

World War II Memorial in Washington, DC. The first 3-day, 2-night trip was in September 2004, and two more followed in May and September 2005. In total, approximately 190 Herkimer veterans traveled to D.C. These all-expense paid trips, financed entirely by private donations, are believed to be the first of their kind in the Nation. Because all of their expenses were covered, every veteran who wanted to, and was physically able, made the trip.

In 2007, he was approached about duplicating the Herkimer project for the World War II veterans from Oneida County, New York. In the course of four trips, more than 400 Oneida veterans made the journey to Washington. After the Hamilton County, New York, legislature contacted John, 17 World War II veterans from Hamilton joined the last Oneida trip.

The son of James and Grace Brennan, John was born and raised in Cohoes, New York. He graduated cum laude from Siena College and Albany Law School. Currently, he is employed as the principal law clerk for Michael E. Daley, the State Supreme Court Justice for Herkimer County.

In addition to his work for veterans, John's service to the community includes organizing the Oneida and Herkimer Counties Bar Associations' participation in the Herkimer County Marine Corps League's Holly Days Toy Drive and serving as an assistant coach in the Herkimer Youth Basketball Program. He is also active in many community associations, including serving as the vice-chair of the Valley Health Services board of directors and on the advisory boards of the Herkimer County Salvation Army and the Herkimer County Child Advocacy Center. In addition, he is on the district council of the Boy Scouts of America, Revolutionary Trails Council and the Herkimer County Law Library Board.

John has been the recipient of numerous awards for his commitment to the community. He has received the Oneida County Bar Association Director's Award, the Mohawk Valley Chapter of the American Red Cross's Volunteer Leadership and Faithful Service Awards and the New York State Unified Court System's Merit Performance Award for Community Service and Humanitarian Pursuits. Veterans' organizations, including the Herkimer Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #4915, the Herkimer County Veterans Council and the Ilium Marine Corps League, have also recognized his work with awards.

John's exceptional dedication to veterans is to be commended. Thank you, John, for all you have done.

35TH ANNIVERSARY OF ROE v. WADE

**HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 22, 2008*

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 35th Anniversary of the Supreme Court decision *Roe v. Wade*. Since 1973, women in this country have exercised choice over their health and the future of their lives. Celebration of this landmark decision is a celebration of America's commitment to uphold freedom and liberty for all.

According to the National Abortion Federation, abortion was actually legal, common, and

publicly advertised until the mid 1880s. When abortions became illegal, many women died or suffered serious medical problems after attempting to self-induce their abortions or by going to untrained practitioners who performed abortions with primitive methods or in unsanitary conditions. Prior to this 1973 decision, women with economic means were able to access medical assistance, (however illegal) while poor women in desperation were forced to subject themselves to back-alley abortions and the subsequent consequences to health, dignity, and privacy. According to the advocacy group Human Rights Watch, approximately 13 percent of maternal deaths worldwide today are attributable to unsafe abortion—between 68,000 and 78,000 deaths annually.

Equitable access to safe abortion services is first and foremost a human right. It has been accurately stated, "Where abortion is safe and legal, no one is forced to have one"—Human Rights Watch. Having a choice and access to a safe abortion is an enormous concern, estimated to affect one in three American women by the age of 45—National Abortion Federation.

In many countries, the denial of reproductive choices makes women succumb to second rate citizenship, further perpetuating the feminization of poverty. Where women are able to exercise choice, they are in control of their opportunities without intrusion by their government. Any restriction on such a choice offends fundamental liberties.

The social, economic and physical consequences of denying women choice are devastating. Because of our global position as a model of democracy and freedom, it is imperative that we stand to acknowledge this decision of the Supreme Court that affirms women's jurisdiction over their bodies and extends the message that the United States is a country which affirms reproductive choice. May we forever remain a Nation that does not corner its citizens, but rather respects their capacity to make decisions over their health and future pursuits.

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT  
GENERAL JAMES L. CAMPBELL

**HON. JOHN M. McHUGH**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 22, 2008*

Mr. McHUGH. Madam Speaker, I take this opportunity today to honor LTG James L. Campbell for his long and distinguished service in the United States Army. I have had the privilege to know General Campbell since 1999 when he commanded the Army's famed 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry) at Fort Drum in my 23d Congressional District.

LTG James L. Campbell will officially retire from the United States Army on March 1, 2008, after more than 36 years of dedicated service to our Nation, culminating in his assignment as the 13th Director of the Army Staff. Throughout his career, General Campbell has personified the Army values of duty, integrity, and selfless service across the many missions the Army provides in defense of our Nation. Many of us on Capitol Hill have enjoyed the opportunity to work with General Campbell on a wide variety of Army issues

and programs, and it is my privilege to recognize his many accomplishments.

