

Owen "Gene" Sweeney, Jr., of the Baltimore City Police Department. Lieutenant Sweeney—a resident of Bel Air, MD—fell in the line of duty on May 7, 1997. Mere words cannot describe the shock and grief felt by his family, friends, and fellow police officers.

Gene Sweeney joined the Baltimore City Police Department in 1968 because he wanted to make a difference. As he worked his way through the ranks, Lieutenant Sweeney was always willing to accept responsibility. He was a member of the Baltimore City Police Department Homicide Squad, and at one time commanded the Crimes Against Persons Unit.

Throughout his 28 years on the force, Gene Sweeney enjoyed great respect as an exceptional police officer and leader. He was always there when people needed him, both as a cop and as a friend. Those who knew him described him best when they said, "he was a class guy."

Gene Sweeney was a devoted husband and father. He and his wife of 25 years, Elaine, had two sons, Frank and Eugene. Like many families, they enjoyed attending Baltimore Orioles baseball games and Ravens football games. Most of Owen's happiest family moments, however, were spent boating on the beautiful Chesapeake Bay. In fact, Gene Sweeney—only 819 days shy of retirement—had already purchased a boat in anticipation of his golden years.

It was dedication to duty and devotion to the officers he commanded that took Lieutenant Sweeney on his last call. Lt. Owen Eugene Sweeney, Jr., was mortally wounded while trying to help his fellow officers. Ironically, Gene Sweeney's death came only a few days before "Fallen Heroes Day," a day on which the citizens of Maryland annually commemorate those who have laid down their lives in the performance of their duties. His death was a stark reminder of the price these brave souls have paid.

I want to offer my deepest sympathy to Lieutenant Sweeney's family, his friends, and the men and women of the Baltimore City Police Department. Gene will be dearly missed, but never forgotten.

THANK YOU, ROBERT PRICE

**HON. JAMES A. BARCIA**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 21, 1997*

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, many of the communities throughout our great Nation are blessed with great local governments. And the reason these governments are great is because they have been led by wonderful, dedicated people like Robert Price, the president of the village of Otisville, who is retiring after 36 productive years in office. He is being honored by the village with a retirement celebration on May 31.

Bob first served his community as a member of the board of review, appeals and planning, beginning in 1958. He then in 1961 began 8 years of service as a member of the village council. Since 1969, he has been the village president.

He will leave behind him a legacy of accomplishment. The village grew during his time of leadership, and many services had to be upgraded to provide for the increased demands.

There were extensive improvements to the water system, including the construction of a new sanitary sewer system. Parks and recreational facilities were built for the community to provide the infrastructure that families need to provide wholesome recreation for their children.

Bob Price's activities on behalf of the community came in many other forms as well. He was a charter member of the Otisville Jaycees, where he promoted the Jaycee sense of encouraging new businesses for the needs of residents of the community and as a source of jobs for many residents. His involvement in other civic and church groups are very well known throughout the community, and will certainly be highlighted at his retirement celebration.

Mr. Speaker, each of us works with our local officials, and I know many of our colleagues have served in that capacity. It is the most challenging of all public service because you are accessible every moment of every day—at the office, in church, at the grocery store, or at the Little League game. I have great respect for these dedicated individuals. It is why I consider it an honor and a privilege, Mr. Speaker, to encourage you and all of our colleagues to join me in thanking Robert Price, an outstanding example of local officials, for all of the work that he has done, and offering our best wishes for him as he begins a well-earned retirement.

TRIBUTE TO FOUR GIRL SCOUT  
GOLD AWARD RECIPIENTS

**HON. BERNARD SANDERS**

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 21, 1997*

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to salute four outstanding young women who are being presented with the Girl Scout Gold Award by the Vermont Girl Scout Council. They are Melissa D. Jones and Tina M. Newell of Senior Girl Scout Troop 707 in Vergennes, VT and Jennifer R. Tobin and Vincenza Tortolano of Senior Girl Scout Troop 817 in Rutland, VT. They are being honored on May 29, 1997 for earning the highest achievement award in U.S. Girl Scouting.

The Girl Scout Gold Award symbolizes outstanding accomplishments in the areas of leadership, community service, career planning, and personal development. The award can be earned by girls aged 14 to 17, or in grades 9 to 12. To receive the award, these Girl Scouts first earned four interest project patches, the career exploration pin, the Senior Girl Scout leadership award and the Senior Girl Scout challenge as well as designing and implementing a Girl Scout Gold Award project to meet a special need in their communities.

As members of the Vermont Girl Scout Council, Melissa Jones and Tina Newell first earned badges in understanding yourself and others, child care, games, creative writing, and reading. The girls then combined their efforts in a project to combat illiteracy. They designed a series of three workshops for young children about the magic of books which they put on at their local town library. The workshops featured a magician, hired with moneys the girls raised themselves, magic tricks and crafts taught by the girls and wonderful stories fea-

ting magic. They attracted a large number of youngsters. The girls reported "Everything we did interested and excited the children; they wanted to read more books and they now know the library and are planning to come to their future children's programs."

Jennifer Tobin and Vincenza Tortolano put their efforts into making a special place for some elderly members of their community. The girls designed and established a conversation garden to give nursing home residents and their guests access to sidewalks, shade and beauty, putting in two settees and planting bulbs and a flowering crabapple tree, all financed by the girls' sale of handmade cookbooks. To quote the nursing home administrator, "These two young people have earned the respect and appreciation of 125 nursing home residents and 160 employees of Eden Park."

These four Senior Girl Scouts have earned my respect and appreciation, too, and I believe all four of the girls should receive the public recognition due them for such significant services to their communities and their country.

HONORING CAPTAIN LEROY A.  
FARR, A MILITARY AND AMERICAN HERO

**HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 21, 1997*

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a friend and a true military giant, an American hero—U.S. Navy Captain Leroy Farr.

Captain Farr is retiring from the Navy after 30 years of service to our country. As a test pilot, landing signal officer, operations and maintenance officer, squadron commanding officer, air boss, program manager, and inspector general, Captain Farr has a record in naval aviation that is second to none.

In 30 years Captain Farr has racked up numerous accomplishments but one of the greatest achievements in his distinguished record is the quiet but critical role he played in helping to save a strategic military asset—the Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division in Lakehurst, NJ.

Lakehurst, Mr. Speaker, is the heart of naval aviation. It is a unique, one-of-its-kind, world-class facility whose primary function is to ensure that aircraft safely launch and recover from the deck of a carrier or other platform, and that support equipment assist in the service of planes, parts, and ordinance at sea. The safety and success of every single naval aircraft depends on the work and skill housed at Navy Lakehurst.

Despite its military value, the Department of Defense erroneously targeted Navy Lakehurst for closure—and then for a radical realignment. As part of the realignment scenario, the critical manufacturing, design, and research that goes on at Lakehurst was to be split apart and relocated at other bases.

Knowing that we had to act quickly to respond to this disaster, I immediately called together business and community leaders to discuss a plan to defend our base. We formed the Save Lakehurst Committee and organized a massive effort to save Navy Lakehurst. But