

district. Today it is my privilege to recognize and congratulate the MSC Coyotes Green U14 Girls Team, the best U14 girls soccer team in America.

WESLEY GROVE UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST 125TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate a legacy of faith and community in Virginia's Third Congressional District. This year, Wesley Grove United Church of Christ in Newport News, Virginia is celebrating its 125th anniversary, and I would like to take a moment to reflect on the history of this esteemed institution and its contributions to the greater Newport News community.

Originally organized in 1887 by a group including Reverend J.H. Edlow and Deacon G. Wesley Raney, the Wesley Grove congregation originally met in a building just 20 by 30 feet, at the time too large for the small congregation. As a poor congregation, it was difficult for them to pay for this space. Fortunately, the congregation found ways to make ends meet, and in 1895, under Reverend James M. Parson, a new house of worship was completed.

In 1897, Elder S.A. Howell became pastor of the Church. As time went by, the congregation continued to expand, eventually growing to over 1,000 and finding itself in need of a larger place of worship. Under the leadership of Reverend Howell, a new building was constructed on the 700 block of 19th Street in Newport News. Dedicated in 1900, this building was used by the congregation under the leadership of Reverend T.S. Crayton, Reverend J.B. Jones, Reverend Thomas J. Moore, and Reverend Zander P. Jenkins.

In 1964, under the leadership of Reverend Jenkins, having once again outgrown their place of worship due to mergers with other congregations, the Wesley Grove congregation completed the purchase of a building owned by another local church. Reverend Jenkins, feeling called to serve elsewhere, left the congregation in 1970.

Over the next few years, the congregation struggled without a pastor at times. Reverend Vernon Harris served the congregation for a year in 1972 before Reverend Jenkins, having fulfilled his calling to other congregations, returned in 1974. Unfortunately, Reverend Jenkins passed away suddenly, leaving Wesley Grove again without a pastor.

With Reverend Jenkins' passing, Reverend G. Wesley Raney, III, the grandson of one of Wesley Grove's founders, proved ready to lead the congregation. During his ministry, the church flourished. Feeling called to pastor a church in another state, Reverend Raney left Wesley Grove in 1985, and was succeeded by Reverend Isaac L. McDonald. Under his leadership, numerous programs were established to help Newport News youth excel in their educational pursuits.

Reverend McDonald was succeeded by Reverend Prince Raney Rivers, who was

called to minister Wesley Grove as both a pastor and a teacher until 2005. A descendant of one of the founders of the church, Reverend Rivers presided over another period of tremendous growth for the church. Under his leadership, the Church established new ministries, expanded membership, and created lasting community partnerships to address issues and challenges facing the community.

Reverend McDonald was succeeded by Reverend Dr. Alexander Jamison, Sr., who served the community from 2007 until 2011.

Wesley Grove remains committed to maintaining its legacy of faith and community action to this day. With a congregation that has historically included a large number of professionals in the field of education, Wesley Grove established education programs that include after school tutoring and Project REACT, a technology focused tutoring program to help improve students' performance. It has also provided numerous scholarships to college bound students, including the G. Wesley Raney III Scholarship, the Olivia Smith Scholarship, and the Emma Gupton Scholarship. Wesley Grove also has an accomplished and talented choir program, featuring a men's choir, a senior's choir, and a children's choir. These programs, amongst others, continue to demonstrate Wesley Grove's commitment to the Newport News community.

As the Wesley Grove United Church of Christ gathers to celebrate this historic milestone, the church can truly remember its past, celebrate its present, and focus on its future. I would like to congratulate all of the members of the Wesley Grove United Church of Christ on the occasion of its 125th Anniversary, and I wish them many more years of dedicated service to the community.

A TRIBUTE TO TYLER HANSON

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Tyler Hanson of Sergeant Bluff, Iowa 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 with high standards that have been well-maintained over the past century.

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. For his project, Tyler planned, organized, and painted badly faded curbs, light poles and parking lines at his local church. His project also included adding handicap accessible parking spaces in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. The work ethic Tyler has shown in his Eagle Project, and every other project leading up to his Eagle Scout rank, speaks volumes of his commitment to serving a cause greater than himself and assisting his 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 Tyler and his family in the United States Congress. I know that all of my colleagues in the House will join me in congratulating him in obtaining the Eagle Scout ranking, and will wish him continued success in his future education and career.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BEN RAY LUJÁN

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. LUJÁN. Mr. Speaker, due to an operational issue with the voting machine on the House floor, my vote did not register on the passage of H.R. 3803 (Rollcall vote No. 539). Had this issue not arisen, I would have voted "no" on this vote.

