

a sophomore at Woodcrest Christian High School but she is already establishing herself as a promising scientist. Otana is the Region IX recipient of the 2007 President's Environmental Youth Award (PEYA) for a science project titled "Indoor Air Pollution: The Pulmonary Effects of Ozone-Generating Air Purifiers."

Young people from around the country are invited annually to participate in the PEYA program, which is aimed at encouraging individuals, school classes, summer camps, youth organizations and public interest groups to promote environmental awareness and encourage positive community involvement. One award is given for each of the Environmental Protection Agency's 10 regions. (EPA Region 9 includes California, Arizona, Nevada, Hawaii.) On April 17, 2008, President Bush presented the award to Otana at a White House Ceremony.

Ms. Jakpor decided to focus her project on indoor pollution after she read a Consumer Reports article titled "New Concerns about Ionizing Air Cleaners." The article reported that certain models of ionizing air cleaners emit high amounts of ozone, but it did not include any research data. Otana's findings indicated that indoor air purifiers, neck air purifiers and ionizers emit high amounts of ozone, one result was 15 times higher than the level of a State 3 smog alert.

Ms. Jakpor's findings were significant and on September 27, 2007, she presented them to the California Air Resources Board at a hearing on indoor air purifier pollution. The Board voted to adopt a regulation to limit ozone emissions from air purifiers to less than 0.050 parts per million, and now California is the first state in the nation to regulate ozone generators.

Recognition for her scientific achievements are not new to Otana, she has received the NAACP Los Angeles ACT-SO Competition Gold medal in Medicine; eight awards from the RIMS Inland Science and Engineering Fair for both her freshman and sophomore projects; and fourth place award in the Pharmacology/Toxicology Category in the Senior Division for her research on ozone at the California State Science Fair. She is a spokesperson for the American Lung Association and has appeared on the Discovery Channel.

Ms. Jakpor is first in her class at an excellent and competitive school and has a 4.33 Grade Point Average. It is an honor to recognize Otana for all her achievements at such a young age. I commend Ms. Jakpor for her hard work, commitment and outstanding educational achievements. I have no doubt she will continue to contribute to the science community and look forward to hearing about the incredible discoveries of Otana Jakpor in the years to come.

#### RECOGNITION FOR THE YOUGH COUGAR ROCKETRY TEAM

**HON. JOHN P. MURTHA**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 14, 2008*

Mr. MURTHA. Madam Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to congratulate the Yough Cougar Rocketry team from Yough High School in Herminie, Pennsylvania. The Cougar

Rocketry was the only team from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania chosen to participate in the 2008 NASA Student Launch Initiative and is one of only eighteen teams selected nationally. The team was also selected in 2007.

NASA describes the Student Launch Initiative as a program which "involves middle and high school students in designing, building and testing reusable rockets with associated scientific payloads." The program allows students to demonstrate their design's proof-of-concept and allows them to apply previously abstract concepts to hands-on work. Each team works to build a vehicle that is to reach an altitude of one mile above ground level. The finale of each team's work ends with a launch at Marshall Space Flight Center.

Madam Speaker, the members of the Yough Cougar Rocketry team, whom I would like to personally recognize, include Ms. Stephanie Abbott, Ms. Amy Bickerstaff, Ms. Alicia Bowser, Mr. Josh Sarosinski, and Ms. Ashley Wiley. Mr. Donald Gilbert, Jr. is the team's teacher and advisor and Mr. Eric Haberman is the team's mentor from Westinghouse Corporation. I commend them all for their tremendous work.

#### SUPPORTING FUNDING TO REDUCE THE MATERNAL MORTALITY RATE THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

**HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 14, 2008*

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, every minute a woman somewhere in the world dies of pregnancy-related causes. This staggering fact is not a failure of science but rather a failure of conscience. The United States possesses the medical knowledge necessary to drastically reduce the number of women killed during pregnancy each year. What we lack is a commitment by our Government to make certain that medical resources are readily available to women throughout the world.

The United States can and most do more. To demonstrate just how attainable this goal is, I would like to bring my colleagues' attention to an interesting and inspiring piece published in *The Washington Post* on Sunday, May 11, that highlights the efforts of two remarkable individuals to address maternal mortality rates in Haiti. Working closely with the Haitian government, Paul Farmer, Ophelia Dahl, and their nonprofit organization Partners in Health, have succeeded in reducing the maternal mortality rate in Haiti to less than half what it was a quarter-century ago. I hope that this piece will not only serve as a reminder of the tremendous opportunity we have to save the lives of hundreds of thousands of pregnant women all over the world.

