

TRIBUTE TO HONORABLE PATRICK  
J. BRENNAN

**HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 6, 2006*

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Patrick J. Brennan, Mayor of Merchantville, New Jersey and lifetime resident of New Jersey. Mayor Brennan served on the borough council for four years before becoming mayor.

Mayor Brennan is married to Joan Foley and they have seven children. He was born in Camden, New Jersey, raised in Collingswood and attended Camden Catholic High School, Georgetown University and Rutgers University. After an unsuccessful run for state Assembly, Mayor Brennan was elected mayor, a job he has held for 12 years. Mayor Brennan is also the owner of three companies in Turnersville, NJ.

Mayor Brennan has successfully maintained Merchantville's hometown, laid-back atmosphere while improving, revitalizing, and redeveloping the borough. He has overseen the development of a new senior housing complex, which will make it easier for the elderly to stay in the town while providing housing opportunities for new seniors. He has also overseen the opening of Chestnut Station in 2003.

Mr. Speaker, I offer my congratulations to Mayor Brennan for his years of outstanding service to the borough of Merchantville. I wish him all the best in his retirement.

HONORING DR. B.J. MISTRY

**HON. NITA M. LOWEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 6, 2006*

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. B.J. Mistry on her installment as President of the Ninth District Dental Association.

Founded in 1909 and with a membership of close to 1600 dentists, the Ninth District Dental Association is dedicated to advancing the dental profession and promoting public service. I have no doubt that under the leadership and guidance of B.J. Mistry the organization will continue to grow and expand the positive role it plays in our communities.

A graduate of the Government Dental College in Ahmedabad, India, as well as the College of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, Dr. Mistry has played an active role in promoting dentistry and proper dental health throughout her career. She has served as an Assistant Clinical Professor at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, is a longtime member of the American Dental Association and previously served 5 years on the Board of Governors for the Ninth District Dental Association.

Her installment as the 98th President of the Ninth District Dental Association also marks a historic occasion as she becomes the first woman and first immigrant to lead the organization.

I am honored to work closely with Dr. B.J. Mistry to better our community, and I urge my colleagues to join me today in recognizing her accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING THE TULARE  
COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY

**HON. DEVIN NUNES**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 6, 2006*

Mr. NUNES. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to the Tulare County Housing Authority in central California. This agency has done an outstanding job of managing their housing units, implementing the Moving to Work program, and empowering low-income families to be self-sufficient.

By way of background, the Tulare County Housing Authority was established in 1945 with their first major project being the development of housing for returning World War II Veterans and their families. Currently, the Tulare County Housing Authority is managing and administering 5,000 units for families, seniors, and the disabled. It is quite clear that the Tulare County Housing Authority has established a solid reputation for providing safe, affordable housing for low income people.

In fact, the Tulare County Housing Authority is performing so well that their Board of Commissioners has made the decision to return their operating subsidies to the Department of Housing and Urban Development for Fiscal Year 2007. It goes to show that a Housing Authority, that pays attention to rent structures and operating costs, can not only enhance the lives of those directly participating, but also benefit taxpayers by operating independent of federal subsidies.

I commend the Tulare County Housing Authority and their Board of Commissioners for their efficient management and sound business practices.

GALT CHRISTIAN CHURCH

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 6, 2006*

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Galt Christian Church in Galt, Missouri. This church will be celebrating its 125th year anniversary of service to the community on October 15, 2006. Over these past 125 years, this church grew to meet all the needs of its congregation.

As a staple of the community throughout the years, the church has gone through growth and expansion with the Galt community it serves. From humble beginnings, this church is a stabilizing force for this community. Originally, this church was borrowing space from a neighboring church.

The church buildings grew in concert with its congregation. Growing, even taking in two hundred new members in one afternoon, with a large baptism of faith. Finally in 1974, the church's current building was erected to house the growing congregation.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing the Galt Christian Church. The services which they have provided over these 125 years have been fundamental to the growth of this community. Let us use the Galt Christian Church as a powerful example of the lasting commitment to faith.

TRIBUTE TO THE 172ND STRYKER  
BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM

**HON. DON YOUNG**

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 6, 2006*

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I rise today I rise to acknowledge the significant contributions and sacrifices of the 172nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team "Arctic Wolves," based out of Ft. Wainwright, Alaska. I would like to congratulate this elite fighting force of men and women who performed with distinction during an unprecedented 16-month deployment in Iraq.

Few units in the history of the Army have developed such a diverse ability to effectively fight in extreme combat situations. The 172nd formed, lived and trained in the harsh Alaska arctic conditions. Alaskan winters have as many as 21 hours of darkness a day and an average daily temperature of 15 degrees. During the initial Iraq deployment in July/August of 2005, these soldiers faced dry, desert conditions in heat topping 120 degrees, quite different from their original training conditions. The ability to adapt and continue to fight insurgents in any environment is one of the many exceptional traits of these Arctic and now, "Desert Wolves."

During their tour of duty, the Stryker Brigade had an outstanding combat record and an exceptional reputation for their relationship with the Iraqi citizens. During their service, 5 soldiers were Silver Star Receipts, along with the entire 172nd receiving the Valorous Unit Award. The sacrifices made by these soldiers over the last 16 months were tremendous; 26 soldiers lost their lives and another 381 soldiers were wounded, while in Iraq. The commitment of these soldiers to their Nation is admirable. This brigade, despite their extended tour, had the highest reenlistment rate in the Army with over 33 percent of assigned personnel signing up for the second life cycle.

Along with the contributions our Alaskan service members make on a regular basis to the security of this Nation we cannot forget the difficulties their families face during these deployments. Close to 5,000 Alaskan family members of the 172nd had been without their loved ones for 16 months and waited to be back in their arms of their husbands, wives, sons and daughters. While soldiers were overseas, these families in the Fairbanks community pulled together with resounding resolve. Not only am I proud to represent the Arctic Wolves, but I am also proud to represent the great military families of Ft. Wainwright who patiently waited for their brave soldiers to return.

Over the last 4 months, the 172nd has received increased publicity because of their extended deployment, and the families and soldiers were asked to perform duties few are capable of handling. However, I am proud to say that our Arctic Wolves acted with the utmost level of professionalism and heroism on the ground, from the unit commanders to the most junior enlisted ranks. The 172nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team has made a significant contribution to the proud United States Army military history and I am proud to represent these great American Warriors. On behalf of the state of Alaska, I extend my thanks and appreciation for their exceptional service to this nation. Welcome home, Arctic Wolves.