

SALUTING OUR SOLDIERS OF
TOMORROW

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2006

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I salute our soldiers, marines, seamen, and airmen of tomorrow, the service-bound academy students of the Third District of Texas. This district of Texas is home to some of the best and the brightest young people. It is always a tremendous honor to recommend such fine students to our nation's service academies.

Each year, thousands of students apply to these prestigious academies, but only the cream of the crop makes the cut. I am very proud of these future leaders. Their appointments truly are a testimony to their hard work, discipline and strong desire to serve our country.

While they passed the rigors of the nomination and appointment process, the real test has just begun! In just weeks these fine students will report in to begin an intensive basic training program before they begin a tough, and gratifying, four-year education. They have such exciting futures ahead of them. I know they are ready to join the premier military force of the world. To the appointees I say, "God bless you. God bless America. I salute you."

The appointees and their hometowns are as follows:

UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY:
John Kottlowski—McKinney, Texas—McKinney North High School, Preston Pham—Plano, Texas—Plano Senior High School, Colin Skowronski—Plano, Texas—Plano East Senior High School, Anil Tilbe—Plano, Texas—Plano Senior High School.

UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY:
Lindsay Atwood—Garland, Texas—North Garland High School, Jacqueline Juhn—Plano, Texas—Plano West Senior High School.

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY:
Ridge Flick—Plano, Texas—Plano West Senior High School, Daniel Fulcoly—Plano, Texas—Plano Senior High School, Mallory Morgan—Parker, Texas—Pecan Orchard Academy, Vanessa Warwick—Plano, Texas—Ursuline Academy.

UNITED STATES MERCHANT MARINE ACADEMY: John Toretto—Plano, Texas—Bishop Lynch High School.

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF YOUNG
POLITICAL LEADERS

HON. WILLIAM M. THOMAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2006

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a concurrent resolution recognizing the accomplishments of the American Council of Young Political Leaders (ACYPL) as the organization celebrates its 40th anniversary this year.

Since 1966, ACYPL has provided bipartisan international exchange programs, educational forums, and leadership training in order to better prepare young political leaders for future positions of responsibility in local, state, and

federal government. ACYPL's programs offer young leaders, some who may have never traveled outside the United States, the opportunity to enhance their awareness and understanding of other cultures through in-depth study tours.

Founded during the Cold War, the organization's efforts initially focused on Western Europe. Over the past four decades, however, ACYPL programs have expanded to include over 90 nations throughout the world, including the Middle East, sub-Saharan Africa, the Western Hemisphere, East Asia, and the Pacific Rim.

Many of ACYPL's more than six thousand alumni worldwide have risen to positions of great responsibility. In the United States, alumni include members of Congress, the Cabinet, ambassadors, and many senior level officials who serve in local, state, and national government. Internationally, past participants of ACYPL programs now serve as cabinet members, ambassadors, parliamentarians and as other senior level policymakers. Establishing early relationships among such future leaders helps facilitate international dialogue and strengthen and promote U.S. policy objectives.

As an alumnus of an ACYPL program to the then Soviet Union in the 1970s, I can attest to the effectiveness of citizen-to-citizen exchanges in fostering cross-cultural understanding and cultivating international ties among young political leaders. I applaud ACYPL's work over the past decades and wish them continued success in future efforts.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL G. OXLEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2006

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from the House floor during yesterday's rollcall votes on final passage of H. Res. 794, H. Res. 804, H. Res. 608, and H. Con. Res. 338; and on ordering the previous question on H. Res. 857.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on each of these measures.

CONCERNING DESECRATION OF
HMONG GRAVE IN THAILAND

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2006

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge the Royal Thai Government to immediately cease any further destruction of Hmong burial sites and stop the exhumation of Hmong graves located inside and surrounding Wat Thamkrabok monastery. Furthermore, I would ask that the Royal Thai Government address the serious plight of Hmong-American families that I represent who no longer know where their loved ones' remains are located.

Mr. Speaker, between 1995 and 2003 many Hmong families living in Thailand as refugees from Laos had buried their deceased loved ones in the Wat Thamkrabok sanctuary. In

December 2003, the U.S. Department of State announced the last resettlement of 15,000 Hmong refugees residing in the Wat Thamkrabok monastery, which concluded last year by bringing nearly 5,000 new arrivals to Minnesota, a significant number of whom have settled in St. Paul and surrounding communities which I represent.

