

working with equipment and aircraft that now can probably only be seen in military museums. Almost half a century later the Guard's equipment has changed, but the high level of commitment and service found in its people has remained.

According to the Adjutant General, he believes his own commitment to those members of the Florida National Guard's enlisted and officer corps will serve as his lasting legacy.

"I would hope that my biggest legacy is that I was a leader who was engaged in the full spectrum of our missions, but was mostly concerned about people," he said. "Because, it is the people that make the National Guard what it is. We've always done the missions even though we haven't always had the best equipment. We've got good equipment now, but it's the same great people we've always had."

Burnett lauded the non-commissioned officers (NCOs) he has served with during his long career, noting that while their professionalism has remained high, they have become increasingly "technically and professionally proficient" over the years.

"I still hold in awe the NCOs that led us during the 60s, the 70s and the 80s; they were absolutely astounding," he explained. "We've always had strong NCOs, but they've stepped up, they're taking on more responsibility earlier, they're exerting strong leadership skills earlier."

He noted that as a senior leader he always tried to focus his own energy on meeting the needs of the junior enlisted and junior officers.

"I've been concerned with making sure our leaders understand how important it is to reach out to every individual Guardsman so that they know how important we think they are," he said. "And they are very important to us."

The general and his wife Judy were also ever-present supporters of the Guard's expanding Family Readiness initiatives; whether it was at a unit deployment or a welcome-home ceremony, the Burnetts could be found meeting with Soldiers, Airmen, and their Families.

"I've been honored to serve alongside some unbelievable people, both Army and Air," he said. "I've tried to shift our focus from simply taking care of Soldiers and Airmen to actually meeting our service members' expectations. Let me tell you, there's a big difference between taking care of Guardsmen and meeting their expectations. You have to think a little more and you certainly have to work a lot harder."

#### FINAL APPROACH

Each generation of Guardsmen has a leader that represents its period of service, and those Florida Soldiers and Airmen who served during the first decade of the 21st Century will see Burnett as this generation's leader. After Maj. Gen. Burnett hangs up his uniform for the final time, he will stand among those leaders who helped carry on a tradition of military service in Florida that stretches back to 1565.

"I'm going to miss the people," Burnett said. "That is what this business is all about; being around Guardsmen has been my life."

He said he won't miss the status or the rank that went with being the Adjutant General, but rather will miss wearing his military uniform and interacting with his fellow Guard members.

"I'll miss wearing the uniform because it identifies you with people who have a similar commitment to something bigger than yourself," he added. "For me the National Guard has been my passion. I loved to fly, but being able to make a difference and make the lives of our people better is a passion that has consumed me. That is what I'll miss."

As his 47-year-long sortie comes to an end, and he pushes back the cockpit canopy of an historic career one last time, Douglas Burnett will know the flight lasted just a few seconds—nearly 1.5 billion seconds.

And the Florida National Guard is grateful for every second he has given to our state and nation. Well done, sir . . . well done!

#### CONGRATULATING KELLER INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR WINNING THE 2010 TEXAS SAFE SCHOOLS AWARD

#### HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 23, 2010*

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Keller Independent School District in Keller, Texas. Keller ISD is the winner of the 2010 Texas Safe School Award, which is given to the school district with the most comprehensive security plan in the State.

Keller ISD has implemented a system where campus doors are locked and visitors are buzzed in at one or two locations. At most schools, visitors are routed directly to the office where drivers' licenses are scanned through the Raptor System. The program compares the identification with sex offender databases and issues an alert if necessary. The system also prints out a sticker with the person's name and driver's license photo.

Districts were judged on their collaborative efforts with local law enforcement and emergency personnel, the number of student resource officers, staff development and student training for emergencies, violence and drug abuse prevention, anti-bullying and safe dating initiatives, mentoring and community participation and innovations.

Madam Speaker, I would like to submit for the Record the names of the Keller ISD staff that were instrumental in achieving this honor:

Jeff Baker—Director of Planning and Development

Cliff Jaynes—Coordinator of Emergency Management and Security

Danny Mitchell—Security Specialist

Scott Kessel—Director of Guidance and Counseling

Marcene Weatherall—Coordinator of Drug and Alcohol Prevention

The Texas School Safety Center solicits nominations each year for districts that demonstrate a multi-layered approach to security. The award will be presented at the annual Texas Safe Schools Conference.

Madam Speaker, I proudly rise today to recognize Keller ISD, winner of the 2010 Texas Safe School Award. Keller ISD is to be highly commended for their ongoing efforts to ensure the safety of its students, faculty and staff. It is an honor to represent Keller ISD in the U.S. House of Representatives.

