

the Sacramento Police Department, Officer Miller leveraged his previous experience and training to resolve the situation, and as a result of his actions lives were saved and further injuries averted.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to recognize Sacramento Police Officer Darin Miller who is most deserving of the Silver Medal of Valor Award. His swift actions embody the courage and bravery we entrust in our law enforcement. On behalf of the people of Sacramento and the Fifth Congressional District of California, I ask all my colleagues to join me in acknowledging the lifesaving efforts of Sacramento Police Officer Darin Miller.

CONGRATULATING GIRL SCOUTS
OF VERNON AND ROCKVILLE,
CONNECTICUT

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2008

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Girl Scouts of the towns of Vernon and Rockville, Connecticut. After years of hard work and dedication, young leaders from Troop 10141 and Troop 10735 have achieved the honor of the Bronze and Silver Girl Scout Awards. These young women have not only identified and investigated issues in their own communities, but they have taken the time to create, develop, and implement projects that address these areas of concern. These young women have selflessly given their time, knowledge and resources to their communities, and their work is truly deserving of this wonderful recognition.

These young women are truly the emerging community leaders of tomorrow. Andrea Notman, a Bronze Award recipient, orchestrated a winter clothing drive, while another recipient of the Bronze Award, Larissa Flynn, distributed paper grocery bags that were decorated in honor of Earth Day. Amy Eitelman and Jackie Ose, both Bronze Award recipients, collected recyclable materials and used the proceeds to purchase a willow tree to be planted in their community. Kathleen Hills, a Silver Award recipient, organized and ran a town wide Girl Scout fair while Emily Piro, another Silver Award recipient, helped to organize and manage a camping weekend for local Brownie Girl Scouts.

Jillian Eitelman, another Silver Award recipient, created the "Green Angel Fund" in memory of Diane Lloyd, a former troop leader. The fund offers support to leaders who wish to further their scouting knowledge. An additional Silver Award winner, Sarah Nolan, created a presentation about the history of Girl Scouting and delivered the presentation at several area meetings. Amiee Roberge, another Silver Award recipient, created care boxes of toiletries and toys and donated them to the residents at a local battered women and children's center. Alexandra Banks, another Silver Award winner, helped to transform an old music room into a computer lab at the Saint Bernard School in Connecticut. Alexandra also coordinated the creation of a preschool from a former house at this same school.

Cheyenne Sweeney, Shannon Lipe, Mary Leigh Enders, and Elizabeth Courtney, recipients of the Silver Award, researched, created,

and distributed 1,200 brochures regarding breast cancer awareness. They also made and distributed 1,200 key rings with informational cards describing the sizes of tumors. Each of these diverse projects helped to address a specific need that these young women discovered within their own communities. These awards are a tribute to their hard work and perseverance, and I am honored to recognize them today.

The Girl Scouts and leaders of Troops 10141 and 10735 deserve the highest accolades for all of their enthusiasm and commitment to enriching the lives of those in their surrounding communities. Their display of social consciousness, personal conviction, and strong leadership is a tribute to the Girl Scout mission and the ideals that the organization encourages and promotes. It is a privilege to stand here today and applaud all of their hard work. I ask all my colleagues to join with me and the people of Connecticut in congratulating them for this honor.

REAFFIRMING SUPPORT FOR THE
GOVERNMENT OF LEBANON
UNDER PRIME MINISTER FOUAD
SINIORA

SPEECH OF

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 2008

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution, and yield myself as much time as I may consume.

With this resolution, we affirm our support for the legitimate government of Prime Minister Fouad Siniora and condemn the actions of Hizballah that recently provoked the most severe sectarian conflict in Lebanon since the miserable 15-year civil war that ended in 1990.

As we meet this morning, the fate of Lebanon hangs in the balance. Will Lebanon belong to its secular, pro-Western majority—or will it fall to Iran and its proxies? Terrorist Hizballah, showing contempt for legitimate authority and employing violence against Lebanon's most progressive forces, has made a strong bid to prove that the answer to that question is that pro-Iranian forces will dominate Lebanon. That is why it is important for this body to go on record—forcefully—as backing the Prime Minister Fouad Siniora's democratically-elected government. We cannot win the battle for the Lebanese—they must do that themselves—but we can at least demonstrate our solidarity.

When the government sought to assert its sovereignty by taking on Hizballah's illegal, private intelligence network, Hizballah responded by taking over parts of Beirut by force, shutting the major roads to the airport and initiating sectarian violence throughout Lebanon.

Hizballah fighters also shut down Saad Hariri's pro-government television station and torched the building housing Hariri's newspaper. They besieged the homes of Hariri and Druze leader Walid Jumblatt, another pillar of the legitimate governing coalition under Prime Minister Fouad Siniora.

