

Point, Hawaii, and with Patrol Squadron One as the Senior Pilot and Operations Officer.

Ashore, Captain McGovern broadened his experience working in the Operations, Readiness and Mobilization Directorate of the Army Operations Center, Pentagon. During this joint assignment, he was assigned as an Operations Officer for United Nations Peacekeeping Operations. His responsibilities included the logistical and administrative support for US personnel assigned to the United Nations Peacekeeping missions in Iraq, Kuwait, Israel, Egypt, Western Sahara, Guatemala and the United Nations Headquarters in New York. He also served with the Office of the Chief of Naval Personnel as the Enlisted Aviation Community Manager and as the Special Assistant for Manpower for the Naval Aviation Enterprise.

Captain McGovern served as the Commanding Officer of Patrol Squadron Forty Seven in April 2003. During his tour, the squadron deployed to the FIFTH Fleet Area of Responsibility in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom. Their outstanding efforts were recognized by being awarded the "Golden Wrench" award for maintenance excellence along with the Commander Pacific Fleet Retention Excellence Award.

Captain McGovern reported to his current assignment as the Deputy Director for Appropriations Matters in the Office of Assistant Secretary of the Navy Financial Management & Comptroller in March 2007. During his time at Financial Management Budget & Execution, Captain McGovern demonstrated exceptional leadership and foresight, engaging Members of Congress and the Appropriations Committee Staff, providing essential information and resources for the Department of the Navy to maintain its role as the world's dominant sea power. Captain McGovern worked through significant readiness and manpower challenges, providing essential support in shepherding three Navy budgets and multiple war supplemental requests totaling more than \$550 billion in Department of the Navy funding. I can assure you that my staff, the subcommittee staff, and my fellow Members have found him to be a pleasure to work with, and he is respected by all for his true professionalism.

Mr. Speaker, On behalf of a grateful Nation, I join my colleagues today in saying thank you to Captain Thomas F. McGovern for his extraordinary dedication to duty and service to this country throughout his distinguished career in the United States Navy and we wish him, his wife Katie, and his daughters, Rosemary and Lauren "Fair Winds and Following Seas" in his well-deserved retirement.

ASPEN VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 11, 2011

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, it is a true honor for me to rise and pay tribute to the fraternal spirit and charitable efforts that have been exemplified by the Aspen Volunteer Fire Department. The tragedy that befell our country on September 11, 2001, was met with a resound-

ing and galvanizing response from all citizens of the United States. The members of the Aspen Volunteer Fire Department were especially moved to help their brothers from the Fire Department of New York in any way they could.

In the days following the September 11th attacks, the Aspen Volunteer Fire Department went to all the local businesses with a fireman's helmet in hand, asking for donations to provide assistance for the Fire Department of New York. Through the efforts of the Aspen Volunteer Fire Fighters over \$110,000 was raised in a span of less than ten days. To raise that amount of money in such a short amount of time is remarkable, but the Aspen Volunteer Fire Department thought there was more that could be done in support of the Fire Department of New York. The firefighters again took to the streets and urged the ski resorts, hotels and local businesses to provide their services to the Fire Department of New York at little to no cost. All the businesses obliged, and in February of 2002, seventy-seven members of New York City's Fire Department and their families were able to enjoy a trip to Aspen, Colorado. The relationship between the two fire departments has now blossomed into an annual tradition. Firefighters from New York City have been coming to Aspen every winter since the tragic 9/11 attacks as guests of the Aspen Volunteer Fire Department. This bond forged in brotherhood came full circle this past Fourth of July when members of the Fire Department of New York made the long road trip to Aspen. They brought with them a unique and powerful gift; a refurbished piece of the World Trade Center Towers. The steel from ground zero is now the center piece of the newly built Aspen Volunteer Fire House. It also signifies the shared connection between the Aspen Volunteer Fire Department and the Fire Department of New York, and most importantly serves as a memorial to all who were lost in the September 11th attacks.

Mr. Speaker, the efforts of the Aspen Volunteer Fire Department have been truly remarkable. These firefighters have tirelessly given support to the Fire Department of New York for nearly a decade, and have no intentions of stopping their good works. It has been a stirring privilege for me to rise and pay tribute to the Aspen Volunteer Fire Department.

RECOGNITION OF MAYOR ED JOHNSON

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 11, 2011

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Edward Johnson for his outstanding service as Director of the Brookdale Community College Long Branch Higher Education Center and Mayor of Asbury Park, New Jersey. I would like to congratulate him for receiving the Louis G. Libutti Community Service Award presented on behalf of the Long Branch Chamber of Commerce.