#### IN HONOR OF STATE REPRESENTATIVE WILLIAM A. OBERLE, JR.

#### HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 23, 2010*

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, it is with great honor that I recognize today the career

of the Honorable State Representative William A. Oberle, Jr. A member of Delaware's General Assembly for over 34 years, Representative Oberle has served his constituents, his community and his state with genuine devotion, and his presence will be greatly missed.

For over three decades Bill has worked diligently as a representative of the 24th Representative District, ensuring that his constituents have had a strong voice in the General Assembly. I worked with Bill for eight years at Legislative Hall in Dover, Delaware and was able to witness first hand his steadfastness and spirit. Bill will leave behind an indelible legacy in the General Assembly—for his countless years of dedicated service and, most of all, for his outstanding commitment to the constituents whom he represented. His history of determination and resolve serves as a template for all public servants.

Bill holds the distinct title of the General Assembly's longest serving Republican ever, which he achieved through years of hard work, putting aside party differences and reaching across the aisle to arrive at policies which were most beneficial to his constituents and the state of Delaware. Over his career, Bill has been the champion of imperative legislation which brought much needed change to our state. A strong labor supporter, his work on the issues of neighborhood schooling, workers compensation, and the support he lent to various police forces have been efficacious in elevating Delaware's communities.

I am proud to have served with Bill for the eight years that I did, and pleased to have this opportunity to honor him on the occasion of his retirement from the Delaware House of Representatives. He has been unwavering in his mission to represent the 24th Representative District, and will be remembered for his countless contributions to his constituents, and the state of Delaware. Bill has had a terrific career of public service and I wish both him and his wife, Sally, the best on this momentous occasion.

#### SUPPORTING NATIONAL HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS WEEK

SPEECH OF

#### HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 22, 2010*

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 1330, a resolution that supports the goals and ideals of National Hurricane Preparedness Week. I also want to thank my colleague, the honorable MARIO DIAZ-BALART, for introducing this important resolution.

My district is in the wake of many hurricanes that make their way into the Gulf of Mexico. Hurricane season has a profound impact on our way of life in the gulf. Hurricane season is upon us, and with it comes the distinct possibility of Mother Nature wreaking more havoc on our gulf coast. Our oceans are in peril. Reams of film from the field reach all of our doorsteps, pictures of oil covered birds, ailing mammals, and other creatures that couldn't possibly survive the copious amounts of oil. The harm done to our gulf is already at an unprecedented level.

Unfortunately, as long as oil plumes continue to form nebulous clouds of black a mile

beneath the deep blue sea, we will continue to push that unprecedented level of destruction even further, continue to see our gulf shores littered with amorphous lumps of oil, continue to see the gulf coast crowded with sick animals, continue to see the gulf fishing industry suffer.

Lost in the discussion of Sunday's World Refugee Day was the group of internally displaced individuals from Ike, Rita, and especially Katrina.

For example, our latest hurricane, Hurricane Ike, wreaked havoc on Texas, particularly in Galveston and Houston. As we moved forward with recovery efforts, it was clear that the impact of this storm had been widespread and many people were still in need of assistance.

Hurricane Ike pummeled the Texas Gulf Coast, resulting in at least 38 deaths in Texas, evacuation of over 1 million residents, hundreds more are either missing or remain unaccounted for, over 2,000 residents were rescued from harrowing conditions, and more than \$11 billion worth of damage according to preliminary estimates, making this the most costly storm in Texas history.

In the weeks that followed Hurricane Ike, over 2.5 million families struggled to survive with no electricity, including no air conditioning in the sweltering heat, which had a particularly severe impact on the elderly, disabled, impoverished and other vulnerable populations. Clearly, we need to invest substantial funds to improve our electric grids to ensure that the disparate impact on vulnerable populations is corrected and never allowed to reoccur.

Just as we saw in the Ninth Ward of New Orleans, Louisiana Post-Hurricane Katrina, internally displaced individuals from hurricanes do not receive the proper access to government aid to rebuild and recover. In fact, there is still a desperate need of housing and much more rebuilding that needs to be done to restore previous hurricane disaster victims and assist the residents who remain there.

We cannot allow the hurricane victims to be forgotten. Throughout our Post-Hurricane recovery efforts, many individuals have had difficulties and challenges getting the government aid that they need to rebuild after the storm. Many lost their jobs or are at risk of losing their employment due to damages incurred by the hurricane.

