

He is the head official for the Illinois High School Association (IHSA) football playoffs, and he is an IHSA clinician in both football and basketball.

Mr. Deitz officiated state tournaments in boys basketball and state finals in football; making him one of a select few in the State to work finals in both major sports. He was inducted into the Illinois Basketball Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 1998, and since 1993, he has been mayor of McLeansboro, Illinois.

I extend my congratulations to Dick Deitz and his family for his impressive accomplishments and his induction into the National High School Hall of Fame.

ALTERNATIVE MINIMUM TAX

HON. TIM MAHONEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2008

Mr. MAHONEY of Florida. Madam Speaker, as I stated for the record on June 26, 2008, I missed votes on June 25, 2008, due to the funeral of my friend, Mason Smoak.

One of the votes I missed was a vote on the Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT). I applaud our leadership for its work to ensure that the AMT does not hit middle- and working-class families in a way that would not increase our national debt. I have voted against the AMT in the past—and, had I been able to vote on June 25, 2008, I would have voted “no”—because changing the taxation on carried interest sends the wrong message that Congress values money more than ingenuity, with the unintended consequences potentially being a constriction of private capital to America's small businesses. It is my hope that Congress will continue to address this vital issue responsibly and in a bipartisan manner.

VETERANS HEALTH SCHOLARSHIP ACT OF 2008

HON. STEVE BUYER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2008

Mr. BUYER. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing the Veterans Health Scholarship Act of 2008. This legislation would extend the authority of the Department of Veterans Affairs, VA, to reinstate the Health Professional Scholarship Program and give priority to veterans in awarding these scholarships.

VA is known for its high quality health care. However, the supply of highly trained medical personnel is not growing as fast as the demand, and VA struggles to recruit highly trained health care professionals critical to providing veterans the care and services they need.

The Health Professional Scholarship Program was originally established to improve recruitment and retention and help reduce the national nursing shortage. VA lost an important tool to meet their current and anticipated staffing needs when the program expired in 1998 and was not reinstated. As concerns over recruitment and retention of health care professionals increase, it is especially impor-

tant that we enhance opportunities to educate a new generation of VA health care providers. Reinstating the authorization for this program will provide VA another tool to attract qualified health professionals to care for our nation's veterans.

Even as VA is experiencing recruiting difficulties, many servicemembers from Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom are trained combat medics responsible for providing frontline trauma care on the battlefield. When they come home, we can provide the opportunity for these new veterans to continue their medical education, and use their knowledge and experience to provide needed services to their fellow veterans.

Madam Speaker, the quality of health care available to our veterans is dependent on the ability of VA to recruit and retain qualified health care personnel. I hope my colleagues on both sides of the aisle will join me in this effort to build a new generation of health care professionals and cosponsor the Veterans Health Scholarship Act of 2008.

RECOGNIZING EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT, DISASTER RECOVERY AND RELIEF EFFORTS IN WAYNE COUNTY

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2008

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and recognize the extraordinary contributions of emergency management, disaster response, and recovery personnel as well as elected officials and community leaders in my district which was devastated by the recent severe weather in Indiana.

I wish particularly to honor the Board of Commissioners, County Council, and all the other outstanding individuals in Wayne County who rose to the occasion during these difficult times. This area suffered greatly from severe storms and weather, creating a catastrophe of nature that inflicted injuries, destroyed property, and displaced many of our citizens. In response, these officials went above and beyond the call of duty, showing great poise while saving many lives and serving the people of their communities.

Madam Speaker, I commend these fine men and women for their tremendous dedication to the Hoosier families, businesses, farmers and communities that they serve. As Hoosiers continue to recover from Mother Nature's fury, I feel confident that the people of Wayne County will be well served by these officials.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MARY EATON

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2008

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to rise today to honor my friend Mary Eaton by entering her name in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, the official record of the proceedings and debates of the United States Congress since 1873. Today, I pay tribute to Mary Eaton of Boulder City, who celebrated her 100th birthday on April 14, 2008.

Mary moved to Boulder City with her husband, Bruce Eaton, on July 4, 1932, where Bruce worked on the Hoover Dam project. Mary cared for their children and stayed home until Bruce enlisted in the Army in 1942. Mary stayed in Boulder City and began working as a home economics teacher, and continued to teach middle school and high school for 13 years. She eventually became the first president of the classroom teachers, the union at the time, and also participated in many groups, such as Volunteers of America, Eastern Star, Rainbow Girls. She was a charter member of Grace Community Church.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Mary Eaton for her achievements and dedication to the Boulder City community. I applaud her efforts. I wish her a happy centennial and all the best in her future endeavors.

