

County Planning Commission and their staff for their hard work and dedication to Fairfax County. Their untiring, dynamic efforts have made Fairfax County a wonderful place to live and raise a family. I call upon my colleagues to join me in commending and congratulating the Fairfax County Planning Commission on 70 years of excellence.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIM MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2008

Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, on rollcall no. 470, H. Res. 1098, Supporting the goals and ideals of the Year of the American Veteran, had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

HONORING THE FRATERNAL ORDER OF EAGLES AERIE #1801

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2008

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I offer my congratulations to the members and leadership of the Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie #1801 in Somerset, Pennsylvania, who will celebrate their 100th anniversary on July 30, 2008.

Originally founded in 1898 by a group of theatre owners, the Fraternal Order of Eagles was created to act as a social haven for the like-minded. As the Fraternal Order of Eagles spread throughout the United States, they sought, as they continue to do so today, to establish a fraternal system to encourage and provide assistance to members and their families through a system of mutual insurance which provided death benefits. In 1908, the citizens of Somerset organized the Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie #1801. Over the past one hundred years Aerie #1801 has focused on achieving their original objective, to "make human life more desirable by lessening its ills and promoting peace, prosperity, gladness, and hope." They have truly succeeded in their quest.

Throughout its history, the Fraternal Order of Eagles has sought to leave a truly memorable past on the pages of history. Not only does the Eagles' historical participation consist of seven U.S. presidents, including Theodore Roosevelt, Franklin Roosevelt, Jimmy Carter and Ronald Reagan, but they have also been incredibly charitable. Across the United States the Eagles donate more than \$100 million every year to charities. Members of Aerie #1801 lift up their community as well as surrounding communities by raising funds for a multitude of local and national charities. These charities include the Golden Eagles Fund, Robert Hansen Diabetes Fund, and the Jimmy Durante Children's Fund. Through actively pursuing lifting up those around them, the Eagles Aerie #1801 has truly been an integral part of Somerset, Pennsylvania. The leadership and members of Aerie #1801 have continuously provided Somerset with examples of civic leadership, charitable giving, and improv-

ing the borough in ways great and small. The Eagles have made Somerset an immeasurably enhanced place to live, work, and raise families.

The Somerset Fraternal Order of Eagles has provided a trustworthy atmosphere which has worked to help a multitude of men, women, and children throughout its history. I would like to congratulate the members and leadership of Aerie #1801 and Eagles who have assembled from across the country to be in Somerset on this occasion. I look forward to celebrating the one hundredth anniversary of such a wonderful organization, as it has brought a greater appreciation to our area and has surely been an asset to the community.

COMMENDING LIEUTENANT ANDREW PATE FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2008

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Lieutenant Andrew Pate for his service to the U.S. House of Representatives and the United States Coast Guard.

As some of you may know, Lieutenant Pate was detailed to the Coast Guard's House Liaison office in July of 2006, and I am proud to have had the opportunity to work closely with him over the past two years. My colleagues, staff, and I have valued his knowledge and understanding of the Coast Guard's operational missions, day-to-day challenges, and roles and responsibilities.

Lieutenant Andrew Leigh Pate is a native of Wesley Chapel, Florida. In the summer of 1998 he enrolled at the United States Coast Guard Academy, with summer duty assignments onboard Coast Guard cutters *Northland*, *Eagle* and *Drummond*. First elected as Treasurer of his Academy Class in 1998, Lieutenant Pate has served continuously as President of his Academy Class since the spring of 2000.

In May of 2002, Lieutenant Pate graduated from the Academy with a Bachelor's degree in Government. His first assignment was onboard the High Endurance Cutter USCGC *Gallatin* (WHEC 721) home ported in Charleston, South Carolina. While onboard *Gallatin*, Lieutenant Pate served in a variety of positions including Assistant Operations Officer, Combat Information Center Officer, and Maritime Law Enforcement Boarding Officer. His tour highlights include the interdiction and repatriation of over 570 Haitian migrants during Operations Able Manner and Able Sentry.

In June of 2004, Lieutenant Pate transferred to Fort Myers Beach, Florida as the fourth Commanding Officer of the 87-foot Coastal Patrol Boat USCGC *Marlin* (WPB 87304). From June 2004 to July 2006, *Marlin* successfully conducted over 250 law enforcement boardings in an operational area covering more than 108,000 square miles. These efforts resulted in the apprehension of 10 wanted fugitives, the voyage termination of 18 commercial fishing vessels for hazardous safety conditions and the interdiction and re-

patriation of over 150 Cuban migrants attempting to illegally enter the United States. Under Lieutenant Pate's command, *Marlin* safely evaded six major Hurricanes and conducted a total of 21 Search and Rescue cases saving the lives of 50 people.