Upon graduating from the University of Missouri in 1971 and completing the Reserve Officer's Training Corps program, General Campbell was commissioned as a second lieutenant of infantry. Since that time, he received two advanced degrees and served in a variety of command and staff assignments, leading men and women in peace and war in places like Somalia, Haiti, and Bosnia-Herzegovina. As the leader of a joint task force in Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia, General Campbell helped account for America's missing service personnel from the Vietnam war. For the past 3 years, General Campbell has served as Director of the Army Staff, responsible for synchronizing the day-to-day operations of America's 1.2 million-person Army. He has proven himself a tremendous wartime leader who has demonstrated unselfish devotion to our Nation and the soldiers he leads.

General Campbell has led the Army Staff during one of the most challenging periods in the Army's history. He directed the Army's efforts to transform and modernize the force and implement the largest Base Realignment and Closure in history all during a time of war. His efforts were instrumental in leading the staff through monumental change in the way the Army sustains, transforms, grows, and modernizes. This complex effort established standard organizational designs more relevant to current operational requirements and significantly increased the Army's capability to support Combatant Commanders.

Among his many awards and decorations are the Distinguished Service Medal, Defense Superior Service Medal with 1 Oak Leaf Cluster, Legion of Merit with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters, Bronze Star, and Meritorious Service Medal with 3 Oak Leaf Clusters.

Indeed, through these varying assignments, Lieutenant General Campbell has provided outstanding leadership, advice, and sound professional judgment on numerous critical issues of enduring importance to the Army and our Nation. His actions and counsel were invaluable to Army leaders as they considered the impact of critically important issues.

Madam Speaker, it is with sincere admiration and appreciation that I pay tribute to General Campbell, his wife, Carol, and their two children, Scott and Casey, for the commitment, sacrifices, and contributions that they have made throughout his honorable military career. I thank General Campbell for his more than 36 years of dedicated and exceptional service and wish him many years of continued success and happiness.

TRIBUTE TO JOANIE HELGESEN

**HON. ROBERT WEXLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 22, 2008*

Mr. WEXLER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Joanie Helgesen for winning the title of Ms. Florida Senior America 2007. A constituent of mine from Boynton Beach, Ms. Helgesen proudly represents the entire senior community of Florida, and I am honored that she resides within my congressional district.

The Ms. Senior America Pageant first began in 1971 and has since been expressing the

many wonderful qualities of aging. As a prime representation of senior activism in America, the Ms. Senior America Pageant's philosophy is based upon the belief that seniors are the foundation of America, and that it is upon their knowledge, experience and resources that the younger generation has the opportunity to build a better society. As a representative of one of the largest senior communities in America, I share this philosophy and acknowledge the importance of seniors in the development of our youth and our communities as a whole.

Joanie Helgesen moved to Florida 4 years ago, and in that short time has been very active in the community. She is a tap dancer, showgirl and harpist with the Original Florida Follies, a non-profit organization of 50 performers, ages 60 to 90, who present spectacular stage extravaganzas each winter season with proceeds going to children in need and at risk in south Florida. She also does commercial modeling and is an animal lover who rescues homeless and neglected animals. A mother of two daughters and five grandchildren, Joanie believes life begins at 60, and she is making the most of her golden years.

I am proud to recognize Joanie Helgesen for being named Ms. Florida Senior America 2007; she is well deserving of this title and is a great representative of the senior community in south Florida.

#### TRIBUTE TO CHARLES E. HAAS

#### HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 22, 2008*

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor a patriot and public servant, Charles E. Haas of Hurricane, WV for 39 outstanding years of service.

Charles retired this month from the Office of Personnel Management Federal Investigative Services Division. His span of 39 years includes working for the United States Air Force with the Office of Special Investigations, the Defense Investigative Services, and finally the Federal Investigative Services in Charleston, WV.

Charles is a true patriot who served with the West Virginia National Guard for 20 years, where he retired as Chief Master Sergeant in 2001. His commitment to serve our Nation and the personnel security mission as well as his high standards of character and professionalism are to be commended.

I wish Charles E. Haas congratulations on his retirement and thank him for his service to our country and all his contributions to our great State.

#### TRIBUTE TO KELVA NELSON

#### HON. GEOFF DAVIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 22, 2008*

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise this evening to honor 27-year teaching veteran Kelva Nelson, who is a second grade teacher at Crabbe Elementary School in Ashland, KY.

Kelva was chosen by the U.S. Department of Education to receive the prestigious 2007 American Star of Teaching Award from Kentucky. Across the Nation, one teacher was chosen from each State to receive the American Star of Teaching Award, which recognizes dedication and innovation in the classroom.

As a teacher at Crabbe Elementary, Kelva believes that all of her students can achieve. Each day, she enters the classroom with enthusiasm to teach. Her innovative teaching style and imagination have brought learning to life for the many students that have entered her classroom. I applaud her commitment to educating the next generation of Kentuckians. I am extremely proud of Kelva and her tremendous professional accomplishments.