REGARDING H.R. 6381, THE MEDICAL DEVICE SAFETY ACT OF 2008

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2008

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 6381, the Medical Device Safety Act of 2008. I am proud to be an original cosponsor of this legislation, which will address the Supreme Court's flawed decision in *Riegel v. Medtronic* that completely ignored Congressional intent regarding the ability of injured patients to hold medical device manufacturers accountable for their injuries. This bill will restore Congress's original intent to allow injured patients to seek recourse for their injuries suffered at the hands of negligent device manufacturers.

American patients need the Medical Device Safety Act of 2008 to ensure that they have the ability to hold negligent device manufacturers accountable for injuries caused by unsafe products. It also would prevent these manufacturers from receiving total immunity from any claims simply by virtue of receiving a Food and Drug Administration device approval.

It is important for Congress to quickly make its intent clear, as the Supreme Court will likely take up a parallel issue this fall regarding accountability for pharmaceutical manufacturers. Earlier this year, I was proud to participate in a hearing in the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform which looked deeper into this issue. Witness testimony made it clear that when we allow the FDA to have the final say on device safety, patient safety is compromised. Strong State laws are critical to maintaining accountability for device manufacturers, and allowing the FDA to preempt these State laws is a surefire way to lead to negligence and the production of unsafe products.

The civil justice system and the Federal regulatory system were always meant to complement each other. Both are necessary to adequately protect Americans. The FDA simply cannot do it alone. The agency is understaffed and underfunded, and I support additional funding to help this critical agency. However, allowing the buck to stop solely with the FDA on issues of life and death is simply contradictory to our system of checks and balances. This is just one more reason that it is

vital that Congress pass the Medical Device Safety Act of 2008 to restore the balance between the civil justice system and the Federal regulatory system that Congress intended when it passed the Medical Device Amendments of 1976.

HONORING GENERAL T. MICHAEL
"BUZZ" MOSELEY'S CAREER OF
PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2008

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to General T. Michael "Buzz" Moseley, 18th Chief of Staff of the U.S. Air Force, an exemplary patriot and extraordinary leader, who, on July 9, 2008, completed 37 years of distinguished service to our Nation.

General Moseley began his accomplished career at Texas A&M and Webb AFB, where he earned his wings in 1973. He proceeded to a series of demanding assignments as flight instructor, test pilot and mission commander. His peerless operational skills were honed by the most prestigious positions, to include command at every level—most notably the Air Force Fighter Weapons School, the 9th Air Force, and the U.S. Central Command Air Forces. General Moseley led airmen in peace, crisis, and war—from Operation Southern Watch, through the harrowing days in the wake of September 11, 2001, to engaging the Taliban in Operation Enduring Freedom and the destruction of Saddam Hussein's war machine in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The breadth of General Moseley's assignments and the professionalism with which he has carried them out, reflect a keen intellect and unrivaled grasp of national security policies and air power's role in implementing them. Equally impressive, has been General Moseley's staunch, consistent advocacy of inter-Service and international cooperation as the most effective way of assuring allies, dissuading and deterring adversaries, and defeating implacable foes.

A brilliant speaker with a sharp wit and endearing style, General Moseley has frequently testified before the Congress on a wide variety of issues critical to the Air Force's—and the Nation's—readiness to face an uncertain future. However controversial the topic or pointed the questioning, he has always been a most poised, eloquent proponent of balancing current exigencies with future requirements. His focus has remained unwavering: assure that USAF remains America's asymmetric advantage—our Nation's multidimensional, global maneuver force—the force of first and last resort.

As the 18th Chief of Staff and a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff from September 2005 to August 2008, General Moseley has been a trusted advisor on all aspects of airpower and its key role in promoting and defending America's interests at home and abroad. His 37 years of distinguished service epitomize bold leadership, strategic vision, intellectual flexibility, innovation, honor, integrity, dignity and selfless devotion.

His exceptional grasp of war-fighters' needs, born of his own combatant experience, has

enabled the Air Force to provide unprecedented Global Reach, Global Vigilance and Global Power for both traditional and non-traditional missions. Under his leadership, the Air Force spread its wings over America's cities, delivered relief to victims of tsunamis and hurricanes, expanded international ties to reassure allies and deter enemies—all while flying and fighting as an indispensable part of the Joint force in Iraq, Afghanistan and other theaters of the Global War on Terror.

