

grandfather was inducted into the army at Fort Snelling. During World War II, he served in Patton's Third Army in the European Theatre and fought in "The Battle of the Bulge." My grandmother has told us many stories of these difficult times. During the first months after their marriage, she was able to follow him across the country while he completed his training and was on maneuvers. Each day he would call her from the base and would tell her, "Lucille, one day my calls will stop, and you will know that means I have been shipped out." One day the calls did stop. She went back to her hometown and waited. Three long years later, he returned home. They were so lucky. Her younger brother, many of his friends, and so many others, did not come back. Our freedoms were "paid in full" by those brave men and women who have put freedom far above themselves. However, the luxury of our freedom must not make us complacent. We too may find ourselves again face to face with hardships such as those experienced by past generations. We must remember their courage. In remembering their stories of honor, dignity and sacrifice, I can only pray that we preserve our freedom today with the same measure of success.

Samuel Johnson once wrote, "The future is purchased by the present." I believe that freedom is no different. We must have an understanding of the evil present today. On September 11th, our freedom and our way of life came under attack. The brave men and women of the past who sacrificed their lives to extinguish evil in the world, will have not died in vain if we continue to extinguish the evil that is present today. Like yesterday's Nazis, today's terrorists want to drive freedom into extinction. They must not, and will not win if we defend our precious freedom. We must do it for ourselves, and for the future generations of Americans. Now is the time to purchase the freedom of the future.

We have a supreme obligation to commit ourselves to do our duty for our country. We must pay the price for tomorrow's freedom. Tomorrow's children must be assured by our generation that it is our duty to protect their freedom. Some of us will become soldiers like my grandfather, and some will serve in other ways, but all of us must be willing to sacrifice, and remain committed to play a part and pay the price today for freedom tomorrow.

All of us can help pay for tomorrow's freedom by dedicating ourselves to what our ancestors have fought so hard for, and carrying out obligations of remembrance, understanding, and commitment. Remember by learning your history and by listening to those with stories to tell. Understand by being aware and mindful of current history, and commit to this country by being willing to sacrifice to preserve our freedom. Call it patriotism. Call it love of country. Call it loyalty. But whatever you call it, keep it in your heart, and freedom will always follow.

My grandparents have been married for 60 years. They are my heroes!

#### RECOGNIZING OF THE GE AIRCRAFT ENGINES PLANT IN EVENDALE

**HON. ROB PORTMAN**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 25, 2004*

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the people who work at the GE Aircraft Engines plant in Evendale, Ohio. This facility was recently recognized and awarded

Voluntary Protection Program Star status by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) for its outstanding achievements in workplace safety.

Headquartered in Evendale, Ohio, GE Aircraft Engines is the world's leading producer of large and small jet engines for commercial and military aircraft. Additional work and services at the plant include aircraft-derived engines for marine applications and aviation services.

The OSHA Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) promotes effective worksite-based safety and health. In the VPP, management, labor, and OSHA establish cooperative relationships at workplaces to implement a comprehensive safety and health management system. Approval into the VPP is OSHA's official recognition for the outstanding efforts of employers and employees who have implemented exemplary safety and health management systems. In short, it represents a commitment to go beyond compliance to achieve workplace safety.

Less than 0.1 percent of companies are VPP certified. GE has 82 OSHA VPP sites—more than any other company in the nation. As a result of these efforts, 56,000 GE employees, including those in Evendale, enjoy exceptional workplace safety standards. The GE Aircraft Engines plant in Evendale is the largest VPP site in Ohio, the largest GE site to achieve VPP Star status and the largest federal VPP Star manufacturing facility in the nation.

Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing the GE Aircraft Engines plant in Evendale for being awarded the prestigious VPP Star status. All of us in Greater Cincinnati congratulate the plant's management and employees on their dedication to outstanding workplace safety standards.

#### HONORING THE IRONWORKERS LOCAL 84 ON 100 YEARS OF SERVICE

**HON. GENE GREEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 25, 2004*

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Houston's Ironworkers Local 84 and to celebrate their one-hundredth year representing the interests of Houston's ironworkers. Our country's ironworkers have long been admired for the architectural wonders they created while working under tremendously dangerous conditions.

For the past one hundred years, the Ironworkers of Local 84 have put their blood and sweat into the bridges and skyscrapers that have become Houston's celebrated landmarks. Their service to the Houston community, however, did not cease with the end of the work day. During times of war, the ironworkers answered the call for help and offered their skills in the homefront effort to win the war.

Houston's ironworkers also have a long history of standing by each other. Local 84 has historically purchased cemetery plots to make sure that any deceased ironworker receives an honorable burial. Local 84 was Texas's first Ironworkers union to establish a pension fund and medical insurance for its members. Local 84 recognized early the importance of job

training skills in remaining competitive in the field and Houston's Local 84 started an apprenticeship school and a program to upgrade the skills of its journeymen.

Local 84's commitment to its members, to the Houston community, and to the nation as a whole cannot be exaggerated. Therefore, on this day, I salute the hard-working men and women of the International Association of Bridge, Structural and Ornamental Iron Workers, Local 84 and thank them for one hundred years of service. Our great city would not be standing as tall without them, and I wish them great success for the next hundred years.

#### TRIBUTE TO TASKER L. EDMISTON

**HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 25, 2004*

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker I rise today to pay tribute to Tasker L. Edmiston who recently passed away, at the age of ninety-four. Mr. Edmiston was a remarkable man whose accomplishments were legion and whose passion was indefatigable. He was an avid outdoorsman and a very important figure in California's conservation movement.

Mr. Edmiston was born on January 22, 1910, in Los Angeles, California. His love for the environment and the outdoors began as a young boy. He was a Sea Scout, an Explorer Scout and later he ran track and set several records in speed-climbing.

During World War II, Mr. Edmiston demonstrated his creativity and entrepreneurial spirit by inventing a new series of food canning machinery. His invention increased the volume and quality of food that was distributed to the Armed Forces in the Pacific.

In the 1960's and 1970's, Mr. Edmiston turned his attention to the conservation movement. He was one of the cofounders and the first treasurer of the Southern California Chapter of the Nature Conservancy. He proved to be instrumental in the establishment of the Edmund C. Jaeger Nature Sanctuary and the Desert Lily Sanctuary. He also served on the Board of Directors of the Desert Protective Council and the Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs.

Mr. Edmiston is survived by his son, Joseph T. Edmiston, his daughter-in-law, Pepper Edmiston, and seven grandchildren.

I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Tasker L. Edmiston and offering our heartfelt condolences to his family members.

#### TRIBUTE TO EDWARD H. "NED" SCHWARZ

**HON. MARTIN T. MEEHAN**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 25, 2004*

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, Edward H. "Ned" Schwarz, 74, of Lawrence, Boy Scout leader, veteran, businessman, father, and friend to his home town of Lawrence, Massachusetts, died February 1, 2004. A graduate of Melrose High School, he attended MIT for 2 years then enlisted in the U.S. Air Force and served stateside during the Korean conflict.