

SALUTING SERVICE ACADEMY  
STUDENTS—JOSEPH HAYS**HON. SAM JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 15, 2011*

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an extraordinary group of young men and women who have been chosen as future leaders in our armed forces by the prestigious United States service academies. It is a privilege to send such a fine group from the third district of Texas to pursue a world-class education and serve our nation.

As we keep them and their families in our prayers, may we never forget the sacrifices they are preparing to make while defending our freedoms all across the globe. I am so proud of each one. God bless them and God bless America.

Today I salute Joseph Hays, a United States Air Force Academy Appointee. Joseph is a graduate of Plano West Senior High School where he was a part of the varsity wrestling team. While excelling academically, Joseph gave of his time at the St. Elizabeth Ann Seaton's Parish Pastoral Council as a Board Member, and worked as a Lifeguard for the City of Plano and swim teacher. Joseph comes from a military oriented family, where his grandparents served in WWII and Korea. His stepfather served as a Black Hawk pilot and instructor. After life at the Academy, Joseph aspires to attend medical school to serve as a medical doctor in the United States Armed Forces. Joseph feels that his dedication toward his goal of attending a Service Academy reflects his values as both a devout Christian and as an American.

RECOGNIZING THE 68TH ANNIVERSARY  
COMMEMORATION OF THE  
BAKERS CREEK AIR CRASH IN  
AUSTRALIA DURING WORLD WAR  
II**HON. TODD RUSSELL PLATTS**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 15, 2011*

Mr. PLATTS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Bakers Creek Memorial ceremony being held today at the Selfridge Gate to Arlington National Cemetery at Fort Myer, Virginia.

Sixty-eight years ago today, a Boeing B-17C bomber flying with forty-one soldiers and airmen from Bakers Creek, Australia to New Guinea crashed upon takeoff, killing forty individuals. Due to the Army's subsequent classification of the event, the victims' families were not informed about the details of their loved ones' peril until recently. Thanks to the persistence of the Bakers Creek Memorial Association and the victims' families, the events of Bakers Creek are not only known today, but are honored by a monument in Arlington.

I am proud to have joined the effort to bring the Bakers Creek monument from the Australian Embassy to a permanent home on American soil. Pennsylvanians have a strong connection to this monument, as six of the forty victims of the tragic plane crash called Pennsylvania home. Many of my Congres-

sional colleagues from Pennsylvania, and both Senators, actively supported the effort to move this monument to its rightful home in Arlington. The Pennsylvania State Legislature also passed a resolution designating June 14th as Bakers Creek Memorial Day.

The distinguished speaker at today's ceremony at Selfridge Gate, the Honorable L. Jerry Hansen, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installations and Environment, graciously accepted the monument two years ago on behalf of the Secretary of the Army. The Department of the Army pledged to protect and honor the monument at Fort Myer, as a permanent tribute to the brave soldiers and airmen who perished at Bakers Creek, as well as their families.

I am pleased to thank Army Secretary John McHugh and Fort Myer Garrison Commander, Col. Carl R. Coffman, for arranging this appropriate and dignified memorial ceremony—with high standards of military honor. I am confident that this ceremony will be repeated each year on the anniversary date of the tragic crash.

I extend my deepest sympathies to the family members of the heroic American warriors who made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our nation during World War II. But for their selfless and courageous service, the freedoms we enjoy today would not be. I and all Americans are forever indebted to these true heroes.

RECOGNIZING THE HONORABLE  
MILITARY SERVICE OF CAPTAIN  
THOMAS H. FARRIS**HON. DARRELL E. ISSA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 15, 2011*

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished career of Captain Thomas H. Farris on the occasion of his retirement from the United States Coast Guard (USCG). I offer Captain Farris my sincerest thanks for his 30 years of dedicated service in protecting our nation and safeguarding its future.

An accomplished aviator, Captain Farris possesses over 6700 hours of flight time in six different aircraft throughout his 30 years of service as a veteran of the U.S. Army and USCG. He most recently served as the Coast Guard's Chief of Aviation Safety. In that capacity he was responsible for the USCG Aviation Safety program and one of only three senior aviators exercising program level oversight over the design, development, implementation, delivery and sustainment of all USCG aviation programs.

Captain Farris has distinguished himself by extraordinary acts of leadership. Among his many achievements, Captain Farris won the U.S. Army's European Helicopter Championship early in his career along with 18 shipboard deployments and extensive airborne Law Enforcement experience in the North Atlantic, Caribbean and Eastern Pacific theatres.

