

initiatives inside and outside the United States could also contribute to the search for resistant strains of livestock. In addition, short-term virus testing and monitoring measures can be adopted to address the problem of increased susceptibility of livestock to disease due to changes in cattle feeding and meatpacking. The discovery earlier in 2004 of a BSE-infected Holstein cow in the United States demonstrated that the monitoring and surveillance system in place is insufficient for rapid detection purposes.

There is also an immediate need for a stronger set of regulations that feature comprehensive coordination of research, detection and surveillance on both national and international fronts. Private industry partners in this undertaking must be treated equitably and fairly with a greater effort to broaden industry representation. The easiest step that can be taken to strengthen US defenses is to initiate and fund an intensive personnel training program to meet CBPA (Customs and Border Protection Agency) and FDA's ambitious program benchmarks for field operations, including port inspections, staffing and personal training, and industry registrations. We still lack uniform and consistent enforcement standards for industry and government agencies. Although that is the 15-year goal of the Automated Commercial Environment (ACE) run by the US Customs, nothing in place can accommodate different information and reporting systems in both the government and the private sector.

Longer term measures should include accelerated research programs and an integration and internationalization of policy planning and enforcement. Although the target is to create a practical system of defense for the US food chain, new endeavors to foil terrorists also can result in a broader international system of preparedness. Lifting the siege is the first step to defeating the aggressors.

RECOGNIZING THE FAIRFAX COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 2005 VALOR AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, my colleagues Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. WOLF and I rise today to recognize an outstanding group of men and women in Northern Virginia. As many may know, the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce annually recognizes individuals who have demonstrated superior dedication to public safety with the prestigious Valor Award. Several members of the Fairfax County Sheriff's Office have earned this highest honor that Fairfax County bestows upon its public safety officials.

There are several types of Valor Awards that are awarded to a public safety officer: The Lifesaving Award, the Certificate of Valor, or the Gold, Silver, or Bronze medal of Valor. During the 27th Annual Awards Ceremony, 61 men and women from the Office of the Sheriff, Fire and Rescue Department, and the Police Department received one of the aforementioned honors for their bravery and heroism.

It is with great honor that we enter into the RECORD the names of the recipients of the 2005 Valor Awards in the Fairfax County Sheriff's Office. Receiving the Certificate of Valor: Officer Dwayne Archer; Private First Class Duane A. Cohenour; the Life Saving Award: Private First Class Sharon L. Douglas; Master Deputy Sheriff Andrew B. Duvall; Private First Class Peter J. Fox; Private First Class Timothy A. Haynes; Private First Class Amy K. Lewis; Deputy Anthony A. McGhie; Private First Class Leslie A. Sheehan; Private First Class Jamilah Suarez.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, we would like to take this opportunity to thank all the men and women who serve in the Fairfax County Sheriff's Office. Their efforts, made on behalf of the citizens of Fairfax County, are selfless acts of heroism and truly merit our highest praise. We ask our colleagues to join me in applauding this group of remarkable citizens.