

protections, environmental protections, and our work in the area of nuclear nonproliferation. But some of these provisions were improved in conference, and the addition of concurrent receipt provisions for our nation's veterans is critical. In view of these changes to the bill, added to my belief in the importance of supporting our men and women in uniform, I will support the conference report today.

TRIBUTE TO ANTHONY SOMOGYI

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I pay tribute to Captain Anthony Somogyi from Palisade, Colorado. Anthony is a pilot in the United States Army who recently returned home from serving our country in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Our nation is proud of Anthony's extraordinary valor, and it is my honor today to pay tribute to his dedication and commitment before this body of Congress.

Anthony grew up in Palisade and attended Palisade High School. After graduating, he moved to the University of North Dakota where he earned his bachelors degree and graduated cum laude. Upon leaving college, Anthony decided to employ his considerable education and talents for the betterment of our nation. His patriotism and conviction is a shining example to all young Americans.

Anthony was assigned to the Army's 4th Infantry Division for a six-month deployment in Iraq. While there, he was an Air Mission Commander whose team flew over 80 combat missions. Anthony's unit participated in Task Force Iron Horse, the operation responsible for seizing numerous airfields and countless weapons throughout Iraq. In addition, he played a role in securing the border between Iran and Iraq.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to pay tribute to Captain Anthony Somogyi's courageous service. His selfless desire to protect the freedom of all Americans is a reflection of his unwavering love for our country. I am extremely proud of Anthony and his fellow servicemen and women. Thank you and welcome home.

RECOGNIZING JASON THOMAS HANSER FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jason Thomas Hanser, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 66, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Jason has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the 7 years Jason has been involved with Scouting, he has earned 37 merit badges and has held numerous leadership positions, serving as assistant senior patrol leader, patrol leader,

librarian, and assistant scoutmaster in Troop 66. Jason is also a Brave in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say.

For his Eagle Scout project, Jason identified and mapped out the location of all veterans buried in the cemetery in Plattsburg, Missouri. He identified over 350 veterans dating back to the Civil War. His project aided the American Legion in placing flags on Memorial Day.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Jason Thomas Hanser for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH

HON. DAVID SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize October as National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM). Congress designated each October as National Disability Employment Awareness Month in order to increase the public's awareness of the contributions and skills of American workers with disabilities. Various programs carried out throughout the month also highlight the specific employment barriers that still need to be addressed and removed. People with disabilities face many barriers to employment, including everything from transportation to contending with the prevailing attitude surrounding the disabled, but many of them want to work. They want the opportunity. The key is to focus on the abilities of the person, not the disabilities.

This effort to educate the American public about issues related to disability and employment actually began in 1945, when Congress enacted a law declaring the first week in October each year "National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week." In 1962, the word "physically" was removed to acknowledge the employment needs and contributions of individuals with all types of disabilities. In 1988, Congress expanded the week to a month and changed the name to "National Disability Employment Awareness Month." This year's theme for National Disability Employment Awareness Month was "America Works Best When All Americans Work."

I am also grateful to Wayne McMillon, CEO of the Bobby Dodd Institute, Lori Nipp, Board Member of the Bobby Dodd Institute, Megan Dakake of the Bobby Dodd Institute and Dorothy Cochran, CEO of Clayton County Worktec who work actively to prepare individuals with disabilities for employment, to expand employment opportunities available to them and to improve the quality of life for people with disabilities in Georgia. Each of these individuals work on behalf of the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Program which provides employment opportunities for nearly 40,000 Americans who are blind or have other severe disabilities.

The Javits-Wagner-O'Day (JWOD) Program uses the purchasing power of the Federal Government to buy products and services from participating, community-based nonprofit agencies dedicated to training and employing individuals with disabilities. In the United

States, the program serves 40,000 people with disabilities and 972 Georgians with disabilities earned nearly \$3 million in wages last year as a result of JWOD.

A coordinated effort on behalf of the Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled (the Federal agency that oversees the Program), National Industries for the Blind (NIB) and NISH-Creating Employment Opportunities for People with Severe Disabilities, the JWOD Program provides people who are blind or who have other severe disabilities the opportunity to acquire job skills and training, receive good wages and benefits and gain greater independence and quality of life. Through the JWOD Program, people with disabilities enjoy full participation in their community and can market their JWOD-learned skills into other public and private sector jobs. It is with great pleasure that I recognize the great contributions of American workers with disabilities and I encourage others to do the same every day of the year.

TRIBUTE TO JIM L. RIDLING FOR HIS TIRELESS COMMUNITY SERVICE TO MONTGOMERY, AL, AND MAXWELL AIR FORCE BASE

HON. TERRY EVERETT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Mr. EVERETT. Mr. Speaker, Montgomery, Alabama, in my congressional district, is the home to Maxwell Air Force Base and the Air University. It is without a doubt the crown jewel in Air Force excellence and base operations. This didn't just happen by accident. Many people have played major roles in building the necessary synergy of local and federal support to transform Maxwell and Montgomery into the success stories they are today. One of those key players is Jim L. Ridling, who is retiring from Southern Guaranty Insurance.

As the Montgomery Area Chamber of Commerce points out, senior Air Force leaders continue to praise the excellent relationship between the Montgomery and Maxwell-Gunter as the best in the Air Force. No doubt, some of that praise goes to the man who twice presided over the "Wright Flyers", served as chairman of the Montgomery Area Chamber of Commerce's Military Council, and labored as a member of the Executive Committee of the Montgomery Air Force Association.

Jim Ridling has worked behind the scenes and sometimes out front to make sure the needs of Maxwell and other area defense activities were met both locally and in Washington. This is no small task and the rewards are big as Montgomery continues to enjoy a local defense economic impact of well over \$1 billion annually.

All I have mentioned really doesn't begin to scratch the surface of Jim's community service. He's also a member of the Board of Directors of the Business Council of Alabama, a member of Board of Directors of the Montgomery Area Chamber of Commerce, a member of the Board of Directors of the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts, a member of the School of Business Advisory Council of Troy State University, and a member of the Board of Directors of the Boy Scouts of America. And this remarkable record doesn't even include his "real" job.