

good wages and benefits and gain greater independence and quality of life.

Employment opportunities through the AbilityOne Program have significantly contributed to bringing people who are blind or have significant disabilities into the wider working society.

It is with great pride that I also acknowledge the Beacon Group Inc., one of the many social enterprises dedicated to enriching the lives of people with disabilities.

Since its beginning in 1952, the Beacon Group has been committed to providing employment-related opportunities to people with disabilities. It provides access to real work for a segment of the community that traditionally bears an unacceptably high unemployment rate. The Beacon Group now serves over 1,600 people with disabilities annually by providing a variety of employment opportunities and educational and social rehabilitation programs, all of which help lead to more meaningful and productive lives.

Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I offer my support to the AbilityOne Program and commend the dedication and commitment of the Beacon Group's President, Mr. Steven King, and his staff, for helping individuals who are blind or have significant disabilities find employment. Their work helps people live fuller lives and become more active members of society. I also commend the many AbilityOne employees who work every day to improve the lives of others and make our country a better place to live.

TRIBUTE TO LUCY CHEN

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 2010

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lucy Chen, of Ames, Iowa, who is among the outstanding U.S. high school students selected to attend the annual Research Science Institute sponsored by the Center for Excellence of Technology and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

The mission of the Center for Excellence of Technology is to nurture young scholars to careers of excellence and leadership in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. The Research Science Institute is a highly competitive six-week program which emphasizes advanced theory and research in mathematics, the sciences, and engineering. Lucy was selected for this program upon scoring in the upper one-percent of U.S. student PSAT exam scores. From June to July 2010, Lucy will learn from distinguished professors and conduct a research project at MIT.

I commend Lucy for her commitment to academic achievement and leadership in science and technology. She is a future leader of this country of whom Iowa is very proud. I am honored to represent Lucy and her family in the United States Congress and I wish her the best in her future endeavors.

HONORING BRIGADIER GENERAL
RICHARD L. SIMCOCK, UNITED
STATES MARINE CORPS

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 2010

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Brigadier General Richard L. Simcock, United States Marine Corps.

From August 2009 to June 2010, Brigadier General Simcock distinguished himself through meritorious service while serving as the Legislative Assistant to the Commandant of the Marine Corps. Utilizing his leadership, communication skills, and dedication to duty, Brigadier General Simcock contributed to numerous successes of the overall Marine Corps mission. His knowledge of and experience in Congressional affairs, combined with an emphasis on Congressional relationships advanced the Commandant's strategy and vision. His leadership during this period has enabled the Marine Corps to continue to succeed despite high operational tempo and unprecedented interest in Marine Corps activities.

Brigadier General Simcock has developed an exceptional relationship with Members of Congress and staff members. We benefitted from his counsel and tireless work to provide answers to our questions about the Marine Corps, Marines and their families. This strong professional relationship is a direct reflection on Brigadier General Simcock's dedication, foresight, and proactive approach during his time as the Commandant's Legislative Assistant.

Working in concert, Brigadier General Simcock, the Armed Services Committees and numerous other Members of Congress, have helped to ensure the health of the Marine Corps. In the past year, Brigadier General Simcock's input and experience were paramount in the continued development, support, acquisition, and championing of Marine Corps initiatives and programs such as the Joint Strike Fighter. During this period, excluding hearings and official travel, General Simcock has responded to 3,886 Congressional Inquiries, 779 official requests-for-information from Members and Professional Staff, and connected Members with Marine General Officers on 425 occasions. His understanding of the legislative processes, his responsiveness and accurate, forthright communication with the Congress has furthered comprehensive support for the Marine Corps.

Brigadier General Simcock's leadership has set a new standard for the Office of Legislative Affairs and his genuine devotion to Corps and Country will ensure the Marine Corps is "most ready when the Nation is least ready" for many years to come.

TRIBUTE TO CHARLIE HEIDERSHEIT

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 2010

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the retirement of Charlie Heidersheit, a

native of Osage, Iowa who is stepping down after 33 years as the Executive County Farm Service Agency Director of Mitchell County, Iowa.

After studying at Loras College in Dubuque, Charlie came to Osage to begin his job as County FSA Director. This agency is in charge of delivering federal farm programs directly to Iowa Farmers. His dedicated service has helped countless Iowa farmers and contributed to Iowa's strong agricultural economy.

