

## TRIBUTE TO CHAD SCHIEBER

**HON. DAVE CAMP**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 17, 2007*

Mr. CAMP of Michigan. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the life of Chad Schieber.

Chad was a dedicated police officer, an active member of the Midland, Michigan, community, and a loving husband and father. Chad was born in Midland, but he spent much of his early life in Traverse City, Michigan, where he grew up and attended the police academy. In 1994, Chad returned to Midland and joined the Midland Police Department.

As an officer, he consistently went above and beyond the call of duty. His accomplishments include being a mountain bike instructor within the department, helping organize the Midland Youth Law Enforcement Academy, serving as coordinator for the Midland County Crime Stoppers, implementing the department's child DNA identification program, and helping to establish the Midland Law Enforcement Memorial. For his efforts, Chad was honored with the 2006 Carl and Esther Gerstacker Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award by the Midland Police Department.

Chad was a devoted Christian and member of the Midland Christian Celebration Center. Chad served on the church's board, and he and his wife Sarah touched many lives through the marriage ministries they conducted.

Chad's biggest joy in life was his family. He leaves behind his wife, Sarah, of 12 years, his daughter Abigayle, and sons Noah and Micah.

Madam Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to Chad Schieber for his life of service and extend my sincerest sympathies to his family, friends and loved ones.

## HONORING SAM WASHINGTON

**HON. JOHN D. DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 17, 2007*

Mr. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise to let my colleagues know that we recently lost one of our nation's most dedicated conservationists. Marvin "Sam" Washington embodied the American tradition of conservation. I want his family to know that Sam was an inspiration to us all and that he will be very sorely missed.

An avid hunter and angler, Sam served on the Board of Directors of Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) and was also a member of the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund and the State Parks Advisory Committee. From 2003 to 2007, Sam served as Executive Director of the MUCC, becoming one of our strongest advocates for access to Michigan's natural resources and protection of Michigan's hunting and fishing heritage.

Sam was a passionate outdoorsman who channeled his love of wildlife into action. He understood that nature must be cherished, enjoyed and preserved for future generations—not exploited. At a time when many of our natural resources are at risk, Sam stood tall, fighting for action on global warming, mercury emissions, wetlands protection and responsible land use.

Sam was much more than a conservationist, however—he was an integral part of his community. He taught English and coached various sports in the Bloomfield Hills School District. He was also a minister, as well as a dedicated husband and father to his wife Peggy and two daughters, Jenny and Wendy.

Madam Speaker, I would ask that all my colleagues join me in paying tribute to a great American conservationist, my friend Sam Washington.

HONORING THE LIFE OF  
MONSIGNOR FRANK SAMMONS**HON. JAMES T. WALSH**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 17, 2007*

Mr. WALSH of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Syracuse native Monsignor Frank Sammons, who passed away on July 7 at the age of 87.

Throughout his life Monsignor Sammons was dedicated not only to the priesthood and his faith, but also to the people and communities he served.

A graduate of St. Vincent de Paul High School, Sammons continued his education at Niagara University, St. Bernard's Seminary, and the Theological College of Washington, DC. He was ordained into the Catholic priesthood on May 15, 1947 and served as parochial vicar in his first assignment at St. John the Baptist Church in Syracuse, New York.

In 1968, Monsignor Sammons became the pastor of St. Patrick's Church on Tipperary Hill where he served until his retirement in 1995. Even in retirement, Monsignor Sammons was active in the church and the community. He served at St. Matthew's Parish in East Syracuse and as Diocesan Minister to retired priests. Sammons also belonged to the Bishop Ludden Planning Committee and served as the Chaplain for Bishop Grimes' athletics.

Monsignor Sammons was equally as passionate about sports and youth as he was about the priesthood. A former athlete himself, Sammons was inducted into the Greater Syracuse Sports Hall of Fame. He founded the City-County Youth Board and served on the National Conference of Catholic Youth. Sammons also served as director of the Catholic Youth Organization, CYO, and he founded the organization's popular youth basketball league. In addition, Monsignor Sammons served as director of Lourdes Camp in Skaneateles, New York. He also took on the role of athletic director for all three Syracuse Catholic High Schools: Christian Brothers Academy, Bishop Grimes, and Bishop Ludden.

Monsignor Sammons' commitment to the Catholic Church and the people—especially the youth—that he served is unquestionable. Monsignor Sammons was a fixture in our community, and he will be sorely missed.

AZERBAIJAN'S STATE  
INDEPENDENCE DAY**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 17, 2007*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, one of our key democratic

allies—the Republic of Azerbaijan—is set to celebrate the 16th Anniversary of its re-independence on October 18. In the current global political climate, Azerbaijan is unique among democracies as the world's first Muslim democratic republic! A status I both commend and support.

