

part of his body was temporarily paralyzed. Narrowly missing being shot by a firing squad, he became a war prisoner for more than 9 months. Captain Macon is quoted as saying, "It was the greatest feeling in the world, seeing them tear down the swastika and raising the stars and stripes." That feeling was tempered when he returned home on a troop ship at Boston Harbor. There he was greeted by the grim reality that African Americans still had a long way to go. At the end of the gangplank were two directional signs: white go this way and colored go this way," he said. "Uh huh, the war is just starting." Captain Macon's decorations include the Air Medal, Presidential Citation and Purple Heart. He retired with the rank of Captain.

Macon's life itself is a lesson in how to succeed but Richard Macon's desire to teach others led him to acquire a master's degree and join the ranks of public education, teaching at the high school level at Northern High School and progressing to the level of principal and personnel administration in his later years. He was a truly caring person who enjoyed helping others and believed in education as a means of bettering oneself. We will remember him as an officer, a gentleman, a teacher, and a leader amongst men of greatness.

RECOGNIZING THE 130TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CITY OF BAKERSFIELD FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 18, 2007

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. Madam Speaker, I along with my colleague Congressman COSTA, would like to recognize the City of Bakersfield Fire Department on 130 years of excellent service to the residents of Bakersfield, Kern County, and the surrounding area in the Central Valley of California. Congressman COSTA and I both represent the City of Bakersfield and are extremely supportive and proud of the Bakersfield Fire Department.

In 1868, Colonel Thomas Baker moved into the Central Valley and settled near the present-day intersection of Truxtun Avenue and R Street. Recognized as a good neighbor, Colonel Baker would help people fight fires using buckets, a hand-drawn hook and ladder truck, and several hand-drawn two wheeled hose carts.

In 1877, the City of Bakersfield Fire Department was officially formed, relying first on hand-drawn and eventually on horse-drawn carts. Today, the Bakersfield Fire Department consists of 13 fire stations, uses modern equipment and has 13 engine companies. The department employs 183 professionally trained and sworn firefighters and 25 dedicated civilians. In fact, the Central Fire Station, which was constructed in 1939, is still in operation today.

What started in 1877 as a group of residents who wanted to keep their developing town safe from fires is now a professional, disciplined, and elite force that serves and protects more than 300,000 people and has a primary jurisdiction of more than 83,000 acres. In addition to its primary responsibilities in Bakersfield, the Fire Department also provides support services to neighboring jurisdictions in

the event of natural disasters, forest fires, and other emergencies.

My family and I have a history fighting fires in the area. My father, Owen, was an Assistant Chief for the Bakersfield Fire Department. My uncle, Tom, was the Chief of the Kern County Fire Department. Like my uncle, I also worked for the Kern County Fire Department as a Seasonal Firefighter.

For well over a century, the City of Bakersfield Fire Department has been fighting the area's fires, earning these firefighter professionals the respect and admiration of a grateful community. It is a singular person who races into burning buildings at risk of life and limb to save the lives of fellow human beings, and to drive with sirens wailing towards disaster areas to provide vital emergency and recovery services, when others are evacuating. Congressman COSTA and I are fortunate that the City that we both represent is protected by our brave firefighters. The Bakersfield Fire Department, through the service of its current and former employees, has exemplified dedication to service in the Bakersfield area for the past 130 years. I am honored to recognize the Bakersfield Fire Department's 130th Anniversary.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 18, 2007

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, due to the death of my mother, I was unable to be present for rollcall votes 961–979 on Monday, October 5 through Thursday, October 18, 2007. I would like the RECORD to reflect that had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner:

"Yea" on rollcall votes 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 980, 981, 982; and

"Nay" on rollcall votes 972, 979.

IN HONOR OF A YOUNG HERO,
JAZMYNE ROBINSON

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 18, 2007

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a special young hero in my district.

Jazmyne Robinson is only nine years old, yet when she found her two year old brother floating face down in the family swimming pool, she had the presence of mind to call her father for help and then immediately dial 911. Keeping her composure, she gave her address to the operator and remained on the phone until help arrived.

The unconscious two year old was rushed to Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital at Memorial Regional Hospital in Hollywood, where he made a full recovery after one month in a coma.

It is important that Jazmyne is recognized not only for her heroism, but so that her life-saving actions can set an example for others. Touched by Jazmyne's heroic deed, and her

baby brother's miraculous recovery, the Baby Otter Swim School in Fort Lauderdale presented the family with a gift package of free swim lessons and two water safety DVD's. The surviving toddler is no longer afraid of the water and loves to swim.

