

fishing, and recreational water use throughout the United States. My legislation will authorize funding for research to improve our response to this threat and to develop a deeper understanding of these problems.

Harmful algal blooms occur in both marine and freshwater environments, and are often referred to as red tides or brown tides. These dense mats of algae produce toxins dangerous to aquatic life and to humans, some of which are so potent that eating just one contaminated mussel could result in anything from mild nausea to paralysis, and even death in some cases.

Hypoxia occurs when an algal bloom dies and is decomposed by bacteria in the water. This process depletes oxygen to levels so low they cannot support aquatic life, which decreases fisheries production and can produce terrible odors that make the water undesirable for recreational use.

It is estimated that harmful algal blooms cost the U.S. \$50 million a year, while hypoxia causes severe conditions in many locations, including the Gulf of Mexico, where a "dead" zone the size of New Jersey develops each summer.

Harmful algal blooms and hypoxia are also causing problems closer to my home region, the Great Lakes, where these events are more frequently fouling the water. In the past 30 years, major advances were made to improve Great Lakes water quality, but recently scientists have observed an increase in both harmful algal blooms and hypoxia. The reasons for this are unclear, but may be related to invasive species changing the way nutrients are cycled in the lakes.

In 1998, Congress passed the Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Act. The Act created a Task Force to examine these problems and authorized \$19 million annually for research and monitoring activities related to harmful algal blooms and hypoxia. This March, the Subcommittee on Environment, Technology and Standards, of which I serve as chairman, held a hearing on this subject and found that we need to expand our research efforts to include freshwater blooms, update our assessments of these threats every five years, and improve communication with local resource managers about these efforts. The legislation I am introducing today seeks to address these findings.

More specifically, the legislation expands the authorization of funding to \$30 million annually (over the next three years) for research and monitoring efforts on harmful algal blooms and hypoxia. It also requires the Task Force to develop research plans on previously overlooked aspects of harmful algal blooms and hypoxia, such as: Great Lakes harmful algal blooms; and prevention, control and mitigation methods to reduce the impact of harmful algal blooms.

This legislation also provides a mechanism for regional and local assessments of harmful algal blooms and hypoxia, because the causes of harmful algal blooms and hypoxia vary with regional water use, land use, and environment. Additionally, it increases the participation of local resource managers in this process, ensuring that our investment in research produces useful tools for the people dealing with the problems on a day-to-day basis.

The bill reauthorizes funding for programs that have been effective in improving our sci-

entific understanding of harmful algal blooms and hypoxia, namely the Ecology and Oceanography of Harmful Algal Blooms (ECOHAB) program and the Monitoring and Event Response to Harmful Algal Blooms (MERHAB) program. It also requires scientific assessments of harmful algal blooms and hypoxia on a regular basis, providing a means to continuously target our resources in an effective manner.

In conclusion, my legislation provides a research framework for addressing the nationwide problem of harmful algal blooms and hypoxia. It improves our ability to understand and predict harmful algal bloom events, adds the Great Lakes as an important area for harmful algal bloom and hypoxia research, and ensures the participation of local resource managers in developing research plans so that the research can be fully utilized by everyone concerned with these important issues. I have been working with my colleague from Ohio, Senator GEORGE VOINOVICH, who is introducing companion legislation in the Senate today. I look forward to working with all of my colleagues to pass this important bill.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MOUNTAIN
CREST HIGH SCHOOL ADVANCED
PLACEMENT AMERICAN GOVERNMENT
AND LAW CLASS

HON. ROB BISHOP

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2003

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mountain Crest High School's Advanced Placement American Government and Law class, in Hyrum Utah, for their achievement in the "We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution" competition. The class won their state competition in February and is currently preparing to participate on the National level soon.

In order to compete, the students had to establish a base knowledge of the Constitution and the workings of our government. They then prepared speeches concerning different aspects of the Constitution, the amendments, and significant Supreme Court cases. The topics range from the founding ideals of the young nation, to the values and principles embodied in the Constitution, Civil Rights, and the evolution of our current republican democracy.

In addition to acknowledging the hard work and dedication of these students, I would also like to recognize the work of their teacher Margaret Obry. She is an exemplary teacher who is devoted to educating all of her students. Together they represent Utah well.

As I believe the Constitution is a divinely inspired document I feel it is important for all Americans to know and defend its principles. The "We the People" program is an excellent way to get students involved in the Constitution and compete with others from around the country. Again, congratulations to the students of Mountain Crest.

VOLUNTEER SPIRIT IN COLUMBIA,
TENNESSEE

HON. LINCOLN DAVIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2003

Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, the backbone of a strong community is the people. I am proud to say that the volunteer spirit is alive and well in Columbia, Tennessee.

It was back in 1919 when Post 19 of the American Legion was established in Columbia. The following year Legion Auxiliary Unit 19 was chartered. Since their establishment both organizations have provided the city of Columbia, in Maury County, and many of the local citizens with a true sense of pride. Unit 19 was recently honored at the National Convention for their outstanding work in providing care to veterans.

The priorities of both organizations are not just associated with assisting our veterans. They also have a long history of providing services that directly benefit many youths. In the summer they sponsor different athletic events which helps foster teamwork and sportsmanship all while giving them a sense of self worth. They send individuals to attend Boy's State and Girl's State, which teaches leadership skills. They also award scholarships to individuals using funds they raise through bake sales, breakfasts, yard sales and so on.

During the 50th Anniversary of World War II legionnaires and auxiliary members made up a committee, appointed by the County Executive, to help celebrate the anniversary. They helped bring the history of those who served abroad and in the states to those generations who weren't alive during that period in our history. They are now doing the same to highlight the 50th Anniversary of the Korean War.

Recently, when the National Guard was called up for active duty these two organizations made sure they let the troops know they supported them. On the weekend before the Guard departed they hosted a breakfast and a lunch, and on the day of departure the members were at the armory to give them a proper sendoff.

I am proud to be a witness to the actions of Post and Unit 19 in Columbia, Tennessee. They are selfless in their pursuit of making our communities stronger and improving the lives of others.

HONORING SERGEANT FIRST
CLASS RANDY REHN

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I stand before you today to honor a man tragically taken from us while in the service of his country. Sergeant First Class Randy Rehn, a graduate of Niwot High School in Colorado, was killed while serving in the conflict in Iraq. In the Army, Randy directed a crew that operated a Multiple Launch Rocket System. I am truly humbled to honor him before this body of Congress and this nation. The sacrifice of Randy and his fellow soldiers will be long remembered by our grateful Nation.