

Former Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor made the prediction that the Supreme Court will rely "increasingly on international and foreign courts in examining domestic issues . . .," as opposed to relying solely on our Constitution as the basis for its rulings.

Indeed, with the laws of an entire world of nations to choose from, citing foreign laws and opinions encourages cherry-picking the foreign precedents that suit the desired outcome of the one citing them. It promises to be a very convenient tool for any federal judge or justice seeking to stretch the meaning of our Constitution beyond its original meaning.

As elected representatives of the people, we cannot stand by and let this occur any longer. We must return the focus of federal judges to their role as interpreters of the Constitution, not importers of foreign laws and opinions.

The Supreme Court is charged with making final pronouncements about our Constitution, which is uniquely American. Each of our nation's judges, as well as Supreme Court justices, took an oath to defend and uphold the U.S. Constitution—and it is time that Congress reminds these unelected officials of their sworn duties.

That is why I am introducing this resolution today, which expresses the sense of Congress that Federal judges and justices should not cite foreign judgments, laws, or pronouncements when interpreting the U.S. Constitution. This common sense resolution sends a strong, clear message that the Congress is not willing to simply stand idly by and see our nation's sovereignty weakened.

I believe the judicial branch is guaranteed a very high level of independence when it operates within the boundaries of the U.S. Constitution. However, when judges and justices begin to operate outside of those boundaries, Congress must respond. We must be steadfast guardians of the freedoms that are protected in the Constitution of the United States of America.

I urge the Members of this body to support this important resolution.

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL DIONYSIOS ANNINOS

HON. J. RANDY FORBES

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Mr. FORBES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Colonel Dionysios Anninos, who will assume Command of the United States Army Corps of Engineers Gulf Region Central District, located in Baghdad, Iraq on July 7, 2009.

There is without a doubt, few, if any, men who are as capable or prepared to oversee engineer projects in Iraq than Colonel Anninos. However, it is with reluctance and a heavy heart that we bid farewell to an officer who has served the Hampton Roads region of Virginia so well.

For almost three years, Colonel Anninos has commanded the Norfolk District U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. As Commander, Colonel Anninos managed the Corps' water resources development and navigable waterways operations for five river basins in the Commonwealth of Virginia. A key contributor to Chesapeake Bay restoration efforts, Colonel Anninos also oversaw projects helping to create jobs while improving the Nation's aging infrastructure.

From maintaining the critical intercoastal waterways and the Great Dismal Swamp Canal, to laying the groundwork for the Deep Creek Bridge in Chesapeake, Colonel Anninos has demonstrated a level of professionalism and excellence that I have only rarely had the benefit to witness.

For the many Virginians and residents of North Carolina within the sixteen counties and 5,000 square miles that lie within the Chowan River Basin, Colonel Anninos will be remembered for his tireless leadership to address the flooding there. Because of his efforts, we can look forward to a comprehensive Reconnaissance Study to investigate the flooding beginning in the next several months. In addition, Colonel Anninos' persistence and resourcefulness were central to bringing together federal, state, and local officials in a local-federal partnership to install a system of early-warning gauges on the River, which has risen to six of its highest flood levels in the last eleven years.

Under Colonel Anninos' command, the Norfolk District has also provided support in response to several natural disasters within Virginia and some of our Nation's greatest natural disasters, including Hurricanes Katrina and Ike. All the while his District provided engineering support to Overseas Contingency Operations in Iraq and Afghanistan serving side-by-side with our men and women overseas.

On behalf of the U.S. House of Representatives, the residents of the Chowan River Basin, and the residents of the Fourth congressional District of Virginia, I express my gratitude to Colonel Anninos for his service to our Nation, and for his friendship. I wish Colonel Anninos, his wife Catherine, and his two sons the very best as he continues to serve our great Nation.

CONGRATULATING ERIC YANG, WINNER OF THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC BEE

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Eric Yang, who won first place in the 2009 National Geographic Bee.

I had the pleasure of finding out that Eric had advanced to the final round of the National Geographic Bee, and I was ecstatic to hear that he won. Eric, who is a 7th grader from The Colony, Texas, captured the 1st place title in the tie-breaker round. Eric did not miss a single question during the entire final round, in a competition that National Geographic reported as their most difficult competition to date. Eric is now the proud recipient of a \$25,000 scholarship, a trip to the Galapagos Islands, and bragging rights for life.

More than just a geography buff, Eric demonstrates his giftedness in several other aspects of his life. An avid pianist, Eric placed first in the Dallas Jazz competition three years in a row. He also conquers in chess, reads anything he can get his hands on, and has an insatiable curiosity. I am encouraged by the in-

quisitiveness we see in this talented young man. Young people like Eric are the guiding lights we will look upon in the future to better our society.

