

art high schools. In addition, Dr. Tilley's sound leadership has left the school district fiscally sound in a time when school districts across the state are struggling to survive.

Through all of these accomplishments, Dr. Tilley sends a clear message that our children count, that poverty is not a barrier to the American dream, and that our children have a right to the very best education.

As Dr. Tilley's family and friends joined him to celebrate his retirement as superintendent of the Merced Union High School District, we as residents of Merced County will never forget the lasting impression he has made on the education of our youth. I ask all of my colleagues to join me and recognize my friend, Dr. Bill K. Tilley for his service to the United States as an educator, builder, and citizen.

HONORING REVEREND SAMUEL
JOEL ESPINOZA TREVINO UPON
HIS RETIREMENT

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 16, 2003

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Reverend Samuel Joel Espinoza Trevino upon his retirement from St. Stephens Church after over forty years of dedicated service to the Christian community.

Reverend Samuel Joel Espinoza Trevino was born in Monterrey, Mexico to a family of deeply religious convictions. His father, Reverend Edelmiro J. Espinoza served both the Monterrey pastorate in the Mexican Methodist Church and later the Holy Trinity Church of downtown Mexico City. His father was also responsible for establishing the Instituto Evangelistico de Mexico as a school for pastors of all denominations devoted to serving both the church and the Christian community.

Reverend Espinoza studied ministry at Vennard College in Iowa where he learned English and familiarized himself with American culture. Upon completing his ministry, the Reverend returned to Mexico City as a teacher and an administrator of his father's "Instituto." Additionally, he worked with a Christian literature ministry at the Cruzada Mexicana en Cada Hogar, while he also traveled Mexico preaching and teaching in churches for special campaigns and courses.

In 1969, Reverend Espinoza and his wife moved to Harrisonburg, Virginia where the Reverend completed his Master's degree of Divinity from Eastern Mennonite Seminary while he simultaneously served as an assistant pastor at Waynesboro U.M. and Otterbein U.M.

By 1993, Reverend Espinoza and his wife had come to St. Stephens Church, which he has continued to serve over the years. Rev. Espinoza's tenure here has been characterized by a number of reforms and progressive programs that have served to revolutionize the religious agenda at St. Stephens. The Reverend is responsible for the inception of a Children's Church program. Furthermore, he has started a Disciple Bible Study and expanded the St. Stephens' Sunday School programs. Finally, he both envisioned and completed the construction of a new Sanctuary, which includes facilities devoted to fellowship and educational activities.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I wish the very best to Reverend Espinoza as he is recognized for his years of service to the Christian community. During his many years of service, he certainly has earned the respect and gratitude of hundreds of parishioners, and I call upon all of my colleagues to join me in applauding his career of good works.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE EIGHT-
IETH ANNIVERSARY OF JOHN H.
HARLAND COMPANY

HON. DENISE L. MAJETTE

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 16, 2003

Ms. MAJETTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate John H. Harland Company, a leader in financial and industrial services, on its eightieth anniversary.

Established in 1923 in Atlanta, Georgia, John H. Harland Company is a leading provider of products and services to their chosen segments of the financial and educational markets. Harland has a long history of adapting to changes in the industry and, in doing so, has helped to create numerous opportunities for itself and its employees nationwide.

As a leading check printer, Harland was instrumental in the development of Magnetic Ink Character Recognition (MICR) technology in the 1950s. In the 1960s, Harland introduced the first scenic check, now a staple of the banking world. Today, Harland is one of the fastest-growing software companies in the financial industry. More than 85 percent of all schools in the United States use at least one educational product through Harland's Scantron subsidiary. And of the 5,000 John H. Harland Company employees, more than 20 percent are employed in Georgia alone, continuing the positive financial impact to the state that founder John H. Harland himself began.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding John H. Harland Company and its 5,000 employees for 80 years of growth and innovation, contribution and achievement.

RELATING TO CONSIDERATION OF
SENATE AMENDMENTS TO H.R.
1308, TAX RELIEF, SIMPLIFICA-
TION, AND EQUITY ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2003

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to this rule which would adopt a Motion to Go to Conference on H.R. 1308, The All-American Tax Relief Act of 2003. Here we go again. President Bush and the House Republican leadership are once again showing their contempt for working families that are struggling to make ends meet in our sluggish economy. This rule is a shameful effort to deny assistance to the 6.5 million families and their 12 million children who earn between \$10,500 to \$26,000 a year. Nearly 674,000 children and 378,000 families, or one in four children back in my home state of Illinois,

would have qualified for this aid Nationwide, one million of these kids are the children of veterans or active members of the armed forces. Is this how the Republican leaderships and the Bush Administration wish to repay the brave men and women who have put their lives on the line to serve their country? We should defeat this rule and immediately adopt the Senate-passed legislation which would provide immediate aid to these hard working families.

