

HONORING ILLINOIS AIR NATIONAL GUARD TECH. SGT. JACOB CURTIS, RECENTLY NAMED A 2012 AIR NATIONAL GUARD AIRMAN OF THE YEAR

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2012

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Tech. Sgt. Jacob Curtis, of the Illinois Air National Guard, who was recently selected as a 2012 Air National Guard Outstanding Airman of the Year.

Tech. Sgt. Jacob Curtis, of Fairview Heights, Illinois, serves with the Illinois Air National Guard 126th Air Refueling Wing's Security Forces Squadron at Scott Air Force Base. He recently received a phone call from Maj. Gen. William L. Enyart, the Adjutant General of the Illinois National Guard, to notify him that he was named one of the 2012 Air National Guard Outstanding Airmen of the Year, the highest national achievement the Air National Guard has to offer.

Tech. Sgt. Curtis will now be in the running to be one of the Air Force's 2012 Twelve Outstanding Airmen of the Year, and he has already received numerous awards in his military career. He was named the NCO of the Quarter in 2011, Squadron NCO of the Year in both 2008 and 2011, Mission Support Group NCO of the Year in 2011, and 126th Air Refueling Wing NCO of the Year in 2011.

Col. Peter Nezamis, commander of the 126th Air Refueling Wing, called Tech. Sgt. Curtis a "gifted and giving professional" and made reference to his family's sacrifice for their country as they have endured numerous overseas deployments. Curtis has recently returned from a 6 month deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

During his deployment in Afghanistan, while at Bagram Airfield, Tech. Sgt. Curtis took decisive action when a nearby building was hit by indirect enemy rocket fire. There were several casualties and Curtis, the first to reach the scene, saw that one Airman had suffered a broken leg that had lacerated his femoral artery. Curtis tied a tourniquet around the Airman's leg and stayed with him until medical personnel arrived.

In addition to this act of heroism, Curtis was also recommended for this award because of his "dedication to duty, superior knowledge, and unwavering volunteerism."

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Tech. Sgt. Jacob Curtis on being named a 2012 Air National Guard Outstanding Airman of the Year, and in wishing him and his family the very best in the future.

REMEMBERING UNITED STATES ARMY STAFF SERGEANT DAVID NOWACZYK

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2012

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with immense sadness and great respect that I rise to

remember Staff Sergeant David P. Nowaczyk for his bravery and willingness to fight for his country. Sergeant Nowaczyk was assigned to A Company, 2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, out of Fort Carson, Colorado. While serving on his third tour in Afghanistan, Sergeant Nowaczyk was killed when his vehicle struck an enemy improvised explosive device in Kunar Province, Afghanistan.

David Nowaczyk, from Dyer, Indiana, graduated from Lake Central High School in 1997, where he was a member of the wrestling and football teams. Later, in September 2005, he enlisted in the Army. Throughout his career, Sergeant Nowaczyk earned several medals, honors, and commendations for his service, including: a National Defense Service Medal, a Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, an Army Service Ribbon, two Army Commendation Medals, two Bronze Stars, and the Purple Heart, awarded posthumously.

Friends describe David as a loyal, kind man who would be willing to do anything for the people in his life. His family describes him as a good son and a great father who was willing to drop anything to be there for his family. Residents in the community are remembering Sergeant Nowaczyk as a dedicated warrior and a true American hero. Sergeant Nowaczyk leaves behind a beloved host of family and friends. He is survived by his devoted wife, Rachel, his adoring daughter, Kiley, and his loving stepson, Conner. David also leaves to cherish his memory his dear mother, Patti, and proud father, Andrew. He will also be greatly missed by his sister, Megan, with whom he was very close. Sergeant Nowaczyk also leaves behind many other friends and family members, as well as a grateful, yet deeply saddened community.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring a fallen hero, United States Army Staff Sergeant David Nowaczyk. Sergeant Nowaczyk sacrificed his life in service to his country, and his death comes as a great loss to our nation, which has once again been shaken by the realities of war. Sergeant Nowaczyk will forever remain a hero in the eyes of his family, his community, and his country. Thus, let us never forget the sacrifice he made to preserve the ideals of freedom and democracy.

HANOVER TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2012

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Hanover Township Police Department, which will celebrate its 100th anniversary on May 14, 2012.

Hanover Township was founded in 1770 by Captain Lazarus Stewart who fought for Connecticut against the Pennsylvanians in the Wyoming Valley. For his services, Captain Stewart and his company of 40 men were granted the tract of land which became Hanover Township. Captain Stewart named the town after his hometown of Hanover in Dauphin

County. In the 1820's, coal was discovered and by 1838, mining became a leading industry in the area. However, prior to the 1900's Hanover Township had very little in the way of municipal services.

