

HONORING SEAN PATRICK
ASHCRAFT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 17, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Sean Patrick Ashcraft of Holt, Missouri. Sean 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 494, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Sean has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Sean 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 Sean Patrick Ashcraft 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 DR. MARTIN LUTHER
KING—

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 17, 2008—

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, as we celebrate the birth of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and reflect on his life and work, we are reminded of the challenges that democracy poses to us and the delicate nature of liberty. Dr. King's life, and, unfortunately, his untimely death, reminds us that we must continually work to secure and protect our freedoms. Dr. King, in his courage to act, his willingness to meet challenges, and his ability to achieve, embodied all that is good and true in the battle for liberty.

The spirit of Dr. King lives on in the citizens of communities throughout our nation. It lives on in the people whose actions reflect the spirit of resolve and achievement that will help move our country into the future. In particular, several distinguished individuals from Indiana's First Congressional District will be recognized during the 29th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Breakfast on Monday, January 21, 2008, at the Genesis Convention Center in Gary, Indiana. The Gary Frontiers Service Club, which was founded in 1952, sponsors this annual breakfast.

This year, the Gary Frontiers Club will pay tribute to several local individuals who have for decades unselfishly contributed to improving the quality of life for the people of Gary. Those individuals who will be recognized as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Marchers at this year's breakfast include: James Baker, Reverend Carrell Cargle, Sr., Eloise Gentry, Joseph Nichols, Earl Smith, Jr., and Attorney Frederick Work. Additionally, Finis Springer will be honored with the prestigious Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Drum Major Award, an award given out annually to an outstanding individual of the Gary community.

Several other individuals will be receiving special recognition as well. Alpha Stewart will be recognized as the first female to serve as Chief of Police in the City of Gary. Also, Bill Joiner will be honored as the 2007 Yokefellow of the Year, and Dr. A.S. Williams will receive a special honor, the Founders Award, as the only remaining founder of the Frontiers Club.

Though very different in nature, the achievement of all these individuals reflect many of the same attributes that Dr. King possessed, as well as the values he advocated. Like Dr. King, these individuals saw challenges and faced them with unwavering strength and determination. Each one of the honored guests' greatness has been found in their willingness to serve with "a heart full of grace and a soul generated by love." They set goals and work selflessly to make them a reality.

Madam Speaker, I urge you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commending the Gary Frontiers Service Club officers: President Oliver J. Gilliam, Vice President James Piggee, Secretary Melvin Ward, Financial Secretary Sam Frazier, and Treasurer/Seventh District Director Floyd Donaldson, as well as Breakfast Chairman Clorius L. Lay, Videographer Otho Lyles, Master of Ceremony Alfred Hammonds, the honorees, and all other members of the service club for their initiative, determination, and dedication to serving the people of Northwest Indiana.

COMMEMORATING THE 230TH ANNI-
VERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF
BRANDYWINE

HON. JOE SESTAK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 17, 2008

Mr. SESTAK. Madam Speaker, our Nation will soon commemorate the 230th anniversary of the Battle of Brandywine. Let me take this opportunity to relate the importance of that battle, the largest land battle of the Revolutionary War, and to remember the brave soldiers who fought for the independence of our country.

In 1777, the British army campaigned to control Philadelphia, which was then the capital of the newly-declared United States of America. British General William Howe and his troops approached Philadelphia through the Chesapeake, landing in Elkton, Maryland in early September of that year.

American General George Washington was confident that his army would secure the capital city. On September 9, 1777, American troops were stationed along the Brandywine River, guarding the fords. Washington's strategy was to force a fight at Chadds Ford, where the Americans would have the advantage.

On September 9, a small portion of British troops marched from Kennett Square as if they would battle the Americans at Chadds Ford. However, the majority of British troops this time marched north to cross the river at a ford unknown to Washington and his army.

The battle began in the early morning on September 11. Washington, believing that all of Howe's army would fight at Chadds Ford,

was unprepared when British troops arrived at the right flank of the American line. He ordered his troops to take the high ground, near the Birmingham Friends Meetinghouse to defend their position. However, British troops were already stationed nearby, and the Americans were unable to secure these grounds.

General Howe's army soundly defeated the Americans due to their superior position and the surprise of their attack. By night, Washington's troops were forced to retreat to Chester.

Despite being outnumbered and outmaneuvered, Washington's troops fought valiantly. The American Congress was able to escape from Philadelphia to safety in Lancaster, and then York, PA. Military supplies were also removed from the capital city before the impending British takeover.

On September 26, 1777, British forces marched unopposed through the city of Philadelphia. This takeover proved of little strategic value, however.

Washington's troops regrouped. The General wrote to John Hancock that night, "Notwithstanding the misfortune of the day, I am happy to find the troops in good spirits; and I hope another time we shall compensate for the losses now sustained." Congress sent reinforcements, strengthening the American army.

Washington's troops successfully defended the military supplies in Reading. On June 18, 1778, British troops abandoned Philadelphia and the city returned to American control.

IN RECOGNITION OF DON COLVIN

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 honor former Savannah Town Supervisor Don Colvin.

Don was first elected to public office in 1959 and served the people of Savannah for the next 48 years. His dedication and leadership helped Savannah through some of its toughest times. The three heavy duty trucks that Don sought to purchase in 1964 were essential in helping the town deal with the storms of 1966.

In 1966 Don was elected chairman of the Wayne County Board of Supervisors, where his influence during trying times continued to be felt. After flooding affected the county in 1972, Don played a crucial role securing a disaster declaration and in helping to obtain \$1 million to fix the dikes.

Don's contributions were also instrumental in creating the Montezuma Audubon Center, which has helped to bring people to Savannah and revitalize the town. He also helped to establish the annual Potato Fest, which grew from a car show that Don sponsored.

As he vacates his role of town supervisor, Don leaves the town of Savannah in good shape to continue progressing in the future. On behalf of the people of New York's 25th Congressional District, I thank Don for his commitment to the people of Savannah and for the hard work he has done on their behalf for 48 years. I wish him well in all of his future endeavors.