

Most notably, during his time serving the people of Franklin County, Sheriff Toelke led the case when Abigale Woods “Baby Abby” was abducted. This case had national attention and ultimately ended with a successful recovery of Abigale Woods. Sheriff Toelke also successfully led the recovery of Ben Owenby “Missouri Miracle” which then led to the recovery of Shawn Hornbeck. These cases were emotional situations and Sheriff Toelke handled the situations with compassion and expertise which the families of the children will be forever grateful.

With this retirement, Sheriff Toelke can now spend more time with his family which includes: his wife Sandy, daughters Carrie and Holly.

I ask you to join me in recognizing Sheriff Toelke on his retirement after 41 years of commitment to his community.

IN MEMORIAM OF GEORGE RAY
WEST

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 2016

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the life of my constituent Ray West, who passed away last week at the age of 89.

Ray was a U.S. Navy veteran who served during World War II.

He went on to have a successful career in the film industry, earning an Academy Award and GRAMMY for his work as a sound engineer.

Ray and his wife Jean were married in 1950.

The two honeymooned in Yosemite National Park, and celebrated each anniversary by returning there.

When Ray became ill, the Dream Foundation—a wish granting organization for terminally ill adults based in Santa Barbara, California—stepped in to ensure that Ray and Jean would be able to visit Yosemite for their 65th wedding anniversary.

I had the privilege of meeting Ray and his son David when they traveled to Washington, DC last September for the launch of the Dream Foundation’s “Dreams for Veterans” program.

I was honored to be able to recognize him for his outstanding military service and his extraordinary life.

My thoughts are with Ray’s family—I pray they find comfort as they celebrate the life of this remarkable man.

IN RECOGNITION OF DREXEL HILL
MIDDLE SCHOOL

HON. PATRICK MEEHAN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 2016

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Drexel Hill Middle School on the awards earned by its seventh and eighth grade engineering team in the 2016 Future Cities regional contest this week.

The Future City competition engages students and teaches math, science and engi-

neering concepts by challenging them with issues engineers and city planners face every day: urban management, planning and environmental sustainability issues to name just a few. The theme for this year’s contest was “Waste Not, Want Not” and forced students to tackle complex waste management issues.

Drexel Hill Middle School’s team was selected by its peers for the People’s Choice Award, which is given to the best model city. It was also recognized with the Best Residential Zone award for the placement of residences in a way that would improve the quality of life for families.

Mr. Speaker, education in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) fields are crucial if our students are to be able to compete in the modern global economy. The Future City competition is an innovative way for students to learn these skills and their real world applications. I congratulate Drexel Hill Middle School’s students for their awards.

HONORING THE 2016 ACADEMY
NOMINEES OF THE 11TH CON-
GRESSIONAL DISTRICT NEW JER-
SEY

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 2016

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, every year, more high school seniors from the 11th Congressional District trade in varsity jackets for navy pea coats, Air Force flight suits, and Army brass buckles than most other districts in the country. But this is nothing new—our area has repeatedly sent an above average portion of its sons and daughters to the nation’s military academies for decades.

This fact should not come as a surprise. The educational excellence of area schools is well known and has long been a magnet for families looking for the best environment in which to raise their children. Our graduates are skilled not only in mathematics, science, and social studies, but also have solid backgrounds in sports, debate teams, and other extracurricular activities. This diverse upbringing makes military academy recruiters sit up and take note—indeed, many recruiters know our towns and schools by name.

Since the 1830s, Members of Congress have enjoyed meeting, talking with, and nominating superb young people to our military academies. But how did this process evolve? In 1843, when West Point was the sole academy, Congress ratified the nominating process and became directly involved in the makeup of our military’s leadership. This was not an act of an imperial Congress bent on controlling every aspect of Government. Rather, the procedure still used today was, and is, a further check and balance in our democracy. It was originally designed to weaken and divide political coloration in the officer corps, provide geographical balance to our armed services, and to make the officer corps more resilient to unfettered nepotism and handicapped European armies.

In 1854, Representative Gerritt Smith of New York added a new component to the academy nomination process—the academy review board. This was the first time a Member of Congress appointed prominent citizens

from his district to screen applicants and assist with the serious duty of nominating candidates for academy admission. Today, I am honored to continue this wise tradition in my service to the 11th Congressional District.

My Academy Review Board is composed of seven local citizens who have shown exemplary service to New Jersey, to their communities, and to the continued excellence of education in our area—many are veterans. Though from diverse backgrounds and professions, they all share a common dedication that the best qualified and motivated graduates attend our academies. And, as true for most volunteer panels, their service goes largely unnoticed.

