

provided him enough time to gain control of the flame and further extinguish it. His attention to detail and situational awareness enabled him to recognize the difference between dust and smoke as the pit was being loaded with mortar and tank rounds. Sergeant Cremeans' quick reaction prevented the propellant from igniting, which would have caused the munitions to prematurely detonate, thereby saving the lives of the fifteen Afghan Nationals and four U.S. servicemen. Master Sergeant Cremeans' courage and concern for his fellow Soldiers and Afghan Nationals were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit and the United States Army.

NARRATIVE

On May 6, 2003, Sergeant First Class Brian L. Cremeans was serving as the Senior Explosive Ordnance and Demolition (EOD) Technician to destroy the largest cache ever discovered in Afghanistan. The cache amounted to over 350,000 pounds worth of High Explosives. Over 4000 pounds worth of High Explosives was loaded into one of two demolition pits by fifteen Afghans with the close supervision of a fellow EOD technician. At this point, the floor of the pit was covered ankle deep with propellant from previous demolition shots. SFC Cremeans, 1LT Patton and 1LT Norsworthy were standing on top of the pit as the Afghans and one of the EOD technicians were loading the final mortar rounds into the pit. As he was watching the pit, a billow of smoke appeared at the bottom of the 20 foot deep pit. SFC Cremeans yelled, "Fire" and before 1LT Patton could yell burning, SFC Cremeans had dove into the pit yelling fire. As he was sliding down to the bottom of the pit a flame erupted and he slid into it causing his body to push enough dirt into the flame to momentarily smolder it. This act gave him enough time to put more dirt onto the flames and gather up loose propellant surrounding the site of ignition, thus allowing him to gain control of the situation. He immediately gathered up the white phosphorous residue that had been unearthed and the surrounding propellant and scooped them into a canister. He stayed there extinguishing the ambitious little flames until the threat was eliminated. All non essential personnel were loaded on the truck. He then calmly set the ring main and charges on the pit. He then finished by arming the M-60 fuse igniters on the ring main and was the last man to get into the revving truck. In summary, Sergeant First Class Brian L. Cremeans' courageous selfless act and impeccable attention to detail saved the lives of fifteen Afghans and four United States Army servicemen. SFC Cremeans courageous selfless act richly deserves the award of the Soldiers Medal. Through his courageous selfless efforts and impeccable attention to detail, Sergeant First Class Brian L. Cremeans reflected great credit upon himself, the United States Army and the Department of Defense.

GREAT CATS AND RARE CANIDS
ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. EDWARD R. ROYCE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 19, 2008

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1464, the Great Cats and Rare Canids Act of 2007.

As an original cosponsor of this bill and co-chair of the International Conservation Cau-

cus, I would like to thank my fellow Caucus co-chair, Representative UDALL, for his leadership on this issue.

Endangered species such as lions, cheetahs, leopards, jaguars, and Ethiopian Wolves are not just remarkable creatures, but they play an important role in eco-tourism throughout Africa, bringing in much needed revenue to very poor countries.

Unfortunately, many of these endangered animals are losing their race for survival, as habitats become compromised and poachers decimate populations. This bill will be an important tool for reversing these trends.

Importantly, this bill provides assistance for programs to preserve and protect these remarkable animals. Multinational species funds, such as this one, have enjoyed tremendous success and have played a vital role in the protection of wildlife. On average, private donors have matched 3–1 every U.S. government dollar contributed to conservation programs.

In other words, when the United States leads in conservation, others follow. As the mission of the international Conservation Caucus states, the U.S. has the opportunity to advance the protection of the worldwide environment. This bill is true to that mission.

DYSTONIA AWARENESS WEEK

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 2008

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to draw attention to Dystonia Awareness Week, designated by the Commonwealth of Kentucky for June 1–7, 2008.

Dystonia is a neurological disorder that creates painful, involuntary muscle spasms throughout the body. The public knows little about this disorder, afflicting as many as 1 million people in North America alone.

The causes of dystonia are still largely unknown within the medical community. The physical manifestations of dystonia can be debilitating and the lack of understanding among the general public often creates isolation and psychological distress to those who suffer from the disorder.

The Dystonia Association of Kentucky, Inc., was formed by patients, families, and friends to help one another and to seek a cure for their condition. Widespread public support for their efforts is essential.

I urge my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in supporting the goals of Dystonia Awareness Week and urge all Americans to gain a deeper understanding of this disorder and those who are afflicted by it.

