

Whereas, the Tusco Composite Squadron, founded in 1989, is celebrating 20 years of commendable service in Tuscarawas County, and

Whereas, three founding members—Lt. Betty Turnbull, Lt. Marilyne Shanks and Lt. Wayne Shanks—have served their unit since its inception, and

Whereas, the Tusco Composite Squadron has assisted the community by securing crash sites, helping with disaster relief efforts, and other services, and

Whereas, the Tusco Composite Squadron has been the recipient of numerous awards pertaining to their work and services; now, therefore, be it

Resolved that along with the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I commend the Tusco Composite Squadron OH-277 on 20 years of service to the community and the Air Force.

NORTHWEST STRAITS MARINE
CONSERVATION INITIATIVE ACT
(H.R. 1672)

SPEECH OF

HON. RICK LARSEN

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 7, 2009

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support for the Northwest Straits Marine Conservation Initiative Reauthorization Act, H.R. 1672.

Throughout the 1980s and early 1990s the marine waters of the Strait of Juan de Fuca, the San Juan Islands and northern Puget Sound, collectively known as the Northwest Straits, experienced substantial environmental decline. This was concerning because local communities rely on the resources of the Northwest Straits to create good-paying jobs and many iconic and endangered species, including orca whales and pacific salmon, rely on the Northwest Straits for food and habitat.

In 1997, Senator PATTY MURRAY and Congressman Jack Metcalf convened a blue-ribbon commission to examine ways to reverse this trend and restore the health of the Northwest Straits. In 1998, Congress adopted the Murray-Metcalf Commission's recommendations when it authorized the creation of the Northwest Straits Marine Conservation Commission, a grassroots organization which does not exercise regulatory authority but harnesses the energy of local communities to develop and implement conservation and restoration projects.

For the last 11 years, the Northwest Straits Commission has done great work to restore the Northwest Straits. Their projects have helped create jobs and protect endangered and threatened species.

The Northwest Straits Commission has demonstrated the ability to implement challenging recovery projects. The Commission used \$4.5 million of funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to remove hundreds of acres of abandoned fishing gear from the seafloor. This project created jobs for out-of-work fisherman and saved the lives of endangered species.

The legislation under consideration on the House floor today would extend the legislative authorization of the Northwest Straits Commis-

sion for an additional five years. It will increase tribal participation in the Commission and improve oversight of its activities.

H.R. 1672 has earned the support of our local community—I have received letters of support for this legislation from elected officials, businesspeople and environmentalists in every county in which the Northwest Straits Commission operates.

Similar legislation has been introduced in the United States Senate by my friend Senator PATTY MURRAY. I hope that our joint effort will help to protect and restore the Northwest Straits for the people, fish, and threatened wildlife which rely on it.

CELEBRATING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE FALL OF THE
BERLIN WALL

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 8, 2009

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, it was 20 years ago November 9, 1989, that the most notorious symbol of the Cold War, The Iron Curtain, came crashing down. When the Berlin Wall was opened for "private trips abroad", thousands lined up at check points demanding passage. In the following days and weeks, hundreds celebrated by physically tearing down the concrete division so completely that very little of the actual wall remains.

The Berlin Wall was erected by the German Democratic Republic in 1961 separating Eastern and Western Germany to stop migration of East Germans trying to escape communism. The wall had many deterrents for those looking for escape. Its total border length around West Berlin was ninety-six miles with forty-one miles of wire mesh fencing, sixty-five miles of anti-vehicle trenches, and seventy-nine miles of contact or signal fence. It has been reported that between 136 and 192 people were killed on the Berlin Wall and about 200 persons injured by shooting while attempting to escape between 1961 and 1989.

November 9, 2009, two decades later, thousands cheered as colorfully decorated mammoth dominos set along a mile-long route were toppled; symbolizing the wall coming down and the fall of communist countries in Eastern Europe. On this day, we remember those brave, proud people who stood up to say no more!

HONORING ANDREW SCOTT RICE

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 8, 2009

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an amazing boy from Texas. His name is Drew Scott Rice, and he is a cancer survivor and amputee. Drew has experienced some difficult times, but his strong character has made it possible for him to live a healthy active life.

At the age of six, Drew was diagnosed with Ewing's Sarcoma Cancer on April 30, 2004. His treatment consisted of fourteen rounds of

chemotherapy and the amputation of his left leg.

