

the environment that has contributed, so far, to a relatively peaceful outcome of the referendum. USIP's work on prevention, power-sharing, constitutional reform and natural resources has made a critical difference in the country's local capacity.

In addition, USIP has been able to contribute to the successful mitigation of violence in Kenya, due to its longstanding relationships with influential and highly skilled civil society activists and its reputation as an independent and unbiased party. USIP has the ability to act fast, responding, for example, to the unforeseen electoral violence crisis in 2007 with targeted assistance to a local group in time to make a difference. USIP is now working toward contributing to a peaceful election in 2012.

USIP is a small, agile center of innovation in support of America's national security interests in supporting peace and democracy in Africa and across the globe. USIP has been a very useful resource to policymakers for decades. Therefore, eliminating this critical institution abolishes a cost-effective alternative to military forces.

A TRIBUTE TO NICHOLAS EDWARD MAHER

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 2, 2011

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Nicholas Edward Maher for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

The Eagle Scout rank is the highest advancement rank in scouting. Only about five percent of Boy Scouts earn the Eagle Scout Award. The award is a performance based achievement whose standards have been well-maintained over the years.

To earn the Eagle Scout rank, a Boy Scout is obligated to pass specific tests that are organized by requirements and merit badges, as well as completing an Eagle Project to benefit the community.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by this young man and his supportive family demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication and perseverance. I am honored to represent Nicholas and his family in the United States Congress. I know that all of my colleagues will join me in congratulating him on achieving an Eagle Scout ranking and will wish him continued success in his future education and career.

HONORING THE ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS OF RECENT GRADUATE PAUL WILLIAM KOHAN FROM THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK COLLEGE AT BROCKPORT

HON. RICHARD L. HANNA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 2, 2011

Mr. HANNA. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Paul William Kohan of New Hartford, NY. Paul was diagnosed with dyslexia in the first grade, and has since then proved

what a motivated and intelligent young man he has become despite this obstacle.

While Paul's friends and family feared his future might be impeded because of his disability, he has excelled both academically and beyond, far exceeding expectations for students with dyslexia.

Paul recently graduated from the State University of New York College at Brockport with a Bachelor of Science in sociology degree. Paul's accomplishment is particularly admirable given the fact that a mere 18 percent of persons with dyslexia typically graduate from college. In addition to Paul's impressive graduation, he also plans to pursue a career as a legal disability advocate.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Paul Kohan for his scholastic achievements displayed through his college graduation and inspiring career plans for the future.

A TRIBUTE TO GREGORY GEOFFROY

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 2, 2011

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of Gregory Geoffroy, president of Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa.

Born on July 8, 1946 in Honolulu, Hawaii, Gregory earned a Bachelor of Science degree in chemistry from the University of Louisville in 1968. After a year serving as an officer in the United States Navy, Gregory went on to earn a Ph.D. in chemistry from the California Institute of Technology in 1974. Over the next 30 years, Gregory published over 200 research articles, co-authored a book, and presented more than 200 lectures both in the United States and abroad. Gregory also served in various academic and administrative positions at Penn State University and the University of Maryland during that time.

Gregory was appointed president of Iowa State University in July 2001. His tenure has resulted in a number of accomplishments including the establishment of the Bioeconomy Institute, whose goal is to promote and advance biorenewable technologies. Gregory set a fundraising record with Campaign Iowa State, which recently surpassed its goal of collecting \$800 million. Under his guidance, the university has received a record amount of money in grants, contracts, and cooperative agreements. In the 2009–2010 fiscal year alone, the university received \$388.2 million. Gregory has also succeeded in doubling the number of endowed faculty positions, and he has seen student enrollment grow to record numbers—28,682 in the fall of 2010.

Gregory will certainly be missed on the Iowa State University campus. He will be remembered by students as being easy to relate to, accessible, and visible at university events. He will be remembered by faculty for his communication skills and management style that brought out the best in those around him. Gregory will be remembered by community leaders and business members for his efforts to build and improve direct relationships between the academic world and the business world. More than anything, however, Gregory

will be remembered for making Iowa State an admirable university with a cutting-edge reputation both in Iowa and around the world.

I thank Gregory Geoffroy for his many years of service to the students and employees of Iowa State University. It is an honor to be his representative, and I know that my colleagues in the United States Congress will join me in wishing him happiness and good health in his retirement.

TRIBUTE TO PAUL J. WIEDORFER

HON. JOHN P. SARBANES

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 2, 2011

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Paul J. Wiedorfer, Maryland's last surviving World War II Medal of Honor recipient. Mr. Wiedorfer passed away on May 25th at the Baltimore VA Medical Center. He was 90 years old.

