

the U.S. Army's 2nd Battalion in the 10th Mountain Division and had achieved his life-long goal of earning the distinction of serving as a U.S. Army Ranger. As our nation and my community struggles with this sudden loss, I would like to pause and recognize Staff Sergeant Hall and the ultimate sacrifice paid by him and his family.

Jeffrey was an eight-year veteran of the United States Army, earning many well-deserved awards and decorations including two Army Commendation Medals, the National Defense Service Medal, a NATO Medal and a Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal. This was Jeffrey's third tour in Afghanistan. He was an American Hero who believed in his mission and told his father that this was a sacrifice he was willing to make to protect his country and the freedoms we enjoy.

Jeffrey Hall was a soldier but he was also a loving son to his parents Charles and Annette, a devoted husband to his wife Allison and eleven months ago became a father to Audrey Faith. Jeffrey loved life and his family and the outpouring of love and affection by his family and friends is the real tribute to the man that he was and the life that he led.

Staff Sergeant Hall is an inspiring example that we can all look up to and aspire to be like. He put the safety of all Americans before his own, and the people of this nation will be forever grateful. He motivated and inspired those around him and will be greatly missed by all who knew him, and by those who never had the honor and privilege of meeting him.

Our country lost a great soldier and an even better son last Monday. All of us in north Alabama are deeply saddened by Jeffrey's passing. On behalf of the entire community in the Tennessee Valley, across Alabama and a grateful nation, I rise today to remember SSG Jeffrey Allen Hall and to pay tribute to his honor, his sacrifice and his memory.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 9, 2009

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, please excuse me for departing early on Thursday, June 4, 2009. I left for personal reasons due to the severe illness of my brother. If I would have been here, I would have voted for H.R. 626, the Federal Employees Paid Parental Leave Act of 2009.

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO THE RETIREMENT OF RICHARD A. GILTS AS PERRYSBURG POLICE CHIEF

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 9, 2009

Mr. LATTA. Madam Speaker, it is with a great deal of pride that I pay a very special tribute to an outstanding Police Chief in the Fifth District of Ohio. Richard A. Gilts of Perrysburg, Ohio has been serving the area for Thirty-Nine years, where he was promoted as the Sixth Chief of Police of Perrysburg in 2003.

Madam, Speaker, there is no question that the safety of our citizens is vital. In January of 1976, when Richard was hired on to the Perrysburg Police Division, he rose through the ranks to become Sergeant in 1983 and Lieutenant in 1993. The safety of its citizens is of utmost importance to the city. Chief Gilts has demonstrated his commitment to this goal through his involvement in programs such as Safety Town, D.A.R.E., and the Perrysburg Police Foundation. Chief Gilts was an active member of Rotary International, having served as the President of the Perrysburg Rotary Chapter from 2005 to 2006.

On August 12, 2004, Chief Gilts dedicated a new 26,000 square foot police facility, which replaced the 4800 square foot station that was constructed at the same location in 1965. On August 28, 2004, Chief Gilts and the Police Division assisted with operational matters during a visit by President George W. Bush at the historic Fort Meigs Memorial Park. In the week leading up to the event, Chief Gilts and the Department were consumed by logistical and tactical issues, such as procurement and placement of equipment and props, fencing, barriers, site and crowd security, medical assistance, personnel scheduling and perimeter security.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying special tribute for the service of Chief Gilts. On behalf of the people of the Fifth District of Ohio, I wish Chief Gilts all of the best in his future endeavors.

A TRIBUTE IN REMEMBRANCE OF RONALD S. CLINTON

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 9, 2009

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Ronald S. Clinton, dedicated community leader and advocate.

Ron Clinton's remarkable twenty year experience is highlighted by a personal dedication to organizational effectiveness and empowering others to succeed. He has devoted most of his professional services to the areas of assessment, consultation, development, planning and management services for small, mid-size and large companies.

Mr. Clinton graduated from Boriqua College with a bachelor's degree in Human Services. He continued his graduate studies at Yeshiva University where he received his Masters of Social Work and specialized in community organizing. It was during this time that Mr. Clinton pursued and developed Helping Hands Unlimited, Inc. (HHU), a not-for-profit organization. It was through HHU that Mr. Clinton created and committed himself to the mission of bringing qualified health professionals into impoverished communities to ensure the delivery of quality care.

Mr. Clinton is President and Founder of Helping Hands Unlimited, Inc. He has represented clients in various capacities working closely with inter-governmental affairs at the city, state and federal levels ensuring the public interest of his clients. One of his paramount goals is to build a creative and aspiring consulting company over a strong foundation and guiding principles of leadership and success.

As a community leader and activist, Mr. Clinton serves on numerous boards and com-

mittees. His drive and passion for effecting positive change are evident through his personal efforts and commitment to stay involved in community service. The vast influential relationships he built over the years strengthened his solid position among his colleagues. Mr. Clinton served as the vice president of Pueblo democratic club in Williamsburg/Bushwick. He was elected as the Democratic Party's Kings County delegate for Al Gore's presidential candidacy. Mr. Clinton ran for the New York City Department of Education School District 32 School Board in 2002. In 2004, Mr. Clinton ran for New York State Senate and served as co-chair of the East New York and Brownsville HIV Care Network and is currently serving as chairperson of Woodhull Medical Center North Brooklyn Network Community Advisory Board.