THE PUNGO STRAWBERRY
FESTIVAL

HON. THELMA D. DRAKE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 2008

Mrs. DRAKE. Madam Speaker, 25 years ago, in the rural area of Virginia Beach, Virginia, known as Pungo, several locals decided

that the rest of the community should be aware of Pungo's delicious treasure: its strawberries. In 1983, locals began an annual festival, which at the time drew 2,500 people. In the years to follow, the festival's attendance grew to roughly 120,000 people each year. Today, the festival hosts many family-oriented activities, including a carnival, youth art show, and a multi-million dollar military display.

In 1985, it was deemed necessary to establish a festival board in order to accommodate the festival's growth as well as establish themselves as a nonprofit organization. To this end, the festival gives back to the community in the form of scholarships for students and makes contributions to other community-oriented programs.

To this date, the Pungo Strawberry Festival has donated over \$550,000 to the community. I want to take this moment to recognize the people behind this festival, some of whom have been involved since the beginning, and to inform my colleagues that this year the festival will be celebrating its 25th anniversary with, as always, an emphasis on the men and women serving in the military. The theme this year will be "Celebrating 25 years of Freedom, Family, and Fun." I support the community of Pungo in their efforts and look forward to attending the festival this year.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING
MARY C. POLILLI FOR BEING
TUSCARAWAS COUNTY'S OLDEST
VOTER

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 2008

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker: Whereas, Mary C. Polilli is 102 years young; and

Whereas, she continues to make voting a priority; and

Whereas, Mary C. Polilli continues to be a positive influence on the lives of others and contributes to her state and country; and

Whereas, she strives to continue her good works of public service and inspire others to work for the many freedoms guaranteed by our democratic form of government; now, therefore, be it

Resolved that along with her friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I commend and thank Mary C. Polilli for her contributions to her community and country.

IN RECOGNITION OF COLONEL
ANNE L. DAVIS, USA

HON. ROB BISHOP

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 2008

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an outstanding military commander in the United States Army, Colonel Anne L. Davis.

As outgoing Commander of the Tooele Army Depot, TEAD, Utah, Colonel Davis has demonstrated exceptional meritorious service

during her tenure from June 16, 2005 to July 8, 2008. TEAD is a very large military installation, with 23,600 acres with extensive munitions storage handling an estimated 200,000 short tons of ammunition stocks valued at \$2.75 billion. She was responsible for logistical support to 17 United States military units as well as command and control of Hawthorne Ammunition Depot, Riverbank Army Ammunition Plant and Ft. Wingate.

Colonel Davis is a brilliant leader who makes every mission look easy. Her PhD in Business added to her skills to better manage and transform Tooele into the Depot of the future. The leaders who worked under her took pride in achieving nearly 100 percent on time, on location delivery of ammunition throughout the Western Continental United States and to various ports to support ongoing combat operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Colonel Davis was instrumental in the development, testing, prove-out and eventual preparation of the Stryker Brigade Combat Teams Combat Configured Loads. Her ability to safely and efficiently manage stockpile surveillance inspections while enduring personnel shortages in terms of Quality Assurance and Surveillance Specialists was superb.

Colonel Davis aggressively sought additional workload at Tooele by meeting with the Utah Governor's Office of Economic Development and by attending numerous business events throughout the country in an effort to reduce life cycle costs on her installation. Her personal attention in all aspects of safety, to include the Department of Defense Safety Voluntary Protection Program resulted in a 50 percent reduction in civilian days lost due to accidents.

Colonel Davis, a native of St. Clair Shores, Michigan, arrived at Tooele Army Depot in June 2005 as a highly regarded and decorated leader in the Army having served in leadership positions in Italy, Hawaii, and the Continental United States. She also commanded Hawthorne Army Depot in Hawthorne, Nevada from June 2000 to July 2003.

Lean Six Sigma, LSS, was implemented by Colonel Davis to ensure the Army's competitive edge and increase employee involvement. Under her control, TEAD has certified over 70 Green Belts and has an established self-sufficient LSS program with a Master Black Belt and four Black Belts. Involving over half of the workforce in projects, Colonel Davis has overseen savings to the Depot of over \$560,000 in the first two years with another \$400,000 expected by the end of this fiscal year.

In conclusion, Madam Speaker, Colonel Davis has served her nation well and exhibited some of the finest qualities of leadership and good stewardship of her many responsibilities. She will be missed by the Tooele workforce and by those with whom she has associated in Utah over the past 3 years. I join with the rest of the Utah Congressional Delegation in offering our sincere congratulations on a job well-done, and wishing her the very best for her in all future endeavors.

HONORING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF
THE JONESBORO HIGH SCHOOL
MOCK TRIAL TEAM

HON. DAVID SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 2008

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate students, teachers, judges and attorneys residing in my Congressional District. Once again, I congratulate the Jonesboro High School Mock Trial Team for winning the National High School Mock Trial Championship on May 11, 2008, in Wilmington, Delaware. The Jonesboro team also won the national title in 2007 and has held State titles six times in the last 20 years.

