

that are truly the best of the best. It is a rarity in the Coast Guard, as very few units attain this level of outstanding performance. It demands a grade of 90 percent or higher during a rigorous week-long inspection, requiring a combination of exemplary test scores, crew proficiency, superb vessel condition, excellent performance in drills, a successful and progressive unit training program, survival systems readiness and good administrative work by all members. In their line of work, readiness and competence is the difference between life and death.

What makes this feat more impressive is that all 6 boats and their substation, Station (small) Scituate, had to perform at this remarkably high level. I would like to congratulate Commanding Officer Thomas J. Guthlein and the men and women stationed at Point Allerton for their exemplary service:

BMC Michael Dibartolomeo, MKC Kevin Nuzzolilli, BM1 Luis Catala, BM1 Sean Goodwin, BM1 Wayne Lougee, BM1 Christopher Carson, MK1 Robert Chofay, SK1 Michael Murphy, BM2 Phillip Garrett, BM2 James Mankus, BM2 Nicholas Linstrom, BM2 Kleveron Lemos, BM2 Logan Adkisson, MK2 Dominic Michael, MK2 Michael Cella, MK3 Ryan Fahey, FS2 Patrick Kelly, FS2 John Robbins, BM3 Noah Rowland, BM3 Adam Griffin, BM3 Christopher Dangelo, BM3 Matthew Renner, BM3 Jonathan Cunningham, BM3 Jessica Adams, BM3 Glenn Fenster, MK3 David Northrop, MK3 Manish Moideen, SN Brittany Coyne, SN Daniel Williams, SN Adam Ruffner, SN Roger Souliere, FN Angela Klingler, SN Tony Layne.

It is very fitting that such this particular Coast Guard unit receive this very prestigious award. It is given in honor of Sumner Kimball who established the tradition of training and preparedness years ago off the waters of Hull. Even more remarkable, is the fact that this is the second time that Station Point Allerton has received this award, with the first being in 2002. This award is not just a testament to the station, but it is a tribute to the hard working men and women who serve our Coast Guard and who are willing to put their life on the line to protect the safety of mariners and the integrity of our coast.

COMMENDING THE PEOPLE OF WASHINGTON FOR SHOWING THEIR SUPPORT FOR VETERANS

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2008

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to stand with our State delegation to recognize an important new program begun in Washington to support our soldiers and veterans.

We must never forget that we enjoy our freedom today because of the courage, commitment, and sacrifice of generations of men and women in uniform. From the beaches of Normandy to the jungles of Vietnam, our troops have willingly and repeatedly stood in harm's way to preserve the values and liberties we cherish.

I know my colleagues who stand here with me today share my commitment to keeping

our promises to America's veterans. But we must also keep our promise to veterans in our communities, and the Veterans Family Fund Certificate of Deposit is a perfect example of just such an effort. It is a straightforward way of raising additional funds to meet the needs of Washington veterans and their families, and to assist our returning troops in making a seamless transition home.

This program represents some of the very best that can come from public-private partnerships. I commend the many participating banks and credit unions for joining with the State VA to make this initiative possible, and I hope that other States will soon follow Washington's lead.

No matter how big or small the effort, we must continue to pursue every available means of supporting our troops. We are the United States of America today, and we are free, because of the sacrifices of these men and women in uniform who put their lives on the line—for us, for their country.

TRIBUTE TO U.S. AMBASSADOR SPEARMAN

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2008

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, today I pay tribute to the life of Leonard H.O. Spearman, an outstanding individual who served as ambassador to two African countries and later headed an advisory board to historically black colleges, who passed away on January 16, 2008, at the age of 78 in Katy, Texas.

Leonard Hall O'Connell Spearman, Sr., was a native of Tallahassee, Florida, and a 1947 graduate of what is now Florida A&M University, where he played cornet in a band that included saxophonist Julian "Cannonball" Adderley.

At the University of Michigan, he received a master's degree, 1950, and a doctorate, 1960, in clinical psychology. He was a psychology professor and a dean at Southern University in Baton Rouge before moving to Washington in 1970 to work for the old Department of Health, Education and Welfare. He spent 9 years at HEW, helping shape the educational opportunity programs for disadvantaged students, as well as Federal student loan programs.

Later, he served as U.S. ambassador to Rwanda and Lesotho during the administration of President George H.W. Bush.

