

now like to take this opportunity to thank Art for his service to our country. In fact, despite the fact that he gave more to this country through his military service than we can ever thank him for, he continued to dedicate his life to public service. Art has been a school board member, teacher, and school administrator. He has been very active in the Kiwanis, American Legion, and his church. Art has served on numerous volunteer boards, and in the Iowa Senate. Art Gratias is a prime example of that remarkable American spirit of voluntarism that the French writer Alexis de Tocqueville discovered in the early years of our Nation so it is fitting that he was singled out by the French Government for its highest honor. I am proud to add my voice to those who pay tribute to his life of service.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, since 1974, the Community Development Block Grant program has provided cities and counties with critical funding to help low and moderate income people through community projects for economic development, revitalization and infrastructure improvements.

The Community Development Block Grant program also gives local governments the flexibility to use some of this funding to provide basic public services directly to the most vulnerable people in their communities.

These essential services include providing meals, clean water, shelter and clothing to low income senior citizens, abused or neglected children, the disabled and the homeless.

For all the good programs that the Community Development Block Grant program does, communities are limited because local governments can only spend a maximum of 15 percent of their funding on these vital services.

For many of our local communities in Florida and across the country, the 15 percent cap is too low to adequately help the number of people in need, especially during these tough times.

In one particular case, the City of Miami wants so desperately to use more of its Community Development Block Grant funds for assistance to seniors for food programs, but they can't because of the 15 percent cap.

That is why I filed S. 855 on April 25, to raise that modest amount so that grant recipients can tailor the program to the needs of their communities, in this particular example, the needs of senior citizens.

This important legislation, which is being reintroduced in the House by Representative ROS-LEHTINEN, allows local governments to spend up to 25 percent of their funding for the Community Block Development program on essential public services, rather than just 15 percent.

The bill does not require local governments to spend 25 percent of their

funding on services, but it gives them the flexibility to do so if it is in the best interest of their communities.

Let me be clear, the bill does not increase funding to any part of the Community Development Block Grant program. It simply allows local communities to do more with what they have, which is why both the U.S. Conference of Mayors and the National League of Cities have supported this position.

I hope that we in the Senate will take this critical step to help local governments to ensure that the most, vulnerable will continue to receive the most basic services.

USS "JOHN RODGERS"

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, I submit these remarks today to honor the achievements of the USS *John Rodgers*, DD-574, a Fletcher-class destroyer of the United States Navy. The USS *John Rodgers* was commissioned on February 9, 1943, with Commander H.O. Parish, USN, commanding.

The USS *John Rodgers* joined the Pacific Fleet upon arrival in Pearl Harbor in June 1943. During her 2 years of almost constant service in the forward area, the USS *John Rodgers* was under frequent air attacks, yet still assisted other ships and planes in destroying innumerable enemy aircraft.

The courageous crew of the USS *John Rodgers* sank an enemy patrol craft, destroyed six mines, rescued twenty-five downed airmen, to include three British personnel, and engaged in eight bombardments of Japanese held territory in support of various amphibious operations.

The sailors of USS *John Rodgers* bravely executed an anti-shipping sweep 30 miles into Suruga Qan, the deepest penetration of Japanese homewaters made by surface vessels during the war. The crew was recognized by the commanding general, Third Marine Division, for outstanding performance while in contact with the enemy.

The commanding officers and squadron commanders who embarked in this vessel and honorably served the USS *John Rodgers*: Captain E.M. Thompson, Captain Henry Crommelin, and Captain Joseph W. Ludewig, Commander H.O. Parish, and Commander J.G. Franklin.

The USS *John Rodgers* earned 12 battle stars in World War II, and remarkably she sustained zero personnel losses during her service. At all times the morale of the crew was excellent and in keeping with the highest traditions of the naval service.

The USS *John Rodgers* was decommissioned on 25 May 1946. I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank the sailors and the families of the USS *John Rodgers* for their commitment, patriotism, and dedication to the USS *John Rodgers*, the United States Navy, and the United States of America.

RECOGNIZING FUTURE MEMBERS OF THE ARMED SERVICES

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor 453 high school seniors in 8 northeast Ohio counties who deserve this Nation's eternal gratitude for their commendable decision to enlist in the United States Armed Forces. Of these 453 seniors from 130 high schools in 93 towns and cities, 86 will enter the Army, 171 will enter the Marine Corps, 62 will enter the Navy, 43 will enter the Air Force, 3 will enter the Coast Guard, 82 will enter our Ohio Army National Guard, and 6 will enter into the Ohio Air National Guard. In the presence of their parents/guardians, and high school counselors, military leaders, city and business leaders, all 453 will be recognized on May 7, 2013 by "Our Community Salutes of Northeast Ohio."

