

part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1354, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Bradley has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Bradley has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Bradley New for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

IN HONOR OF REPRESENTATIVE
MICHAEL McNULTY

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the illustrious congressional career of a friend—a fellow New Yorker, Democrat, and member of Ways and Means—Representative MICHAEL McNULTY, who for nearly 40 years has served his constituents in the Empire State superbly well. That four-decade-long résumé boasts posts as mayor of Green Island, New York, as a State assemblyman, and since 1988, a widely respected and beloved U.S. Congressman. He leaves us at the end of this year the same as he was when he first entered these Halls—unblemished in record and integrity, full of vigor and focus, impassioned about and preeminently concerned with the uplift of those he served.

As chairman of the Social Security Subcommittee, he maintained his unrelenting commitment to the program and the senior citizens whose livelihoods depend on it. Having worked with MIKE closely on the committee, I can vouch for his incredible work ethic and delicate parsing of the issues. The vivacity he brought to the job interwoven with his serious, reflective intellect has served the committee well—has served the country well. He is a fervent champion of working families, a man of impeccable credentials and record on those matters of import to the middle class.

On this day, his birthday, it is with honor that I join the chorus of colleagues, friends, and family who today laud his very many accomplishments. It is with cheer and celebration in our hearts that we wish MIKE well in retirement. His presence will still be felt in the next Congress: in the hearts of those he touched, on those issues he left an indelible mark, on the legacy he leaves behind for us all to emulate.

CITIZENSHIP DAY

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2008

Mr. HONDA. Madam Speaker, as chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, I rise to celebrate Citizenship Day.

Today, we celebrate our allegiance to the United States of America, a country that hon-

ors freedom, opportunity, and justice for all; whose promise of opportunity has inspired people—from around the world—throughout our history, to leave their homelands to take part in the American dream.

Citizenship Day gives us the opportunity to reflect upon our country and its dream.

From our founding and at our very core, America has always been a nation of immigrants, documented and undocumented, who have made great contributions to our Nation. They built our transcontinental railroad that injected new life and industry into the American West, and their entrepreneurship and labor spurred the economy in our early American cities.

By now, we should know that “immigrant” is not a dirty word. In 2006, the Boston Globe reported that immigrants started one in four venture-backed companies since 1990, and two in five in high technology. Foreign-born entrepreneurs have certainly made their mark in my district in Silicon Valley, helping to found companies including Intel, Ebay, Yahoo and Google.

Their contributions are also felt in the small business sector, as immigrants are one of the fastest-growing segments of small business owners in the U.S. Immigrant women are starting businesses at a rate 57 percent higher than native-born women. And immigrant men start businesses at a rate 71 percent higher than native-born men.

Looking toward our future with our aging workforce and our Social Security crisis, we need their contributions now more than ever. And despite this tough economy and in this tough economy, their entrepreneurial spirit is helping to keep our American dream alive.

After all, generation after generation of immigrants have taken oath to become American citizens with love of country and commitment to America's promise. The faster we embrace each generation, the faster they become integrated as new Americans, and the stronger we are as a truly united country.

That is why I introduced The Strengthening Communities through Education & Integration Act. The Act would invest in adult education programs for English-language learners, including civics programs that teach newcomers about the rights and responsibilities of citizenship. As a former principal and school teacher, I know the importance of investing in our youth. This bill would ensure that our Nation's children and schools have adequate funding and resources for vital literacy programs for English-language learners. It would assist schools with teacher recruitment for English-language learners. It would provide tax incentives for employers to offer training and ESL programs to their employees, and would support State and local initiatives in English-language and civics education.

My legislation is supported by a broad coalition of business groups, labor unions, literacy and education coalitions, immigrant advocacy organizations, Asian American and Hispanic advocates, and faith-based organizations, all who realize the importance of integrating new American communities.

In the spirit of Citizenship Day, I invite you to join me as a cosponsor of H.R. 6617.

HONORING JOSEPH RICHEY

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Joseph Richey of Parkville, Missouri. Joseph is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1314, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Joseph has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Joseph has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Joseph Richey for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

TRIBUTE TO BARRY GOTTEHRER,
JOURNALIST, AUTHOR, NEW
YORK CITY POLITICAL CRU-
SADER, AND FRIEND

HON. TERRY EVERETT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2008

Mr. EVERETT. Madam Speaker, during my four decades in journalism and politics, I've been blessed with many friends, but few have impacted me personally as much as Bronx-born journalist turned political crusader, Barry Gottehrer, who passed away in April at the age of 73.

Barry Gottehrer was what all good journalists aspire to be but few are fortunate enough to attain—a real force for change. During the racial turmoil of the mid 1960's, Barry Gottehrer combined a young reporter's burning ambition with a mission to force America's largest city to confront its darkest problems. He soon directly challenged the world he reported on, employing his skills as a gifted negotiator to unite a politically fractured city.

While at The New York Herald Tribune, Barry Gottehrer penned a powerful series of stories starkly but accurately profiling New York as a “City in Crisis.” According to The New York Times, his work was credited with bringing New York mayor John Lindsay to office. But that was just the beginning. Barry Gottehrer joined the Lindsay administration and reached out to dialogue with the unsavory from New York's criminal underworld to its street gangs.

Gottehrer's efforts to keep New York's disparate and sometimes warring factions from turning the city into chaos are chronicled in his 1975 book, “The Mayor's Man.” He summed up his work this way: “. . . during those feverish days of the 1960s and early 1970s when hundreds of our cities went up in flames, when rebellion and disorder swept through our streets, our public schools, our college campuses . . . when the very fabric of our country seemed ready to shred, I was the Mayor's Man at the brink of this revolution—a white in

a world of black and brown, a moderate in a world of revolutionaries, trying to bring change where change seemed needed most, trying to buy time until the change would come."