After leaving his ambassadorial posts, he taught educational administration at Texas Southern until 1998. From 1993 to 2001, he chaired the nonprofit organization, Rural Electrification for African Development, which advocated solar technology in African villages. Dr. Spearman was honored for his work in education and public service by the National Council of Negro Women among other groups.

I ask my colleagues to join me in extending our condolences to the family of Ambassador Spearman, his wife of 57 years, Valeria Benbow Spearman, and three children, Lynn Dickerson of Baton Rouge, Leonard H.O. Spearman, Jr., of Katy, and Charles M. Spearman of Alexandria, Virginia; a brother, Rawn W. Spearman, Sr., of Virginia Beach; two sisters, Olivia Parker of Washington, DC,

and Agenoria Paschal of Miami, Florida; and seven grandchildren.

Ambassador Spearman was a true American hero whose accomplishments are a testament to his humanitarian spirit.

HONORING SIR FRANKLIN MILLER

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2008

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate one of my esteemed colleagues and former classmates, Sir Franklin Miller, for receiving honorary knighthood by the British Government. Queen Elizabeth II, during her fall 2007 visit to Washington, DC, awarded Mr. Miller with honorary knighthood—a Knight Commander of the Order of the British Empire—in gratitude for his work to strengthen U.S.-U.K. defense collaboration during his career with the Department of Defense and as Special Assistant to President George W. Bush. I am pleased to recognize his commitment to America's security.

Frank and I were both members of the Williams College Class of 1972. After graduating, he served as Communications Officer and Anti-Submarine Warfare Officer aboard the USS *Joseph Hewes*, a Knox-class frigate, with deployments in the Mediterranean Sea, Indian and Atlantic Oceans. In 1977, he returned to school and received his MPA from Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs.

His talents at defense studies brought him to the State Department's Bureau of Political-Military Affairs from 1977 to 1979. For 22 years, he served under seven Secretaries in a series of progressively senior positions. His final assignments were twice as Acting Assistant Secretary for International Security Policy and once as Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Strategy and Threat Reduction.

Frank Miller served as Special Assistant to President George W. Bush and as Senior Director for Defense Policy and Arms Control on the National Security Council staff between 2001 and 2005. This made him responsible for Presidential policy initiatives in the fields of nuclear deterrence policy, strategic arms reduction, national space policy, defense trade reform, land-mines, and transforming the American and NATO militaries.

He heroically assumed responsibility for the operation and management of the White House Situation Room immediately following the attacks on the World Trade Center Towers on September 11, 2001. This led him to direct interagency support of both Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

For his distinguished service, he was honored five times with the Defense Department's highest civilian award, the Defense Distinguished Civilian Service Medal. In addition, he has been awarded the Norwegian Royal Order of Merit, Grand Officer, and the French Legion of Honor, Officer. Knighthood is another fitting tribute to Sir Miller's distinguished 31-year career.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me to congratulate Sir Miller for his recent knighthood. We are grateful to Sir Miller for his outstanding commitment and service to improving the security of this country. I wish him

good health, happiness, and success in his future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KENNY C. HULSHOF

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2008

Mr. HULSHOF. Madam Speaker, on February 6, 2008, I was unavoidably detained and missed votes. Listed below are the votes I missed and how I would have voted had I been there.

H. Res. 867, rollcall No. 29, Commending the Houston Dynamo soccer team for winning the 2007 Major League Soccer Cup: Had I been here, I would have voted "yes."

H. Res. 942, rollcall No. 30, Recognizing the significance of Black History Month: Had I been here, I would have voted "yes."

H. Res. 943, rollcall No. 31, Remembering the Space Shuttle *Challenger* disaster and honoring its crew members, who lost their lives on January 28, 1986: Had I been here, I would have voted "yes."

EXPRESSING SYMPATHIES AND SUPPORT FOR THE INDIVIDUALS AND INSTITUTIONS AFFECTED BY THE POWERFUL TORNADOS THAT STRUCK CERTAIN COMMUNITIES ON FEBRUARY 5, 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2008

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 971, Expressing the sympathies and support of the House of Representatives for the individuals and institutions affected by the powerful tornados that struck communities in Alabama, Arkansas, Kentucky, Mississippi, and Tennessee on February 5th, 2008. Our thoughts and prayers are with all of the families that have experienced the loss of loved ones caused by these tornados. This resolution is important, as it communicates to those affected that Congress is here to do all that it can to help rebuild and restore our damaged communities.

