good wages and benefits and gain greater independence and quality of life.

Employment opportunities through the AbilityOne Program have significantly contributed to bringing people who are blind or have significant disabilities into the wider working society.

It is with great pride that I also acknowledge the Beacon Group Inc., one of the many social enterprises dedicated to enriching the lives of people with disabilities.

Since its beginning in 1952, the Beacon Group has been committed to providing employment-related opportunities to people with disabilities. It provides access to real work for a segment of the community that traditionally bears an unacceptably high unemployment rate. The Beacon Group now serves over 1,600 people with disabilities annually by providing a variety of employment opportunities and educational and social rehabilitation programs, all of which help lead to more meaningful and productive lives.

Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I offer my support to the AbilityOne Program and commend the dedication and commitment of the Beacon Group's President, Mr. Steven King, and his staff, for helping individuals who are blind or have significant disabilities find employment. Their work helps people live fuller lives and become more active members of society. I also commend the many AbilityOne employees who work every day to improve the lives of others and make our country a better place to live.

TRIBUTE TO LUCY CHEN

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 2010

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lucy Chen, of Ames, Iowa, who is among the outstanding U.S. high school students selected to attend the annual Research Science Institute sponsored by the Center for Excellence of Technology and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

The mission of the Center for Excellence of Technology is to nurture young scholars to careers of excellence and leadership in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. The Research Science Institute is a highly competitive six-week program which emphasizes advanced theory and research in mathematics, the sciences, and engineering. Lucy was selected for this program upon scoring in the upper one-percent of U.S. student PSAT exam scores. From June to July 2010, Lucy will learn from distinguished professors and conduct a research project at MIT.

I commend Lucy for her commitment to academic achievement and leadership in science and technology. She is a future leader of this country of whom Iowa is very proud. I am honored to represent Lucy and her family in the United States Congress and I wish her the best in her future endeavors.

HONORING BRIGADIER GENERAL RICHARD L. SIMCOCK, UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 2010

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Brigadier General Richard L. Simcock, United States Marine Corps.

From August 2009 to June 2010, Brigadier General Simcock distinguished himself through meritorious service while serving as the Legislative Assistant to the Commandant of the Marine Corps. Utilizing his leadership, communication skills, and dedication to duty, Brigadier General Simcock contributed to numerous successes of the overall Marine Corps mission. His knowledge of and experience in Congressional affairs, combined with an emphasis on Congressional relationships advanced the Commandant's strategy and vision. His leadership during this period has enabled the Marine Corps to continue to succeed despite high operational tempo and unprecedented interest in Marine Corps activities.

Brigadier General Simcock has developed an exceptional relationship with Members of Congress and staff members. We benefitted from his counsel and tireless work to provide answers to our questions about the Marine Corps, Marines and their families. This strong professional relationship is a direct reflection on Brigadier General Simcock's dedication, foresight, and proactive approach during his time as the Commandant's Legislative Assistant.

Working in concert, Brigadier General Simcock, the Armed Services Committees and numerous other Members of Congress, have helped to ensure the health of the Marine Corps. In the past year, Brigadier General Simcock's input and experience were paramount in the continued development, support, acquisition, and championing of Marine Corps initiatives and programs such as the Joint Strike Fighter. During this period, excluding hearings and official travel, General Simcock has responded to 3,886 Congressional Inquiries, 779 official requests-for-information from Members and Professional Staff, and connected Members with Marine General Officers on 425 occasions. His understanding of the legislative processes, his responsiveness and accurate, forthright communication with the Congress has furthered comprehensive support for the Marine Corps.

Brigadier General Simcock's leadership has set a new standard for the Office of Legislative Affairs and his genuine devotion to Corps and Country will ensure the Marine Corps is "most ready when the Nation is least ready" for many years to come.

TRIBUTE TO CHARLIE HEIDERSHEIT

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 2010

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the retirement of Charlie Heidersheit, a native of Osage, Iowa who is stepping down after 33 years as the Executive County Farm Service Agency Director of Mitchell County, Iowa.

After studying at Loras College in Dubuque, Charlie came to Osage to begin his job as County FSA Director. This agency is in charge of delivering federal farm programs directly to Iowa Farmers. His dedicated service has helped countless Iowa farmers and contributed to Iowa's strong agricultural economy.

Although Charlie is retiring from his position as County FSA Director, he plans to continue to be an active member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Osage and spend more time volunteering in the community through many of the local organizations he has been active in including the Osage Knights of Columbus, Osage Lions Club, Osage Kiwanis, and Osage Cub Scouts.

I know that my colleagues in the United States Congress join me in recognizing Charlie Heidersheit and thanking him for his service to the State of Iowa. I consider it an honor to represent Charlie in Congress, and I wish him a long, happy and healthy retirement.

SHAWNEETOWN BICENTENNIAL

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 2010

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the City of Shawneetown, Illinois, upon its bicentennial. Shawnetown was established as a city by the Federal Government in 1810 and is the oldest chartered city in the State of Illinois.

Shawneetown was home to the first bank in the Illinois Territory, chartered in 1816 and located in the John Marshall residence near the Ohio River Bridge. The first State bank in Illinois was built in 1839–1840 in Shawenetown.

General Marquis de LaFayette, of France, visited Shawneetown in 1825, as part of his famous tour of America after he had served so valiantly during the American Revolution.

Shaweetown was flooded by great flood of 1937. The gauge read 66 feet, which was five feet higher than the top of the levee. Following the 1937 flood, Shawneetown moved three miles west and was surveyed by the Federal Government.

Today, Shawneetown is the home of Bunge Grain Corporation, Power Inc., Shawneetown Harbor Service, Inc., a Peabody Coal Company River Dock and several other small businesses.

I would like to congratulate the citizens of Shawnetown as they celebrate 200 years of success. May God bless Shawneetown for many years to come.

RECOGNIZING DONALD DYE—WINNER OF THE TOP TEACHER AWARD

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 2010

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Donald Dye, an English teacher