

come to benefit from her passionate support for the field of healthcare.

Margarette, a West Virginia native, was born in Goodwill, WV on December 4, 1926. She graduated from Beaver High School in 1944 and from St. Mary's School of Nursing in 1948. She would go on to dedicate her life to helping other by serving as a nurse and elected official for the next 60 years, 14 of which she spent as a member of the West Virginia House of Delegates representing District 15.

In April of last year, Delegate Leach was honored with The Center for Rural Health Development's 2007 Rural Health Leadership Award. The year 2007 would see another honor bestowed on Margarette, when the Pretera Center for Youth and Families was named after her. She pushed hard for the Merritt Creek connector from Interstate 64 to State Route 2 and helped to obtain funding for the Jenkins Plantation Museum and the Madie Carroll House. She also helped to bring the bronze statue of Carter G. Woodson to its current location in Huntington.

In 2004, Margarette was named a West Virginia History Hero, but to those she diligently served over the years, she was already a hero many times over.

She will be greatly missed by her family, in particular her husband of 58 years and their family, as well as, the community she served so faithfully over these many years. My thoughts and prayers are with the family of Margarette Leach. I join with West Virginians in honoring her remarkable life and the legacy she left behind.

IN MEMORY OF SGT. SHAWN
FITZGERALD HILL

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 17, 2008

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, on January 2nd of this year, Sergeant Shawn Hill of the South Carolina National Guard's 218th Brigade Combat Team lost his life when his Humvee was struck by a roadside bomb in Afghanistan. The community of Wellford, SC, where Sergeant Hill had been an all-region football player at Byrnes High School and worked as an electrician while serving with the National Guard lost a fine citizen and friend.

Sergeant Hill's funeral was attended by almost 700 people who came to honor the life and sacrifice of this brave American. His commander in the field, BG Bob Livingston described Sergeant Hill as someone who "didn't have to go to Afghanistan, but he went because he thought it was the right thing to do." He further noted that it was through the courageous and selfless acts of Sergeant Hill and his fellow soldiers that parts of Afghanistan that were once considered lawless had become peaceful and safe for the citizens of Afghanistan. This success is a tribute to his life, a life that General Livingston said had "made more of a difference than 99 percent of the people will make in their entire lifetime."

Our thoughts and prayers are with Sergeant Hill's wife, Julie Ann, his children, and all his family, friends, and fellow soldiers of the 218th Combat Brigade during this difficult time. Sergeant Hill's death is a reminder of the tremen-

dous sacrifice so many of our citizen-soldiers make to protect American families. His life was a testament to the strength and selfless dedication so many Americans have for the defense of liberty. We should always remain grateful for their service.

HONORING OFFICER KEITH G.
LOCKHART

HON. JOE SESTAK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 17, 2008

Mr. SESTAK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Officer Keith G. Lockhart on his retirement on March 31, 2007 from the police force after 28 years of dedicated service to Ridley Township and Delaware County, Pennsylvania.

Officer Lockhart joined the Ridley Township Police Department in January of 1979 along with eight other officers. He worked the then newly created "24" district of Holmes, Morton, and Secane, where he remained for the majority of his career.

During his career, Officer Lockhart received many letters and commendations for his exemplary police work. He served briefly as a corporal and temporary sergeant during his time as a police officer.

A lifelong resident of the Leedom Estates Section of Ridley Township, Officer Lockhart has been married to his wife Mary for 19 years. One of Keith's hobbies is Delaware County history. In 30 years of collecting, Keith has amassed one of the largest collections of Delaware County historical memorabilia, from which he has created history websites for both Ridley Township and Delaware County. He now serves the community as historian for these websites, and has received hundreds of comments of praise for his efforts from the over 12,000 grateful viewers of the sites' guestbooks. Keith has also written several booklets on the history of the area.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in honoring Officer Keith G. Lockhart for the decades of hard work and selfless dedication given to the Police Department and citizens of Ridley Township and Delaware County, Pennsylvania.

HONORING THE 175TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEMOCRAT AND CHRONICLE

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 17, 2008

Mr. WALSH of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 175th anniversary of Rochester, New York's Democrat and Chronicle.

In 1833 the first publication of a new daily newspaper, the Evening Advertiser, was issued. Thirty seven years later, after a series of mergers and name changes, the name plate of the Democrat and Chronicle was established.

