

Most notably, Mitchell was the hometown of U.S. Astronaut Virgil "Gus" Grissom. NASA selected Grissom as one of the original seven Mercury astronauts in 1959. Grissom was one of three astronauts who perished in a fire in the early days of the Apollo program. The citizens of Mitchell have dedicated a memorial to his memory.

I am pleased to join with the citizens of Mitchell in celebrating its 150th Anniversary. I am pleased to give special recognition to Jeff Routh and the members of the Mitchell Chamber of Commerce, as well as those others who made it possible for present and future generations to enjoy the history of Mitchell through their research.

ASHLEY RUCKERT

HON. DAVID VITTER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 25, 2003

Mr. VITTER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize and congratulate Ashley Ruckert. This week Ashley was unanimously selected as the Outstanding Player at the Louisiana High School All Star volleyball match in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. She had 11 kills and eight digs to help the East team win the match.

Her volleyball career began at Sacred Heart Academy in New Orleans where she had four outstanding seasons on the Varsity team, all of which the Rosary took home the state title.

Ashley earned All-State, All-District, All-Metro and All-Orleans as a junior. She was named to the All-Tournament Team at the Louisiana State Championships twice and was a member of the Clarion Herald Elite Volleyball Team. A four-year letter winner and team captain, Ruckert was named Most Valuable Player at the recent State Championship.

Her athletic pursuits will continue at Elon University in North Carolina where she has received an athletic scholarship to play I-A volleyball for the Phoenix.

Ashley's athletic accomplishments are the result of her dedication, commitment and self discipline. Although known in the New Orleans area for her volleyball prowess—she is a very well rounded person. She balances well her extracurricular activities, academics and community service. Ashley is a wonderful example of the best and brightest in Louisiana. Her parents, John and Ellen Ruckert are to be commended.

Again, congratulations Ashley and best of luck in your future pursuits.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS
OF SCOTT MAINE

SPEECH OF

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 25, 2003

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Scott Maine of Palm Beach Gardens, Florida for being named the South Florida Sun-Sentinel's Class 6A-5A-4A Player of the Year.

A pitcher for the William T. Dwyer Community High School baseball team, Scott Maine

has proven himself to be a local athletic star while playing on the field. Having some of the best statistics in the county, Scott appropriately refers to himself as a "power pitcher." A credit to his hard work and dedication, Scott plays at an exceptional level. While some baseball players would be lucky to achieve an earned run average, or ERA, of as low as 2.00, Scott finished his senior season with an ERA of 0.10.

This past season, players on opposing teams were unable to produce much offense when facing the arm of Scott Maine. Having a repertoire of pitches, Scott's ratio for strikeouts to walks is 7.5:1. A ratio that places Scott far and above his fellow competitors.

Dwyer High School's baseball coach, Tony Gullo, considers Scott's arm to be one of his Godgiven tools. In fact, Scott's pitching is so valuable to the team that a pitch count was recorded during the 2003 high school season. For every game, Scott would throw up to sixty-five pitches, departing from games around the fourth or fifth innings.

This past spring, as the athletic season came to an end, and as the graduating seniors accepted their diplomas, Scott Maine departed Dwyer High School a legend. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to represent such an outstanding young man and extend my best wishes to Scott Maine as he begins a baseball career.

RECOGNIZING SKIPPACK
TOWNSHIP'S 300TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 25, 2003

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Skippack Township, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania on its 300th Anniversary.

What began as a Mennonite community organizing the Lower Skippack Mennonite Church in 1702 is now a beautiful, mostly residential community known for an exceptional quality of life. The township has a history that dates back to the earliest years of our nation and was a camp and resting place for George Washington and his troops on more than one occasion.

The township as we know it today was created in 1886 when Perkiomen and Skippack, established from Mathias Van Bebber's purchase of land from William Penn in 1702, was divided into two townships. Skippack was comprised of three villages: Creamery, Lucon and Skippack. The area was heavily agricultural and dominated by Mennonite owned lands. The principal community is Skippack village located at the junction of Routes 73 and 113.

Two land acquisition programs had a tremendous impact on the makeup of the township. The first was the establishment of the Pennsylvania State Correctional Institution at Graterford in 1927. The second was the establishment of Evansburg State Park in 1970. These two sites occupy nearly half of the township's acreage, dedicating it to public use. In addition to Evansburg State Park, which lies along Skippack creek and provided countless recreational activities, there are two other parks. Privately owned Hallman's Grove pro-

vides a baseball field and pavilion to the community and a plot of land given to the township by J. Hansell French, Pennsylvania Secretary of Agriculture from 1935-1939 is used by local scout groups.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in recognizing Skippack Township for 300 years of history, heritage and service.

RECOGNIZING CHESTERFIELD
COUNTY, VIRGINIA, FOR THEIR
CONTINUING SUPPORT OF OUR
MEN AND WOMEN IN UNIFORM

HON. J. RANDY FORBES

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 25, 2003

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Chesterfield County, Virginia for their continuing support of our men and women in uniform.

Chesterfield County rests between the James and Appomattox Rivers and is a total of 446 square miles. Its location offers a unique blend of suburbia and the options of driving to our nation's capital, Virginia's beautiful beaches or the scenic Blue Ridge Parkway.

The citizens of Chesterfield County not only share a beautiful community filled with spirit and values. They also share a sense of honor, duty and commitment through their support of Virginia's reservists.

It came to my attention in February 2003 that Chesterfield made a commitment to those working for the County—a promise to compensate those called up for duty as part of the Reserves. When a reservist is mobilized, and leaves his or her civilian job, their military salary is almost always much lower than their civilian salary.

Prior to the war in Iraq, there was an effort by military organizations to get the word out to their members that might be asked to serve in the war—that word was "save up now to help your family in the future." But, often, the small amount of time between hearing of a possible call-up of your unit, and preparing to leave is not enough to organize family finances. Families of those called to serve at a moment's notice often find themselves in a dire financial situation.

The citizens of Chesterfield wanted to take care of the 53 reservists and their families. Together, in a community-wide effort, the county decided to make up the difference in salary for the reservists who been asked to serve in support of Iraqi Freedom. I can't think of a better way to honor our men and women in uniform, who sacrifice so much in the name of freedom.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Chesterfield County as they share in the duty of those serving our country. Most of us only speak of helping the troops fighting for freedom each day, the people of Chesterfield County translated those words into actions. As a member of the House Armed Services Committee, and as a citizen of this great nation, it is an honor and a privilege to represent the people of Chesterfield County, true patriots of our country.