In early 1943, the U.S. Government offered draft eligible men the opportunity to enlist into the military and a way out of the camps. Mr. Haratani accepted this offer by pledging his loyalty to the U.S. Government and renounced loyalty to the Japanese emperor. After training, Mr. Haratani was assigned to the 442nd Regimental Combat Team and fought in the European theater. He was placed in a unit that consisted solely of Japanese-American soldiers fighting under Caucasian officers. This unit became the most decorated unit for its size in the history of the U.S. Army. The 442nd fought along the Italian border then moved into France. In France, they helped to liberate the town of Bruyeres. Mr. Haratani escaped the war uninjured; he returned to Livingston, CA and resumed attending classes at Modesto Junior College.

In 1946, Mr. Haratani met Amy and in October 1948, they were married. Shortly after their wedding, he was accepted into Stanford University and attended with full funding from the G.I. Bill. He graduated with a degree in civil engineering and earned a master's degree for the University of California at Berkeley in sanitary engineering. After school, Mr. Haratani accepted a position with the California Department of Water Resources. Just 3 years later he was approached by the U.S. Agency for International Development to assist with humanitarian services abroad. Mr. Haratani, his wife, and their 1-year-old son packed up and headed for Bolivia to work on improving local water sanitation. He worked in Bolivia (where their second son was born), in Nicaragua for 2 years and Vietnam. He was transferred to Vietnam in mid-1961.

Upon arriving in Vietnam there were about 55 Army advisors there, according to Mr. Haratani. Soon after he arrived, so did the troops; President John F. Kennedy made the decision to send 15,000 troops into Vietnam. Mr. Haratani maintained his position in Vietnam and avoided ground fire by flying to the rural provinces that he was assisting. His third son was born in Saigon. In 1963, Mr. Haratani was called back to the United States but soon joined the Peace Corps and was off again; this time he went alone. In the Peace Corps he joined the staff covering the western coast of South America. He was soon promoted to the director of the Ecuador operation. Two years after he joined the Peace Corps, they began allowing families with children to serve as volunteers. He resigned as country director and signed up his entire family for service.

The Haratani family was assigned to the Galapagos Islands. He assisted in building a new water system and in expanding the area's electrical capability. Mrs. Haratani taught English at a grammar school, worked as a librarian at Darwin Research Station, and assisted in family planning. After 2 years, the family's assignment was complete. They returned to the U.S. and moved into a family hunting cabin in Columbia, CA. Mrs. Haratani began to work at Columbia College, and Mr. Haratani worked for the U.S. Forest Service from 1973 to 1978. In 1978, he was called back to USAID. He spent 4 years in the Middle East evaluating sanitary engineering projects. In 1983 Mr. Haratani retired, although he did remain a consultant for over 10 years. As a consultant he traveled to Yemen, Egypt, Chad, Mexico, Papua New Guinea, the Gaza Strip, Ethiopia, and Central America. Today, Mr. and Mrs. Haratani live in Sonora, CA. Their three sons and two grandchildren live throughout California. Mr. Haratani is living a peaceful and relaxing life for the first time ever.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and thank Joe Haratani for his commitment to this Nation. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Mr. Haratani many more happy years of retirement.

HONORING GAIGE HARRY POPE

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Gaige Harry Pope of Blue Springs, Missouri. Gaige 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 1603, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

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

HONORING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF RABBI SOLOMON SCHIFF

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2008

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I would like to honor one of south Florida's most distinguished residents, Rabbi Solomon Schiff. For more than 40 years, Rabbi Schiff has dedicated his efforts to increasing and strengthening interfaith cooperation in south Florida.

Due to his service and his undying commitment to our community, he will be awarded the Papal Medal Benemerenti by Pope Benedict XVI. This prestigious award was instituted by Pope Gregory XVI in 1832. The medal is awarded to recognize those individuals who have helped foster outstanding interfaith collaboration with the Catholic church.

Rabbi Schiff served as executive vice president of the Rabbinical Association of Greater Miami for 42 years before retiring in 2006. He has also worked as staff chaplain for patients of all faiths at Mount Sinai Medical Center in Miami Beach. His devotion to his work led him to serve as Chairman of the Dade County Community Relations Board and as President of the National Association of Jewish Chaplains.

Rabbi Schiff's guidance and expertise on interfaith cooperation earned him appearances on CBS's "60 Minutes" and NBC's "Nightline" news magazine shows. His love for people of all faiths and his conviction that common ground can be found among all is an example for us all. I am blessed to have him represent my district, but even more grateful to call him a friend.

HONORING THE SERVICE AND RETIREMENT OF JIM WILSON

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2008

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of a valued staff member—Dr. James Wilson—who will retire at the end of this year from the staff of the Committee on Science and Technology. As the staff director of the Subcommittee on Research and Science Education, Jim's expertise and wisdom on issues of science and research policy and the federal role in science and math education are unmatched.

Jim has served on the professional staff of the Committee since 1987. In his 21 years of service on the committee he has ably supported the oversight and authorization of the National Science Foundation; the U.S. Fire Administration; the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program; and K–12, undergraduate, and graduate science, mathematics, engineering, and technology education programs under the committee's jurisdiction. He has also played key roles in the committee's work on nanotechnology, high performance computing and communications, and information systems security. Moreover, Jim played a very important role in the formulation of the America COMPETES Act—an initiative enacted into law last year that will go a long way towards fostering increased investment in innovation and improve the competitiveness of the U.S. Jim's contributions were instrumental in making it a good and effective piece of legislation.

Before coming to the Hill, Jim, who has a Ph.D. in aerospace engineering from West Virginia University, managed research programs in fluid dynamics at the Air Force Office of Scientific Research in Washington, DC, and served as an officer in the U.S. Air Force at the Flight Dynamics Laboratory at Wright-Patterson AFB, OH.

Madam Speaker, Jim's dry wit, thoughtful approach to policy, institutional knowledge, and general unflappability have made him a valued member of the committee staff. I know that all of the Science and Technology Committee's Members and staff wish him and his wife Sandra well as he moves on to a well-deserved retirement. With his love of tennis, travel, driving his Porsche, and enjoyment of the area's cultural offerings, I know that he will not be bored once he leaves the Hill. In closing, I just want to say thank you, Jim, for your many years of dedicated and loyal service. We will miss you.