Just a few weeks ago, President Bush and Republican leaders passed another job killing tax bill that provided even more tax cuts for millionaires. Behind closed doors, Vice President Cheney and Republican leaders in Congress deliberately left millions of children behind to pay for tax cuts for millionaires and tax dodging corporations. This was not an accident or an oversight. A House Ways and Means Committee spokesperson confessed, "Adjustments had to be made." Of course, no adjustments had to be made to the nearly \$604,000 tax break received by Vice President CHENEY or the \$332,000 given to Treasury Secretary John Snow. In fact, the total tax savings for President Bush, Vice President CHENEY, and the Cabinet could be up to \$3.2 million. The Bush Administration showed their true colors. This callous decision outraged the American public. People all around the country demanded fairness.

The United States Senate was shamed into passing a Democratic proposal to provide those low-income families with their well-deserved child tax credit that was removed in a secret deal by Vice President Cheney. Instead of doing the right thing and passing the Senate bill, the House Republican leadership is trying to pass another budget busting \$82 billion tax bill that will increase our growing national debt. When President Bush took office we had a \$5.6 trillion ten-year surplus. We now have a \$2 trillion deficit over the same period of time. According to CBO, the President's tax cut not the war on terrorism accounts for the growth in deficit.

This bill is a gimmick. It is a delay tactic. The Republican leadership knows that this price tag is unacceptable to many in the Senate. No wonder the House Republican leadership is not even allowing members of the people's house an opportunity to offer any amendments today. If they allowed amendments we might pass child care tax credit for the 12 million children of the working class who have been sacrificed to make room for the Bush class. This begs the question, why do President Bush, Vice-President CHENEY, and House Republicans have so much contempt for working families?

The House Republican Leadership opposes the Senate bill because the lower income hard working families do not deserve a tax cut, they say, because they do not pay taxes. That is a lie and an insult to the millions who are teacher aids, home health care workers, and child care providers. They pay sales tax, they pay excise taxes, they pay taxes on gasoline, and they pay a payroll tax, they pay taxes for which there is never a cut, never a special break. These are also the same families that struggle to pay their rent and provide for their children. We should help these families immediately.

Put the interests of working families before the needs of the Bush class. Vote instead for hard working families. Defeat this rule.

CONGRATULATING THE JACKSONVILLE PROVIDENCE STALLIONS ON CLASS A STATE BASEBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. ANDER CRENSHAW

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 16, 2003

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to laud the accomplishments of a group of young men from my congressional district that attend Providence School in Jacksonville, Florida.

Mr. Speaker, in just the sixth year of this school's existence, their baseball team has won the Class A state baseball championship. This is no small feat in the state of Florida, for ours is a state known for great baseball and baseball greats such as Fred McGriff, Alex Rodriguez, and Chipper Jones. This year the state of Florida had 50 men on Major League Baseball spring training rosters.

This group of fourteen young men and five coaches compiled a 26–2 record on the way to their state championship, and along the way won the American Plumbing Classic in Jacksonville, the district, and regional championships. For some on this team, these winning ways are nothing new as Providence was District champion and Regional runner-up in 2001 and made the State Final Four in 2002.

Mr. Speaker, while the crowning moment of this team's season came at the end of a 7–2 win over Orangewood Christian at Tampa's Legend's Field, it was more than just 28 games that went into this championship. For most of these young men, this championship started at age 5 or 6 and has continued through many spring and summer league games since. This championship came with the help and sacrifices of family, friends and multiple coaches, many of whom are volunteers. This victory came at the expense of free time, other school functions, and even some blood, sweat, and a few tears.

It takes a lot to be a champion and this team, their family, friends, and coaches have all shown they know what it takes.

I wish continued success to all fourteen of these young men who make up the Providence School's baseball team: Kellyn Townsend, Joshua Maxwell, Kyle Wilson, Austin Heilig, Travis Martin, Jordan Bowser, Tim Aldridge, Connor Hodges, Steven Turner, Hunter Robinson, Ryan Kramer, Blake Gerber, Tim Brown, and Robert Hardee. I also wish continued success to Head Coach Billy Bell and his four assistants: Mark Aldridge, Greg Larrick, Jim Martin, and Mac Mackiewicz.

THANKING MR. MICHAEL ELLIOTT FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE HOUSE

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 16, 2003

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of his retirement on July 7th, we rise to thank Mr. Michael Elliott for his outstanding service to the U.S. House of Representatives over the past 16 years.

