

Louis area and settled in Alton, Illinois with a new and growing family.

Bill Kessler helped shape St. Anthony's Health Center into a facility that earned a "Top 100 Hospital" award and has branched out with a number of community outreach programs and initiatives. Bill has also found time to be involved in over 50 different professional and civic organizations through the years.

Pat Kessler, in addition to raising their eight children, with all the school and sports activities, homework, doctors visits, etc. that is required for such a large family, has also been very involved in a number of religious, educational and civic organizations.

Both Pat and Bill continue to look for ways to serve others. They have both recently completed a master's in Theological Studies Program at Quincy University and look to enhance their role within their church. Their continuing work to help others within their community is being recognized through the 2007 Circle of Care award. The Riverbend Head Start and Family Services has a mission, to "enable children and families to discover positive solutions to life's challenges." Pat and Bill Kessler are living examples of this mission and are therefore very worthy recipients of this award.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in an expression of appreciation to Pat and Bill Kessler for their dedicated service to their community and to wish them and their family the very best in the future.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES WEEK

SPEECH OF

HON. TIM HOLDEN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2007

Mr. HOLDEN. Mr. Speaker, as a co-chair of the Congressional Correctional Officers Caucus, I rise today to honor correctional officers and employees of correctional facilities across our country.

May 6, 2007 kicked off the National Correctional Officers and Employees Week. Throughout the week, correctional officers will be here in Washington to speak with their elected officials, present awards to officers whose exceptional service merits special recognition, and honor the memory of fallen comrades who had made the ultimate sacrifice while on duty.

I am proud to sponsor House Resolution 264, along with my colleagues, the gentleman from New Jersey, Mr. LOBIONDO, the gentleman from Indiana, Mr. ELLSWORTH, and the gentleman from Virginia, Mr. DAVIS. H. Res. 264 is a bipartisan resolution designed to honor correctional officers and employees by acknowledging and supporting the goals and ideals of National Correctional Officers and Employees Week. The resolution directly honors correctional workers at all levels, local, State and Federal, including psychologists, chaplains, teachers, and kitchen staff.

Correctional facilities are a critical component of our public safety and criminal justice systems. We rely on correctional facilities to

mend the behavior of certain members of our society. To do that, these facilities must rely on correctional officers and other personnel who are highly trained to work in a challenging and often dangerous environment. Before coming to Congress I had the honor of working alongside these men and women when I served as a probation officer and then Sheriff of Schuylkill County, which houses a Federal and state prison. The respect I gained for these public servants is indescribable and I thank them for the countless ways they benefit our communities.

Correctional officers and staff work each day to protect society from the threat of criminal activity. They risk their lives ensuring that we are safe. They maintain order in a dangerous place and ensure the basic needs of one of the most difficult groups in society are addressed. Mr. Speaker, it is not often that we get the opportunity to thank them for the good work they do and I commend my colleagues in the House or Representatives for passing House Resolution 264.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF ALESSANDRA C. BRAUN ON HER APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 9, 2007

Mr. GILLMOR. Madam Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to an outstanding young woman from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. I am happy to announce that Alessandra C. Braun of Fremont, Ohio, has been offered an appointment to attend the United States Air Force Academy at Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Alessandra's offer of appointment poises her to attend the United States Air Force Academy this fall with the incoming cadet class of 2011. Attending one of our Nation's military academies is an invaluable experience that offers a world-class education and demands the very best that these young men and women have to offer. Truly, it is one of the most challenging and rewarding undertakings of their lives.

Alessandra brings an enormous amount of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming class of Air Force cadets. While attending St. Joseph Central Catholic High School in Fremont, Ohio, Alessandra attained a grade point average which placed her near the top of her class. While a gifted athlete, Alessandra has maintained the highest standards of excellence in her academics, choosing to enroll and excel in Advanced Placement classes throughout high school. Alessandra has been a member of the National Honor Society, Honor Roll, Mock Trial and Science Club and has earned numerous awards and accolades as a scholar and an athlete.

Outside the classroom, Alessandra has distinguished herself as an excellent student-athlete. On the fields of competition, she has earned varsity letters in swimming and volleyball where she served as the co-captain of the varsity team. Alessandra's dedication

and service to the community and her peers have proven her ability to excel among the leaders at the Air Force Academy. I have no doubt that Alessandra will take the lessons of her student leadership with her to the United States Air Force Academy.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Alessandra C. Braun on her appointment to the United States Air Force Academy at Colorado Springs. Our service academies offer the finest military training and education available anywhere in the world. I am sure that Alessandra will do very well during her career at the United States Air Force Academy and I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing her well as she begins her service to the Nation.

