

Kuhn, Tanzania; Abigail M. Lafrenz, Bulgaria; Bridget M. Leddy, Kyrgyzstan; Frank E. Lester, Kenya; Kyle B. Lopez, Bolivia; Alissa P. Mayer, Dominican Republic; Sydney F. McCall, Bolivia; Julia A. Montgomery, Vanuatu; Morgan C. Montgomery, Honduras; Travis W. Pittman, Ghana; Jacob E. Rich, Peru; Richard C. Rystrom, Ukraine; Jessica F. Souza, Cape Verde; Katherine L. Theiss-Nyland, Malawi; Kyla H. Wall-Polin, Bulgaria.

Madam Speaker, the 47th anniversary of the establishment of the Peace Corps is an achievement that we should all commemorate. I rise today to celebrate the leadership and accomplishments of these compassionate men and women who have committed themselves to promoting global peace, diplomacy, and understanding.

HONORING REAR ADMIRAL
CHARLES C. CURTZE

HON. PHIL ENGLISH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 27, 2008

Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the life of Rear Admiral Charles Curtze. Born and raised in Pennsylvania's 3rd Congressional District, Admiral Curtze brought his dedication to service and caring personality to the Erie community.

A 1933 graduate of the United States Naval Academy, Admiral Curtze excelled in gymnastics and led the midshipmen to the league championship. He qualified for the 1936 Olympics in Berlin, Germany, but due to his position in the U.S. Navy and growing security concerns regarding Adolf Hitler, the State Department prohibited his attendance. After graduating from the Naval Academy, Admiral Curtze earned a master's degree in naval construction from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

One of the most extraordinary accomplishments of his career was his role in saving the only major ship to survive the attack on Pearl Harbor. By guiding the USS St. Louis to safety, the ship was able to successfully put out to sea and became the stalwart of the new Pacific fleet during World War II.

During the infancy of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, Admiral Curtze served as the engineering member of the first U.S. team in London. He later became commander of the San Francisco Naval Shipyard and ultimately deputy chief of the Bureau of Ships in Washington, DC before retiring as a rear admiral in 1965 and returning to Erie.

His passion for sailing began at the early age of 14 when he bought his first sailboat, joined the Erie Yacht Club and began racing. After retiring from his military career, he used his naval architecture skills to design and commission his own yacht, Thule, in 1970 which he sailed until his 90th year.

Admiral Curtze was known as a very generous individual who contributed to several local causes, most notably the Asbury Woods Project. He was an 80-year member of the Erie Yacht Club and a life member of the Erie Historical Society.

The life of Charles Curtze serves as a role model for us all to follow. He embodied the word service in its finest sense through his

kindness, hard work and generosity and will greatly be missed by all.

I hope my colleagues will join me in commemorating the life of Charles Curtze.

HONORING JORDAN MICHAEL
RAISHER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 27, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jordan Michael Raisher, 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 314, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

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

A TRIBUTE TO CORPORAL ALBERT
BITTON

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 27, 2008

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to CPL Albert Bitton, who was killed by a roadside bomb while serving in Iraq on February 20, 2008. Corporal Bitton joined the Army in December 2005 and bravely served as a medic in Iraq, where he had been stationed since October.

Corporal Bitton, who grew up in West Rogers Park, was part of the 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division. He joined the Army to serve his country and to prepare himself to become a surgeon. Corporal Bitton was justifiably proud of his Army service. His friends report that he wore his uniform everywhere when he returned to Chicago on leave—even to the bowling alley and park.

Corporal Bitton graduated in 2005 from Ida Crown Jewish Academy, where he was on the school wrestling team and enjoyed painting, drawing, and video games. His friends remember him as a scrawny tough kid with artistic talent. His classmates recall his sweet nature and how genuinely nice he was to everyone.

Friends from as far away as Israel and Alaska have sent condolences to Bitton's wife, Melissa Handelman, his parents, Elie and Sylvia, and his sisters, Jackie and Elizabeth. Last Wednesday night in New York, about 40 people who knew Bitton gathered at Yeshiva University for an impromptu memorial. The outpouring of emotion from those touched by Corporal Bitton's death is a testament to the lasting impression this exceptional young man left on those he met throughout his life.

I offer my deepest sympathies to Melissa Handelman, Corporal Bitton's wife; his par-

ents, Elie and Sylvia; and his sisters, Elizabeth and Jackie.

