

number of years. He also served as the Scoutmaster for Hopewell Troop 8, as well as a Vigil Member of the Order of the Arrow.

Tom was also very active with the Downingtown High School Band Parents organization, making numerous trips hauling the band instruments to local venues and even Florida for band appearances. He also worked the concession stand at the Downingtown High School stadium for numerous athletic events and band competitions, all part of his committed efforts to support our local youth.

No task was too big or too small for Tom. As long as he knew it would benefit area youth, he was there to help.

All of Tom's work and accomplishments will be acknowledged this weekend at the Downingtown Area Chamber of Commerce Annual Dinner on May 2, 2008, at Whitford Country Club. His wife, Winifred, will accept the Citizen of the Year Award on his behalf and area leaders and residents will pay tribute to the life and work of a selfless man.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in praising the work of Thomas J. Cooper, Sr., and all those who give of themselves to help others. The Citizen of the Year Award is an acknowledgment of the full and vibrant life that Tom led, and whose work is still remembered and paving the future for tomorrow's generation.

#### RECOGNIZING THE HOMES FOR OUR TROOPS ORGANIZATION AND PULTE HOMES

#### HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 1, 2008*

Mr. TANCREDO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a program that has provided an invaluable service to our nation's wounded veterans. The Homes For Our Troops organization is a non-partisan, non-profit 501(c)(3) group that provides specially built homes to veterans who have received debilitating injuries while fighting for our continued freedom in the ongoing military conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan. These homes are provided at no cost to the family receiving assistance. John Gonsalves founded this wonderful organization with the aim of providing a service for our soldiers which was much needed and even more appreciated. He has dedicated his time to this noble endeavor and his organization has proven to be of the highest standard of excellence. Homes For Our Troops has been awarded the Independent Charities Seal of Excellence. This award, bestowed upon members of the Local Independent Charities of America and the Independent Charities of America is recognition of the highest level for charity work. Fewer than 5 percent of all eligible charities are honored with this award.

Providing these homes for our injured service men and women is a team effort. Recently, ground was broken on a home for Army Staff Sergeant Matthew Keil and his wife Tracy, of Parker Colorado. Numerous organizations have teamed up with Homes For Our Troops and provided their expertise, materials and time to make this home a reality. Pulte Homes, under the guidance of Mike Meneguzzi has designed the Keil's future

home. Their organization has graciously donated over \$31,000 to the building effort and one of their employees, Bret Hribar, will be operating as the general contractor. Pulte has further demonstrated their dedication to worthy projects such as this by providing their employees 2 paid days of leave annually to participate in charitable projects.

With the help of other local businesses, Homes For Our Troops and Pulte Homes have performed a great service for a great American hero. Their continued dedication to the welfare of our returning veterans is a great example of patriotism which we should all strive to achieve.

#### CONGRATULATING MRS. DAWN O'CONNOR RECIPIENT OF THE 2008 PRESIDENTIAL AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN SCIENCE TEACH- ING

#### HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 1, 2008*

Mr. HONDA. Madam Speaker, as a former teacher, school principal, and school board member I am proud to rise today to congratulate Mrs. Dawn O'Connor for receiving the 2008 Presidential Award for Excellence in Science Teaching. Since 1983, the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching have honored outstanding kindergarten through 12th grade mathematics or science teachers for their contributions in the classroom and to their profession. On behalf of the people of California's 15th District, I am honored to recognize one of our own as a recipient of the Presidential Award, the highest recognition that a teacher can receive—Mrs. O'Connor teaches Seventh Grade Biology at Ascension Solorsano Middle School in the Gilroy Unified School District.

Ascension Solorsano's students are fortunate to have Mrs. O'Connor serve as chair of the Science Department, coach of the Cross Country team, and advisor of the school's MESA program. After graduating from California State University, Humboldt with a B.S. in Biology Mrs. O'Connor completed her multiple subjects credential program at my alma mater, San Jose State University.

Mrs. O'Connor received the 2007 Horace Lucich Award for Outstanding Teachers by the Synopsys science fair and the California State Science Fair Teacher of the Year Award. She was a Summer Institute Fellow at Stanford University's Center for Probing the Nanoparticle and also participated in the Summer Leadership Institute hosted by the National Science Education Leadership Association.

During Mrs. O'Connor's tenure year at Ascension Solorsano she has helped to expand a traditional science fair into a five-month inquiry-based project involving 98% of the students in the activities of a practicing scientist—problem identification, hypotheses generation, experimental design, experimentation, writing and presenting conclusions. Her inclusion of cross-curricular skills is indeed commendable. Through her encouragement students have performed exceptionally in the Silicon Valley science fair competition and gone on to attain awards at the State level

competitions. According to Mrs. O'Connor "It is also my goal to produce a population of capable problem solvers," a goal I share, one that is crucial to ensuring our Nation's competitiveness in the 21st century global economy.

