

care that they require and deserve. We must ensure that the proper medical services are available to service men and women for their use while on active duty and once they return home. Today, the percentage of women in the military is at the highest level ever. My home State of Ohio currently has over 65,000 female veterans. I am deeply concerned about the impact these high service levels are having on the well-being and stability of America families and I am committed to working on this issue in Congress.

The 11th Congressional District of Ohio is represented by an outstanding group of women serving in our Nation's armed forces and our State's national guard. Their service and sacrifice is greatly appreciated and will not be forgotten.

TRIBUTE TO U-2 PILOTS

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the heroic feats and commendable military service of 11 U-2 pilots of the 4080th Strategic Reconnaissance Wing. Based out of Laughlin Air Force Base in Del Rio, Texas, these men weathered great danger in flying critical surveillance missions over the Caribbean during the height of the Cold War.

On October 14, 1962, their efforts provided the first convincing evidence that Soviet medium range ballistic missiles were present in Cuba; and thanks to their courage, our country was able to recognize and navigate one of the greatest national security threats of the 20th century, the Cuban Missile Crisis. At great personal risk, the unit exposed some of the deepest and darkest secrets of our country's adversaries.

Named "Operation Brass Knob", this distinguished group of pilots ventured over Cuban airspace armed only with cameras. Declassified documents and the pilots' personal accounts reveal that each was engaged by the enemy; indeed, on the 27th U-2 flight over Cuba, and during the pinnacle of the crisis, Major Rudolf Anderson Jr. was shot down and killed by a strategic air missile. Nevertheless, the intelligence photographs these pilots compiled gave President Kennedy the information needed to initiate a naval blockade of Cuba and ultimately dissuade the Soviet Union.

On November 26, 1962, President Kennedy awarded the 4080th Strategic Reconnaissance Wing with the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award. Kennedy nobly remarked, "The work of this unit has contributed as much to the security of the United States as any unit in our history, and any group of men in our history!"

While President Kennedy's decisionmaking during the Cuban Missile crisis is properly designated as lore, the 11 U-2 pilots have spent the past 45 years in relatively humble obscurity. Because of the sensitivity of their mission, most of these men were denied the public praise and recognition warranted by their mission.

And so today I applaud the Val Verde Historical Commission for its decision to honor these men by placing a commemorative historical marker in Del Rio, TX, on behalf of the 11 pilots of Operation Brass Knob: Majors Ru-

dolf Anderson Jr., Buddy L. Brown, Edwin G. Emerling, Richard S. Heyser, James A. Qualls, and Captains George M. Bull, Roger H. Herman, Charles W. Kern, Gerald E. McIlmoyle, Robert L. Primrose, and Daniel W. Schmarr. A ceremony will take place May 23, 2008, and five of the six surviving pilots will be in attendance.

As we approach Memorial Day, let us pause, reflect, and give thanks for the efforts of our men in uniform, both those whose efforts will be infamous and those whose service will be unheralded by the public at large. I am proud to represent the district from which the men of Operation Brass Knob staged their valiant flights, and I wish to congratulate them on their upcoming recognition.

INTRODUCTION OF COHEN-ISSA LIBEL TOURISM LEGISLATION

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, today, I, along with Congressman DARRELL ISSA, introduced a bill that would address the phenomenon of "libel tourism," which occurs when plaintiffs seek judgments from foreign courts against American authors and publishers for making allegedly defamatory statements, often to get around first amendment-based constraints on American defamation law. This phenomenon threatens to undermine our Nation's core free speech principles. U.S. law places a higher burden on certain defamation plaintiffs and with respect to certain types of allegedly defamatory speech in order to safeguard first amendment-protected speech. Other countries, including those that generally share our legal tradition, provide no such protection, and American authors and publishers should not be forced to restrict their speech to comport with more limited foreign standards.

Our legislation will codify the principle that, while U.S. courts will normally enforce the judgments of foreign courts, they should not do so when foreign judgments undermine our Constitution. Specifically, our bill prohibits U.S. courts from recognizing or enforcing foreign defamation judgments that do not comport with the first amendment. This is a straightforward solution that is designed to discourage foreign defamation plaintiffs from filing suit against American authors and publishers in foreign courts and instead encourage them to file suit in the United States.

I would like to thank the Association of American Publishers and the Media Law Resource Center for their valuable feedback during the drafting of this bill and for their support for this legislation. I urge my colleagues to become cosponsors of this bill.

HONORING STATE CHAMPION WRESTLER BYRON TATE OF CLINTON HIGH SCHOOL

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding results

achieved by Clinton High School wrestler Byron Tate. This winter Byron captured the Iowa Class 3A Individual Wrestling Championship in the 215 pound weight class.

Byron won a thrilling championship match. He defeated his final opponent in a 5-2 decision.

