

HONORING EDWARD A. TOKASZ
UPON HIS 70TH ANNIVERSARY
AS A MEMBER OF THE DOYLE
HOSE VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 15, 2008

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, as you well know, the fire service remains among the most well respected and revered groups of individuals within communities throughout the United States. The volunteer fire service, moreover, represents groups of individuals within particular communities who, of their own volition, choose to protect and serve their home communities, putting their lives on the line toward the betterment and safety of their hometowns.

Today, Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the personal sacrifice of a member of one of the best known and most respected fire companies in my congressional district—the Doyle Hose Fire Company in the town of Cheektowaga. I rise to honor Edward A. Tokasz, who this year will celebrate his 70th anniversary as an active member of Doyle Hose.

A little less than 2 months past his 18th birthday, Ed joined up with Doyle on February 2, 1938, and from that day forward has honorably and competently served as a dedicated member of the company. Ed served in many positions within Doyle, including assistant chief, president, vice president, and sergeant at arms. In particular, in perhaps his most amazing statistic, Ed served as Treasurer for nearly 60 years.

Ed's service to our community set an example for others to follow. Ed's son, Paul Tokasz, began his career as a schoolteacher, and served in several governmental positions before his election to the New York State Assembly in 1988. Paul would eventually rise to serve as majority leader, and I served with Paul in the legislature for 6 years. Undoubtedly, it was Ed's influence that led Paul and many others into public service.

Madam Speaker, it is not often that a Member of the House has the opportunity to honor someone for 70 years of active service in any vocation, much less a vocation as critical to one's community as the fire service. That is why I am asking that you join with me and with all of our colleagues in congratulating Ed Tokasz for his long service to our community, and I know that you and all of our colleagues join me in wishing Ed and his family nothing but the very best of luck and Godspeed in the months and years to come.

**HONORING THE DEDICATED
SERVICE OF KATY DAWSON**

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 15, 2008

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to thank Katy Dawson for her dedicated service to Tennessee's Sixth Congressional District while working in my Washington, DC, office.

Katy joined us in 2005 as a staff assistant and provided a warm welcome to our guests. She grew in that position, moved on to serving as a legislative correspondent and has proven to be quite the workhorse. She has been a diligent worker, and she has provided a tremendous help to me. She views each legislative issue with compassion and always considers what is in the best interest of middle Tennesseans.

My staff and I wish Katy well as she moves on to her next challenge. We hope she finds as much success in her next endeavor as her beloved Boston Red Sox and New England Patriots have found on their fields.

Katy, thanks for your hard work over the past few years. I wish you all the best.

**150TH BIRTHDAY OF HAMILTON
COUNTY, TEXAS**

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 15, 2008

Mr. CARTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a shining county in my district. Hamilton County will be celebrating its 150th birthday on Tuesday, January 22, 2008. Named after James Hamilton, a former Governor of South Carolina who aided the Republic of Texas when we made our break from Mexico, Hamilton County is believed to be the final resting place for "Billy the Kid." Although noted by many as a county rooted deep in Texas history, undeniably the greatest asset of Hamilton County is its people.

Hamilton County people are the type who wave to strangers as they pass them driving down the highway. They are the type of people who get together to discuss politics, last night's football game, and their families over a piece of pie. They share a common sense of community where they look after one another. These people are a shining example of the Texas values that make this area of our State so genuine. I am extremely proud to have represented Hamilton County for 3 of the past 150 years and I wish them continued prosperity for another 150 years and beyond.

**HONORING THE SOLDIERS OF INDIANA'S 76TH INFANTRY BRIGADE
COMBAT TEAM**

HON. BARON P. HILL

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 15, 2008

Mr. HILL. Madam Speaker, I would like to thank the courageous soldiers of Indiana's 76th Infantry Brigade Combat Team and their families for their unwavering commitment to defending our great Nation. For many of these soldiers it will be their second trip to Iraq and another period of extended time away from their families. I know this must be a difficult time for them, but let me stress again how grateful I am for such noble service.

The deployment of the 76th Infantry Brigade Combat Team will be the single largest deployment of Indiana National Guard soldiers since World War II. In sum, approximately 3,400 of our Guardsmen will be serving in Iraq when their unit deploys.

I will certainly be keeping these Hoosier soldiers and their families in my thoughts and prayers. Thanks to our troops for protecting and defending the freedoms we enjoy as Americans. And, thanks to our soldiers for their steadfast service to our country.

