

Tinnel, of Sandston, Virginia; two sisters, Christy Flowers of Charles City County, Virginia and Laura Tinnel of Sandston, Virginia; and a brother, James Tinnel of Sandston, Virginia.

Madam Speaker, today I ask that you join with me in honoring the life of a man truly dedicated to serving his country.

HONORING ART FINKELSTEIN

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 10, 2007*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my friend Art Finkelstein from the Napa Valley, who is being honored with the first annual Al Brounstein Meritorious Award during the L'Chaim: To Life! Weekend. Mr. Finkelstein is receiving this high honor for his substantial contributions both to winemaking and to the Jewish community of the Napa Valley.

Mr. Finkelstein was born in Chicago and grew up in Rock Island, Illinois before he moved out west for college. In Los Angeles, where he was a student at the University of Southern California, Mr. Finkelstein became involved with amateur winemaking while pursuing a career as an architect. Having won numerous awards for his wines, he moved to the Napa Valley and opened Whitehall Lane Winery with his brother in 1979.

Mr. Finkelstein has a well-deserved reputation around the Napa Valley as a superb winemaker who enjoys crafting small lots and unique, individual wines. After selling Whitehall Lane in 1988, Mr. Finkelstein and his wife Bunny opened the smaller Judd's Hill Winery to focus on winemaking, not management. This hands-on setting allows him to concentrate on the art of winemaking, seeing the process through from planting to bottling. He has also founded Judd's Hill Microcrush, which allows customers to participate in the winemaking process from grape selection to press and storage, creating a small lot of wine crafted by that individual. In keeping with his love of winemaking, Mr. Finkelstein taught Small Winery Development for several years through Napa Valley College's Small Business Development program.

Beyond the winery, Mr. Finkelstein has for many years been a prominent presence in the Napa Valley community. He has taken the lead in numerous causes throughout our valley. He has been active on the Little League baseball board in St. Helena, and is a trustee with the Jewish Community of Napa Valley where he helps facilitate many of the organization's good works in the arts and education throughout the valley.

Mr. Finkelstein is a trustee of the Congregation Beth Shalom, and has served as Vice-President of the Congregation. He was on the search committee that brought Rabbi David White to the congregation, and assisted with religious services during the transition.

Together, the Finkelstein family has been a social presence in the Napa Valley and I have long valued their friendship. His son Judd and daughter-in-law Holly have joined Art and Bunny at the winery, adding a new level of energy and enthusiasm to the family's new endeavor.

Madam Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we congratulate my friend Art Finkelstein for the award he is receiving, and thank him for his substantial contributions to winemaking and to our community.

TRIBUTE TO MR. ED STIZZA

**HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 10, 2007*

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the awarding of the first DaVita Patient Citizens Hero Award to Mr. