

the Trace fell into disuse and was nearly lost to history. In 1934, Congress ordered a survey of the old wagon road, and, in 1937, provided initial funding for construction of what would eventually become the 444-mile-long Natchez Trace Parkway running through rural Mississippi, Alabama and Tennessee. Today, the Parkway is one of the most visited national parks and serves as a unique thoroughfare, allowing us to ride in comfort along an ancient trail through some of the most beautiful scenery in our country.

Tom has helped the Natchez Trace Parkway for decades, from the days of legendary Congressmen Jamie Whitten of Mississippi and Tom Bevill of Alabama. He worked hard to secure federal funding to complete and beautify the Parkway. Everyone associated with the Parkway knows that Tom is a great organizer, motivator, and promoter of the Trace. Just stop and eat a ham biscuit at the famous Loveless Café at the head of the Trace and you'll hear Tom's name mentioned frequently and with deep respect. Without Tom's efforts, the Natchez Trace Parkway would not be the link between the past and future of our region that it is today. Everyone in the Southeast United States is indebted to Tom for his vision. He helped save the Trace before it was too late.

His tireless work on the Natchez Trace Parkway is just one of his important contributions. Tom is a true servant of his community. Born to remarkable parents in Lewisburg, Tennessee, he served in WWII and came home to graduate from the University of Tennessee, manage the local co-op and open a small business. He was so popular he was elected Mayor of Lewisburg. Later moving to Nashville, he helped many Middle Tennessee businesses expand, thanks to his keen credit decisions while heading up industrial development projects for Third National Bank. Those years were the golden age of Third National under the leadership of the legendary Sam Fleming, but it was men like Tom Green that brought the loans to the bank. Money is a commodity; customer relationships are more precious than gold.

Tom went on to help all Nashvillians when he spent more than a decade as the associate general manager of the Nashville Electric Service, the local electric utility. Just one of the many people Tom helped was an African-American barber in a poor part of town. The barber would call Tom to tell him about an upstanding citizen who just couldn't pay their electric bill that month, but would pay when they found work. He asked Tom to keep their lights on and Tom did just that. As a former banker, Tom knew how to make character loans, whom to trust and whom not to. Despite being a monopoly, NES kept the goodwill of its hardworking customers and Tom made even more lifelong friends at a time when most white Nashvillians did not care much about goodwill in the black community. The barber is still in business in the same location and I have visited his barbershop with Tom. The barber's name is Vernon Winfrey, and he is the father of Oprah Winfrey. Tom bent over backwards to help him before he had any realistic hope of fame or fortune. That's the kind of guy Tom is.

Married for 53 years to Pat Green, the Greens are the parents of four outstanding grown men and grandparents of eleven children. Tom is an active member of the Nash-

ville Downtown Rotary Club and Christ the King Catholic Church and finds time to volunteer at the Nashville's "Room in the Inn" program for the homeless and at St. Thomas Hospital. Pat is a renowned local teacher who is directly descended from Abraham Lincoln's first-grade school teacher. Needless to say, the Green family is well educated.

Tom's generous spirit and joyful approach to life immediately come to mind when anyone thinks of him. No matter how busy his day may be, Tom always has a smile, an encouraging word and a couple of minutes just to talk . . . sometimes more than a couple of minutes. He'll pick up the conversation just where you left it . . . the day before, a week or a month ago. He always knows the news and has lots of tips about everyone's background, interconnections, and exactly how to approach everyone. His mind is better than a computer database. There's never been anyone like him.

Of course, I am the lucky one. Tom Green has been a key part of my office staff for the past several years. No one could ask for a more positive, uplifting presence in the office, or a better person to represent you out in the community. Not only does he know everyone, he also has great ideas. For example, last year Tom Green persuaded Vernon Winfrey to make available Oprah Winfrey Scholarships to Nashville Tech Community College. Now all future generations will benefit from an old interracial friendship, formed on the basis of taking a business risk to keep the lights on for decent, hardworking people who were temporarily down on their luck.

I am truly fortunate and want to take this moment to thank Tom for bringing his integrity, his energy and his ever-present sense of humor to my Congressional team. He can outwork a dozen people half his age. I want to take this moment to publicly offer my thanks, and the thanks of everyone in the 5th Congressional District of Tennessee, for Tom Green's extraordinary service to our community, our state and our country.

#### SUPPORTING REACH OUT AND READ PROGRAM

### HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 18, 2005*

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of the Reach Out and Read program. The Reach Out and Read Program is a program that promotes early literacy by making reading a standard part of pediatric primary care by encouraging doctors and nurses to advise parents about the importance of reading to children. Reach Out and Read programs are located in over 2,000 hospitals and health centers around the country. Annually, more than two million children participate in Reach Out and Read. My district is proud to have 14 Reach Out and Read programs that provide over 15,000 books to nearly 11,000 West Virginia children annually. I have participated three times in Reach Out and Read Programs in Kanawha and Roane Counties in my district.

