase high school completion rates in general. And for kids in foster care, it is especially important for them to stay connected to their school and complete high school. Such action will give former foster youth a solid start on their way to a successful adulthood. That is in everyone's interest.

HONORING THE SAFETY EXCELLENCE OF SMURFIT-STONE CONTAINER CORPORATION

HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the outstanding effort of Smurfit-Stone Container Corporation paper mill in Hodge, Louisiana, under the leadership of General Manager Roger P. Hagan, in fulfilling its responsibility as a Good Corporate Citizen.

As of September 14, 2007, The Hodge branch of Smurfit-Stone became the first mill in the company's history to successfully reach two million hours of operation without an accident, according to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration standards. For any corporation, this is an accomplishment, and I am proud to honor the men and women of Smurfit-Stone who strive to maintain high standards in the workplace and make safety a top priority.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Roger P. Hagan and Smurfit-Stone Container Corporation for promoting a safe environment in the work place and for putting employee safety first.

90TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
ROTARY CLUB OF LONG BEACH

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, the Long Beach Rotary is celebrating 90 years of service to the community on Wednesday, October 10, 2007. In honor of this auspicious occasion, the Long Beach Rotary partnered with the City of Long Beach and the Conservation Corps of Long Beach to plant 90 trees in one day at various parks around the City.

The 90th Anniversary Celebration and tree planting at Rotary Centennial Park will be the culmination of this year's endeavors. Rotary Centennial Park, which was created by the Long Beach Rotary in anticipation of its century of service, was created in a former redline right-of-way. The site is now a clean, green,

and safe place for youth to play. The park opened to the public on May 21, 2005 and features a planet walk by artist Philip Smith and a stainless steel sundial sculpture by artist Patrick Vogel. The 1.2 acre park is a welcoming place for families to gather in a neighborhood short on park space.

The Long Beach Rotary is one of the largest Rotary Clubs in Southern California. Comprised of approximately 375 business and professional leaders that put "Service above Self," the Rotary Club is known the world over. Rotary Club International is comprised of more than 1,200,000 members in 31,000 clubs in 166 countries.

The Long Beach Rotary has two remarkable charitable organizations. The Long Beach Rotary Scholarship Foundation and The Long Beach Rotary Charitable Foundation both are 501(c)(3) non-profit corporations.

The Long Beach Rotary Scholarship Foundation offers scholarships to Long Beach area students at Long Beach City College and California State University, Long Beach. Currently, the foundation oversees over \$6 million. In 2006 the foundation awarded over 250 scholarships totaling nearly \$300,000.

The Long Beach Rotary Charitable Foundation supports philanthropic endeavors in the Long Beach area. Past projects include Rotary Centennial Park, Camp Enterprise, and Rotary Reads, as well as grants to Long Beach area charities and programs designed for youth and education. Groups such as the Boys and Girls Club, LB Day Nursery, YMCA, Boy Scouts, Long Beach Unified School District, and the Carpenter Center have all benefited from the foundation, which gave over \$80,000 in 2005–2006.

The Long Beach Rotary has definitely kept to its founding principles of providing humanitarian service, encouraging high ethical standards in all vocations, and helping to build goodwill and peace in the world—one tree, one student, and one park at a time.

Happy Anniversary. May the next 90 years bring as much success as the past 90 years.

HONORING PHILLIP GREENWELL

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Phillip Greenwell, a remarkable man with a long history of service to his country and to Kentucky. Mr. Greenwell, a lifelong resident of Nelson County, has been an active member of American Legion Post 121 in Bardstown, KY, for nearly 60 years.

Phillip Greenwell was drafted into the Army during World War II and served for 2 years as a combat engineer at Fort Leonard Wood, MO.

Mr. Greenwell has made it a personal priority to serve his fellow veterans through his work with American Legion Post 121. His leadership positions include post commander, post vice commander, district commander, district vice commander, district service officer, and district chaplain. He has also served on the Kentucky American Legion State Finance Committee and State Internal Affairs Committee.

