

staff; and bringing a new medical laboratory technology program to the Hastings campus.

Dr. Franzen is a credit to Nebraska and to the educational community as a whole. Students and educators alike have benefited from his hard work, and I congratulate him on his decades of hard work.

TRIBUTE ROBERT A. GLEICH

**HON. VERNON J. EHLERS**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 23, 2008*

Mr. EHLERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Robert A. Gleich, Jr., on the occasion of his retirement from his position of Deputy Superintendent, House Office Buildings.

Bob Gleich began his career with the Architect of the Capitol in November 1976 in the AOC's Construction Management division, where he worked on many sizeable projects, including final construction of the Madison Building. His experience in overseeing large-scale construction projects proved helpful as he then transitioned to the A/C Engineering Division, where he was assigned to oversee the construction of the Hart Senate Office Building. Bob's engineering expertise and construction management skills were instrumental in the successful completion of this high profile project, which was finished on time and on budget.

Following a promotion in August 1987 to Assistant Superintendent, House Office Buildings, Bob was named Deputy Superintendent, House Office Buildings, in December 1992, a position which he holds today on the eve of his retirement from public service.

In his role as Deputy Superintendent, Bob has been involved in many initiatives which have transformed the AOC into an organization that is dedicated to completing its mission with a commitment to exceptional performance, and a focus on quality customer service. He played a critical role in developing the first automated work order system in the AOC. He also chaired a group charged with developing a computer aided facility management (CAFM) system for the AOC designed to improve the Architect's facility management data collection.

This system which was implemented in 1999, was enhanced in 2004, and remains a key component in the AOC's successful management of the facilities that comprise the Capitol Hill complex.

Bob continued to build on his accomplishments by streamlining the Congressional office-moves process for the House of Representatives. Through his efforts, the room selection process has been transformed from a labor-intensive process where information and data required manual display, forcing Members and staff to spend an extensive amount of time monitoring the process, to a fully automated process that can be monitored via the Web, reducing Member and staff time by approximately 90 percent. This transformation has made the Congressional office-moves process easier to execute, and has increased the customer satisfaction scores to greater than 95 percent during the last three Congressional move cycles.

Upon his retirement, Bob will be embarking on a new career in the private sector. We wish

Bob our best as he begins this exciting new chapter of his life, and extend our good wishes to him, his wife Petra, and his six children, Aaron, Robbie, Ryan, Dana, Dustin, and Derrick.

HONORING LELAND HUCKE

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 23, 2008*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Leland Hucke of Liberty, Missouri. Leland 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 374, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Leland has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Leland 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 Leland Hucke for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING LOCAL OLYMPIANS

**HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 23, 2008*

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Madam Speaker, I join my colleagues in honoring the accomplishments of our U.S. Olympic Athletes.

Javier Molina had a hole in his lung but that didn't stop him from representing his country. Hailing from Norwalk, California Javier—the son of Mexican-American immigrants and part of a boxing legacy that spans both sides of the U.S./Mexico border—became the youngest member of the 2008 U.S. boxing team at 18 years old. His hard work and determination has made everyone in the 38th District of California and the Latino community very proud.

All Olympic athletes work hard to achieve their goals but some athletes also have to fight through injuries. In Beijing Javier suffered from a condition called "subcutaneous emphysema" where air was able to seep out of a small hole in his lung. Although this condition made it hard for Javier to breathe and drained his energy he put up a strong front and boxed so he could represent the United States with dignity. Javier did not bring home a medal but he stayed committed, fought, and made us proud.

I also want to take this opportunity to recognize another one of my constituents, Laura Berg from Sante Fe Springs, California. Laura was a member of the 2008 U.S. Softball team which brought a silver medal home from Beijing.

This was the fourth time that Laura has represented our Nation at the Olympics, winning gold medals in softball at the 2004 Olympics in Sydney, the 2000 Olympics in Athens, and at the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta. She is the

only four-time Olympian in the history of softball. At the 2006 International Softball Federation's World Championships, she also set a world record by appearing in her fourth World Championship.

Before stepping down in 2007 to train for the Olympics, Laura showed her commitment to helping the next generation by working as an assistant coach at her alma mater, Fresno State.

On behalf of the 38th District of California, we are so proud of all our Olympians.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NATIONAL WATER RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE

**HON. BART GORDON**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 23, 2008*

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing a bill to establish "The National Water Research and Development Initiative," to coordinate national efforts on water research and technology development and to provide a clear path forward to ensure adequate water supplies for generations to come.

Water is essential to everything we do, and there is no substitute for it. Many Americans are unaware how stressed our water supplies have become. This situation will continue to be exacerbated by increases in population and energy demand and shifting weather patterns caused by climate change. In order to meet the water demands of the future, it is essential that we have the tools needed to utilize water resources efficiently and to maintain the quality of our water supplies. Sound water management is essential if we are to meet the water needs of municipalities, industry, agriculture, recreation, and power.

At the turn of the 19th century, U.S. population stood at a little more than 5 million citizens. Our population is now over 300 million with an annual growth rate of one percent. Available surface water supplies have not increased in the United States since the 1990s, and groundwater tables are continuing to decline. It is clear that the U.S. water supply cannot support future populations and economic activity at its current rate of consumption.

In the United States, over 50,000 water utilities withdraw approximately 40 billion gallons per day of water from the nation's resources, to supply water for domestic consumption, industry, and other uses. When severe water shortages occur, the economic effect can be substantial. According to a 2000 report from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, eight water shortages from drought or heat waves each resulted in \$1 billion or more in monetary losses over the past 20 years.

