

Alfred Voigt, a truly remarkable Renaissance man who passed away May 13, 2011.

Al Voigt was a scientist who held several patents, an artist, a community leader, a loving and devoted husband to his wife, Judith, a caring and inspiring father to his children, Che and Shanta, and doting grandfather to Logan Allan and Katherine Annabelle.

Al founded a series of aerospace engineering firms in Sonoma County that contributed to some of our most important national defense projects. His technical innovations in tactical missile and surveillance systems led to the development and success of the Stinger missile and Predator drone. More than 350 people in Sonoma County have high paying, technical engineering and manufacturing jobs because of these projects.

But Al's passions were much more extensive. He and his wife founded the Voigt Family Sculpture Foundation, which has placed more than two dozen sculptures, either pieces owned by the foundation or on loan by collaborative artists, in publically accessible places in Sonoma County.

He also won furniture design awards with his abstract chairs and his aerodynamic tricycles have set world speed records.

Mr. Speaker, Al Voigt was a prodigious thinker who never rested on his laurels. He was always looking ahead for the next idea. His fundamental skill was analyzing a problem and finding the solution, whether it was in national defense, art, or a functional piece of furniture. It is therefore appropriate that we honor him at this time for his service to our country and to his community.

#### HONORING THE BROWARD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

##### HON. ALLEN B. WEST

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 3, 2011*

Mr. WEST. Mr. Speaker, I realize education is essential for every child in our nation. Education is the great equalizer and with a sound education any child can live the American Dream.

As a former teacher in Broward County, Florida, I am proud to congratulate Broward County Public Schools (BCPS) for the 11 high schools in their county receiving top national ranking in the Washington Post.

The Washington Post named 11 Broward County high schools in its High School Challenge list of top 1,900 public high schools in the nation. The schools were Fort Lauderdale (109), Marjory Stoneman Douglas (238), Nova (285), Miramar (355), Cooper City (376), Stranahan (431), J.P. Taravella (507), Flanagan (554), Plantation (739), Coral Springs Charter (983) and Pembroke Pines Charter (1,108) high schools join an elite group of public high schools nationwide. The Washington Post list represents only seven percent of schools across the United States.

Fort Lauderdale High School placed top among Broward high schools, with a national ranking of 109 and a state ranking of 24. According to the Washington Post, the Challenge Index's formula is to divide the number of Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB) or other college-level tests a school gave in 2010 by the number of graduating seniors.

The Washington Post advises that while the index is not a measure of the overall quality of the school, the rating can reveal the level of a high school's commitment to preparing average students for college. With a few exceptions, public schools that achieved a ratio of at least 1.000, meaning they had as many Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate tests in 2010 as they had graduates, are noted on the national list.

The Broward County Public School System is the nation's sixth largest public school system and the largest fully accredited district with over 234,600 students in more than 230 schools and education centers. The Broward County Public School System is committed to giving all students access to a college-ready, job-ready curriculum that meets rigorous expectations which prepares students for post-secondary options and also ensures that students are able to be successful and complete post-secondary schooling once they begin.

To ensure student's can succeed in the 21st century, I will always focus in Congress on what's best for students, parents, teachers, and communities. This means helping children achieve their full and unique potential by equipping them with the tools and knowledge to succeed in the 21st century workforce. I believe the Federal Government must restore local control, empower parents, let teachers teach, and protect taxpayers. These principles should guide our efforts to reform federal education policy and protect the rights and responsibilities of states and local communities when it comes to educating the next generation.

#### CONGRATULATING FRANK GULLUNI

##### HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 3, 2011*

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Frank Gulluni on being honored with the Tom Ahlers Systems Building Award presented by the National Association of Workforce Development Professionals on May 17, 2011.

For 49 years, Frank has played a key role in the workforce development and educational community, touching the lives of countless students. In his position at Asnuntuck Community College in Enfield, Connecticut, he has been a leading force in preparing and training students for careers in our manufacturing sector. And, using his unique experience on the front lines of education, he has been a driver in our community towards finding unique ways to connect the needs of our manufacturing sector with the skills of our students.

Since 2007, I have been proud to work with Frank in advancing his goals of investing in our nation's manufacturing capabilities, helping those who have lost their jobs re-train for new careers, and lay the ground work for a workforce highly skilled in advanced manufacturing of alternate energy technologies and medical devices.

With his leadership guiding the way, Frank and I worked to successfully secure critical funding to expand Asnuntuck's Manufacturing Technology Center (MTC). Thanks to this initiative, new equipment and training services

were developed to ensure that the MTC continues to keep pace with the emerging needs of his students and the manufacturing skills they need to fill the jobs of today—and tomorrow.