Unfortunately, not every story has a happy ending. The Center for Disease Control estimates that nine people die every day due to unintentional drowning. It is the second leading cause of death for children ages one to fourteen, and in California, Arizona and Florida, it is the number one cause of death in children under five.

The importance of drowning prevention and swimming pool safety cannot be emphasized enough. We must all work together to dramatically lower the drowning statistics in the United States and around the world. Jazmyne Robinson is an example that no one is too young or too small to benefit from pool safety and drowning education. Her heroic efforts were rewarded with a medal of honor from the Baby Otter Swim School at a ceremony with the Pembroke Pines Mayor and Broward County Commissioners.

Last week, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 1721, The Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act, a bill that I sponsored which seeks to prevent incidents like the one that would have taken the life of Jazmyne's brother had it not been for her heroism. Our nation is touched by Jazmyne's courage and fast action.

THE U.S. INSTITUTE OF PEACE,
USIP

HON. JAY INSLEE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 18, 2007

Mr. INSLEE. Madam Speaker, 40 years ago, U.S. Senator Vance Hartke envisioned the creation of the U.S. Institute of Peace, USIP. Now, the realization of his dream is taking shape. We have broken ground on a new building to house the USIP on the consecrated ground of the National Mall in the Nation's capital between the Lincoln Memorial and the Kennedy Center. Senator Hartke's dream truly is a manifestation of the most ancient and ageless dream of humanity—enduring peace on earth. "I have the unshakeable conviction," Senator Hartke declared when he introduced the legislation, "that we will have it within our power and capacity not only to end the Vietnam War, but the syndrome of war itself."

This center is not the only mark on democracy he has left behind. His son Jan continues to help shape the country in the finest tradition of his father in many matters, including efforts to stop global warming, itself a threat to long-term peace.

The USIP will not be a monument to an individual nor a memorial to a significant event in our Nation's past; instead, it will be a building dedicated to an idea and the future of all people. It will be a working building where scholars with different disciplines can sift through the dynamics of war and peace and gain insights that can help America and the world avoid unnecessary or accidental conflicts and wars. With its large auditorium, it will be a place where heads of state from many different lands and cultures will be able to address their own strategies for peace. Most of

all, it will be a place that illuminates and advances the greatest ideal of all. For without peace, all our other cherished causes and values cannot prevail.

The idea for the USIP arose during the Vietnam war, when Senator Hartke had just broken with his close friend, President Johnson. Even though Senator Hartke opposed the war because he believed it was morally indefensible and financially antithetical to the goals of the Great Society, President Johnson interpreted dissent as disloyalty to him and his administration. At that point, Senator Hartke realized that something was missing in the Nation's decision-making apparatus on the great issues of war and peace. Senator Hartke's son Jan remembers, "Late at night, Dad would be sitting in his chair, reading stacks of books about the causes of past wars. He was appalled at how many wars could have been avoided, reduced in their severity or shortened. He concluded that America needed a non-partisan voice with analytical depth and institutional heft whose sold mandate was to make the case for peace, especially when the drums of war beat the loudest." Senator Hartke saw the USIP as a trusted, convincing and unequivocal voice for peace that could speak to the President, the Congress and the people.

Senator Hartke knew the terrible costs of war, having served with both his brothers in WWII. He passed legislation to create the Veterans' Affairs Committee in the U.S. Senate. He wrote the law to establish the Business People's Peace Corps and the International Executive Service Corps, to address the root causes of war. Along with USIP, he also introduced legislation to create a cabinet-level Department of Peace.

Senator Hartke's challenging and prophetic words still ring true today, "The attainment of a just and lasting peace will be the supreme moral achievement of civilization. Yet it will not be won by the cynics or the naysayers, nor by those who are afraid of ridicule for being perceived as soft or utopian, nor by those lacking infinite patience or resolve. The victory of world peace will be won by those hearts and minds that never give up on the noblest quest of them all. For in the end, it is the dreamer who is the greatest realist."

Senator Hartke's dedication to peace was recognized widely. His widow, Martha, recalls, "After Vance passed away in 2003, his friend President Clinton called my son and told him, 'When I came to work in the Senate as a young man, I saw your father as a shining star because of his principled opposition to the Vietnam War.'" Through the work of the U.S. Institute of Peace, Senator Hartke's star need not fade, but will continue to shed light on the path to peace.

CONGRATULATING DR. SCOTT
RANSOM

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 18, 2007

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Scott Ransom for becoming the fifth president of the University of North Texas Health Science Center in Fort Worth, Texas in August of 2006.

