

and surrounding areas. No matter what the need or want, it seems that Ms. Moore-Johnson is willing to do whatever necessary to help those around her. Her Thanksgiving Dinners for seniors became legendary in 1968 and in 1988 was recognized by the Smithsonian Institute for serving over 25,000 seniors. She has welcomed her home to anyone looking to benefit from her wisdom and generosity which she gladly gives to all.

For 10 years, the Pennsylvania Prison Society used the services of her organization, Concerned Parents, Inc., to provide community service opportunities to the Prison Society's clients. This prompted Minnie to return to school to better understand the criminal justice system and the struggles of the people she was helping. Once at Temple, she became a Life Skills Educator and eventually a Job Developer at the Pennsylvania Prison Society to help find employment and other benefits for ex-offenders. Her knowledge and ingenuity has truly benefited all in the Philadelphia community. Her work on the Pennsylvania Prison Society's Re-Entry Service Project created the only certified Job Development course at Temple University offering training in a variety of ex-offender programs. In addition to this program, Minnie provides services to troubled youth ages 15–24 through the Philadelphia Safe and Sound Youth Violence Reduction. All of this accomplishment has amounted to a life well spent in the service of others and gives people a true role model to look up to.

Minnie believes her journey has come full circle, in that it has afforded her the experience of expanding her knowledge to better understand the criminal justice system and those re-entering the work force and has given her the skills she needs to return to her first love, that of servicing the people of the SouthWest Philadelphia community—as Executive Director/CEO of Concerned Parents, Inc. I ask you, Madam Speaker, and my distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating Minnie Moore-Johnson in her lifetime of achievement in the service of others.

COMMENDING PATRICIA M.
ANDERSON

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2007

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Patricia M. Anderson for being selected as a 2007 National Merit Scholarship Awards winner. Patricia is a student at Liberty Christian School in Argyle, Texas.

The National Merit Scholarship Program is an academic competition held annually. Students are initially evaluated by their performance on the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. Of the approximately 1.4 million entrants, only about 8200 students are selected as finalists.

In this first announcement of 2007 winners, about 1,000 high school seniors are awarded scholarships from various companies, foundations, and businesses. These organizations fund the scholarships to help some of our Nation's most capable students reach their potential.

I wish to offer my congratulations to Patricia. I would also like to recognize her parents and

the faculty of Liberty Christian for their outstanding commitment to Patricia's education. I wish her even greater success as she continues her education, and I am proud to represent her in the 26th District of Texas.

CONGRATULATING BIRMINGHAM
NEWS REPORTER BRETT
BLACKLEDGE FOR WINNING THE
PULITZER PRIZE

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, it is with both pride and pleasure that I rise this week to honor Brett Blackledge, a Birmingham News reporter, for receiving the Pulitzer Prize, the highest honor in American journalism.

A native of Baton Rouge, Brett earned a journalism degree from Louisiana State University in 1986. Brett's prestigious career began in New Orleans with the Associated Press. From there, he went to work for the AP bureaus in Jackson, MS, and Tulsa, OK. He also wrote for the The Journal Newspapers and Education Daily.

In 1993, Brett moved to Mobile, AL, and for the next 5 years, he was a reporter at the Press-Register, where he covered local schools, government, and politics. Since 1998, he has been a general assignment and special projects reporter with the Birmingham News. Brett's 14-month series into Alabama's 2-year college system won him the 2007 Pulitzer Prize for investigative reporting.

Madam Speaker, Brett Blackledge's career has already been filled with much achievement, and I rise today to honor yet another of these achievements—the 2007 Pulitzer Prize. May he continue to inform and inspire the people of Alabama. I know his colleagues, his family, and his many friends join with me in praising his significant accomplishments and a job well done.

TRIBUTE TO TRIAD MIDDLE
SCHOOL

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2007

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Triad Middle School in St. Jacob, Illinois, upon being selected as one of the Illinois Horizon Schools: Schools to Watch by the Association of Middle-Level School.

For recognition in the Horizon Schools program, schools must meet or exceed 37 different criteria developed by the National Forum to Accelerate Middle-Grades Reform. Triad Middle School had to complete both an application process and host on-site visits.