The Jonesboro Mock Trial Team represents some of the best and brightest of Clayton County students. I want to take a moment to recognize the aspiring lawyers, the honors students and the Eagle Scout candidates who comprise this winning team. Special recognition must go to returning members Jayda Hazell, Jurod James, Tabias Kelly and Braeden Orr who competed with the 2007 team. In addition, I congratulate Brian Bady, Miguelande Charlestin, Kayla Daniels, Dominique Delgado, Lindsay Hargis, Bridget Harris, Avion Jackson, Adrienne Marshall, Laura Parkhouse, Joe Strickland and Ralph Wilson for their win.

The Jonesboro Mock Trial Team is fortunate to be guided by legal professionals including the Honorable John C. Carbo and the Honorable Deborah Benefield, both Clayton County State court judges, as well as Ms. Tasha Mosley and Ms. Katie Powers, attorney coaches. In these exercises, students gain insight about the American legal system including trial preparation and standard courtroom procedures. Jonesboro faculty sponsors Andrew and Anna Cox also helped the team since early in the fall term to the present so that the team members are prepared for their local, State and national competitions.

In closing, Madam Speaker, I am delighted to recognize the efforts of the Jonesboro High School Mock Trial Team for their back-to-back victories. I hope to see the Jonesboro High School team compete again at the 2009 National Championship, which will be held in Atlanta, Georgia.

OUTSTANDING HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS
FIRST CONGRESSIONAL
DISTRICT OF NEW MEXICO

HON. HEATHER A. WILSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 2008

Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, the following graduating high school students from the First Congressional District of New Mexico have been awarded the Congressional Certificate of Merit. These students have excelled during their academic careers and proven themselves to be exceptional students and leaders with their scholastic achievements, community service, and participation in school and civic activities. It is my pleasure to be able to recognize these outstanding students for their accomplishments.

Their parents, their teachers, their classmates, the people of New Mexico and I are proud of them.

CERTIFICATE OF MERIT AWARD WINNERS 2008

Chelsie Alderete, School for Integrated Academics and Technologies; Marissa Andazola, St. Pius X High School; Clare Callahan, Highland High School; Gladys Delgado, Valencia High School; Aubrey Eckert, Sandia High School; Dawn Marie Goodwin, Cesar Chavez Community School; Erika Hernandez, Digital Arts and Technology Academy; Landon Hill, Cibola High School; Tony Lucero, Albuquerque High School; Nancy Molinar, Bernalillo High School; Carla Nieto, South Valley Academy.

Oscar Alderete, Century Alternative High School; Andrew Bachica, Southwest Secondary Learning Center; Marshelle Danner, Sandia Preparatory School; Bethany Dorl, Early College Academy; Chris Ela, Hope Christian School; Lauren Harding, Albuquerque Academy; Anna Herrera, Temple Baptist Academy; Andrew Krause, East Mountain High School; Sabrina Mead, Los Puentes Charter School; Cassandra Montoya, Mountainair High School; Anna Nowlin, Los Lunas High School.

Marisol Ochoa, Albuquerque Evening High School; Heather Polyard, Manzano High School; Michael Romero, Creative Education Preparatory Institute #1; Kelley Scheib, Sierra Alternative High School; Patrick Turney, La Cueva High School; Oran Wallace, Menaul High School; Hannah Perez, New Futures High School; Sean Ritchel, Del Norte High School; Felicia Salazar, Moriarty High School; Juan Soche, Valley High School; Joshua Velasquez, West Mesa High School.

HONORING BECKY YOUNG

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 2008

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Becky Young, a former Wisconsin State Representative. Throughout her seven consecutive terms in the Assembly, Young was a tireless advocate for her constituents and their families, and she left a lasting impact on the entire State of Wisconsin that will not be forgotten.

Beginning her political career as a Dane County Supervisor in 1970, Becky focused on health care issues that had not been adequately addressed but were especially important to women. Becky's pioneering work did not end there. In 1974, she became the first woman to serve as Wisconsin Highway Commissioner. Later, she became the Deputy Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Administration. While serving on the Madison School Board from 1979 to 1985, Becky demonstrated a unique enthusiasm for education reform. Her determination to ensure that every child realizes the potential of education was indeed rare.

Becky's unwavering commitment to children and families began to permeate through the State Legislature in 1984 when she was first elected to the Wisconsin State Assembly. During her tenure in the Assembly, Young served on the Education Committee for several terms and as Chair of the Assembly Committee on Children and Human Services from 1987 to 1995. She also served as the Ranking Democratic Member on the Assembly Committee on Children and Families and chaired the Special