These actions were intended to deepen Hizballah's control of its state-within-a-state, to

intimidate Lebanon's rulers and thereby increase Hizballah's influence throughout the nation, and, most worrisome, to push Lebanon deeper into an Iranian-Syrian sphere of influence.

Unfortunately, Hizballah's violence worked, and the government backed down rather than risk civil war. At least for now, the government has abandoned its plans to close Hizballah's private communications network and remove a pro-Hizballah general who presides over security at Beirut International Airport. Perhaps the government will re-coup some of its losses during negotiations with Hizballah now taking place in Qatar—but it will not be easy.

Let me make two points. First, it is time to go beyond words. It is time for the United Nations Security Council to take specific actions in response to Syria's and Iran's flouting of Lebanese sovereignty in direct contravention of UN Security Council resolutions. Resolution 1701 forbids the transfer of arms into Lebanon without the consent of the Lebanese government. Resolution 1747, passed under Chapter VII, forbids Iran from transferring arms to any entity.

Iran provides training, equipment, and arms for Hizballah. Syria, at the least, facilitates the transfer of these arms. The resolution before us urges the Security Council to ban all air traffic between Iran and Lebanon and between Iran and Syria. It calls on all states on transit routes between Iran and Lebanon to implement strict controls. A total ban on commercial flights to and from Iran and Syria—such as that which brought Libya to its knees—also should not be ruled out.

Second, it is long past time for the European Union to designate Hizballah as a terrorist group and treat it accordingly. The European insistence that Hizballah should be seen as a legitimate political party is now transparently undermined by facts on ground, including the more than 80 Lebanese who have needlessly perished in the fighting of the past week.

Legitimate political parties do not have an independent military capability. They do not initiate wars with neighboring states. And they do not engage in international terrorism.

Last week The New York Times quoted Israeli journalist Ehud Yaari as labeling Iran's growing regional influence as "a pax Iranica." Fortunately, there are brave men and women in Lebanon who want to resist this pax Iranica, and at their head, I believe, is Prime Minister Siniora and his government, even if their most recent effort to assert their sovereignty over the Hizballah terrorists has fallen short. Now is the time for us to affirm our support for him and his legitimate, democratically-elected government and to urge the international community to do likewise.

That is why I support this resolution, and ask my colleagues to support it as well.

RECOGNIZING MR. JOSEPH E.
HICSWA

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2008

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, I would like to call to your attention the work of a man I am proud to represent in Congress, Mr. Joseph E. Hicswa. Mr. Hicswa is being recognized, with pride and gratitude, on Monday, on

May 19, 2008, by the Passaic City Democratic Club for his exemplary work as a member of the Passaic City Democratic Club and County Committee.

It is only fitting that he be honored in this, the permanent record of the greatest freely erected body on earth, for he has a long history of untiring effort in support of bettering his community through the Club and Committee.

Joseph has always been a proud American, willing to do whatever was needed to defend and protect the freedoms and liberties that make this country so grand. He answered the call to serve our nation during World War II and did so nobly.

Joseph is a lifelong Democrat, who was introduced to the ideals of the party by his parents. As his mother and father taught him, the guiding principle of the Democratic Party is to help others who have less than you do, and to improve the quality of life for all Americans. He was drawn to support the party of his parents because of what it strove to accomplish.

It was Joseph's deep respect for the importance of civic involvement that led him to serve in an official capacity. When he went into the voting booth for the June 1988 primary election, he noticed that there was a blank space on the ballot. No one was running for the position of Male Democratic Committeeman in his district. He was disturbed by the fact that there was a job to be done for the party he believed in that was to go unfilled. He wrote his name in, won the election with that one vote, and has held the seat ever since, even winning against opponents in some of the races.

Once he became part of the Passaic Democratic Organization, as well as the Passaic City Democratic Club, his hard work and dedication led him to be appointed and elected to various leadership positions. He served a number of terms as the Sergeant-at-Arms. He has served as the Publicity Chairman and Program Coordinator since 1991. He served as Corresponding Secretary of the Club from 1997 to 2001, and as the Treasurer of the Passaic City Democratic Committee from 1992 to 1994. He has served as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Club since 2002.

Joseph is also an accomplished letter writer. He makes sure that his voice and the voices of Passaic's Democrats are heard. He writes regularly to local, state and federal officials throughout the area as well as newspapers. He also expands his communications outside the area, to world leaders like the Secretary General of the United Nations, Ambassadors, and foreign heads of state.