HONORING JENNIFER JOY WILSON'S SELECTION AS AGGREGATES MANAGER OF THE YEAR

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 27, 2008

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable American, a woman who has previously served this Nation and the citizens of the Commonwealth of Virginia with honor and distinction—Jennifer Joy Wilson, who has worked at the White House Office of Communications for President Gerald Ford, as Assistant Administrator for External Affairs at the Environmental Protection Agency, as Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, as staff policy liaison and senior executive assistant for Virginia Governor John Dalton, and as legislative director and executive assistant for U.S. Senator JOHN WARNER.

For the past decade, Ms. Wilson has served first as the head of the National Stone Association, and then, after the merger of two similar groups, as the president and CEO of the National Stone, Sand & Gravel Association, NSSGA. NSSGA is the world's largest mining association by product volume. Its member companies represent more than 90 percent of the crushed stone and 70 percent of the sand and gravel produced annually in the United States and approximately 118,000 working men and women in the aggregates industry. During 2006, a total of about 2.95 billion metric tons of crushed stone, sand and gravel, valued at \$21 billion, was produced and sold in the United States.

This year, Ms. Wilson has been given the distinguished honor of being selected as AggMan of the Year by Aggregates Manager magazine, one of the construction aggregates industry's leading trade publications.

During her tenure, the NSSGA led an effort to improve employee safety in the aggregate industry by developing new safety procedures, called Part 46, for the U.S. Mine Safety & Health Administration, MSHA. The joint industry-labor effort produced a proposal "that would apply better to our industry and provide managers and workers with effective means to prevent accidents and fatalities." By all accounts, Part 46 has shown remarkable success in reducing employee injuries.

On February 11, 2003, an alliance between NSSGA and MSHA was announced. Signed at the NSSGA's centennial convention in Orlando, Florida, the agreement calls for the two organizations to work closely together on the promotion of safe working conditions, the development of effective miner training programs, and the expansion of mine safety and health outreach and communication. "For the first time ever, MSHA and an industry association have jointly agreed to adopt safety and health performance goals with objective measures," then MSHA Administrator Dave Lauriski said during that meeting. "This alone is unprecedented . . . NSSGA is again showing its leadership."

On the environmental front, Ms. Wilson led the industry in investing in a study "righting an

assumption we just didn't believe was right." Through the efforts of the association and its members, it was determined that the aggregates industry is not a major emitter of PM-10—a particular type of air pollutant. The final regulations reflected the investment by the industry in recognizing that aggregate operations are not a major source of coarse particulate matter."

Considering almost half of all crushed stone, sand and gravel produced in the United States is used for building the Nation's transportation infrastructure, Ms. Wilson has led her members in establishing a strong grassroots presence connecting the industry's workforce with their elected officials while increasing their activity on Capitol Hill. Leveraging the association's resources, Ms. Wilson has also worked closely with industry coalitions to advocate for sound and sensible transportation policies.

While there are many "hard as rock" examples of her leadership, Ms. Wilson also has a passion for the industry and the people she represents. Referring to it as "romancing the stone," Ms. Wilson wants to raise awareness of the public, legislators, and of regulators at all levels to the immeasurably important role aggregates play in maintaining America's high quality of life. This includes her leadership in establishing the Rocks Gallery at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History and creating a permanent endowment to support the gallery, all totaling more than \$3.1 million.

Many people have been able to take credit for industry accomplishments, but selection as AggMan of the Year denotes something not everyone can lay claim to—respect of one's peers, including the irony of designating the first woman to win the honor of "AggMan of the Year." For this reason I stand here today to take a moment and congratulate a woman who has done so much for the good people in the aggregates industry.

TRIBUTE TO LT. GENERAL
RICARDO S. SANCHEZ

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 27, 2008

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor LTG Ricardo S. Sanchez on being the recipient of the 2008 Border Texan of the Year.

General Sanchez is a truly deserving recipient of this honor, which was given to him for his extraordinary contributions to the security of our Nation over the past 33 years. He served overseas in service of his country in Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm as commander of the 2nd Battalion, 69th Armor, 197th (Separate) Infantry Brigade, which then transitioned to the 3rd Brigade, 24th Infantry Division (Mechanized) once redeployed. General Sanchez also has served in the Federal Government as an investigator in the Office of the Inspector General Agency, and in the years following his brigade command tour in 1994, he served as Deputy Chief of Staff, and later as Director of Operations and Director of Strategy, Policy and Plans, with the United States Southern Command in Miami, Florida.

