

Journalism. Mrs. McMullen became a model student of student life and involved herself in many activities in order to improve the campus. During her time at UNR, she was active in Student Government and was elected to the Student Senate and then the Activities Board. She met her husband, Sam McMullen during her time on the Senate and Activities Board, while he was serving as Student Body Vice President. Upon graduation the young couple decided to head to our nation's capitol, where Mary-Ellen worked for Senator Howard Cannon and Senator Alan Bible. She worked with the Senators while attending George Washington University to earn a Master's Degree in Women's Studies.

Mary-Ellen was ecstatic to return to the University of Nevada, Reno upon her graduation from Georgetown, to teach alongside Dr. Ann Howard. She has served the university in many diverse facets including acting Assistant Dean of Students, Special School Recruitment Coordinator, and Director of Annual Giving for the University of Nevada, Reno Foundation and Publications/Public Relations Coordinator for the Nevada System of Higher Education. As a volunteer for the university, her activities have included the Alumni Council, where she held the position of first vice president, as well as chairperson of several committees. Today, she continues to serve in her second six-year term as a Trustee of the University of Nevada, Reno Foundation.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Mrs. Mary-Ellen McMullen and acknowledge her award as the Nevada Alumni Association Alumna of the Year. Her self-dedication to the university and commitment in bringing quality education to the people of Nevada should be applauded by all. I would like to congratulate her for her award and look forward in seeing her future accomplishments.

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TRIBUTE TO BENJAMIN OAS

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 6, 2007*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Benjamin Oas, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 9, and by earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Ben has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the years Ben has been involved in Scouting, he has earned 26 merit badges and held numerous leadership positions, serving as Patrol Leader, Chaplain's Aide, and Quartermaster. Ben is also a Warrior in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say.

For his Eagle Scout project, Ben constructed a permanent cabinet to be used for storing valuables for the Community Clothes Closet in Warrensburg, MO. Ben has also earned the Ad Altare Dei special award.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Benjamin Oas for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HOUSTON POLICE OFFICERS PATTON AND RAMIREZ RECEIVE THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

**HON. TED POE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 6, 2007*

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, being a police officer means dedicating your life to defending and protecting the local community. Great deeds are regularly performed by these brave individuals, who mean the difference between the law and lawlessness. Despite this fact, our lawmen and women rarely ask for any commendation in return for their valor. At the annual Greenspoint-North Houston Chamber of Commerce Law Enforcement Awards, however, some of only the many police officers were applauded.

Recipients of the Distinguished Service award, Officers Genarrow Patton, and Rogelio Ramirez represent the true compassion of those who choose to "protect and serve". Perhaps the most significant evidence towards these lawmen's empathy is not found in highly publicized "old western" circumstances, but in situations where, without hesitation, an innocent life is saved.

When confronted at the Greenspoint Storefront by a frantic couple with an unconscious baby, on the night of February 12, 2007, the officers coordinated response is an example of true heroism. A real life nightmare for the distressed parents; their baby's complexion was purple resulting from its inability to breathe.

Without hesitation, Officer Ramirez immediately began administering CPR to the tiny innocent infant, while Officer Patton called for an ambulance. Because of these selfless individuals, the baby soon began breathing again. Although actions performed in the Greenspoint store front may not have involved detective work, stake outs, or the use of force, to this young child's parents Officers Ramirez and Patton represent true heroes.

And that's just the way it is.

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TRIBUTE TO SCOTT FAGAN

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 6, 2007*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Scott Fagan, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 9, and by earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Scott has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the years Scott has been involved in Scouting, he has earned 24 merit badges and held numerous leadership positions, serving as Quartermaster, Librarian, Patrol Leader, and Historian. Scott is also a Firebuilder in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say.

For his Eagle Scout project, Scott renovated the back area of an office building at Elmwood Cemetery in Kansas City, MO that can be used for meetings and socials for the Elmwood Cemetery Society. Scott has also earned the Mile Swim special award.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Scott Fagan for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

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2007: DEADLIEST YEAR FOR U.S. TROOPS IN IRAQ

**HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 6, 2007*

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the 852 men and women of the Armed Forces who have sacrificed their lives in Iraq this year. Tragically, this brings the total number of American troops killed in Iraq to 3,855.

The sobering news that 2007 has been the deadliest for U.S. soldiers in Iraq so far is another reminder of the grave human costs of the President's misguided war strategy. The President's promises that his surge would reduce violence ring hollow, despite the increase in number of troops and the hard work of our men and women on the ground who are fighting in the midst of a civil war. Every month in 2007 has seen more U.S. casualties than the same month in 2006. And with two months left before the New Year, U.S. casualties may far exceed previous years.

This grim milestone shared the headlines with another important headline this morning: According to an ABC News poll, fifty-nine percent of Americans do not think the United States is making significant progress restoring civil order in Iraq. A record six in ten want the level of U.S. forces in Iraq reduced.

Congress must listen to the American people, who want the war in Iraq brought to an end. I strongly urge all of my colleagues to vote against any additional funding for this war until it is tied to a firm date for the withdrawal of U.S. troops.

As we continue to debate the best way out of the war in Iraq, I hope that we remember the sacrifices Americans have made in blood and treasure. We must not let this war, and the tragic loss of life, continue.

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TRIBUTE TO MLADEN KOJIC

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 6, 2007*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Mladen Kojic, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 9, and by earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Mladen has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the years Mladen has been involved in Scouting, he has earned 34 merit badges and held numerous leadership positions, serving as Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, Librarian, Assistant Patrol Leader, Chaplain's Aide and Quartermaster. Mladen is also a Firebuilder in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say.

For his Eagle Scout project, Mladen poured a concrete slab sidewalk and landing area in

front of the Methodist church's new elevator entrance in North Kansas City, MO. Mladen has also earned several special awards, including the 50 Mile Award and World Conservation Badge.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Mladen Kojic for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. DONALD A. MANZULLO**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 6, 2007*

Mr. MANZULLO. Madam Speaker, on Monday, November 5, 2007, I was unable to return to Washington in time to vote because of unexpected flight delays at Chicago O'Hare

International Airport. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 1034, dealing with closing portions of the Fiscal Year 2008 Defense Department appropriations conference, "yea" on rollcall No. 1035, dealing with the National Heroes Credit Protection Act, and "yea" on rollcall No. 1036, dealing with recognizing and honoring the contributions of Native American veterans.

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SIMPLIFY VEHICLE DONATIONS  
FOR CHARITIES

**HON. BOB FILNER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 6, 2007*

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation intended to simplify the charitable giving rules for automobile donations, H.R. 4090.

As you know, in 2004, Congress enacted legislation that imposed new reporting requirements on individuals and charities for automobile donations. This legislation has had the unintended consequence of reducing the number of automobiles donated to charities in my district. The corresponding loss in revenue and reduction in services offered by these charities has hurt the San Diego region.

To correct this situation, my bill will exempt certain charities from the reporting requirements of the 2004 law. My bill is targeted only to those charities that operate "in-house" vehicle donation programs and that retain at least 80 percent of the proceeds from their vehicle donation programs.

I invite my colleagues to join me as cosponsors of this legislation to simplify the vehicle donation process for charitable organizations across the United States.