Though Mr. Greenwell's health now requires him to stay at home, he still stays active in

American Legion activities by phone and continues to assist with veterans casework. In addition to his American Legion service, he has served on the Kentucky Boy's State Committee and was a volunteer for the Red Cross for over 25 years.

It is my privilege to honor Phillip Greenwell today, before the entire United States House of Representatives, for his service to our country and his tireless efforts on behalf of American Legion Post 121 and his fellow veterans. Mr. Greenwell has made a significant difference to his "Old Kentucky Home."

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL GRAHAM

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Michael Graham of Henderson, Nevada who passed away on September 23, 2007.

Michael was born in McMinnville, Oregon, on October 23, 1946. After he earned his bachelors degree from San Francisco State University and fulfilled his graduate studies in the areas of finance and management, he became involved with private and non-profit finance and management careers. His career reached its culmination when he was named Deputy State Director of the Nevada Small Business Development Center in 2000. In this role, he directed the activities of the Business Environmental Program in Nevada as well as five Nevada Small Business Development Centers in Southern Nevada. He managed nearly 50 staff around the State providing business advice, resources and training.

Prior to taking the Deputy Director position in Henderson, Michael lived and served the community of Reno, Nevada, as an owner of several small businesses and eventually became the Director of Development for the University of Nevada, Reno College of Business Administration. He was awarded for his dedication to the community as the recipient of the prestigious "Philanthropic Executive of the Year" Award for northern Nevada in 2000.

In 1976 Michael joined the National Society of Fund Raising Executives, and was the president of two different chapters. Mr. Graham was also an active member of several boards and committees including the UCCSN's Division of Continuing Education's Non-Profit Management Board, President of Arizona Consulting Group, and is a proud member of the Prospectors Club. Moreover, he served on the city of Reno's Redevelopment Advisory Board and its Financial Board. Michael has also taught Business Management, Finance and Fund Raising on various college campuses.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor the life of Michael Graham who was and remains well known and respected community member. His dedication and service to the community should be applauded and admired by all. He was a pillar of the community and will be greatly missed.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker, due to travel conflicts beyond my control, I was unable to be back in Washington on October 9, 2007. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote No. 949 on passage of H. Res. 32. I also missed rollcall vote No. 950 on passage of H.R. 400, the War Profiteering Prevention Act of 2007. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on H.R. 400.

CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER AARON WEAVER POST OFFICE BUILDING

SPEECH OF

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 9, 2007

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I am pleased that today we can honor a true American hero, Aaron Weaver of Inverness, Florida. Weaver is yet another example of the dedication of many men and women serving in our military today.

Weaver has a great family history of service and I am proud to work with his uncle, Naval Academy graduate and veteran Bill Schmidt, on behalf of the veterans in the fifth district of New Jersey. I know that Bill will miss him dearly but I also know that he is proud of his courageous nephew.

Weaver served in Mogadishu with the rangers who were immortalized by the movie *Black Hawk Down*. These brave Americans held out against superior numbers of armed rebels and conducted their mission in Somalia with dedication and dignity. For his actions in Somalia he was awarded a Bronze Star.

When Warrant Officer Weaver was diagnosed with his illness he chose to fight both cancer and the forces of Saddam Hussein. While he could have chosen a medical discharge he instead pressed to be with his comrades defending our Nation. If there were American soldiers defending freedom on foreign shores then Weaver wanted to be with them.

It's only proper that we should honor this hero with a lasting memorial in his community. I hope that his courage and sacrifice will not be forgotten and that he can serve as an inspiration to those who are serving our Nation now in the field of battle.

IN RECOGNITION OF DAVID K. SHIPLER

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize David Shipler, a former national and international reporter, former diplomatic correspondent, and author, as he speaks at Case Western Reserve University, my alma mater, on his latest book, "The Working Poor: Invisible in America."