Azerbaijan's first glimpse as a democratic republic came in 1918 shortly after the fall of the Russian Empire. Unfortunately, the Red Army invaded on April 28, 1920 and thereby preempting further democratization at that time.

Azerbaijan's second opportunity for freedom and self-determination came at a heavy price following the 1990 invasion of Baku by Soviet troops, resulting in the death of more than a hundred thirty civilians. Moscow rule grew weaker in Azerbaijan and by 1991 popular pressure led the country to declare its independence.

Given past Soviet rule and difficult geopolitical environment between Russia and Iran, Azerbaijan's determination to look westward for its political and economic allies should be applauded.

Azerbaijan cooperates with the United States within international and regional institutions including UN, Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and NATO's Partnership for Peace program. Azerbaijan also works together with the United States within the framework of the Organization for Democracy and Development—GUAM which is comprised of Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine. The group was created as a political, economic and strategic alliance aimed at overcoming common risks and threats and strengthening the independence and sovereignty of its member states.

The Republic of Azerbaijan is a standout nation among the South Caucasus countries, with a population of 8 million people and an ambitious economic policy. During the last decade Azerbaijan has been implementing structural reforms and adopting numerous laws and legislative changes, paving the way toward further integration within the global economy. The nation has been moving toward a more diversified economy to achieve sustainable growth and to meet the social and development needs of its population. As reported by the International Monetary Fund, IMF, Azerbaijan's macroeconomic performance "has been impressive with strong growth, low inflation, and a stable exchange rate." Real GDP grew by an annual average of over 10 percent during the last six years and build up to 34.4 percent in the first eight months of 2006, driven by investments in the energy sector, followed by growth in the construction and transportation sectors, and agriculture.

Since signing the "Contract of the Century" in 1994 Azerbaijan has developed its energy sources within the Caspian region to diversify western energy supplies. On July 13, 2006 the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan main oil export pipeline was inaugurated. The Baku-Tbilisi-Erzurum natural gas pipeline is expected to be completed this fall. Azerbaijan also actively promotes the Baku-Tbilisi-Kars railroad project which has been recognized as an important part of East-West and North-South transport corridor.

Diversification of the economy and ensuring the development of non-oil sectors is a priority for the government. This policy includes implementation of projects and programs that create favorable conditions for development of

private entrepreneurship, attracting investment in non-oil sector, creating new jobs, evaluation of potential industries and markets, and development of infrastructure in the regions.

The last 16 years of independence has not been without challenges. In 1993 the UN Security Council adopted four resolutions demanding complete, unconditional, and immediate withdrawal of Armenian forces from the occupied territories of Azerbaijan. NATO, OSCE, EU, and other international organizations also repeatedly called for the restoration of Azerbaijan's territorial integrity.

In January 2005 the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe adopted a resolution clearly stating that "considerable parts of the territory of Azerbaijan are still occupied by Armenian forces and separatist forces are still in control of the Nagorno-Karabakh region" and urged the withdrawal of Armenian military forces from all Azerbaijani territories.

We, the United States, recognize Nagorno-Karabakh as a part of Azerbaijan. A State Department's 2005 Fact Sheet states: "The United States does not recognize Nagorno-Karabakh as an independent country, and its leadership is not recognized internationally or by the United States. The United States supports the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan and holds that the future status of Nagorno-Karabakh is a matter of negotiation between the parties."

Let us today commend the Republic of Azerbaijan on their forthcoming 16th Anniversary celebrations. And, let us today commit ourselves to their continued development as a global partner against the war on terrorism, toward economic growth, diversification of energy resources, and strengthening stability and security in the region.

TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT BRIAN DEGENHARDT, OFFICER THOMAS BARKER, AND OFFICER JAMES CONLAN OF THE CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT

**HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 17, 2007*

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I'd like to take this opportunity to congratulate members of the Chicago Police Department, including Sergeant Brian Degenhardt, Officer Thomas Barker, and Officer James Conlan, for receiving the "2007 Humane Law Enforcement Award" last week from The Humane Society of the United States and the National District Attorneys Association. This award was presented to Chicago's Police Department for the creation of its Animal Crimes Unit, which focuses on tackling illegal animal fighting in urban Chicago, where dogfighting has unfortunately flourished in recent years.

With its innovative focus on animal abuse prosecutions, the Animal Crimes Unit of the Chicago Police Department, overseen by Sergeant Degenhardt, now leads the way in combating dogfighting and serves as a model for tackling this insidious crime across the Nation. Although only one single officer in the city used to address crimes against animals in the past, there are now more than 8 specially-trained officers within the Animal Crimes Unit. In 2007 alone, officers Thomas Barker and

James Conlan logged more than 40 arrests related to dogfighting and animal abuse, and they recovered more than 100 abused dogs.