Drew returned to school on crutches after missing nine months for treatment. Even with missing so much school, he was able to continue his academics at the same grade level.

Even more surprisingly, Drew began playing baseball only three months post treatment. Drew has successfully adapted to his prosthetic leg as if it was second nature. He has played a total sixteen seasons between two leagues as a 1st baseman, 3rd baseman, and pitcher.

Drew has also shared his strength with other patients. He has visited cancer victims and amputees at San Antonio area hospitals and homes to offer encouragement and hope that they too can overcome their hardships.

As of December 10, 2009 Drew has been cancer free for five years. I am honored to speak of Andrew's strength here today and I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Drew as an inspiration and role model to those who suffer from cancer and or amputation.

HONORING MARIA GROVNER

HON. JACK KINGSTON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 8, 2009

Mr. KINGSTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today in order to recognize Georgia's Middle School Counselor of the Year, Maria Grovner. A native of McIntosh County Georgia, Ms. Grovner is the middle school counselor at Creekland Middle School in Gwinnett County Georgia. Before receiving the honor of being named Middle School Counselor of The Year, Ms. Grovner was recognized as Gwinnett County's Counselor of the Year and as the Region II Middle School Counselor of the Year.

As a result of Ms. Grovner's hard work and numerous undertakings, it is no surprise that she has received these accolades. In addition to implementing numerous student activities and promoting diversity and early college awareness at the middle school level, Ms. Grovner coordinates a Peer Leadership Conference for approximately 600 middle school peer leaders. Additionally, the Georgia School Counselors Association is fortunate to have Ms. Grovner serving as the Mentoring Program Co-Chair and as the Middle School Worksetting Vice-President. As Worksetting Vice-President, Ms. Grovner assists other middle school counselors throughout the state in implementing the best practices in their counseling programs.

Ms. Grovner's dedication to her profession and the students she serves is admirable and exemplary. Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Maria Grovner as the State of Georgia's Middle School Counselor of the Year.

VILLAGE OF ARGYLE IN MISSOURI

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 8, 2009

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Village of Argyle,

located in Maries and Osage counties, in Missouri.

I would like to acknowledge the Village of Argyle as its residents prepare to celebrate the milestone of their centennial this upcoming June.

In the beginning of the 20th century, a group of Scottish-Irish surveyors made their way to the Midwest and were preparing to build a rail bed for the St. Louis, Kansas City and Colorado railroad to run between Kansas City and St. Louis. This spurred the formation of a town.

The area, once known as Sanbonfass, after St. Boniface, was named Argyle after a shire in the Isles of Scotland called Argyll. The Village was incorporated in 1908, and the rock island line brought prosperity to the village shortly thereafter. Today the Village is home to about 170 of my constituents, all of whom I know are proud to call Argyle home.

In closing, Madam Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to join me in wishing the residents of the Village of Argyle congratulations on reaching this important milestone.

DAKOTA COMMUNITIES

HON. ERIK PAULSEN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 8, 2009

Mr. PAULSEN. Madam Speaker, recently I met with representatives of Dakota Communities—an award-winning 37 year old non-profit organization that helps people with disabilities realize their potential in their lives and communities.

In Minnesota's Third Congressional District, there are over fifty direct support professionals who have dedicated their careers to working for several group homes. These hard-working, talented men and women have repeatedly demonstrated their dedication to caring for those with disabilities. For their efforts and the positive impact these efforts will have in the lives of so many, I am extremely grateful.

IN MEMORY OF A SOUTH TEXAS HERO, BILL SUMMERS

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 8, 2009

Mr. ORTIZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor in memoriam the dedication and outstanding leadership of Mr. Bill Summers, who led the Rio Grande Valley Partnerships as its CEO for 20 years until his passing on Monday, December 1.

Mr. Summers, who spent 2 decades promoting South Texas and Mexico, as the two areas worked in unison to attract business opportunities and economic development to the region, was a pillar of South Texas. He was the unsung hero of the Rio Grande Valley, who is credited with bringing together local governments, economic development organizations and Chambers of Commerce to bring jobs and a better way of life to our communities.

Through his vision and tireless work for the Rio Grande Valley, he was able to secure

business opportunities and ventures with Mexico and most importantly, the state of Tamaulipas, which borders Texas. Mr. Summers worked tirelessly to unite the South Texas region and to create economic growth and prosperity for the area.