There are men, women, and children who have lost so much due to flood waters and storm winds. I have been proud to stand up repeatedly in Congress to fight on their behalf by securing the necessary federal funds. We must work together to ensure that our nation does its part to help hurricane victims fully recover by ensuring the delivery of funds that we worked so hard to appropriate. As a senior Member of the House Homeland Security Committee, which has oversight over the Federal Emergency Management Administration, FEMA, I am working to ensure that our communities respond expeditiously to natural disasters. The protection of our homeland and the security of our neighborhoods are at the forefront of my agenda.

While Hurricane Ike has left an enormous amount of devastation, it has demonstrated yet again the amazing unity, strength and resilience that Texans possess. Whether rich or poor, black or white, young or old, Democrat or Republican, everyone has been working together to respond, recover, rebuild and move forward.

We must work together to improve access to housing and the critical infrastructure necessary to ensure that the residents of North Galveston and their communities are safe. Where unacceptable vulnerabilities remain, swift action must be taken to eliminate them. I am committed to ensuring the implementation of such action.

My friends, this oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico threatens the livelihood of the citizens of the south central region of these United States, and deprives all Americans of the beauty and reasonable use of the seas and its inhabitants. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF MS. BECKY PISCITELLA

#### HON. MARK S. CRITZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 23, 2010

Mr. CRITZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Becky Piscitella, an outstanding teacher who was awarded the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST) by President Barack Obama earlier this month.

Ms. Piscitella teaches eleventh grade mathematics at Richland High School, located in Johnstown, Pennsylvania. She is the only teacher in Pennsylvania to receive this prestigious award this year.

The PAEMST award is given annually to the country's top pre-college level science and mathematics teachers. Ms. Piscitella's award is well deserved as her work promotes science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education. The opportunity for students to receive STEM education is crucial for our nation's competitiveness and future economic welfare. I am delighted that students in the 12th Congressional District of Pennsylvania are able to become the next generation of innovators and leaders because of educators like Ms. Piscitella.

Madam Speaker, I conclude my remarks by congratulating her on this exceptional recognition of her talents, her dedication, and her passion for helping our students succeed. I wish her well as she continues to inspire our young scholars.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 23, 2010

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I submit the following remarks regarding my absence from votes which occurred on June 22, 2010. Listed below is how I would have voted if I had been present.

Roll No. 376—H. Con. Res. 288—supporting National Men's Health Week—"aye"; Roll No. 377—H. Res. 546—recognizing the historical significance of Juneteenth Independence Day, and expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that history should be regarded as a means for understanding the past and more effectively facing the challenges of the future—"aye"; Roll No. 378—H. Res. 1407—supporting the goals and ideals of High-Performance Building Week—"aye."

#### RECOGNITION OF CONNOR ELLISON

#### HON. DANIEL E. LUNGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 23, 2010

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Connor Ellison.

This past Saturday, June 19, 2010, Connor's Hope-Team Donate Life successfully completed a 3,005 mile-long bike ride across the United States in 6 days, 20 hours, and 39 minutes in the Race Across America. The team started their journey in Oceanside, California and completed the crossing in Annapolis, Maryland. Team Donate Life is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting organ donation and transplantation.

Connor Ellison, a 12-year-old Folsom, California resident, became the youngest rider to ever compete and finish the Race Across America—the world's toughest bicycle race. Connor is an inspiration to all of us, as he accomplished this great feat while battling a serious liver disease called Congenital Hepatic Fibrosis.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the achievements of Connor Ellison and Connor's Hope-Team Donate Life.

#### IN HONOR OF REPRESENTATIVE PAMELA THORNBURG

#### HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 23, 2010

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, it is with great honor that I recognize today the career and accomplishments of The Honorable State Representative Pamela Thornburg. As a member of Delaware's General Assembly for 10 years, Representative Thornburg has given much to her community and state while faithfully serving her constituents of the 29th District. Representative Thornburg is retiring after an admirable career in the General Assembly, and her presence in the State House will be greatly missed.

First elected to the State Legislature in 2000, Pam has successfully sponsored a number of high-profile laws and initiatives. A cornerstone of her legislative career was a 2007 law to reduce the number of false alarms from automated alarm systems. This visionary legislation sought to streamline emergency response by cutting down on the 99-percent false alarm rate which diverted and distracted essential emergency personnel.

As a State Representative for the 29th District and a member of the House's Agriculture Committee, Pam has worked tirelessly to defend Delaware's environmental interests. She is an agricultural advocate and a champion of preservation; she has ensured that countless acres of forestland have been protected, and, as further testament to her commitment, she also assisted in a separate initiative that secured permanent funding to preserve Delaware farmland from development.

Over her career, Pam has resolutely served the constituents of the 29th District, fighting for