His commitment to his Airmen has been peerless. In a constrained fiscal environment—and with lives in the balance—General Moseley's uncommon courage, expertise and foresight have forged a set of transformational initiatives designed to spark an intellectual renaissance while recapitalizing an aging air fleet, worn down by 18 years of continuous combat. He has sought to provide his Airmen with the quality of life they deserve, while seeing to their training, education and leadership. He has refocused the Service on a single core mission: bolstering warrior ethos and fostering joint and combined synergies.

He has worked tirelessly to reinvigorate the innovation, flexibility, and creative, strategic thinking that have been Airmen's hallmarks since the dawn of aviation. In the context of this conceptual, organizational and technological transformation, General Moseley has redefined the Air Force for the 21st Century, ensuring that America's guardians will continue to fly, fight and win in both today's battles and in tomorrow's crucibles.

While many distinguished awards and decorations adorn his uniform—from his own grateful Nation as well as from such staunch allies as Britain, France, Korea, Brazil, Singapore, and the UAE—what stands out most and what we honor him for today is his unflinching commitment to the cause of freedom and justice. General T. Michael "Buzz" Moseley has earned the deepest respect from all whom he has served during his illustrious career—most notably this Congress and a grateful Nation.

PROMINENT CARIBBEAN AMERICANS
RECOGNIZED DURING CARIBBEAN
AMERICAN HERITAGE
MONTH

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the profiles of four prominent members of the Caribbean Diaspora during Caribbean-American Heritage Month that were featured in a special section of *CaribNews*, a New York based publication that serves as the voice of the Caribbean Diaspora community.

Jamaican American, Beryl Levi, is the President of a successful frozen food company. Mrs. Levi and her husband started the company with high hopes and countless well-wishers. Today, Tower Isle Frozen Foods is considered "the pioneer Jamaican food processing company in the U.S."

Rosemonde Pierre-Louis is a Haitian American and the Deputy Borough President of Manhattan. Ms. Pierre-Louis completed her undergraduate studies at Tufts University in Massachusetts and obtained her law degree from Case Western University School of Law.

Justice Sylvia Hinds-Radix sits on the Supreme Court of New York and is the first Barbados national to serve in that capacity. Justice Hinds-Radix has been an advocate for the poor since the beginning of her career. She credits her family for her success and for her motivation to be a voice to the voiceless in her community.

Michael Flanigan is the Community Relations Director for Citi Bank in the Brooklyn and Staten Island region and serves on several boards of directors. Mr. Flanigan started his education at Jamaica College and went on to earn a masters in finance and marketing from New York University. Mr. Flanigan believes that "hard times shouldn't dissuade us from our goals" and wants to help others achieve their goals by becoming more involved in philanthropy.

Many more Caribbean Americans have contributed to the American fabric than those that were mentioned today. I would like us as a nation to recognize the struggles and victories of the Caribbean community and how important their work is to the history and continued triumph of America. I would like to take this opportunity during Caribbean-American Heritage Month to celebrate the contributions of all Caribbean Americans to our Nation.

IN RECOGNITION OF SYRACUSE
BROADCASTER MIKE PRICE

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2008

Mr. WALSH of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mike Price, a Syracuse broadcasting legend, as he retires after 46 years at NewsChannel 9 WSYR.

Mike began his career with Channel 9, then WIXT-TV, on September 2, 1962 just before the station went on air for the very first time. He quickly grew to earn a reputation for being an honest and good natured broadcaster who treated all people with deep respect. Mike rose to fame through his portrayal of the character "Baron Daemon," a vampire that hosted late night horror shows. His character became so popular that the station added a late afternoon show titled "Barron and his Buddies." Additionally, Mike recorded a popular single called "The Transylvania Twist," which is played every Halloween. For 25 years, Mike was the anchor of "Good News" on NewsChannel 9, which recognized community happenings and school groups across the Syracuse area. Mike's hard work and dedication to NewsChannel 9 helped the station to reach the number one spot in local ratings.

Mike Price valiantly served his country for 30 years as a Chief Petty Officer in the U.S. Coast Guard Reserve, serving in the Persian Gulf War in 1991. He went on to produce a documentary about his experiences during this time that received several awards. Mike is a Syracuse native, attending Onondaga Valley Academy and Syracuse University. Additionally, he is the recipient of the Syracuse Press Club's Career Achievement Award. After undergoing open-heart surgery in 2001 and sharing his recovery with viewers, Mike has been an inspiration and a valuable resource to many who undergo the same treatment.

On behalf of the people of the 25th District of New York, I congratulate Mike on a wonderful career and wish him the best as he retires.