From Susan B. Anthony and Fredrick Douglas to Kodak and Xerox, as history unfolded in Western New York the Democrat and Chron-

icle was there to cover it. As the publication continued to grow it began reaching historic milestones of its own. In 1884 the Democrat and Chronicle published its first Sunday edition. That same year the paper printed a portrait of a woman for the first time. In 1906, the first color comic strip was run and in 1978 the paper printed its first articles using a word processor that included a video monitor.

Not only has the Democrat and Chronicle been essential to reporting news and covering history, but it has also been an innovator in how the news is delivered. Throughout its history, the paper has used a wide range of delivery methods, including the pony express and a pigeon carrier service, and now it serves the community technologically, using the internet, videos, photos, forums, podcasts, text messages and online newsletters.

Over the past 175 years, many things about the Democrat and Chronicle have changed—the name, the cost, the delivery method—but the commitment to deliver the news and serve the community has never wavered. I congratulate the staff at the Democrat and Chronicle, both past and present, on achieving this milestone, and thank them for their hard work and dedicated service. This anniversary should not only serve to look back at the Democrat and Chronicle's history, but it should also be used to look forward to the papers future, as it will continue to serve an essential role in serving the Greater Rochester community.

IN HONOR OF CHIEF FRANK
GURNARI, 2008 PRESIDENT OF
THE BERGEN COUNTY POLICE
CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 17, 2008

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a fine public servant, Frank Gurnari, police chief in Bogota, New Jersey. Chief Gurnari has served the people of Bogota for 30 years, exemplifying the honor and pride of the uniform. This weekend, he will be installed as President of the Bergen County Police Chiefs Association, extending his service to other Bergen County residents and to his fellow chiefs.

Upon his graduation from the Bergen County Police Academy in June 1978, Chief Gurnari was assigned to the Bogota patrol division. Except for a brief assignment to the Detective Bureau, Chief Gurnari served with the patrol division for nearly twenty years. He attained the rank of sergeant in 1988, and was promoted to lieutenant two years later. As lieutenant, he remained in patrol as a Tour Commander. In June 2000, Chief Gurnari was appointed Acting Chief of Police, and just six months later, he was sworn in as Chief of Police. He and the officers that work under his leadership respond to about 16,000 calls each year.

For almost eighty years, the Bergen County Police Chiefs Association has served as a fellowship of officers throughout this busy corner of New Jersey. The camaraderie it fosters helps local police chiefs protect and serve the people of Bergen County and enhances the safety of the county. Chief Gurnari has earned the respect of his peers and by virtue of his

long and honorable career of service he has earned this position of leadership.

Throughout his honorable career, Chief Gurnari has received two Honorable Service Awards from the Bogota Police Department and the Chiefs Achievement Award from the Bergen County Police Chiefs Association. I commend Chief Gurnari for his lifetime of service and wish him and his colleagues the best for a safe and productive year.

MRS. NITA GORE'S 80TH BIRTHDAY

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 17, 2008

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and personally congratulate my dear friend, Mrs. Nita Gore of Huntington, WV, on her 80th birthday this Friday, January 18, 2008.

Thomas Jefferson once said, "None deserve better than those who contribute to the amelioration of that form (government)." As a nurse at St. Mary's Hospital, a life-long Democrat, and member of Our Lady of Fatima Church, she has spent a lifetime serving the residents of Huntington. Her unwavering dedication to bettering the lives of others is very much appreciated by the people of southern West Virginia.

In her amazing 80 years, she has been a devoted mother, wife, and friend. At the same time she has been a nurse, volunteer, and public servant and has endlessly battled for the betterment of southern West Virginia. I agree with Mr. Jefferson. None deserve better than Mrs. Gore.

Mrs. Gore has spent many years encouraging others to become active in our government. She brings an irreplaceable enthusiasm to her community and the State of West Virginia. As her birthday approaches, I wish to thank my dear friend, Mrs. Nita Gore, for the extraordinary effort she has put into our State.

Mrs. Nita Gore is a true pillar of the community, whose list of accomplishments far exceeds her years of service. Her devotion to her family and commitment to her community are examples to us all. Southern West Virginia is lucky to have her.

I salute Mrs. Gore for her 80 years of friendship and service, thank her for the contributions she has made to the city of Huntington and southern West Virginia, and wish her the best of health and happiness in the years to come.

COMMEMORATING BLACK
JANUARY

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 17, 2008

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, as a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, I note that January 19 will mark the 18th anniversary of an historic and tragic day in the history of the country of Azerbaijan. On the night of January 19, 1990, 26,000 Soviet troops invaded the capital city of Baku and surrounding areas. By the end of

the next day, more than 130 people had died, 611 were injured, 841 were arrested and 5 were missing. This event is memorialized as "Black January," and for the citizens of the Republic of Azerbaijan this event left an indelible mark on the minds of all citizens.