HONORING EAGLE SCOUT AWARDEES

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 9, 2007

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize four constituents in my district who achieved the distinguished rank of Eagle Scout. As members of the Pendleton County Boy Scouts and the brotherhood, Order of the Arrow, they demonstrate the high standards of Scouting and citizenship. I would like to take a moment to highlight their individual accomplishments:

Mathew Tyler Putz of Franklin, West Virginia achieved the rank of Eagle Scout on February 19, 2006. In addition to Scouting activities; Mathew plays football and track for Pendleton County High School and is a member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and the Future Farmers of America.

Jeremy Allen Hottinger was officially recognized as an Eagle Scout on August 2, 2006. He plays football for the Pendleton County Wildcats and is a member of the Upper Tract Volunteer Fire Department.

Julian Achetta Siapno became an Eagle Scout on August 22, 2006. He is currently serving our country in the United States Air Force.

For their final project, Matthew, Jeremy, and Julian worked together to improve a picnic shelter at a local Navy Base in Sugar Grove. Matthew built a wooden bridge across a ravine; while Jeremy made a gravel path at both ends of the bridge. Julian painted and improved the picnic area. They are members of Scout Troop 162 in Franklin, West Virginia.

Travis Allen Day, a member of Troop 499 in Circleville, joined the prestigious league of Eagle Scouts on December 28, 2006. He cleaned and remodeled the United States Forest Service public rifle range at Brandywine, West Virginia. Travis also plays baseball for the Petersburg High School Vikings baseball team.

I would like to congratulate these four young West Virginians for their adherence to the Boy Scouts of America. I want to extend to them my most sincere gratitude for preserving and improving their communities. I look forward to the future accomplishments of these promising young citizens.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO CARROLL
JOHNSON

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 9, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Carroll Johnston, who is being honored with the naming of a middle school in his honor by the Clark County School District.

Mr. Johnston has dedicated 37 years to the Clark County School District. After his first year of teaching, Mr. Johnston served in the U.S. Army for 2 years. Following his service to our country, he continued teaching at Western High School where he also coached and advised numerous student sports and activities. Mr. Johnston also served as a school counselor and dean of students. He then worked at various middle schools as Vice-Principal and two district high schools as Principle. Mr. Johnston then had the privilege of opening Green Valley High School, where he worked as principal until retirement.

Mr. Johnston currently serves on the Gaming Policy Committee for the State of Nevada and has been very active in several Boys and Girls Club functions over the years.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Mr. Carroll Johnston and his distinguished career in service to Clark County School district and the State of Nevada. I wish him the best in his retirement and thank him for his dedicated service.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KIRSTEN E. GILLIBRAND

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 9, 2007

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Madam Speaker, I was not present to vote on Wednesday, May 2, 2007, because I was in my upstate New York district, attending the funeral of State Trooper David Brinkerhoff, a State trooper killed in the line of duty.

Had I been present, I would have voted in the following way:

(1) Democratic Motion on Ordering the Previous Question on the Head Start Rule—"yea."

(2) H. Res. 348—Rule providing for consideration of the Head Start bill—"yea."

(3) H. Res. 350—Rule providing for consideration of the NIST bill—"yea."

(4) Will the House, on reconsideration, pass the Iraq Supplemental, the objections of the President to the contrary notwithstanding?—"yea."

(5) Price (GA) Amendment. Establishes an 8-state Block Grant demonstration of Head Start program which would eliminate Head Start program standards, weaken oversight and accountability, remove local control, and end Head Start as we know it—"nay."

(6) Sestak/Tierney/Courtney Amendment. Authorizes a loan forgiveness program for Head Start teachers to support better teacher quality in Head Start programs—"yea."

(7) Hirono Amendment. Improves the Early Head Start program by making needed im-

provements to the training and technical assistance system in Early Head Start—"yea."

(8) Mica Amendment. Moves the deadline up by 2 years for when Head Start teachers must have B.A.'s, without providing additional resources to ensure programs would not have to reduce other core services—"nay."