In a few short weeks, these young men and women will join with many of their classmates in celebration of their high school graduation. At a time when many of their peers are looking forward to pursuing vocational training or college degrees, or are uncertain about their future, these young men and women instead have chosen to dedicate themselves to military service in defense of our rights, our freedoms, and our country.

I have no doubt that many are anxious about the uncertainties that await them as members of the Armed Forces. But they do not go forward from their homes and their families alone. They should rest assured that the full support and resources of this Chamber, and the American people, are with them in whatever challenges may lie ahead.

These 453 young men and women are the cornerstone of our liberties. It is thanks to their dedication and the dedication of an untold number of patriots just like them that we are able to meet here today, in the U.S. Senate, and openly debate the best solutions to the many diverse problems that confront our country. It is thanks to their sacrifices that the United States of America remains a beacon of hope and freedom in a dangerous world. We are grateful to them, and we are grateful to their parents and their communities for instilling in them not only the mental and physical abilities our Armed Forces require, but more importantly the character, the values, and the discipline that leads someone to put service to our Nation over self.

Their decision to serve our country will not go unrecognized, not by the veterans who will stop to salute them as they pass, nor by the everyday Americans who will shake their hands in grocery stores and gas stations and airports, just to let them know how much we all appreciate their service. I would like to personally thank these 453 graduating seniors for their selflessness and the courage that they have shown by volunteering to risk their lives in defense of our Nation. We owe them, along with all those who

serve our country, a deep debt of gratitude.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the names of the 453 high school seniors.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD as follows:

UNITED STATES ARMY—86

Abee—Streetsboro; Acevedo—Ashtabula; Ash—Cleveland; Augustine—Berea; Bennett—Lorain; Boggan—Cleveland; Bowling—Macedonia; Brown, T.—Wellington; Brown, J.—Lorain; Burley—Cleveland; Carver—Lorain; Cowles—Ashtabula; Demand—Cuyahoga Falls; Depew—Wadsworth; Deschields—Akron; Diaz—Lorain; Dreslinski—Norton; Estrella, B.—Cleveland; Estrella, D.—Cleveland; Faix—Norton; Fox—Berea; Frappier—Medina; Gardner—Medina; Gaspar—Cuyahoga Falls; Gates—Strongsville; Hagins—Akron; Hamilton—Cleveland; Hammond—Medina; Hill—Brunswick; Hinkle—LaGrange; Hubert—Cleveland; Hudak—Clinton; Ivcic—Maple Heights; Johnston, C.—Medina; Johnson, R.—Madison; Keller—Vermilion; Klissaroff—North Olmsted; Kogovsek—South Euclid; Kundtz—Avon Lake; Lakes—Parma; Lee—Cleveland; Leutwyler—Concord; Linden—North Olmsted.

Loomis—Parma; Lutz—Mentor; Macik—Solon; Makinson—Akron; Martinez—Parma Heights; McKissack—Maple Heights; McMaster—Lakewood; Miller—Lorain; Mitchell, T.—Akron; Mitchell, A.—Lakewood; Morrissey—Lakewood; Murra—North Ridgeville; Palmer—Grafton; Plant—Akron; Polak—Independence; Politi—Macedonia; Prieto—Akron; Racy—Lakewood; Radigan—North Olmsted; Richmond—Cleveland; Ruiz—Rodriguez—Parma; Sackett—Streetsboro; Sala—Chesterland; Salmons—Medina; Sams—Elyria; Scates—Grafton; Schmidt—Brecksville; Sidlauskas—Mentor; Siglin—Elyria; Sirrine—Rock Creek; Smith—Parma; Sneed—Lakewood; Stark—Oberlin; Staudenbaur—Chagrin Falls; Stewart—Cleveland; Strawderman—Elyria; Surckla—Novelty; Sweeney—Seville; Tanner—Cuyahoga Falls; Tintera—Russell; Titchenell—Brunswick; Watts—Richmond Heights; Wengerd—Middlefield.

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS—171

Acord—North Ridgeville; Adamo—Parma; Adams—Orwell; Adkins—Lorain; Aiken—Kent; Anderson—Newton Falls; Asad—Brunswick; Ashcraft—Orville; Ashworth—Medina; Askew—Barberton; August—Mayfield Heights; Aussem—Avon Lake; Badalucco—Barberton; Balas—Strongsville; Bannerman—Twinsburg; Battle—Cleveland; Be—North Olmsted; Beaird—Rhodesden—Akron; Bearden—Parma; Becker—Austinburg; Bell—Andover; Bercaw—Chardon; Bluhm—Euclid; Bodjanac—Stow; Bodkins—Wellington; Brewster—Cleveland Heights; Brown—Orwell; Burkhardt—North Ridgeville; Buser—Cleveland; Camp—Lorain; Campbell—Tallmadge; Carlo—Broadview Heights; Carmichael—Westlake; Carpenter—Medina; Chan—Rocky River; Clark—Cleveland; Clemens—Cuyahoga Falls; Cooper—Windham; Croyle—Eastlake; Cunningham—Akron; Davis—Akron; Demeter—Brunswick; Diocco—LaGrange.

