

long list of academic and social accomplishments, Mr. Smith completed a graduate degree from the University of Chicago in 1963. This was followed immediately by active military service in Germany where he formed Boy Scout Troop 444, which soon became the largest and most active Scout Troop in the Transatlantic Council.

For 55 years of his adult life, Charles, has been an inspiration to hundreds of young men who have come to know and revere him as a caring and motivating mentor. He has instilled in each of them traits of character, citizenship, fitness of mind and body, and a full appreciation for the outdoors.

Serving with distinction as Scoutmaster for Troop 127 for 25 of its 90 years, Mr. Smith has led his Troop to all of the high adventure destinations that Scouting has to offer, as well as participating in National and World Jamborees. He has also provided his scouts with experiences in some of the finest natural environments in this region and across the World.

Through all of his endeavors, Mr. Smith's accomplishments, be they educational, spiritual, or professional, stand as models for all Scouts and Scouters to admire. For these reasons I congratulate Charles Q "C.Q." Smith for all that he has done to better our community and nation as a whole.

HONORING MAJOR GENERAL FRED  
WOMACK USAF (RET.)

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 22, 2009*

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, Major General Fred Womack USAF (Ret.) of Loudon County, Tennessee has been inducted into the Tennessee Aviation Hall of Fame. He is one of the finest members of the Armed Forces I know, and I cannot think of anyone who deserves this honor more.

As a boy, the future Major General loved to build model airplanes and looked skyward with awe and envy as military planes flew in formation overhead. He vowed to one day be one of those pilots. But flying did not come easy. Like every great American story, his dream was realized only after overcoming many obstacles which would have led most men to simply give up.

Because he needed a degree to get into the U.S. Air Force pilot training program, Major General Womack enlisted in the Air National Guard while simultaneously pursuing a college degree. After earning a degree in business, Major General Womack applied for the U.S. Air Force pilot training program; unfortunately, he failed several times to make the minimum weight requirement. His dream was slipping away.

As fate would have it, the Berlin Air Lift called him to service in Germany. While overseas, he hired a pilot instructor and took his first flying lesson.

When he returned from Germany, Major General Womack gained enough weight for acceptance into the U.S. Air Force pilot training program, but another obstacle stood in his way. He was now past the 26-year-old cutoff age for acceptance. It was only through the foresight of Major General/Commander Robert Akin—who issued him a waiver—that Major

General Womack finally realized his dream of attending the U.S. Air Force pilot training program.

His love of flight led him to two simultaneous careers, both of which he took to the pinnacle of success.

As an airline pilot for Piedmont Airlines, he went from flying a Martin 404 prop plane to Boeing 767s. He eventually became the airline's Flight Operations and Flying Safety Director and was Chairman of the Air Transport Association Flight Integration Committee. He also served as the project manager for the Traffic Alert Collision Avoidance System for the entire airline industry, technology which is still in use today and that has undoubtedly saved many lives.

While achieving success as a civilian pilot, Major General Womack was also making a name for himself in the Tennessee Air National Guard. As Commander of the 134th Consolidated Maintenance Squadron, he achieved an unparalleled safety record. His diligence and devotion to safety as a pilot and commander led him to eventually become the Commander of the Tennessee Air National Guard.

Major General Womack is an example of the opportunities available only in America and a testimony to commitment, patience, and sacrifice. Throughout his careers, Major General Womack says he never felt like he worked a day. We should all be that lucky.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I would like to call the accomplishments of Major General Fred Womack and his induction into the Tennessee Aviation Hall of Fame to the attention of my colleagues and other readers of the RECORD.

CONGRATULATING ELEANOR  
KERRIGAN, THE 2009 WOMAN OF  
THE YEAR OF THE LACKAWANNA  
COUNTY FEDERATION OF DEMOCRATIC WOMEN

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 22, 2009*

Mr. KANJORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Eleanor Kerrigan, of Luzerne Street in Scranton, Pennsylvania, upon the occasion of being named as 2009 Woman of the Year by the Lackawanna County Federation of Democratic Women.

Ms. Kerrigan has distinguished herself for many years as a tireless advocate for her family, her church, several charitable organizations and for Democratic candidates for public office.

A daughter of the late Carmel McPhillips and Jerome McDonald, Ms. Kerrigan has five sisters, Carmel Cunningham, Patricia Ward, Madelon Williams, Barbara Harding and Catherine Flynn; one brother, Michael McDonald, and 19 nieces and nephews.

She is currently employed as Lackawanna County Deputy Recorder of Deeds. Previously, she worked for the Lackawanna County Bureau of Elections and the Pennsylvania Bureau of Revenue, both in Scranton. She also worked for the Pennsylvania Bureau of Elections in Harrisburg during the administration of the late Gov. Robert P. Casey.

