

"saving those who can be saved, and honoring those who cannot" should be commended and I am proud to stand up and recognize their good works.

Our Nation's first responders are dedicated and, in my opinion, the best in the business. I commend all of America's first responders and the countless volunteer organizations who came to the rescue of their fellow citizens following September 11th, Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Ike, and who joined in the international relief efforts to aid the victims of the 2004 tsunami. Simply put, international relief organizations, like ZAKA and the Red Cross, are critical backstop players in search-and-rescue and recovery efforts, and I hope my colleagues will take the opportunity to research and learn about ZAKA's story and capabilities.

TRIBUTE TO CENTRALIA, ILLINOIS

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2008

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great city in Southern Illinois that has earned a great honor.

Centralia, Illinois, was recently named a 2008 Governor's Home Town Award winner for its Centralia Clean Community Campaign, a community cleanup program. This year, roughly one in eight members of the community participated in some facet of the community cleanup, which included such events as curbside pickup, school neighborhood cleanups and liberty garden planting.

I want to congratulate the citizens of Centralia not only on earning this recognition, but also on their civic mindedness and their willingness to take the time to show their pride in their community by helping to keep it clean. I especially want to acknowledge Bev Virobik, coordinator for Clean & Green and Keep Centralia Beautiful for her organization's efforts in leading this project. Centralia's efforts are truly a model for other communities to follow in expressing their civic pride.

HONORING MAJOR GENERAL RITA ARAGON

HON. MARY FALLIN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2008

Ms. FALLIN. Madam Speaker, today I rise to commend and congratulate retired Major General Rita Aragon, who has been named Woman of the Year by the Journal Record business newspaper in Oklahoma City.

Rita Aragon's story is an inspiration to all women. As a single mother working as a public school teacher, she joined the Oklahoma Air National Guard more than 30 years ago. In 1989 she became the first unit commander in the Guard, and by 2003 she had risen to the rank of Brigadier General. As a Major General she served on active duty as assistant to the commander of air education and training and later as assistant to the chief of Staff Manpower and Personnel in the Pentagon. Since her retirement she has returned to education as director of advance programs at the Col-

lege of Continuing Education at the University of Oklahoma.

Throughout her career, Rita Aragon has given her time and talent to many community organizations and served on the boards of many of those groups. During Oklahoma's response to the 1995 federal building bombing in Oklahoma City she helped lead the military contingent at ground zero. I am honored to recognize Rita Aragon's life of service to her nation, state and city.

TRIBUTE TO DR. JERILYN MCINTYRE, PRESIDENT OF CENTRAL WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

HON. DOC HASTINGS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2008

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Madam Speaker, I wish to speak today to pay tribute to Dr. Jerilyn McIntyre, the President of Central Washington University (CWU). Dr. McIntyre, who is the first female to serve as President of CWU, will retire at the end of this year after completing eight years of exceptional service to the students, faculty, and community of Central Washington University.

Since her appointment, CWU has experienced a period of incomparable growth and development. In fact, enrollment has increased by 27 percent. Dr. McIntyre has inspired academic advancement and diversity through the implementation of several initiatives. Specifically, the Performing Arts and Presidential Speaker Series, started in 2002, brings nationally renowned speakers and artists to CWU's campuses; providing unique opportunities for students to learn about various ideas, art and cultures. Dr. McIntyre has also encouraged excellence and ingenuity through the Spheres of Distinction initiative, which supports innovative and resourceful approaches to academic, student and campus life.

To complement the growing student body, Dr. McIntyre worked to transform the University's campuses into the state-of-the-art facilities we see today. In fact, the extensive renovation and restoration of both residential campus and academic facilities under Dr. McIntyre's tenure have been recognized with national architectural awards. CWU's University Centers in Lynnwood, Des Moines, Steilacoom, Wenatchee, Moses Lake, and Yakima have also benefited from renovation projects, providing a modern and exciting atmosphere that stimulates student life and academic discovery.

In addition to her role as President of the university, Dr. McIntyre has continued to regularly teach courses at CWU. Sharing her instructional talents and knowledge of communications studies clearly illustrates her enthusiasm and desire to directly contribute to her student's academic success.

Dr. McIntyre earned her Bachelor of Arts in History and Master of Arts in Journalism at Stanford University, and received her Ph.D. in History and Communication from the University of Washington. She is the author of numerous articles and papers on communication history, journalism ethics, and higher education issues.

