

for Scaled Composites and for innovators around the world, as well as an indication of great things to come.

It is my pleasure to specifically congratulate Paul Allen for his crucial role in this endeavor. SpaceShipOne's success would not have been possible without his vision and confidence. Communities in my district have long benefited from Mr. Allen's investments in businesses and charities. Now the whole world will have the opportunity to benefit from his efforts to make Scaled Composites a success and to never hold back from pushing Americans' innovation to the next level.

Private space travel has been nothing more than a dream since the advent of space flight. The success of Spaceship One has prompted new fields of business and recreation. It is this kind of innovation that will bring the next generation of jobs and strengthen our economy. This breakthrough will provide the economic stimulus to financially and scientifically motivate individuals around the globe to look toward the sky. It will inspire us to surpass current scientific limitations and travel to places our grandparents could only imagine.

Innovation is the key to our future. Mr. Allen and the talented team at Scaled Composites have shown us that any goal is achievable when coupled with ambition and the drive to succeed. I congratulate all involved and look forward to seeing Paul Allen, Burt Rutan and others reach new heights and overcome new challenges.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CROSBY-PULLER COMBAT WOUNDS COMPENSATION ACT

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, today I am joined by 14 of my colleagues in introducing the "Crosby-Puller Combat Wounds Compensation Act," a bill to remedy the lapse in support that a wounded soldier experiences from the moment he/she is evacuated from the combat zone for medical treatment. Although some of that support can eventually be restored if a soldier is discharged and applies under certain VA programs, this bill deals with the immediate burden placed on soldiers like James Crosby, a Marine who was seriously wounded while fighting for his country in Iraq. The bill has been named after James Crosby and, at his request, Lt. General Lewis "Chesty" Puller, USMC, the most decorated Marine in the history of the Corps.

Lance Corporal James Crosby of Winthrop, Massachusetts enlisted in the United States Marine Corps when he was 17 years old. He is married to Angela and was living in California before his service and his injury.

On March 18, 2004, James was wounded by enemy fire while riding on the back of a U.S. military vehicle in Iraq. A rocket fired at the vehicle killed the driver and injured two Marines including James. A piece of shrapnel pierced James' side and penetrated his intestines and spine.

James was taken immediately to a hospital in Kuwait. He had his first operation there, was stabilized and finally flown to a U.S. military hospital in Landstuhl, Germany. In Ger-

many, James underwent several surgeries to remove shrapnel and repair wounds. James's wife, Angela, was flown to Germany to be with him during these difficult times. James was flown to Bethesda military hospital in Maryland in late March. Congressman Markey visited James in April at which time he received the Purple Heart. James eventually returned to Massachusetts and continued to receive care at the West Roxbury Veterans Hospital in Boston. He has lost over 50 pounds since his injury and requires a colostomy bag at all times. He has undergone 14 surgeries thus far, but remains paralyzed from the waist down.

The Boston Red Sox honored James on June 25, 2004 as he threw out the first pitch before a Red Sox-Phillies game at Fenway Park.

James's pay was immediately cut when he was transported out of the combat zone in Iraq. While serving the U.S. Marine Corps in Iraq, James received his base pay as well as Combat Zone Tax Exclusion (CZTE), Imminent Danger Pay (IDP), Hardship Duty pay (HDP), Per Diem and Flight Pay. He also lost his Family Separation Allowance (FSA) once he returned to the United States for medical care. The tax exclusion and pays amounted to more than \$1,000 per month. James is now still a member of the Marine Corps and has not yet been discharged. He is not entitled to Veterans benefits until he is officially discharged. James was being paid about \$2,500 a month while serving in Iraq, but now is only receiving \$1,300 a month.

He has relied on family and friends to help him pay for a handicapped accessible apartment as well as daily expenses, because his current military pay of \$1,300 a month does not cover all of his expenses. James has also been helped by the Shutt Detachment, an association of former Marines, which held a fundraiser for him on August 19 at the Rack in Boston. Without the help of family, friends, and former Marines, James and his young wife would not be able to afford an apartment in the Greater Boston Area and cover expenses.

James eagerly wants to work to help other members of our nation's armed services that are in a similar situation. He and his family have worked with my office to address in this legislation the problems that they have experienced, first hand, in coping with wounds incurred in James's service to his country. I urge my colleagues to join us in ensuring that members of the Armed Forces that are wounded while serving in a combat zone will continue to receive certain special pays, tax exclusions and allowances associated with such service until the member recovers from the wound or injury.

TRIBUTE TO ADMIRAL FRANK
"SKIP" BOWMAN

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Admiral Skip Bowman, U.S. Navy, as he prepares to retire upon completion of more than 38 years of faithful service to our Nation.

Admiral Bowman has held the position of Director, Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program

(Naval Reactors), for the last eight years. During his distinguished career, he played a pivotal role in ensuring that nuclear-powered warships continued to meet our global commitments in defense of our Nation's security.

During his career, Admiral Bowman served as the Commanding Officer of the nuclear-powered attack submarine, USS *City of Corpus Christi*, which completed a seven-month circumnavigation of the globe and two special classified missions during his command tour. Other highlights include tours as the commanding officer of the USS *Holland*, as the Director of Political-Military Affairs on the Joint Staff, and as the Chief of Naval Personnel.

Nuclear-powered warships have safely steamed over 130 million miles, and operated for more than 5,600 reactor years without a reactor accident. The last 24 million miles and 900 reactor-years have been achieved under Admiral Bowman's superb leadership. He currently oversees 105 operational nuclear reactors.

Admiral Bowman was a guiding force in the design and construction of the VIRGINIA Class submarine—our Navy's only major combatant available to the Fleet that was designed with the post-Cold War security environment in mind. These revolutionary submarines have significantly improved capabilities over their predecessors in acoustics, littoral warfare, communications, sensors, and life-cycle costs.

Admiral Bowman also drove many aspects of the design of the Nation's next-generation aircraft carrier class—the first new design in over 30 years. Owing much to his leadership, the CVN-21 propulsion plant will triple the electrical power available for transformational technology, reduce reactor compartment manning by nearly 50 percent, and increase ship operational availability by nearly 25 percent.

As the Director, Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program, Admiral Bowman's commitment to environmental stewardship and public health and safety helped foster the highest degree of public trust. The Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program continued the superb performance, safety, and environmental record of nuclear-powered warships that has existed for more than 50 years. Our nuclear-powered warships benefit from acceptance in foreign ports worldwide as a direct result of that record.

Mr. Speaker, I know the members of this house will join me in commending Admiral Bowman for a career of faithful service to his Nation. His leadership of the Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program, a highly effective, responsive, world-class organization, has contributed significantly to our Nation's ability to confront 21st century security challenges. I wish him "Fair Winds and Following Seas" as he completes his honorable and distinguished service in the U.S. Navy.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE
GLOUCESTER CITY OPEN ACCESS
LEARNING CENTER, AND ITS
PARTICIPANTS

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Gloucester City Open Access Learning (GOAL) Center at the Mary Ethel