Therefore in 1912, the Hanover Township Commissioners established a paid police force to secure the safety of persons and property within Hanover Township. The first force consisted of six officers and was led by Police Chief James H. Campbell. Today, there are fourteen officers, eight cruisers and a K-9 unit which provide for the safety of Hanover Township residents under the leadership of Police Chief Albert Walker.

Mr. Speaker, for the last 100 years, the Hanover Township Police Department has proudly served the citizens of Hazleton, Pennsylvania. Therefore, I commend all those officers who have dedicated their lives to protecting their community and to all those who have gone on to their eternal rest.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN GIBSON

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2012

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a community leader and a good friend who is being honored for his service by Rock Hill Baptist Church in Saluda, South Carolina on May 12, 2012. Mr. John Gibson, who will be 92 years old later this month, has been an active member of the Saluda County community for most of his life. He is very deserving of this recognition.

John Gibson was born to the late Eddie and Mae Bell Dozier Gibson on May 26, 1920. He is the oldest of six children. He was educated in Florida public schools, and then graduated from one of the first Rosenwald Schools in South Carolina—Cane Brake in Saluda.

Following graduation, Mr. Gibson joined the Army. After entering civilian life, he worked at Fairfield Tractor Company in Columbia until his retirement. In retirement he has enjoyed his hobbies of fishing and gardening.

Throughout his life, Mr. Gibson has been dedicated to his community. He is life member of the NAACP. He has been a faithful member of the Friendship Union and the Ridge Hill Education Association. Mr. Gibson is a member of Peerless Lodge #214 and is a Master Mason.

He is also very dedicated to his church, Rock Hill Baptist Church. He served as Vacation Bible School Director and Sunday School Superintendent. He is also very involved in the church's Bible study groups, and currently serves as Deacon Emeritus.

In 1940, he married Lois Williams, and they were blessed with four children. He also has five grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in congratulating John Gibson on a life well lived. He is an important unsung hero that has selflessly served his country and his community. I applaud the community for recognizing his many contributions and honoring him in this wonderful way.

HONORING REAR ADMIRAL (RADM) THOMAS F. ATKIN FOR HIS SERVICE IN THE U.S. COAST GUARD

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2012

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a leader and constituent for his extraordinary service in the United States Coast Guard. Rear Admiral (RADM) Thomas F. Atkin served his country for 34 years in the Coast Guard and on July 1st, RADM Atkin will retire as the Assistant Commandant for Intelligence and Criminal Operations at Coast Guard Headquarters. We all owe him a debt of gratitude for his extraordinary commitment to service and to our country.

RADM Atkin distinguished himself throughout his career in the fields of law enforcement, tactical border security operations and intelligence. As a Coast Guard Flag Officer, he served in multiple key leadership positions where he was responsible for directing homeland security and homeland defense policy. RADM Atkin's positions included serving as Chief of both the Maritime Homeland Security and Defense Policy in the Office of the Secretary of Defense, and the Counterterrorism Division in the Chief of Naval Operations Office. Additionally, RADM Atkin played extremely large roles in overseeing a number of significant operations. While serving as the first Commander of the Coast Guard's Deployable Operations Group, RADM Atkin was the driving force behind the development of the 3,000-member Deployable Specialized Forces, which provided some of the most advanced law enforcement, disaster response, and anti-terrorism and counter-terrorism capabilities to the Coast Guard and the Nation. He also served with distinction as the Deputy Principle Federal Official in the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, where he guided life-saving response and relief efforts. RADM Atkin's efforts after these massive disasters were critical in recovery, not only for the Gulf Region, but also for the Nation as a whole. His other Flag Officer assignments included Assistant Commandant for Operational Planning and Policy and acting Assistant Commandant for Maritime Safety, Security and Stewardship.

In addition to his remarkable operational achievements, RADM Atkin also devoted himself to the Coast Guard leaders of the future through his commitment as a mentor, football and lacrosse coach, and mathematics instructor at the Coast Guard Academy. These extraordinary accomplishments reflect just a small portion of RADM Atkin's distinguished 34-year career in the service of his country.

The son of Nancy and Lawrence Atkin (CAPT, U.S. Navy, retired) and native of Duncanville, Texas, RADM Atkin is a graduate of the United States Coast Guard Academy, where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in mathematical sciences. He also earned a Master of Science degree in management science from the University of Miami. He has two sons, Levi and Joseph.

