

Congress. Meyer knew that he couldn't have his engineers constantly focus as the targeted ships changed each year, and thus instituted "Superset." The "Superset" combat system would be the largest aggregation of capability under consideration for a single ship. If a less capable version were eventually authorized by Congress, "down-designing" would be easier than inserting new combat system features. When our democracy finished its great debate on the first ship to carry AEGIS, a highly modified version of the USS *Spruance* hull was the result. Christened by Nancy Reagan in 1981, and commissioned in 1983, the cruiser USS *Ticonderoga* was built on time, and slightly under budget. It was on the battle line in Lebanon only 9 months after its commission.

Today, when our country seems to have difficulties building ships, we should remember that we have had great patriots like Admiral Meyer, who could lead the most complex of endeavors—and bring them in on cost and on schedule.

But one ship does not a fleet make. Promoted to rear admiral in 1975, Meyer's third major challenge was to "rebuild the Surface Navy"—transitioning from a Terrier and Tartar cruiser and destroyer fleet to an AEGIS cruiser and destroyer fleet. Meyer knew it would be a long process, and would require schoolhouses, shore-based logistics, facilities for computer program maintenance, training, in-service engineering, and a host of other facilities and people to keep the new fleet ready. With his partner in the Chief of Naval Operations' Office, Vice Admiral James H. Doyle, Jr., he set out to build this supporting infrastructure, which keeps the fleet ready today. With 27 cruisers and 62 destroyers built or under construction, and more in planning, Admiral Meyer's vision of rebuilding the surface Navy is now complete.

After retiring in 1985, Admiral Meyer's restless zeal has kept him thoroughly involved in our Nation's defense. He has chaired numerous Navy Advisory Boards, the Ballistic Missile Defense Advisory Committee, and remains a valuable counselor to those in our Navy as the "Father of AEGIS."

He has watched with special pride as his AEGIS fleet has been transformed into a critical arm of our Nation's ballistic missile defense system. With his guidance and mentorship, the process has again been, "build-a-little, test-a-little, learn a lot," with a record of success unparalleled among the missile defense programs.

His accomplishments and contributions to the defense of our Nation have been so numerous and far-reaching that the Secretary of the Navy named an AEGIS destroyer, DDG 108, the USS *Wayne E. Meyer*. She is to commission this October, an event that will no doubt be attended by thousands who have taken part in the "AEGIS movement." In advance of that monumental event, I would like to thank Admiral Meyer for his more than 65 years of service to our Nation. I stand in awe of his achievements, his systems, his fleet, and his commitment to the excellence of our Navy.

H. CON. RES. 51, RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ANTARCTIC TREATY

**HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 8, 2009*

Mr. TIBERI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my support for H. Con. Res. 51, Recognizing the 50th Anniversary of the Antarctic Treaty.

This resolution recognizes that the Antarctic Treaty has ensured Antarctica's peaceful use and the continuance of international harmony for the past half century. Also, it encourages international and interdisciplinary collaboration in the Antarctic Treaty Summit.

The Antarctic Treaty was signed by the United States and eleven other nations in Washington, D.C. on December 1, 1959. Over the past five decades, the Antarctic Treaty has succeeded as a firm foundation for ongoing international cooperation. It has grown to include 47 nations, representing nearly two-thirds of the world's population.

The Antarctic Treaty was established to continue and develop international "cooperation on the basis of freedom of scientific investigation in Antarctica as applied during the International Geophysical Year."

November 30th through December 3, 2009, on the 50th anniversary of its signing, the Antarctic Treaty Summit will convene in Washington, D.C. at the Smithsonian Institution. The summit will be an international and interdisciplinary meeting that will offer a unique venue for scientists, legislators, administrators, lawyers, historians, educators, executives and others to explore the scientific and policy achievements of the Antarctic Treaty System and its global precedents in international governance.