#### RECOGNIZING DAN BEARD, "GREENING OF THE CAPITOL"

#### HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 22, 2008*

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, Members of the House, I rise today to recognize the great efforts by House Chief Administrative Officer Dan Beard to make the Capitol a more environmentally sustainable workplace. Mr. Beard has spearheaded the "Greening of the Capitol" initiative, a mission to make the millions of square feet of Capitol infrastructure a model of sustainability.

From recyclable paper and energy-efficient light bulbs to cafeteria composting and sustainable seafood, Mr. Beard has re-imagined the Capitol complex as a new, greener place to work. I would like to convey my gratitude for his hard work and dedication and vow to continue as a partner toward this very worthwhile goal.

I would like to submit for the RECORD an article appearing in the Washington Post on January 16, 2008. The article, written by Jane Black, reviews many of the excellent improvements Mr. Beard has brought about in our cafeterias.

#### ON CAPITOL HILL, A VOTE FOR EDIBILITY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Congress is back in session this week, soon to tackle such solemn matters as the destruction of CIA videotapes and the credit crunch. But in the halls of the Longworth House Office Building, much of the chatter is about another weighty matter: the new cafeteria food.

As staffers briskly walk the long corridors, they stop to poke into Goodies, the renamed and renovated Longworth Convenience Store, which now features organic chocolate along with the old Cup O' Noodles. Or they peep into the rehabbed Creamery, formerly Scoops ice cream parlor. The whole place has an aura of curious excitement, like a college during orientation week. (Then again, that may be because many of the staffers look as if they could still be in school themselves.)

Since members departed for the winter recess, the House cafeterias, which turn out 2.5 million meals a year, have undergone extreme makeovers. Longworth Cafe, the largest in the complex, was transformed first. Over the weekend of Dec. 15, the old salad bar was swapped for one made of sustainable materials, "green" signs were installed and entrees such as mystery meatloaf and mashed potatoes disappeared, replaced by

crispy chicken with goat cheese and spinach and a "panzanella" station, where staffers can build a salad of marinated figs, prosciutto and feta cheese.

As of Monday, Restaurant Associates—the new contractor, which also supplies food to the Kennedy Center and the National Gallery—had also reopened the cafeterias in the Rayburn and Cannon buildings and the Members' Dining Room.

If only more congressional work were done as swiftly. The changes are part of the larger Green the Capitol project, an initiative of House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) that aims to make the House carbon neutral by the end of the session. The dining service was a prime target, and not only because of the 1950s-era food. Cafeteria waste accounted for half of the estimated 250 metric tons of trash the House sends to landfills annually. Now the plates, cutlery, cups—everything except the soup and coffee lids—is compostable and turned to pulp on-site. In addition, the cafeteria offers fair-trade coffee, certified sustainable seafood and as much organic, locally grown food as it can deliver.

"I don't know much about the greening, but the food is a lot better," said Caitlin Lenihan, press secretary for Rep. Brian Higgins (D-N.Y.), standing in line at the panzanella station. "I'd stopped coming a while back, but I've already had the pizza and the barbecue. It's all improved."

Other staffers agreed, giving high marks to the quality and variety of food. (And this reporter can vouch for their good taste. The panzanella salad, while a far cry from the Italian bread salad for which it is named, was fresh, and the Asian shrimp wrap was nicely balanced by crunchy Napa cabbage and carrot slaw in ginger dressing.)

But the embrace of change, so touted on the campaign trail, clearly has not quite filtered down to the aides who keep the Capitol wheels in motion. Along with the praise came the inevitable griping—off the record, of course.

The No. 1 topic of complaint: that biodegradable cutlery. "Funky," "wacky" and "weird texture" were common descriptions. Put too much pressure on the fork, several staffers noted, and it snaps in half. "I even hear the spoons melt in hot drinks because they're made of cornstarch," said one staffer. (A test of that claim proved it was untrue: the first cafeteria urban legend.)

Complaint No. 2: the prices. Under particular scrutiny by caffeine-fueled aides were the bottles of Starbucks Frappuccino. One staffer was so incensed that he e-mailed his friends a chart illustrating how the new \$3.30 price is 47 percent higher than the \$2.25 the bottles sold for in the old cafeteria and 4.8 percent higher than the approximately \$3.15 they sell for in Starbucks stores. "The wraps are more expensive," said a Republican aide. "The main entrees are a little more. I'm not sure about the pizza, because I never would have eaten the pizza before."

A reasonable complaint—if it were true. With the exception of those Frappuccinos, the price hike is in their heads, says Aidan Murphy, Restaurant Associates' vice president of operations. All like items cost the same, he said; only new dishes, such as those from the twice-weekly sushi station, are more expensive than items on the old menus.

And predictably, there was a resistance to change itself. "This is an improvement, but there are little quirks you have to get used to," said one senior Democratic staffer who visits the cafeteria every day. "I used to get this yogurt in the morning. They don't have it anymore. They have organic yogurt, which I don't want."

The green efforts are "generally a good thing, and we support it," the aide said. "But