

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.

In 1993, Senator Goldwater penned an op-ed for the Washington Post and the Los Angeles Times where he stated, "It's no great secret that military studies have proved again and again that there's no valid reason for keeping the ban on gays." I ask my colleagues to remember Senator Goldwater's words and to vote "yes" on this amendment.

HONORING SOMERVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 9, 2010

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Somerville Fire Department, located in Somerset County, New Jersey, which is celebrating its 175th Anniversary.

In 1835, the Somerville Fire Department originated with the creation of the Washington Fire Company on the present day site of the Somerset County Courthouse yard. The original companies included: Union Fire Company No. 1, Jersey Blue Fire Company No. 2, Somerville Steam Fire Engine Company No. 1 and Steamer Hose Company No. 1. Today, the oldest surviving Engine Company is Engine Company No. 1 which was formed in 1878.

In 1880, several members of the Engine Company No. 1 realized that a hook and ladder truck was necessary to continue serving the community. These men resigned to form the Central Hook and Ladder Company. Eight years later, in 1888, the West End Hose Company No. 3 was organized in response to a citizen's petition for better fire protection on the west end of town. This company was formed with past members of the original Union Engine Company No. 1 and acquired their apparatus, building and grounds.

Another component of Engine Company No. 1 was a group of young firemen, known at the time as the Engine Company Cadets. After a series of differences with the older men of the company, the Cadets broke away from the paternal organization to form the Lincoln Hose Company in 1891.

By 1893, the Somerville Fire Department had placed fire boxes in eight locations around the town to better serve Somerville residents.

In 1916, the West End Hose Company received the first motor apparatus of the Somerville Fire Department. Eight years later, the Borough provided the Central Hook and Ladder Company with a motorized Seagrave truck with a booster tank and a complete set of wooden ladders. Every 20 years thereafter, the borough provided the company with new apparatus.

Then, in 1969, the West End Hose Company moved from its former headquarters on Doughty Avenue to a new firehouse on High Street. Five years later, the Lincoln Hose company erected its new headquarters on Warren Street at no cost to local taxpayers.

After the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, members of the Somerville Fire Department spent weeks in New York City participating in the rescue and recovery efforts. Today, the Somerville Fire Department con-

tinues a long and proud tradition of serving its community and surrounding municipalities, when called upon, with mutual assistance.

Madam Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Somerville Fire Department and its firefighters for one hundred and seventy five years of dedicated and admirable service.

IN RECOGNITION OF LYLE FRANK FOR HIS DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AS CHAIRMAN OF MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD 6

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 9, 2010

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, I rise to acknowledge the achievements of Mr. Lyle Frank on the occasion of his retirement as Chairman of New York City's Community Board 6. A tireless and dedicated community activist and civic volunteer, Lyle Frank is a consummate New Yorker who has distinguished himself in his career in both the public and private sectors.

A respected attorney, Lyle Frank has demonstrated a remarkable commitment to serving others through his public and community service. After graduating from New York University and Brooklyn Law School, Mr. Frank began his legal career as an Assistant District Attorney in Kings County, where he presented arguments in the "Megan's Law" hearings. He continued his legal career at Callan, Koster, Brady & Brennan, LLP, and later at Wilson, Elser, Moskowitz, Edelman & Dicker, LLP, serving as a lead attorney in New York Supreme Court trials involving personal injury. Currently a small claims arbitrator for the New York County Civil Court, he serves as Legal Counsel for the New York City Council's Committees on Parks and Recreation and on Lower Manhattan Redevelopment. Mr. Frank is also an adjunct professor at the New York University School of Continuing and Professional Studies. Most recently, he became an adjunct professor at Baruch College, where he is an advisor to students in the National Urban Fellowship Program that prepares students for leadership and management positions in government or non-profit agencies.

It is for his volunteer service as a Member and Chairman of Community Board 6 for which Mr. Frank is being honored by his fellow Board members and community residents on the evening of June 21, 2010. Community Board 6, which encompasses the East Side of Manhattan from 14th to 59th Streets along the East River, serves as the representative town meeting of the historic and nationally prominent neighborhoods that lie within its boundaries. It thus provides a voice to community residents and their concerns, running the gamut of issues from land use to traffic to sanitation and beyond. After joining the Board in 1994, Mr. Frank became a dedicated and energetic representative for his fellow citizens. His leadership abilities were recognized when he was elected Chairman of Manhattan's Community Board 6 in January of 2006. He has just concluded four years as Chairman. Community Board 6 residents are fortunate

that Lyle Frank will continue to serve their interests as a Member of the Board. Throughout all his professional and voluntary activity, Lyle Frank has fought for and secured immeasurable improvements to the quality of life of his fellow Manhattan residents.

Madam Speaker, in recognition of his tremendous contributions to the civic and public life of our nation's greatest city, I request that my colleagues join me in paying tribute to Mr. Lyle Frank, a great New Yorker and a great American. Lyle Frank's dedication to public and community serves as an inspiration to us all.

ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO DEFEND ITS BORDERS

HON. TODD RUSSELL PLATTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 9, 2010

Mr. PLATTS. Madam Speaker, the loss of life is always regrettable, but it is wrong for members of the international community to rush to judgment against Israel with respect to the Gaza flotilla incident. Israel has a right to protect its borders and defend itself against terrorism.

The terrorist group Hamas is engaged in a war against Israel from inside Gaza. Israel unilaterally withdrew from Gaza in 2005 in the hopes of furthering peace. Instead, Hamas consolidated its power in Gaza and launched thousands of rockets and mortar shells against innocent Israeli civilians. Israel's blockade is an act of self-defense—a necessity to deny Hamas the weaponry it needs to continue in its acts of aggression.

Israel was willing to cooperate in a manner to ensure the flow of humanitarian aid to Gaza, as it has in the past. However, organizers of the flotilla appeared intent on provoking confrontation. Video has been released which indicates Israeli soldiers came under violent attack first, before the Israelis switched from using paint guns to using pistols in their own apparent self-defense.

The knee-jerk condemnation of Israel by some in the world community obscures two important facts that should never be forgotten: First, Israel is a democracy and an ally of the United States with a right to protect itself. Second, Hamas is a terrorist group that refuses to recognize the right of Israel to peaceably exist. As an investigation into the specific facts of the incident proceed, we must ensure that it is both balanced and respectful of these underlying facts.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 9, 2010

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, unfortunately, on Tuesday, June 8, 2010, I missed two recorded votes on the House floor. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on Rollcall 337 and "yea" on Rollcall 338.