It has been reported that between November 4 and December 30, 2005, approximately 900 Hmong graves were exhumed with the human remains taken to unknown destinations. Hmong-American families were shocked and profoundly disturbed to see the horrific video images of human remains, possibly of their own loved ones, being treated in a disrespectful and unspeakably offensive manner. To this day, Hmong-Americans remain unable to receive reliable information regarding the whereabouts of their loved ones' remains.

As a Member of Congress representing more than 35,000 Hmong-American constituents, I join them in expressing shock at this disturbing episode. The dignity of their deceased ancestors deserves respect. There can be no doubt that this entire situation has caused considerable anguish and emotional distress to relatives now living in the United States and elsewhere.

The Royal Thai Government is a friend and ally of the United States. Our bilateral relationship is vital and it would be my desire to see a strengthening of all aspects of this relationship. Yet, in Minnesota today, it is very difficult for me to champion this relationship with the pain and distress felt by so many of my constituents as a result of the desecration of their ancestors' graves. Once again, I would urge the Royal Thai Government to work to prevent any further Hmong grave exhumations, while fully investigating the circumstances surrounding this action in order to help facilitate long-lasting healing for those families affected by this terrible situation.

HONORING SEVEN U.S.N. AIRMEN

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2006

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, sixty-four years ago today, a twin-engine Navy PB5A amphibious reconnaissance aircraft departed the Naval Air Station on Kodiak Island, Alaska as part of the Kiska Blitz—the bombing of Japanese targets in Kiska Harbor at the western end of the Aleutian Islands. On board were Ensign Robert F. Keller, Aviation Machinist Mate First Class Leland L. Davis, Seaman Second Class Elwin Alford, Seaman Second Class Dee Hall, Aviation Machinist's Mate Second Class John H. Hathaway, Aviation Radioman Second Class Robert A. Smith, and Aviation Pilot Third Class Albert J. Gyorfi. Flying into a storm of inclement weather and enemy anti-aircraft blasts, the plane was hit and crashed on the side of the Kiska Volcano. None of the crew survived.

In August 1943, the United States successfully retook Kiska Island from the Japanese and the remains of seven men were found amid the wreckage at the crash site. They were buried in a common grave with a wooden marker reading "SEVEN U.S.N. AIRMEN." After the war, the grave could not be located again.

In 2002 a wildlife biologist working in the Alaska Maritime Wildlife Refuge found the wreckage, the grave was located and following positive genetic identification, the bodies were returned to their families. Last month, on May 10, these soldiers were buried at Arlington National Cemetery with Full Military Honors.

I met the family of Elwin Alford and learned of their lives. Alford and his parents were from the Bogalusa, Louisiana—Sandy Hook, Mississippi area. Leland Davis was from Hinds County, Mississippi and his sister and brother finally have peace. Alford, Davis and their brothers-in-arms gave their lives over six decades ago and we still feel their legacy today. So many families lost their loved ones in the great crusade against German Fascism and Japanese Imperialism. And for many, closure comes very late.

I want to take this opportunity to commend the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command. More than 78,000 Americans are unaccounted for from World War II, another 8,100 from the Korean War and 1,800 from the Vietnam War. But the Accounting Command continues to bring these heroes home and assist with closure for families still bearing the wounds of wars long completed.

Mr. Speaker, today we have brave American men and women fighting in Afghanistan and Iraq and around the world against the forces of terror. In Mississippi, we lost another native son, a lion of liberty, just last week. I hope families know that six weeks from now, six months from now, or sixty-four years from now, those sacrifices will not be forgotten.

TRIBUTE TO MORRIS COUNTY PARK COMMISSION

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2006

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Morris County Park Commission, located in Morris County, New Jersey, a county I am proud to represent! On June 15, 2006, the Morris County Park Commission is celebrating its 50th Anniversary with a reception to honor the men and women who have helped shape the first fifty years of the park system.

Established in 1956, the Morris County Park Commission began its rich history with the dedication of 350 acres as Lewis Morris County Park in Morris Township. Today, the park system has grown to over more than 17,500 acres and is the largest park system in New Jersey. The commission manages 38 facilities including historic sites, golf courses, outdoor education and recreational facilities, arboreta, conservation areas, parks, and 150 miles of trails.