I am proud to recognize Eric Yang for his great accomplishment. It is a distinct privilege to represent Mr. Yang in the 26th District of Texas, and I wish him the very best for a bright future.

TRIBUTE TO MIKE MCGOVERN

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the constituents of the State of Rhode Island and those whose lives have been impacted by Special Olympics Rhode Island, I would like to pay tribute to Mike McGovern, a man who has dedicated his life to the fulfillment of dreams of many with intellectual disabilities.

After a long and accomplished career serving in various leadership capacities for Special Olympics Rhode Island, Mike has decided to retire. He served as Assistant Executive Director from 1988 through 1998 before taking on the role of Executive Director in 1998. Over the last two decades, Special Olympics Rhode Island has benefited from his talents in fiscal management, fundraising, public relations, personnel management, and compliance with accreditation requirements established by Special Olympics, Inc.

Without a doubt, Mike's greatest satisfaction has come from watching young children with intellectual disabilities defy stereotypes and low expectations. Witnessing the children develop into confident, productive members of society is one of the many motivations that have empowered Mike over the course of his career. Additionally, Mike has been the driving force behind the success that Special Olympics Rhode Island has enjoyed in its commitment to being an athlete-centered program. His enthusiasm and guidance has ensured that Special Olympics Rhode Island is one of the most innovative and dynamic sports organizations in the state.

Mike McGovern remains a true friend to all those whose lives are touched by a person with developmental disabilities. Special Olympians across Rhode Island will miss his dedication and devotion as an individual who truly exemplifies the true meaning of Special Olympics, sport, spirit, and splendor.

CLOUD AND LAKEVIEW HOSPITALS BEING NAMED AMONGST THE TOP 100 HOSPITALS BY THOMSON REUTERS

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, to congratulate and honor St. Cloud Hospital and Lakeview Hospital in Stillwater, Minnesota for being named to the Top 100 Hospitals list by Thomson Reuters. The people of St. Cloud and Stillwater know how great their hospitals

are and I'm thrilled to see the staff members and administrations receive this recognition.

The Top 100 Hospitals evaluates short-term, acute care and non-federal hospitals on the overall care of a patient, including rate of medical complications and adherence to clinical standards, fiscal responsibility and patient satisfaction. We are fortunate to have high medical standards in this country and St. Cloud and Lakeview Hospitals demonstrate day in and day out that they take the Hippocratic oath to "do no harm" very seriously.

Lakeview Hospital was listed as a Small Community category winner. St. Cloud Hospital was recognized for its work in the Teaching Hospitals category, which only makes this hospital's achievements that much more important as it is a place where future doctors and administrators can learn how to create the best patient experience. St. Cloud Hospital was also one of 23 hospitals to receive the Everest Award, which recognizes the hospitals with the most improvement over a five-year period.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor these two institutions, St. Cloud and Lakeview Hospitals, as some of the top hospitals in the nation. Their recognition by Thomson Reuters as Top 100 Hospitals validates the pride Minnesota takes in their hospitals and other care facilities. As a small business owner working closely with the medical community, I am pleased to see that the people of St. Cloud and Stillwater have some of the best hospital care available to them in the country. Congratulations to everyone who works with these hospitals and to the communities that support them as their own.

IN TRIBUTE TO NEWT HEISLEY

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Ms. HARMAN. Madam Speaker, displayed prominently in my district office is an autographed medal featuring the POW/MIA flag. It was given to me and signed by Newt Heisley, the designer of the famous image. The black-and-white flag is a symbol of a Nation's gratitude, respect and commitment to those who never came back. In 1998, legislation I authored was signed into law mandating that the flag be flown above Federal buildings on six days a year, including Veterans and Memorial Day. We will never forget.

Newt Heisley died on May 18, at 88. He led a rich life committed to serving his country, to family, and to his artistic passion—forces that would ultimately inform the design of his seminal work.

In the early 1940s, after graduating from Syracuse University with a Fine Arts degree, Heisley joined the Army Air Forces—where he served heroically as a pilot in the Pacific Theater in World War II.

After the war, Heisley put his artistic talent to work, joining an advertising agency in New Jersey—where he lived with his wife, Bunny, and son, Jeffrey. Hoping to follow in his father's footsteps, Jeffrey entered Marine Corps training but returned emaciated and sick with hepatitis.

Soon after his son's homecoming in 1971, Heisley was tasked with designing a flag for

the National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia. Heisley settled on a silhouette of a gaunt man, barbed wire and guard tower. Below that, he wrote "You are not forgotten."