(9) Putnam Amendment. Removes the bill's improved accountability measures that include a system of program quality review by requiring all Head Start programs to be re-competed every 5 years regardless of their quality; draws funding away from the classroom for greater federal bureaucracy—"nay."

(10) Carnahan Amendment. Ensures programs can maintain quality services by allowing grantees to negotiate enrollment levels when appropriations are insufficient to cover COLA—"yea."

(11) Shuler/Ellsworth/Loeb sack Amendment. Affirms eligibility of faith-based organizations as Head Start grantees and applauds role of community and faith based organizations in the Head Start program—"yea."

TRIBUTE TO DR. GRETCHEN
SCHUETTE

HON. DARLENE HOOLEY

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 9, 2007

Ms. HOOLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend Dr. Gretchen Schuette for her distinguished service as the eighth president of Chemeketa Community College in Salem, Oregon. The name Chemeketa is a Kalapuya word meaning "place of peace." Willamette Valley Native Americans would gather at a place they called Chemeketa, today known as Salem. There, they conducted their councils, renewed friendships, and shared old ideas and cultivated new ones.

Dr. Schuette embodies the spirit of Chemeketa and throughout her tenure has brought the institution to new levels of academic achievement and excellence in technical training, workforce development, and business support.

Dr. Schuette has overseen an enterprise that is one of the largest—public or private—in Oregon's Mid-Willamette Valley. Last year more than 57,000 students attended classes at the college that has campuses and centers in Salem, Woodburn, McMinnville, Dallas and the Santiam Canyon. After serving the college as one of its deans until 1992, Gretchen returned as president in July 2001, and she steered Chemeketa through difficult financial times as state resources fell and student populations continued their increase of 31 percent in the last 10 years.

Dr. Schuette has been an education leader at all levels in Oregon, having served as superintendent of the Gresham-Barlow School District and dean of distance education for Oregon State University in addition to her work for three Oregon community colleges.

She has earned degrees in English literature, botany and geological oceanography from Smith College, Central Michigan University and Oregon State University. She remains a dedicated Beaver fan.

In addition to receiving awards from the Oregon Diversity Institute and the American Association for Women in Community Colleges, Dr. Schuette has served on the Marion County Families and Children Commission, the Public Commission of the Oregon Legislature, and the Oregon State Board of Higher Education.

I hope Members will join me in extending my heartfelt gratitude to Dr. Schuette for her leadership of Chemeketa Community College and offer our well wishes as she retires to pursue her next great adventures.

HONORING FRANCIS MIKO FOR HIS
SERVICE TO THE U.S. CONGRESS

HON. DAVID DREIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 9, 2007

Mr. DREIER. Madam Speaker, today I would like to recognize and commend Francis Miko for more than three decades of service to the U.S. Congress at the Congressional Research Service. On April 27, 2007, Francis retired as a Specialist in International Relations with the Foreign Affairs, Defense, and Trade Division of CRS, bringing to an end a distinguished career as an expert on both foreign policy issues and our institution.

I have had the pleasure of working with Francis on a number of occasions, particularly in association with two different endeavors that I value among my greatest privileges as a Member of Congress. The first was the Frost-Solomon Task Force, which was established by the U.S. House of Representatives following the collapse of the Soviet Union in order to assist the legislatures in former Soviet-bloc countries. These institutions, which had previously been rubber stamps for a totalitarian regime, were suddenly thrust upon the democratic stage with the responsibility of representing the will of the people. Francis Miko led CRS' efforts on the Task Force, and proved to be a key asset and invaluable expert. In twelve post-Communist countries in Central and Eastern Europe, he coordinated the establishment of parliamentary libraries and research facilities, lent a tremendous amount of technical expertise in legislative functioning and helped to implement the use of information technology.

Nearly 10 years after the Frost-Solomon Task Force concluded its work, its mission was reborn with a global focus in the House Democracy Assistance Commission. Once again, this body has relied enormously on the experience and institutional knowledge that Francis has provided. Since its establishment in 2004, HDAC has embarked upon partnerships with 12 developing and re-emerging democracies around the globe. Francis Miko's work in developing these programs and providing the technical assistance necessary to strengthen these vital institutions has been indispensable.

We will miss his expertise, his dedication, his professionalism and his depth of institutional knowledge. I commend him for his commitment to public service and to the U.S. Congress, and I congratulate him on his well-earned and much-deserved retirement.