Durham—Cleveland; Easley—Ravenna; Edmonds—Mayfield Heights; Emerman—Painesville; England—Olmsted Falls; Evans—Cleveland; Faciana—Northfield; Fafrak—Cleveland; Fiala—Olmsted Falls; Poltyn—Akron; Frank—Fairview Park; Garcia—Cleveland; Gatson—Cleveland; Gomez—Eastlake; Gordon—Cuyahoga Falls; Guerrero—Cleveland; Guzman—Lyndhurst; Gyurgyik—Shaker Heights; Hall, A.—Cleveland; Hall, R.—Geneva; Hamper—Jefferson;

Hartsel—Lakewood; Hayes—North Royalton; Hoff—Conneaut; Hoffman—Wickliffe; Holzhauser—Maple Heights; Howard—Mogadore; Hucks—Parma; Husar—Lorain; Jackson, G.—Akron; Jackson, M.—Lorain; Jamison—Doylestown; Jawaorski—Cleveland; Jenkins—Euclid; Johnson—Ravenna; Johnson—Lisman—Akron; Jones—Maple Heights; Kobus—Macedonia; Kostura—Brunswick; Kovats—Rome; Krabill—Fairview Park.

Kruggel—Litchfield; Kulbnik—Medina; Kuzlik—Berea; Latimer—Akron; Leonard—Amherst; Lewis—Akron; Loede—Westlake; Lozitsky—Parma; Lyle—Kingsville; Lynch—Silver Lake; Lynn, C.—Parma; Lynn, M.—Middleburg Heights; Masella—Cleveland; Mattson—North Olmsted; McKee—Akron; Mitchell, C.—Stow; Mitchell, A.—Cleveland; Mohler—Litchfield; Moore—Cleveland Heights; Murray—Valley View; Myers—Doylestown; Nunez—Akron; Odorich—Brunswick; Orris—Barberton; Orsulic—Kingsville; Pagel—Lakewood; Pappas—Westlake; Percun—Seven Hills; Perdue—West Salem; Persinger—Amherst; Pollack—Parma; Porcello—Cleveland; Prince—Mansfield; Provoznik—Wellington; Quotson—Rootstown; Radick—Bay Village; Reese—Euclid; Reyes—Lorain; Richards—Sheffield Lake; Ritzenhalter—Bay Village.

Roche—Kent; Rodriguez—Cleveland; Roland—Westlake; Romanchik—North Olmsted; Rush—Wellington; Saintz—Brook Park; Sandman—Stow; Savel—Wellington; Sayers—Sheffield Lake; Schmitz—Spencer; Schneider—Perry; Schon—Amherst; Selzer—Tallmadge; Shaffer—North Ridgeville; Shemo—Brunswick; Sheppard—Stow; Sherbert—Elyria; Simon—Cleveland; Skvarek—Jefferson; Smith, G.—Clinton; Smith, M.—Elyria; Smith, K.—Cleveland; Smith, J.—Euclid; Steed—Orwell; Stiver—Cleveland; Stovicek—Avon Lake; Streitel—Lakewood; Stutler—Clinton; Swain—Akron; Tamburro—Parma Heights; Thompson—Brunswick; Tijerina—Brunswick; Tompkins—Bedford Heights; Travers—Mentor; Trommer—Medina; Turolebron—Cleveland; Usner—Munroe Falls; Vargas—Parma; Wanda—Conneaut; Ward—Vermilion; Webb—Cleveland; Werner—North Royalton; White—Mayfield Heights; Williford—Cleveland; Witthuhn—Brunswick; Woolfork—Lorain; Wright—Maple Heights.

UNITED STATES NAVY—62

Andino, Jr.—Painesville; Au—Conneaut; Aviles—Wellington; Azbill—Ashtabula; Barnes—Cleveland; Began—Northfield; Boswell—North Ridgeville; Breneman—Sheffield Lake; Brown—Lorain; Burns—Painesville; Clark—Lorain; Cockerham—Parma; Coffey—Geneva; Coleman—Cleveland; Colon—Cleveland; Corey—Perry; Cozart—Warrensburg Heights; Dailey—Cleveland; Davis—Euclid; Dean—Strongsville; Dennis—Cleveland; Eckenrode—North Ridgeville; Etheridge—Warrensburg Heights; Flowers—North Olmsted; Gibbons—Fairview Park; Gigliotti—Strongsville; Gunkelman—Strongsville; Haavisto—Wickliffe; Hollars—Vermilion.