I would like to take a moment to recognize these men and women and thank them publicly for participating in this important panel. Being on the board requires hard work and an objective mind. Members have the responsibility of interviewing upwards of 50 outstanding high school seniors every year in the academy review process.

The nomination process follows a general timetable. High school seniors mail personal information directly to the Military Academy, the Naval Academy, the Air Force Academy, and the Merchant Marine Academy once they become interested in attending. Information includes academic achievement, college entry test scores, and other activities. At this time, they also inform my office of their desire to be nominated.

The academies then assess the applicants, rank them based on the data supplied, and return the files to my office with their notations. In late November, our Academy Review Board interviews all of the applicants over the course of 2 days. They assess a student’s qualifications and analyze character, desire to serve, and other talents that may be hidden on paper.

This year the board interviewed over 40 applicants. The Board’s recommendations were then forwarded to the academies, where recruiters reviewed files and notified applicants and my office of their final decision on admission.

As these highly motivated and talented young men and women go through the academy nominating process, never let us forget the sacrifice they are preparing to make: to defend our country and protect our citizens. This holds especially true at a time when our nation is fighting the war against terrorism. Whether it is in the Middle East, Africa or other troubled spots around the world, no doubt we are constantly reminded that wars are fought by the young. And, while our military missions are both important and dangerous, it is reassuring to know that we continue to put America’s best and brightest in command.

ACADEMY NOMINEES FOR 2016 11TH DISTRICT
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

AIR FORCE ACADEMY

John Dennehy, Rockaway, Morris Hills HS; Jason Kaynak, Pompton Plains, Pequannock HS; Pranay Malla, Chatham, Chatham HS; Michael Matarazzo, Cedar Grove, Cedar Grove HS; Garrett O’Shea, Butler, Morris Knolls HS; Jacob Scheidman, Wayne, Wayne Valley HS; Joshua Vinoya, West Orange, West Orange HS.

MERCHANT MARINE ACADEMY

Bryan Deterle, Nutley, Nutley HS; Ryan Griffin, Kinnelon, Kinnelon HS; Tanner

Grevesan, Boonton, Montville HS; Isaiah Rodriguez, Fairfield, West Essex HS; Megan Rudio, Byram, Lenape Valley HS; Christopher Schlegel, Mendham, West Morris Mendham HS.

NAVAL ACADEMY

Michael Corbett, Florham Park, Hanover Park HS; Matthew Critchley, Morristown, Morristown HS; Sofia Farrell, Nutley, Nutley HS; Matthew Gallo, Whippany, Whippany Park HS; Kristine Gurcan, Whippany, Whippany Park HS; Marisa Lakin, Verona, Verona HS; Adam Magistro, Morristown, Newark Academy; Courtney McKenna, Sparta, Sparta HS; Robert White, Pompton Plains, Pequannock HS; Alexander Wang, Parsippany, Parsippany HS.

MILITARY ACADEMY

Taylor Carmichael, Pompton Plains, Pequannock HS; William Gault, Verona, Verona HS; Mitchell Haddad, Fairfield, Eastern Christian School; Christopher Morgan, West Orange, West Orange HS; Christopher Papa, Chatham, Chatham HS; Ivan Peters, Boonton, Mountain Lakes HS, US Army; John Rogacki, North Caldwell, Seton Hall Prep; Justice Rooney, West Orange, West Orange HS; Sean Schoch, Sparta, Sparta HS; Alexander Zevits, Montville, Montville HS.

NAVAL ACADEMY PREPARATORY SCHOOL

Dean C. Caravela, West Caldwell; James Caldwell High School

TRIBUTE TO MR. SIMON PHILLIP "PHIL" LEVETAN

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 2016

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following Proclamation:

Whereas, our lives have been touched by the leadership and service of Mr. Simon Phillip "Phil" Levetan; and

Whereas, Mr. Simon Phillip "Phil" Levetan served our nation with honor and valor in the United States Army Air Corps Division during World War II. He was responsible for maintaining the electrical and mechanical systems of B29 airplanes, which served as powerful tools for the Allies, aiding in the destruction of the Axis powers; and

Whereas, Mr. Levetan served and led our district in DeKalb County, as a steadfast pillar of our community, a business owner and operator of his family's scrap metal business, Dixie Iron and Metal Company. He was a community leader and First Gentleman of DeKalb County as he served the citizens by partnering with his wife former C.E.O. of DeKalb County and State Senator Liane Levetan. He was the wind beneath her wings for sixty one (61) years in marriage; and