HONORING MR. JASON ROBERTS

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Jason Roberts, a White House "Champion of Change" from Oak Cliff, Texas. This week, the White House honored Mr. Roberts and other leaders from across the U.S. for their groundbreaking initiatives to enhance their communities.

Mr. Roberts' leadership has been exemplary in his initiatives to improve local areas, and revitalize communities in South Dallas. As founder of the Oak Cliff Transit Authority, a nonprofit organization dedicated to reclaiming Oak Cliff's past distinction, Mr. Roberts worked to revive and modernize the Dallas streetcar system. Through hard work and ingenuity, Mr. Roberts led the city's effort to obtain a \$23 million TIGER grant from the Federal Transit Administration for their revitalization efforts.

Mr. Roberts' "Better Blocks" project reclaims blighted areas, converting vacant properties into temporary walk-friendly districts, complete with pop-up businesses, bike lanes, café seating, and landscaping. Mr. Roberts' efforts have been so successful in South Dallas that over 20 U.S. cities have taken steps to enhance neighborhoods in the same fashion based on his work. Mr. Roberts' "Better Blocks" project has even gained international recognition, and has since been featured in the New York Times, TED Talks, and on NPR.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to honor the hard work and vision that Mr. Jason Roberts continues to bring to South Dallas. His hard work and vision have allowed him to not only envision a better Dallas, but to also act on that vision. I look forward to seeing what future advances that Mr. Roberts will spearhead next, and I stand ready to support these efforts at every turn.

“WE STOOD!”—REMEMBERING THE
FALLEN OF THE CHINOOK HELI-
COPTER CRASH ON AUGUST 6,
2011, IN AFGHANISTAN, “WHO
GAVE THAT LAST FULL MEAS-
URE” ON THIS ONE-YEAR ANNI-
VERSARY, THE UNITED STATES
AIR FORCE, ARMY, AND NAVY

HON. STEVE KING

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and in remembrance on this up and coming one year anniversary of the thirty magnificent lost heroes from the Navy Special Warfare Units, The Army and Air Force. Who so heroically gave That Last Full Measure for God and Country aboard a Chinook Helicopter in Afghanistan on August the 6th, 2011. Our thoughts and prayers go out to them and their families and all of their Brothers and Sisters in Arms, on this anniversary, as I read this poem penned in their honor by Albert Caswell.

P01 (SEAL) Darrick C. Benson,
CPO (SEAL) Brian R. Bill,
P01 (SEAL) Christopher G. Campbell,
CPO (SEAL) John W. Faas,
CPO (SEAL) Kevin A. Houston,
LCDR (SEAL) Jonas B. Kelsall,
MCPO (SEAL) Louis J. Langials,
CPO (SEAL) Matthew D. Mason,
CPO (SEAL) Stephen M. Mills,
CPO Nicholas H. Null,
SCPO (SEAL) Thomas A. Ratziaff,
CPO (SEAL) Robert J. Reeves,
CPO (SEAL) Heath M. Robinson,
P01 (SEAL) Jon T. Tumilson,
P01 (SEAL) Aaron C. Vaughn,
P01 (SEAL) Jason R. Workman,
P01 (SEAL) Jesse D. Pittman,
P02 (SEAL) Nicholas P. Spehar,
P01 Expeditionary Warfare Specialist Jared W. Day,
P01 Expeditionary Warfare Specialist John Douangdara,
P01 Expeditionary Warfare Specialist Michael J. Strange,
SCPO Expeditionary Warfare Specialist Kraig M. Vickers,
Army SGT Alexander J. Bennett,
SPC Spencer C. Duncan,
Chief Warrant Officer Brian J. Nichols,
Chief Warrant Officer David R. Carter,
SGT Patrick D. Hamburger,
Airmen Tech SGT John W. Brown,
Staff SGT Andrew W. Harvell,
Tech SGT Daniel L. Zerbe,
The United States Army, Air Force, Navy.

WE STOOD!

We!
WE STOOD!
WE STOOD!
so you can sleep!
While, out across our Nation, our Mother's
now so weep!
WE FOUGHT,
so you can live!
All in such blessed peace,
that which our most selfless sacrifice so
gives!
As all in such pain and heartache our fami-
lies must now so live!
WE STOOD, so you could sleep!
Upon, That Bed of Freedom so very sweet!
As to all of you our promises WE Did So
Keep!