By building on the unique relationship between parents and medical providers, Reach Out and Read helps families and communities

encourage early literacy skills so children enter school prepared for success in reading.

President Bush included Reach Out and Read in his fiscal year 2006 budget request, continuing a multi-year effort to support this vital reading program. Reach Out and Read has a strong track record of raising non-federal dollars and is capable of more than double the impact of its 2006 appropriation. In January Reach Out and Read undertook a major 2-year initiative to increase the number of children reached by 50 percent through mid-2007. This bold step will greatly increase the number of West Virginia children who grow up in a household where early reading is encouraged.

Reach Out and Read assists families and communities in encouraging early literacy skills so children enter school prepared for success in reading. The continued support of this program is critical to the success of the Reach Out and Read program.

#### TRIBUTE TO CHUCK AND SHELBY OBERSHAW

### HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 18, 2005*

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to two outstanding leaders in my community who are to receive the Golden Baton Award from the San Bernardino Symphony Guild in recognition of their proactive role in fostering the culture of music in the Inland Empire. Today, I join family and friends in honoring Chuck and Shelby Obershaw for their remarkable achievements and express enormous pride in this recognition that has been afforded to them.

Chuck Obershaw was raised in the Inland Empire where he devoted himself to his family, friends and community. He selflessly served as a para-glider trooper in the 187th regiment of the 11th Airborne Division before returning to San Bernardino in the 1940s.

Chuck's accomplishments are as remarkable as they are diverse. He has served as President of the San Bernardino Area Chamber of Commerce, the San Bernardino Motor Car Dealers, the Air Force Association, and the Norton Air Force Base Chapter. In these capacities, he has been an integral contributor to the management and administration of community affairs and worked tirelessly for a better way of life for all of San Bernardino's residents.

Shelby Obershaw also proved the importance of serving your community. After moving to San Bernardino in 1959, she dedicated all her energy to shaping the minds of the future leaders of tomorrow as a dedicated teacher in various area high schools.

Her list of accolades is no less illustrious. They include election to the San Bernardino City Unified School District Board of Education, serving as President for 2 years, Director of the San Bernardino Chamber of Commerce, and member of the San Bernardino Chapter of the National Assistance League. She has also received the California PTA Honorary Service Award and the Citizen Achievement Award from the League of Women Voters.

Throughout their lives, Chuck and Shelby Obershaw have exhibited kindness, love, humility, and a deep resolve to ameliorate all aspects of community life, so it is only appropriate that they receive the Golden Baton Award.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize Chuck and Shelby Obershaw and express my sincere admiration that they have received this wonderful and well-deserved honor.

RECOGNITION OF FRIEDREICH'S  
ATAXIA AWARENESS DAY

**HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 18, 2005*

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of Friedreich's Ataxia Awareness Day, which is recognized each year on the third Saturday in May.

Friedreich's ataxia is a life-shortening neurological disorder usually diagnosed in childhood, causing weakness and loss of coordination in the arms and legs; impairment of vision, hearing and speech; scoliosis, diabetes; and a life-threatening heart condition. Most patients need a wheelchair full-time by their twenties. Life expectancy is reduced to early adulthood. There is currently no effective treatment or cure for Friedreich's ataxia. Sadly, I have a young constituent who suffers from this rare disease, Evan Luebke. Evan and his family are working to bring awareness to this disease in my district. I am proud of the strength and courage he exemplifies as he battles this disease.

Although there is no effective treatment or cure available, Friedreich's ataxia patients and families have more and more reason for real hope. An extraordinary explosion of research insights has followed the identification of the Friedreich's ataxia gene in 1996. Since that discovery, research scientists have learned a great deal about the disorder. We now know what defects in the gene cause the disease, what that protein is supposed to produce, and why a shortage of the protein results in the cell death that leads to the disease symptoms. Investigators are increasingly optimistic that they are drawing closer to understanding more fully the causes of Friedreich's ataxia and to developing effective treatments. In fact, they have recently declared that, "in Friedreich's ataxia, we have entered the treatment era."

At the National Institutes of Health and around the world, clinical trials for Friedreich's ataxia are being conducted on drugs that hold real promise. The growing cooperation among organizations supporting the research, and the multidisciplinary efforts of thousands of scientists and health care professionals, provide powerful evidence of the determination to conquer Friedreich's ataxia.

On the third Saturday of May, events will be held across our country, including one in West Chester, Ohio, to increase public awareness of Friedreich's ataxia and to raise funds to support the research that promises treatments for this disease. I applaud the Friedreich's Ataxia Research Alliance (FARA) for its contributions to these efforts and ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing May 21,

2005, as Friedreich's Ataxia Awareness Day to show our concern for all those families affected by this disorder and to express our support and encouragement for their efforts to achieve treatments and a cure.