Whereas, Mr. Levetan was a lifetime member of Ahavath Achim Synagogue and a member of Congregation Beth Jacob. He also planned weekly Lunch and Learn sessions for Chabad with Rabbi Yossi New for more than two decades. In addition, he was a member of the Jewish War Veterans and a member of the Elks 78 organizations; and

Whereas, he never asked for fame or fortune, nor found a job too small or too big; he gave of himself, his time, his talent and his life to uplift those in need by demonstrating unwavering commitment to protecting and serving the citizens of the United States of America; and

Whereas, he was a husband, a father, a brother and a friend; he was also a man of great integrity who remained true to the uplifting and service of my district; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia recognizes Mr. Simon Phillip "Phil" Levetan as a citizen of great worth and so noted distinction; now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr. do hereby attest to the 114th Congress that Mr. Simon Phillip "Phil" Levetan is deemed worthy and deserving of this "Congressional Honor" by declaring Mr. Simon Phillip "Phil" Levetan U.S. Citizen of Distinction in the 4th Congressional District of Georgia.

Proclaimed, this 4th day of January, 2016.

IN RECOGNITION OF HOMES FOR HEROES

HON. PATRICK MEEHAN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 2016

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Homes for Heroes, the Mission First Housing Group's Fund for Veterans' fundraising event for housing for homeless veterans.

Homelessness among veterans is a tragic problem nationwide, and many veterans struggle with addiction and other issues that make keeping their own homes difficult. The federal government estimates that nearly 50,000 veterans are homeless on any given night, and another 1.4 million are at risk of homelessness. Seventy percent of homeless veterans face substance abuse issues.

And it's a problem that seems to be getting worse: Pennsylvania's homeless population increased by 46 percent from 2009 to 2013.

The service of our veterans should never be forgotten, and organizations like Mission First do much to ensure that those individuals and their families who have sacrificed so much for our country have a safe place to call home.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Mission First on its work to honor our nation's veterans. Working with groups like Mission First, we can help get veterans off the streets and into safe homes. We owe it to the many veterans who served and sacrificed.

HONORING BUFFALO MANUFACTURING WORKS FOR RECEIVING THE INNOVATION AWARD FROM THE AMHERST CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 2016

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Buffalo Manufacturing Works as the Amherst Chamber of Commerce presents the organization with the Innovation Award. Their cooperative and supportive mission plays an important role in bolstering Western New York's manufacturing community.

Buffalo Manufacturing Works is a collaborative organization that exists to serve the needs of the Buffalo Niagara manufacturing community. Previously known as the Buffalo

Niagara Institute for Advanced Manufacturing Competitiveness, it was established with \$45 million from the Buffalo Billion Investment Plan.

Working with their operational partner EWI, Buffalo Manufacturing Works has met with over 150 local manufacturers and business officials to gather input and develop a shared vision. A critical piece of their model is the Buffalo Manufacturing Works Founders Council, a dedicated group of local manufacturing companies that represent the industry and focus on fostering long-term sustainability.

Buffalo Manufacturing Works enables local manufacturers and businesses to grow and develop through a strong network of support from industry, research, and academic partners. Their partners include the University at Buffalo for fundamental research, Insyte Consulting for process excellence, EWI applied research and development, and the World Trade Center Buffalo Niagara for market expansion.

In addition, Buffalo Manufacturing Works provides insight into workforce development practices to companies. To help companies manufacture products in the most efficient way possible, the organization also develops its own new technologies.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for allowing me a few moments to recognize Buffalo Manufacturing Works as they receive the Innovation Award from the Amherst Chamber of Commerce. I wish the organization continued success and commend their commitment to building a strong present and future for Western New York's economy.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SCOTT PERRY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 2016

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 84, I was absent on account of attending a funeral.

Had I been present, I would have voted Yes.

HONORING THE NICHOLAS COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL CHEERLEADERS

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 2016

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a very special group of young people. The Nicholas County High School Cheerleaders, coached by Jessica Letcher Hamilton, recently won the Universal Cheerleaders Association's National High School Cheerleading Competition.

This event is very competitive and involves young women from across the nation. Like any successful endeavor, the victory was won by dedication, hours of practice, determination, and teamwork. The young women worked very hard for this accomplishment and they learned lessons that will benefit them as they become adults.

Nicholas County High School is a small but proud high school in Carlisle, Kentucky. The community was very supportive of this group