Ms. Kerrigan is a member and past president of the Holy Cross Church Men's and Women's Society in West Scranton where she was instrumental in raising funds for church renovation projects.

For more than 30 years, she has been a member at St. Joseph's Center in Dunmore, which is devoted to helping those who are mentally and physically challenged. She also served as president of the St. Joseph's Center for two years and is a member of the St. Joseph's Center Auxiliary Board.

For nearly 40 years, Ms. Kerrigan has been highly active with the Scranton City and Lackawanna County Democrat organizations. For several years, she served as Chairwoman of the Scranton Democrats and she is currently the Treasurer of the Lackawanna County Democrats.

Ms. Kerrigan is a member of the Society of Irish Women, an organization that fosters education and cultural awareness of those with Irish heritage.

For many years, she has been a devoted member of the Race for the Cure Committee, an organization dedicated to eradicating the scourge of cancer.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Eleanor Kerrigan on this auspicious occasion. Her selfless service to so many worthy causes is an inspiration to others and has earned her widespread respect and admiration. Her selection as Woman of the Year by the Lackawanna County Federation of Democratic Women is entirely fitting and well deserved.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE BOTTLLE  
RECYCLING CLIMATE PROTECTION ACT OF 2009

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 22, 2009*

Mr. MARKEY of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, today, on Earth Day, I am re-introducing the Bottle Recycling Climate Protection Act of 2009, which would create a national beverage container recycling program. This national Bottle Bill would build on the success of existing state bottle laws and promote recycling by offering a 5 cent deposit on beverage containers, including plastic water bottles that have become more prevalent in recent years. Recycling these products saves energy and money, cuts global warming pollution, and reduces landfill waste.

Twenty-seven years ago, my state of Massachusetts became one of the first states to adopt a state bottle law in order to encourage the recycling of cans and bottles. Since its inception, Massachusetts' bottle law has been a tremendous success. In 2006, over 2 billion beverage containers were sold in Massachusetts and nearly 70 percent of them were recycled rather than littered or incinerated.

Recycling and reusing these bottles not only reduces the amount of trash that ends up in our landfills, it also dramatically reduces the amount of global warming pollution that ends up in our atmosphere. American consumers purchase nearly 600 million beverage bottles and cans, on average, every day. Roughly 385 million of them are landfilled, incinerated or littered. Nine of ten plastic water bottles end

up as garbage or litter where they take up to 1,000 years to biodegrade. A national bottle bill will help us turn this trend around.

A national bottle recycling program would have profound economic benefits from energy savings for American businesses. The energy use associated with manufacturing these containers from virgin materials is far greater than the cost of using recycled materials. In fact, making an aluminum can from recycled materials requires 95 percent less energy than to make it from scratch.

I am proud to introduce this important bill today on Earth Day. Passing this bill would send a clean energy message in a bottle to American consumers and businesses. A national Bottle Bill can help America quench its thirst for imported oil and will allow us to have carbon dioxide in our fizzy drinks, while cutting down on heat-trapping carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.

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IN MEMORY OF MEGAN MILLER

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**HON. MIKE PENCE**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 22, 2009*

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember the remarkable life of Megan Miller. I was deeply saddened to learn of her passing and believe her courage in the face of adversity is something special that deserves recognition today on the floor of the people's House.

Megan Nichole Miller was born on November 26, 2000, to her loving parents, Scott and Suzanne Miller of Jamestown, Indiana. Megan attended Granville Wells Elementary School and was a member of New Brunswick Church of Christ.

Though Megan faced remarkable challenges throughout her brief time with us, she will be remembered by her friends and family for the spirit with which she lived and the faith that guided her life. Megan's passion for life brightened the world for everyone around her. Instead of focusing on her physical difficulties, she used her disabilities to teach others the importance of accepting all people—no matter what their circumstances. It is fitting that Megan loved music, especially hymns about God and heaven, where I am certain she is now.

None were more blessed by Megan than her family. She shared a special bond and deep love with her sister Hannah. Megan's parents are forever blessed by their remarkable daughters, and have gained a greater understanding of the worth that we all carry in the eyes of God.

Though Megan sadly has passed away, those who knew her will continue to benefit from the inspiring example that she set throughout her life. I would like to offer my sincere appreciation to the doctors and nurses who gave Megan the best possible care and my deepest condolences to Scott, Suzanne, and Hannah.