**RECOGNIZING THE APPOINTMENT
OF ROBERT HAY AS THE 2008
PRESIDENT OF THE PENNSYLVANIA
ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®**

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 15, 2008

Mr. KANJORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to recognize Robert C. Hay, CRB, e-PRO, GRI, of Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, for achievements in the real estate industry in Pennsylvania and his appointment as the 85th president of the Pennsylvania Association of Realtors® on January 15, 2008.

Mr. Hay has been active in the real estate industry for more than 28 years. At the Pennsylvania Association of Realtors®, he chaired many committees and task forces including Grievance, Strategic Planning and the Convention Committee. Mr. Hay also served as a Realtors® Political Action Committee trustee for many years, and he is Federal political coordinator.

Mr. Hay served as president of his local association, the Pocono Mountains Association of Realtors®, in 1982, 1983, and 1999. He chaired most committees in the association, and he was named Realtor® of the Year in 1982, and again in 2000. This award is given annually to a local member of the association in honor of his or her distinguished and unselfish service while displaying outstanding leadership, vision, and ability. Mr. Hay promoted the consumers' best interests in the real estate market while strictly following the code of ethics.

About 4 years ago, Mr. Hay created his own company, Bobhay.com Realtors®, where he is the broker and owner. Because of the changing nature of the real estate industry, Mr. Hay saw the desire for home buyers and sellers to obtain real estate information through the Internet, and he created a real estate Web site.

Mr. Hay previously worked at RE/MAX before he decided to develop his own company.

Mr. Hay is also active in his community of Monroe County, Pennsylvania, and I cannot begin to calculate the number of hours that Bob and I have spent together while working on important community projects. In 2006, he served as the chairman of the board of the Pocono Mountains Chamber of Commerce. He continues to work diligently to try to restore the passenger rail service from northeastern Pennsylvania to New York City as the chairman of the Pennsylvania Northeast Regional Railroad Authority.

On a personal note, let me mention how much I have enjoyed getting to know Bob and his wife, Beverly, over the years. They represent the community spirit that makes places like northeastern Pennsylvania great areas to live.

Mr. Hay is a veteran of the Vietnam war. He lives with his wife, Beverly, in Mt. Pocono.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing Mr. Hay for his distinguished career in the real estate industry and his inauguration as the 85th president of the Pennsylvania Association of Realtors®.

TRIBUTE TO MILTON CONGER

HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 15, 2008

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a true American hero, Milton Conger, from Burlington, Colorado. Mr. Conger was born on October 1, 1924, in rural Kansas. He was a member of the greatest generation and served in the U.S. Army from 1943 to 1946.

Milton grew up in Kit Carson County, Colorado, and entered the Army immediately following graduation from high school. He married Marjorie Irene Schmidt on October 1, 1943, while home on leave, right before being sent to Europe to serve with the 79th Infantry Division, 314th Regiment, L. Company. Milton's company fought primarily in France. On October 9, 1944, while digging a foxhole at the edge of the Forest of Parroy, a Jeep pulled up and out stepped a 4-star general and asked him how things were going. He later determined that he had spoken to General Marshall, who had come to France to see the troops. Milton was awarded the Purple Heart for a leg wound he received a few days before his meeting with the general. It was also in the Forest of Parroy that Milton and one of his buddies captured four German soldiers. Mr. Conger received the Combat Infantry Badge and the Croix-de-Guerre from the French in 1997.

During their time in France, 862 soldiers of Milton's 314th Regiment were killed in action, 4,139 were wounded, and 56 were reported missing in action. They also captured 11,822 German soldiers. The trip home from Europe was dangerous for Milton, he was sent home on the French ship *Athos II*. On December 21, 1945, they encountered a huge Atlantic typhoon and were tossed about the sea for two days. The soldiers were forced to stand for hours in the slimy lower passages as ballast. The ship was badly battered, and had to stop in the Azores. There they waited to be transferred to the aircraft carrier *Enterprise* for the rest of the trip home.

After the war, Milton returned home to Colorado where he worked as a carpenter and building contractor, operating Conger Construction. Milton and his wife Marjorie raised three daughters: Linda Kay (Malm), Nancy Lee (Brown), and Connie Rae (Ogle). Mr. Conger is a charter member of VFW Post 6491 and is also a member of American Legion Post 60.