Ed Johnson was first appointed to fill a vacancy on the Asbury Park City Council in January 2005. He was later elected to a four-year term in May 2005 and re-elected to serve a second term. Mr. Johnson held this position

until 2009 when he was sworn in as Mayor of the City of Asbury Park. Mayor Johnson admirably serves on several key committees and subcommittees including the Springwood Avenue Advisory Committee, Transportation Center Subcommittee, Neighborhood Preservation Program, Urban Enterprise Zone, Tax Subcommittee, Asbury Works and the Parking Advisory Subcommittee. Prior to joining the City Council, Mayor Johnson served four consecutive terms as Chairman of the Asbury Park Urban Enterprise Zone (UEZ). He is credited with the transformation of the Asbury Park UEZ into a productive organization ready to meet its program obligations and local commitment to strengthen and grow the Asbury Park business community.

Mayor Johnson currently serves as the Director of the Brookdale Community College Long Branch Higher Education Center. He has been committed to promoting quality, affordable education and workforce development opportunities in Monmouth County. Mayor Johnson has also established a successful career as an educator. In addition to establishing a successful career as an educator, he has worked in the fields of Experiential Education, International Exchange, Scholarship and Academic Programs and Higher Education. Mayor Johnson continues to support and promote open access in education and building cross-cultural communication and diversity awareness through leadership development. He is highly commended for his continued service on behalf of the residents of Monmouth County.

Mr. Speaker, once again I would like to extend my congratulations to Mayor Ed Johnson for his exceptional contributions to the residents of my district and congratulate him for the honor he received from the Greater Long Branch Chamber of Commerce.

CECIL TURNER TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 11, 2011

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of Assistant District Attorney Cecil Turner of Pueblo, Colorado. As one of Colorado's outstanding attorneys, Mr. Turner had an exemplary record in the courtroom. The state of Colorado has lost a tremendous legal resource and his experience will be difficult to replace. Many members of the Colorado legal community point to Mr. Turner as both a teacher and resource who will be sorely missed.

Mr. Turner, a graduate of the University of Colorado School of Law, was an integral part of southern Colorado's legal system. Following his graduation, he joined Pueblo's legal department, where he quickly advanced. In less than a decade he rose from a department aide to chief trial deputy and eventually assistant district attorney. In 1976, he turned to private practice for several years, though he never ceased to offer advice and guidance to the district attorney's staff. He later rejoined the prosecutor's office, in 2005, and worked there for the remainder of his career.

A strong legal system is essential to the freedom of all Americans, and Mr. Turner worked tirelessly in that pursuit. Attorneys of

his caliber are rare, but his exemplary career is one to be admired. I rise today to commend Cecil Turner and thank him for his service to the people of Colorado.

RECOGNIZING ANNETTE SMITH AS
THE 2012 SANTA ROSA COUNTY,
FLORIDA TEACHER OF THE
YEAR

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 11, 2011

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Annette Smith as the 2012 Santa Rosa County, Florida Teacher of the Year. For 25 years, Mrs. Smith has been an inspiration to her students, motivating them to achieve academic excellence.

Mrs. Smith began her teaching career at Baghdad Elementary School, before transfer-

ring to S.S. Dixon Elementary School. She taught 4th and 5th grades at S.S. Dixon Elementary school until 1994, when she moved to S.S. Dixon Intermediate School.

Mrs. Smith is highly respected by her colleagues for her work and dedication to her students. She is well known for her work with at-risk students. From 1992–2005, Mrs. Smith taught in the Drop-Out Prevention/Alpha Program. In order to succeed as a teacher for these at-risk students, Mrs. Smith had to transcend the traditional teaching role. She acted as a teacher, mentor, and role model for these students. Her assiduous work ethic inspires her students, and creates an atmosphere where failure is nearly impossible.

Mrs. Smith also volunteers her time with myriad educational programs. She is a trainer for Building Better Readers, Santa Rosa County's Team Teachers, the Diagnostic Assessments of Reading, and a master trainer for Florida Assessments for Instruction in Reading. She is also the school coordinator for Pace High School/S.S. Dixon Intermedi-

ate's Leadership Program and the Patriot Pals Mentoring Program.

Teachers are amongst our most valuable public servants, and they play an integral role in shaping the future of our nation. The Santa Rosa County Teacher of the Year award is a reflection of Mrs. Smith's tireless work ethic and steadfast dedication to the students of Santa Rosa County. She has proven to be among the many exceptional teachers in our nation, and I am proud to have her as a constituent in Florida's First Congressional District.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to recognize Annette Smith for her accomplishments and her continuing commitment to excellence at S.S. Dixon Intermediate School and in the Santa Rosa County School District. Her passion for her students is laudable, and her dedication to her profession is exemplary. My wife Vicki joins me in congratulating Mrs. Smith, and we wish her all the best.