But the accomplishments of the Unit don't stop there. When Sergeant Degenhardt was making the case for the creation of the Animal Crimes Unit, he analyzed arrest records for the city between July 2001 and July 2004 and discovered that nearly 70 percent of the 300 individuals arrested for animal crimes were also arrested for other felonies. The methods used by the Animal Crimes Unit have also led to a reduction in other types of criminal activities, including human violence and drug dealing.

I am pleased to join The Humane Society of the United States and the National District Attorneys Association in congratulating these individuals in honor of their dedicated work on behalf of animals.

HONORING THE TUSKEGEE  
AIRMEN

**HON. MARK UDALL**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 17, 2007*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Army Air Corps' legendary Tuskegee Airmen. On March 29, 2007, in the U.S. Capitol Rotunda, the surviving Tuskegee Airmen were awarded the Congressional Gold Medal, the most prestigious recognition that federal lawmakers can bestow. Tuskegee Airmen, from Colorado, that received the Congressional Gold Medal include: James E. Harrison, James H. Harvey III, Samuel C. Hunter Jr., Franklin J. Macon, John W. Mosley, Fitzroy "Buck" Newsum, Marion R. Rodgers, David A. Smith, William A. Walters, and Randolph Edwards.

The first African-American airmen unit in the U.S. military trained in Tuskegee, Alabama. A total of 450 Tuskegee Airmen served overseas on various missions. During WWII, the Airmen flew missions over North Africa, Italy and Sicily. Collectively, they flew more than 15,000 combat sorties, shot down 111 German planes, and disabled 150 German planes on the ground. Thirty-three Airmen were shot down and held as pawns, and 66 of the Airmen were killed.

The Tuskegee Airmen got their start in 1941 after the NAACP filed a lawsuit. President Franklin Roosevelt started the Army Air Corps training program as the first African-American training program. The Airmen were segregated from other units and endured blatant racism and discrimination while helping win World War II and change our Nation for the better. Their achievements helped contribute to the eventual integration of African-Americans into the military and also helped lead the way for further desegregation throughout the Nation.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating James E. Harrison, James H. Harvey III, Samuel C. Hunter Jr., Franklin J. Macon, John W. Mosley, Fitzroy "Buck" Newsum, Marion R. Rodgers, David A. Smith, William A. Walters, and Randolph Edwards for their patriotism and service to the United States of America. Their triumph over racism and discrimination, along with their outstanding service, is inspirational, and they are a source of pride for America and for all of Colorado. I wish them continued health and happiness.

RECOGNIZING MARGARET M. (PEGGY) MULLAN'S OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF HOMES AND SERVICES FOR THE AGING

**HON. JOHN B. SHADEGG**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 17, 2007*

Mr. SHADEGG. Madam Speaker, I'd like to take this opportunity to recognize an outstanding leader in the field of long-term care and aging services. Margaret M. (Peggy) Mullan is the outgoing chair of the American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging (AAHSA), and I congratulate her on what has been accomplished during her 2-year term.

AAHSA members help millions of individuals and their families every day through mission-driven, not-for-profit organizations dedicated to providing the services that people need, when they need them, in the place they call home. Its 5,700 member organizations, many of which have served their communities for generations, offer the continuum of aging services: adult day services, home health, community services, senior housing, assisted living residences, continuing care retirement communities and nursing homes. AAHSA's commitment is to create the future of aging services through quality people can trust.

During the 2 years that Peggy Mullan led AAHSA, she worked tirelessly to transform aging services, and her leadership has moved the field forward in a number of ways. Under her stewardship, AAHSA has created the Long-Term Care Solutions Project, an innovative plan to revise the financing of aging services. In addition, she placed major emphasis on diversity as part of her leadership agenda, achieving substantive, enduring, and diverse leadership development among our members. She presided over the inauguration of the Advancing Excellence in Nursing Homes campaign, a coalition of long-term care providers, caregivers, medical and quality improvement experts, government agencies, consumers and other stakeholders dedicated to reinvigorating efforts to improve the quality of care and quality of life for those living or recuperating in America's nursing homes. She positioned AAHSA as a leader in achieving the goals of the National Commission for Quality Long-term Care, a non-partisan, independent body charged with improving long-term care in America. The commission is working to develop solutions to the challenges of better financing for long-term care, ensuring consumer choice, attracting and retaining qualified caregivers, and making useful information on long-term care options available to consumers.

Peggy Mullan is a true leader in the field of aging services. In addition to chairing AAHSA, she is the executive director of the not-for-profit Beatitudes Campus in Phoenix, where over 600 elders live in apartments, assisted living, and a skilled nursing center. Hundreds of other elders from the surrounding community receive rehabilitation and education at Beatitudes. At Beatitudes, she has been instrumental in developing a seamlessly integrated system of services to meet the changing needs of residents as they age, a model for the way aging services should be provided to