Paul, the son of a German immigrant, was born in Baltimore, Maryland in 1921. He attended St. Andrew's School and went on to graduate from Baltimore Polytechnic Institute. He worked for Baltimore Gas & Electric Co. as an apprentice power station operator, until he enlisted in the Army in 1943.

Serving in a unit from General George Patton's 3rd Army, he experienced his first day of combat during the Battle of the Bulge on December 25, 1944. On that Christmas Day in an operation near Chaumont, Belgium, his company was ambushed. In the fight that ensued, Mr. Wiedorfer darted across an open field of enemy fire and single-handedly destroyed two German machine gun nests, while taking several prisoners. Amazingly, he was unharmed. That same afternoon he was given a battlefield promotion to sergeant.

On February 10, 1945, while crossing the Saar River in Germany, Mr. Wiedorfer was seriously injured when mortar shrapnel tore into his stomach and broke his left leg and two right fingers. While recuperating at hospital, in England, one of the other patients informed Mr. Wiedorfer that the newspaper Stars and Stripes was reporting he would receive the Medal of Honor for his heroic actions in Belgium. Mr. Wiedorfer later told the Baltimore Sun "To be perfectly honest, I wasn't really sure what the hell [the Medal of Honor] was because all I was, was some dogface guy in the infantry."

Mr. Wiedorfer spent more than three years in the hospital recovering from his wounds. He was discharged from the Army in 1947, having reached the rank of master sergeant. His other decorations included the Purple Heart and Bronze Star. He returned to his life and job in Baltimore and retired in 1981. Paul and his wife, the former Alice Stauffer, had four children: Nancy Mazer, who passed in 2010, Gary Wiedorfer of Cocoa, Florida, and Randee Wiedorfer and Paul J. Wiedorfer Jr., who both currently reside in the Congressional District I represent.

Mr. Wiedorfer led a fulfilled life. I would like to take this moment to thank him for his service to the United States, and to pass along my condolences to his proud family. He was a true American patriot and a Baltimore treasure.

RECOGNIZING SGT SHINYEI
"ROCKY" MATAYOSHI ON EARN-
ING THE DISTINGUISHED SERV-
ICE CROSS FOR EXTRAORDINARY
HEROISM DURING ACTION IN
WORLD WAR II

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 2, 2011

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, on June 7th, 2011, former Technical Sergeant Shinyei Rocky Matayoshi will go the Hall of Heroes at the Pentagon to be awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for extraordinary heroism during World War II as a member of the famed 442nd Regimental Combat Team of the United States Army. This marks the 29th Distinguished Service Cross awarded to the 100th Battalion and the 442nd Regimental Combat Team.

Rocky was born in 1924 in the sugar plantation town of Koloa on the island of Kauai. He was a senior at Kauai High School when Japan attacked Pearl Harbor. Shortly after the attack, Rocky's father was arrested and sent to a detention center for Japanese Americans in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Rocky left school to work for the sugar plantation to help with the war effort and support his family.

When the call for volunteers for the 442nd Regimental Combat Team was announced in February 1942, Rocky was one of three in his community to volunteer. He hoped that by volunteering and demonstrating his loyalty, his father would be allowed to come home to care for his five other children. Unfortunately, that didn't happen.

Rocky was assigned to Company G, 2nd Battalion of the 442nd. He began as a private and through diligence and hard work was promoted to Technical Sergeant of the 3rd Platoon. Following his training at Camp Shelby, Mississippi, Rocky went with his unit to Italy in June 1944. He participated in every campaign in Italy and France and reported for roll call every day except for two days when he was confined to the field hospital for illness.

Rocky's combat philosophy was to serve as his own scout—and to take the highest risk assignments for himself. He led by example, displaying courage and leadership, which his men accepted and respected.

I quote from the citation awarding the Distinguished Service Cross to Technical Sergeant Shinyei "Rocky" Matayoshi:

For extraordinary heroism in action:

Technical Sergeant Shinyei Matayoshi distinguished himself by acts of gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty while serving as a Platoon Sergeant in Company G, 2d Battalion, 442d Regimental Combat Team during combat operations against an armed enemy on Mount Belvedere, Italy. On 7 April 1945, Technical Sergeant Matayoshi ordered his Platoon to advance up the steep slopes of Mount Belvedere to seize the heavily fortified forest areas that were under enemy control. As the Platoon approached the elevated ridge line, Technical Sergeant Matayoshi's Platoon was attacked by intense machine gun fire from at least five enemy machine gun nests from frontal, left and right flanks. Technical Sergeant Matayoshi did not waiver despite enduring an overabundance of devastating automatic and small arms fire while attacking the first machine gun nest. While suppressing the

enemy with his Thompson machine gun and throwing hand grenades, he killed four enemy soldiers and took one prisoner. Despite the intensive barrage of enemy firepower, directed against him, Technical Sergeant Matayoshi moved forward leading the direct assault destroying three other machine gun nests, killing or wounding approximately fifteen enemy soldiers, some at as close as a five meter range. Technical Sergeant Matayoshi secured the key terrain, which paved the way for the Battalion's pursuit of the retreating enemy soldiers. Technical Sergeant Matayoshi's selfless leadership, courageous actions, and extraordinary devotion to duty are in keeping with the finest traditions of military service and reflect great credit upon himself, Company G, 2d Battalion, 442d Regimental Combat Team, and the Army of the United States.

When I read this, I am struck by the courage and willingness to sacrifice shown by Sgt. Matayoshi and all the other young Japanese American men under his command. At age 21, with his father held in a detention camp for the crime of being of Japanese ancestry, Rocky willingly offered his life in defense of liberty and, most important, of the United States. These young men were patriots in the true sense of the word.

In addition to the Distinguished Service Cross and the Congressional Gold Medal recently bestowed on all members of the 442nd and 100th Battalion, Rocky received the Silver Star with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Bronze Star Medal for Valor, the Bronze Star Medal for Meritorious Service, the Purple Heart Medal, a Presidential Unit Citation, a Meritorious Unit Citation, the American Campaign Medal, the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with one Bronze Service Star, the European-African Campaign Medal with 4 Bronze Service Stars and one Arrowhead, the World War II Victory Medal, and the Combat Infantryman's Badge.

Rocky married Elsie Goya of Honolulu, and they have four children. After attending Wilson Community College and the Illinois Institute of Technology, Rocky worked in an auto body shop and part-time at a gas station. His children all earned full scholarships to fund their undergraduate degrees. Two of his children earned doctorates—one in physiology and the other in biophysics—and another earned a masters degree in biology, all on fellowships.

Congratulations, Rocky, on receiving this overdue recognition. You and your brothers in arms taught America a vital lesson that is still valid today. Being an American is not a matter of one's ethnic heritage or race—it is defined by patriotism and a willingness to sacrifice for one's country. Anyone who questions the patriotism of Americans of different ethnic backgrounds must confront the example of the Japanese American heroes of World War II.

Thank you for your selfless service to our nation.

A TRIBUTE TO PRINCIPAL

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 2, 2011

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate The Principal Financial Group, led by CEO Larry Zimbleman, for being recently being named a 2011 Freedom Award Recipient. The Freedom Award is

the highest recognition by the Department of Defense given to employers that display exceptional support of their employees serving in the Guard and Reserve.

Principal employee Major Kerry M. Studer nominated Principal for this award. Major Studer is also a recent recipient of the Bronze Star Medal for his noble service as Commanding Officer of the 443rd Transportation Company in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Major Studer nominated Principal Financial Group for this award because of the "the extraordinary lengths" his company went in order to support him and his family while he was away defending our freedoms. While he was away, his coworkers looked closely after his family and would gladly accompany his wife and children to school and sporting events that he was unable to attend. Principal also "adopted" Major Studer's unit and mailed them hundreds of PT uniforms, t-shirts and countless care packages.

Principal is one of only 15 companies to receive this prestigious award amidst the 4,049 nominations submitted. Principal and the other 2011 honorees will be recognized here in Washington later this year at the 16th annual Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award Ceremony. Principal Financial Group joins an elite class as only 145 employers have attained this honor in the last 15 years.

Mr. Speaker, Major Studer's commitment and courage during his service coupled with his company's unwavering support serves as an important example of American patriotism in the heartland as well as the battlefield. I commend Major Studer, Larry Zimbleman, and all the employees of Principal for their selfless dedication to a cause greater than their own. It is my honor to represent Major Studer, his family and all Iowans in the United States Congress and I know my colleagues will join me in congratulating them for their accomplishment.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 1, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2017) making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes:

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to the Rokita amendment (#2) to H.R. 2017, "Making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes." This amendment only hinders future progress in decreasing TSA's current attrition rates.

As you may already know, this February, John Pistole, TSA's Administrator, who has performed 20 years of distinguished service with the FBI, came to the conclusion that allowing the transportation security workforce to collectively bargain would not result in lessening in the quality of security operations.