To Heisley's surprise, the flag became a national icon. In 1988, it flew over the White House for the first time, and in 1990, Congress adopted it as the official symbol of appreciation for POWs and MIAs.

Despite the newfound fame, Heisley kept his humility. "I did it for the men who were prisoners of war or missing in action. They're the real heroes," he told the Denver Post in 2002, the same year he wrote his autobiography, *Faith Under Fire*.

This Memorial Day, I will be thinking of them—and Newt Heisley. In words of my dear friend Dave Albert, the former Lomita Councilman, whose failed attempt to get his local post office to fly the POW/MIA flag inspired the 1998 law, Heisley "was a true patriot for the POW/MIA cause, and he will never be forgotten."

A TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF LEWIS WILLIAM SEIDMAN

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Mr. EHLERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my friend, Lewis William "Bill" Seidman, who died on May 13, 2009 at the age of 88. Bill was well-known and respected not only in the Grand Rapids area, but throughout our nation. He spent a great deal of his life serving our country, and he was a role model from the Greatest Generation. He was also an enthusiastic supporter of his home town of Grand Rapids, Michigan; it is the city I call home, and I have seen first-hand how his passion for public service has improved our community. He is well-known nationally as head of the Resolution Trust Corporation, which was ultimately responsible for cleaning up the Savings and Loan scandal.

Bill was born in Grand Rapids, Michigan on April 29, 1921. He graduated from Dartmouth College in 1943, served honorably in the Navy in the Pacific theater, during World War II, and was awarded the Bronze Star Medal. His record as a communications officer on a Navy destroyer during some of the key battles in World War II clearly shows Bill Seidman's unselfish demeanor. Bill always put his country first.

After the war, he obtained a law degree from Harvard and a Master of Business Administration degree from the University of Michigan. Bill married Sarah "Sally" Berry in 1944, and they had six children, 11 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Bill had a large hand in shaping West Michigan as we know it today. He founded and was president of the television station WZZM in Grand Rapids. Bill actively encouraged the Michigan legislature to create a state college in 1963 to serve the Grand Rapids area; this has now grown to become Grand Valley State University (GVSU).

Bill's role in galvanizing support for Grand Valley State University was critical in its creation. His affiliation with GVSU is among his proudest legacies. The institution is now a

world-class university that serves over 20,000 students in West Michigan. Bill once said, "There's nothing that I've done in life that gives me more satisfaction than seeing how Grand Valley State University is delivering on its promise to the Western Michigan area."

Bill helped reform the State of Michigan's financial management practices under the leadership of Governor George Romney in the 1960s. He later was appointed by President Gerald R. Ford as Assistant for Economic Affairs, and focused primarily on controlling inflation. He went on to co-chair the White House Conference on Productivity under President Ronald Reagan.

Mr. Seidman is most well-known for his service as the fourteenth chairman of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. He was appointed in 1985 by President Ronald Reagan at a time when the nation's savings and loan financial system was descending into a crisis caused by ill-considered lending, in which hundreds of firms failed. This led Congress to form the Resolution Trust Corporation (RTC), which was the entity ultimately responsible for cleaning up the Savings and Loans scandal. Bill was appointed as head of the RTC by President George H. W. Bush. Mr. Seidman stated during a speech in Tokyo on September 18, 1996, "... the banking problems of the 80s and 90s came primarily, but not exclusively, from unsound real estate lending."

Bill never stopped working. As an expert on economic and financial matters, he was a regular commentator on CNBC, and an authoritative speaker on our current economic crisis.

Bill's pursuit of public service was a passion born from his drive to do what was right for the country, and for those close to him. He loved his country, and believed public service was a noble and important calling. The nation is far better off for his devoted public service.

I extend my most heartfelt sympathy and prayers to his wife and family. We will all miss him greatly.

CREDIT CARDHOLDERS' BILL OF RIGHTS ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 2009

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, reasonable gun restrictions are the cornerstone of the Second Amendment. Unfortunately, opponents of sensible gun laws have taken advantage of every opportunity to undermine the common-sense regulations that keep our communities safe and uphold our Constitution.

Earlier this year, these opponents stalled historic efforts to provide District of Columbia residents with a voting representative in Congress by including unrelated amendments legalizing semiautomatic assault weapons in the District. Today, while the House considers H.R. 627, the Credit Cardholders Bill of Rights, which will grant stronger protections for consumers facing excessive credit card fees, arbitrary interest rate increases, and unfair agreements with credit card companies, we also are faced with an unrelated amendment allowing loaded firearms to be carried in parks. These gun provisions have