

very active deaconess where she volunteers for Vacation Bible School, serves for funerals and performs daily church duties. When Ms. Crawford is not serving her community through her church, she enjoys activities such as bowling, shopping, needlepoint and family gatherings.

Ms. Crawford's family includes her husband Dowel Stewart and two daughters, Sonia and Betty, four granddaughters, Nikita Griffith, Tenesha Lewis, Xiomara Okonkwo and Cherisse Lewis and four great grandchildren, Anaiya Davis, Gyselle Brown, Michael Brown and Laila Davis.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Joan Hevony Lawrence Crawford.

IN RECOGNITION OF STRAFFORD
HIGH SCHOOL FLAMING ARROW
INDIAN PRIDE MARCHING BAND

HON. ROY BLUNT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 1, 2009

Mr. BLUNT. Madam Speaker, I rise today with pleasure and pride to pay tribute to the achievements of the Music Department at Strafford High School in Strafford, Missouri. The Strafford High Flaming Arrow Indian Pride marching band and choir will participate in the events surrounding the December 31st, 2009, Chick-fil-A Bowl in Atlanta, Georgia. A long-standing event at the bowl game is the National Chick-fil-A Bowl Band Festival.

The music festival has clinics and competition for choir, concert band, jazz band and marching band. The Strafford marching band and choir will compete against other schools while the marching band will march in the National Chick-fil-A Bowl Parade in downtown Atlanta on New Year's Eve. Game day, the Strafford band will participate in a pre-game and halftime massed band "extravaganza" of 2,000 members performing in the Georgia Dome Olympic Stadium.

Strafford, Missouri, is my hometown, and I graduated from Strafford High. Today, Strafford has a population of 1,845 citizens, and the high school has approximately 400 students. The band and choir are made up of 55 motivated, hardworking teens in concert and marching band, 20 students in jazz band and 36 students in choir. The music department is under the direction of Shane Harmon.

The Strafford High Flaming Arrow Indian Pride marching band consistently ranks among the best bands in Missouri, earning first place at six judged events this year. At the 2007 Outback Bowl in Tampa, Florida, the Strafford concert band, jazz band and marching band each earned a 1st place Silver rating, and the concert choir earned a 1st place Gold rating. These achievements led to the invitation to participate at the band festival at the Chick-fil-A Bowl. This recognition is the result of long hours of practice, and dedication to excellence by Strafford students, faculty and their families.

A TRIBUTE TO DR. LEONEL
URCUYO

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS-

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 1, 2009

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Dr. Leonel Urcuyo and his commitment as a physician of mental health.

After graduating college in Nicaragua and medical school in Madrid, the newly titled doctor began an internship at McGill University in Montreal and did his residency in Psychiatry at New York University, Bellevue Medical Center. By 1975, Dr. Urcuyo was a certified Psychoanalyst for the American Institute for Psychoanalysis for the Karen Horney Psychoanalytic Institute and Center in New York City.

For the past 27 years Dr. Urcuyo has held varying positions at Woodhull Hospital including service as Chairman of the Department of Psychiatry and President of the Woodhull Medical Group. Dr. Urcuyo received one of the highest honors from the Woodhull Auxiliary Annual Gala, and the distinguished Health Excellence Award from Addiction Research and Treatment Corporation/Urban Resource Institute. He is also the proud recipient of the Unsung Hero Community Service Award for Helping Hands, and mostly recently received a Service Citation from New York University School of Medicine.

He is the founding member of the Association of Hispanic Mental Health Professionals, and has published and lectured on many topics including: delivery of care issues, language barriers in evaluating pathology, bilingualism, cross-cultural issues in mental health and chemical dependency, language and psychotherapy, meaning of silence in psychotherapy, elective mutism, cognitive restructuring, depression and suicide.

Dr. Urcuyo is married to Sue Ellen Carney, Ph.D., and is the proud father of two children, Dr. Sergio Urcuyo and Ms. Anya Elena Urcuyo.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Dr. Leonel Urcuyo.

RECOGNIZING MAJOR GENERAL
JOHN R. ALISON

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 1, 2009

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, let me take this means to honor Major General John R. Alison, a distinguished Airman, a dedicated public servant, and a true American hero. Major General Alison served in the United States Air Force during World War II and the Korean War and also served as Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Aeronautics under President Harry Truman. Known as the father of Air Force Special Operations, Major General Alison turned 97 on November 21, 2009.

As a boy growing up in central Florida, Major General Alison dreamed of becoming a pilot for the United States. He graduated from the University of Florida School of Engineering in 1936 and soon after joined the United States Army Air Corps. He earned his wings in 1937 at Kelly Field and went on to serve as

the assistant Military Attaché in England and the Soviet Union.

