

Madam Speaker, I am pleased to have had this opportunity to honor Carla's service to the Town of Sardinia and am certain that you join me and the rest of our colleagues in wishing Carla and her entire family the best of luck and Godspeed in all of their future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO MS. SONJA DRAN
EMBRY

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 16, 2008

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, let me take this time to recognize the outstanding federal civilian service of Ms. Sonja Dran Embry on the occasion of her retirement. Ms. Embry has worked for the federal civil service at the Navy Personnel Command for the past 36 years.

A native of Caneyville, Kentucky, Ms. Embry is a 1970 graduate of the Kentucky Business College in Lexington, Kentucky. On January 4th 1971, she began her civil service career working at the Bureau of Naval Personnel where she held administrative support positions in the Recall and Release Branch, Civilian Personnel Branch/Administrative and Management Division, and the Congressional/Disposal Sections. As the Vietnam Conflict was winding down, Ms. Embry was again assigned to the Recall and Release Branch where she worked until September 1979.

Ms. Embry was selected to serve as the Human Resources Assistant in the Submarine and Nuclear Power Officer Assignments Branch in September 1979. In August 1998, she assisted in the move and reorganization of the Bureau of Naval Personnel, Washington, DC into the Navy Personnel Command in Millington, TN. She has been the cornerstone of this office providing continuity and service to the military members of the U.S. Navy's Submarine Service. Her tireless and caring performance of duty has touched and had a pronounced effect on the lives and careers of over 18,000 submarine officers.

Please join me and our colleagues in thanking Ms. Embry for her tireless contributions to a grateful Nation and in wishing her the best in her future.

HONORING ZACHARY BOYD HEISER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 16, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Zachary Boyd Heiser of Platte City, Missouri. Zachary 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 351, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Zachary has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Zachary 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 Zachary Boyd Heiser for

his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING RETIRING NYS SUPREME COURT JUSTICE JEROME GORSKI

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 16, 2008

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to honor a respected jurist, a dedicated public servant and a trusted friend of this community upon the occasion of his retirement from the New York State Appellate Court Division. Madam Speaker, I want to call to the House's attention the outstanding record of public service of Justice Jerome C. Gorski.

Judge Gorski received his law degree from Georgetown University in 1962 and was admitted to practice later that year. He initially practiced in Buffalo, concentrating on negligence, products liability litigation, and labor relations related work. From 1973 until 1980, he served as law clerk to Judge James L. Kane, first in County Court and later in Supreme Court. In the past, Justice Gorski served a clerkship under renowned U.S. District Court Judge John J. Sirica.

Initially elected to the Supreme Court in the late 1980s, Judge Gorski's judicial career culminated in his appointment to serve on the Supreme Court's Appellate Division for the Fourth Department in 2001. Judge Gorski received the Outstanding Jurist Award from the Erie County Bar Association in 1998, and the 2000 Award of Merit.

Judge Gorski is a part of a revered family in Western New York. Judge Gorski's father, the late Chester Gorski, and his brother Dennis, each had outstanding careers in public service, and each were, in the past, candidates for the congressional seat that I am fortunate to occupy today. Imbued within the Gorski family is an innate commitment to the community that is Buffalo and Western New York, and all of our residents are better for the tremendous commitment to public service demonstrated by the Gorski family.

Madam Speaker, in recognition of and in gratitude for his service, leadership and patriotism, I ask that this honorable body join me in honoring Justice Jerome Gorski upon the occasion of his retirement, and wish he and his family the very best of health and happiness in the months and years ahead.

A FAREWELL TO HOUSE GENERAL COUNSEL GERALDINE GENNET

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 16, 2008

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to say a few words on the recent retirement of Geraldine Gennet, the outgoing General Counsel of the House of Representatives.

Because of the sensitive areas that it works on, the Office of the General Counsel is not well known to many people outside of Con-

gress. Nevertheless, the office provides invaluable legal advice and representation to Members, committees, employees, and officers of Congress, regardless of their political party or affiliation. Geraldine joined the Office of the General Counsel in 1995, and became General Counsel in 1997. Prior to her service in the House of Representatives, she worked as a sole practitioner in the District of Columbia, and then served as General Counsel for the D.C. Metropolitan Police Department and as Litigation Counsel for the Office of Thrift Supervision.

During her time at the helm of the Office of the General Counsel, Congress was involved in a host of public and private battles and constitutional issues with wide-ranging implications, and through each one, Geraldine provided tremendous leadership to Congress and its Members. Indeed, even as Congress became a more partisan place over the last decade, Geraldine was ceaselessly nonpartisan in her work. During my time on the House Ethics and Judiciary Committees, I was fortunate to work with her on several occasions, and I was always impressed with Geraldine's strong focus on ensuring that congressional prerogatives and Congress as an institution were tenaciously protected from political considerations and other negative influences.

It is an honor to commend Geraldine for her leadership and hard work, and to wish her the very best in all of her future endeavors.

