

their own, Mickey Mantle, with the dedication of a statue of the legendary player at Mickey Mantle field at Commerce High School in Commerce, Oklahoma.

Madam Speaker, Mickey Mantle's hopes, dreams, and accomplishments remind each and every one of my constituents why it's great to be an "Okie."

CONGRATULATING ISRAEL ON OECD MEMBERSHIP

SPEECH OF

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 26, 2010

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my congratulations to the state of Israel on its acceptance into the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. This shows a great triumph for the country of Israel, and I congratulate them on their prestigious achievement.

On May 10, the 31 states in the OECD unanimously agreed to invite Israel to become a member, noting the country's "scientific and technological policies have produced outstanding outcomes on a world scale." On May 27, Israel officially joined.

The fact that Israel is now a member of the OECD is proof that, despite hardships and struggle, Israel has become a thriving and prosperous democracy. It has made important contributions in technology, medicine, agriculture and environmental innovation, worldwide. I am proud to see that these contributions are being acknowledged.

I also want to recognize President Obama and Secretary Clinton for their strong efforts ensure this happened. This victory for Israel is equally a victory for our country.

Congratulations, too, to the participating countries in the OECD for their ability to see past the possible politicization of this offer. The OECD was responsible and fair in its assessment of Israel's qualifications, focusing on what matters: economic and democratic standards.

But even as we stand here to recognize the Jewish State's achievement, we must remember that Israel, one of our strongest and most consistent allies, still continues to face attacks from hostile neighbors and challenges in its dealings with the rest of the world.

We must continue to be supportive allies to the Jewish State. Though Israel has made this significant advancement, threats still exist, and we must ensure that anti-Israel and anti-Semitic sentiments do not dictate Israel's viability as a strong, democratic nation.

RECOGNIZING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF SIERRA NEVADA BREWERY AND THE INSPIRATIONAL CAREER OF ITS FOUNDER KEN GROSSMAN

HON. WALLY HERGER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 9, 2010

Mr. HERGER. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise to commend both Si-

erra Nevada Brewery and the inspirational career of its founder, Ken Grossman on its 30th Anniversary. Ken is an outstanding model of the modern American entrepreneurial spirit.

Thirty years ago, Ken began a modest brewing company in the town of Chico, California. Named after the beloved California Mountains, the Sierra Nevada Brewery has since matured into the tenth largest brewery in the United States.

Ken's specialty beers receive constant praise for their exceptional quality. Through the years his brews have collected an impressive array of national and international awards. His award portfolio includes gold medal recognition from competitions in Munich as well as the Great American Beer Festival in Colorado.

The Sierra Nevada Brewery, by incorporating smart and sustainable manufacturing practices, provides an excellent working example of the ideal that economic success and environmental protection go hand in hand. Recently, the brewery expanded its solar panel facility, making it one of the largest private solar facilities in the nation. This expansion allows the brewery to produce the majority of its own energy needs. The brewery also engages in resource conservation and waste diversion through the installation of instruments that reuse the brewery's wastewater and methane gas. Additionally, his brewery has a near perfect recycling record, diverting more than 98 percent of its annual waste away from over-used landfills.

Sierra Nevada Brewery has had a tremendous impact on the local economy. With approximately \$100 million in annual sales, Sierra Nevada Brewery has been able to create over three hundred and fifty jobs. Sierra Nevada Brewery has also been generous in giving back to the community. Indeed, its donation of \$88,000 to the California State University, Chico's Paul L. Byrne Agricultural Teaching and Research Center illustrates its desire to give back to the community that has aided in its success. There is no doubt that the Second Congressional District of California is a better place because of the economic activity and good works that Sierra Nevada Brewery selflessly provides.

RECOGNIZING MARTIN LEONARD SKUTNIK

HON. JOHN M. SPRATT, JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 9, 2010

Mr. SPRATT. Madam Speaker, I rise to commemorate the retirement from government service of a true hero, Martin Leonard Skutnik. On June 4, 2010, Lenny retired after 30 years supporting logistics at the Congressional Budget Office, CBO. His work there—printing and distribution of literally hundreds of CBO reports, providing IT support, and handling mail and supplies—may not have been heroic in the standard sense, and Lenny Skutnik may still insist he didn't do anything special, but those who remember the Air Florida crash in Washington, DC, in 1982 know differently. On that January day when a plane crashed into the freezing Potomac River seconds after takeoff, Lenny dived from shore to save a woman who was too weakened to hold on to

a helicopter's rescue line. His selfless and risky act saved Priscilla Tirado, and two weeks later President Reagan made Lenny a household name by citing his heroism during the State of the Union address.

Lenny never sought recognition of his heroism, but he received it in spades, including being awarded both the United States Coast Guard's Gold Lifesaving Medal and the Carnegie Hero's Fund Medal. The public accolades included "Lenny Skutnik Days" in Mississippi in 1982, and a unanimously passed resolution by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Virginia honoring his "unselfish act of bravery."

But day in and day out, Lenny downplayed his heroism in an unassuming way, continuing to provide logistics for CBO. Doug Elmendorf, CBO's Director, publicly cited Lenny's contributions on Friday, noting that Lenny says he was proud to have been part of CBO, and that he learned a lot working there.

Lenny Skutnik exemplifies the spirit of public service, both on that fateful winter day in 1982 and every day since then through his work with others at CBO to provide budget-related materials that inform Congress and the public on key decisions. On behalf of the many people who rely on CBO's products, and as a grateful American, I would like to thank Lenny Skutnik not just for his heroism in 1982 but also for his many years of public service.

HONORING MARTIN LEONARD SKUTNIK

HON. PAUL RYAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 9, 2010

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and to say thank you to Martin Leonard Skutnik. Lenny is retiring after 30 years of service to the Congressional Budget Office. As you know, Madam Speaker, the Budget Committee relies heavily on CBO and on the professionalism, dedication, and competence of its staff—and those are the very traits I think of when I think of Lenny Skutnik: professional, dedicated, and competent. Lenny paid perhaps one of the highest compliments an employee can pay to his employer when he said recently that he was "proud to have been a part of it [CBO]." That pride was evident in his work and the support he provided CBO in ensuring its products were printed and disseminated in a timely manner.

Lenny had a career at CBO of which he can be proud and Lenny—through his unforgettable actions on a cold day in January nearly 30 years ago—filled this nation with pride even as we watched the fate of Air Florida Flight 90 in horror. On that January 13th, which will forever be remembered by those who then lived and worked in and around Washington, DC, Lenny provided a very real face to heroism. Lenny pushed his own safety to the back of his mind, defied logic, and willingly jumped into the icy waters of the Potomac to help those in need. Lenny's humility and grace keep him from acknowledging he did anything extraordinary, yet we know differently. Lenny's actions provide inspiration to us all and provide a vivid example for us to use when describing the concept of heroism to our children.

Madam Speaker, the Congress was fortunate to have Lenny Skutnik as an employee for the last 30 years and this nation is proud to call Lenny one of its own. I wish him a long, healthy, and happy retirement. He has earned it.

HONORING LIEUTENANT COLONEL
TED EPPLE

HON. JIM JORDAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 9, 2010

Mr. JORDAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I am honored to commend to the House the outstanding contributions of Lieutenant Colonel Theodore M. "Ted" Epple to the Army and to our nation.

Since August of 2007, Colonel Epple has served as commander of the Joint Systems Manufacturing Center in Lima, Ohio, where so many have worked since World War II to provide cutting-edge military equipment to our armed forces. During his service in Lima, he deployed to Iraq for a year in support of the Defense Contract Management Agency's efforts there.

Throughout his military career, Colonel Epple's dedication and valor have been recognized by his peers and superiors. Among numerous other awards and commendations, he has earned a Bronze Star, the Meritorious Service Medal, and the Joint Service Commendation Medal.

A 1988 graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point, where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in leadership studies, Colonel Epple also earned a Master of Science degree from the Florida Institute of Technology. He and his wife, Barbara, are the proud parents of Ben, Matthew, and Bentley.

Madam Speaker, Colonel Epple will relinquish command of JSMC to Lieutenant Colonel Yee Hang at a June 15 ceremony at the facility. On behalf of the people of Ohio's Fourth Congressional District, I thank him for his distinguished service in Lima these past three years. I am proud to join everyone at JSMC in wishing him and his family every success as they move to a new chapter in their lives.

COMMENDING DR. NATHAN FORD
AS RECIPIENT OF "CELEBRATE
OUR SUCCESSES" AWARD

HON. DAVID P. ROE

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 9, 2010

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Dr. Nathan Ford, the 2010 recipient of the prestigious "Celebrate our Successes" award for his life achievements as Alumnae of the Cocke County School System.