This resolution also encourages international and interdisciplinary collaboration in the Antarctic Treaty Summit to identify lessons from 50 years of international cooperation under the Antarctic Treaty that have legacy value for humankind.

I would especially like to recognize my constituent, Dr. Paul A. Berkman. Professor Berkman was awarded a Fulbright Distinguished Scholarship at the University of Cambridge to plan the Antarctic Treaty Summit: Science-Policy Inter-actions in International Governance. Dr. Berkman now serves as Chair of the international board for this interdisciplinary project. I am thankful for his dedication, passion, and enthusiasm for the Antarctic Treaty and the Antarctic Treaty Summit.

I hope that my colleagues will join me in recognizing the important contributions, and peaceful international cooperation the Antarctic Treaty has encouraged for the past half century by passing H. Con. Res. 51. A truly bipartisan measure will both capture and accurately honor the spirit of the Antarctic Treaty.

SUPPORTING NATIONAL ADULT EDUCATION AND FAMILY LITERACY WEEK

SPEECH OF

**HON. DANIEL B. MAFFEI**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 6, 2009*

Mr. MAFFEI. Madam Speaker, today I rise in support of House Resolution 707, expressing support for the week of September 13, 2009, as Adult Education and Family Literacy Week. Syracuse, NY, in my district, is considered the "home" of the adult literacy movement. It was in Syracuse that Dr. Frank Laubach established Laubach Literacy International to combat this ever growing problem. In my district, ProLiteracy continues the fight to encourage adult literacy in order to improve the lives of adults, their families and communities. ProLiteracy, the world's largest organization of adult literacy and basic education programs, provides advocacy, professional development, training, technical assistance, and materials to the programs that help adults learn to read, write, perform basic math, use technology, and communicate in English.

Fourteen percent of adults nationwide cannot read at an 8th grade level, that number rises to twenty two percent of adults in the state of New York. The ability to read is a key component for overcoming poverty, maintaining good health, finding a job that pays a living wage and preventing crime. Almost 63 percent of all inmates in state and federal prisons are almost totally illiterate.

For example, Carl Sodeberg from Minneapolis, Minnesota had a learning disability that made it difficult for him to read. When Carl was in high school, he was called to the front of the classroom to read something from the blackboard. When students and the teacher mocked him, Carl lashed out at the teacher verbally and was suspended from school. He never went back. Over the next 20 years Carl found himself in and out of work. He developed a drug problem and ended up in jail. When he finally realized he needed to learn to read, Carl was in his mid-40's. Carl worked with an adult literacy program in his community—he learned to read, earned his high school diploma, and then went on to get a paraprofessional's license that enables him to work as a teacher's aide. He's now employed by the high school from which he was suspended, working with students who have fallen behind in their studies due to reading problems.

It is stories such as Carl Sodeberg's that remind us the importance of encouraging adult literacy and the mission of organizations like ProLiteracy. I encourage other Members to join me in supporting H. Res. 707 to designate the week of September 13 Adult Education and Family Literacy Week.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE PASSING OF W.L. SMITH

**HON. JEFF MILLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 8, 2009*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. W.L. Smith "Junior," a World War II veteran and a community

leader who passed away on October 5, 2009. Mr. Smith spent his life serving his country, his community, and his family, and I am proud to honor his dedication and service.

Junior Smith was born on November 7, 1921 in Weedowee, Alabama and was a life-long resident of Jay, Florida. He served honorably in World War II before opening Smith Tractor Company in Jay. In addition, Junior

was an active member of the community. He was a member of the Jay United Methodist Church, as well as the Masonic Lodge. Junior will be sorely missed by his wife of 59 years, Louise, his children, Connie, Donna, Ricky, and Scotty, his 10 grandchildren, his great-grandchild, and his entire extended family.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to honor

W.L. Smith "Junior" as a World War II hero and Northwest Florida leader. Junior will be remembered as a loving husband and father and as an important part of our community. My wife Vicki and I offer our prayers for his family as we remember and honor the life of W.L. Smith.