

his country. He served in the U.S. Army for 5 years and for 50 years worked as a buyer for the wholesale grocery firm, Tyler and Simpson. He retired to pursue his interests of cattle, photography and reading. R.B. also was active in his community, serving as an elder and church treasurer of the First Presbyterian Church. He was a longstanding member of Kiwanis Club—serving for almost 40 years and touting a perfect attendance record until the last few months of his life. He was an avid sports fan, and no distance was too great for him to travel to watch his grandchildren's sporting events.

R.B. also was a devoted family man. He leaves behind his loving wife of 61 years, Lucile Allen Head; his children Judith Anderson Reedy and husband Rick of Frisco, and Sally Burke Light and husband George of Collinsville; seven grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; brother Bill Head and wife Anne of Austin; sister-in-law Mary Ann Allen of Whitesboro and many other family members.

R.B. was a man of honor and integrity who was admired and respected by all those who knew him. He will long be remembered for his leadership, his compassion, and his enthusiasm for life. As we adjourn today, let us do so in memory of this outstanding citizen, Roy Burke Head, Jr.

A BILL TO EXTEND THE AUTHORITY OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON FORMER PRISONERS OF WAR

HON. STEPHANIE HERSETH

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Ms. HERSETH. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce a bill that authorizes a 6-year extension in authority for the Veterans Administration's (VA) Advisory Committee on Former Prisoners of War.

It is estimated that, since the American Revolution, more than 500,000 Americans have been captured and incarcerated as prisoners of war. Since World War I, more than 142,000 Americans—including 83 women—have been captured and interned as POWs. Not included in this figure are nearly 93,000 Americans who were lost in battle and whose whereabouts are unknown. Almost 16,000 POWs are currently in receipt of compensation for service-connected injuries, diseases, or illnesses from the Federal Government.

In 1981, Congress created the Advisory Committee on Former Prisoners of War (Committee). It is comprised of POWs from World War II, the Korean Conflict, Vietnam, and the Gulf War, as well as other individuals who are recognized authorities in such fields as psychiatry, psychology, internal medicine, nutrition, epidemiology, geriatrics, including persons knowledgeable about disabilities prevalent among former POWs, and disabled veterans.

The Committee advises the Secretary of Veterans Affairs on the administration of benefits under Title 38, United States Code, for veterans who are former prisoners of war and the needs of such veterans in the areas of service-connected compensation, health care and rehabilitation.

The Committee assesses the needs of former prisoners of war in the area of service-

connected compensation, health care, and rehabilitation. It also reviews the VA programs and activities designed to meet such needs. Lastly, it develops such recommendations as it considers appropriate, including recommendations for administrative and legislative action. This committee then prepares biennial reports that are submitted to the Secretary on these issues.

The Committee plays an important role by ensuring that the concerns of America's former prisoners of war are heard and that their needs are met. I am very pleased to introduce this bill today and look forward to working with my colleagues to ensure swift passage of this legislation to allow the Committee to continue its important work.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO KENDAY
KAMARA

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, hundreds of students graduate for colleges and universities everyday, on rare occasions there is a student that stands out. I would like to take a moment to recognize one student that has overcome great obstacles to earn his graduate degree and honors. Kenday Kamara was awarded the 2004 Graduate Student of the Year from the University of Phoenix.

Mr. Kamara's life in Sierra Leone was anything but peaceful. As a journalist for the Sierra Leone Digest, Mr. Kamara wrote an editorial appealing for the peaceful resolution to the conflict that was raging in his homeland. Such an act of expression would often go unnoticed here in America; however in Sierra Leone, Mr. Kamara and his family were tormented for this act. He finally received asylum in the United States in 1998, and was later reunited with his family here in 1999.

Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to honor Mr. Kamara and his achievements here today, and wish him all the best in her future endeavors.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MIKE
O'NEILL

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, to place your life in danger for the safety of your fellow citizens is an honorable and noble task, and our police officers do this on a regular basis. Commander Mike O'Neill of the Denver Police Department is one such hero, and after thirty-seven years of dedicated service, he recently announced his retirement. I would like to take this opportunity to thank him for the important role he has played in protecting the citizens of Colorado before this body of Congress and this nation.

At the point in Mike's youth when it came time to commit to his future and decide his vocation, he decided to become a police officer. The choice was obvious for him considering his father had also served as a police officer.