Prior to his Presidency at the University of North Texas Health Science Center, Dr. Ransom served as the executive director of the Program for Healthcare Improvement and Leadership Development at the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor. He was also director of Women's Health and Gynecology at the Ann Arbor VA Medical Center. Dr. Ransom has served as the Senior Vice President and Senior Quality Officer at the Detroit Medical Center, as well as the Medical Director and OB/GYN Head at the Henry Ford Health System in Detroit.

Since 2003, Dr. Ransom has led research and consulting teams that focus on improving health care delivery, women's health, leadership development and performance improvements. He has also led research in health disparities, including infant mortality, an issue that is very important to my district.

His efforts have garnered significant funding from reputable organizations such as the National Institutes of Health and the National Science Foundation.

Dr. Ransom has a master of business association degree from the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, and a doctor of osteopathic medicine degree from the University of Health Sciences' College of Osteopathic Medicine in Kansas City. He is involved with such organizations as the American College of Healthcare Executives, the American College of Physician Executives, the American College of Surgeons, and the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology. He has published over 100 articles and seven books related to clinical improvement.

The North Texas region is truly fortunate to have the type of dedicated medical professional that Dr. Scott Ransom personifies, and I wish him every success during his tenure as president at the University of North Texas Health Science Center.

HONORING CADET COLONEL
DANIEL ROMAN

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 18, 2007

Mr. ROSKAM. Madam Speaker, it is my great pleasure to rise today to recognize an outstanding young man from my Congressional District, Cadet Colonel Daniel Roman, for his remarkable achievements as a member of the Civil Air Patrol.

In just a few days, Daniel will be presented with the General Carl A. Spaatz Award. The Spaatz Award is the Civil Air Patrol's highest cadet honor, presented to cadets who demonstrate extraordinary leadership, character, fitness, and aerospace knowledge. For every one thousand cadets, only two are selected for this distinct honor.

Daniel first joined the Civil Air Patrol in July 2000. From his first moments in Fox Valley Composite Squadron IL-274, Daniel has exhibited a true love of flying. His hard work and commitment paid off as he was chosen to attend Officer Training School in Wisconsin and Air Education Training Command at Laughlin Air Force Base in Texas. Throughout his time in the Civil Air Patrol, Daniel has set an example for others. For over 7 years, he committed himself fully to learning and developing the

skills of a seasoned member of the Civil Air Patrol.

On June 15, 2007, Daniel successfully completed the Carl A. Spaatz Exam, the final stage of a long and grueling journey through sixteen rigorous skill tests. Having overcome this final obstacle, he now joins the ranks of the Civil Air Patrol's best and brightest, a recipient of the General Carl A. Spaatz Award for outstanding cadets.

Daniel, today I join with your family and friends in offering my congratulations for this well deserved honor. You've made us all proud.

Finally, Daniel, I want to challenge you to maintain the dedication and commitment that has taken you so far already. Although the road ahead of you surely contains many more challenges, you have shown that you can and will overcome each obstacle as you pursue your dreams.

Madam Speaker and distinguished colleagues, please join me in congratulating Cadet Colonel Daniel Roman, recipient of the Civil Air Patrol General Carl A. Spaatz Award.

WDAS-AM: A PIONEERING AFRICAN
AMERICAN VOICE IN PHILADELPHIA, PA

HON. CHAKA FATTAH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 18, 2007

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and memorialize WDAS-AM, a pioneering radio station in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, for its extraordinary and historic acts of cultural, spiritual and political bravery. This organization has stood for the causes of freedom and justice in helping secure the civic and human rights of African Americans and deserves the recognition and thanks of this body. The momentous victories of the civil rights and protest movements, aided by WDAS, led the United States on a new path recognizing the human dignity of all people and sparking the modern movements for the rights of women, Native Americans, Hispanics and other historically disenfranchised people.

Although WDAS in its historic role is effectively gone, the station's phenomenal impact on my hometown and our nation is a story that should be told. I am sharing, for the record, a letter I received from Wynne Alexander, a Philadelphian who is both a historian of WDAS and the daughter of a station co-founder. I believe her words are helpful in understanding this remarkable story.

In 1951, Dr. Max M. Leon and Bob Klein undertook a revolutionary endeavor, instituting one of the nation's first Black Radio stations, WDAS-AM of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. This industry-leading broadcast facility had a galvanizing social impact in our state, and in fact, across this country. This was not just a radio station, it was a cultural institution bringing its listeners aspects of every known societal necessity from award winning news coverage, to the finest musical programming, to governmental and religious affairs.

Thanks to their pioneering actions, station WDAS-AM was eventually joined by other such stations. But none was ever more effective in standing for justice and encouraging enlightenment both locally and nationally. Because of its unique position and timing,