the co-founder of the Tennesse-Kentucky chapter of Operation Smile, past president of the Nashville Chapter of the American Cancer Society, a founder and board member of the Aspen Center for Integrative Medicine and co-founder and Executive EVP Diversified Specialty Institute.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Dr. Maxwell for his extraordinary contributions to plastic surgery and for the profoundly positive impact he has on our community.

TRIBUTE TO PHILIP G. KIKO

HON. F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR.

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2007

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Madam Speaker, it is with mixed feelings that I rise before you today to say a few words about one of my longest serving and closest staff, Philip G. Kiko. Phil was one of the first people I hired on my personal staff in 1979, when I was a freshman Member of Congress, and in the years since, he has become a close friend and confidant.

During my tenure on the House Committee on the Judiciary, a Committee upon which I have served throughout my tenure in this body and chaired from 2001 to 2006, Phil served the country and Committee ably by pushing through several pieces of legislation that, in my opinion, have made this country a better place. Just look at the reauthorization of the Voting Rights Act of 1982, a historic event that reaffirmed the promise of voting equality to millions of Americans. And then, as General Counsel and Chief of Staff to the Committee on the Judiciary last year, Phil led staff negotiations that led to near unanimous House and Senate passage of the Fannie Lou Hamer, Rosa Parks, and Coretta Scott King Voting Rights Act Reauthorization and Amendments Act. His unique capacity to bridge partisan divisions to advance the promise of equality our Constitution provides to all of America's citizens best illustrates his unrivaled abilities as a consensus-builder and negotiator.

Moreover, the skills Phil demonstrated during consideration and passage of this legislation were applied to advance other legislation whose titles are as familiar as they are historic. Phil was a driving staff force behind congressional passage of the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006, which has been hailed by child safety and law enforcement groups as the most comprehensive federal child protection legislation in a generation.

And who can forget the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 which demonstrated fundamental vulnerabilities in America's law enforcement and intelligence communities. Phil played a central staff role in consideration and passage of the USA PATRIOT and USA PATRIOT Improvement and Reauthorization Act, laws that have provided America's law enforcement and intelligence agencies with the tools necessary to detect, disrupt and deter terrorist attacks before they occur on American soil. Phil has also played pivotal roles in congressional passage of the Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act, the Class Action Fairness Act, REAL ID Act, and other legislation that will distinguish his years of service to the Committee as among the most productive and meaningful in our Nation's history.

Madam Speaker, most Americans have probably never heard of Phil Kiko, but they have heard of the aforementioned bills he has worked on, and they have certainly been affected by them in some way, shape or form. Phil's tenacity and passion for working on ideals that he believed to be right and just often pushed him and those he worked with, to spend many a late night in the Capitol—but the benefits of his dedication went ultimately to Americans like you and me.

It is never easy to say goodbye, especially to one who has been by my side for decades. But I also know that there comes a time when we must all simply move on. That time has come for Phil Kiko, and so I stand before you, and the rest of my colleagues, and I ask you all to join me in wishing Phil all the best, as he takes his next step.

On behalf of the Committee on the Judiciary, the House of Representatives, and myself, I thank you Phil, for all your service to this Nation, and congratulate you on a job well done.

HONORING THOMAS HEBEL FOR LIFETIME BUSINESS ACHIEVEMENTS

HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2007

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to rise today to congratulate Mr. Thomas Hebel on his recent nomination for the Bucks County Chamber of Commerce Lifetime Achievement Award in the area of Business Achievement. His success as the owner of Bucks Country Gardens and dedication to his community set him apart as an outstanding individual, and it is my pleasure to join in the recognition of his extraordinary career.

The great honor of this Lifetime Achievement Award is not one easily attained. The award takes into account both Mr. Hebel's remarkable success within his business venture and his commitment to his community. Mr. Hebel has been an exemplary model in both of these areas.

An accomplished landscaper, Mr. Hebel graduated from the Pennsylvania State University with a degree in landscaping, and was hired as a landscape designer at Tom Royer's Nursery and Greenhouses. He worked his way up to partner, and upon Mr. Royer's retirement, purchased the business, becoming the sole owner. He renamed the business Bucks Country Gardens, and in just thirteen years, the business grew from five employees to sixty-five employees.

Mr. Hebel and his staff donate time to volunteer in the community. His efforts include serving as President of the Bucks Beautiful program, the company's annual beautification of a Bucks County organization, working on the Bucks County Designer House and serving on various committees for the Pennsylvania State University.

Madam Speaker, Mr. Hebel embodies the true American spirit. He has risen from designer to business owner but never lost his passion for gardening or for helping his community. He has dedicated himself to his career and his community and I commend him today for his outstanding service.

HONORING VASKEN HOGOPIAN, PH.D.

HON. JASON ALTMIRE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2007

Mr. ALTMIRE. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Vasken Hagopian, Ph.D., who is retiring after more than 40 years of teaching, the past 37 years of which were spent at my alma mater, Florida State University.

Professor Hagopian is recognized as a world-renowned expert in high energy physics. His research has involved the use of high energy particle accelerators to study the properties of fundamental particles, such as the proton and the neutron.

I first crossed paths with Professor Hagopian as an astronomy student at Florida State in 1986. I later worked with him during my time as a legislative assistant for former Congressman Pete Peterson of Florida in the mid-1990's.

Over the years, students often asked him why it is important to study astronomy and related fields. Professor Hagopian would famously reply, ''You never know, one of you might end up in Congress one day and have to vote on science budgets and space exploration.'' Like most things he taught his students, he was, in the long run, proven right.

I wish Professor Hagopian well as he pursues new challenges and moves into the next phase of his extraordinary life.

HONORING CHIEF LUTHER J. TAYLOR OF THE SOUTH BEND FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. JOE DONNELLY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2007

Mr. DONNELLY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding citizen of South Bend, IN, Luther J. Taylor, who has devoted his life to the protection of his community. For the past 34 years he has served as a firefighter for the South Bend Fire Department, 21 of those as Fire Chief.

Chief Taylor's career as a firefighter started in 1972. At that time he never intended to build a career but rather to move on to another profession after a few years. Yet, his feelings of duty to his community and enjoyment for his job led him to a long and illustrious career. Today the South Bend community honors this career.

First appointed Fire Chief by Mayor Roger Parent in 1985, Taylor's adept management style and creative ideas led him to be reappointed under the two succeeding mayors. In his 21 years as Fire Chief he has greatly increased the professionalism, efficiency and lifesaving capacity of the South Bend Fire Department. Through Chief Taylor's leadership, the South Bend Fire Department has become one of the top fire departments in Indiana.