STATEMENT INTRODUCING  
REPEAL OF SELECTIVE SERVICE

**HON. RON PAUL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 18, 2005*

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I am today introducing legislation to repeal the Selective Service Act and related parts of the United States Code. The Department of Defense, in response to calls to reinstate the draft, has confirmed that conscription serves no military need.

Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld is on record citing the "notable disadvantages" of a military draft, adding, ". . . there is not a draft. . . . There will not be a draft."

This is only the most recent confirmation that the draft, and thus the Selective Service system, serves no military purpose.

Obviously, if there is no military need for the draft, then there is no need for Selective Service registration. Furthermore, Mr. Speaker, Selective Service registration is an outdated and outmoded system, which has been made obsolete by technological advances.

In fact, in 1993, the Department of Defense issued a report stating that registration could be stopped "with no effect on military mobilization and no measurable effect on the time it would take to mobilize, and no measurable effect on military recruitment." Yet the American taxpayer has been forced to spend over \$500 million dollars on an outdated system "with no measurable effect on military mobilization!"

Shutting down Selective Service will give taxpayers a break without adversely affecting military efforts. Shutting down Selective Service will also end a program that violates the very principals of individual liberty our nation was founded upon. The moral case against the draft was eloquently expressed by former President Ronald Reagan in the publication *Human Events* in 1979: ". . . it [conscription] rests on the assumption that your kids belong to the state. If we buy that assumption then it is for the state—not for parents, the community, the religious institutions or teachers—to decide who shall have what values and who shall do what work, when, where and how in our society. That assumption isn't a new one. The Nazis thought it was a great idea."

I hope all my colleagues join me in working to shut down this un-American relic of a by-gone era and help realize the financial savings and the gains to individual liberties that can be achieved by ending Selective Service registration.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND  
IDEALS OF PEACE OFFICER  
MEMORIAL DAY

SPEECH OF

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 6, 2005*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this week marks National Police Week, with May 15th designated as Peace Officers' Memorial Day. It's a week where we pay tribute to our nation's law enforcement officers. In recognition of this event, I would like acknowledge the efforts of our federal, state and local law enforcement. Without their courage, commitment, and ability to meet the many challenges, our lives as Americans would be very different.

Simply put, law enforcement officers risk their lives so that others are protected. Every day these brave men and women go to work knowing there is a possibility they may not come home.

Last year, 153 police officers were killed in the line of duty. That is 153 fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters, daughters, and sons who weren't able to go home to their families at the end of the workday.

The Dallas Police Department has lost a total of 75 police officers:

C.O. Brewer, William H. Riddell, William McDuff, Leslie N Patrick, T.A. Tedford, W. Roy Thornton, Leroy Wood, Johnnie E. Gibson, John R. Crain, Charles S. Swinney, Dexter Clayton Phillips, Clarence Marshall Isbell, Alex W. Tedford, Sam Griffin Lanford, Jesse Emmett Griffin, Luke J. Bell, Ernest E. Leonard, Jr., John W. Dieken, John R. Roberts, Ralph Wendell Hoyt, Victor Leon Morris, Ernest Elmer Bates, Jr., Preston D. Hale, William Edward Stafford, Johnny W. Sides, Leonard C. Mullenax, Ray Allen Underwood, J.D. Tippit, Frank Weldon Bennett, James Douglas Stewart, Floyd A. Knight, Robert H. Shipp, Johnnie T. Hartwell, Allen Pery Camp, Carl Jackson Cooke, Howard Kenton Hicks, Joe Jones, Levy McQuieter, Jr., Milton E. Whatley, Donald P. Tucker, Sr., Leslie G. Lane, Jr., Alvin Duane Hallum, Alvin E. Moore, Robert W. Wood, John T. McCarthy, Charles J. "Chip" Maltese, Jr., John R. Pasco, Carl J. Norris, Ronald D. Baker, Robert L. Cormier, James C. Taylor, Thomas Lee Harris, Gary Reeves Blair, James Allen Joe, John Glenn Chase, Gary Don McCarthy, Walter Leon Williams, Lawrence R. Cadena, Sr., Lisa L. Sandel, Mark L. Fleming, Michael R. Okelberry, Thomas G. Burchfield, Sunny Ma Lov, Lawrence David Bromley, Harold Lee Hammons, Billy W. Daughterty, John Paul Jones, Jr., Richard A. Lawrence, David R. Galvan, Thomas D. Bond, Henry Allen Brown, Harold F. Baird, Jr., Donald F. Flusche, Jr., Christopher K. James, and Patrick Lee Metzler.

Mr. Speaker, the risk encountered by law enforcement officers serving in communities throughout this country is enormous; and this extraordinary sacrifice is all too often viewed as routine. Police officers put themselves at risk so that our communities can be safe. One week of recognition is simply not enough for that type of selflessness. America's men and women in uniform give us their best, and they deserve the best from us in return.