

members, directing staff support for the NPA working sessions, and providing essential on-site expertise to Members. Paul has been an invaluable resource to me and the other Members of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly. His knowledge of the issues facing the United States in regards to our relationship with our European allies is immeasurable and he is a truly valued resource to us in our discussions at these meetings. It goes without saying that he will be sorely missed by all the participants in the NATO Parliamentary Assembly meetings both here and abroad.

On behalf of my colleagues in Congress, I want to express my deep appreciation to Paul Gallis for his long service to the Congress and especially for his direct assistance to the United States Group of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly. I will regret his absence in future NPA meetings but wish him well in his retirement.

#### HONORING THE SACRIFICES AND CONTRIBUTIONS MADE BY DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

SPEECH OF

**HON. BILL FOSTER**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 10, 2008*

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I am submitting this statement to record my strong and enthusiastic support of the House Resolution honoring the sacrifices and contributions made by disabled American veterans.

Today I wish to recognize these men and women for their patriotic contribution in our armed services; who have given so much to defend our Nation.

The brave men and women who defend this country under threat of that ultimate sacrifice truly are our guardian angels. They fight with passion and dedication for an ideal that we all cherish, the notion that this is the land of opportunity, the land of the free. Unfortunately, that freedom comes at a price and too often our guardian angels come home wounded and disabled. They defend us and are willing to throw themselves in harms way before us, and we must not forget that.

These wounded warriors are an inspiration to all of us, and we owe them so very much. It is our duty to them that we always remember what they have fought and sacrificed for. We must always remember the sacred agreement we made with these servicemen, if they go off and fight for us we will forever be in their debt and we must provide for them and their loved ones.

My praise and thanks fall well short of equaling the gift of freedom our veterans bestowed on all of us. They bare the scars that remind us all how costly freedom can be, and all I have to offer in return is my eternal gratitude.

#### TRIBUTE TO CHARLES CLAYTON

**HON. TOM LATHAM**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 11, 2008*

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Charles Clayton

on earning the Community Hero Award, given by Safeco Insurance, for his longtime dedication to helping others and inspiring positive change in his community of Fort Dodge, Iowa.

Charles is the founder of "Athletics for Education and Success." By receiving a second chance as a youth, he felt the calling to educate and empower underprivileged youth. Athletics for Education and Success gives selected youth the opportunity to participate in athletic programs they are likely unable to afford. Charles incorporates education with athletics by focusing on tough issues that kids face today including drugs, teen pregnancy, and gangs.

In addition, Charles has also organized a Disproportionate Minority Representation Council in Fort Dodge to create partnerships between citizens, law enforcement authorities, and schools in order to reduce the disproportionate amount of minority youth arrests in the area.

Charles's dedication to his community and his commitment to improving the life of others should be commended. I consider it an honor to represent Charles Clayton in the United States Congress and I know my colleagues join me in wishing him the best in his continued work serving others.

#### IN HONOR OF THE 233RD ANNIVERSARY OF UNITED STATES ARMY

**HON. NANCY E. BOYDA**

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 11, 2008*

Mrs. BOYDA of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise in recognition of an important anniversary—the birthday of the United States Army.

Just shy of 233 years, maybe on a day like today, the people of our Nation came together as volunteers to meet the demands of the American Revolutionary War. It was on that day, June 14th, 1775 that the United States Army was born. I believe that on that same day the spirit of democracy was defended and the birth of our freedom was realized.

Since the birth of our Army, we've waged through 24 major engagements including the War of 1812, the Mexican-American War, the American Civil War, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Kosovo War and more recently Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom.

Army's Senior Leadership said it best in their birthday message to the force at large. They stated, "Our sacrifices have preserved our way of life, built a better future for others, and led our Nation to victory over our enemies. We are the best in the world at what we do, and because of our values, our ethos, and our people—especially our people. Our Army is hugely resilient, professional, and battle-hardened." I am reassured through the training that I've personally watched in my travels to Iraq and at home that the U.S. Army is without doubt prepared.

I think about the bravery of our men and women that serve. Not a day goes by when I haven't thought about the priceless human investment our Nation bears through America's Sons and Daughters. Though I continually pray for everyone's safe return, I know that each citizen takes an oath that could mean giving the ultimate sacrifice. I am consistently reminded from faces I see almost daily of the

special qualities of spirit, patriotism and courage that exude from the men and women in uniform today, just as they did in 1775.