This award speaks to the dedication of the students and teachers at Triad Middle School. As a former teacher, I know how hard each educator works to help the students in their classroom succeed. This is a testament to not only the teachers' work, but also the students desire to learn and succeed.

I am pleased to congratulate Triad Middle School on this outstanding accomplishment. I

extend my best wishes for continued success to the students and faculty at Triad Middle School.

COMMENDING NATHAN S. ABELL

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2007

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Nathan S. Abell for being selected as a 2007 National Merit Scholarship Awards winner. Nathan is a student at Marcus High School in Flower Mound, TX.

The National Merit Scholarship Program is an academic competition held annually. Students are initially evaluated by their performance on the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. Of the approximately 1.4 million entrants, only about 8,200 students are selected as finalists.

In this first announcement of 2007 winners, about 1,000 high school seniors are awarded scholarships from various companies, foundations, and businesses. These organizations fund the scholarships to help some of our Nation's most capable students reach their potential.

I wish to offer my congratulations to Nathan. I would also like to recognize his parents and the faculty of Marcus High School for their outstanding commitment to Nathan's education. I wish him even greater success as he continues his education, and I am proud to represent him in the 26th District of Texas.

SHAREHOLDER VOTE ON
EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 20, 2007

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of the Shareholder Vote on Executive Compensation Act, and I commend Chairman FRANK for his work on this critical issue.

While American families struggle to meet their basic needs, such as access to affordable housing, health care, and education, the CEOs of top companies earn more than 430 times the pay of an average worker. The disparity between CEO compensation and minimum wage earnings is even more severe. The average CEO earns more before lunch than a minimum wage worker earns in a year. This inequality needs to be addressed. The Shareholder Vote on Executive Compensation Act is an important step toward fairness because it empowers shareholders and holds public corporations accountable for their compensation practices.

H.R. 1257 requires that public companies give shareholders the opportunity to have a nonbinding advisory vote on the company's executive compensation. It also gives shareholders an additional nonbinding vote if the company awards the CEO a new, undisclosed personal exit package, also known as a "golden parachute" package, during negotiations to buy or sell a company. This bill does not in

any way cap executive salaries nor does it diminish the board's legal authority. It simply provides shareholders with a mechanism to voice their support or opposition to an executive compensation package.

This legislation is supported by the International Corporate Governance Network, the Council of Institutional Investors, labor unions, and shareholder organizations. Further, this approach to corporate governance is not new, and it has been shown that it works. The non-binding advisory vote has been successfully implemented in the United Kingdom and more recently in Australia. It was also adopted voluntarily by the insurance company, Aflac, and 52 other companies have similar proposals pending.

Mr. Chairman, American families cannot afford to continue subsidizing excessive CEO compensation packages. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 1257.

TRIBUTE TO LAUREL HIGHLANDS HIGH SCHOOL CHEERLEADERS IN HONOR OF THEIR MANY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2007

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the young women of Laurel Highlands High School Cheerleading Squad and their coach Liz Dunham. The young ladies of this squad have accomplished so much not just over the squad school year but over the proceeding years. These accomplished young women have done more for the community of Uniontown, Pennsylvania than they may realize.

While not only cheering at 98 games over the past year, the cheerleaders of Laurel Highlands have accomplished so much more. These young ladies have participated and volunteered their time in numerous community activities. They have raised funds and awareness for organizations and charities that include the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society and the Bosom Buddies. The cheerleaders of Laurel Highlands High School have also collected for food banks and helped with the benefit dance for Interfaith Caregivers of Fayette, Inc.

Along with their community involvement, the cheerleaders of Laurel Highlands High School have participated and won many titles and the respect of many within the sport. Including, back to back Bituminous Coal Show "Varsity Over All High Point" titles, along with JV winning their division, and the 2007 WPXI "Cheer of the Year" Contest. The involvement and dedication of these young women could end today and I still would not have enough time to stress the accomplishments of this squad both past and present.

I ask that you and my distinguished colleagues join me in commending the athletes of the Laurel Highlands High School Cheerleading Squad in Uniontown, Pennsylvania. Their presence has been felt not only throughout the school but throughout the community as well. Best wishes to all of these young ladies in their future endeavors and may the memories this illustrious year last them a lifetime.

