

Madam Speaker, it is commendable that this top ranking school stresses among its students the importance of good solid values that seem to have lost their luster over time. For example, its policies include a curfew of 11:30 p.m. and no alcoholic beverages in the dorms; rooms must be meticulously clean; self-pride in students' appearance is a must and being a debtor is not an option—the only debt that is owed upon graduation is the debt of duty to one's country. It is not surprising that this institution is top ranked.

The United States Military Academy at West Point in the state of New York has earned the title of Best College for 2009 because of its attention to detail and its great distinction in proficiency, in addition to their undisputed service to our nation. I can see no better way for this 111th Congress to acknowledge and praise this fine institution of "life learners," for its diligent work in producing well-rounded citizens, leaders, innovators and protectors than to congratulate the institution here on the House floor.

HONORING ABDULQAWI MOHAMED

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 5, 2010

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize both the athletic and academic achievements of an impressive young member of the Lackawanna community, Abdulqawi Mohamed.

This past weekend Abdulqawi won the 103 lb weight class at the Division II Wrestling State Championship Tournament in Albany. Abdulqawi finished the season with an amazing record of 43 wins and one loss. His efforts made him the first New York State wrestling champion in the history of Lackawanna High School.

With all of his accomplishments, I was amazed to hear Abdulqawi has only been wrestling for three years. His coaches, Jeff Michelle and Idreas Ahmed, have literally taught him everything he knows about his sport. In addition to wrestling, Abdulqawi is also a very talented soccer player.

Athletics are an integral part of every young person's life; they teach us exactly what we can accomplish through hard work and dedication. However, without a solid academic background, athletics will only take you so far. Abdulqawi is currently in 11th grade at Lackawanna High School and, during his time there, has maintained a 95.3 GPA. Indeed, Abdulqawi is not only a talented athlete but a gifted student as well.

Abdulqawi and his family emigrated from the Republic of Yemen to the United States just three years ago. They are currently residents of Lackawanna's first ward. Abdulqawi and his family are a perfect example of the positive influence members of the Yemenite community are having on Lackawanna.

Madam Speaker, I ask my fellow Members to join me in congratulating Abdulqawi Mohamed for winning the first state wrestling championship in Lackawanna High School history as well as his equally impressive academic achievements.

HONORING 139TH AIRLIFT WING

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 2, 2010

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 699—honoring and recognizing the significant service and contribution of the men and women of the 139th Airlift Wing, Air National Guard. I would like to pay tribute to their historic past and mission-essential present.

Citizen-soldiers have played a central role in America's defense since the first English colonists settled in North America during the early 17th century. Subsequently, throughout most of our history, the American people have relied upon the militia and National Guard as well as volunteers to provide the vast bulk of their militia manpower in times of war.

These citizen-soldiers have also aided their states in coping with natural disasters and civil unrest. The dual mission—both state and federal—has served as a source of great pride among guardsmen for generations and has helped maintain the highest retention statistics among reserve components. This close relationship between the Guard and the states has also helped knit the fabric of the United States Armed Forces as one of the most trusted institutions in the federal government. The Air National Guard proudly represents the heritage of the citizen airman.

On 18 September 1947, the Air National Guard was born as an independent reserve component of the Air Force. It retained experienced aviators, maintainers and support personnel from World War II, allowing for a legitimate and ready national defense capability. These sons and daughters of America were prepared to defend their country on the front lines and the home front.

The 139th Airlift Wing, a military organization well worthy of recognition and praise, has a long and glorious history. Originally named the 139th Air Transport Group, it was a derivative of the 180th Bombardment Squadron, one of the first federally recognized Air National Guard units in the nation, and was allotted to the state of Missouri at Rosecrans Air National Guard Base, Saint Joseph, Missouri as a part of the Military Air Transport Service.

It was redesignated as the 139th Military Airlift Group on 1 January 1966 when the Military Air Transport Service was deactivated and superseded by the Military Airlift Command. It was redesignated again as the 139th Air Refueling Group on 6 September 1969 within the Tactical Air Command; it was a major contributor during the Vietnam war.

The 139th as an organization continued to lead the way in defending America as it underwent a series of redesignations, inactivations and mission consolidations until its final designation as the 139th Airlift Wing on 1 October 1995 assigned to the Air Combat Command. Two years later the airlift mission with all C-130 units was changed from Air Combat Command to Air Mobility Command.