Two years ago, Lieutenant Pate reported to the Hill as an Assistant House Liaison Officer for the Coast Guard. Since arriving in 2006, Lieutenant Pate has worked tirelessly to provide Members of Congress and their staff with timely, accurate, and detailed information needed to fulfill their duties. Through his careful planning and execution of dozens of Congressional Delegation trips and hundreds of briefings, Lieutenant Pate clearly articulated Coast Guard views in support of needed authorities and appropriations, working constructively with the Congress to ensure careful stewardship of resources.

On July 14, 2008, Lieutenant Pate will leave his post in the House Liaison Office and report to the Office of Senator ROGER WICKER (MS) for a one-year assignment as a Military Fellow.

I am proud to know and pay tribute to him in the United States Congress. On behalf of the Representatives and staff who have been fortunate enough to know and work with Andrew, I wish him, his wife Kristen, and their son Aidan, clear skies and following seas.

NISEI BASEBALL

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2008

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, I rise today in tribute to Nisei Pioneer Day and the past generations of Japanese American baseball players, coaches, and teams. For over a century, Japanese American baseball has been a strong bond that brought communities and cultures together while also teaching good sportsmanship. As the Japanese American community and baseball fans gather to celebrate the Nisei Pioneer Day Program in Sacramento, I ask that all my colleagues join me in honoring Nisei baseball.

Baseball has been an important sport in the Japanese community since it was first introduced in Japan in 1872 by American school teacher Horace Wilson. By the turn of the century baseball had become the Nation's most popular sport and in 1905 Japan's national champion Waseda University team toured the United States competing against various American colleges. Unfortunately, during this same time, anti-Japanese movements were on the rise in the United States. During this difficult time, Nisei baseball was able to bring Japanese Americans into the Nation's mainstream.

The 1920s and 1930s are often referred to as the "Golden Age" of Japanese American baseball. During this time many Japanese American communities across the West Coast were organizing teams and leagues. This brought the Japanese American community together in the wake of increasing anti-Japanese legislation. While laws such as the Immigration Act of 1924 were effectively ending Japanese immigration into the United States, baseball was providing a valuable bridge between the East and West Coast cultures for Issei and

Nisei here in the United States. It continued to play an important role in defining and developing a cultural identity throughout the 1930s.

After the bombing of Pearl Harbor and President Roosevelt's Executive Order initiating the removal and incarceration of Japanese Americans, the tradition of baseball resonated within these communities. Daily baseball games not only served as a distraction from the monotony of the internment camps, but it also provided them with a sense of normalcy and community. Today we celebrate the historical impact Nisei baseball has had not only on the Japanese American community in the United States, but across our Nation as a whole. It provided a sense of community during one of the darkest periods of our Nation's history.

In recent years Japanese ballplayers have helped transform the game of baseball at the highest levels. Japanese players competing at the major league level, such as Ichiro Suzuki, Hideki Matsui and Hideo Nomo, have been instrumental in attracting new fans to the sport. The success of these major leaguers and the strides made by past Nisei and Issei ballplayers have led to a rich and rooted history that can be celebrated for generations to come.

I am honored to pay tribute to a century of Japanese American baseball and the enduring effect it has had on the Japanese American community. On behalf of the people of Sacramento and the Fifth Congressional District of California, I ask all my colleagues to join me in commemorating the past and present Japanese American baseball pioneers and their lasting legacy on our country.

HONORING SANDRA M. BODIN

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2008

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor Sandra M. Bodin, who just completed her services as President of the American Nephrology Nurses' Association, ANNA, for her dedication and contributions to nephrology nursing and kidney patients across the country.

ANNA is one of the largest and most prestigious nursing associations in America. The organization is the recognized leader in nephrology nursing practice, education, research, and advocacy. ANNA's members are registered nurses and health care professionals at all levels of practice. They care for patients of all ages who are experiencing, or are at risk for, kidney disease. The organization's mission is to advance nephrology nursing practice and positively influence outcomes for patients with kidney or other disease processes requiring replacement therapies through advocacy, scholarship, and excellence.

As an active member of ANNA, Sandra has served as President, Vice President, and as a member of the Board of Directors. Also, she received the Ron Brady Memorial Award for Excellence in Volunteer Leadership from ANNA in 2002.

As ANNA's president Sandra has inspired nephrology nurses to reach the highest levels of practice and patient care. She is a visionary leader who has implemented a broad range of

initiatives that will continue to improve care for patients whose lives depend on dialysis and other kidney replacement treatments.