KEEPING NEW MOTHERS ALIVE—IN HAITI AND RWANDA, REDUCING TRAGEDY IN CHILDBIRTH

(By Paul Farmer and Ophelia Dahl)

"Obscene" is still the word that comes to mind when we think of maternal mortality—and it has been almost 25 years since we first witnessed death in childbirth. In 1983, as students in one of central Haiti's fetid clinics, we prepared to celebrate a birth. Although we'd just met the young woman about to be-

come a mother, her desperate expression as she began to hemorrhage haunts us still. National statistics could have predicted the outcome: A 1985 survey pegged Haitian maternal mortality at 1,400 deaths per 100,000 live births. By comparison, maternal mortality in the United States last year was 14 deaths per 100,000 live births.

Worldwide, 500,000 women die in childbirth every year; more than 90 percent live in Africa or Asia, and almost all are poor by any standard. Obscene though it is, death during childbirth isn't the end of the story. In the world's poorest areas, many orphaned children wind up destitute and on the streets within a few years of their mothers' deaths, sometimes resorting to desperate or criminal measures for food, shelter, clothes or school fees.

One of the 12 Millennium Development Goals is to reduce maternal mortality 75 percent by the year 2015. But we are moving too slowly to meet this goal, the United Nations says.

Today, the maternal mortality rate in Haiti is less than half what it was a quarter-century ago. Across the broad swath of central Haiti where we work, we estimate the number to be well below 100 deaths per 100,000 live births—not good enough but a vast improvement, most of it occurring in the past decade. Change came largely for three reasons.

First, our nonprofit organization, Partners in Health, has worked closely with the Haitian Ministry of Health to strengthen public health infrastructure. We have rebuilt, equipped, staffed and stocked hospitals and clinics; trained nurse-midwives and other personnel, including more than a thousand community health workers; linked villages and health centers to district hospitals by modern telecommunications and ambulance service; and established modern surgical services for obstetrical emergencies.

Second, we have broken the rule that high-quality health services are a privilege rationed by ability to pay, not a right. The case was made first for affordable medicines. Now it is being made for emergency Caesarean sections—an essential tool to reduce maternal mortality. Faced with evidence that maternal mortality was greater where fees were higher, the district health commissioner for central Haiti announced last August that all prenatal care and emergency obstetrical services would henceforth be available free to all patients. He was later echoed by Haitian President René Préal.

Third, we have linked prenatal and obstetric care to an all-out effort to improve access to primary health care. The presence of functional, accessible public clinics and hospitals restores faith in the health system, motivates people to seek care before they are critically ill and allows for preventive interventions such as prenatal care and family planning. Consider Rwanda, another country where we work, which is rising rapidly from its ashes scarcely a dozen years after an appalling genocide. Rwandan maternal mortality rates in 1995, the year after the genocide, are unknown. But they are sure to have exceeded the 1,800 deaths per 100,000 live births reported that year in relatively peaceful Malawi. The situation has improved dramatically since then.

By helping to train and, importantly, pay community health workers, the Rwandan Ministry of Health is taking steps to link rural villages to health centers with the capacity to make routine labor safe. Rwanda is also seeking to make family planning available to citizens and to increase access to preventive and primary care through basic health insurance. Maternal mortality has dropped from more than 1,000 deaths per 100,000 live births between 1995 and 2000 to

less than 600 today—still terrible but well below the average (940) reported for sub-Saharan Africa.

At the government's invitation, Partners in Health launched efforts to strengthen AIDS treatment and primary health services in one region of rural Rwanda in 2005. Mindful of the lessons learned during two decades of work in rural Haiti—and of that young Haitian woman whom we watched turn abruptly from the anticipation of new life to a confrontation with death—we have made reducing maternal mortality and improving women's health top priorities. And we have welcomed the opportunity to support Rwanda's commitment to breaking the cycle of poverty and disease by including health care and education (especially for girls) in its vision of the future. It's probably no coincidence that Rwanda also boasts the world's highest percentage of women in parliament.

IN SUPPORT OF H. CON. RES. 322—  
RECOGNIZING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF  
THE MODERN STATE OF ISRAEL

**HON. RAHM EMANUEL**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 14, 2008*

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 322, recognizing the 60th anniversary of the founding of the modern State of Israel. Yom Ha'Atzmaut, Israel's Independence Day, marks a day when Theodor Herzl's prophetic words became reality: "If you will it, it is no dream."

Since its founding on May 14, 1948, the modern State of Israel has established itself as a dynamic and democratic nation with a thriving economy, a pluralistic political system, and a vibrant cultural and intellectual center. The Israeli people have contributed greatly as scholars, innovators, educators, and more, and I am pleased to have this opportunity to recognize their accomplishments as well as those of Israel.

Israel has been a vital ally of the United States since the beginning of its existence, sharing democratic values, friendship, and respect and enjoying a strategic partnership. America and Israel shall remain close friends for years to come, particularly as Israel continues to seek peace with her neighbors. H. Con. Res. 322 reaffirms these bonds of friendship and cooperation and expresses a commitment to strengthen these bonds.