COMMENDING KRISTOFER K. BJERGA

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2007

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Kristofer K. Bjerga for being selected as a 2007 National Merit Scholarship Awards winner. Kristofer is a student at Keller High School in Keller, Texas.

The National Merit Scholarship Program is an academic competition held annually. Students are initially evaluated by their performance on the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. Of the approximately 1.4 million entrants, only about 8,200 students are selected as finalists.

In this first announcement of 2007 winners, about 1,000 high school seniors are awarded scholarships from various companies, foundations, and businesses. These organizations fund the scholarships to help some of our nation's most capable students reach their potential.

I wish to offer my congratulations to Kristofer. I would also like to recognize his parents and the faculty of Keller High School for their outstanding commitment to Kristofer's education. I wish him even greater success as he continues his education, and I am proud to represent him in the 26th District of Texas.

CONGRATULATING MONROEVILLE, ALABAMA NATIVE CYNTHIA TUCKER FOR WINNING THE PULITZER PRIZE

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, it is with both pride and pleasure that I rise this week to honor Cynthia Tucker, a beloved native of Monroeville, Alabama, for receiving the highest honor in American journalism, the Pulitzer Prize.

Raised in Monroeville, where her father was a school principal, Cynthia went to Auburn University, graduating in 1976 with a degree in journalism. She joined the Atlanta Journal-Constitution staff in 1976 and also worked a short while at The Philadelphia Inquirer. As a reporter, she covered local government, national politics, crime and education, in addition to filing dispatches from Africa, Central America, and Cuba.

Over 30 years have passed since Cynthia first joined the Journal-Constitution. She has risen to editorial page editor, and her syndicated column now appears in more than 70 newspapers throughout the United States.

The third time proved to be the charm for Cynthia, who was also a Pulitzer finalist in 2004 and 2006. This year the journalism department at the University of Alabama, my alma mater, also recognized her long, distinguished writing career by awarding her the 2007 Clarence Cason Writing Award. Last year, Cynthia was named the National Association of Black Journalists' Journalist of the Year. In 2000, the American Society of Newspaper Editors honored her with the Distin-

guished Writing Award for commentary, and she has won the Cox Newspaper award for column writing four times.

Nelle Harper Lee, Truman Capote, and Mark Childress firmly established Monroeville as the "Literary Capital of Alabama." Cynthia Tucker's name is now very much a part of this prestigious list.

Madam Speaker, Cynthia Tucker has been an inspiration to countless young women—and men—from Alabama and across the country for her distinguished career. I know her colleagues, her family, and her many friends join with me in praising her significant accomplishments and a job well done.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE KENNETH MICHAEL KAYS

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2007

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the late Kenneth Michael Kays. Mr. Kays, a native of Fairfield, Illinois was a recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor. A monument in his memory is being dedicated on May 5, 2007 in Fairfield, Illinois.

Mr. Kays, a Private First Class in the United States Army, was cited for his heroic action in Thua Thien province, Republic of Vietnam, on May 7, 1970. His rank at that time was Private and he was serving as a medical airman with Company D, 1st Battalion, 101st Airborne Division near the Fire Support Base Maureen.

When enemy forces assaulted Company D's night defensive position, Private Kays began assisting his fallen and injured comrades. In assisting his fellow soldiers, he became a target and enemy fire and explosive charges severed the lower portion of his left leg. Private Kays applied a tourniquet to his leg and continued to search the perimeter and help his fellow soldiers who were injured. Private Kays did not allow himself to be treated until his fellow soldiers had been treated for their own wounds. He was cited with the Congressional Medal of Honor for his heroism.

My thoughts and prayers will be with the family and friends of Private First Class Kays as the monument is dedicated in his honor. May God bless his memory and may He continue to bless America.

COMMENDING GABRIEL J. DIAZ

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2007

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Gabriel J. Diaz for being selected as a 2007 National Merit Scholarship Awards winner. Gabriel is a student at Ryan High School in Denton, TX.

The National Merit Scholarship Program is an academic competition held annually. Students are initially evaluated by their performance on the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. Of the approximately 1.4 million entrants, only about 8,200 students are selected as finalists.

In this first announcement of 2007 winners, about 1,000 high school seniors are awarded