

Madam Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating my good friend, Samuel Staten, Sr., on his years of labor leadership and thank Mr. Staten for his devotion to Laborers' Local 332.

WALTER PETERSON

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2010

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Walter Peterson who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Walter Peterson is an 11th grader at Arvada West High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Walter Peterson is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Walter Peterson for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character to all his future accomplishments.

HONORING JIM TATE, 2010 HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS TRACK AND FIELD COACH OF THE YEAR

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2010

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate my friend and, coincidentally, my next door neighbor, Coach Jim Tate, whose tremendous talents as a high school track and field coach in Mobile, Alabama have once again earned him national recognition.

On June 28, Coach Tate was named 2010 National High School Coach of the Year for Girls Track and Field for the outstanding record he has amassed while coaching at Mobile's St. Paul's School.

Perhaps more than any other man to coach the sport, Jim Tate has now garnered not one but two national coaching awards, the first being in 1999 as the Girls Cross Country Coach of the Year by the National Federation of State High School Associations.

Without a doubt, Jim Tate is a legend in Mobile and throughout the State of Alabama. He has been involved with the St. Paul's track and field program for the past 32 years, guiding his teams to a total of 56 titles—17 in girls cross country, 17 in girls track and field, 13 in boys track and field, and nine in boys cross country.

Coach Tate's girls' teams have won five straight Alabama High School Athletic Association Class 5A state titles, and his teams set a national high school record from 1982 through 1998 by winning 16 straight state titles.

Madam Speaker, as you might imagine, Coach Tate has been awarded countless honors for his exemplary coaching ability within the community including induction into the 2008 Mobile Sports Hall of Fame, as well as Coach of the Year honors by the Mobile Press Register more times than one can count. Recently, St. Paul's decided to honor Coach Tate by naming their new field house that is under construction in his honor.

On behalf of the people of South Alabama and especially on behalf of the St. Paul's School family, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to a man who has touched thousands of young lives and who, at all times, has been an exemplary role model as both an athlete and a human being, Coach Jim Tate.

I know Jim's family is exceedingly proud of their father and husband for his wonderful example and his tireless dedication to turning our young people into winners, not just on the athletic field, but in the game of life.

HONORING DEACON THOMAS WILLIAMS

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2010

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Deacon Thomas Williams as he celebrates his 100th birthday. Metropolitan Baptist Tabernacle in my hometown of Flint, Michigan is planning a celebration on Sunday, July 25 in honor of the occasion.

Deacon Williams was born in Newton, Mississippi on July 20, 1910. He relocated to Michigan and worked for General Motors for 35 years. He was one of the first black males hired to work at General Motors. He is a charter member of Metropolitan Baptist Tabernacle and has been a faithful member for 72 years attending services every Sunday. Deacon Williams is a former Sunday School teacher, Sunday School superintendent and president of the Young Adult Choir. He continues to be active in the Vacation Bible School and the church's annual picnic. For his continuous service, Metropolitan Baptist Tabernacle gave him the Albert Fleming Award. Deacon Williams has been a member of the NAACP and the Urban League.

Of late, Deacon Williams fills his time cooking, making homemade ice cream, watching TV, and being surrounded by his two daughters, 13 grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren, 5 great-great-grandchildren, his nephew and his 3 goddaughters.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me and applaud Deacon Thomas Williams as he celebrates his 100th birthday. His deep trust in Jesus Christ has brought him through the past 100 years and I pray that he will continue to prosper in Our Lord and Savior.

RECOGNIZING 65TH ANNIVERSARY OF END OF WORLD WAR II

SPEECH OF

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 20, 2010

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 65th anniversary of the end of World War II.

Following the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, thousands of young Americans flooded their local recruiting offices to enlist in the Armed Services. In total, over 16 million served in uniform to defend their families, their homes, and our freedoms.

Those serving on the front lines were not the only Americans making sacrifices during America's 4 years in World War II. From Victory Gardens to sugar and gasoline rations, World War II united all Americans. The cooperation and patriotism shown during those times illustrate the best of the American spirit. It is no wonder that these Americans are so often referred to as "the Greatest Generation."