Soviet troops entered Azerbaijan under the authority of a state of emergency declared by the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and signed by then President Mikhail Gorbachev. In the face of growing unrest among the people of Azerbaijan, a national independence movement which had gained a strong foothold, and emerging democratic groups who were projected to succeed in an upcoming Parliament, the Soviet Union sought to "restore order" by indiscriminately firing on those peacefully demonstrating in Baku, including women and children. The protesters were calling for independence from the Soviet Union and the removal of Communist officials.

The Soviet incursion in early 1990 was intended to suppress the growing independence movement. Instead, it further incited Azerbaijani nationalism. In the end, Azerbaijan's pro-Moscow regime grew weaker and by 1991, popular pressure led the country to break away from Soviet rule and declare its independence. On August 30, 1991, Azerbaijan's Parliament adopted the Declaration on the Restoration of the State Independence of the Republic of Azerbaijan, and on October 18, 1991, the Constitutional Act on the State Independence of the Republic of Azerbaijan was approved. November 1991 marked the beginning of international recognition of Azerbaijan's independence. The United States opened an embassy in Baku in March 1992 and remains committed to aiding Azerbaijan in its transition to democracy and its formation of an open market economy.

Some historical observers have noted that the violence inflicted on the citizens of Baku may have been intended to send a message to other Soviet republics that similar aspirations of nationalism would not be tolerated. In the wake of this horrific act and inspired by the strength of the Azerbaijani people's belief in the principles of democracy, the Republic of Azerbaijan has maintained its independence for over 16 years, despite lingering economic and social problems from the Soviet era. Today, Azerbaijan has developed into a thriving country with double digit growth, in large part due to a freely elected president and parliament, free market reforms led by the energy sector, and most importantly, no foreign troops on its soil.

The road to independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity for the Azerbaijani people has not come without adversity and sacrifice. Even though Azerbaijan thrives today, the people of Azerbaijan recognize those who lost their lives on Black January in 1990 and honor their sacrifice through their commitment to the ideals of democracy. On the anniversary of this terrible tragedy, we who believe in the tenets of freedom and the hope of democracy should recognize the incredible sacrifice made by the people of Azerbaijan and by free people all around the world.

HONORING DETECTIVE SERGEANT
RICHARD HOLMES

HON. JOE SESTAK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 17, 2008

Mr. SESTAK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Detective Sergeant Richard Holmes on his retirement from the Ridley Township Police Department after over 30 years of service to the people of Delaware County, Pennsylvania.

Detective Sergeant Holmes began his distinguished career in 1975, and the following year became one of the first four canine officers for Ridley Township. He was promoted to corporal in 1988, and became a sergeant in May 2005. In April 2006, he was promoted to Detective Sergeant, and served as the Township Juvenile Officer until his retirement on March 31, 2007.

During his career, Rich also worked as the Township Arson Investigator and served with the Holmes Fire Department, one of six volunteer fire companies serving Ridley Township. Rich and his wife Darlene live in the Holmes section of the township.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in honoring Detective Sergeant Rich Holmes for his decades of distinguished service and selfless dedication to the community of Ridley Township.

HONORING THE RED CREEK HIGH
SCHOOL BOY'S SOCCER TEAM

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 17, 2008

Mr. WALSH of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today in tribute to the Red Creek High School Boy's Soccer Team, 2007 Class C New York State Champions. The Red Creek Mules Boy's Soccer Team defeated the Marathon Olympians by a score of 3-1, earning Red Creek's second State soccer championship in 3 years.

The Red Creek Boy's Soccer Team has an excellent tradition of athletic achievement. They have been crowned State champions five times, including twice in the last 3 years alone.

On behalf of the 25th Congressional District, I congratulate these young men on their outstanding athletic achievement and praise head coach Don Hartley, and assistant coach David Gregg on their team's success. I look forward to another exciting year when the Mules take to the field to defend their title in 2008.

The team members are: Colton Gregg, Jordan Lang, Bryan March, Anthony Roden, Devin Reese, Eric Stevens, Reis Cunningham, Steve Deferio, Ryan Fisher, Drew Knox, Alex Keeling, Ryan Pudlowski, Anthony Losurdo, Keyan Scutt, Cody Sherman, Ryon Adam, Nathaniel Gregg, Eli Vitale, Matt Treby, Dan Burnett, Ryan Gould and Juan (Chino) Torres.