

CHARLIE WAGNER

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 18, 2009

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Charlie Wagner who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Charlie Wagner is a senior at Pomona High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Charlie Wagner is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Charlie Wagner for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication he has shown in his academic career to his future accomplishments.

CELEBRATING TAIWAN'S PRESIDENT MA YING-JEOU FIRST ANNIVERSARY

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 18, 2009

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to convey my support for the Taiwanese president, Ma Ying-jeou, his many successes, and the guiding principles of his country. President Ying-jeou is to be commended for championing strengthened ties between Taiwan and the People's Republic of China, since assuming office on May 20, 2008.

It is with tremendous pride that we will collaborate with our long-time friend and ally, the Republic of China (Taiwan), at the upcoming World Health Assembly (WHA) later this month in Geneva, Switzerland. This is the first time since 1972 that Taiwan has been afforded international standing among sovereign nations at a United Nations event. This Congress most recently honored the U.S.-Taiwan bilateral relationship with the passage of H. Con. Res. 55, recognizing the 30th anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act, the cornerstone of U.S.-Taiwan relations. The passage of this Act illustrates the commitment and friendship between our two great nations. The strong leadership and cooperation of President Obama and President Ma Ying-jeou will unquestionably help strengthen our nations' unity.

Charged with the task of promoting global public health, the work of the WHA assumes great significance particularly in the midst of H1N1, HIV/AIDS, SARS, and avian flu threats. We welcome the meaningful cooperation of world-wide partners to make for safe and sensible solutions amidst continued dangers that jeopardize public health. I am confident of Taiwan's intention and ability to help combat these threats and help meet the ever-changing demands and needs of its people and the global community at large.

I urge my colleagues of the 111th Congress to please join me in extending continued best wishes to President Ma Ying-jeou on his first anniversary in office on May 20, 2009.

IN RECOGNITION OF SUSAN J. SPUNGIN'S RECEIPT OF THE MIGEL MEDAL FROM THE AMERICAN FOUNDATION FOR THE BLIND

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 18, 2009

Mr. NADLER of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Dr. Susan J. Spungin. In March of 2009, the American Foundation for the Blind (AFB) awarded the M.C. Migel Medal to Dr. Spungin at their Josephine L. Taylor Leadership Institute in Washington, DC.

The M.C. Migel Medal was established in 1937 by the late M.C. Migel, the first chairperson of the American Foundation for the Blind. The award was created to honor professionals and volunteers whose dedication and achievements have improved the lives of people who are blind or visually impaired. It is the highest honor in the blindness field.

This year's recipient, Dr. Spungin recently retired from her position as Vice President of International Programs and Special Projects at the American Foundation for the Blind, and as Treasurer of the World Blind Union.

An internationally renowned expert on the education and rehabilitation of individuals who are blind or visually impaired, Dr. Spungin joined AFB in 1972 as a national specialist in education. In this capacity, she identified nationwide issues affecting blind, deaf-blind, and severely visually impaired children and youths, and worked in partnership with schools, agencies, state departments of education, universities, the federal government, and other organizations to resolve those issues. Additionally, she was instrumental in shaping the American Foundation for the Blind's research and policy work, specifically, its national programs in the areas of early childhood development, aging, employment, rehabilitation teaching, low vision, orientation and mobility, and career education.

Dr. Spungin's leadership and influence within the field of blindness and vision impairment are evident in her many publications and workshops, lectures, and keynote speeches she's presented around the world; in her mentorship of newer leaders in the field; and the awards and honors she has received and the enormous respect and reverence that greet her wherever she goes.

Dr. Spungin's forty-four years of distinguished work on education and rehabilitation of blind people in national and international arenas is commendable and fully deserving of the commendation of the M.C. Migel Medal.

TRIBUTE TO WESLEY SAVAGE

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 18, 2009

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, each May, I hold a small business procurement con-

ference at the University of Central Missouri in Warrensburg, Missouri. Through the years, many individuals have contributed to the success of this event, which helps entrepreneurs and small business owners to cut through bureaucratic red tape associated with the procurement process and to make business connections.

One individual who was particularly helpful in gluing together my annual conference was Wes Savage, a good friend and expert in entrepreneurial studies and business development. Wes passed away rather unexpectedly last July, so the 2009 conference will be the first one without him.

As I prepare for this year's event, let me take a moment to reflect on the life of a truly outstanding figure at the University of Central Missouri, a good family man, and a friend to so many people.

Wes was born on May 25, 1937, in Decatur, Illinois. He received a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering & industrial engineering from the University of Missouri—Rolla and a master's degree in production management & human resource management from Butler University. He also completed continuing education courses in psychology, banking, and basic programming.

Wes enjoyed working and became an expert while being employed in a wide range of industries and organizations. He was a Registered Professional Engineer in the state of Missouri and gave time to the Engineers Club of Kansas City. He was affiliated with the Missouri Board of Architects, the Engineers and Land Surveyors, and the National Development Council.

In 1987, Wes began working at the University of Central Missouri as the Consulting Engineer for the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) and became coordinator for the SBDC in 1990. Wes served as the Center's director until he became Director of the Institute for Entrepreneurial Studies and Development at the University.

In his role at the University, Wes assisted and advised numerous Missouri business owners and entrepreneurs. He gave sound advice to help Missourians begin or improve business operations, which in turn, helped to create jobs and boost economic productivity in the Show-Me State. I have heard from many individuals through the years who have expressed gratitude for working with the SBDC because of the Center's positive impact on business.