RADM Atkin's other operational assignments included Commanding Officer, Tactical Law Enforcement Team (TACLET) North in Chesapeake, VA; Commanding Officer,

TACLET Gulf in New Orleans, LA; Operations Officer, TACLET Seven in Miami, FL; Navigator, Coast Guard Cutter ALERT in Cape May, NJ; Deputy Group Commander in New Orleans, LA; and Coast Guard Liaison to Joint Task Force One Six Zero at the U.S. Naval Base in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. His staff assignments included Chief, Office of Law Enforcement and Intelligence for the Eighth Coast Guard District, New Orleans, LA and Fisheries Enforcement Officer for the Eighth Coast Guard District, New Orleans, LA. His personal military awards include multiple awards of the Coast Guard Distinguished Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, the Meritorious Service Medal and the Coast Guard Commendation Medal.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 24th Congressional District of Texas, I ask all my distinguished colleagues to join me in recognizing the incredible career of Rear Admiral Thomas F. Atkin. We must always honor those who devoted their lives to serving our country. I am extremely proud to have him as a constituent, and I cannot thank him enough for everything he has done to protect our freedom.

HONORING DR. HOWARD COHEN AND PATRICIA COHEN

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKEY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2012

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Mr. Speaker, it is with profound respect and sincere appreciation that I rise once again to recognize two of Northwest Indiana's most charitable citizens, and two dear friends, Dr. Howard Cohen and his wife, Patricia. Throughout the years, Howard and Patti have been recognized many times for their contributions to the Northwest Indiana community. On Tuesday, May 15, 2012, Dr. and Mrs. Cohen will be honored by the Rotary Club of Hammond, Indiana as the 2012 recipients of the Heinze Vocational Service Award, a recognition bestowed annually upon individuals exhibiting outstanding leadership qualities and a commitment to community service.

It would be impossible to speak of the great contributions of Patti and Howard to Northwest Indiana without boasting of the immense impact both have had at Purdue University Calumet (PUC) in Hammond. Fittingly, the event at which they will be lauded for their outstanding leadership will take place at the university, where Howard served as Chancellor from 2001 until his retirement in 2011. Under Howard's leadership, PUC's expansion was remarkable, and his commitment to the university continues today. During his tenure, students at PUC witnessed the construction of the Academic Learning Center, as well as the establishment of nine centers and institutes focused on applied research. Student housing, which had previously not existed at PUC, was also added to the campus during that time. While these visible additions to the school are quite impressive, it is Howard's commitment to raising academic standards, expanding the educational curriculum, and exposing students to a system of instruction that translates far beyond the walls of a classroom that are the true testament to his leadership.

Without question, Patti Cohen shares responsibility for these achievements and the

progress that was made over the last decade. Patti has represented PUC on trips to universities in countries throughout the world including: China, Poland, Spain, Oman, and Costa Rica. She was also instrumental in promoting the university and creating a welcoming atmosphere for students, parents, and visitors. Patti also served on numerous committees and was active in the planning and hosting of many campus and community events.

In addition to their outstanding contributions to Purdue University Calumet, Patti and Howard Cohen are also to be commended for their dedication to the entire Northwest Indiana community. With the same dedication, they have served the people of Northwest Indiana through their involvement in local organizations and their service on various boards. Although their efforts encompass many different aspects of society, all contribute to one central goal: the improvement of the quality of life for the people of Northwest Indiana and beyond.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating Howard and Patti Cohen on being named the 2012 recipients of the Heinze Vocational Service Award by the Rotary Club of Hammond, Indiana. Leaders in the truest sense of the word, their selfless commitment to their community is to be commended, and they are most deserving of this prestigious honor.

HONORING MR. AIME KALANGWA

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2012

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Aime Kalangwa, a remarkable individual who has been an inspiration in the Miami community.

Aime is an 18 year old refugee originally from the Democratic Republic of Congo. An ongoing civil war in his country left him, and his brother, orphaned by the age 15. Being the only survivors from their family they attempted to find political asylum in neighboring countries. Eventually they found refuge in the United States, and were brought to Miami in January of 2011.

After arriving in the United States, Aime and his brother were adopted by Stephen and Melissa Kepper, constituents of Florida's 21st District. The Kepper's themselves are extraordinary individuals, whose dedication to children is unmatched. Not only did they adopt Aime and his brother, but they also adopted two children from Florida's foster care system. In August of 2011 Aime and his brother moved into their new home, and Aime shortly began his senior year of high school. During this time he had to overcome many cultural and language barriers, and worked daily with his tutors to pass his classes and learn English.

One of Aime's hardest classes to learn was American history. His tireless efforts were enriched on a recent trip to Washington, DC where he received a tour of the U.S. Capitol building from Jay Pierson of the Speaker's office, and visited numerous other museums and national landmarks. His hard work did not go unnoticed and towards the end of his senior year Aime received an award for Outstanding Achievement in American History at