

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. BILL SHUSTER**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 29, 2007*

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 1008, Motion to Recommit with Instructions on H.R. 3963, I was not present. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

CONGRATULATING SETH S. GROSS UPON BEING NAMED "MAN OF THE YEAR" BY B'NAI B'RITH AMOS LODGE NO. 136

**HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 29, 2007*

Mr. KANJORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Seth S. Gross, who was named "Man of the Year" by the B'nai B'rith Amos Lodge No. 136 of Scranton, PA.

Mr. Gross graduated from Scranton Central High School in 1959 and received his bachelor's degree from the University of Pittsburgh in 1962. After attending the College of Insurance, he worked for Chubb and Son in New York City before returning to Scranton to join his father, Abraham, his mother, Lillian and his uncle, Bernard Gross, in Gross-Brown Associated Agencies, Inc.

He remained associated with Gross-Brown until 1994, when it merged with Chamberlain Insurance. Mr. Gross continues to be associated with Chamberlain and Reinheimer Insurers, Inc.

He is a past president of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Chapter of Chartered Property Casualty Underwriters and has taught classes for the CPCU designation.

Mr. Gross has served as president of many Jewish and community organizations over the years, including the Scranton Lions Club, the Lackawanna Audubon Society, Jewish Family Service of Lackawanna County, Junior Achievement of Northeastern Pennsylvania, Temple Israel of Scranton and the Scranton Jewish Community Center. He is currently president of the Jewish Federation of Northeastern Pennsylvania and he serves on the boards of Jewish Family Service, the JCC and Temple Israel.

Mr. Gross previously served on the board of the Scranton Hebrew Day School and on the United Way allocations panel.

He has also worked on the Pennsylvania Film Festival/Scranton Tomorrow Committee and the First Night Celebration in Scranton. Mr. Gross was the recipient of the Scranton Jewish Community Center Young Leadership Award, its Man of the Year Award and its Lifetime Achievement Award.

Mr. Gross is married to the former Sheryl Jacobowitz. The couple has two daughters and three grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mr. Gross. His contributions to the business and community sectors in Scranton

and the northeastern Pennsylvania region have earned him well-deserved respect and admiration, which are reflected in this honor being bestowed on him by B'nai B'rith Amos Lodge No. 136.

TRIBUTE TO MARGARET  
ALEROTEK

**HON. CORRINE BROWN**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 29, 2007*

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Margaret Alerotek a dedicated advocate for peace in Northern Uganda. Margaret passed away on Tuesday, July 31, 2007, and is survived by her adoptive mother, Abitmo Rebecca Odongkara, and siblings.

Margaret participated in many meetings on Capitol Hill during her time in the United States. She was greatly impressed by the opportunity to address a group of young African Americans who are helping to shape U.S. policy. During her May 8, 2007, visit, Ms. Alerotek met with Congressional Black Associates, a Congressional staff association and provided insight regarding international efforts to alleviate poverty and to end the involvement of children in conflict throughout Africa. Sadly, Margaret passed away shortly after her return to Uganda on Tuesday, July 31, 2007 at the age of 27.

Margaret was born in 1980 in the Gulu District of Northern Uganda and was later adopted at the age of 3 when her parents were murdered by Lord's Resistance Army rebels. Margaret graduated from the Uganda Christian University with honors and served for almost 3 years as communications officer for World Vision, a Christian humanitarian organization.

In December 2006 when the Lord's Resistance Army walked out of the Juba Peace talks, 26-year-old Margaret reached out to the LRA leadership and the Ugandan Government chief negotiator to break the silence. The parties recommitted themselves to the peace talks.

One month before her death, at the conclusion of her briefing, with the Congressional Black Associates, Margaret was asked, "Why do you continue to advocate for peace in Northern Uganda at great risk to yourself?" She replied, "Because they are my people."

The impact of Margaret's life is immeasurable—not only because of her work, but more importantly, because of the power of her example. Margaret chose not to be consumed by the misfortune of being an orphan in a country consumed by war. She instead chose to stand on its shoulders and become a powerful advocate for peace, hope and reconciliation.

Margaret was a remarkable young woman. Her leadership, sacrifice and courage serves as an example to people everywhere. For this reason, I rise today to honor the life and service of Ms. Margaret Alerotek.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 29, 2007*

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, unfortunately Tuesday, October 23, 2007, I was unable to cast my vote on the Motion to Table H. Res. 767 and wish the record to reflect my intentions had I been able to vote.

Had I been present for rollcall No. 986 on the Motion to Table H. Res. 767, I would have voted "nay."

RETIREMENT OF MR. ALAN G.  
WILSON

**HON. PHIL HARE**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 29, 2007*

Mr. HARE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Alan G. Wilson, garrison manager at Rock Island Arsenal, for his outstanding military service and contributions to the Quad Cities community on the occasion of his retirement.

For over 35 years, Mr. Wilson dedicated his life to serving our country. From 1966 to 1967, Mr. Wilson served in active duty in the U.S. Army. He later began his civilian career as a management analyst in the U.S. Weapons Command at the Department of Defense.

In 1974, he was transferred to the new Armaments Command at Rock Island Arsenal (RIA). After various high-level positions at RIA, Mr. Wilson became the first civilian garrison manager at the U.S. Army Garrison-Rock Island Arsenal in 2004.

In his role as garrison manager, Mr. Wilson was responsible for installation operations, which included managing an \$89 million budget, supervising 60 tenant activities and overseeing 6,600 government and contracted employees.

During his tenure as garrison manager, Mr. Wilson was credited for high-performing installations during the BRAC 2005 round and addressing other BRAC-related issues such as housing and office space. Mr. Wilson also led efforts to integrate the installation with the larger Quad Cities community, resulting in an estimated economic impact of \$1 million daily to the Quad Cities region.

Continuously recognized by superiors for his hard work, Mr. Wilson has received several Exceptional Performance Awards, two Superior Civilian Service Awards, two Commander's Awards, and the Achievement Medal for Civilian Service. Most recently, he was honored with the Meritorious Civilian Service Award for his exemplary record of professionalism and dedication to the U.S. Installation Management Command.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the constituents of the 17th Congressional District of Illinois, I congratulate Mr. Wilson on his retirement and thank him for his honorable service to our Nation. Alan, you will be missed. I wish you and your family well as you embark on a new life chapter and congratulate you for an admirable career.