

graduation. Before deploying to Afghanistan, Mark was stationed in Washington, D.C. He served as an executive assistant for the deputy director for Asian politico-military affairs at the Pentagon. In conversations with his friends and family, it was mentioned time and again that Mark was someone who loved God, loved his family, and loved the Air Force. Beyond that, Mark loved the country he served until the very end. His commendations for his service include a Purple Heart and a Bronze Star.

Madam Speaker, I feel certain his many friends in Baldwin County and his comrades in the United States Air Force, while mourning the loss of this fine young man, are also taking this opportunity to remember the many accomplishments of his service to the nation and to recall the fine gift they each received simply from knowing him and having him as an integral part of their lives.

I urge my colleagues to take a moment and pay tribute to Lieutenant Colonel Mark Stratton and his selfless devotion to our country and the freedoms we enjoy.

We should also remember his wife, Jennifer; their three young children, Delaney, Jake, and A.J.; his mother, Jan York and her husband Buddy; his brothers, Michael Stratton and Frankie Little; and his other family members and many friends. Our prayer is that God will give them all the strength and courage that only He can provide to sustain them during the difficult days ahead.

It was Charles Province who said, "It is the Soldier, not the minister, who has given us the freedom of religion. It is the Soldier, not the reporter, who has given us the freedom of the press. It is the Soldier, not the poet, who has given us freedom of speech. It is the Soldier, not the campus organizer, who has given us freedom to protest. It is the Soldier, not the lawyer, who has given us the right to a fair trial. It is the Soldier, not the politician, who has given us the right to vote. It is the Soldier who salutes the flag, Who serves beneath the flag, And whose coffin is draped by the flag, who allows the protester to burn the flag."

Make no mistake, Mark Stratton was not only a dedicated member of the Air Force who made the ultimate sacrifice serving in the uniform of his country, but he was also a true American hero.

May he rest in peace.

RECOGNIZING THE HONOREES OF THE 62ND ANNUAL ANNANDALE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AWARDS BANQUET

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Honorees of the 62nd Annual Annandale Chamber of Commerce Awards Banquet.

The Annandale Chamber of Commerce is a thriving volunteer organization with over 200 active members. The members represent businesses, industries and professionals who work together to maintain a favorable business climate while improving the quality of life for all residents.

Each year, the Annandale Chamber of Commerce honors a select few who have dis-

tinguished themselves as exemplars of the community. It is my honor to recognize these fine individuals and the contributions that they have made to the community. This year, the Annandale Chamber of Commerce has expanded the categories with the addition of an Award of Valor which honors the services of two Public Safety professionals. The following are the Honorees of the 62nd Annual Annandale Chamber of Commerce Awards Banquet.

Award Recipients in the Student Category are:

William Law, Northern Virginia Community College

Luis Inarra, Annandale High School

Michell Addington, Falls Church High School

The recipient of the 2009 Citizen of the Year Award is Shel Youtz. Shel has been a cornerstone of the Annandale community. In addition to his reliable presence each year at the Fall Festival, Shel chairs or sponsors events and fundraisers in support of the Student Education Foundation and in support of our military veterans.

The Award of Valor for a member of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department has been awarded to Lt. Jeff Allen. Lt. Allen is a 22 year veteran of the Fire and Rescue Department and a member of the Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Team. Throughout his tenure, Lt. Allen has consistently gone above and beyond the call of duty, providing leadership and courage during emergencies and other hazardous incidents.

The Award of Valor for a member of the Fairfax County Police Department has been awarded to PFC Kathleen O'Leary. Although PFC O'Leary has been with the force for only 3 years, she has already distinguished herself as an exceptional public servant, placing the needs of the community ahead of her own personal safety.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing the Honorees of the 2009 Annandale Chamber of Commerce Awards Banquet and to thank them for their service. Each honoree is a role model for his or her peers and an invaluable member of the community as a whole.

TRIBUTE TO THE HANCOCK COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Hancock County Conservation Board on their 50th anniversary. The Hancock County Conservation Board serves over 12,100 citizens in Hancock County in North Central Iowa.