Captain Farris' service in his current position as the USCG Captain of the Port of San Diego is the capstone to his military career. As the Coast Guard Captain for San Diego, he is responsible for the safe conduct of commercial maritime activity on all federally navigable waterways within an area that extends from 200

nautical miles offshore San Diego then east to the Colorado River from the Mexico border to Utah.

Along with his many roles and responsibilities, Captain Farris serves as the designated Federal Maritime Security Coordinator and Chair of the Area Maritime Security Committee overseeing commercial vessel and facilities compliance with the Maritime Transportation Security Act. He also serves as the Operational Commander for the USCG air and surface force carrying out Search and Rescue and Maritime law enforcement authority. Additionally, Captain Farris plays a pivotal role as the Senior Officer Ashore in San Diego as the primary local USCG representative to the San Diego County military, federal and civilian community.

As he enters this new stage of his life, I hope that Captain Farris will benefit from his years of work, just as the United States Military has benefited. I offer him my warmest congratulations and may he enjoy a rewarding retirement.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to please join me in honoring all the brave men and women who have served in the United States Armed Forces, and the admirable service of Captain Thomas Farris.

SALUTING SERVICE ACADEMY  
STUDENTS—ELIZABETH CARPENTER**HON. SAM JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 15, 2011*

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an extraordinary group of young men and women who have been chosen as future leaders in our armed forces by the prestigious United States service academies. It is a privilege to send such a fine group from the third district of Texas to pursue a world-class education and serve our nation.

As we keep them and their families in our prayers, may we never forget the sacrifices they are preparing to make while defending our freedoms all across the globe. I am so proud of each one. God bless them and God bless America.

Today I salute Elizabeth Carpenter, a United States Air Force Academy Appointee. Elizabeth is a graduate of Plano East Senior High School where she excelled at many things. She was a strong student who participated in National Honor Society and the International Baccalaureate Program. Elizabeth is also an accomplished athlete. She played varsity volleyball and was the team captain at Plano East. She comes from a family of service as her grandfather graduated from the United States Military Academy and retired as a colonel from the Air Force and her sister is currently at the U.S. Naval Academy. Elizabeth has aspirations to become a pilot. Elizabeth chose to apply to the Air Force Academy because she is certain it is only there she can study her interest in aviation and give her a foundation that she can apply in any endeavor.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND  
VETERANS AFFAIRS AND RE-  
LATED AGENCIES APPROPRIA-  
TIONS ACT, 2012

SPEECH OF

**HON. JOHN D. DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 2, 2011*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2055) making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes:

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of H.R. 2055, the fiscal year 2012 Military Construction and Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Appropriations Act. This legislation, which provides \$129.7 billion in funding for the VA, is critical for our veterans returning from multiple tours of duty in Iraq, Afghanistan, and around the world, and all those who have so bravely and honorably served our nation in the Armed Forces, including the 46,370 veterans living in the 15th district of Michigan.

There are a number of provisions in this bill with which I am pleased. First, it continues the Democratic-initiated effort to provide advance appropriations for the Veterans Health Administration so the VA may adequately plan for our veterans medical needs. Second, it builds on the previous Democratic Congresses' commitment to our veterans by providing funding to reduce the VA claims backlog, allow for quality medical care, and ensure the promise of a college education.

I am particularly pleased efforts to weaken workers' rights were defeated during consideration of this legislation. Both a proposed ban on implementation of Project Labor Agreement requirements as well as a proposal to bar VA and the Department of Defense from enforcing the Davis-Bacon prevailing wage requirement on contracts would have unjustly harmed middle class working families and led to poor construction on VA and DoD facilities.

Mr. Chair, this legislation continues the Democrats tradition of caring for our veterans. This job is never done and at a time when we are engaged in conflicts around the world, it is imperative our current and former military men and women know that their government supports them.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting our veterans by voting "yes" on H.R. 2055.

HONORING JIM LEHRER

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 15, 2011*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a distinguished journalist. On May 12, 2011, Jim Lehrer announced that he is leaving the "NewsHour" as a regular anchor effective the week of June 6, the final step in a carefully planned retirement. He said he will still appear many Fridays to moderate an analysis of the week's news.

