

PART OF THE AIR FORCE MISSION STATEMENT IS "EXCELLENCE IN ALL WE DO"; WHAT DOES THIS MEAN TO YOU?

Excellence is a tradition that beats proudly in the hearts of all Americans. The United States Air Force is a specific example of the furtherance of such a tradition. Since its formation in 1947, the Air Force has relentlessly strived to serve and protect America and her people with unyielding strength, valor, and conviction. Although it has established itself as the largest and most technologically advanced air force in the world, it is the spirited and courageous men and women, selflessly serving their country and fellow citizens, who truly distinguish the United States Air Force from all others.

Webster defines excellence as unusual goodness or worth. Throughout its existence, the Air Force has showcased this unique generosity not only in regards to national affairs, but also in world affairs. During the Cold War, when Soviet leader Joseph Stalin disrupted the supply traffic to Berlin, the United States Air Force undertook Operation Vittles, also known as the Berlin Airlifts. From June of 1948 to May of 1949, the Air Force was able to deliver an astounding 2.3 million tons of cargo on the 277,685 flights, providing vital necessities to all of Berlin's citizens. The excellence in efficiency proved by the Air Force in these missions continues to remain unmatched. In the years following, the Air Force continued to lead in many other humanitarian efforts including Operation Safe Haven, which relocated 20,000 Hungarian refugees following the Hungarian Revolution of 1956, and Operation Provide Hope, which provided medical equipment to former Soviet republics during their transition to democratic and free-market states.

Since its conception, the Air Force has been involved in a number of wars and conflicts including World War I, World War II, the Cold War, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Gulf War, the Kosovo War, and, of course, the Iraq War. Its members have valiantly served to preserve democratic values in all parts of the world with great regard to "a proud heritage, a tradition of honor, and a legacy of valor," as stated in The Airman's Creed.

A few years ago, I witnessed this tradition first hand when visiting Andrews Air Force base in Maryland. Watching the air show, I was astonished to see the meticulous craft and precision displayed by the pilots. The intricate and complex formations of the planes in flight still lives in my memory. However, despite being surrounded by the most sophisticated and advanced technology comprehensible to man, it was the infectious spirit of enthusiasm for duty that captivated me. Watching the pilots animatedly discuss their air crafts and missions spurred my interest.

The 351,800 members of the United States Air Force, groomed by tradition, guided by values, and driven by strife towards excellence represent the heart and soul of American culture. Exhibiting superiority of character and performance, both on and off duty, they are the role models in an often misguided period in society. As the United States Air Force continues "To fly and fight in Air, Space, and Cyberspace," ordinary citizens, like me, can only expect excellence in all of their endeavors. Their example inspires us all.

IN HONOR OF MARY LOU NIXON

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mary Lou Nixon, a profoundly respected and familiar figure to many in Cleveland, as she retires following a thirty-two year career dedicated to guiding students across the Greater Cleveland Area to college.

For over thirty years, Mary Lou Nixon has served as the Cleveland Scholarship Programs Advisor, where she worked with many low income families and other struggling students with securing financial aid for a college education. With her guidance and outstanding specialized service, she has helped an innumerable amount of students in the Greater Cleveland Area attend college. Her "fact sheets" and inspiring attitude gave students and families the tools and confidence to send themselves or their children to college, despite the many challenges that many face. If a family was unable to fill out student-aid application forms on line, she walked them through it. If a student was unable to come up with the finances to attend college, she helped them secure the resources they needed.

Mrs. Nixon is the local expert and has unlocked countless college opportunities for students in the Greater Cleveland Area. She made attending college accessible to everybody and guided members of the community who would have otherwise been unable to attend college realize their dream of earning a bachelors degree. Recognized for her patience and personal demeanor, Mrs. Nixon served as a mother figure to many in more ways than one; she and her husband opened their house numerous times to children in need of a place to stay. As an active member of the community, Mary Lou Nixon will dedicate her post-retirement time working with the Lakewood Public Library, where she sits on the board of trustees.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor of Mary Lou Nixon, who dedicated her life to helping students across the Greater Cleveland Area attend college and in recognition of the invaluable guidance she provided to so many.

TRIBUTE TO TALIA LEMAN

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2008

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a great achievement by seventh-grade student Talia Leman of Waukee, Iowa. Talia was named one of America's top ten youth volunteers for 2008 with the National Prudential Spirit of Community Award.

