

The school has reemphasized its commitment to offering a fully comprehensive educational experience that will prepare each student for meaningful post-high school pursuits. A full regents program is offered ensuring the high standards and expectations West Hempstead has for its' students will be met. Students are offered a wide-ranging variety of courses, including advance placement and college credit opportunities.

Mr. Speaker, the faculty and students, along with the community, have created a wonderful learning environment. I am proud to name West Hempstead High School the school of the month for September 2003.

HONORING EDWARD BANAS, COM-  
MANDER-IN-CHIEF, VETERANS  
OF FOREIGN WARS

**HON. ROB SIMMONS**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 15, 2003*

Mr. SIMMONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and honor my constituent and fellow Vietnam veteran, Edward S. Banas, Sr. of Voluntown, Connecticut on his election as National Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Edward S. Banas, Sr. served as a Military Policeman in the United States Army during the Vietnam War. By his honorable service from 1965 to 1968 he was awarded the Vietnam Campaign Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, National Defense Medal and the Army Good Conduct Medal. After Vietnam, Ed Banas joined the Norwich Police Department in 1968, and served with the department for more than 10 years. Whether protecting our Nation and our freedom abroad or protecting and serving the members of his community, Ed Banas has dedicated himself to making life better for our people.

In Vietnam, Ed Banas formed a solid bond with his comrades-in-arms that inspired his volunteer service as a veterans' advocate for more than 30 years. We honor that service here today. His tour of duty in South Vietnam made him eligible for the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and he joined VFW Post 1004 in Jewett City, Connecticut in 1967 where he is a Life Member. Since joining the VFW, Ed Banas has served in a variety of Post-level positions, including Post Commander. At the district level, he earned the honor of All-American District Commander. He served as Department Commander of Connecticut in 1993–94.

Ed Banas never forgot his comrades who fell in battle in Vietnam. In February, while serving as Junior Vice Commander-In-Chief, Ed and a delegation from the VFW took part in a 10-day visit to Thailand and Vietnam to gather information on Americans missing from the war in Southeast Asia and to press the issue of POW/MIAs to the government of Vietnam. Through the efforts of Ed Banas and the VFW, we are working to bring those soldiers home. They are not remains; they are heroes and we will never forget them. Today our men and women in uniform are defending our Nation and our interests in dangerous and distant places. We will honor the sacrifices they and their families are making and we will never forget the sacrifices that have been made by those who went before.

Now more than ever we need strong leadership from our veterans' service organizations to help us keep the promise to our veterans and their families. From ensuring our veterans have continued access to timely, quality healthcare to supporting our soldiers currently serving overseas, the VFW is working hard on many battlefronts.

In his message to the VFW National Convention in San Antonio last month, Ed Banas reminded us, "We are the veterans' voice on Capitol Hill and while our battlefields may have shifted from the sands of Iwo Jima to the Halls of Congress that does not mean that we are any less resolved to accomplish our mission today than we were then."

From the moment he first wore the uniform of our great Nation to this very day, Ed Banas has been a courageous, tireless and honorable servant of our Nation and our people. He has more missions to accomplish and I will be proud to help him. As a Vietnam veteran, I am keenly aware of the important role that the VFW plays in the lives of America's veterans. Through its vast network of posts, the VFW helps veterans build strong communities, and serves as a vital resource to its members, from World War II era veterans up to our newly returning soldiers from Iraq. I know that Ed Banas has all the energy and enthusiasm necessary to make his year as Commander-in-Chief of the VFW a successful one.

Ed and his wife Sandra, a nurse at the Westerly Hospital, are the proud parents of five children, and live in Voluntown, Connecticut.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize my friend and constituent, Edward Banas, Sr. and to extend to him my heartiest congratulations for his years of wonderful service. I wish him and his family all the best as he begins his new tour of duty as the Veterans of Foreign Wars National Commander-in-Chief for 2003–2004.

TRIBUTE TO ALICE ERRINGTON

**HON. CANDICE S. MILLER**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 15, 2003*

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, in the hustle and bustle of doing the people's work here in the Nation's capital, we sometimes neglect to recognize the people who make America the great nation that she is. America's greatness can be found in everyday people who work hard, raise their children as best they can, and sacrifice for their country. In short, America's greatness can be found in people like Alice Errington of Harrison Township, MI.

Alice was born and raised on Staten Island, New York, and attended Hunter College in Manhattan. In 1951, she married Bill Errington just after he completed pilot training in the United States Air Force. The couple lived in Texas, Arizona, Florida, Bermuda, California, and New Mexico before moving, to Michigan in 1966. Their first two children, Glenn and Claire, were born in Arizona, son Daniel in Bermuda, and daughter Joan in California. After Bill retired from the Air Force, the family moved to Harrison Township, MI.