The 139th Airlift Wing has a long and outstanding record of getting airmen, soldiers and marines, equipment and supplies to and from the fight. This was clearly demonstrated with the massive troop deployment during Operation Desert Storm which was key in delivering a swift and virtually uncontested victory.

This unit served as the hub while America supported humanitarian operations in Bosnia, Sarajevo, Africa, and Haiti. It delivered tens of thousands of tons of relief support and medical and support personnel.

The 139th Airlift Wing deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan with 215 missions and provided 918 sorties. Additionally, the wing is the host of the world renowned Advanced Airlift Tactics Training Center (AATTC). This center, a Total Force Integration Initiative, is a combination of Air National Guard, Air Force Reserve, and Regular Air Force members, and supports NATO air forces training operations.

The civilian airmen of the 139th Airlift Wing played a considerable role in supporting natural disasters and emergencies on the home front as well. They provided disaster relief in response to Hurricane Katrina and the devastating ice storm that struck Northwest Missouri.

The 139th Air Wing is currently supporting Operation Coronet Oak in Puerto Rico and was vital in the rapid relief to Haiti in support of Operation Unified Response. They provided 11 sorties and delivered 23,000 pounds of cargo to mitigate suffering in the middle of the devastated country.

Once again I am very proud of our Armed Services, especially the men and women that make up the 139th Airlift Wing. We pay tribute to our civilian airmen force for their courage, sacrifice and patriotism. We all owe you a debt of gratitude and our undying support.

HONORING MR. EUGENE HEATH

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 5, 2010

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the years of service given to the people of Chautauqua County by Mr. Eugene Heath. Mr. Heath served his constituency faithfully and justly during his tenure as a member of the Kiantone Town Council.

Public service is a difficult and fulfilling career. Any person with a dream may enter but only a few are able to reach the end. Mr. Heath served his term with his head held high and a smile on his face the entire way. I have no doubt that his kind demeanor left a lasting impression on the people of Chautauqua County.

We are truly blessed to have such strong individuals with a desire to make this county the wonderful place that we all know it can be. Mr. Heath is one of those people and that is why, Madam Speaker, I rise in tribute to him today.

HONORING HOWARD TWIGGS

HON. LARRY KISSELL

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 5, 2010

Mr. KISSELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Howard Twiggs, a friend, lawyer, legislator and citizen scholar. Howard was an attorney of the highest caliber and an ambassador of his profession. He had a fierce passion for justice and service to others and

he was an inspiration to those fortunate enough to be near him. Through years of training and perhaps more importantly years of experience, he understood the law inside and out, both arguing cases in the courts and writing laws as a state legislator. When he served in the North Carolina House of Representatives from 1966–1974 he helped overhaul mental health laws, removed racial references in law, and championed the rights of the handicapped. He truly was a voice for those without a voice themselves.

As an expert trial lawyer, Howard started his own law firm headquartered in his hometown of Raleigh in 1960. He was a force to be reckoned with in the courtroom and colleagues will attest that he was a formidable foe. He pursued justice for its own sake and was a guardian of our nation's sacred individual liberties. His knowledge of the law was vast, and his courtroom success eventually led him to become the President of the Association of Trial Lawyers of America from 1996–1997.

In addition to serving the people as a state legislator and attorney, he was also extremely dedicated to his alma mater, Wake Forest. During his lifetime Howard served as the President of the Wake Forest University Law Alumni Association and chairperson of the law school's Board of Visitors. As in all of his endeavors, Howard's impact on Wake Forest was substantial, and he was recognized in 2002 with the Wake Forest University Distinguished Alumni Award.

Friends and family will remember a man who brightened the outlook of everyone around him and had an enormous passion for life. I will remember him as an excellent listener and encouraging friend. Howard was the kind of man you could count on to listen when no one else would. His zeal for life, compassion for others, and dedication to service made him a role model to all of us and I am proud to have counted him as a friend.

I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering and honoring the life and work of Howard Twiggs who is survived by his former wife, Betty, and four daughters: Elizabeth Johnson, Mary Catherine Twiggs-Valverde, Jennifer Twiggs-Bilich, and Ashley Twiggs.

AMERICA SAVES WEEK

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 3, 2010

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1082, "Supporting the goals and ideals of the fourth annual America Saves Week" and for other purposes, introduced by my distinguished colleague from Texas, Representative JOHNSON.

"America Saves Week" was established 9 years ago as an annual nationwide campaign that encourages consumers, especially those in lower-income households, to increase their financial literacy, enroll as American Savers, and establish a personal savings goal in an effort to build personal wealth and enhance financial security.