Talia was selected from a field of nearly 20,000 candidates for her outstanding volunteer community service. The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards were created 13 years ago to encourage youth volunteerism and to identify and reward young role models. Talia received a personal award of \$5,000, an engraved gold medallion, a crystal trophy for her school, and a \$5,000 grant from The Pruden-

tial Foundation for a nonprofit charitable organization of her choice.

Talia created "RandomKid" an organization that seeks to educate, motivate and unify young people around the world to work on a broad spectrum of pressing needs. She began the organization 2 years ago by encouraging kids to collect coins instead of candy on Halloween, and donate the money to Hurricane Katrina relief efforts. Her message was widely publicized to kids across the country and reportedly raised millions of dollars for Katrina victims.

Talia established a nonprofit organization and created the website, www.randomkid.org which solicits young people for projects to help rebuild the Gulf Coast, raise money to build a school in Cambodia, find homes for stray pets, and collect DVDs for soldiers overseas. Talia is currently encouraging schools to make and sell their own private-labeled bottled-water products to help fund clean-water technologies. She's also working on setting up a "mini-United Nations" made up of young delegates from around the world who work together to address global children's issues.

Talia is a shining example of the dedication, determination and faith present in today's youth and their promise as tomorrow's leaders. I am proud to represent Talia Leman and her family in the United States Congress. I know that my colleagues join me in commending Talia for her accomplishments and dedication to making a difference in the world.

RECOGNIZING THE MOBILE DIVISION OF THE FBI ON THE 100 YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE FBI

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2008

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to the Mobile, Alabama, FBI Field Office on the 100 year anniversary of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

Organized in 1908, America's best investigators were brought together and organized to form what is now the FBI. Over the past century, many of the world's most dangerous criminals have been apprehended by the FBI.

The FBI started as an agency covering interstate crimes such as robbery and embezzlement. In the mid 1920s, they were responsible for capturing lawbreakers such as Al Capone, Bonnie and Clyde, and Baby Face Nelson. Countless serial killers, kidnappers, and other violent criminals have also been captured as a result of the hard work and diligence of the FBI.

Following the attacks of September 11, 2001, the FBI began a long term transformation from the world's premier law enforcement agency to the world's premier law enforcement, intelligence, and counter terrorism agency. Today, there are over 30,000 employees, including over 12,000 special agents. There are 56 field offices, more than 400 smaller resident agencies in the United States, and 15 sub-offices in cities around the world.

The Mobile FBI Field Office is an active member of the Mobile community, providing training to law enforcement personnel including firearm instructor certification, crime scene

investigation, basic sniper training, basic SWAT training, civil rights training, instructor development certification, crimes against children training, and terrorism training. The Field Office has also sponsored police officers and police executives for advanced training schools at the FBI laboratory, the FBI academy, and international locations.

Special Agent in Charge (SAC) Debra K. Mack heads this office of more than 110 agent and professional support personnel. SAC Mack has oversight of all of the FBI's operational, investigative, and administrative matters as well as the technical operations and financial issues for the 36 counties comprising the southern half of the state of Alabama. In 2007, SAC Mack was inducted into the Louisiana Justice Hall of Fame, becoming the first ever FBI Special Agent to receive this honor.

The Mobile FBI Field Office has worked hard to protect the people of southwest Alabama. Its partnerships with municipal, county, and state law enforcement offices have resulted in the apprehension of drug-dealers, online child predators, kidnappers, fraudsters, and the forfeiture of assets in the millions of dollars.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me in congratulating SAC Mack and all of those at the Mobile FBI Field Office on the FBI's 100th anniversary. For all their accomplishments, I extend my heartfelt thanks for their continued service to the people of Alabama and the First Congressional District.

RECOGNIZING THE
CONTRIBUTIONS OF ED SNYDER

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2008

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Denton City Attorney Ed Snyder and his years of dedication and service to Denton, Texas. Ed has been with the City of Denton for 8 1/2 years and will retire June 30, 2008.

After 31 years of practicing law, Ed has decided to pursue his dream to be a coach and will begin a new career as a teacher and coach. Ed began his career in Denton in October 1999 as Deputy City Attorney. In 2005 the Denton City Council appointed him City Attorney. Under his leadership, Denton was able to accomplish many goals, including the adoption and implementation of a new comprehensive plan and development code.

Prior to working in Denton Ed was in private practice from 1977 to 1982, then Assistant City Attorney for Temple, Texas from 1982 to 1983. From 1983 to 1997 Ed served as First Assistant City Attorney for Plano, and returned to private practice from 1997 to 1999 before joining the City of Denton. Ed holds a Bachelor of Science in Education degree from Central Michigan University, and a Juris Doctor degree from the University of San Diego School of Law.