I am proud to honor Milton Conger for his dedicated service to our Nation. He is an American hero who left his home to defend our Nation, and then returned home to be a valued member of his community, showing his children and grandchildren how to live meaningful lives of service. Milton truly is the embodiment of all the values that have molded America into the great nation it is today. May God bless Milton and his family, may God bless our precious veterans, and may God bless America.

THE RETIREMENT OF GLENN CANNON FROM WAVERLY POWER AND LIGHT COMPANY

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 15, 2008

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Glenn Cannon on his retirement as general manager of Waverly Power and Light Company. At the end of the past year, Glenn retired after a 17 year career with Waverly Power and Light. Waverly Power and Light is a municipal electric utility that is owned by the city of Waverly, a town of 9,000 people in northeast Iowa.

Over the past 17 years, Glenn served as the driving force behind the success of Waverly Power and Light. Glenn's efforts allowed the company to lead the way for wind energy development across the Midwest. In 1993, under Glenn's leadership, the company installed the first utility-scale wind turbine in Iowa. Today, Iowa has approximately 350 wind turbines and ranks third in the Nation for wind energy development. Iowa, and America, are following Glenn's lead.

In 2001, Waverly Power and Light launched the Iowa Energy Tags Program becoming the first electric utility in the Nation to offer green tags, which verify that electricity was generated from a renewable energy source. In 2002, thanks to Glenn's leadership, Waverly Power and Light received the National Renewable Energy Laboratory's Paul Rappaport Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Award. Glenn accepted the award on behalf of the company and the city of Waverly.

Glenn has dedicated his life to the promotion and development of wind power and renewable energies. His work has proven that communities in Iowa and across the country can be powered by clean renewable energies. I am proud to be representing Glenn and the Waverly Power and Light Company in Congress.

I am happy to hear that Glenn will be continuing his work to promote and develop renewable energies. He will be serving as a consultant for the promotion of wind power, energy efficiency and soy-bean transformer oils. I wish him the best in all his endeavors.

WALKER BLAIR ETHERIDGE
MAKES HIS MARK ON THE WORLD

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 15, 2008

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my son David and his wife Casey on the birth of their first child, Walker Blair Etheridge. Walker was born on December 22, 2007, and weighed 8 pounds and 7 ounces and was 20 inches long. My wife Faye and I are ecstatic about the birth of our fourth grandchild, and she joins me in wishing David and Casey all the happiness and love that a first child brings into your life.

Faye and I are truly blessed by the arrival of Walker Blair Etheridge. The birth of a new child is a joyous occasion that reminds us of the promise of a new life. Children remind us

of the incredible miracle of life, and they keep us young-at-heart. Every day they show us a new way to view the world.

God has truly blessed my family with this new addition. My family and I are looking forward to spending a lot time with our new bundle of joy and introducing him to all of our friends and neighbors in North Carolina's Second Congressional District.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 15, 2008

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Alpha Kappa Alpha on the occasion of their centennial anniversary.

As a proud member of Alpha Kappa Alpha, I would like to welcome the thousands of fine AKA members who have traveled to Howard University this week to celebrate the birth of Alpha Chapter and the nine visionaries who founded the sorority in 1908.

As our Nation's oldest black Greek letter fraternity founded by women, Alpha Kappa Alpha was established in order to provide social and intellectual enrichment through member interactions. Throughout the years, AKA's purpose has expanded as it strives to promote high scholastics and ethical standards, vocational and career guidance, health services and the advancement of human and civil rights. Led by International President Barbara A McKinzie, the women of AKA seek to make a difference in our communities and to be of supreme service to all of mankind.

When you look at AKA's distinguished membership it is easy to see its impact on America. Amongst these women are: Coretta Scott King, Rosa Parks, Maya Angelou, Toni Morrison, Ella Fitzgerald, and Dr. Mae Jemison—just to name a few.

Today, Alpha Kappa Alpha is a worldwide organization with 200,000 members in 975 chapters all over the globe and on every continent. The century of achievements by AKA women are felt everyday in the progress of our communities, and the work our members are doing today will be felt by generations to come. This centennial celebration is both a reflection upon our history, and a celebration of our future.

I commend Alpha Kappa Alpha on their centennial anniversary and wish them well for their next 100 years.

ANDREW TIMOTHY OTTO MAKES HIS MARK ON THE WORLD

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 15, 2008

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my daughter Catherine and her husband Tim Otto on the birth of their second child and my fifth grandchild Andrew Timothy Otto. Andrew was born yesterday, January 14, 2008, and weighed 8 pounds and was 20.5 inches long. My wife Faye and I are