Madam Speaker, I am extremely proud of the accomplishments of Byron and the Clinton High School Wrestling team, both on and off the court. Perhaps Paul "Bear" Bryant, the late, great coach of the Alabama Crimson Tide football team said it best: "Show class, have pride, and display character. If you do, winning takes care of itself" This year, Byron Tate and Clinton High School proved just that.

RENEWABLE ENERGY AND JOB CREATION ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2008

Mr. MARKEY. Madam Speaker, oil prices have now reached \$135 a barrel and regular gasoline averages \$3.81 per gallon around the country. Meanwhile, the big five oil companies are reaping the rewards of record prices. The major oil companies recorded more than \$123 billion in profits in 2007. However, rather than reinvesting the bulk of those profits to advance a strategy that vigorously incorporates renewable energy alternatives, oil company profits have been spent largely to fund huge increases in stock buybacks designed to prop up stock prices. ExxonMobil—the largest of the major oil companies—recorded \$40 billion in profit in 2007 and spent \$31.8 billion repurchasing shares of its own stock. Meanwhile ExxonMobil only spent \$10 million investing in renewable energy in 2007.

The oil industry in the past 5 years has undertaken one of the largest stock buybacks in the history of capitalism. Spending on share buybacks for the five major oil companies went from under \$10 billion a year in 2003 to nearly \$60 billion a year in 2007. Big Oil has increased spending on stock repurchases from \$7.9 billion in 2003 to \$57.7 billion in 2007—an increase of 630 percent. The increase in Big Oil's spending on stock buybacks in recent years has been so remarkable, and indeed unprecedented, that Exxon spent more repurchasing its own shares in the first quarter of 2008—\$8 billion—than all the major oil companies spent on stock buybacks for all of 2003.

The money being invested by Big Oil in all types of production still pales in comparison to the value being returned to shareholders in the form of dividends and stock buybacks. While ExxonMobil has increased capital investment in drilling and exploration from \$12 billion in 2003 to \$15.7 billion in 2007—an increase of roughly 30 percent—ExxonMobil has increased spending on stock buybacks from \$5.9 billion in 2003 to \$31.8 billion in 2007—a five-fold increase.

The legislation that I am introducing today, the Renewable Investment and Consumer Protection Act of 2008, would impose a 10 percent fee on all stock buyback transactions entered into by major oil companies and redirect that revenue to fund investment in renewable energy and low-income energy assistance programs. If the oil companies refuse to

help American families by finding alternatives to \$4 gasoline, then it is time for Congress to ensure that we invest in renewable technologies such as solar, wind and biofuels that can help American consumers, our economy and our planet.

TRIBUTE TO PROFESSOR SAUL
FRIEDLANDER

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. WAXMAN. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to congratulate UCLA history professor Saul Friedlander, who was recently awarded the Pulitzer Prize in General Non-Fiction for his work, *The Years of Extermination: Nazi Germany and the Jews, 1939–1945*.

Professor Friedlander was born to German-speaking Jewish parents in Prague in 1932 and raised in France during the Nazi occupation. Not until 1946 did he discover that his parents perished at Auschwitz. After immigrating to Israel at the time of its birth as a nation, he was able to pursue his passion for knowledge. After studying in Israel and Paris, he received his Ph.D. from the Graduate Institute of International Studies in Geneva.

In 1983, Saul Friedlander served as a visiting professor at my alma mater, the University of California, Los Angeles. Four years later he was invited to join the faculty full time, receiving the 1939 Club Chair in Holocaust Studies. He later founded the influential journal, *History and Memory* and has established himself as one of the world's premier Holocaust historians.

Professor Friedlander has authored multiple titles on the Holocaust, including *Nazi Germany and the Jews, The Years of Persecution: 1933–1939*, which is considered to be the definitive work on the period. It led to a MacArthur Foundation Award, which he used to research and write his Pulitzer-winning volume. That work vividly depicts Jewish life throughout all of Europe and provides a modern understanding of the enactment of anti-Semitic policies in the World War II era.

Professor Friedlander's work is not limited to the academic, however; he has also served on commissions working to shed light on the Holocaust-era activities of corporations and governments.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the ongoing work of Saul Friedlander and his dedication to educating students and the global community, researching the Holocaust, and putting the indescribable into words.

TRIBUTE TO CONGRESSMAN JOHN
SHIMKUS ON THE OCCASION OF
HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE
ARMY RESERVE

HON. STEVE BUYER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. BUYER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to a distinguished and dedicated military officer who has served this Nation with

great honor and distinction. Congressman JOHN SHIMKUS will retire as a lieutenant colonel from the United States Army Reserve on June 1, 2008, after nearly three decades of exemplary service in the United States Army and the United States Army Reserve. His career is a great example of the ideals that we expect and cherish from our Warrior-Citizens. Thanks to his service to our Nation, we all live a little freer and we are all more secure in our rights and duties as citizens of the greatest nation in the world. Today, I'm proud to take a few minutes to read a resolution I introduced to this Congress today to honor the outstanding career of Lieutenant Colonel JOHN SHIMKUS.