Happy Birthday—U.S. Army!

IN HONOR OF STEPHEN G. SCHUELER

**HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 11, 2008*

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a dear friend and someone who has served the people of Bradley Beach and my State of New Jersey with distinction—Mayor Stephen G. Schueler.

Steve has served as Mayor of the Borough of Bradley Beach since 1992. Located on the Jersey Shore, Bradley Beach is "New Jersey's Family Resort" with a year round population of 5,000 that swells to 30,000 in the summer months as families come to enjoy the sand, surf, and bustling downtown. Since becoming Mayor, Steve has helped Bradley Beach continue to thrive as a vibrant town with acclaimed restaurants, quaint coffee shops, and a historic movie theater, in addition to its excellent beaches and beautiful boardwalk.

Under Steve's leadership, the many community events that Bradley Beach hosts have continued to provide countless hours of enjoyment for families from all over New Jersey. The Summer Gazebo Concert series on the boardwalk, the annual fireworks display, the Italian-American festival, and the annual Bradley Beach Invitation Lifeguard tournament all provide excellent recreational opportunities for residents and visitors alike. Also, the end-of-summer Mayor's Clambake, which raises funds for local organizations, is one of the nicest events on the Jersey Shore each year.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to call Steve my friend, and I wish him the best as he ends his time as Mayor of Bradley Beach. While he may no longer be mayor, his example will continue to inspire us all and families will continue to enjoy their visits to Bradley Beach because of the path he has set us on.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 11, 2008*

Mr. ANDREWS. Madam Speaker, I was not present on June 3, 2008. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on the following rollcall votes: rollcall No. 367, rollcall No. 368, and rollcall No. 369.

#### INTRODUCTION OF 4 BILLS

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 11, 2008*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I am introducing these four bills, which were part of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2008 and became law as part of Public Law No: 110-161.

The bills address programs focusing on: (1) air cargo screening in passenger airplanes, (2) international registered traveler and border security, (3) accountability in Department of Homeland Security contracts, and (4) increased access to the Office of Inspector General at the Department of Homeland Security to report waste, fraud, and abuse.

These programs were initially funded in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2008 and ongoing oversight and review of these programs must continue.

As the Chairman of the Committee of jurisdiction over these programs, it is my intention to work with the Appropriations Committee and other Members of Congress to provide adequate oversight and vigilance over these programs to ensure our Nation is as secure as possible.

HONORING CONNER HALL,  
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

**HON. JACK KINGSTON**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 11, 2008*

Mr. KINGSTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Conner Hall, The University of Georgia's College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences administrative building, on its 100th anniversary. Initially comprised of a single professor and only a few students, the college was a joint venture, cultivated by the University of Georgia and the Georgia legislature. Recognizing the need for agricultural education, the college became reality under UGA Chancellor Walter B. Hill and Legislator James J. Conner. Today the college has over 1,800 students enrolled in 10 departments with campuses located in Athens, Griffin, and Tifton.

This 100th Anniversary was marked by a Centennial Celebration on April 11, 2008, on the front lawn of Conner Hall in Athens, Georgia. Alumni, friends, and special guests of the University of Georgia's College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences gathered to rededicate the building which was erected in 1908.

Construction on Conner Hall broke ground in the same year that Henry Ford introduced the Model-T. Soon afterwards, the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences released several of its own innovations. Scientists developed new equipment, including the peanut combine and the onion harvester as well as created new crop varieties, many of which have become synonymous with the State of Georgia. The college developed Georgia's green peanuts and new varieties of cotton and Bermuda grass. Indeed, one could hardly pass through the State without seeing the boiled peanut stands that line many of Georgia's two lane roads. However, the college has yielded more than just agricultural innovations. In 1918, the college was the first at the University of Georgia to accept women.

In 1941, World War II called Conner Hall, along with one-half of the college's faculty and staff into service. When the men and women of the college were serving their country, Conner Hall was home to the Navy Pre-Flight School. The building has also served as a creamery, cafeteria, a library, and radio station.