Mrs. O'Connor represents the spirit of innovation that is the core of my District, the Silicon Valley and the State of California, and she is dedicated to inspiring and engaging students in science through inquiry. I congratulate her and her colleagues and students for this distinguished achievement.

#### STATEMENT IN RECOGNITION OF EDIE FRASER

#### HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 1, 2008*

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the work of one of the leaders of diversity, entrepreneurship, women in business and mentoring, Edie Fraser, who was honored on April 24 with the Lou Campanelli Award for volunteerism and leadership.

The award, presented by SCORE "Counselors to America's Small Business," honors Edie Fraser for her volunteerism, philanthropic contributions and dedication to entrepreneurship and SCORE.

The Lou Campanelli Award annually recognizes outstanding individual volunteerism, leadership, vision and philanthropy in support of small business, entrepreneurship and SCORE. Edie received the award at SCORE's Afternoon of Vision 2008 in Washington, D.C., on April 24. SCORE CEO Ken Yancey and Lou Campanelli presented Edie with the award.

Edie Fraser has won more than 35 major diversity awards. SCORE is in her blood as her dad, Les Fraser, was a SCORE volunteer and leader for 33 years in Atlanta. Edie has worked with SCORE over the years, now serving on the SCORE Board of Directors.

She was named in 2007 as one of the Top 50 Pioneers in Diversity by Profiles in Diversity Journal and top 46 of America's Top Diversity Advocates by DiversityBusiness.com, along with Oprah Winfrey, Presidents Jimmy Carter and Bill Clinton, and many other senior diversity leaders. Her other awards include: The Enterprising Women Hall of Fame; the eWomen Network International Femtor Award for Lifetime Achievement; the Count-Me-In Leader Entrepreneurial Award; and the Euro-American Women's Council Artemis Award, presented by Athens and the sacred island of Delos. She also received the First Global ATHENA Award in Athens, Greece.

As an advocate for small business and entrepreneurship Edie says, "SCORE is a cornerstone of what is the best of this country. Small business is the most significant part of our economy across this nation." Fraser believes, "SCORE is the premiere source of free counseling and advice, and a source of loan information for America's aspiring entrepreneurs."

Edie's extensive background in support of diversity and women spans four decades, and she is the founder of Diversity Best Practices and Business Women's Network. She is a

counselor and champion focusing on business results. She is an advocate for diverse leadership executive talent. Edie has worked to support more than 200 corporate organizations, and she has worked with more than 100 CEOs in support of diversity practices. Talent recruitment and retention are her number one issue.

"To say thanks to SCORE is easy. We know SCORE to be perhaps the most important program that the government has created with millions of donated hours of counseling in communities across America," says Edie Fraiser.

On a personal note, Edie has been a dynamic and energetic force for women in business and diversity nationwide. A resident of Washington, D.C., Edie is active in many worthy causes. She currently serves on the Board of Directors of SCORE and Advisory Board of the U.S. Center for Citizen Diplomacy. She received the Big Brothers Public Service Award and was the recipient of the Big Brothers Most Outstanding Service Award for outstanding service to youth. Edie received the United States Peace Corps award and Peace Corps Princess with others from State Department and AID. Her commitment to mentoring and community service is an inspiration to all of us striving for equality and the opportunity to achieve the American dream.

THE DAILY 45: A SUBURBAN  
YOUTH SNAPS

**HON. BOBBY L. RUSH**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday May 1, 2008*

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, the Department of Justice tells us that, everyday, 45 people, on average, are fatally shot in the United States. And while needless gun-related deaths continue to take place at a savage pace on Chicago's streets, including my district, we're not the only community in crisis.

The 45 people who die somewhere in America come in all shapes, sizes, colors and zip codes. In February of this year, in suburban Cockeysville, Maryland, 16-year-old Nicholas Browning confessed to taking his father's 9 mm Smith and Wesson and walking through his home and taking the lives of both his parents and his two younger brothers. According to his attorney, young Nicholas, an avid Sunday school student, apparently snapped for reasons unknown. One can only imagine what might have been if whatever demons he was confronting did not lead him to grab a gun.

Americans of conscience must come together to stop the senseless death of "The Daily 45." When will Americans say "enough is enough, stop the killing!"