During World War II, Major General Alison served as commander of the 75th Fighter Squadron, formerly known as the "Flying Tigers." With seven confirmed victories and numerous probable kills, he ended his tour as a combat ace and earned a Distinguished Service Cross and a Silver Star for his unmatched courage and skill. Major General Alison returned home in May of 1943 only to be recalled to co-command the highly innovative 1st Air Commando Group. This secret flying unit flew over 200 miles into enemy territory in support of some 9,000 Allied forces. For his skill and courage as a pilot, he was inducted into the Air Commando Hall of Fame in 1994.

After the war, President Harry Truman called on Major General Alison to serve as Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Aeronautics. In this role, he developed thoughtful recommendations on U.S. foreign policy relating to the Soviet Union, the Marshall Plan, and the European Recovery Program. These recommendations and other documents from his time as Assistant Secretary are held at the Harry S. Truman Library and Museum.

Madam Speaker, Major General John R. Alison has spent his life fighting for our country as a pilot and a public servant. Never wavering in his commitment to freedom and the ideals of our country, he sets a high standard for all Americans. I am proud to call him my friend, and I trust that my fellow members of the House will join me in recognizing this courageous and talented American.

A TRIBUTE TO MRS. JENNETTE
EICHELBERGER WAITERS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS-

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 1, 2009

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Jennette Eichelberger Waiters who was born in Columbia, South Carolina. Mrs. Waiters migrated to Brooklyn, NY to further her education.

Mrs. Waiters worked at Kings County Hospital as a nurse's aide and then attended Wyckoff Hospital School of Practical Nursing. She returned to Kings County Hospital and attended New York City Community College to obtain her Associate's Degree in Nursing and made the Dean's list. Mrs. Waiters worked as a head nurse in the chest clinic for 14 years. She worked a total of 45 years in Kings County Hospital doing the things she loves most, caring for the sick and the elderly. Mrs. Waiters worked six months with the Department of Health and also was a relief supervisor at the Metropolitan Jewish Geriatric Center on some weekends for 12 years.

Mrs. Waiters is a God-loving person. She does community work assisting the elderly on shopping trips and helping them to keep their doctors' appointments when needed. She belongs to Bethany Baptist Church where she serves on the Senior Ladies Usher Board as Vice President and a member of the Nurses Unit. She is a member of the Stark Senior Center and is Queen of the Red Hat Society. Mrs. Waiters encourages our youth to continue and pursue their highest goals in education so that they can accomplish anything in life.

Mrs. Waiters continues to work at community outreach health fairs, passing on information to senior citizens to enhance their health and well being. She loves giving and sharing with others. Her mission in life is to help others. She is a lady of fashion and participates in numerous fashion shows. She is a member of the acting guild where she has performed in a play called "The Family Feud."

She was married to the late Andrew J. Waiters. She has two children, Bernard and Janet. She has four grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. She is affectionately known as "Grandma" Waiters by many.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Jennette Eichelberger Waiters.

TRIBUTE TO COMMANDER SHANTI
SETHI, USN

HON. GENE TAYLOR

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 1, 2009

Mr. TAYLOR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Commander Shanti Sethi, United States Navy, who provided invaluable service to this House on national security issues for the last two years as a liaison officer assigned to the Navy Office of Legislative Affairs and who will soon be on the front lines of our Nation's defense as the commanding officer of a United States Navy destroyer.

Commander Sethi is a native of Reno, Nevada but was raised in Connecticut, New York, Oregon, and California. Her step-father is Hall of Fame drag racer Conrad "Connie" Kalitta and she spent many of her formative years at the track honing her mechanical skills. She graduated from Norwich University in 1993 with a degree in International Affairs and commissioned through the NROTC program. She holds a Masters Degree in International Policy and Practice from The George Washington University.

At sea, Commander Sethi served on USS Butte (AE 27) from March 1994 to June of 1996 as Communications Officer and Electrical Officer, making a Mediterranean and Arabian Gulf deployment in support of Operations Deny Flight, Sharp Guard, and Southern Watch. From August of 1996 through October of 1998, she served as the commissioning Navigator onboard USS Hopper (DDG 70). During this tour she supported a Panama Canal transit, accelerated test and trials, and a Middle East Force deployment in support of Operation Southern Watch commencing within one year of the ship's commissioning. She served as the Weapons Officer and Combat Systems Officer on USS Higgins (DDG 76) from March of 2001 until May of 2003. Onboard USS Higgins, she completed an Arabian Gulf deployment for Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom including missile defense tracking and cruise missile operations. She subsequently participated in the first test of crew exchange on destroyers serving as Combat Systems officer on USS Benfold (DDG 65) until her transfer in November of 2003. Commander Sethi was selected for early sea command and assumed command of MHC crew BOLD in April 2006 while embarked in USS Blackhawk (MHC 58). During her command she was responsible for

training Greek naval officers in the operation of MHC vessels prior to foreign military exchange. She subsequently assumed command of MHC crew Detector embarked on USS Kingfisher (MHC 56) where her ship provided valuable services to pre-deployment workups for Navy carrier strike groups.