In 2003, the college accomplished a superior achievement, successfully cloning its first calf, named KC. In early 2005, KC gave birth to her second calf, named Moonshine, and the college continues to serve the State in the area of biotechnology innovation as well as food safety. I look forward to the next generation of accomplishments as I continue working with the school as it continues down its innovative path.

Advances in agricultural science have overcome the changing demographics since the early 19th century. Consider that in 1935, 6.8 million farms provided sustenance for America's 127 million citizens. Today, less than 1 million farms produce food for more than 303 million Americans. In other words, 15 percent of farms that existed in 1935 provide food for 238 percent more Americans. Such a feat could only be possible through advances in agricultural science and the many lessons studied at the University of Georgia's College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences.

HONORING THE SACRIFICES AND  
CONTRIBUTIONS MADE BY DIS-  
ABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

SPEECH OF

**HON. MICHELE BACHMANN**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 10, 2008*

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 336. There is no greater American hero than the military veteran, and I am proud to join my fellow colleagues today in honoring the sacrifices and contributions of our disabled American veterans.

The American soldier is the embodiment of hard work, patriotism, and service, and the soldier who has sacrificed his body for the freedom and liberty of others around the world deserves our utmost respect. The blood spilled on our own soil and abroad is a lasting reminder of the commitment that our soldiers have sacrificed for us all, and every citizen owes a deep and lasting gratitude to these brave warriors.

Madam Speaker, our departed soldiers must never be forgotten, and those injured veterans from wars past and those just returning from the battlefields of Iraq and Afghanistan should receive our Nation's and this Congress's unwavering support and reverence. It is an honor to rise today and praise the bravest of all Americans—the disabled military veteran. America will never forget your valor during our most trying times, and we are forever grateful for your dedicated service and selfless sacrifice to our Nation.

HONORING THE PASCO COUNTY  
LIBRARY SYSTEM

**HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 11, 2008*

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Pasco County Library system for receiving the Florida Library Association's 2008 Library of the Year Award.

Each year, an awards committee, composed of members from libraries across the State, reviews nominations for this prestigious award. Although all libraries are eligible, if no library meets the outstanding circumstances, the board can deem it appropriate to withhold the award. However, the Pasco County Library System was selected because of its creative and innovative programming, exemplary service to county residents, and leadership in the community.

Madam Speaker, the Pasco County Library system serves as a model for libraries across my home State of Florida as well as across the Nation. It is with great pleasure that I congratulate the Pasco County Library System for its receipt of the Florida Library Association's 2008 Library of the Year Award.

SALUTING MARTHA AND JOSH  
MORRIS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
ON COMPLETION OF FIRST YEAR  
OF OUTSTANDING STEM EDU-  
CATION

**HON. RALPH M. HALL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 11, 2008*

Mr. HALL of Texas. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to recognize the Martha and Josh Morris Mathematics and Engineering Elementary School in Texarkana, Texas, upon completion of its first year of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) focused curriculum. On June 6 classes concluded for the summer, marking the completion of the first year of this innovative, groundbreaking school in the Fourth Congressional District of Texas.

Morris Elementary, serving children in grades K–5, is part of a vertically aligned K–16 engineering education collaboration between Texas A&M University—Texarkana and the Texarkana Independent School District (TISD). This collaborative effort provides mathematics and pre-engineering integrated curriculum and pre-engineering electives for students, who are admitted on a competitive basis. Students graduating from the elementary school will be able to continue an advanced math and science program through middle school and high school as they follow a path to a college degree in one of the STEM fields.

On May 12, 2008, the House Science and Technology Committee held a field hearing at Morris Elementary School to receive testimony on efforts to engage students in math and science at an early age, to keep them interested throughout middle school and high school, and to translate that interest into rewarding careers that will be of benefit to the entire Nation from a federal, school district, university, industry and teacher perspective. At the hearing, witnesses praised the efforts being made at Morris Elementary. We saw first-hand how a community came together and created, with entirely local funding, what could be a national model for K–16 collaboration in mathematics and engineering. The vision for this school began with Dr. James Sullivan, former TISD Superintendent and current Texarkana City Manager, and his wife, Dr. Rosanne Stripling, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs at Texas A&M University—Texarkana. The plan received the support of the Board of TISD and, coupled with