He was key in establishing, opening and maintaining the first Texas Chamber of Commerce office in Victoria, Tamaulipas, Mexico, to promote trade and tourism of the South Texas region into Mexico.

Through Mr. Summer's work in Texas, the nation and Mexico, he was able to improve the lives of many by growing jobs and pushing for economic opportunities. He was instrumental in the creation of the Rio Grande Valley Mobility Task Force, which brought additional transportation funding to South Texas and pushed for the creation of an interstate highway.

Recently, he was honored when Farm-to-Market Road 1015 between U.S. Highway 83 and the Progreso International Bridge was named the Bill Summers International Boulevard.

Although we have lost a great hero whom we all deeply cared for and loved, I am certain his love and passion for the Rio Grande Valley will remain in our hearts and spirits for years and years to come. We will always remember Mr. Summers as a wise man who worked for the good. We will remember Mr. Summers as a man who could do it all.

Today, I ask that my colleagues join me in commemorating the life of Mr. Bill Summers, who served this nation with dignity, honor, respect and admiration.

CLEAN AIR AND WATER INVESTMENT ACT OF 2009

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 8, 2009

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Clean Air and Water Investment Act of 2009. This legislation will restore tax exempt bonding for air and water pollution control facilities.

Prior to the 1986 revision to the tax code, state authorized agencies and political subdivisions were permitted to administer tax exempt bonds to finance "air and water pollution control facilities." The program proved so effective that even facilities that were grandfathered, and not subject to clean air standards, were proactive participants, providing cleaner air and water for our communities.

As we continue to look for ways to assist businesses and local governments in their efforts to reduce pollution, these bonds provide an affordable solution that will put people to work while providing cleaner and healthier communities. This bill would restore a proven incentive for industry to invest in cleaner air and water. Importantly, because it falls under a pre-existing spending cap, this legislation will present no new liability to the U.S. Treasury.

Members on opposite sides of the aisle frequently may differ on many issues before this body, but this is not one of them. I am pleased to be working on this bill with Congressman KEVIN BRADY of Texas, a fellow Congressional baseball aficionado. Congressman BRADY has

been working on this issue for many years now, and I look forward to collaborating with him and seeing this bill signed into law.

I urge my colleagues to consider support this important legislation.

HONORING WILLIAM S. DALTON,
PH.D., M.D.

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 8, 2009

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor William S. Dalton, Ph.D., M.D. for his commitment to the fight against cancer and his participation at the Tony Snow Cancer Symposium in The Villages, Florida, on January 21. Hosted by the Caring and Sharing Villagers and the Alliance Healthcare Foundation, the Tony Snow Cancer Symposium is intended to raise funds for the creation of a \$25 million Cancer Center next to Leesburg Regional Hospital and promote awareness in our community.

Dr. Dalton currently serves as the President/Chief Executive Officer and Center Director at the H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center & Research Institute in Tampa, Florida. The Moffitt Cancer Center is regarded as one of the top cancer facilities in the United States. With two decades of cancer research and contributions to over 200 publications, including the Journal of the American Medical Association and the Journal of the National Cancer Institute, Dr. Dalton has established himself as an expert in the fight against cancer.

Recognized as a "Best Doctor in America" since 1993, Dr. Dalton's primary areas of research include biochemical mechanisms of drug resistance, new drug discovery and the biology and treatment of multiple myeloma. He was also instrumental in obtaining the Molecular Oncology, Mopp, grant of \$5 million for the Moffitt Cancer Center in 2000.

Madam Speaker, individuals such as William S. Dalton should be recognized for their sincere dedication to improving the health and quality of life for people all over the world. With the passing of my husband Harvey to pancreatic cancer, I can personally attest to the affects of cancer on both a person and their family. I sincerely appreciate the work that Dr. Dalton has done and wish him further success in his medical endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF CHEROKEE COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL WINNING THE ALABAMA 3A STATE FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 8, 2009

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I would like to request the House's attention today to pay recognition to the Piedmont High School football team in Piedmont, Alabama, who won the 2009 Alabama 3A State Football Championship.

On December 3, the Piedmont Bulldogs defeated Cordova High School by a score of 35-28 at Bryant-Denny Stadium in Tuscaloosa,