GEORGE MASON AWARDED USAID GRANT

**HON. FRANK R. WOLF**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 22, 2009*

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I would like to share with our colleagues a recent announcement from USAID indicating that Virginia's George Mason University was one of 40 paired winners of the highly competitive Africa-U.S. Higher Education Initiative Planning Grant Competition.

George Mason will partner with the University of Sierra Leone to develop a four-campus community college system for the nation. The development of this sort of higher education is critical to Africa's future development, particularly in nations like Sierra Leone, which not too many years ago had been ravaged by civil war.

GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY AWARDED USAID-FUNDED GRANT IN AFRICA-U.S. HIGHER EDUCATION INITIATIVE GRANT COMPETITION

WASHINGTON, DC—The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Higher Education for Development (HED) announced today that George Mason University is one of 40 paired winners of the Africa-U.S. Higher Education Initiative Planning Grant Competition. Nearly 300 applications were submitted for capacity-building partnerships between U.S. colleges and universities and higher education institutions in Sub-Saharan African nations. George Mason University and other paired winners will receive planning grants from USAID of \$50,000 each (a complete list of winners may be found at [www.hedprogram.org](http://www.hedprogram.org)).

"This competition is an important opportunity to build the kind of higher education capacity critical to the development of Africa," said Joseph Carney, director of USAID's Office of Education. "This initiative was proposed during the Higher Education Summit for Global Development and subsequent regional summit held in Rwanda last year. We are delighted to see this effort moving forward and expect great results from these planning grants."

These paired institutions will use the grants to develop plans to address regional and national economic development priorities such as engineering, health, agriculture, environment and natural resources, science and technology, education and teacher training/preparation, and business, management and economics.

George Mason University will partner with the University of Sierra Leone to develop a four-campus community college system for the nation, under the sponsorship of Ernest Bai Koroma, President of Sierra Leone, and under the direction of the Sierra Leone Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports.

HED manages the competition which grew out of the Africa-U.S. Higher Education Initiative ([www.aplu.org](http://www.aplu.org)), a collaborative effort between a number of higher education associations and other organizations, led by the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (A.P.L.U.), formerly the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges (NASULGC).

"We were elated by the astounding number of highly qualified applications received, and even more pleased by how many applications demonstrated a strong understanding of higher education needs in Africa," said Dr. Tully Cornick, executive director of HED. "The top 40 paired winning institutions represent the best of these applications, and

plans that are developed as a result of the grants will address a variety of critical development needs. It is our belief that if funding is found to implement these plans, we will see tangible, measurable and sustainable impact made in these African countries."

"This important initiative continues to illustrate the enormous unmet need for higher education partnerships in Africa," added Peter McPherson, president of A.P.L.U. "We see this as just the beginning—this is an ongoing campaign to accomplish much more in engaging higher education institutions in Africa."

HED, funded by a cooperative agreement with USAID, was founded by the six major U.S. higher education associations to engage U.S. colleges and universities in international development. For more information about HED and to view details about the planning grants corn petition, visit [www.HEDprodrum.orcl](http://www.HEDprodrum.orcl).

The American people, through the U.S. Agency for International Development, have provided economic and humanitarian assistance worldwide for nearly 50 years. For more information on USAID, visit [www.USAID.gov](http://www.USAID.gov).

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THE 94TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

**HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 22, 2009*

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise to commemorate the suffering of millions of Armenians between 1915 and 1923 due to actions by the Ottoman Empire. In those eight years, approximately 2 million Armenians were deported from their traditional homeland. Of those, 1.5 million were senselessly killed and the remaining 500,000 were expelled from their homes. This genocide served as models for other horrific massacres and ethnic purges that sadly persisted throughout the 20th century.

There is broad agreement that indeed what took place was genocide. On May 24, 1915, the Allied Powers England, France and Russia issued a joint statement charging the Sublime Porte of committing "a crime against humanity." The U.S. showed firm opposition to the unfolding horrors. Secretary of State Lansing in 1915 authorized the Ambassador to the Sublime Porte to engage to "stop Armenian persecution," and President Wilson set up relief funds for the victims and survivors, including 132,000 orphans who became foster children of the American people.

Genocide was also corroborated by German and British archives and records of diplomats who served in the Ottoman Empire at the time. The United States National Archives and Record Administration holds extensive documentation on the genocide, and the UN General Assembly in 1946 and the UN Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Genocide recognized the Armenian Genocide as they type of crime the U.N. intended to prevent and punish by codifying existing standards. In 1975, a House Joint Resolution designated April 24 of that year as "National Day of Remembrance of Man's Inhumanity to Man" in part to remember all victims of genocide, especially those of Armenian ancestry.

We welcome steps today by the governments of Turkey and Armenia—as the official