On the Jewish calendar, Israel's Independence Day falls on the 5th of Iyar, corresponding this year with May 8, 2008. This day is a joyous time to reflect with pride on the work of the men and women who knew that one day the dream of the State of Israel would become a reality.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to be a cosponsor of H. Con. Res. 322 and wish to extend warm congratulations and best wishes to the people of Israel as they celebrate this 60th year of Israel's independence. I wish them peace and prosperity in the years to come, kein yehi ratzon.

IN MEMORY OF TOM ED HAYS

**HON. MIKE ROSS**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 14, 2008*

Mr. ROSS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of my dear friend Tom Ed Hays of Hope, Arkansas, who passed away May 7, 2008, at the age of 73.

I will forever remember Tom Ed Hays as a good friend, a keen businessman and someone who cared deeply about improving the quality of life in southwest Arkansas. As a natural born leader, he excelled at every task he took on and was an inspiration to all of us who knew him.

Tom Ed Hays was born and raised in Arkansas, and was always proud to call Arkansas his home. After beginning his banking career in Texas, he returned home to Hope to join his father and uncle in the family-owned bank, First National Bank of Hope. His ambition and dedication helped him rise from cashier to president and CEO of the bank, a role which he held until the time of his passing. Under his guidance and leadership, the bank underwent significant expansion and spread to communities throughout southwest Arkansas.

While Tom Ed Hays' economic development efforts had a tremendous impact on the region and will never be forgotten, his gentlemanly nature is what everyone will talk about for years to come. The numerous accolades and awards he received over the years are a testament to his deep conviction of community service and civic responsibility.

Tom Ed Hays will be remembered for his outstanding service to Hempstead County, southwest Arkansas, and to the entire State of Arkansas. Above all, he will be sorely missed as a friend. I extend my deepest condolences to his wife, Betty Jo Fite Hays; his three sons, Thomas Hays III of Cambridge, England, Daniel Fite Hays of Hope, and John Julian Hays of Hope; his sister, Nancy Hays Gottwald of Richmond, Virginia; and to his eight grandchildren and countless friends. Tom Ed Hays will be greatly missed and I am truly saddened by this loss.

ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF FALLEN  
HERO'S DEATH—IN HONOR OF  
ARMY SPECIALIST ARMER NATHAN  
BURKART

**HON. WAYNE T. GILCREST**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 14, 2008*

Mr. GILCREST. Madam Speaker, I rise today to submit a poem penned by Albert Caswell of The United States Capitol Guide Service, in honor of a real American hero, Army Specialist Armer Nathan Burkart, on the eve of the 2nd anniversary of his gallant life and most tragic death in Baghdad, Iraq, on May 11, 2006. A Rockville native who gave that last full measure for all of us. Remember him this coming Memorial Day.

ARMER ALL

Armer All . . .  
Strength in honor, an American Hero who  
heard the call!  
Who so marched off to war like all of his fine  
forefathers have done so before!

A man of character, and faith . . .

A brave heart, who but to his country 'tis of  
thee so gave and gave!

But All . . . But, his fine life . . . he who so  
sacrificed, showing us all how to be-  
have!

A soul,  
One's being, so deep down inside one's heart  
which holds!

The Armer, The Mantle of Gold . . . to go  
and do, to shine in the light of a hero's  
glow!

To march forward, with clenched fists!  
To stare straight into that the darkest of all  
faces, that of death!

To give all until none lies left, to the future  
. . . our most precious sons and daugh-  
ters bless!

A Maryland Man,

Who so showed us all what a warm heart of  
Armer and faith so can!

But, only the very few . . . can and have so  
done, as Heaven won . . . our fine son  
. . . Armer you!

A leader of men,

An Angel on Earth, who our Lord would so  
send!

And now, as your short time is done . . . to  
Heaven rise my son . . . as your new  
battle begins!

As an Angel in the Army of our Lord,  
As on Earth you brought your light, from  
heaven now you continue the fight . . .  
evermore!

For yours, your life Burkart . . . was but our  
Lord's work of art . . . for what you so  
stood for!

Armer . . . You!

You, so lived and died for What Is Real . . .  
For What Is True!

Can you but hear our tears? All for you, and  
your fine life . . . and all of your lost  
years!

ASIAN PACIFIC HERITAGE MONTH

**HON. DAVID G. REICHERT**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 14, 2008*

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, in May, we honor Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, a celebration of the culture and contributions of millions of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. Their diverse talents have contributed to communities all across our Nation.

The Eighth District of Washington has a vibrant Asian Pacific community. Nearly 100,000 Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders reside in my district, contributing to their individual communities through business, education, volunteerism and public service, just to name a few. I am also very aware of the bravery and patriotism many in the Asian and Pacific Islander community have shown by serving honorably in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other dangerous places.

The Asian Pacific American community is growing in my district and our Nation at large. I know, as the influence of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders grow, the American people will more fully understand—and respect—the many contributions they have made to our communities and our Nation.