Today, approximately 20,000 World War II veterans live in Florida's Fifth Congressional District. I regularly meet with these veterans. Almost always, what I hear from them is their concerns about where our Nation is going. They fear that we have abandoned the goals and ideals that they fought for, and that 405,000 members of the Armed Forces died for, during World War II.

I would like to thank my colleague from Missouri, Mr. SKELTON, for introducing this resolution to recognize the service and sacrifices of all of the brave men and women who fought against some of the greatest evil the world has ever known. I hope that as we honor these veterans with this resolution, we will also honor them with our acts—returning to the beliefs in democracy, liberty, and freedom from tyranny that made our great Nation what it is today.

With that I ask my colleagues to support this resolution.

HONORING SERGEANT DONALD EDGERTON FOR HIS SERVICE IN IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2010

Mr. SHULER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor SGT Donald "Rocky" Edgerton of Murphy, North Carolina, for his valiant service in the United States Army. After September 11th, Sergeant Edgerton's profound sense of duty for his country moved him to join the Army.

He spent his first tour of duty in Iraq, and after serving his country for over a year, he came back with an even deeper feeling of obligation. He was then chosen to enroll in sniper school, where he earned the reputation of "top gun" due to his incredible accuracy with a rifle. When he was called for another tour of duty in Afghanistan, Sergeant Edgerton fearlessly welcomed the challenge even though he had to leave behind his beloved wife and young daughter.

On July 10, the day after his 33rd birthday, Sergeant Edgerton was leading his troops just north of Char Dara, Afghanistan when insurgents attacked his unit and detonated an improvised explosive device that ultimately took his life. A short while prior, Edgerton had just been nominated for a Bronze Star Medal for saving the lives of several members of his convoy during an attack.

Edgerton received various medals and accolades for his service, including the Army Achievement Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Iraq Campaign Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, the Global War on Terror Medal, the NATO Medal, the Army Service Ribbon, and two Overseas Service Ribbons. He was also awarded the Purple Heart, the Bronze Star Medal, the Army Good Conduct Medal, and the Combat Action Badge, all posthumously.

Madam Speaker, Sergeant Edgerton embodied the most essential qualities of an American soldier. He was selfless, dedicated, and brave. He is remembered as a man who put the safety of his fellow troops before his own, and accordingly a man who has earned the unwavering respect of his peers. Through his exemplary service in Iraq and Afghanistan, SGT Donald Edgerton has brought pride to our troops, his family, and all of Western North Carolina. It is truly my honor to commemorate him and I urge my colleagues to join me today in honoring the life of SGT Donald "Rocky" Edgerton for the sacrifices he has made for our country.

HONORING THE RAINBOW COMPANY: RECIPIENT OF THE CHILDREN'S THEATRE FOUNDATION OF AMERICA'S 2010 MEDALLION AWARD

HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2010

Ms. BERKLEY. Madam Speaker, today I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Rainbow Company as the 2010 recipient of the Medallion Award from the Children's Theatre Foundation of America.

In 1976, the Rainbow Company opened the first children's theatre company in Las Vegas. Patricia Marchese, the Manager of the City of Las Vegas' Cultural and Community Affairs Division asked Jody Johnston to teach drama classes that proved so popular they asked Jody to produce plays.

The Rainbow Company's first production was Pippi Longstocking. Pippi toured locally and was later recorded and given the "Best of the West Award" for the best educational programming in the western United States.

In 1980, the Rainbow Company produced a show that acquired national consideration. Odd Man Out, an original script by Brian Kral, focused on a dance teacher and her class of disabled students. The play featured both disabled and non-disabled children and was preceded by months of drama classes with disabled young people. This led to a 1981 People magazine article that noted the Rainbow Company's achievement as "the first theatre in the U.S. to totally integrate handicapped and non-handicapped" students.

In 2001, the Rainbow Company began to put on workshops that became so successful

they were expanded to full-day camps that last for 8 weeks. In addition, they provide outreach classes for at-risk children at local elementary schools and shelters.