An adequate supply of treated water is integral to many industries, including agriculture and food processing, beverages, power generation, paper production, manufacturing, and mineral extraction. Water shortages can negatively affect companies and entire industries and reduce job creation and retention. Current industry trajectories, population growth, and dwindling water supplies all point to increased water shortages. Increased water demand will

come with increased costs to all businesses, industries, and municipalities which rely on the same water resources. The Association of California Water Agencies reported in April 2008 that California is now losing income and jobs due to the state's water supply crisis.

A new commitment is necessary to ensure that the United States can meet the water challenges over the next twenty years and onward. The House Science and Technology Committee has begun to search out ways for the federal government to spur new technological innovations that will improve our water-use efficiency. We are doing our part to highlight this important issue and to develop legislation that will address technological and strategic deficiencies at the federal level.

If we are to avoid water crises in the future, we need an effective research and development effort that provides tools and information to manage our water resources effectively. Coordination of the twenty federal agencies responsible for water programs is a logical place to start. The 2004 National Academies Report on Federal Water Research indicated that the United States is not getting its money's worth on water resources research because of a lack of coordination.

The legislation I am introducing today builds on the Administration's effort to coordinate federal research on water resources by establishing an interagency committee—the Subcommittee on Water Availability and Quality (SWAQ) of the National Science and Technology Council. The bill codifies this subcommittee and provides it explicit Congressional authorization.

The bill also incorporates recommendations from the 2004 report by the National Academies entitled, *Confronting the Nation's Water Problems: The Role of Federal Research* to strengthen the subcommittee's role in setting priorities and developing an integrated budget to support research on water resources. The Academy's report indicated that SWAQ is an effective forum for agencies to share information about their efforts on water. However, the report identified several issues that needed to be addressed to make SWAQ an effective coordinating body.

This bill strengthens the budget function for SWAQ through participation of OMB on the subcommittee. In addition, SWAQ is directed to engage in outreach activities to develop connections to state and local governments, to a wider community of stakeholders, and to the public. These recommendations, and others, helped to form the basis of the initiative.

In order to better manage water supplies, there is a critical need for reliable, contemporary information about our water resources and how supplies vary over time. Currently, quantitative knowledge of water supply is inadequate in the United States. The U.S. Water Resources Council completed the most recent, comprehensive, national water availability and use assessment in 1978. This legislation directs the subcommittee to mobilize federal resources to undertake a new national water census.

I offer this legislation to improve and coordinate federal research and development efforts on water. It is critical that we actively pursue technological innovations to ensure future water supplies.

## HONOR OF THE SAPPINGTON HOUSE

### HON. RUSS CARNAHAN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 23, 2008*

Mr. CARNAHAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the exquisite Thomas Sappington House, believed to be the oldest brick house in St. Louis County.

Built in 1808 of sun-dried bricks cut from Missouri clay, the house is a 2½ story example of Federal Architecture that was popular in the post Revolutionary War period and has been restored as a historic home museum since the mid-1960s.

It is a National Historic Landmark, and is owned by the City of Crestwood as part of their Parks and Recreation Department.

I would like to recognize the group of dedicated volunteers that run the house and grounds on a day to day basis, which includes a free reference library and barn tea room which are open to the public to help educate present generations about the past.

I would also like to recognize the citizens of Crestwood as well as the other volunteers who donate their time and money to preserve this wonderful house for future generations and commend it as it a true gem of St. Louis County.

## TRIBUTE TO LYNN MITCHELL

### HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 23, 2008*

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lynn Mitchell and to congratulate her on being honored as Iowa Class 2A District Coach of the Year.

Lynn Mitchell has been the girls' golf coach at West Marshall High School in State Center, Iowa since 1999, after serving as an assistant coach. Since that time, the team has won conference championships in 2005, 2007, and 2008 and they were also district champions in 2005, 2006, and 2008. She was awarded the Class 2A District Coach of the Year Award after she led the team to their first appearance at state golf after they won the regional competition.

I congratulate Lynn Mitchell on her well-deserved award. It is an honor to represent Lynn in the United States Congress, and I wish her the best.

## HONORING THE NATIONAL SOCIETY UNITED STATES DAUGHTERS OF 1812

### HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 23, 2008*

Mrs. EMERSON. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the National Society United States Daughters of 1812. This organization has been instrumental in promoting and preserving the history of a critical time in U.S. history—the War of 1812 era.

The National Society has been a service organization of women descendants of veterans of America's Second War for independence and remains dedicated to promoting the War of 1812 in our nation's history through educational, patriotic and historical activities. Eighty years ago in 1928, the National Society purchased a national headquarters building on Rhode Island Avenue in our Nation's capital. For these 80 years, the National Society has remained at the same address and maintains one of the few museums and libraries dedicated solely to the War of 1812 time frame. At this location is a grave location index along with extensive genealogical files that are not duplicated anywhere else in the United States.

The National Society United States Daughters of 1812 has long strived to preserve the colorful War of 1812 era—the exciting, yet critical time in American history that produced our United States Constitution and our National Anthem. I commend the entire organization for the important work they do to keep our history alive.

Madam Speaker, it is a great privilege to honor this prestigious organization. I ask that you join me along with the people of Southern Missouri to congratulate the National Society United States Daughters of 1812 on their anniversary and their invaluable contributions to American history.

## HONORING MATTHEW JOSEPH DILLMAN

### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 23, 2008*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Matthew Joseph Dillman of Liberty, Missouri. Matthew 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 376, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Matthew has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Matthew 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 Matthew Joseph Dillman 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 THE 23RD ANNUAL "HEATS ON" PROGRAM

### HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 23, 2008*

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, this weekend, the professional pipefitters of St. Cloud Local No. 539 and contractors from the Minnesota Mechanical Contractors Association will head out to 30–40 local homes to provide free furnace service for low-income, senior, and disabled homeowners. They are putting