A RESOLUTION IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES HONORING THE SERVICE AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL JOHN M. SHIMKUS, UNITED STATES ARMY RESERVE

Whereas Lieutenant Colonel John M. Shimkus, United States Army Reserve, was born on February 21, 1958, in East St. Louis, Illinois;

Whereas Lieutenant Colonel Shimkus graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York, in 1980 with a bachelor's degree in general engineering;

Whereas Lieutenant Colonel Shimkus graduated from Southern Illinois University in Edwardsville, Illinois, in 1997, with a master of business administration;

Whereas Lieutenant Colonel Shimkus is a graduate of the Infantry Officer Basic Course, Infantry Mortar Platoon Officers Course, Jungle Warfare School, Airborne School, Ranger School, Infantry Officer Advanced Course, and the Master Fitness Trainer Course;

Whereas Lieutenant Colonel Shimkus is a graduate of the Reserve Component Combined Armed Services Staff School;

Whereas Lieutenant Colonel Shimkus attended the Reserve Component Command and General Staff College;

Whereas following Lieutenant Colonel Shimkus's entry into the Army, he served at the tip of the spear of the cold war as an infantry officer with the 1st Platoon, 54th Infantry in Bamberg, Germany, where he was our Nation's sentry, ready to fight at a moment's notice against Soviet tanks rolling toward the Fulda Gap;

Whereas Lieutenant Colonel Shimkus continued his commitment to selfless duty when after serving more than five years on active duty in the Army, he transitioned to the Army Reserve;

Whereas Lieutenant Colonel Shimkus served in many leadership positions in the Army Reserve, which included 7 years as a United States Military Academy Liaison Officer, where he helped our Nation select the best candidates to become future leaders of the Army;

Whereas Lieutenant Colonel Shimkus was elected to public office for the first time in 1989 as a township trustee in Collinsville, Illinois;

Whereas Lieutenant Colonel Shimkus was elected to serve his first term as a Representative from the 20th District of Illinois in 1996 in the 105th Congress, and has continued to dutifully dedicate his service as a statesman in the 106th, 107th, 108th, 109th, and, presently, the 110th Congresses;

Whereas over a multifaceted career of distinguished public service dedicated to the preservation of the principles upon which our Nation was founded, from his plebe days at West Point to the halls of Congress, in his every step Lieutenant Colonel Shimkus has embodied the epitome of excellence in

statesmanship, service to country, and to his fellow citizens;

Whereas Lieutenant Colonel Shimkus's commitment to public service commands the Nation's highest respect and gratitude;

Whereas Lieutenant Colonel Shimkus embodies all seven Army core values: loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity, and personal courage; and

Whereas Lieutenant Colonel Shimkus has had a tremendous positive impact on the Army Reserve: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the House of Representatives

(1) honors Lieutenant Colonel John M. Shimkus for his service of over 28 years on the occasion of his retirement from the Army Reserve on June 1, 2008;

(2) commends Lieutenant Colonel Shimkus for his dedication and commitment to excellence as an infantry officer and leader;

(3) recognizes the tremendous dedication and fortitude with which Lieutenant Colonel Shimkus has led an exemplary career in public service, three times the citizen, having balanced his time in the Army Reserve with the demanding duties of his roles as husband, father, businessman, community leader, high school teacher, citizen-soldier, and Congressman with consummate professionalism and boundless devotion to each;

(4) recognizes Lieutenant Colonel Shimkus as a soldier, leader, and statesman, for displaying the highest levels of leadership, professional competence, integrity, and moral courage throughout his distinguished military service.

Madam Speaker, it is an honor for me to present the distinguished credentials of Lieutenant Colonel JOHN SHIMKUS before the Congress today. It is our good fortune that Congressman JOHN SHIMKUS continues to serve our Nation in the United States House of Representatives.

HONORING PAULINA TUL-ORTYL

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Paulina Tul-Ortyl of Toledo, Ohio on the 40th anniversary of the commencement of the Echoes of Poland

It is with the deepest appreciation that I pay tribute to Paulina Tul-Ortyl upon reaching the 40th anniversary as the founder, director and choreographer of the Toledo-based "Echoes of Poland" song and dance ensemble. Her enthusiasm, energy and dedication to the performance of Polish folk dances and songs have given appreciative audiences, through the United States, Canada, and Poland, the satisfaction of seeing and hearing the essence of absolute beauty.

Paulina was born and educated in Poland and has a degree in dance choreography from the prestigious Catholic University of Lublin. She has blessed the Toledo community with her talents, her pride of our Polish-American culture and her generous nature, providing numerous years to the development and awareness of the artistic and cultural gifts in our Toledo youth.

The Echoes of Poland was founded in the fall of 1967, when Paulina was asked to prepare a group of young people to perform some of the traditional aspects of the Polish Christmas celebration. She gathered some of her friends from the Nebraska Avenue and La-grange Street areas in Toledo, OH, for the