

and recreational purposes. I am excited to introduce this legislation and urge my colleagues to support it.

**HONORING BISHOP GUILFOYLE
HIGH SCHOOL**

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 9, 2009

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplishments of the Bishop Guilfoyle High School girls basketball team of Altoona, PA. As the 2009 Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association Class A girls basketball champions, the Lady Marauders have shown the discipline and teamwork required to achieve greatness.

The Lady Marauders have a rich history of achievement. Having won two PIAA Class A championships in three seasons, and five overall, the Lady Marauders are no strangers to success. Their season's record of 30–1 is tied for the second most in a single season in Lady Marauder program history.

This year's season came to a close on March 21st at University Park, PA, and resulted in a 49–27 defeat of Nativity BMV by Bishop Guilfoyle's Lady Marauders. The hard work and talent of the nineteen players, as well as their five coaches, most certainly led to this rewarding experience.

These young women are exemplary athletes and their pride in their performance is an inspiration to all of Blair County. I believe that this championship will be one of many successes in the lives of these talented players and coaches, and I congratulate them for all their efforts.

TRIBUTE TO DR. ISAIAH R. MCGEE

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 9, 2009

Mr. CLYBURN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding constituent and an award-winning educator, Dr. Isaiah R. McGee. Dr. McGee is a 2009 recipient of the South Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities Inc. Excellence in Teaching Award. He is the director of choral studies and assistant professor of music at Claflin University. He also directs the Claflin University Concert Choir.

Dr. McGee is a native South Carolinian, having been born and raised in Anderson. He is a graduate of my alma mater, South Carolina State University, and earned his masters from the University of South Carolina. Dr. McGee earned his doctorate from Florida State University in Music Education—Choral Conducting, and served as a graduate assistant and director of the Gospel Choir at Florida State.

During his career, Dr. McGee has earned a reputation as an accomplished vocalist, conductor, adjudicator, and clinician. He has international experience, debuting as the Conte in Cimarosa's *Il Convito* at Teatro Signorelli in Cortona, Italy. He stays very active in professional organizations including the American Choral Directors Association and MENC.

Dr. McGee joined the Claflin University faculty in 1997, and has made an enviable mark on the Orangeburg campus. Dr. McGee is always looking for ways to enrich the experiences of his students to promote their performance and their commitment to their craft. Last year, he took Claflin's Concert Choir to China to participate in the pre-Olympic ceremonies. They performed in both Beijing and Shanghai.

Dr. McGee has developed a great deal of respect from his colleagues and students. Claflin University's president Dr. Henry Tisdale calls him "an exemplary member of our faculty and committed to teaching and service." Claflin's vice president for academic affairs Dr. George Miller says, "Dr. McGee's approach to teaching and scholarship with his student partners demonstrates the strength of the amalgam that results when theory and practice are combined."

Dr. McGee was selected for the Excellence in Teaching Award by his peers at Claflin University. The purpose of the award is to honor faculty members who demonstrate the highest standards of teaching that encourage students to strive for excellence in their studies and intellectual pursuits. In addition to the recognition, Dr. McGee receives a \$3,000 grant to be used for professional development opportunities.

Madam Speaker, I invite you and my colleagues to join me today in applauding the tremendous accomplishments of Dr. Isaiah McGee. He is an extraordinary example of an educator who inspires intellectual curiosity and demands outside enrichment to ensure his students reach their full potential. This award is well deserved and is recognition of a job well done.

SAMUEL MARKOFF

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 Samuel Markoff who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Samuel Markoff 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 Samuel Markoff 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 Samuel Markoff 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.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VILLAGE OF OTTAWA, OHIO

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 9, 2009

Mr. LATTA. Madam Speaker, I would like to submit the following:

Whereas Congressman ROBERT E. LATTA extends his congratulations on the occasion of the One Hundred Seventy-Fifth Anniversary of the Village of Ottawa, Ohio; and

Whereas Ottawa, Ohio has been a proud member of the Northwest Ohio community since 1834; and

Whereas the citizens of Ottawa, Ohio provide friendship and tradition to all those in Northwest Ohio; and

Whereas Ottawa, Ohio has a long history of fostering business, education, and community relationships; therefore, be it

Resolved The people of Northwest Ohio are grateful for the service of the citizens and employers of Ottawa, Ohio. Ohio's Fifth Congressional District is well served by their dedication and support. We wish Ottawa, Ohio all the best during its celebration of the One Hundred Seventy-Fifth anniversary.