The first board was appointed by the Hancock County Board of Supervisors (HCCB) in 1959. One of HCCB's priorities is to provide park areas and protect the natural areas for wildlife habitat and outdoor recreation. In the past 50 years they have acquired 4 parks, 15 wildlife areas, 2 wildlife refuges for a total of 21 areas, and 1,211 acres of valuable wildlife habitat.

I applaud HCCB's long history of impressing the importance of conservation from one generation to the next. I know my colleagues in the United States Congress join me in con-

gratulating the Hancock County Conservation Board, Director Tom Haan, and Naturalist Jason Lackore for their fifty years of success, and I wish them an equally storied future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I submit to the RECORD the following remarks regarding my absence from votes which occurred on June 2nd. Due to inclement weather that caused my connecting flight from Charlotte, North Carolina to Washington on Tuesday, June 2 to be delayed, I missed a series of votes that were held. Listed below is how I would have voted if I had been present.

H. Res. 421—recognizing and commending the Great Smoky Mountains National Park on its 75th year anniversary (Roll no. 292)—Aye
H.J. Res. 40—to honor the achievements and contributions of Native Americans to the United States, and for other purposes (Roll no. 293)—Aye

H. Res. 489—recognizing the twentieth anniversary of the suppression of protesters and citizens in and around Tiananmen Square in Beijing, People's Republic of China, on June 3 and 4, 1989 and expressing sympathy to the families of those killed, tortured, and imprisoned in connection with the democracy protests in Tiananmen Square and other parts of China on June 3 and 4, 1989 and thereafter (Roll no. 294)—Aye

COMMEMORATING 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TIANANMEN SQUARE SUPPRESSION

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID WU

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2009

Mr. WU. Madam Speaker, one of the primary reasons that I ran for public office was to promote democracy, human rights, and the rule of law at home and abroad—particularly in China. There is perhaps no greater singular event that compels me to do so than the Tiananmen Square massacre of June 3 and 4, 1989.

On this, the twentieth anniversary of the violent suppression of protesters in and around Tiananmen Square in Beijing, I express my deepest condolences to the families of those killed and imprisoned in connection with the demonstrations. I urge the Chinese government to immediately review the cases of those still imprisoned for participating in the 1989 protests and to release those individuals who were imprisoned solely for exercising their internationally recognized rights to free expression and peaceful assembly.

In many ways the China of 1989 and the China of 2009 are worlds apart. Twenty years ago, no one would have imagined that China would become the world's largest Internet user a mere twenty years later. And yet, even with the power of the Internet to fuel greater transparency, the people of China still face the

same censorship and restrictions of expression.

The U.S. and China must continue to work together to appeal to the better angels of our collective nature and strive not just for prosperity but for freedom.

RECOGNIZING MINNESOTA'S SIXTH DISTRICT 2009 CENTURY FARM FAMILIES

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Sixth District farms that have been recognized as 2009 Century Farms by the Minnesota State Fair and the Minnesota Farm Bureau. Being a Century Farm is no easy task. Farms must be at least 50 acres and stay in a continuous family ownership for 10 years. Since the program began in 1976, more than 8,700 Minnesota farms and families have been named a "century farm." As the family farming tradition that made America strong is encroached upon by development and urbanization, this designation becomes an even more significant accomplishment. It is my honor to recognize these farms before this Congress today.

America was founded as an agricultural nation full of hope and promise for bountiful harvests year after year. The families that tilled the first soil on Minnesota's golden plains instilled a work ethic that today's farmers still follow. Two hundred years ago it was not uncommon to have three or even four generations involved with a single farm at any given time. Between sowing and harvest, feeding livestock and maintaining equipment and buildings, farm life was a full time job for entire families. But as the times have changed, to see one family still taking care of the land and homes their parents worked on and lived in is a great joy. In fact, I can recall the time that I spent living and working on my in-laws' dairy farm in Wisconsin—a farm that my mother-in-law and brothers-in-law still call home.

I rise, Madam Speaker, to honor these families and the past generations that have made this accomplishment possible:

Corrigan family of Foley, since 1909.

Magnuson family of Foley, since 1909.

Burggraff family of Royalton, since 1898.

Bernard J. and Natalie Niewind of Eden Valley, since 1909.

Leilani Rolles of Freeport, since 1883.

Brothers Andrew and Richard Holdvogt of Melrose, since 1907.

Kenneth Schaefer family of Melrose, since 1897.