HONORING DAVID KYLE

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 16, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize David Kyle of Liberty, Missouri. David 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 351, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

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

TRIBUTE TO NICOLE SCHWARTZ

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 16, 2008

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Madam Speaker, I am honored to rise here today to recognize the efforts of Ms. Nicole Schwartz to promote a "Bill of Rights for Diabetics."

Ms. Schwartz is an exemplary young woman whose passion to fight diabetes is leaving an indelible mark in our community. By

taking it upon herself to raise awareness of this devastating disease among the people most vulnerable to it, she is setting an important example of how civic engagement can change the lives of our fellow community members. She has actively engaged policy makers at the local, State and Federal level as well as prominent civic organizations to further awareness.

For example, in partnering with the League of Latin American Citizens (LULAC), Ms. Schwartz organized a health fair to share important resources and information about diabetes with at-risk San Antonians. She also volunteers her time at the Christus Santa Rosa Hospital in order to learn more about the disease and distribute her knowledge to patients through a newsletter she created.

Without question, her dedication and persistence have proven essential in educating her colleagues and community. These two personal qualities also played a role in her efforts to encourage organizations like LULAC to adopt her Bill of Rights for Diabetics. The Bill of Rights echoes the 2007 ADA Standards of Care and includes the six following exams: a hemoglobin/A1c test; a lipid evaluation; blood pressure checks; a microalbumin test; a dilated and comprehensive eye examination; and a barefoot exam.

Ms. Schwartz shares a passion for learning more about diabetes with her father, Dr. Sherwin Schwartz, who built one of the largest diabetes research facilities in the country. Only a junior at St. Mary's Hall in San Antonio, Ms. Schwartz has the potential to achieve much more and hopes to pursue a degree at Georgetown University.

As a Member of Congress who represents the Texas-Mexico Border, a region with one of the highest incidences of diabetes in the world, I am acutely aware of the impact of diabetes and the other health problems associated with it. Young people such as Ms. Schwartz are invaluable partners in bettering our communities, and I thank her for her efforts.

It is with great pride that I recognize Ms. Schwartz as an exemplary young leader in the San Antonio community, and I wish her continued success in raising awareness about this devastating disease.

HONORING KEVIN MICHAEL
WILBUR

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 16, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Kevin Michael Wilbur of Platte City, Missouri. Kevin 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 351, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

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

INTRODUCTION OF THE "OLD POST OFFICE DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2008"

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 16, 2008

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I introduce the Old Post Office Development Act to make fully useful to the government the nearly empty Old Post Office a unique, historic treasure located at 1100 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W., owned by the Federal government's General Services Administration (GSA). For many years the Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings and Emergency Management has expressed concern about the waste and neglect of this valuable government site and has pressed the GSA to develop and use this building. The GSA recognized the need in 2004 and issued a Request for Expression of Interest for which it received many indications of interest. However, for no good or sufficient reason GSA has never proceeded to the next step.

Because the building was designed as a Post Office in the 19th century, its present design makes it virtually unusable without appropriate remodeling. During decades of underutilization the government has attempted to make the space suitable for office space, but its huge, cavernous central area on the main floor and the areas that surround the atrium could only accommodate a few very small agencies currently housed there, GSA has indicated that these agencies can be easily and economically relocated elsewhere in the District of Columbia.

As we begin a new year, further delay in making use of a centrally located historic treasure can no longer be tolerated. Apparently, the private sector stepped forward when the GSA asked for indications of interest. GSA must respond without further delay. I will seek quick passage of this bill to assure that the taxpayers receive the value due long ago for this Federal site.

HONORING ZACHARY KIRK
HOLBROOK

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 16, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Zachary Kirk Holbrook of Platte City, Missouri. Zachary 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 351, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Zachary has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the

many years Zachary 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 Zachary Kirk Holbrook for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. NIKI TSONGAS

OF MASSACHUSETTS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 16, 2008

Ms. TSONGAS. Madam Speaker, I wanted to take a moment to explain my absence for the quorum call on January 15th. I recently returned from visiting U.S. forces serving in Iraq and Afghanistan as part of a bipartisan Congressional Delegation trip led by my colleague, Representative LINCOLN DAVIS.

The purpose of this Congressional Delegation trip was to meet firsthand with our brave men and women in uniform currently deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan to thank them for their outstanding service and to learn what additional resources they may need on the ground. I also met with military commanders as well as with national leaders in Iraq and Afghanistan to get the latest information on the security, political, and economic conditions in both countries. I think it is important for all members of Congress to see what is happening on the ground in Iraq, but as a member of the House Armed Services Committee, I take that responsibility particularly seriously.

As a result of the Congressional Delegation trip, I was unable to participate in the votes held on Tuesday evening. If I would have been here, I would have voted "present".

HONORING DONALD ALEXANDER
SOPER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 16, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Donald Alexander Soper of Platte City, Missouri. Donald 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 351, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

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