Wes also cared deeply about teaching university students about entrepreneurship and the unique opportunities and business tools available to people in this country. This is why he was particularly thrilled when the University created the Institute for Entrepreneurial Studies and Development and why he helped create an online course and co-taught with staff the first entrepreneurial course at the University.

Wes Savage applied the things he learned in education and in life to his professional career. He was an experienced manager who motivated those around him with his strong work ethic and his relaxed, friendly demeanor.

I know Members of the House will join me in expressing gratitude for Wes's life and for extending best wishes to his wife, Jane; his sons and their wives, Craig and Deana Savage, Scott and Gina Savage, and Grant and Erika Savage; his six grandchildren; and all of his friends and colleagues.

HANNAH TURNER

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 18, 2009

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Hannah Turner who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Hannah Turner is a senior at Arvada High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Hannah Turner is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Hannah Turner for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication she has shown in her academic career to her future accomplishments.

INTRODUCTION OF VETERANS
EDUCATION TUITION SUPPORT
ACT OF 2009

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 18, 2009

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Veterans Education Tuition Support Act of 2009 or the VETS Act to address some of the difficulties our military personnel face when they are activated while attending college.

Thousands of military reservists have been activated to fight in Iraq and Afghanistan directly from their college campuses. Unfortunately, students who serve in the military face unique hardships when called upon to defend the United States.

Most colleges and universities refund tuition and fees to students when the activation occurs during the academic calendar. However, instances have occurred when a service member has not been reimbursed.

The goal of the VETS Act is to provide our service members with certain rights when they are activated while in college to defend our country. The legislation requires colleges and universities to refund tuition and fees for unearned credit for unexpected withdrawals due to activation.

It also sets guidelines for the Department of Education to forgive student loans when a student service member for the semester or quarter in which the service member is activated to defend the United States.

Madam Speaker, I urge passage of this legislation to give rights and protections to the service members activated while attending a college or university. This is the least we can do for our brave men and women in uniform who sacrifice so much for us.

ON THE BIRTH OF JOHN PATE
McMAHON**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 18, 2009

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, today I am happy to congratulate Aris and Gibson McMahon of Alexandria, Virginia, on the birth of their new baby boy. John Pate McMahon was born on May 6, 2009, weighing 8 pounds and 11 ounces. He has been born into a loving home, where he will be raised by parents who are devoted to his well-being and bright future.

On behalf of my wife Roxanne, and our entire family, we want to wish Aris, Gibson, and John all the best.

A TRIBUTE TO HUGH "SMITTY"
SMITH, AN AMERICAN HERO

HON. DANIEL E. LUNGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 18, 2009

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Hugh "Smitty" Smith, an American hero who served our nation through five major campaigns in France, Belgium, Holland and Germany during World War II.

Mr. Smith served on the front lines with the 744th Light Tank Battalion of the United States Army. As he advanced on the Axis Powers as the commander of an M24 tank, he was wounded by a German sniper in the face. Determined to fight for the liberation of Europe, he returned to his battalion three weeks later. Epitomizing the strength of the Allied Forces, Smitty staved off starvation and suffered a concussion, only to stay his new post guarding German prisoners until they were relocated.

Serving as a de facto battalion commander and even as a medic when his comrades were targets of German snipers, Smitty was known by his men as a "go to guy." Always rising to the occasion during the worst battlefield conditions, Smitty guided, calmed and assisted his men when they needed him most. Mr. Smith's bravery was simply unmatched.

One of Mr. Smith's most admirable leadership qualities is his fervor for serving others. As this was evident in his youth, he continues today to lead by example and improve the wellbeing of his community by being a member of the CAPS team, the volunteer citizens patrol unit for the Galt Police Department. This role only solidifies what we know to be true about Smitty, that he is always ready and willing to serve others.

The ability to inspire and live a life of complete selflessness is the legacy of a true hero. It is an honor to recognize Hugh "Smitty" Smith for his immense dedication to improving the quality of life for so many individuals both here and abroad, and for his unwavering commitment to equality and justice. He has truly served my district and the United States of America proudly.

JOSEPH STIKA

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 18, 2009

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Joseph Stika who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Joseph Stika is a senior at Arvada High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Joseph Stika is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Joseph Stika for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication he has shown in his academic career to his future accomplishments.

HONORING MRS. KIM SCHMIDT

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 18, 2009

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to honor Mrs. Kim Schmidt, recipient of the Harford County Public Schools Teacher of the Year award. Kim is dedicated to motivating her students and ensuring they receive an excellent education.

Kim has been an educator for 18 years, 16 of which have been in the Harford County Public School System. While Kim wanted to be a teacher from the time she was a little girl, her dream of teaching temporarily faded while she became interested in physical therapy. However, in college, Kim discovered her love for history and her desire to teach others.

Graduating from the University of Delaware in 1991, Kim began her teaching career as a middle school Social Studies teacher at Old Court Middle School in Baltimore. In 1993, she began teaching at Havre de Grace High School and in 1996 she became the History Department Chairperson at Fallston Middle School. From 1997 to 2005, Kim held a variety of positions in the Harford County Public School System before moving back to the classroom at Havre de Grace High School to teach United States History.

Throughout her career in Harford County, Kim has served on the School Based Instructional Decision Making Teams, School Improvement Teams, the Maryland Geographic Alliance, and the Maryland State Department of Education reading in the content area task force. In addition to receiving this award, Kim will compete for the title of Maryland Teacher of the Year to represent Maryland's teachers as an education spokesperson.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join with me today to honor Mrs. Kim Schmidt on this memorable occasion. Her dedication to the students of Harford County is showcased by her continuing drive to motivate her students to