As it was all for you, WE Now So Sleep!
So Sleep, all in such cold dark quiet graves
so very deep!
WE GAVE!
All of Our Most Precious Lives!
While, all of our Brothers In Arms did so
cry. . .
and did not ask why!
As WE so raised our hands so way up high!
And so swore to pledge our most precious
lives!
To Make A Stand!
To Make A Difference With It All!
As WE so gave That Last Full Measure While
Standing Tall!
As WE died and so bled!
To so keep all of our most solemn vows of
honor, said!
As way out across our Nation Our FAMILIES
Now So Weep!
All For The Greater Good, WE so gave all we
could!
AS WE STOOD!
As WE pray now to our Lord their fine souls
to so keep!
For THEY So Stood For What Was Right.
All with their most brilliant souls so burning
bright!
As THEY died,
all for that Old Red White and Blue this
sight!
As into that face of evil,
THEY so marched off casting their most he-
roic lights!
To so go forth,
all in such a most brilliant force to fight!
For THEY'D,
MUCH RATHER HAVE DIED FOR SOME-
THING!
THAN, TO HAVE LIVED FOR NOTHING AT
ALL!
FOR STRENGTH IN HONOR!
Was but THEIR most sacred battle cry. . .
call!
Because, moments . . . are all that WE so
have!
To Make A Difference!
To Hear That Call!
To Change The World!
To go off so boldly with flags unfurled!
Troops mount up, as Heaven calls!
Move on! Move out!
As there are 30 more new Angels,
In The Army of Our Lord . . .
To fight that battle, who shall not pause!
To so watch over us all!
And when there comes a gentle rain,
their tears will wash down upon us to so re-
main!
To ease our pain,
so we won't have to cry anymore!
As forever in our hearts YOUR most sacred
names,
WE will carry ALL!
Because,
YOU died so WE can sleep!
Upon, That Bed of Freedom . . . YOUR Gift
of Peace!
As now WE LAY YOUR FINE BODIES down
to rest,
to sleep!
BECAUSE YOU STOOD!
Amen!

HONORING DOUGLAS CROPPER, MAINE STATE TROOPER

HON. CHELLIE PINGREE

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize a Maine State Trooper in my district who literally put his life on the

line to prevent what could have been a terrible tragedy.

While performing a traffic stop on Interstate 295 in Portland on the afternoon of July 1, Trooper Douglas Cropper received a call that a motorist was driving northbound in the southbound lane of Maine's busiest highway. Seeing no other options to stop the wrong-way driver, Trooper Cropper raced ahead of the car and nosed his cruiser into the travel lane. The driver hit the cruiser and came to a stop just in time for oncoming motorists to avoid a collision. A dramatic dashboard video from the cruiser shows just how quickly the incident unfolded.

No one was injured, and I'm extremely grateful that this scary moment didn't end up being a tragic one. But it's very likely that this would not have been the case without Trooper Cropper's quick thinking and outstanding bravery.

Trooper Cropper says he was simply doing his job. But it's my belief that he went above and beyond to protect lives—and that he saved many in the process.

I want to thank Trooper Douglas Cropper for his actions, and for what he and other Maine State Police officers do every day in Maine: putting their lives on the line to protect people of our state. We owe them all a debt of gratitude for keeping us safe.

HONORING TAYLOR MORRIS

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Petty Officer Second Class, Taylor Morris.

Taylor grew up in Cedar Falls, Iowa, and after graduating from high school in 2007, Taylor joined the Navy. Looking for a challenge, Taylor trained as an Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technician. While all of our servicemembers face danger in the course of their service, EOD techs literally put their lives on the line to disarm bombs and keep all of our forces safe.

Taylor deployed to Afghanistan for the first time in January of this year. On May 3, while working with Army Special Forces in the Kandahar province of Afghanistan, Taylor stepped on an IED while clearing a route. The blast of the IED blew off all four of Taylor's limbs. Remarkably, Taylor remained conscious after the blast and called out to the medics that were rushing to help him to stop, recognizing the possible danger of other IEDs. After the second EOD with Taylor had cleared the area, medics arrived to address his wounds.

On May 6, Taylor arrived at Walter Reed Medical Center, not too far from here in Bethesda, MD, where I first had the chance to meet this remarkable young man, along with his girlfriend, Danielle, and his mother, Juli, who've stuck by him since he got home. Taylor is one of only five quadruple amputees from the last decade's wars, and despite his wounds he's remained upbeat and shown remarkable courage in working to recover. Even a few weeks after his injuries when I visited with him for the first time he was raring to move forward and get better.

Just last week, on July 23, I was proud to welcome Taylor, Danielle, and his sister Claire