Dr. McIntyre provided exemplary service to our state and the Central Washington Univer-

sity community throughout her eight years at CWU. I am honored that I had the opportunity to work with Jerilyn, and I commend her for her achievements and dedication to expanding the educational opportunities at the university. Undoubtedly Dr. McIntyre's contributions have made a remarkable and positive impression on the lives and academic opportunities of countless students.

I am also pleased to hear that Jerilyn and her husband David will be retiring in Ellensburg. It is great to know that they will remain constituents of mine and a part of the Ellensburg community. Finally, I would like to thank Dr. McIntyre for her service at CWU, and wish her the very best in all of her future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF MURPHY, TX

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2008

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I want to recognize the city of Murphy, TX, which is celebrating its 50th anniversary this week. This city's rich history and enduring perseverance serves as a shining example of the mettle of all Texans.

The first settlers of Murphy arrived in 1846, establishing a village which later became known as a shipping point for area farmers and stock raisers.

However, it wasn't until 1888 that it received the name it is known by today when William Murphy donated the right of way used to build a railroad line through the center of what would become the town.

Although Murphy's borders enclose only 3.8 square miles, the population has quadrupled since the last U.S. census.

Murphy is known for its close-knit community, family values, and friendly faces. With a rich history of country living and community building activities, Murphy prides itself on promoting the well-being of its residents of all ages.

This fast-growing city boasts over 14,000 residents, comprised largely of families. Popular D Magazine has ranked Murphy as one of the premiere Dallas suburbs to live. Ebby Halliday, a local real estate company, notes that "Murphy offers a small town environment with 'big city' convenience. . . . This town is ideal for families looking for the best of both worlds."

I congratulate the good people of Murphy on its 50th anniversary and wish the residents many more years of prosperity.

INCREASING SCHOOL'S OPPORTUNITIES FOR SUCCESS ACT OF 2008

HON. STEVE BUYER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2008

Mr. BUYER. Madam Speaker, today I introduce the Increasing School's Opportunities for Success Act to make two important changes to "No Child Left Behind."

After meeting with local educators and principals I was inspired to reform "No Child Left Behind" to better meet the needs of both educators and students. This bill will allow high schools to stay competitive with graduation rates as well as give them a chance to have better annual assessment scores by allowing limited English proficient, LEP, students have more time to learn English before being tested.

Currently, when a student with disabilities does not graduate in the standard number of years (3 or 4 years), they are misrepresented as a dropout against that school's graduation rate even though the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, IDEA, allows students with disabilities to stay in school until their 22nd birthday. Adding the provision outlined in my bill to ESEA would align it with IDEA, standardizing the statutes.

Current law allows limited English proficient, LEP, students to wait until they have been in the United States for 3 years before being tested for English fluency. This bill simply extends that period of time to 5 years. By doing so, LEP students will have more time to become proficient in English before being tested and therefore reflected in the school's annual assessment.

Education is the basis for success and "No Child Left Behind" is focused on ensuring that our children receive a quality education—the necessary foundation for a successful life. My bill offers two minor but substantive changes to current law that will help our schools, students, faculty and staff to better our education system. I ask for your support and the support of my colleagues to pass this important legislation.

TRIBUTE TO ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2008

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor St. John's United Church of Christ in Breese, Illinois. For 150 years, St. John's has been one of its community's cornerstones. Before a frame church was built in the summer of 1858, services were held in the homes of settlers and led by the people themselves. In 1859, the Rev. Christepler Starck was called as the first resident pastor. A parsonage was built in 1861 and the church's membership continued to grow.

Throughout its 150-year history, St. John's UCC in Breese, Illinois has served both its local community and the world. St. John's works with House of Manna, a local food pantry, and runs a vacation bible school for local children. St. John's members prepare meals for local seniors and send care packages to servicemen and women in Iraq. As an active contributor to the wider outreach of the United Church of Christ, St. John's gives to meritorious national and international organizations.

St. John's also embodies the spirit of neighborliness: with its active involvement in yearly ecumenical services; in its close working relationship with a local catholic church; and when it gives freely of space and time to local community organizations.

I join with my fellow Representatives to congratulate St. John's on 150 years of faith, service, and neighborliness.