Harvey and Marilyn Lieser of Paynesville, since 1892.

James A. Moores of Monticello, since 1903.

RECOGNIZING DANIELLE MARGUERITE LYLE

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Danielle Mar-

guerite Lyle for her leadership and commitment to the community that she has displayed in Prince William County.

Since the age of 5, Danielle has been involved in community activities. She has spent hundreds of hours volunteering with local organizations and other community activities. Since then, she has volunteered with numerous organizations such as the Hilda Barg Homeless Shelter, the Arc of Prince William County, senior homes, her local church and other programs. When asked, she says that she loves helping people and the community.

Danielle also knows how to take initiative and lead. She participated in the Junior National Young Leaders Conference (Jr. NYLC) in April 2009, and served as President of the Future Leaders Children's Book Club. Danielle has also been recognized for her leadership and intellectual abilities through the Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth Program, George Mason University Young Writers summer and weekend workshop, and the University of Virginia Summer Enrichment Program.

Along with Danielle's volunteer and leadership accomplishments, she has also received many accolades. These include many semesters on her school's honor roll and winning the Martin Luther King Jr. writing contest for the 5th grade.

With all of this, she still finds time to play the violin and piano, be a member of the Creative and Performing Arts Center and participate in track and field, basketball and gymnastics.

Danielle's accomplishments would be noteworthy for any person. When her current age of 11 is factored in, these accomplishments are nothing short of remarkable.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing this bright young student and applauding her commitment to volunteerism and leadership. Our communities benefit greatly from the action and dedication of citizens like Danielle.

TRIBUTE TO ANDREY DANILSON

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Andrey Danilson, a 13-year-old seventh-grade student from Sacred Heart School in Boone, Iowa.

Andrey recently won the Boone Lions Club "Peace Poster Contest." Each day, Sacred Heart students take time to pray, and Andrey has taken it upon himself to focus on peace. Using his passion for art to further the cause for world peace, Andrey's art advanced to the state level of competition after it won the district level.

Adopted from Russia less than four years ago and unable to speak English at the time, Andrey's success in art and dedication to important causes serve as a wonderful example of the promise of today's youth as tomorrow's leaders. I am proud to represent Andrey Danilson, his family, teachers and classmates in the United States Congress, and I know that all my colleagues join me in congratulating Andrey on his success and commending him for his devotion to peace and making a positive difference.

CONGRATULATING SERGEANT JACQUELINE ARNOLD ON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise to honor the long and distinguished career of Sergeant Jacqueline F. Arnold on the occasion of her retirement from the Prichard Police Department.

Jacqueline has served the city of Prichard for four decades. She began her career in public service as a crossing guard for Ella Grant Elementary School and later served as an emergency radio dispatcher for the city. In 1977, she made history by becoming Prichard's first female police officer.

Throughout her career, Jacqueline has worked in almost every division, including a patrol officer, detective, and the supervisor of the records division.

In 1996, Jacqueline was assigned as a juvenile officer. She was both a role model to juvenile offenders and an encouraging mother figure to many young people who would otherwise not have had a positive influence in their lives. She was also an inspiration to a number of other female officers, seven of whom followed her example and joined the Prichard Police Department.

In recognition of her many remarkable accomplishments, Jacqueline has been awarded numerous departmental commendations throughout her distinguished career. Last month, Mayor Ron Davis, Prichard City Council members, and Police Chief Lawrence Battiste named Sergeant Jacqueline Davis Officer of the Year.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing a dedicated community leader and friend to many throughout Alabama. Sergeant Jacqueline F. Arnold is an outstanding example of the quality of individuals who have devoted their lives to law enforcement. On behalf of all those who have benefited from her good heart and dedicated service, permit me to extend thanks for her many efforts in making Prichard and south Alabama a better place.

On behalf of a grateful community, I wish her the best of luck in all her future endeavors.

A TRIBUTE TO HAMILTON SOUTHEASTERN HIGH SCHOOL

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the students of Hamilton Southeastern High School for receiving Honorable Mention at the annual "We the People" Contest recently held here in Washington, D.C. The "We the People" contest is a grueling 3-day-long event where teams of students from every State of the Union and several U.S. Territories compete in a series of simulated congressional hearings to apply constitutional principles and historical facts to