

PAYING TRIBUTE TO INTER-
NATIONAL DECA COMPETITION
WINNERS

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to highlight the accomplishments of three teams of high school students. These teams competed at the 2004 DECA International Career Development Conference held in Nashville Tennessee, where they placed first in the categories they competed in.

These high school DECA teams have worked throughout the year to prepare for the international competition by preparing projects, competing in preliminary competitions, and expanding their understanding of the business industry.

Hanna Cunnane, Noah Funderburk and Laura Sullivan, from Cherry Creek High School placed in the Hospitality and Recreation Marketing Research competition. Monica Kremer, Charles Fuller and Lauren Blood, also students at Cherry Creek High School placed in Food Marketing Research. The team of Jessica Watts and Jennifer Bracht from Highlands Ranch High School placed in the Travel and Tourism Marketing Management Team Decision Making category.

DECA, the Distributive Education Club of America, was organized in 1946 to bring opportunities in marketing and management closer to students. Since then, the club has grown to have over 180,000 members. The DECA International Career Development Conference is the culmination of the DECA year and brings together thirteen thousand students, advisors and businesspersons for competition and education.

Mr. Speaker, the accomplishments of these students are only the beginning of the contributions they will make in the future. I wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO KEITH E. HARMON ON THE OCCASION OF HIS ELECTION AS STATE COMMANDER OF OHIO FOR THE VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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 an outstanding individual from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. On Saturday, June 26, 2004 Mr. Keith E. Harman, of Delphos, Ohio, was elected and installed as the State Commander of Ohio for the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States of America for the 2004-2005 year.

A Vietnam Veteran, Keith Harman served his country with honor and distinction from 1967 to 1969 while attached to A Troop, 2/17th Air Cavalry, 101st Airborne Division as a crew chief and door gunner on a Huey helicopter. Keith's honors include the Vietnam Service Medal with two Bronze Stars, the Viet-

nam Campaign Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm Unit Citation Badge and the National Defense Service Medal.

Mr. Speaker, in 1983 Keith began his involvement in the VFW by becoming a Life Member of Post 3035 in Delphos, Ohio and in 1986, Keith was elected Post Commander of 3035. It was in this capacity that he embarked on a career of compassion, always wanting to assist veterans in need. Keith would hold the title of Commander of 3035 for three consecutive years until his election in 1990 to District 2 Commander, where he most recently served as Vice Commander of Ohio. In addition to his VFW duties, Keith has been involved in his fellow veterans' concerns by serving as the Van Wert County Veterans Service Officer for the past thirteen years.

As District 2 Commander, Keith has displayed great leadership by effectively communicating the mission at hand and adapting to the ever-changing world around him. Through his drive and leadership, Keith has worked tirelessly to increase the membership of the VFW, forge solid relationships with Ohio's communities, and advance the issues that affect veterans most.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying special tribute to Mr. Keith Harmon. Our communities are well served by having such honorable and giving citizens, like Keith, who care about their well being and stability. We wish Keith and his family all the best as we pay tribute to one of the Fifth District's finest citizens.

TRIBUTE TO THE BETHANY
LUTHERAN CHURCH

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a church in my district that has recently passed a remarkable milestone. On July 11, the members of the Bethany Lutheran Church in Isabella, Michigan celebrated their congregation's 100th anniversary. For a century, the Bethany Lutheran Church has been a place of worship, prayer, and fellowship for the people of this small farming community in Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

On July 11, 1904, what was then the Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Church held its first meeting at the home of John Wester in Isabella. This first service was conducted by a seminarian, J.J. Youngren, who used Matthew 5:20-26 for his sermon. Reflecting the heritage of the community, Swedish was the primary language of the congregation for its first twenty years.

On December 26, 1904, the church's first ordained pastor, Reverend K.M. Holmberg, held his first service, using John 1:1-14 as the basis for his sermon. The following spring, the church purchased a half acre of land from one of its members, Mr. Jacob Carlson, where the church building stands to this day. By 1906, the church's Secretary, Mr. Martin Nyquist, was planning for the church building, and construction began on May 31, 1908. The church architect and chief carpenter was Fred Magnuson.

Just over four years later, on July 14, 1912, the congregation attended the first service in

the church's new home. Though there have been a number of improvements to the building, the congregation of the Bethany Lutheran Church still meets each Sunday in that original structure.

Mr. Speaker, much has changed in the Bethany Lutheran Church's first century. Always a small congregation, the church's membership has waxed and waned over the years from the original 39 members to the 17 of today. It has also received the guidance and leadership of a number of pastors from Reverend Holmberg to the current pastor, Reverend David Hueter. But throughout these changes, the members of the Bethany Lutheran Church have been true to their faith and to each other.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that the House join me in congratulating the Bethany Lutheran Church and its members on their first 100 years as a community of faith, and in wishing them well in their next 100.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO STEIN
ERIKSON

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 renowned ski racer from Aspen, Colorado. Stein Erikson has been a great ambassador for the sport of skiing and inspires many Americans and ski enthusiasts around the world. I am privileged to stand before this body of Congress and this Nation to recognize his accomplishments and commitment to the sport of skiing.

Initially Stein moved to Aspen from Norway in 1958 and has been racing and instructing skiers ever since. Stein won a gold and silver medal in the giant slalom, and slalom for the Norwegian ski team in the 1952 Oslo Olympics and several medals from the 1950 and 1954 World Championships. He is best known however for his ski school instruction. He began teaching at Boyne Mountain, Michigan and then moved to Heavenly Valley, California before landing at Aspen Highlands in Snowmass ski school. Recently Stein was inducted into the Colorado Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame for his many contributions to the sport over the years.

Stein is famous for his execution of an aerial somersault that has since been dubbed the X games of the early days in Aspen ski history. He was the first skier to perform a forward flip or Moby flip that helped to usher in the beginning of freestyle skiing. Stein, who was knighted by the King of Norway in 1997 for his contributions to his home country's favorite sport remains an active fixture in the American skiing scene. Not only did he ski every day last ski season but he can outpace many skiers half his age and his trademark Norwegian sweaters that he made popular fifty years ago continue to warm skiers today.

Mr. Speaker Stein Erikson is an internationally accomplished skier that has been a great ambassador for his sport and inspired many Americans to chase after their dreams. He has enriched the lives of the members of his Aspen community and I am honored to recognize his achievements before this body of Congress and this nation today. Congratulations on your induction Stein, and I wish you all the best in your future endeavors.