Rainbow Company has obtained several other accolades including the Nickelodeon's Parents' Picks' 2009 Award and the National Recreation and Park Association's first-place Dorothy Mullen Arts and Humanities Award.

As the Representative for Nevada's First Congressional District, home to the Rainbow Company, it gives me immense pride to recognize this outstanding and unique company for their achievements in providing the children of my district with unparalleled touring and main-stage acting opportunities, outreach programs, educational programs and annual workshops. I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing this outstanding organization for their contribution to the arts and education and for their 2010 Medallion Award from the Children's Theatre Foundation of America.

WHITNEY NELSON

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2010

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Whitney Nelson who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Whitney Nelson is a 9th grader at Ralston Valley High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Whitney Nelson is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Whitney Nelson for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character to all her future accomplishments.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF STAFF SERGEANT DAVID SMITH

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2010

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and the patriotic service of U.S. Air Force SSgt. David Smith, age 26, a dedicated defender of American liberty, who lost his life while coming to the aid of wounded warriors in Afghanistan.

Staff Sergeant Smith, a graduate of Satsuma High School and a resident of Eight Mile, Alabama, was devoted to his mission of rescuing his comrades on the battlefields of Iraq and Afghanistan. During his years of wearing the uniform of his country, he proudly participated in more than 130 combat missions, literally saving the lives of hundreds of military personnel.

A member of the 66th Rescue Squadron from Ellis Air Force Base in Nevada, Staff Ser-

geant Smith was assigned to the 563rd Rescue Group. While conducting a medical evacuation mission in Afghanistan's Helmand province, his HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopter was shot down by Taliban insurgents on June 9, 2010.

Speaking about the loss of Staff Sergeant Smith, as well as three of his comrades and those injured aboard their rescue helicopter, U.S. Air Force Chief of Staff General Norman Schwartz noted, "Faithful to the rescue motto 'That others may live,' these airmen were courageously and selflessly flying in support of their joint coalition teammates. We grieve for our warriors and our thoughts and prayers are with their families, as well as with the airmen still recovering."

At the time of his death, Staff Sergeant Smith was just 5 days from completing his combat duty. He was awarded the Purple Heart, Air Force Combat Award Medal, and the Alabama Distinguished Service Medal.

During this time of sorrow, my heart and prayers go out to Staff Sergeant Smith's mother, Mildred Hardee, his fiancée, Meggan Eckersley, brothers, Randall Dunn and Todd Smith, sisters, Tracy Smith and Jamie Smith, and his extended family.

On behalf of the people of Alabama, I wish to extend our deepest condolences to the family of Staff Sergeant Smith for the loss of their beloved son, brother and finance. He is truly an American Hero and we will always cherish his service to his country and its people.

HONORING CALIFORNIA GRIZZLIES JUNIOR RIFLE TEAM

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2010

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate the California Grizzlies Junior Rifle Team on winning the 2009 National Trophy Infantry Match at Camp Perry on August 7, 2009. The team will be recognized and honored at the annual National Rifle Association sanctioned high power match on Saturday, July 3, 2010.

The California Grizzlies Junior Rifle team consists of seven juniors from around the state of California; team captain Anthony Henderson, Sonora; David Bahten, Jamestown; Chad Kurgan, Sonora; Jim Minturn, San Diego; Joshua Lehn, Lemoore; Cheyanne Acebo, Vacaville; and Matthew Chezem, Simi Valley. The team is lead by coach Jim O'Connell. The 2009 National Trophy Infantry Match winners shot a 1284, becoming the first junior team to ever win the event and the first civilian team to win in 79 years. The team has been a tough competitor in recent years. They finished fifth at the event in 2008, setting a record with a score of 1233. The team won the junior title, setting new records in 2008 and 2009 in the National Trophy Team event, shooting a score of 2870 to finish eighth overall. The team consistently has members in the President's 100, a group of distinguished shooters and members that receive notable rankings and points in various competitions.

The competition at Camp Perry includes many different matches; the Infantry Team Match, established in the late 1920s, is the competition that most closely resembles battles from war. Teams of six shoot at eight targets, starting off at six hundred yards, moving