The job of a United States Congressman involves much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to learning about and recognizing the efforts of individuals like Joseph E. Hicswa.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, everyone associated with the Passaic City Democratic Club, all those whose lives have been touched by his work and his friendship, and me in recognizing the outstanding and invaluable achievements of Mr. Joseph E. Hicswa.

HONORING JOHN B. CHEEK OF
HOMOSASSA, FLORIDA

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2008

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a soldier who fought bravely in one of the deadliest and decisive battles of the bulge. John B. Cheek, a resident of my district for the past twenty-six years and who lives in Homosassa, Florida, was born on August 7, 1923 in Olitic, Indiana. Following the entry of the United States in World War II, Mr. Cheek joined the military, where he served from 1943 to 1946 in the United States Army.

Mr. Cheek served as a technician 5th grade in the Battery B 556th Anti-Aircraft Artillery Automatic Weapons Battalion. It was in this position that he fought the axis powers as a lateral tracker on 40 caliber and 50 caliber machine guns in Rhineland and Central Europe. During his three-year tour of duty, Mr. Cheek earned several medals for his service, including the good conduct medal, the American Campaign Medal, the European African Eastern Campaign Medal, the WWII Victory Medal, the Honorable Service Lapel Pin, and the Honorable Discharge Button.

A current resident of Homosassa, in Citrus County, Florida, Mr. Cheek has been married to Helen F. Goodwin for sixty-two years. He and his wife have three loving daughters, Carol, Sandra and Sue, one son, Ron, eight grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. Mr. Cheek has been a long-time member of the Disabled American Veterans and a proud member of the masons for many years, to this day remaining active in his community.

Madam speaker, members of the greatest generation and brave veterans like Mr. Cheek pass on from this life each and every day. Having fought the enemy in Belgium, France & Germany, it wasn't until recently that Mr. Cheek would discuss the war with his family and tell them how proud he was to have been a part of it. Like every soldier who has worn the uniform, Mr. Cheek feels honored to be an American that helped fight for all of our freedoms and defeat the Germans in World War II. Now is the time for Congress to honor his memory and recognize his accomplishments on the field of battle.

HONORING MAYOR ROSCOE
WARREN

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2008

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the work and accomplishments of a distinguished community leader, Roscoe Warren.

Mayor Roscoe Warren served the citizens of Homestead, Florida as a public servant for over 26 years. From 1981 to 1989 he served as Councilman, from 1989 to 2001 he served as Vice Mayor and from 2001 to 2007 he served as Mayor of the City of Homestead. Additionally, he served the City of Homestead through his leadership as the City's represent-

ative in many organizations including the Florida League of Cities, Miami-Dade County Office of Community and Economic Development and the South Florida Water Management District.

Mayor Warren played a key role in bringing the City of Homestead out of the ruins of Hurricane Andrew and helped make it what it is today: a thriving, growing community of over 57,000 residents. His fundamental vision was to maintain Homestead's unique identity and to remember those pioneers who paved the way as well as properly providing for future generations of Homestead residents.

I am very grateful for Roscoe Warren's contribution to our community and honored to call him my friend.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MACKINAC ISLAND STATE PARK COMMISSION'S HISTORICAL PRESERVATION AND MUSEUM PROGRAM

SPEECH OF

HON. CANDICE S. MILLER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 19, 2008

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Con. Res. 325, celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Mackinac Island State Park Commission's Historical Preservation and Museum Program. This program is of special importance to the people of my state as it has preserved Mackinac's valuable history for generations to come.

From Mackinac's roots as an American Revolutionary War post, a battleground during the War of 1812, and a Civil War prison, Mackinac has been an important site in shaping American history. It was the Historical Preservation and Museum Program which restored the remarkable treasure of Fort Mackinac and opened its doors to eager and interested tourists in 1958. Now for 50 years, visitors have been able to step back in time and experience the setting of the old Northwest and frontier.

In addition to the undeniable preservation undertaken by the Mackinac Island State Park Commission's Historical Preservation and Museum Program, I value the strong impact the program provides the tourism economy of Michigan. Mackinac is a tourist destination because of its beautiful scenery and captivating history, and has welcomed more than 10 million visitors to the Mackinac State Historic Parks since 1958.

The people of Michigan are blessed to continue to share stories from our state that shaped the nation. We recognize the vital role the Mackinac Island State Park Commission's Historical Preservation and Museum Program has played in preserving our noteworthy history and conveying it in such an exciting way. The Commission's restoration and reopening of Old Mackinac Point Lighthouse in 2004, which further added to the rich traditions enjoyed on Michigan's waterways, is another example of history coming alive.

For these reasons and more the Mackinac Island State Park Commission's Historical Preservation and Museum Program deserves recognition for 50 years of preserving Michigan history while working to make history accessible and engaging.