Professionally, Sandra graduated with a Bachelor of Arts and a Master of Arts in Nursing from the College of Scholastica in Duluth, Minnesota. She became a Registered Nurse in 1977 and a Certified Nephrology Nurse in 1992. Sandra currently is the lead Clinical Informatics Analyst and Application Coordinator at the SMDC Health System in Duluth, Minnesota. Sandra has also worked at the Miller-Dawn Medical Center and St. Mary's Hospital, both in Duluth.

I honor her efforts to promote the care of those suffering from kidney disease. I recognize her achievements as a nurse, patient advocate, and healthcare leader. I commend Sandra on her service to the American Nephrology Nurses' Association and our country.

Please join me in commending Sandra M. Bodin for her years of vision, leadership, and commitment.

TRIBUTE TO THE MISSOURI NATIONAL GUARD

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2008

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, let me take this means to recognize the brave men and women of the Missouri National Guard, for their commitment to providing flood relief.

The Missouri National Guard Citizen-Soldiers and Airmen have been mobilized by Missouri government leaders to assist in the Missouri emergency flood response. The members have been mobilized in the communities of Clarksville, Hannibal, Canton, West Quincy, LaGrange, Winfield, Alexandria, St. Charles City, and St. Charles County. Those supporting the flood response are assisting in missions that include sandbagging operations, levee monitoring, and manning traffic control points. Since the mobilization of forces, more than 1,000 Guard members have responded to the call to duty. With force rotations, there are currently around 700 members on active duty.

Personnel have come from across the state to aid Missouri towns during this emergency. These units include the 7th Civil Support Team from Fort Leonard Wood; the 135th Military History Detachment from Jefferson City; the 835th Combat Support Sustainment Battalion from Jefferson City; 735th Quartermaster Company with detachments in DeSoto, Jefferson City, Rolla, Cape Girardeau and Jefferson Barracks; the 1138th Transportation Company from Jefferson Barracks; the 1035th Maintenance Company from Jefferson Barracks; 3175th Chemical Company from St. Peters; the 1438th Engineer Company from Macon and Kirksville; the 220th Engineer Company from Festus; the 880th Haul Team from Perryville; the 1137th Military Police Company from Kennett, Jackson and Doniphan; the 1138th Military Police Company from West Plains and Springfield; the 1175th Military Police Company from St. Clair and St. Louis; 1140th Engineer Battalion from Cape Girardeau; the 205th Military Police Battalion from Poplar Bluff; the 203rd Engineer Battalion from Joplin; the 131st Fighter Wing from St.

Louis; the 1138th Engineer Company (Sapper) in Farmington; and the 70th Troop Command from Jefferson Barracks.

I know the Members of the House will join me in recognizing the outstanding dedication of the Missouri National Guard, and in wishing them luck throughout this emergency operation.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NATIONAL GUARD TECHNICIAN RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION ACT

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2008

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I am proud to introduce legislation today that will restore fairness for our military technicians, who work every day in Connecticut and across the Nation to support our National Guard.

If the National Guard serves as the backbone of our military, then our military technicians serve as the backbone of our National Guard. They play a critical role in ensuring that our National Guard is ready to respond and deploy in support of military operations abroad by supporting the training, equipment repair and restoration, logistics and other critical functions.

Military technicians are known as "dual-status" employees, through which they must retain membership in the Air or Army National Guard in their State in order to maintain full-time employment as a technician. Dual-status military technicians are subject to the restrictions of the Technician Act of 1969, 32 USC 709, and other provisions of the law under which they are specifically prohibited from receiving certain benefits and rights available to them as members of the National Guard, such as reenlistment bonuses and student loan repayment assistance. In addition, if a member of the National Guard becomes a technician within 6 months of receiving an enlistment or reenlistment bonus, the Department of Defense can, and often does, require them to pay back those bonuses.

The law also fails to fairly compensate technicians for the increased overtime hours that technicians must work to fulfill their mission by providing technicians compensatory time, rather than monetary compensation, in return for overtime work. Many technicians cannot use the compensatory time without impacting time-sensitive military work schedules and, with the military's current "use it or lose it" policy under which such time is lost if unused within 21 pay cycles, many technicians face the prospect of losing the time off they have earned.

Last summer, I had the chance to visit the 1109th Aviation Classification and Repair Depot, AVCRAD, in Groton and see first hand the work they were doing to support of our National Guard. There, nearly 300 military technicians provide maintenance and logistics for aircraft and equipment for 14 States across the northeast and supports Connecticut's fleet of Black Hawk helicopters. During my visit, the leadership of the unit described how busy the facility has been over the past several years. They've literally been burning the midnight oil in trying to keep up with the demand of keeping equipment repaired and ready to deploy. It's an incredible operation, and one that is