Born in Wichita, Kansas in 1934, Jim Lehrer received an A.A. degree from Victoria College and a B.J. in 1956 from the University of Missouri before joining the Marine Corps. From 1959 to 1966, he was a reporter for The Dallas Morning News and then the Dallas Times-Herald. He was also a political columnist at the Times-Herald for several years and in 1968 became the city editor.

Lehrer's newspaper career led him to public television, first in Dallas, as KERA-TV's executive director of public affairs, on-air host and editor of a nightly news program. He subsequently moved to Washington, DC to serve as the public affairs coordinator for PBS, and was also a member of PBS's Journalism Advisory Board and a fellow at the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. Lehrer went on to join the National Public Affairs Center for Television. (NPACT) as a correspondent.

Lehrer has been honored with numerous awards for journalism, including the Chairman's Award at the 2010 National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences News & Documentary Emmy Awards, the 1999 National Humanities Medal, presented by President Bill Clinton and First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton and in October 2011, the National Press Club will present him with their top honor, the Fourth Estate Award. In 1999, Lehrer was inducted into the Television Hall of Fame with Robert MacNeil and into The Silver Circle of the Washington, DC Chapter of The National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences. He has won two Emmys, the Fred Friendly First Amendment Award, the George Foster Peabody Broadcast Award, and the William Allen White Foundation Award for Journalistic Merit and the University of Missouri School of Journalism's Medal of Honor. In 1991, he was elected as a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating Jim Lehrer on an extraordinary career. This trailblazing journalist has made a lasting impact on his profession. I thank Jim for his important contributions, and wish him a happy and healthy retirement.

A TRIBUTE TO DR. SUDIE TATUM

**HON. GWEN MOORE**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 15, 2011*

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to give tribute to Dr. Sudie E. Tatum who passed away on June 1, 2011. On Sunday, June 5, 2011, services were held at Greater Galilee Missionary Baptist Church. The church had long planned to celebrate her life on this date; they felt no need to change it and held her funeral as part of "Dr. Tatum Day."

Dr. Tatum was born as Sudie Ethel Ware in Harrell, Arkansas and raised in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. She was a high school dropout, who became an educator. She graduated from UW-Milwaukee with qualifications for both teacher and social work. Dr. Tatum earned a master's degree in education administration and a doctorate in theology. Dr. Tatum taught adult basic education at Milwaukee Area Technical College.

She was active in church leadership and for 38 years served as president of the Women's Auxiliary of the General Baptist State Conven-

tion of Wisconsin. As president, she was a strong advocate for women, raising funds for mission work and was quite able of reminding men in authority that women kept the churches going.

Dr. Tatum's work with the church led her to distant La Hatte, Haiti, where she felt compelled to build a new church and school. She asked her family for money to help build the church and school. She contributed money that she had saved to purchase a car and family members donated the rest of the needed \$18,000.

Dr. Tatum was preceded in death by her husband of 57 years, Earl Tatum. She never gave birth but raised her late sister's children as her own. Survivors include the children she raised, David Hollins Sr., Jynette Hamilton, Pastor Sudie B. Jones, Shirley Owens, Ruthie L. Darrough and James Hollins Jr.; and their children. Instead of flowers, she requested an offering for home and foreign ministries; therefore, a collection was taken as people left her service.

Mr. Speaker, I rise because Dr. Sudie E. Tatum is an example of the best of what Milwaukee and the Fourth Congressional District has to offer. She will be remembered as a woman who packed plenty of life into her 92 years and, who took the opportunity to combine the joys of her life: love of family, education, social work, guidance and missionary work.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. NIKI TSONGAS**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 15, 2011*

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Speaker, I missed votes on the evening of June 13, 2011 because of pressing matters in my district. Had I been present, I would have voted for the LaTourette Amendment to the FY 2012 Military Construction and VA Appropriations bill to remove language from the bill which rolls back worker protections by discouraging the use of Project Labor Agreements. In this fragile fiscal climate, Congress should be defending our skilled laborers, whose essential work contributes to our economic recovery. Restricting existing policies which permit the establishment of basic terms and conditions on complex, large scale construction projects is harmful for workers and a distraction from the important programs which are funded in the underlying bill.

Additionally, I would have voted against the Amash Amendment, which would have prohibited compliance with the Davis-Bacon prevailing wage law. The Davis-Bacon Act has been a cornerstone of labor protection for 80 years, and I would have proudly voted to uphold it.

SALUTING SERVICE ACADEMY  
STUDENTS—KEVIN CARRINGER

**HON. SAM JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 15, 2011*

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an extraordinary group of