The reputation of the Park Commission and its facilities continues to be one of the best in the nation. More than 3.5 million visitors have taken advantage of the programs, special events, and activities provided by a very professional staff. The park system has a positive impact on the quality of life of every Morris County resident and their families, as well as tens of thousands of visitors. The Park Commissions over the years have preserved valuable open space and cultural resources and promoted tourism, conservation and economic

vitality. Consequently, the commission continues to receive national recognition for its facilities and programs.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Morris County Park Commission on its Fiftieth Anniversary.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2006

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, due to a death in the family, I was unable to vote on Rollcall Numbers 251 through 262. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on Rollcall Numbers 251, 252, 253, 254, 256, 257, 259 and 260, and "no" on Rollcall Numbers 255, 258, 261 and 262.

FLAG DAY

HON. JULIA CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2006

Ms. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, today is Flag Day. It was established in 1949 by act of Congress for us to take a day to reflect on our flag and past. I was 10 years old when Congress first established Flag Day and I have over the years come to a better realization of the inextricable connection between patriotism, the flag and our soldiers in the field. I don't believe the costs of preserving our flag have ever been as concrete as they are today. I hope that while reflecting on the Flag today we spend some time thinking about the price that has been paid for our flag, our freedom and our country. While we take a moment to think about our flag we cannot do so without giving thanks for our soldiers in the field and the veterans who served under our flag. Francis Scott Key summed it up perfectly in the Star Spangled Banner:

And the rockets' red glare, The bombs bursting in air, Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there. O say, does that star-spangled banner yet wave O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HENRY J. HYDE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2006

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, on June 13, 2006, I was absent for several votes for personal reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted:

Vote No. 263, LaTourette Amendment to H.R. 5576—"no"; Vote No. 264, Bean Amendment to H.R. 5576—"no"; Vote No. 265, Israel Amendment to H.R. 5576—"no"; Vote No. 266, Miller, Gary Amendment to H.R. 5576—"no"; Vote No. 267, Nadler Amendment to H.R. 5576—"no"; Vote No. 268, Davis (AL) Amendment to H.R. 5576—"no"; Vote No. 269, Jackson-Lee Amendment to H.R. 5576—"no"; Vote No. 270, Harris Amendment to

H.R. 5576—"no"; Vote No. 271, Slaughter Amendment to H.R. 5576—"no"; Vote No. 272, Waters Amendment to H.R. 5576—"no"; Vote No. 273, Hooley Amendment to H.R. 5576—"no".

RECOGNIZING CONGRESSMAN JOHN LEWIS

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2006

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank and praise Congressman JOHN LEWIS for visiting New Bedford, Massachusetts, at the end of May. Congressman LEWIS described for students and community members his important involvement in the American Civil Rights Movement, and he reminded all of us how we need to find the courage to continue the Movement.

I'd also like to thank Congressman BARNEY FRANK for inviting Congressman LEWIS to speak to the people of New Bedford. The friendship between these two Members of Congress spans more than 40 years, and as Congressman FRANK states, Representative LEWIS continues to be "one of the great moral forces in this country."

Representative LEWIS, a great hero of mine, spoke to 1400-plus students and teachers at New Bedford High School, sharing his experiences growing up in the segregated South, and his eventual involvement with nonviolent protests.

Congressman LEWIS told the students "that it was the young, like himself and many others who formed the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee," who led the way in the Civil Rights Movement.

I would like to place into the RECORD, the following editorial, Timely Message from JOHN LEWIS, which appeared in the June 1, 2006, edition of the New Bedford Standard-Times, which describes why the words of our friend and colleague, Congressman JOHN LEWIS, have such meaning and resonance in all of our communities today.

[From the New Bedford Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA—June 1, 2006]

TIMELY MESSAGE FROM JOHN LEWIS

Whether it was the hand of the Almighty or simply the good sense of our local congressman, Barney Frank, yesterday's visit to New Bedford by U.S. Rep. John Lewis, D-Ga., one of the great heroes of the American Civil Rights Movement, could not have been timed more perfectly.

The 56-year-old Rep. Lewis, who is the son of a sharecropper born in segregated Alabama, brought a message of hope and healing to a city preparing to bury Bernadette DePina, who was shot to death in her home last week, just days after her 23-year-old son David DePina II's arrest on charges of murdering a 20-year-old man.

Rep. Lewis didn't talk about crime or punishment or politics. He talked about growing up poor in the segregated South, about being inspired as a 15-year-old listening to the radio by the actions of the late Rosa Parks and the soaring words of a young black minister, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., to stand up for the dignity of all and "to find a way to get in the way" of those who would deny others that dignity.

And that's what he did.

Arrested scores of times in nonviolent protest of discriminatory voting practices, segregated schools, lunch counters and public