In 1967, Mike joined the Denver Police Department working in the city's second district. During his thirty-seven year career, he has worked in units covering drugs and gangs, shifts covering night and day, and he has held positions as district commander, division chief and head of the police academy.

As he embarks on retirement, he finishes his career in patrolling the same district where he began. After over thirty years with the department, he can take pride in knowing he has carried on his family's proud legacy of commitment to serving others. In his retirement, he and his wife Suzy, another former police officer, can enjoy a more relaxing pace to their lives.

Mr. Speaker, Commander Mike O'Neill has shown tremendous leadership and honor throughout his career with the Denver Police Department. Mike consistently exhibited selflessness to put the safety of the people he served first and foremost. It is my pleasure to recognize his career before this body of Congress and this nation. I thank him for his hard work and commitment to his fellow citizens and wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO THE VAN
WERT COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
ON THE OCCASION OF ITS
50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to the Van Wert County Historical Society on the occasion of its fiftieth anniversary.

The Van Wert County Historical Society was born of the desire to preserve the history of a great county within the Fifth Congressional District of Ohio. The idea for a historical society first surfaced during Ohio's sesquicentennial in 1953. From overwhelming requests, members of the Van Wert Sesquicentennial Committee founded the Historical Society in 1954. While the Society was slow to start, a meeting on September 18, 1955, changed the course of history for the group. William Fosnaught, a local attorney and schoolteacher, presented the deed to a mansion which was donated to house the museum.

Since the 1955 donation of a mansion to the Historical Society, the group has expanded its grounds by adding a gazebo, barn, and log house, one-room schoolhouse, Conrail caboose and the annex building. In addition, the Historical Society boasts the only gazebo to be listed on the National Register of Historical Sites.

Mr. Speaker, what makes the Van Wert County Historical Society unique is that the mansion holds artifacts that represent the vast history of Van Wert County.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying special tribute to the Van Wert County Historical Society. Our communities are served well by having these societies to narrate history to future generations. However, it is the generous donations of artifacts and the volunteering of time by the people of Van Wert County which make the Historical Society a success. On behalf of the people of the

Fifth District of Ohio, I am proud to recognize this great achievement.

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF SISTER-CITY RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MARQUETTE, MI AND YOKAICHI, JAPAN

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, on August 13, 1979, the city of Marquette, MI, entered into a sister city relationship with Yokaichi, Shiga Prefecture, Japan. Since then, the relationship has flourished, and I would like to congratulate both cities on their upcoming 25th Anniversary of this sister-city bond.

In his September 12, 1992 remarks to the 102nd Congress, my predecessor, Congressman Robert Davis, praised these sister cities and included an extensive history of that relationship (E2819–2821). I would also like to highlight the history of the Marquette-Yokaichi sister-city program:

On September 12, 1956, President Dwight Eisenhower initiated the Sister City program to build close relationships and cultural understanding between people of different countries. President Eisenhower's theory: these new relationships could be a powerful force in promoting world peace and would help prevent misunderstandings between the governments of those countries.

On November 14, 1968, Michigan Governor George Romney and Shiga Prefecture's Gov. Kinichiro Nozaki initiated a Sister State relationship. This was followed by annual exchanges between these states and the encouragement to establish bonds between their cities.

When the cities of Marquette, Michigan and Yokaichi, Shiga, Japan signed their August 13, 1979 Sister City Agreement, its focus was directed to cultural exchanges with the intent of developing long-term friendships and understanding between the people of these two communities. Several actions have assisted its continued expansion and success:

Annual exchanges of formal delegations and several informal delegations have occurred since 1979.

Each delegate, visitor, student, teacher artist or other representative to his or her sister city is welcomed as a member of an extended family and stays with a host family that may include three generations in its household.

"Sister" agreements were signed between the Rotary Clubs in 1979 and the Chambers of Commerce in 1983 of the two cities.

The two cities have also had many exchanges through their education programs. Northern Michigan University has offered an academic year scholarship to a student from Yokaichi since 1980 and several have returned to receive degrees there. The Japan Center for Michigan Universities, located twenty miles from Yokaichi, has offered scholarships to three Northern Michigan University students each academic year since 1989.