General Sanchez served as commander of the Multi-National Brigade (East), KFOR, in

Kosovo in 1999. He also served as commanding general of the 1st Armored Division, which was deployed to Operation Iraqi Freedom in May 2003, and then was nominated to his present rank of lieutenant general in June 2003. He commanded the V Corps and simultaneously became commander of the Combined Joint Task Force 7, responsible for one of the largest combat forces deployed in U.S. military history in Iraq. General Sanchez was the longest-serving corps commander in V Corps history, and he retired on November 1, 2006, after 33 years of service.

His awards include the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, the Distinguished Service Medal with oak leaf cluster, the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit with two oak leaf clusters, the Bronze Star Medal with "V" device and oak leaf cluster, the Joint Service Commendation Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the National Defense Service Medal with two service stars, the Liberation of Kuwait Medals, and the NATO Medal.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to have had this time to recognize the dedication and commitment of LTG Ricardo Sanchez to the United States of America as the deserving 2008 Border Texan of the Year.

IN RECOGNITION OF BLACK
HISTORY MONTH

HON. JOHN P. SARBANES

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 27, 2008

Mr. SARBANES. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize and honor the many accomplishments and contributions made by African Americans throughout this country's history. Today, I want to speak about the richness of America's cultures and the role that African Americans have played in making our country great. As a nation we are so diverse and when the gifts and talents of each group are shared and blended together, we are so much stronger. For many years in our history, we largely ignored the strength of our diversity instead of seeking to celebrate it.

We now celebrate Black History Month to reflect upon the struggle for civil rights but also to honor the enormous contributions African Americans have made to our country. These contributions cover every aspect of American life—from business and education to the arts and sciences and, importantly, the sacrifices and heroic efforts of those who serve and have served our country to preserve the freedom and democracy that we hold so dear.

The theme for Black History Month this year is: Carter G. Woodson and the Origins of Multiculturalism. This theme embraces the beliefs and teachings of Dr. Woodson, "The Father of Black History" and a pioneer of multiculturalism. Through his research, he fostered a movement to educate Americans about the rich heritage that many had to that point ignored. He stressed the need and importance to recognize and celebrate the gifts and talents Black Americans have shared with this country. In so doing, he taught us also to embrace the diverse cultures living here in the United States.

In 1927 Dr. Woodson stated that "... we should emphasize not Negro history, but the

Negro in history. What we need is not a history of selected races or nation, but the history of the world, void of national bias, race, hate and religious prejudice . . ."

Dr. Woodson along with other noted scholars, such as W.E.B. DuBois, wanted to make sure all Americans were aware of the contributions made by African Americans. Today, because of their efforts, the many contributions of African Americans such as civil rights leaders Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and Rosa Parks, and historical leaders such as Sojourner Truth are put into context of what they have meant for African Americans, but also the Nation as a whole. Many, such as Benjamin Banneker, Frederick Douglass, and Harriett Tubman, have roots in my home State of Maryland and have added to our rich history as a state and a nation.

Finally, while there are many who fit this category, I want to mention two African Americans who are currently making an enormous difference through their work in the Third Congressional District of Maryland: Reggie Brody and Karen Ndour. I think they offer terrific examples of what many others are doing across the Third District and the State of Maryland to make our community and our society a better place to live and work.

Reggie is the chief professional officer of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County. Highly respected in the Anne Arundel community, he has received various awards including the Organizational Trustee Award and the Community Trustee Award for an extraordinary commitment to his community and his commendable service. He is well known for his stellar communication skills and his unique ability to work with a wide array of community groups and lead them to achieve a common goal.

Karen, an administrator and former attorney, is currently the Principal of the National Academy Foundation High School of Baltimore N.A.F., that opened in 2002 and is located at Baltimore's Digital Harbor. Stressing academic excellence and professionalism, her school has four successful programs that partner with local urban businesses and industry to provide training for young men and women so that they are able to either enter access level positions in their chosen field upon graduation or qualify for the college of their choice.

While teaching law at an East Baltimore High School, Karen was featured in a 2005 article in the Baltimore Sun for implementing the Baltimore City Student Court Project. Karen was approached after teachers and the administration felt the need to lower the suspension rate at the school and help make the young men and women who attended the school accountable for their actions. Much of the discipline was thereby transferred from the "adult" administration to the student court. The approach has seen significant results: fewer children are finding themselves in situations that lead to diminished opportunities for their future success.

Madam Speaker, I am pleased to have this opportunity to speak about the importance of Black History Month and to acknowledge the work that my constituents and others are doing for their communities and for our Nation.