**TRIBUTE TO GENERAL DAVID D.
MCKIERNAN**

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 9, 2009

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments, dedication, public service and valor of General David D. McKiernan, U.S. Army, outgoing Commander of NATO's International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) and Commander U.S. Forces Afghanistan, who served our Nation with distinction during 37 years of faithful service. General McKiernan will retire from the Army on 1 August 2009, and we owe him our thanks and gratitude for his many efforts and years of service on behalf of our Nation.

A native of Ft. McPherson, Georgia, General McKiernan entered the U.S. Army in 1972, after graduating from the College of William and Mary and receiving a ROTC commission from the U.S. Army. During the course of his career he served at every level from platoon leader to four star commander. The units he commanded included the 1st Battalion, 35th Armor (Iron Knights), 1st Armored Division, 1st Brigade (Iron Horse) 1st Cavalry Division, 1st Cavalry Division, and 3rd U.S. Army/Combined Forces Land Component Command. He culminated his career serving as the theater commander—COMISAF/US Forces Afghanistan.

This superb officer performed key leadership roles during many of the crises and operations of the past 15 years. He served as the Deputy Chief of Staff G–2/G–3 with the Allied Command Europe Rapid Reaction Corp) while forward deployed in Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina. From August 1998 until September 1999, he served as Deputy Chief of Staff, Operations, Headquarters, United States

Army, Europe and Seventh Army during a period of simultaneous operations in Bosnia, Albania, and Kosovo. General McKiernan subsequently became the Coalition Forces Land Component Commander for Central Command. In March 2003, General McKiernan commanded and led all coalition and U.S. conventional ground forces in the invasion of Iraq.

As the capstone for an exceptional career of service to our country, General McKiernan distinguished himself from 3 June 2008 to 3 June 2009 while serving as the Commander, International Security Assistance Force and Commander, U.S. Forces—Afghanistan. General McKiernan was instrumental in developing the partnerships and setting the conditions necessary for achieving mission success in Afghanistan. He revamped the campaign strategy. He worked to improve command and control in that war by reorganizing the ISAF headquarters staff to better execute that strategy and working to establish a new command—U.S. Forces Afghanistan, significantly improving coordination of counterinsurgency operations across Afghanistan.

In the fall of 2008, General McKiernan articulated the need for a sizeable increase in U.S. forces in the strategically important southern region of Afghanistan to improve security and help safeguard national elections in August 2009. He was the first to recommend the need for a sizeable increase in civilian resources from the U.S. Government to bolster governance and development efforts.

General McKiernan improved operations in Afghanistan, issuing new Counterinsurgency Guidance as the campaign shifted to efforts to protect the Afghan population, obtaining legal authorities to conduct counternarcotics interdiction, improving force protection measures, and issuing new guidance that cut down on non-combatant casualties. General McKiernan worked with the Ministry of Interior to develop the Afghan Public Protection Program, which could become a blueprint for developing bottom up governance in the districts and provinces throughout the country. He worked with the Afghan Government to support a highly successful 2008–2009 voter registration program with over 4.5 million Afghans registering without major incident and prepared the plans to support a fair and credible election in August 2009. He received approval for his recommendation to accelerate the growth of the Afghan National Army to 134,000 by December 2011, and has started the planning effort to grow the Afghan National Security Forces up to 400,000 in the years to come. He also was the architect behind the plan to bring in U.S. units in 2009 that can not only conduct a rigorous counter-insurgency campaign in the south, but can build the capacity of the Afghan Army and Police by training, partnering and mentoring with Afghan Army and Police units. General McKiernan personally reinvigorated the Tripartite Commission (TPC) process with Afghanistan, Pakistan, and ISAF, and conducted bilateral meetings to improve U.S. and Pakistan relations and to make the case that both countries face a mutual terrorist threat. It is certainly my hope that General McKiernan's initiatives build momentum going into the summer of 2009.