I have been so impressed and excited with Frank's results. Thanks in large part to Frank's efforts, Asnuntuck Community College has secured a 90% job placement rate for its students. When I visited the MTC last November, I heard first-hand from the students that the newly expanded center allow the program to continue to grow and expand to allow more services to students enrolled both at the college and those in local K-12 schools that partner with Asnuntuck. I also heard graduates of the program are found to be earning 40% more than their counterparts in all other industries.

Mr. Speaker, simply put Frank is someone who "gets it." When so many simply lament the decline of American manufacturing and the skills mismatch between the training of current workers and the needs of industry, Frank has taken action. He is a passionate believer in manufacturing and education. He truly understands the unique struggles of our laid off and dislocated workers as they seek to transition to new careers. He has built the kinds of partnerships with industries that has ensured that his students on to rewarding and meaningful careers in furthering our manufacturing sector. And, Frank has been a true leader in underscoring the unique value that our community colleges play in training the workforce of the future that will be the backbone of our nation's economy.

Connecticut, New England, and our nation are no doubt better off thanks to Frank's tireless work. For that, I urge all my colleagues to join me in honoring Frank for winning the Tom Ahlers Systems Building Award.

#### HONORING THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF ROBINS AFB

##### HON. AUSTIN SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 3, 2011*

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, please join me in wishing a very happy 70th birthday to the Warner-Robins Air Logistics Center and Robins Air Force Base. This is an appropriate occasion to reflect and celebrate their proud history and heritage.

From the United States' entry into World War II to today's conflicts in Afghanistan, Iraq and Libya, the men and women of Warner-Robins ALC and Robins AFB have been an essential ingredient in our U.S. Air Force's ability to provide airpower for freedom around the globe.

One constant theme these past seventy years has been that the men and women of Team Robins have been most ready when the nation has been least ready. In 1948-1949, Robins' repair and supply personnel played a critical role in the Berlin Airlift. In 1950, workers at the center literally unwrapped and refurbished hundreds of "cocooned" Boeing B-29 Superfortresses. Understaffed and working around the clock, they made sure that United Nations forces in the Far East had the necessary tools to fight the North Korean invaders. And in 1973 during the Yom Kippur War,

Warner-Robins personnel surged to resupply Israel during Operation Nicklegrass with dozens of C-141s. Providing the Israeli military with critical supplies helped to prevent their defeat in its war with its Arab neighbors.

As we approach the tenth anniversary of September 11, 2001, we must never forget those who paid the ultimate price that day. I can think of no better way to honor their memory than maintaining a world class U.S. Air Force with world class installations like Robins AFB!

Mr. Speaker, please join me to wish Robins AFB many best wishes during this important anniversary year. I remain confident that the men and women of Team Robins will continue their tradition of excellence over the next seventy years.

RECOGNIZING SGT. PETER P. KRUPSKI AND PVT. RUSSELL M. PENNY

**HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 3, 2011*

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the lives of two American heroes, Sergeant Peter P. Krupski and Private Russell M. Penny. Sgt. Krupski and Pvt. Penny personified American patriotism and selflessness in making the ultimate sacrifice to protect our freedoms for future generations.

Peter P. Krupski enlisted in the United States Marine Corps in 1941, reaching the rank of Master Technical Sergeant. Sgt. Krupski reenlisted in the Marines in March 1943, earning prominent distinctions such as the American Defense Service Medal, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal, and World War II Victory Medal. In 1943, as the American forces began their offensive through the South Pacific islands occupied by the Japanese, Sgt. Krupski died of wounds sustained during the Battle of Guadalcanal aboard a U.S. Navy mobile hospital. Though just 22 years old when he was killed, Sgt. Krupski has been fondly remembered on the East End of Long Island ever since his passing.

Russell Penny enlisted as a member of the United States Army on January 5, 1940, answering our country's call to service following the advances of the Nazi Third Reich through Europe. Stationed at the U.S. naval base at Pearl Harbor, Pvt. Penny was killed during the surprise attack against the base by the Japanese on December 7, 1941. A lifelong resident of Mattituck, New York, Pvt. Penny holds the tragic distinction as the first casualty of Suffolk County and as one of the first of the over 400,000 Americans killed during World War II.