Ed is a member of the State Bar of Texas and State Bar of Michigan. He has practiced before the United States District Court and is a member of the Denton County Bar Association. In the summer of 1999 Ed was published in *The Urban Lawyer* for his article: A Condemnation Case from the Condemnor's Per-

spective. In 2001 Ed was awarded the prestigious Galen Sparks Texas Assistant City Attorney of the Year Award, given by the Texas City Attorneys Association.

Madam Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise today and recognize Ed Snyder for his years of hard work and dedication to the citizens of Denton County and the state of Texas. I am proud to represent him in the United States Congress. His service has set a standard of devotion and true leadership—one that will never be forgotten.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HUNTING HILLS SWIM CLUB

HON. ELLJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2008

Mr. CUMMINGS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Hunting Hills Swim Club as they mark their 50th anniversary on June 14, 2008. Thanks to the generous donation by the Amos and Gundry families a patch of land that once was the home to pig farming, is now a local institution and home of the Hunting Hills Hammerheads.

In 1958, the pool opened for business as members agreed to foot the cost of the club by purchasing a bond that made them co-owners of the pool. It was one of the first bond-financed pools in Maryland. Today, bond-membership pools are the norm. Hunting Hills Swim Club helped establish that trend.

Recently the pool itself began showing its age. Undaunted by the time and cost needed to set things right, members agreed to take the plunge and rebuild the main pool and the baby pool. The perimeters of each were excavated. New pipes, skimmers and pumps were installed. The interiors were resurfaced and a new diving board was erected. Today, the pool looks better than ever.

More than 300 families are now members of the pool. They come from near and far—from Baltimore City, from Catonsville, from Ellicott City and elsewhere—to cool off and meet their summer- and year-long friends. Many of the current bondholders first arrived at the pool in strollers, learned to walk, learned to swim, went off to school and now bring their own children there. Today, nearly 100 children take swim lessons and compete in the Central Maryland Swim League Division V as members of the Hunting Hills swim team.

Madam Speaker, as the days get longer and warmer, it is nice to know that there are places where families and friends can gather to enjoy the summer as a community. I congratulate the Hunting Hills Swim Club on its 50th anniversary and wish all of its members the best in 2008.

CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL AND REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER—SEATTLE, WA

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2008

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the life-saving and

ground-breaking medical care happening at the Seattle Children's Hospital and Regional Medical Center every day. Continuing a tradition that has held for 16 years, Seattle Children's is once again ranked among the top 30 children's hospitals nationally in U.S. News & World Report's annual rankings.

Seattle Children's ranked fifth-best in the Nation for pediatric cancer care, eighth-best for general pediatrics, neurology and neurosurgery, and ninth-best for respiratory disorders. Children's also ranked 23rd in neonatal care and 30th for heart care and heart surgery.

Year in and year out, Seattle Children's Hospital and Regional Medical Center provides life-saving care to the most vulnerable among us. The Pacific Northwest is fortunate to have such an exceptional institution in our region. I salute the medical professionals and support staffs who work tirelessly to give their extraordinary talents for the health and wellness of our children. Seattle Children's is a deserving recipient of this national recognition.

HONORING RETIRING EDUCATOR
LARRY MYHRA

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2008

Mr. KIND. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding individual, and an excellent public servant: La Crosse educator, Larry Myhra.

The end of every school year brings the retirement of many terrific school leaders, teachers and staff members who provide a quality education for our children and replacing their professionalism and dedication is an annual challenge.

One such individual this year is Larry Myhra, who is retiring as principal of Lincoln Middle School after a distinguished 35-year career as principal, science teacher, and football coach in the La Crosse School District.

In 1973, Larry graduated from the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse and began his teaching career in the science department at old Logan High School. Throughout his 31 years at Logan High School, Larry served as the head football and track coach, assistant basketball coach, athletic director, activities director, dean of students, and associate principal. While serving as athletic director, Larry helped to broaden the program by adding various sports, including hockey and soccer, but later decided to become the activities director in order to better serve the entire student body. Larry was also an advocate for the creation of the La Crosse charter school, which helps students that are in danger of dropping out of school stay in school and graduate. This program has helped many students improve both their attendance and their grades.

When I was in high school, I had the pleasure of playing for Coach Myhra for 3 years at Logan. He instilled in his players and students a desire for dedication and determination both in and out of the classroom. I owe much of who I became in life to Coach Myhra and the educational system that was provided to me in La Crosse.

In 2004 Larry took up the position of principal at Lincoln Middle School, where he remained until now.