Marquette and Yokaichi school students exchange letters and the schools in each city teach their pupils about their Sister City. Michigan and Shiga initiated annual teacher exchange and government worker exchange pro-

grams in the early 1980's. Michigan and Shiga initiated a summer high school student exchange program in the 1990's.

Finally, over 100 Marquette or Yokaichi casual visitors have been welcomed to their sister city. More than 2,500 delegates, host family members, students, teachers, government officials and informal visitors have participated directly in the Marquette-Yokaichi partnership. With each exchange has come the opportunity to plant new seeds of friendship and understanding, many of which have become self-sustaining gardens that are freely shared with others in the community. With each exchange has come the opportunity to become a member of an extended family. And for many, it has become a life-changing experience.

Mr. Speaker, again I applaud the cities of Marquette and Yokaichi for their great success in building this special relationship through their sister-city status. I congratulate them on their 25th anniversary and I wish them continued success for the next twenty-five years.

CONGRATULATING MR. EDWARD J. MCELROY ON HIS ELECTION TO THE PRESIDENCY OF THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF TEACHERS

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise today to congratulate a longtime champion of public schools, Mr. Edward J. McElroy, on his recent election to the position of President of the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) second-largest teachers' union in the country. His longstanding commitment and leadership on education and the issues faced by working families will be of great value to AFT's 1.3 million members.

A former social studies and English teacher in my hometown of Warwick, R.I., Mr. McElroy earned his bachelor of arts degree from Providence College in Rhode Island. He has also done graduate work at the University of Rhode Island and Rhode Island College. His service in Rhode Island includes time spent as president of the Warwick Teachers Union, the Rhode Island Federation of Teachers and the Rhode Island AFL–CIO. The heart of Mr. McElroy's service has always been fighting for a stronger education system for our children. He has recognized that the best way to give children a chance for a better future and to provide a strong workforce is to provide every child with a strong education.

As president of the Rhode Island Federation of teachers, Mr. McElroy worked with the Rhode Island state legislature on the Michelson Act, which created collective bargaining for teachers in the state. On a national front, he has led efforts to strengthen and uphold financial and accountability requirements at every level of the union. He has been at the forefront of the AFT's initiatives to harness technology to support, inform and mobilize union members. For decades, Ed McElroy has displayed unwavering leadership and commitment to the teachers, paraprofessionals and school-related personnel, local, state and federal employees, higher education faculty and staff, nurses and healthcare professionals, and public schoolchildren of our Nation.

Personally, I have known Mr. McElroy for more than 20 years and have had the pleasure of working with him in his leadership positions, both in Rhode Island and more recently as the Secretary-Treasurer of the AFT. I am confident that he will bring tremendous dedication, professionalism and expertise to the position of President of the American Federation of Teachers.

HONORING WILLIAM POMEROY ON THE COMPLETION OF HIS INTERNSHIP

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the many contributions William Pomeroy has made while interning in my Washington, D.C., office. Will, a fellow Middle Tennessean, has been a wonderful addition to the office and a great servant to the constituents of Tennessee's Sixth Congressional District.

But Will must return to Knoxville for his sophomore year at the University of Tennessee, where he is a member of the Young Democrats and the Delta Tau Delta fraternity.

During his internship, Will won over the entire staff with his ever-present eagerness and genuine interest in public affairs. He has attended briefings, addressed constituent concerns and served as a friendly and informative tour guide of the U.S. Capitol, providing visitors from Middle Tennessee with a personalized look at a national treasure.

I hope Will has enjoyed his internship as much as my staff and I have enjoyed his presence in the office. I wish him all the best in the future.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO RODNEY DAVIDSON, JR.

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a dedicated volunteer fireman from La Junta, Colorado. Rodney Davidson Jr. is the recipient of the Volunteer Fireman of the Year award for his position as a role model for future firefighters. Rodney provides an invaluable service to his community and I am honored to recognize his accomplishments before this body of Congress and this nation.

Rodney has spent more than twenty years as a volunteer fireman with the John Fisher Hose Company. When he joined the company in 1984, he was following in the footsteps of his father who currently serves as fire chief and several other family members who served as volunteers. Rodney is the president of the company, an organization that is dedicated to recruiting volunteer fire fighters that dates back to 1883. He is also a certified pyrotechnician and helps with local fireworks displays every year.

Mr. Speaker, Rodney Davidson, Jr. is a dedicated volunteer that risks his own health and safety so that others may live. His work