Her shore assignments include serving as the Executive Assistant to the Commandant of Midshipmen at the United States Naval Academy, Resource Officer for Shipboard Protection Systems and Shipboard Radar Systems on the staff of the Chief of Naval Operations where she was instrumental in the rapid fielding of systems to protect warships from small boat and unconventional attacks, and her current assignment as the surface warfare liaison officer assigned to the Navy Office of Legislative Affairs.

In her current assignment Commander Sethi's responsibilities included primary liaison for surface combatant construction, surface ship combat and weapons systems, ballistic missile defense, and a myriad of other logistical and operational issues affecting the surface fleet. CDR Sethi provided invaluable support to me, the Committee on Armed Services, and the various Members and personal staff of the subcommittee on Seapower and Expeditionary Forces. She displayed a unique ability to explain complex military requirements against the backdrop of uncertain future threats. In this she served this committee well and reflected great credit upon herself and the United States Navy.

Madam Speaker, I have the great honor to inform the House that Commander Sethi has been selected to assume command of the Arleigh Burke class destroyer USS Decatur (DDG 73). When she does so, she will be only the 15th female officer to command a capital ship of the line. For myself and the other Members of the subcommittee we wish Commander Sethi fair winds, following seas, and Godspeed as she leads her crew in the protection of our nation.

68TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CIVIL
AIR PATROL

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 1, 2009

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 68th Anniversary of the Civil Air Patrol (CAP). For nearly seven decades CAP has provided for the safety and defense of our nation.

Established on December 1, 1941, CAP responsibilities were initially liaison flying and interdiction of infiltrators on the United States' East Coast and southern border during World War II. CAP's role eventually expanded in response to the German submarine threat, and it began to provide vital coastal surveillance and defense capabilities. The vigilance of CAP pilots successfully deterred enemy submarines from operating along American coasts with relative impunity.

Today, CAP operates as a nonprofit 501(c)(3) corporation and is designated as an all-volunteer civilian auxiliary to the United States Air Force. Since WWII, CAP has adopted a mission dedicated to three core pursuits: Aerospace education, cadet programs and emergency services.

CAP's Aerospace Education Program annually touches more than 900 educators, more than 20,000 cadets and thousands of other youths in classrooms across America. The education program teaches children multidisciplinary aviation concepts that emphasize aviation's connection to history, math, science, government and economics.

CAP provides exceptional educational and growth opportunities for youth through its nearly 22,000 member Cadet Program, which annually provides access to top national summer flight academies and to 30 national programs emphasizing leadership and careers in aviation, as well as flight training in powered and glider aircraft.

CAP's emergency services are its most high profile function and its members are routinely called upon to aid communities in response to natural disasters across the nation. CAP volunteers rose to the occasion during one of our nation's most trying times and provided assistance to rescuers and state agencies immediately following the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. Over 100 lives are saved each year by CAP search and rescue missions.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in commending Civil Air Patrol for its commitment to aerospace education, cadet programs and emergency services. I am greatly appreciative for their contribution to the safety of all Americans.

CONGRATULATING THE INKSTER
ALUMNAE CHAPTER OF THE
DELTA SIGMA THETA SORORITY
INC. ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR
50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 1, 2009

Mr. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Inkster Alumnae Chapter of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. On December 19, 2009, the Inkster Chapter will gather to celebrate their 50th anniversary.

The Delta Sigma Theta Sorority has a remarkable history of service since its creation in 1913. As the largest Greek letter organization for African American women in the country, the Deltas do remarkable work to serve their communities and their nation. Several of our current and former colleagues were proud Delta women. They brought their passion, their vision and their leadership to the House of Representatives and helped make this institution a far better place.

The Inkster Alumnae Chapter has a proud tradition of service and community involvement. They have worked to tutor students and provide them with scholarships, as well as implement innovative service learning programs for middle and high school girls. In addition to these efforts, the Inkster Deltas have held health fairs and greatly enhanced the civic participation of their community. These are all great accomplishments, but the Inkster Deltas have much more in store for the future as they seek to build on and expand their great works.

Once again, I hope my colleagues will join me in congratulating the Inkster Alumnae Chapter of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority as they gather in celebration of 50 wonderful years of service and accomplishment.