As a member of the Education and Labor Committee, as well as a former Mayor, I welcome the opportunity to applaud those who have gone above the call to serve their community. Dr. Ford has selflessly devoted his life providing health care through his practice of Optometry, education for all ages, and his Public Service across the State of Tennessee.

Dr. Ford began his public service at age 27 being elected to Cocke County Board of Education, and has since served as Cocke County Economic Development Commission Chairman, Newport/Cocke County Chamber of Commerce Director, Chairman of the Cocke County Baptist Hospital Board; not to mention the four terms he spent serving as a Tennessee State Representative.

As a public figure myself, I understand the responsibilities and challenges that are presented when serving in such a position; I commend him for meeting them all with dignity and wisdom.

Dr. Ford's love of serving others, medicine and community involvement continues to this day; it is a great example to those not only in East Tennessee, but to our Country. I encourage my colleagues to join me in commending Dr. Nathan Ford for his outstanding life contributions, and his earning this honorable award.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 9, 2010

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, listed below is how I would have voted if I had been present on June 8, 2010.

Roll Number 337—H.R. 1061—to transfer certain land to the United States to be held in trust for the Hoh Indian Tribe, to place land into trust for the Hoh Indian Tribe, and for other purposes—"aye."

Roll Number 338—H. Res. 518—honoring the life of Jacques-Yves Cousteau, explorer, researcher, and pioneer in the field of marine conservation—"aye."

RECOGNIZING VALASSIS
COMMUNICATIONS, INC.

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 9, 2010

Mr. McCOTTER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize Valassis Communications Inc., located in my hometown of Livonia, Michigan, upon the 25th anniversary of their Have You Seen Me? Program founded by Vince Guliano with the support of CEO Al Schultz.

For a quarter of a century, Valassis has demonstrated unwavering support and commitment to the recovery of missing children. Steadfastly dedicated to the core principles of finding missing children, raising public awareness in regard to missing children, deterring potential child abductors and insuring that no missing child is forgotten, Valassis reaches in excess of 100 million people each week. Their partnership with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, NCMEC, and the United States Postal Service has featured more than 2,000 missing children and has led to the recovery of over 1,200 of our most vulnerable.

On May 24, 1985, inspired by the heartbreaking story of the abduction and murder of Adam Walsh, Valassis saw a social need and

became a good corporate citizen. Their Herculean effort generates 87 percent of all photographic leads given to law enforcement in missing child cases.

Madam Speaker, Valassis Communications Inc. deserves not only recognition but heartfelt gratitude for having profoundly changed the way America searches for missing and exploited children. I ask my colleagues to join me in commending Valassis for its devotion to the children and families of our community and our country.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION
ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

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. RUSH. Madam Chair, I rise today in support of the Murphy amendment. By adopting this amendment the House, today, takes an important step in eliminating discrimination in our nation's armed forces.

Madam Chair, critics of this amendment, and the repeal effort, have often stated that allowing open service will "disrupt unit cohesion" and lead to a breakdown in "good order and discipline." These are the same arguments that were used in the 1940s to object to the integration of America's armed forces. Since that time, tens of thousands of African-Americans, myself included, have proudly served this nation that they love. Some have even risen to positions of distinction such as Colin Powell, who served as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Much in that same honorable tradition, Madam Chair, gay and lesbian service members have also served our country with distinction. Whether on land, sea, or in the air gay and lesbian Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and Coast Guardsmen have served, and continue to serve, professionally and admirably.

Madam Chair, open service is a policy that is embraced by many of our key allies. In fact, in our current conflicts, American forces have served side by side with British, Canadian and Australian forces. These nations all permit open service and have demonstrated—through their soldiers' blood, sweat and tears—that they, too, are an effective fighting force.

In fact, Madam Chair, 35 countries, thirty-five, allow for open service. That's 35 countries, on all six inhabited continents, that have moved past prejudice and bigotry. Now is the time for the United States to be the 36th country to join them.

Of our NATO allies, Turkey and the United States are the only countries that have not yet allowed for open service. By passing this amendment, Madam Chair, the United States takes the first step in rectifying that situation.

Madam Chair, I will close with a quote from one of our former colleagues that I seldom, if ever, agreed with: Republican Senator Barry Goldwater.