TRIBUTE TO MAYOR TOM ROWLAND OF CLEVELAND, TENNESSEE

HON. ZACH WAMP

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2008

Mr. WAMP. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor Mayor Tom Rowland of Cleveland, Tennessee, which is in my district. On Monday, September 8, 2008, at 3:05 p.m. Tom Rowland made history. He became the longest-serving mayor in the city of Cleveland's history with 17 years of service. He was elected Mayor of the City of Cleveland in 1991 and is currently serving his fifth term. His dedication and hard work have made Cleveland home to 11 Fortune 500 manufacturing companies as well as increasing the tourism economy tenfold.

Tom has served the City of Cleveland in many capacities with integrity and distinction, including: past president of the Tennessee Municipal League; selected Mayor of the Year, 2004 by the Tennessee Municipal League; member of two standing committees of the United States Conference of Mayors; past president of the East Tennessee Mayors Association; vice chairman of the Tennessee Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations, the highest position you can hold and not be on the state legislature; cochairman of the Tennessee-Virginia AmTrak initiative; executive committee member of Southeast Tennessee Development District; on the Cleveland Utility Board and Cleveland/Bradley Chamber of Commerce Economic Development Council; member of the Tennessee State Rail Advisory Commission; and past Chairman of the Tennessee Vocational Rehabilitation Board.

Tom is a veteran of the United States Air Force, having retired recently as a Colonel from the Tennessee State Guard. He is the founder of Cleveland 100, an organization that assists surviving family members of officers, firemen and emergency personnel killed in the line of duty. He spearheaded a project to build Tennessee's first memorial to fallen police, fire and rescue personnel. The Emergency Services Memorial was dedicated in May of 2000. Tom is the only Mayor in Tennessee serving on the Homeland Security Council.

And if that isn't enough, Tom and his wonderful wife, Sandra, founded the Empty Stocking Fund, an annual drive that provides Christmas gifts each year to foster children in this community. In 2006 they consolidated the fund in cooperation with the Creating Christmas Memories Foundation.

Madam Speaker, Tom actually lived in many cities before settling in Cleveland in 1964. He was born in Florida, but his father worked for a hotel chain. The chain would buy new properties and it was his dad's job to move to those places and get the business up and going. The family moved about every 2 years. Tom came to Cleveland to work for WCLE radio station, of which he eventually became co-owner. In 1991, when a long-time member of the city commission retired, Tom was

tapped to fill out the unexpired term of 6 months. When the sitting mayor decided not to run for reelection, he encouraged Tom to seek the promotion. Madam Speaker, the rest, as they say, is history.

The City of Cleveland is very fortunate to have a man of this caliber at its helm. So today, I congratulate my friend, Mayor Tom Rowland, for this historic accomplishment.

THE FEDERAL AGENCY PROGRAM REALIGNMENT AND CLOSURE ACT

HON. JOHN SULLIVAN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2008

Mr. SULLIVAN. Madam Speaker, I rise to announce that yesterday I introduced H.R. 7071, the Federal Agency Program Realignment and Closure Act of 2008, legislation that will change the way Washington does business once and for all.

It is clear that the Federal Government is bogged down with rampant spending, continually growing entitlement programs, an ever increasing annual budget and a Federal deficit that economists predict will hit \$500 billion by 2010. When the U.S. Military needed reform and more efficient spending, Congress and the Department of Defense employed the Base Realignment and Closure Commission, BRAC, to evaluate military needs and spending saving taxpayers untold billions of dollars. If it is good enough to reform our Nation's military, it is good enough to be applied to the entire Federal Government.

I introduced this bill to apply the proven BRAC model to all Federal agencies and programs. This commission will consist of 17 bipartisan members, including both public and private sector officials, providing an objective, non-partisan, and independent review and analysis of all Federal agencies and programs. The commission will target agencies and programs that perform a duplicative function, would perform better at the State level or in the private sector and create a list of recommended realignments and closures. Congress will then have an up or down vote on the commission's recommendations. All saved funds will be used solely for deficit reduction meaning it cannot be used to fund new government programs.

Spending in Washington, DC, is completely out of control. I believe that if we are going to keep putting new spending and programs on the table, then we absolutely must have a mechanism to take old things off of the table. The American people understand that if you spend too much of your budget this month you cut back the next month and they expect their government to work the same way. My legislation will help drain the swamp in Washington and put the Federal Government back to work for the people.

TRIBUTE TO W. STUART SYMINGTON III

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2008

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to honor the memory of