Alice started her career in public affairs in 1973 as a GS-03 clerk-typist at the Selfridge

Air National Guard Base. As the organization of the Guard units at Selfridge evolved, Alice remained in public affairs and became a public affairs specialist. In 1992, she became the public affairs officer.

In addition to being a busy Air Force wife and mother to four children, Alice worked as a substitute teacher in the public schools, and was active in chapel and garden club activities. Since 1972, she has been a member of Knox Church, where she is a Sunday School teacher and treasurer of the adult Sunday School class. Alice is also a board member of the Michigan Air Guard Historical Association, a volunteer at the Selfridge Air Museum, and a member of the Mount Clemens Chapter of the Air Force Association, where she serves as military liaison.

Alice will soon be retiring, and she looks forward to spending more time with her family, which now includes eight grandchildren. She will combine that with the pursuit of studies and hobbies that she has placed on the backburner for awhile.

Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing the greatness of America as found in Alice Errington and people like her. I yield back the remainder of my time.

RECOGNIZING THE OUTSTANDING  
EFFORTS OF SABRINA MONN

**HON. BILL SHUSTER**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 15, 2003*

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend and highlight the heroic acts of one of my constituents who has taken a leading role in the rebuilding of Afghanistan.

Sabrina Monn, a 1998 graduate of James Buchanan High School in the Mercersburg area, was among the reserves called up to serve with the U.S. Army's 109th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment in Afghanistan.

Sabrina made the most of her tour. Through e-mails to Mrs. Mary Stoner, a former teacher of hers at James Buchanan, Sabrina has brought to life what an amazing job our troops are doing in Afghanistan. Sabrina has also eloquently outlined to current students the hardships of what the citizens of Afghanistan endured while under the oppression of the Taliban.

Equally as important, Sabrina has highlighted the amazing work she and other members of our reserves are doing in Afghanistan to rebuild their country and to return freedom to the people.

In her correspondence, Sabrina rightly notes that the effort we are making in Afghanistan goes a long way in helping the country rebuild, not only with concrete and pavement, but with compassion and support.

The students at Sabrina's old high school have responded remarkably. Recently, they took up Sabrina's call to action and collected well over \$1,000 to send to the village where Sabrina was stationed. They did not stop there, they also have sent more than 50 boxes of school supplies, clothing and toys. The efforts of Sabrina and the community have truly made a difference.

This is America at its best. The attacks of September 11th have shown to the world that the United States will act swiftly to rid the

world of terrorism. But the attacks also rallied the American people to display compassion for others.

Whether displayed through the incredible heroism exhibited by the firefighters and rescue workers in New York City, the Pentagon or a field in Somerset County, or the outpouring of donations from around the country for the impoverished people in Afghanistan, Americans have met the challenge.

Mr. Speaker, Sabrina Monn is a classic example of America at its best. She embodies the spirit that will allow us to overcome the challenges represented by September 11th and propel us to a brighter future. I commend her for all of her efforts and encourage others to take her and James Buchanan High School's example in making America and the world a better place to live.

#### FREEDOM SERVICE DOGS

### HON. BOB BEAUPREZ

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 15, 2003*

Mr. BEAUPREZ. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to rise today and deliver this Proclamation honoring Freedom Service Dogs, Inc. on the Occasion of its 16th Anniversary.

Whereas, Freedom Service Dogs is celebrating its 16th year of exemplary service to people with mobility impairments by providing them with service dogs and,

Whereas, Freedom Service Dogs was founded by Mike Roche, who served the people of Colorado as a paramedic, and P.J. Roche, a dog trainer, and

Whereas, Freedom Service Dogs provides enhanced independence of Colorado citizens with mobility impairments by training dogs to open doors, turn on lights, pull wheelchairs, pick up dropped items, tug on and off clothing, and alert for help when needed and,

Whereas, Freedom Service Dogs saves the lives of dozens of good dogs abandoned in animal shelters by training them for service to those with mobility impairments, and,

Whereas, Freedom Service Dogs provides people with mobility impairments to more fully participate in their community, and enjoy increased confidence, self-esteem and social acceptance, and,

Whereas, Freedom Service Dogs is a charitable organization that charges no fees for its service and relies on the support of our community to perform its good work, and,

Whereas, Freedom Service Dogs serves as a model for improving our community by helping those who live in it.

The Congressman of the 7th District of the State of Colorado, The Honorable BOB BEAUPREZ issues this proclamation of congratulations and recognition to Freedom Service Dogs celebrating 16 years of service and commends this extraordinary organization to our fellow citizens.