While my district was not affected this time by the tornados on February 5, other communities throughout the State of Mississippi were. And as you know, my State has been no stranger to experiencing disasters. In fact, we are still recovering from the damage caused by Hurricane Katrina and empathize with what the affected communities are experiencing.

We know that after a disaster has occurred, the recovery and rebuilding effort of our communities takes time. And when Federal, State and local governments work efficiently and effectively to provide resources to our communities in a timely fashion, the rebuilding effort moves along more smoothly.

As the chairman of the committee with oversight of the Department of Homeland Security, DHS, of which FEMA is a part, our committee works diligently to ensure that DHS is prepared to respond to all disasters—whether they be natural disaster or acts of terrorism.

As communities are working hard to recover from the damage caused by the tornados, the committee will closely monitor the responsiveness of FEMA and ensure that the communities affected will receive the assistance that they need to rebuild housing, public facilities and critical infrastructure.

In closing, let me thank my colleague Representative BART GORDON along with my colleagues on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee for their leadership on this resolution. It is our hope that the rebuilding effort will soon begin, communities will be repaired and that families will begin to heal and return to normalcy.

I encourage my colleagues to support this resolution.

HONORING THE LOUISIANA SBDC 25TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2008

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of the Louisiana Small Business Development Center (Louisiana SBDC).

For over a quarter century, the Louisiana SBDC, a network of nine service centers operating in Louisiana, has provided communities throughout the state with the means to launch new businesses and maintain successful existing businesses through offering consulting, business education classes, information resources and other specialized services.

Just in the last six years, the Louisiana SBDC has counseled over 25,000 entrepreneurs, created nearly 7,000 new jobs, and has assisted small businesses in securing nearly \$359 million dollars in financing. Initiatives such as the Louisiana SBDC with its track record of success are just what our nation needs during this time of decline in our economy. This work is made possible through the Louisiana SBDC's partnership with the U.S. Small Business Administration, Louisiana Economic Development, participating universities and economic development agencies.

With the help of federal funding, The University of Louisiana at Monroe's College of Business in partnership with the Louisiana SBDC, is poised to develop the Northeast Louisiana Business and Community Development Center. This allows the Louisiana SBDC to continue its mission in Northeast Louisiana and provide for greater opportunity for rural businesses. This center will be a source of entrepreneurship expertise for rural communities in this area, and I expect great things for Louisiana's 5th Congressional District's economy to emerge from the efforts of this center.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the 25th Anniversary of the LSBDC as it continues its commitment to empowering local citizens to reach their goals of establishing successful new businesses, which create not only a stronger Louisiana but a stronger national economy.

HONORING H.O. TANNER TEACHERS

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2008

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, on February 21 the Texas Delta Xi Chapter of the Honorary Educators Organization Alpha Delta Kappa will honor those Texas Delta Xi teachers who attended the H.O. Tanner School in Texas, and then returned to teach at H.O. Tanner after completing their education. H.O. Tanner was constructed in 1900 in order to ensure that Texas' segregation laws did not prevent African-American children from obtaining a quality education.

Laws dictating what schools a child can and cannot attend, based solely on that child's race, are a shameful aspect of America's history. It is hard to think of a better way to celebrate Black History Month than by honoring those who did not allow the burden of the "Jim Crow" laws stop them from obtaining an education, and then used their education to serve the children of their community by devoting their lives to teaching.

It is therefore with the greatest pleasure that I join Texas Delta Chapter of Alpha Delta Kappa in honoring Geneva Barrett, Cora Mack, Berniece Smith, and Sister Julia Mack, who taught kindergarten at the "new" Henry O. Tanner; Sister Mary Crecy, Geneva Barrett (both of whom will be honored posthumously), and Mary Dixon who taught at the original Henry O. Tanner School; and Sisters Julia and Cora Mack who attended classes on the "new" H.O. Tanner campus.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TRENT FRANKS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2008

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 44 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

HONORING AND PRAISING THE NAACP ON ITS 99TH ANNIVERSARY

SPEECH OF

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2008

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to support H. Con. Res. 289, the resolution introduced by Congressman AL GREEN to commend the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, NAACP, on their 99th anniversary.

Few organizations have had such a wide-ranging and long-lasting impact on the United States as the NAACP. Since their founding on February 12, 1909, the NAACP has been a strong, consistent voice for minority Americans. In the face of hatred and opposition, the members of the NAACP have consistently stuck to their guiding principle of nonviolence, and worked instead through elections, the