Hollis—Mentor; Hopkins—Painesville; Inchaurregui—Lorain; James—Orwell; Jordan—South Euclid; Joy—Geneva; Kusar—Kirtland; Leggett—Bedford Heights; Lopez—Avon; Mahamett—North Olmsted; Manley—Cleveland; Martin—Lyndhurst; Mcready—Lakewood; Miller—Geneva; Nichols—Geneva; Noble—Elyria; Oleson—Strongsville; Parkinson—North Olmsted; Randle—Maple Heights; Reilly—Bay Village; Reisinger—Wellington; Roby—Elyria; Schumaker—Wellington; Simpkins—Maple Heights; Smith—Mayfield Heights; Snowden—Cleveland; Solomon—Strongsville; Stocker—Geneva; Wagner—Orwell; Warner—North Ridgeville; Weed—Avon Lake; Weidrick—Wellington; Wilms—Elyria.

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE—43

Adams—South Euclid; Barnard—Berea; Boros—Strongsville; Boukzam—Strongsville; Breeds—Lorain; Camera—Cleveland; Cash—Medina; Conkle—South Euclid; Goodwin—Wadsworth; Hazelett—Amherst; Henderson—Akron; Jedrzejek—Olmsted Falls; Kadow—Avon Lake; Keiter—Wickliffe; Keleman—Wadsworth; Kieswetter—North Olmsted; LaSalvia—Strongsville; Lawrence—Parma Heights; Manning—Kent; McGhee—Euclid; Miller, A.—Lorain; Moccia—Lakewood; Moff—Atwater; Neiger—Middleburg Heights; Nelson—Fairview Park; Pallen—Lorain; Perala—Seven Hills; Pipper—Parma; Plickert—Painesville; Richards—Medina; Roetzel—Parma; Rumpf—LaGrange; Saari—Strongsville; Serago—Concord; Starks—South Euclid; Stewart III—Wellington; Stogioglou—Wellington; Suszynski—Chardon; Tagliarini—Brookpark; Tomor—Barberton; Topoly—Akron; Touma—Cuyahoga Falls; Zavodny II—Euclid.

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD—3

Linden—Norwalk; Simko—Fairport Harbor; Werdebaugh—Wellington.

OHIO ARMY NATIONAL GUARD—82

Batcha—Northfield; Bloch, Jr.—Streetsboro; Caraballo—Columbia Station; Carter—Cleveland; Champlin—Akron; Cleveland—Cleveland; Clow—Cleveland; Davis—Johnson—Cleveland; Derr—Garrettsville; Distad—Shaker Heights; DoBroka—North Royalton; Dosen—Broadview Heights; Downey—Akron; Drzik—Akron; Dunning—Chardon; Eisenhauer—Doylestown; Eldred—Avon Lake; Fiscus—LaGrange; Franchino—Streetsboro; Freeman—Cleveland; Galik, Jr.—Norton; Georskey—Ashtabula; Golnick—Willoughby Hills; Gonzalez Sanchez—Kenmore; Grimes—Norton; Habeck—Wakeman; Haefka—Lorain; Hallisy—Lorain; Hendrickson—Brookpark; Herman—Chesterland; Hill—Brunswick; Hines—Ashtabula; Jackson—Cleveland; Johnson, A.—Cleveland; Johnson, E.—Elyria; Johnson, G.—Amherst; Jones—Warrensburg; Keown—Mogadore; Kingzett—Independence; Knight—Ashtabula; Lee—North Ridgeville.

Loga—Ashtabula; Loraditch—Akron; Macklin—Bedford; Mansfield—Akron; Martin—Elyria; Mathews—Pierpont; May—Akron; McLaughlin, C.—Strongsville; McLaughlin, L.—Wadsworth; Milbrandt—Ashtabula; Miller—Ashtabula; Morales—Cleveland; Myers—Akron; Newell—Barberton; Nichols—Akron; Norton, Jr.—Cleveland; O'Connor—Litchfield; Patterson—Lorain; Pedreschi—Avon; Petrella—North Royalton; Phillips—Medina; Powell—Akron; Pozega—Amherst; Raker—Norton; Reid—Elyria; Reyes—Cleveland; Reynolds—Streetsboro; Richard—Oberlin; Rohal—Ravenna; Roldan—Cleveland; Rosa—Lorain; Ryan—Kent; Schwarz—Akron; Sharp—Euclid; Sweeny—Columbia Station; Thomas—Eastlake; Thomas—Akron; Townsend—Twinsburg; Wiley—Avon; Williams—Cleveland; Wolters II—Akron.

OHIO AIR GUARD—6

Berg—Hinckley; Delzoppo—Eastlake; Leonard—Akron; Mele—Willowick; Shamatta—Strongsville; Tushar—North Canton.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO BILL LITTON

• Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, on May 17, 2013, Mr. Bill Litton of Greenwood, MS, will conclude his term as the 78th president of the Delta Council. I am pleased to commend him for his