

woman in her law school class, the first woman on the Wisconsin Supreme Court, the first woman to serve there as Chief Justice, Shirley Abrahamson, among other honors, was elected by her peers as President of the Conference of Chief Justices and Chair of the Board of Directors of the National Center of State Courts because of their "abiding confidence in her leadership and her judicial acumen."

She paved the way for women in the law and set a standard of excellence in the Court, always reminding us, "We need to be careful to appreciate our system of judicial independence and ensure it survives."

Last year, while standing patiently in the line of mourners outside the U.S. Supreme Court to pay respects at the bier of Chief Justice Rehnquist, Chief Justice Abrahamson was recognized and urged to exert her celebrity and move to the front of the line. "That's not the Wisconsin tradition," she replied.

Shirley Abrahamson not only respects Wisconsin's tradition of equal justice and equal opportunity, she enforces both with strength, courage, and grace.

I join the people of Wisconsin in paying tribute to a great jurist and citizen, Chief Justice Shirley Abrahamson.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 6, 2006*

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall vote No. 426. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye".

#### NEW BEDFORD CELEBRATION OF THE NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

### HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 6, 2006*

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, on September 12th, the Annual Hispanic Recognition Awards Ceremony will take place in New Bedford, Massachusetts. These awards express the admiration and appreciation of the community for outstanding individuals who have shown leadership in a variety of ways. Unfortunately for me, we will be in session when this awards ceremony takes place, and I will not be able to attend in person, which I would have liked to do so that I could express directly my admiration and gratitude to the winners of these awards for the work they have done.

Mr. Speaker, since I cannot be there and because the work that is being recognized is so important not just for the Hispanic Community but for the Greater New Bedford Community and indeed all of Southeastern Massachusetts, I wish to take the opportunity here to commend Mayor Lang, elected officials and the committee, led by Director Emilio Cruz, who have done the work that is culminating in this important ceremony and to express my deep appreciation of the winners of the awards.

Mr. Speaker, the list of the awardees is: Reverend Eva Amaro, Senior Pastor of the Christian Revival Temple, Dr. Guillermo Gonzalez, MD, renowned psychiatrist, Mr. Anibal Lucas, Director of the Maya Kichee USA, Ms. Raquel Tejedadas, businesswoman.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO TERRY AND LEE KISTNER

### HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 6, 2006*

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Terry and Lee Kistner of Overton, Nevada for their overwhelming commitment to serving others.

Terry and Lee moved to Overton nearly ten years ago. Shortly thereafter, they opened Valley Boot and Shoe Repair, a small business specializing in leather craftsmanship, including boots, saddles, tack and repairs. Despite the struggles of owning a small business in an economy dominated by large companies and manufacturers, Terry and Lee have managed to keep their doors open and their business running successfully for more than nine years. In order to do so, both Terry and Lee work full-time jobs and stagger their schedules so that each can tend to the needs of their business.

Although their extraordinary work ethic and commitment to their craft is part of what makes the Kistners an asset to the Moapa Valley Community, it is their remarkable compassion for others and their dedication to community service that is truly inspiring. Terry and Lee strive to help others in any way they can. They frequently contribute their expertise in leather craftsmanship to school and community groups. Whether it means donating leather and teaching special education students how to make their own belts, donating labor and craftsmanship to the Nevada High School Rodeo winners or donating custom-made boots to fulfill a young boy's dreams of owning real cowboy boots, the Kistners are happy to give their talents to a variety of worthy endeavors.

Terry and Lee are also committed citizens of the United States of America. They instilled in each of their four children a sense of pride in their country and a commitment to serving others. They currently have a son who is serving in the United States Army in Iraq. In addition to all they do to serve their local community, the Kistners also strive to support their son in his military service. The Kistners have purchased and donated a variety of needed equipment and supplies for their son's 17-member military unit.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Terry and Lee Kistner on the floor of the House for the extraordinary citizens that they are. I commend their patriotism and their inspiring commitment to serving others. I thank them for the sacrifices they have made to brighten the lives of those around them and I wish them the very best in all their future endeavors.

#### TRIBUTE TO STERLING DOBBS OF HOMOSASSA, FLORIDA

### HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 6, 2006*

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Sterling Dobbs of Homosassa, Florida.

Joining the Army in June of 1941, Mr. Dobbs spent more than 4 years in service to our Nation. As a pilot, Mr. Dobbs proved his mettle in more than 35 combat missions in the European Theater during World War II.

Awarded his 1st distinguished flying cross on October 20, 1944, Mr. Dobbs had already shown extraordinary achievement as a pilot flying a B-24 aircraft on many bombardment missions.

On April 8, 1945, Mr. Dobbs received an oak leaf cluster for a distinguished flying cross as the lead pilot on a mission over enemy occupied continental Europe. On his 30th mission, Mr. Dobbs was the lead B-24 aircraft for the 2nd Air Division that flew into Kassel, Germany where they bombed a factory. After this mission he flew several more as the command pilot, with a final total of 35 combat missions.

Truly one of America's greatest generation, Mr. Dobbs served in the Nebraska National Guard for 3 years prior to his 5-year active duty commitment. Following his honorable discharge from the Army, Mr. Dobbs then served reserve duty for another 17 years.

Mr. Speaker, true American heroes like Sterling Dobbs should be honored for their service to our Nation and for their commitment and sacrifices in battle. It was young men like Sterling Dobbs who saved the world from the threat of Nazi occupation of Europe. Without their help, America and her allies would not have been victorious in World War II.

#### COMMEMORATING MT. JULIET'S HEROES THIS PATRIOT DAY

### HON. JIM COOPER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 6, 2006*

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the First Annual Patriot Day Community Candlelight Tribute in Mt. Juliet, TN.

Tonight, citizens from across Wilson County will come together to pay tribute to the men and women in uniform who work hard to protect our communities everyday. With flags flown at half-staff, a moment of silence and heartfelt prayer and a candlelight ceremony this evening, Mt. Juliet will remember all those who were lost on September 11, 2001 and honor the Americans who serve and protect our country today.

At home, our law enforcement officers, sheriff's department personnel, firefighters and emergency rescue workers give their energy and expertise to fight a variety of challenges and threats to make sure we are safe. From natural hazards and fires, to crime prevention, and the ever-growing meth epidemic, these local heroes endanger their lives to make ours safer.

Overseas, we count on the brave men and women of the Armed Forces to defend our