General David D. McKiernan is a true American patriot. His leadership, keen intellect and performance throughout an intensive and demanding period of military history were instru-

mental in achieving success in mission after mission. He boldly led "America's finest" during combat operations in Desert Storm, the Balkans, the invasion of Iraq and finally in the harsh and difficult mountains and deserts of Afghanistan. I know his selfless performance of duty, courage under fire, exceptional integrity and quiet pursuit of excellence has inspired many American warriors who have served with him. I am sure he will be truly missed in Afghanistan by his troops, diplomatic colleagues, NATO and our Coalition partners, and the Government of Afghanistan. It gives me great pleasure today to recognize and salute a great American—General David McKiernan—before my colleagues. I wish General McKiernan and his lovely wife Carmen all the best that life has to offer as he concludes a most distinguished career in service to our country.

INTRODUCTION OF THE MILITARY OVERPAYMENT FAIRNESS ACT OF 2009

HON. CAROL SHEA-PORTER

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 9, 2009

Ms. SHEA-PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the Military Overpayment Fairness Act. Payment errors are common in all military branches and the burden of having to quickly repay an overpayment can place a significant strain on military families.

When I had a meeting with National Guard families and asked for their most significant problems, they spoke to me about the hardships caused by overpayment errors. I heard the story of a National Guard Sergeant from New Hampshire who was injured in Afghanistan and hospitalized in Walter Reed. Due to an error by the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS), he received four months of pay in error. He immediately brought these overpayments to DFAS's attention. DFAS assured the service member that there was no error and that he was entitled to all of the money he received. The service member disputed the payments several times, but was told they were correct. Then, a year later, DFAS reversed itself and suddenly notified him that he had been overpaid. They began deducting at the rate two-thirds of his monthly paycheck. To make matters worse, by this time he had enrolled in college and still had the continued, added burden of house payments. This and other similar stories show the severity of this problem in my home state of New Hampshire and across the nation.

I am introducing this legislation to ease the burden on servicemen and women by requiring DFAS to take into account the finances of members of the Armed Forces when pay errors are made. This bill gives the Department of Defense the flexibility to negotiate the terms of repayment, taking into account the finances of the service member, to avoid causing service members undue hardship. In addition, the bill states that not more than 10 percent of a service member's pay can be deducted monthly for an overpayment. Currently, up to two-thirds of a service member's salary can be deducted. The bill delays repayments if service members are wounded, ill, or deployed. It also has a five-year statute of limitations.

These provisions should encourage the Department of Defense to improve its accounting practices.

The men and women that serve our nation have already sacrificed for our country—there is no excuse for placing undue financial burdens on these men and women as a result of poor accounting practices. I was proud to introduce legislation to address the hardships caused by these errors. I look forward to its consideration in the House of Representatives.

VITTORRO MAESTAS

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 Vittorio Maestas who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Vittorio Maestas is a senior at Jefferson High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Vittorio Maestas 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 Vittorio Maestas 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.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. J. GRESHAM BARRETT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 9, 2009

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, unfortunately I missed recorded votes on the House floor on Monday, June 8, 2009.

I ask that the record reflect that had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall vote No. 311 (Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to H.R. 1736); "nay" on rollcall vote No. 312 (Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to H.R. 1709); "aye" on rollcall vote No. 313 (Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to H. Res. 420).

INTRODUCTION OF FEE DISCLOSURE BILL

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 9, 2009

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce The Defined Contribution Plan Fee Transparency Act of 2009. During the last Congress, we expected some guidance from the Department of Labor on the issue of fee transparency, but not much was