

am appointing Mr. Crangle and Mr. Shelton to the Board of Advisors, which will serve essentially as the EAC's board of directors. The board consists of 37 members representing a range of groups involved in elections.

I am very confident that with their decades of election experience and dedication to the voting process, Joseph Crangle and Hilary Shelton will have a tremendous impact on the EAC. It is my hope that they and the other 35 members of the board will examine the many issues involved in administering fair and accurate elections in this country, including the concerns that have been raised regarding the security and reliability of electronic voting systems.

I am grateful for the advice of my colleague from New York, Representative CHARLIE RANGEL, who informed me about Mr. Crangle's decades of experience and dedication to the election process. It is truly an honor for me to appoint him for this position.

Joseph Crangle served as chairman of the Erie County Democratic Party from 1965 to 1988; as chair of the New York State Democratic Party from 1971 to 1974; as a delegate to every Democratic National Committee from 1968 to 1992; and as a member of the Democratic National Committee's Executive Committee from 1972 to 1988. Mr. Crangle is regarded as one of the leading experts in the country on voter registration and "get-out-the-vote" programs. He is an attorney for the law firm of Colucci and Gallaher, P.C. in Buffalo, NY.

Hilary Shelton's commitment to improving our election system was evident during the development of the Help America Vote Act. He worked tirelessly during the entire legislative process to ensure that this bill became law.

Mr. Shelton is the Director of the Washington Bureau of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). Prior to working for the NAACP, he was the Federal Liaison Assistant Director of the Government Affairs Department of The United Negro College Fund. In addition, he worked for the 9.5 million member United Methodist Church advocating on numerous public policy issues including civil rights, access to higher education, and voting rights. He serves on the national boards of directors for the Center for Democratic Renewal, the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, and the U.S. Census Advisory Board.

Members of the Board of Advisors serve a 2-year term in a strictly advisory capacity; they have no rule-making authority. Once all the appointments have been made and the EAC is fully functional, the board will begin its duties.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting Mr. Crangle and Mr. Shelton as they begin their positions on the Board of Advisors. They are truly two of the best advocates in the country for our election process. I am confident that future generations of voters will be inspired to make their voices heard, because of the contributions of these two remarkable Americans.

HONORING EAT CAPTAIN ERIC GENNOTTE

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2004

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor European Air Transport (EAT) Captain Eric Gennotte, a civilian volunteer pilot, for his remarkable heroism while flying in Iraq. Captain Gennotte demonstrated incredible valor on Saturday, November 22, 2003, when he landed his Airbus 300 after it was hit by multiple surface-to-air rockets upon take off from Baghdad Airport.

At the time of the incident, Captain Gennotte was returning to a DHL Global Delivery mail distribution center in Europe after delivering mail to U.S. soldiers in Baghdad. Shortly after taking off on November 22, Captain Gennotte's cargo and crew were struck by hostile rocket fire causing the complete loss of hydraulic power to the aircraft. Losing "stick control" rendered the aircraft non-navigable under normal circumstances. In a display of immense skill and bravery, Captain Gennotte regained control of the aircraft using the plane's engines as rudders to stabilize and turn the weakened vessel. In order to turn right, Captain Gennotte fired the left engine; to turn left he fired the right engine. After dodging continued missile attacks with failed equipment, Captain Gennotte successfully landed the burning plane with nothing but the two engines, completing a feat that had never before been accomplished in EAT piloting history. Captain Gennotte is already in line to receive a safety award from the Secretary General of the Belgian Cockpit Association.

Because of Captain Gennotte's deft skill, his cargo and the crew, which included a British flight engineer and another Belgian pilot, lived through the assault. As peacekeepers continue to come under attack, it is particularly uplifting to hear tales of bravery like that of Captain Gennotte. Heroic stories like this one are prime examples that the best way to combat cowardly acts of terror is to share our own heroic responses to it.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying special tribute to EAT Captain Eric Gennotte. Honorable and gallant allies like him risk their lives to help others. I wish him and his family all the best as we pay tribute to one of our Nation's fearless friends.

HONORING MR. JOHN SMITH

HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2004

Mr. TURNER of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have the opportunity to express my appreciation to John R. Smith for his service to the Dayton community and his commitment to the Ohio Postal Workers Union.

John R. Smith is being honored by the Ohio Postal Workers Union, AFL-CIO for a lifetime of service to his home community of Dayton, Ohio as well as his union, the American Postal Workers Union, AFL-CIO.

Mr. Smith has held numerous local, state, and national positions in the American Postal

Workers Union and its predecessor unions since he began to work for the U. S. Postal Service in 1950. Mr. Smith currently serves as the National APWU Retirees Director, a position he has held since his appointment in 1993. He served as the President of the Dayton Area Local APWU from 1981-1993, Director of the APWU National Mail Handlers from 1970-1980 and President of the Dayton National Postal Union from 1964-1970.

John Smith has been active in the community, serving on numerous boards and commissions, such as the Dayton Metropolitan Housing Authority Board, Dayton Catholic Elementary School Board, First Dayton Little League Board and the United Way at Work Committee. He is also a Deacon at Corinthian Baptist Church, a member of the Board of Christian Education, and a Sunday school teacher.

Mr. Smith is a devoted family man, having been married to his wife Ida for over 50 years. They have three children, nine grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

The local union office in Dayton, Ohio was renamed the John R. Smith APWU office, and the states of Ohio, Indiana, and Kentucky have named their annual training school the John R. Smith Leadership School in honor of Mr. Smith's dedication to the American Postal Workers Union.

I join the Ohio Postal Workers Union and the Dayton community in thanking Mr. Smith for his service.

IN RECOGNITION OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH

HON. BRAD MILLER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2004

Mr. MILLER of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Black History Month and to take this opportunity to honor the African American citizens whom I represent. Our state is home to a rich tradition of African American leaders whose educational, economic and political achievements have enriched North Carolina and our Nation.

Hard work and perseverance are traditions of the African American community. During a time when hatred and bigotry triumphed over our Nation's loving and generous spirit, African American leaders worked diligently to ensure and enhance the quality of life for future generations of both blacks and whites.

Particularly important to our quality of life in North Carolina has been the African American community's persistent commitment to education. This is demonstrated in the work of acclaimed educator Dr. Charlotte Hawkins Brown who founded the Alice Freeman Palmer Memorial Institute. Founded in 1902, the Institute served as an African American preparatory school in Guilford County until 1971.

This commitment remains strong among those who are seated at the helm of Historically Black Colleges and Universities in the 13th and neighboring Congressional Districts. Dr. Dianne Boardley Suber of St. Augustine's College and Dr. James Renick of North Carolina A&T State University are leaders of thriving higher education institutions. Both serve on the President's Board of Advisors on HBCUs. These leaders, along with Dr.