Although Charlie is retiring from his position as County FSA Director, he plans to continue to be an active member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Osage and spend more time volunteering in the community through many of the local organizations he has been active in including the Osage Knights of Columbus, Osage Lions Club, Osage Kiwanis, and Osage Cub Scouts.

I know that my colleagues in the United States Congress join me in recognizing Charlie Heidersheit and thanking him for his service to the State of Iowa. I consider it an honor to represent Charlie in Congress, and I wish him a long, happy and healthy retirement.

SHAWNEETOWN BICENTENNIAL

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 2010

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the City of Shawneetown, Illinois, upon its bicentennial. Shawneetown was established as a city by the Federal Government in 1810 and is the oldest chartered city in the State of Illinois.

Shawneetown was home to the first bank in the Illinois Territory, chartered in 1816 and located in the John Marshall residence near the Ohio River Bridge. The first State bank in Illinois was built in 1839–1840 in Shawneetown.

General Marquis de LaFayette, of France, visited Shawneetown in 1825, as part of his famous tour of America after he had served so valiantly during the American Revolution.

Shawneetown was flooded by great flood of 1937. The gauge read 66 feet, which was five feet higher than the top of the levee. Following the 1937 flood, Shawneetown moved three miles west and was surveyed by the Federal Government.

Today, Shawneetown is the home of Bunge Grain Corporation, Power Inc., Shawneetown Harbor Service, Inc., a Peabody Coal Company River Dock and several other small businesses.

I would like to congratulate the citizens of Shawneetown as they celebrate 200 years of success. May God bless Shawneetown for many years to come.

RECOGNIZING DONALD DYE—WINNER OF THE TOP TEACHER AWARD

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 2010

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Donald Dye, an English teacher

at the Belmond-Klemme Community School District in Belmond, Iowa, for winning the national "Top Teacher Award" search. Mr. Dye was named the top teacher on the Live with Regis and Kelly television program.

Mr. Dye was recommended for the award by Jim and Dianna Suntken and Curt and Diane Stadtlander, who wrote of Don in their nomination essay:

"Teaching is his passion! He believes in a good education for all and that school pride makes good citizens and a better world. Mr. Dye is affectionately known to his students and friends as "Mr. D". He is a compassionate, unselfish teacher who believes that all students, no matter their life styles or race, are all worthy and should always be taken seriously. All students are treated equal and special by him.

"Don Dye teaches English/literature and short stories at the Belmond/Klemme high school in our small community of Belmond, Iowa, where he has taught many different age levels for 37 years. He is respected and looked to for advice by fellow teachers not only for his teaching expertise, but for his warm and bubbly personality and incredible sense of humor. He has been on many committees and boards in the local school, area, and state.

"On the first day of school, Mr. D supplies the students with his home and cell phone number and strongly encourages them to call him night or day, no matter what the problem—whether if its to retrieve something from a locker, help writing a paper, and most importantly if they need a friend or someone to listen to them. He always says no problem is too big or small. He is always available 24-7 without fail. His family and friends tease him about not getting enough sleep, because his phone is always ringing. Just the other day a young boy needed someone to talk to about his sister lying in a hospital bed while taking chemotherapy and he knew that Mr. D always has time to listen. His closest friends know that he keeps his simple apartment, so he can have time to help people and families in need. Many years ago he lost the love of his life in a car accident; and since then he has devoted his life to helping others.

"Don Dye also takes great pride in our community. He has served on many boards, community events, and helped with many fundraisers for students or people in the community suffering from cancer, needing organ transplants, or other crises. He makes hospital visits, always surprising people with baked goods, and helping neighbors in need in some way—even if they don't think they are "in need". If someone is short on money, he will help them financially or lend a listening ear. He says he is just "doin' what his mamma and papa taught him", being raised a Pastor's kid and learning this as a child. Don is very active in church, including his second biggest passion of sharing his talent of music—playing the organ or singing in choirs. He is often found helping involve other people and youngsters to share their musical talents.

"But the "job" that Mr. Dye is the most passionate about is his teaching. You will often find him on the weekends at the school working on papers, thinking of great ways to involve the students and present his literature, helping students fill out scholarship papers, or helping former students with college work. And his cell phone still rings with college students

needing advice not only in academics, but often adapting to college life or dealing with life's struggles. You will find college students stopping by the school just to check in with Mr. D.