HONORING DR. LASLEY FOR 45  
YEARS OF SERVICE AT BUFFALO  
RIDGE BAPTIST CHURCH

**HON. DAVID DAVIS**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday May 1, 2008*

Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Lasley for

his 45 years of service at Buffalo Ridge Baptist Church. Tennessee has been called the "Volunteer" state by the great efforts of our citizens during The War of 1812. Since The War of 1812 people like Dr. Lasley continue to show pride, dedication and service through volunteer efforts.

Dr. Lasley's wife Ellen, daughter Laurie, and sons Torrey and Calvin all embody the same giving and service oriented characteristics their father has bestowed upon them.

Since Dr. Lasley began his tenure in 1963, he grew the church from an average of 135 people per Sunday to over 766 per Sunday today. This is a true accomplishment and highlights his devotion to Buffalo Ridge Baptist Church and the parishioners who call that church home. What's even more is that Dr. Lasley helped spur a new donations program that has grown to receive about 1.7 million in total offerings in the year of 2007.

Dr. Lasley and Buffalo Ridge Baptist Church have continually shown their dedication to the community by leading its followers in five building construction programs. He has also emphasized missions and has even built a mission program that supports over 100 missionaries and mission agencies throughout the world.

Dr. Lasley's strong commitment to God is evident in the numerous hours devoted to studying His Word, preaching it, and encouraging others to become involved. Dr. Lasley has been a strong advocate for faith and has encouraged his church to live the same way leading by example.

Since Dr. Lasley took over Buffalo Ridge Baptist Church in 1963, he has been a true friend, asset, and noble man to Tennessee's First District. I ask that my colleagues join me today honoring Dr. Lasley for his great devotion, dedication, and service to Buffalo Ridge Baptist Church and Tennessee's First District.

HONORING MR. HERB RUBEN

**HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 1, 2008*

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate Herb Ruben, who is being honored by Peninsula Counseling Center at its 95th anniversary celebration on May 13, 2008. Herb Ruben has served with extraordinary devotion and dedication for the past 50 years as executive director of Peninsula Counseling Center, the largest non-profit community mental health center in Nassau County, New York.

Mr. Ruben has received many awards and has served in many capacities, always striving to strengthen and enhance the lives of individuals of all ages, to strengthen family life and to contribute to the social-psychological well-being of the community. He has served as past president of the Council of Family Service Agencies in New York State. He is the recipient of the Joseph M. Sokol Memorial Award from the Five Towns Community Chest; the recipient of the Distinguished Service Award from the New York Public Health Association, Long Island Region; and the Henry Brill Professional Award from the Nassau County Department of Mental Health for "outstanding achievements and leadership with the Mental

Health community of Nassau County." In addition, he was presented with a Lifetime Achievement Award by the New York State Office of Mental Health.

Mr. Ruben has been a columnist with the South Shore Record where his articles "Within the Family" have appeared in the paper for more than 30 years.

Again, I wish to congratulate Herb Ruben and thank him for the leadership and direction he has brought to Peninsula Counseling Center, as its executive director. For 50 years, he has helped to make it the outstanding organization that it is.

TRIBUTE TO DAVID PLOTINSKY

**HON. SILVESTRE REYES**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 1, 2008*

Mr. REYES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. David Plotinsky who recently left the House of Representatives to take a position with the Department of Justice.

Mr. Plotinsky served in the Office of the General Counsel for 10 years, first as a law clerk while he was a student at Georgetown Law School and, since 2000, as an Assistant Counsel.

Mr. Plotinsky provided frequent and invaluable legal advice and representation to the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. Our staff came to rely on his expertise and guidance in connection with many of their investigative and oversight activities, as well as in the Committee's interactions with the other branches of the federal government.

Over the years, Mr. Plotinsky played a significant role in safeguarding the legal and institutional interests of the House of Representatives, and he served the House with great distinction. I know that he will serve the Department of Justice with that same level of distinction.

On behalf of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, I thank him for his many years of devoted service, and extend to him our very best wishes for his continued success.

HONORING SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY  
VOLUNTEERS CONNOR  
DANTZLER AND CHRISTOPHER  
ANDERSON

**HON. ROSCOE G. BARTLETT**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 1, 2008*

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Madam Speaker, I would like to congratulate and honor two young students from my district who have achieved national recognition for exemplary volunteer community service by the 2008 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program, an annual honor conferred on the most impressive student volunteers in each state and the District of Columbia.

Connor Dantzler of Damascus has just been named one of the top honorees in Maryland. An eighth-grader at John T. Baker Middle School, Connor is being recognized for his "Health through Humor" program. He has distributed over 5,000 joke books to patients,