Mr. Clinton enjoys spending time with his ten-year-old son, Ronald, coaching baseball, basketball and wrestling.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing a man of great conviction and dedication to community service, Ronald S. Clinton.

EMANUEL MENDEZ

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 9, 2009

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Emanuel Mendez who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Emanuel Mendez 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 Emanuel Mendez 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 Emanuel Mendez 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.

SUPPORTING BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2009

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Madam Speaker, in celebration of the nation's largest youth scouting organization's 100th anniversary, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 356, a resolution expressing support for the designation of February 8, 2010, as "Boy Scouts of America Day."

The Boy Scouts of America is an outstanding organization that prepares young men to be the future leaders of our Nation. Since 1910, Scouting has helped mold these boys by combining educational activities and

lifelong values with fun. The Boy Scouts of America understands that helping youth puts our nation on a path toward a more conscientious, responsible, and productive society. Scouting helps young people develop self-confidence, as well as prepare them with academic, ethical, leadership, and citizenship skills that influence their adult lives.

The Boy Scouts of America builds upon strong traditional family values to complement the education of our young men through its mission of mentoring, lifelong learning, faith traditions, serving others, healthy living, and building character.

While various activities and youth groups teach basic skills and promote teamwork, Scouting goes beyond that and encourages youth to achieve a deeper appreciation for service to others in their communities. Finally, and perhaps most importantly, Scouting promotes activities that lead to personal responsibility and high self-esteem. As a result, when hard decisions must be made, peer pressure can be resisted and the right choices can be made.

Madam Speaker, from the beginning of the Boy Scout program to the eventual completion and rank of Eagle Scout, Boy Scouts of America has long trained young men in the necessary skills that will enable them to be the future leaders of the United States. I applaud the efforts and the accomplishments of all of our nation's Boy Scouts, and specifically those of the 11th District of Georgia, which is my privilege to represent in Congress. I urge all of my colleagues to continue to support this honorable organization and the excellent young men that it continues to produce.

MEDICARE TRANSITION CARE ACT OF 2009

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 9, 2009

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, today I am proud to introduce the Medicare Transition Care Act of 2009.

When people leave the hospital after an operation or illness, they are often overwhelmed by a complicated and risky road to recovery. Patients frequently report difficulty remembering clinical instructions, confusion over medications, and, in cases where multiple providers are involved, often get conflicting instructions from different providers. Providing a transitional care benefit within Medicare will help coordinate care, develop a care plan for patients and their caregivers, identify potential health risks, and prevent unnecessary hospitalizations.

This bipartisan legislation gets to the heart of improving quality while reducing costs. A study published in April 2009 in the *New England Journal of Medicine* found that almost one-third of Medicare beneficiaries studied who were discharged from a hospital were re-hospitalized within 90 days. Additionally, one-half of the individuals re-hospitalized had not visited a physician since their discharge, indicating a lack of follow-up care. The study estimated that Medicare spent \$17.4 billion in 2004 on unplanned re-hospitalizations.

The Medicare Transition Care Act will directly address continuity of care problems by

increasing support to patients as they move from the hospital to their new care setting and ensuring that appropriate follow-up care is provided during this vulnerable period. The benefit would be phased-in, initially targeting just the most at-risk individuals by providing evidence-based transitional care services tailored to their specific needs.

I am proud to partner with Congressman BOUSTANY, a cardiothoracic surgeon, on this commonsense legislation that will improve the quality and efficiency of our health care system.

HONORING THE INDIANA NATIONAL GUARD'S 1313TH ENGINEER COMPANY WHO WILL SOON BE DEPLOYING TO IRAQ

HON. BARON P. HILL

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 9, 2009

Mr. HILL. Madam Speaker, today, I would like to pay honor to the Indiana National Guard's 1313th Engineer Company, who will be deploying to Iraq in July and spending the next year there. These brave citizen soldiers, based out of Camp Atterbury in Edinburg, IN, will be conducting a wide range of engineering missions in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom; including searching for improvised explosive devices, building roads and bridges, and, in general, improving lives to both our service personnel in Iraq and Iraqi civilians.

I am confident that their skilled work and dedication to duty will save lives, improve conditions in Iraq, and ultimately work toward the completion of our country's mission in Iraq.

I would also like to honor the families of these Guardsmen, who without their love and support, would make this already difficult task that much more challenging. They too share in the hardships of military service, and they too deserve our utmost thanks and respect.

These brave Hoosier Guardsmen and their families will be in my thoughts and prayers.