In honor of the sacrifices made by Sgt. Krupski and Pvt. Penny, a new community room at the Veterans Memorial Park in Mattituck, New York was named in their honor on May 28, 2011. It is my great hope that our community will continue to remember and support our veterans, forever recognizing them for their essential role in defense of our nation.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Sgt. Peter P. Krupski and Pvt. Russell M. Penny for their valor and service, and I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring their memory and sacrifice on the occasion of the dedication of the com-

munity room at the Veterans Memorial Park in my district.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON**

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 3, 2011*

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 331, on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 1383, the Restoring GI Bill Fairness Act of 2011, I was unable to vote.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

STEVEN AND CHANI LAUFER

**HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 3, 2011*

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, Steven and Chani Laufer came to Riverdale in 2005 and joined the Hebrew Institute of Riverdale the following year after attending a warm and moving Yom Kippur service there. They have been enthusiastic supporters ever since. They love the sincerity of the community, the caring and devotion of the rabbinic team, and the inspirational and progressive vision for the larger community that Rabbi Avi Weiss champions.

Chani grew up in Pittsburgh, and has worked in television, politics, and as a reporter for the Bergen Record and The Philadelphia Enquirer. After earning her law degree, Chani represented children as a law guardian in the Bronx and New York City family courts. She is currently taking care of her family and also serves on the board of Yeshivat Maharat.

Steven grew up in Stony Brook, N.Y., and is pursuing a doctorate in economics at New York University, after teaching high school science for several years. He is a former Tot Shabbat leader and organizes the HIR Purim Texas Hold 'Em Tournament.

Steven and Chani have three children; Shoshana, 5, Ari, 3, and Erez, 4 months. Like their parents, the children are enthused with the Hebrew Institute of Riverdale. They love celebrating holidays at HIR so much that Ari wakes up each morning for weeks afterwards asking "Is it Simchat Torah today? Is it Purim today?"

HIR is honoring this wonderful couple with the Young Leadership Award. I want to join with the HIR in congratulating and thanking this young couple for their good work in the community.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION REGION III YOUNG ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR, MR. CHRIS SIDICK

**HON. MARK S. CRITZ**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 3, 2011*

Mr. CRITZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an individual who exemplifies a young, ambitious entrepreneur, Chris Sidick, who was

recently honored by the U.S. Small Business Administration.

Mr. Chris Sidick is the sole managing member of C-Side Sports Academy, LLC, located in Washington County, PA. This young entrepreneur began playing minor league baseball after college and was left with no income during the off season. With the encouragement of a fan, Mr. Sidick began training young players when he wasn't playing during the summer. Using his parents' garage and a \$700 investment in a batting cage he started his own training business.

Mr. Sidick soon took his business from a few kids to almost fifty. He had to move the facility out of his parents' garage and rent a space that cost him \$1,000 per month. Realizing that this investment was just the beginning, Mr. Sidick solicited the University of Pittsburgh Small Business Development Center to assist him in developing a business plan and renting a larger space.

Utilizing a credit line, bargaining power, ingenuity, and hard work, Mr. Sidick was able to create a new 13,000 square foot facility to train young athletes. This exceptional space became quickly utilized by many colleges, high schools, and youth teams. While his business practices were extremely successful, Mr. Sidick wanted more for his company. He wanted to offer greater space and services to the young athletes. This is why he reformulated his business plan to get a \$1 million bank loan and build a brand new facility.

Mr. Sidick has been able to transform his initial \$700 investment in his parents' garage into a soon-to-be completed 27,000 square foot facility that will house a full-size baseball infield and a half-dozen batting cages. The building will also offer additional sports such as football, soccer, and laser tag. His accomplishments have landed him the local and regional Young Entrepreneur of the Year award from the Small Business Administration.

It is the keen mind of young people like Mr. Sidick that we can rely on to keep our economy going. He saw a need for a service, and utilized his specific skill set to fill that void. Even in this tough economic time, Mr. Sidick has been able to keep his business thriving. It is the passion for what he does and the energy he puts in his business that makes it successful.

Mr. Speaker, I would once again like to honor Mr. Sidick—a true young entrepreneur and small business owner who has pursued an idea that helps so many of our young people.

HONORING MR. RICHARD GILFORD

**HON. STEPHEN LEE FINCHER**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 3, 2011*

Mr. FINCHER. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to rise today in memory of Mr. Richard Gilford who was killed tragically while serving his community in the aftermath of the 2011 spring storms and flooding that impacted west Tennessee.

Since 1991 Richard worked for the Crockett County, Tennessee Highway Department. On May 4th, while clearing debris from rain swollen roads, Richard along with his father, Butch, and brother, Frank were trying to cut a