During the 9 years "America Saves Week" has been in existence, over 2,000 local, state, and national organizations, including government agencies, financial institutions, and non-

profits, have motivated more than 245,000 people to enroll as American Savers through events such as financial literacy classes, financial fairs, free tax preparation assistance programs, and deposit campaigns. Encouraging automatic and habitual savings was a primary focus for the 2010 America Saves Week that began on February 21, 2010 and concluded on February 28, 2010.

The primary focus of "America Saves Week" is reflected in the work of Financial and Economic Literacy Caucus, America Saves, and the American Savings Education Council's Choose to Save Campaign. Financial security is one of the most important issues for most Americans, whether it involves saving for a college education, an unforeseen emergency, a house, a new vehicle, or even retirement. Personal savings as a percentage of disposable income has risen from 1.2 percent in the first quarter of 2008 to 4.8 percent in the fourth quarter of 2009, according to the Bureau of Economic Analysis. The Employment Benefit Research Institute stated that the percentage of workers very confident about having enough money for a comfortable retirement fell to 13 percent in 2009, down from 18 percent in 2008, and more workers expect to work longer to supplement their income in retirement.

Mr. Speaker, encouraging Americans to save has become even more important. Older Americans are more likely to live within 200 percent of poverty than any other age group, and more than 60 percent of the elderly population relies on Social Security for over three-fourths of their annual income, according to the 2009 Employee Benefit Research Institute's Databook and the 2009 Social Security Administration Report. The 2007 Federal Reserve Board's Survey of Consumer Finances findings show that the average savings of retirees remains at \$50,000 and recent financial instability has diminished those funds. I would like to take this opportunity to commend the Consumer Federation of America for managing the program, and to every local, state, and national organization, including government agencies, financial institutions, and non-profits, that have promoted and supported the goals and ideals of the "America Saves Week," and for taking the time to educate Americans about the importance and impact of financial literacy.

Last year, I sponsored a bill during the 111th Congress (H. Res. 1325 that was referred to the Subcommittee on Higher Education, Lifelong Learning, and Competitiveness) that would have required colleges and universities to provide at least 4 hours of financial counseling to students. Student loan borrowers would have received lessons on how to invest, budget, and manage debt, including credit cards and student loans. I personally felt this was important because many lack sufficient knowledge about financial markets, and I believe that we have a responsibility to equip our young people with the necessary tools.

H. RES. 252, AFFIRMATION OF THE UNITED STATES RECORD ON THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE RESOLUTION

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 5, 2010

Mr. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I rise today on a topic of deep personal significance. Today the House Foreign Affairs Committee passed H. Res. 252, the Affirmation of the United States Record on the Armenian Genocide Resolution. The next step is for the full House of Representatives to consider this resolution and finally place our country on the right side of history.

To all Americans and Armenian-Americans such as myself, this matter is not a historical exercise. It is about truth and justice. It is about acknowledging that a genocide which has long been documented and discussed took place . . . the first genocide of the 20th Century.

The time for avoiding the truth of the Armenian Genocide has passed. More than 90 years after the fact, no one can seriously question whether the systematic annihilation of 1.5 million Armenians was genocide. It's a fact.

To those who say that this is an inopportune time, an inconvenient time to acknowledge it, I quote my dear friend, the late Senator Edward Kennedy, "facts are stubborn things." They don't yield to convenience nor wait for opportunity.

The United States was a leader in the relief effort for the Genocide's victims in the 1920s, extending help to people like my mother who fled the massacres. Those of us who have lived with this tragedy in our families and our communities see today the disturbing similarities taking place around the world in the bleak landscapes of Darfur and the Nineveh Plains region of Iraq. If we're serious when we say "never again," we must be honest about history.

Genocide is the most barbaric and criminal act mankind can commit. Our condemnation today must be full-throated and unambiguous. Thank you Chairman BERMAN and Representative SCHIFF for having the courage to introduce this measure and pass it out of committee. Please join me in voting "yes" on this resolution when it reaches the House Floor.

RECOGNIZING MILITARY WORKING DOG PROGRAM

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 2, 2010

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 812—to honor and recognize the significant contributions of the Military Working Dog, MWD, Program to the United States Armed Services in support of national security.

Throughout the histories of warfare, from the days of the Egyptians, the Greeks and the Persians and the conquests of the Roman Empire to the United Nation's Police Action in