CONGRATULATING RAMSEY POLICE DEPARTMENT D.A.R.E. PROGRAM STUDENTS

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 9, 2009

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, today, the Ramsey Police Department will hold its D.A.R.E. graduation ceremony with the students from the John Y. Dater and St. Paul Interparochial Schools. The young people participating in this important program have made a commitment to say no to drugs, underage drinking, and gang violence. They have done this with the support of Chief of Police Bryan Gurney and the brave men and women of the Ramsey Police Department.

Drug Abuse Resistance Education, or D.A.R.E., began as a small program in Los Angeles in 1983. Today, it is implemented in more than 75 percent of our nation's school districts and in more than 43 other nations. This program allows children to defeat the

negative cultural influences that they are challenged with daily by opening the lines of communication between law enforcement and youth and empowering them with confidence and courage to say no to drugs.

I am proud of the young boys and girls who participated in this program in Ramsey, and I would like to recognize them all for taking this step toward positive citizenship:

Mark Andersen, Michael Babikian, Samuel Berman, Brianna Bussiere, Olivia Carriero, Michael Cassella, Francesca De Palo, Matthew De Pinto, Sonny Del Valle, Ross Farcas, Fiona Flood, Melanie Greenberg, Dwight Han, Sarah Hattar, Lindsay Hoffman, Morgan Kleinberg, Julie McNamara, Justin Millet, Brandon O'Callahan, Courtney Schreiber, Ryan Scialla, Nikita Serafin, Ashley Sicard, Jacob Simpson, Zachary Becher, Jessica Bell, Jacob Berkofsky, Kaley Bogden, Michael Brunton, Elizabeth Burch, Michael Careccia, Connor Chamberlin, Kara Checke, Emily Derleth, Marc Doran, Shannon Fine, Joseph Frohlich, Christina Goudelias, Joseph Guthrie, Patrick Journick, Brian Lander, Elaine Les, Emmanuel Lugo Abreu, Brandon Mazzola, Rebecca Moya, Allison Murphy, Stephen Pirro, Kelly Richter, Alaina Sebes, Lucas Alvarez, Rosemary Arpino, Christopher Di Palma, Katherine Donnelly, Daniel Donovan, Ryan Faulkner, Thomas Feehan, Daniel Gallombardo, Meredith Halik, Haruna Ishii, Kevin Johns, Melissa Lara, Devan Larson, Maria Martino, Jesse Mitchell, Megan Murphy, Mariana Perez, Eric Pflugfelder, Stephen Porter, Christine Song, Austin Triglia, Kayla Vanderbilt, Siera Vari, Alexandra Alois, Robert Beers, Joshua Bialkin, Emma Bogaenko, Megan Bosso, Gregory Botz, Carlie Capela, Joseph Carroll, Nicole De Franco, Matthew Donnelly, Bridget Gregory, JohnEric Hornyak, Ashley Houser, Kenneth Kasprzak, Kevin Latz, Kellen McDonald, Peter McNally, Kazuki Miyamoto, Amanda Nedelkoff, Bridget Quinn, Victoria Stitz, Samantha Stollman, Caitlin Sweeney, Evan Szucs, John Alicandri, Jenna Bahnsen, Olivia Cseh, Matthew Desimone, Conor Dobson, Olivia Gilligan, Mackenzie Juhlin, Elise Kelly, Sean Kopczyński, Kelsey Larkin, Erin Latz, Katherine Lenahan, Garrett Mast, Kathryn Miller, Jennifer Monteith, Patrick O'Keefe, Jeffrey Padovano, Jacqueline Pesco, Sean Riordan, Jared Schwarz, Alexander Sebastiano, Haydn Van Dyk, Lauren Venturini, Kaitlyn Zwerling, Sarah Ahearn, Kayla Azouri, Danny Balbuena, Tye Baruffaldi, Nicole Borbone, Samuel Brickman, Gabrielle Daniels, Kristen Foelsch, Anne Glerum, Jake Gursaly, Josue Herrera, Siranush Hovhannisyán, Kathryn Iannuzzi, Kazel Kapadia, Brendan Mahon, Peter Mariani, Robert McOwen, Victoria Medlicott, David Mende, Harrison Mobbs, Jessica Pevny, Elena Polin, Henry Ruitenber, Ryan Shevlin, Christopher Spittler, Kimberly Tuntigian, Brita Andersen, Taylor Corbett, Julia D'Antonio, Matthew Davidson, Sean Donnelly, Sean Donohue, Timothy Finnegan, Lillian Hong, Samantha Hotz, Harrison Illes, Brendan Jahnke, Khadija Khan, Lily Kramer, Brian Kurnentz, Lacey Laggan, Thomas Lanning, James Messina, John Milligan, James O'Keefe, James Pupalakakis, Alyssa Rose, Breanna Russell, Elisa Silecchia, Kara Sutcliffe, Anna Wanner, Jack August, Brooke Bernier, Carlo Alberto Bolognini, Kelly Carolan, Jake Cataldo, Christina Cowie, Deanna De Luca, Brooke Dommenege, Matthew Eng, Jacob Englishman, Zachary