Over the years, Mike has provided outstanding customer support to Members, Com-

mittees, Leadership and Support Officers of the House. He began his career with the House on March 25, 1987 and served this great institution in numerous capacities, most notably with House Information Resources (HIR) under the office of the Chief Administrative Officer.

In 1987, he was hired as a User Support Specialist to provide technical support; specifically hardware troubleshooting and repairs for PCs, printers, monitors and system units in all House offices. In this position, Mike became a certified Apple Macintosh technician and served as Team Leader for all Macintosh support. He remained in that position until 1995. Since 1995 he has worked as a Technical Support Representative servicing Member offices. Mike is highly skilled and very proficient in providing office automation and technical services to House offices. His professionalism and work ethic is a true demonstration of excellence and dedication to providing passionate customer service. His technical skills and breadth of knowledge of House office operations enabled Mike to provide and advise others in providing effective resolutions.

I know all of you join me in extending our thanks and appreciation to this invaluable member of the House family. We wish the very best to Mike and his wife Susan as they pursue the next phase of life.

RECOGNIZING VOLUNTEER AND JEFFERSON AWARD RECIPIENT LEANNA RICHARD ALFRED

HON. CHRISTOPHER JOHN

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 16, 2003

Mr. JOHN. Mr. Speaker, many people serve the needs of their community, not searching for public recognition. Their reward is the knowledge that those in need have been helped. Mrs. Leanna Richard Alfred of Lafayette, Louisiana is one such individual.

Friends and colleagues have described her as a terrific role model with a warm smile and a loving personality—a motherly figure, always prepared to lend a helping hand to those in need.

Mrs. Alfred is being honored this week in Washington, DC with the distinguished Jefferson Award. Given by the American Institute for Public Service, this national award is granted to "ordinary people who do extraordinary things without expectation of recognition or award."

Through a partnership with local media sponsor KLFY-TV in Lafayette, Louisiana, Mrs. Alfred's efforts were brought to the Institute's attention. This award is not the first for Mrs. Alfred, but it is a very special honor. In 1972, Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, Senator Robert Taft, Jr. and Sam Beard founded the American Institute for Public Service to establish a Nobel Prize for public and community service.

Mrs. Alfred's work is directed toward children in our community. She sponsors several annual events—fashion shows, a Christmas Ball, and basketball tournaments—to offer African-American children in the area avenues to showcase their unique talents. Her events often provide scholarships for area youngsters to advance their education, as well as trophies

and certificates of achievement. Her motto is "Making a Difference," and that is just what she does on a daily basis.

I congratulate Mrs. Leanna Richard Alfred for her dedication to making our community an area in which young people can strive, succeed, and know that they are cherished.

CONGRATULATING EMMETT LEDBETTER FOR EARNING THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

HON. JOHN S. TANNER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 16, 2003

Mr. TANNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor an American patriot, Emmett Ledbetter of Jackson, Tennessee. Mr. Ledbetter recently received the Distinguished Flying Cross Award for his bravery and heroism while serving our nation as a top turret gunner and flight engineer during World War II.

As a member of the 455th Bomb Group and the 743rd Bomb Squadron, Mr. Ledbetter flew the greater part of his 50 combat missions in the months leading up to the historic D-Day landing on the beaches of Normandy. Based out of an airfield near Cerignola, Italy, the 455th Bomb Group completed missions throughout Romania and Austria against the German occupiers.

No stranger to military decorations, Mr. Ledbetter received the Presidential Unit Citation twice for missions in Austria as well as the EAME Theater Ribbon and the Air Medal honoring his military prowess throughout the War.

On one such occasion, for which he has now earned the Distinguished Flying Cross, a bomb was found to be caught in the rear of the airplane on a return trip from a mission in Vienna. Facing a serious threat to the safety of the airplane, Mr. Ledbetter and another crewmember, in a moment of bravery, put on oxygen masks and entered the bomb bay, walking across a narrow catwalk at an altitude of 20,000 feet. Once inside, they forced the explosive off the rack, saving the airplane and its crew.

Following this mission, Mr. Ledbetter was recommended to receive the Distinguished Flying Cross, but because of clerical procedures, his award was delayed. Now, almost 60 years after this heroic accomplishment, Mr. Ledbetter has received the recognition he deserves, having finally been awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross on February 13, 2003.

Mr. Speaker, at this difficult time in our nation's history, I know you and our colleagues join me in thinking about and praying for our troops. I hope you will also join me in honoring a man who fought for this country in a different war to guarantee the safeties and freedoms we all cherish so much. We salute Emmett Ledbetter for his honorable career serving our nation and congratulate him on the long-deserved Distinguished Flying Cross Award.