"All students' self worth and pride are very important to Mr. Dye. He wants them to feel good about themselves. He will often brighten their moods or spark up their energy levels with music and a "little dance" as they enter class. No student will ever go hungry around Mr. D, due to lack of time or money. There is always a tub of healthy food. He feels that if students are hungry, their minds are not as sharp. Students also know where to get a tie for speech day, socks or sweatshirts if they are cold, or many other necessities that can be found in his cupboards.

"We hope you will carefully consider Mr. Donald Dye as one of your top teachers, because he never expects any praise or to be in the spotlight. Belmond parents are very grateful to have him as a teacher for their children and role model for all. His favorite motto is "Celebrate the Day", so we want to celebrate a day for Mr. Dye!"

Madam Speaker, Mr. Dye's award also underscores the powerful sense of community in the Belmond-Klemme School District, which rallied around Mr. Dye when it was announced that he was a finalist for the award. Always a humble man, Mr. Dye is among the first to acknowledge that this award, which was determined by online voting and presented live on "Regis and Kelly," couldn't have happened without the community-wide effort and support.

The award underscores the value that Iowa has always placed on education. Every student who has gone to school in Iowa knows a great teacher like Mr. Dye, and every community in the state does everything it can to make sure students have the best possible chance to succeed in the classroom. Iowans know that the best way to invest in the future of our state is to invest in the education of our children. Mr. Dye's award is a testament to the commitment we place on education.

Mr. Dye is an incredible teacher, and his dedication to his profession and to his students should make every Iowan proud. It's an honor to represent him and the people of the Belmond-Klemme Community School District in the United States Congress, and I know that my colleagues in the House join me in congratulating "Mr. D" on this well-deserved award and thanking him for his dedicated service to his community and America's youth.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 27, 2010

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5136) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2011 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

Mr. WAXMAN. Madam Chair, I rise today in strong support of the amendment to repeal the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy of our nation's

military, a discriminatory and self-defeating policy that I have opposed from its inception.

Our restrictive policy undermines our national security. It has resulted in the discharge of more than 13,000 trained and qualified men and women from our armed forces. It has caused thousands more not to re-enlist and countless others not to serve at all.

That these brave men and women are being denied the opportunity to serve their country is a grave injustice. And, we have been so misguided in our pursuit of this discriminatory policy that we have ignored the very real harm it causes our military personnel at a time when our nation is engaged in two wars and the need for talented and dedicated service members could not be greater.

Twenty-five advanced militaries throughout the world, including our closest allies such as Israel, Canada, and Britain, allow gays and lesbians to serve and none have seen any damage to their readiness. In stark contrast, the United States military, because of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," has undermined its readiness by discharging capable fighter pilots, infantry officers, translators, and other highly trained specialists who are in high demand.

Admiral Mullen, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, has said, "we have in place a policy which forces young men and women to lie about who they are in order to defend their fellow citizens." Today, many Americans defending our nation could be subject to a "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" dismissal. They should be able to serve without fear that their nation will punish them for being open about who they are.

"Don't Ask Don't Tell" is contrary to the values this country stands for. America was founded on the principle of human dignity and on the belief that all men are created equal—and yet this policy perpetuates the absurd notion that some are more equal than others.

Those who oppose the repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" are using the same language used by those who opposed the racial integration of our Armed Forces in 1948, fought the inclusion of women, and argued against the Civil Rights Act in 1965. The arguments are just as wrong today as they were then.

I want to commend Speaker PELOSI and President Obama for their leadership on this issue, and I ask all of my colleagues to support repeal. Passage of this amendment will bring an end to this shameful inequity.

IN SUPPORT OF "LEAVE NO CHILD INSIDE MONTH"

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 2010

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, June is "Leave No Child Inside Month," a time when parents and children are urged to explore, play and enjoy the outdoors in Illinois.

From Millennium Park to Lincoln Park Zoo, the Greenbelt Forest Preserve to McHenry Dam, families will be fishing, picnicking and learning beneath trees, beside beautiful lakes and amidst the natural treasures of Illinois.

This January, I passed a resolution honoring the Chicago Wilderness and the 250 organizations that make up this group of environmental enthusiasts.