After feeling his power to affect change had reached its limit, Barry Gottehrer left New York's City Hall and went on to work in government affairs roles in New York and Washington, DC. His legacy lives on in his books and in the memory of those who marveled at his daring belief that working for good was not impossible. I was honored to have met Barry after coming to Congress and I will always be grateful for our friendship.

RECOGNIZING JEFFERY WEHR, AN
"AMERICAN STAR OF TEACHING"

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2008

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to join with the community of Odessa, Washington in celebrating the accomplishments of Jeffrey Wehr. Today, the U.S. Department of Education is recognizing Mr. Wehr as an American Star of Teaching for his work as the science teacher at Odessa High School.

Mr. Wehr is known for being an exceptional motivator, challenging students daily to think and achieve at their highest levels. During his time as a teacher, he has increased enrollment in science courses and has inspired students to rethink how they view science. His students have also received numerous awards in science research and have dramatically improved their science scores on State assessments. It is important we have teachers like Mr. Wehr to train this country's next generation of scientists and engineers so we can remain competitive in a global marketplace.

Madam Speaker, I am so pleased to join with the U.S. Department of Education in recognizing his passion, dedication, and commitment to helping our students achieve their full potential. I commend Mr. Wehr for emphasizing the importance of receiving a science education. I invite my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. Wehr on this outstanding achievement.

HONORING THE LIFE AND WORK
OF CONGRESSMAN JOHN SEIBERLING

HON. RALPH REGULA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2008

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my condolences to the family and friends of Congressman John Seiberling and to pay tribute to his work here in the Congress. Congressman Seiberling passed away on August 2, 2008, at the age of 89.

John represented Ohio's 14th Congressional District, the district just north of the one I represent, from 1971 through 1987. He was an active member of the House Resources Committee and worked on a number of natural resource and environmental issues through this assignment. He cared deeply about the pres-

ervation of our national heritage and protecting the natural environment. He carried out these priorities through his work on the committee, but one effort in particular stands out as a legacy for the people of northeast Ohio.

As an innovator when it came to protecting natural resources and open space, John introduced legislation that would create a 33,000-acre national recreation area between the two population centers of Cleveland and Akron, Ohio. He asked me to serve as his partner as the Republican cosponsor of the legislation. We worked together to pass the bill, and on December 27, 1974, with President Gerald Ford's signature, the Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area was established.

Today, this area, now the Cuyahoga Valley National Park, is one of the most frequently visited national parks within the entire national park system and serves as a respite to the residents of the densely populated cities of Cleveland and Akron and their surrounding suburbs, as well as many national park visitors from other States.

John's innovation and vision in understanding that people thirst for open spaces in their communities brought about the Cuyahoga Valley National Park. Today it is a gift to the people of northeast Ohio and a true legacy of his work.

We are grateful for John's life and accomplishments and wish his family, especially his wife, Betty, who was his inspiring supporter, peace with his passing.

HONORING BRANDON MATSON

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Brandon Matson of Blue Springs, Missouri. Brandon is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1058, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Brandon has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Brandon has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Brandon Matson for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS ENERGY SUSTAINABILITY
ACT OF 2008

HON. STEVE BUYER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2008

Mr. BUYER. Madam Speaker, today, I introduced the Department of Veterans Affairs Energy Sustainability Act of 2008, to establish within the Department of Veterans Affairs, VA, a strategic plan for energy sustainability and

an Office of Energy Management. As our country looks to a new energy future, I believe it is vitally important to encourage smart energy use and take steps to become more aware of how we spend our money for our energy. The office would be under the direction of a Deputy Assistant Secretary, who would report to the Assistant Secretary for Management. The bill would also create an Energy Advisory Committee consisting of VA officials and private sector experts on energy management. Disabled veterans would also receive increased specially adaptive housing and auto grants for energy efficient systems and vehicles.

The Office of Energy Management, with the advice and recommendations of the Energy Advisory Committee, would be responsible for helping VA meet a number of specific goals such as compliance with Presidential Order 13423, VA Directive 0055, and formulating long term, sustainable energy plans for VA. The office would also establish a database to track VA's energy and water consumption. The bill would authorize the office to directly utilize the expertise of national laboratories, such as those at Lawrence Livermore and Oakridge.

Addressing our Nation's energy problem calls for multi-faceted solutions—including alternative fuels. My bill would authorize the installation of alternative fuel stations at VA facilities, and require a feasibility study regarding the installation of energy efficient and renewable energy systems in Department buildings. Such systems include solar technologies and energy efficient roof and building envelope systems that might utilize ballasted or vegetated roof systems.

In an effort to assist our Nation's veterans in their efforts to become more energy efficient, my bill would provide an additional amount of up to \$10,000 for high efficiency systems for veterans who qualify for specially adaptive housing grants under section 2101 (a)(2) of title 38, United States Code. Additionally, it would provide veterans who qualify for a specially adapted auto grant, under section 3902(a) of title 38, United States Code, the additional amount necessary to purchase alternative fuel vehicles.

Finally, VA would be authorized to conduct a pilot program for the sale of air pollution emission reduction incentives, also known as emission reduction credits, and would be authorized to retain proceeds from the sales. America's veterans should benefit from the VA's efforts to produce cleaner energy.

Madam Speaker, as the cost of fossil fuels rise and resources become more scarce, our Nation must provide services for our veterans in an energy efficient manner. A sustainable energy program at VA will conserve energy and financial resources that can be used to provide care for our veterans. I encourage my colleagues to support the Department of Veterans Affairs Energy Sustainability Act of 2008.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2008

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Madam Speaker, earlier today I was detained by a previously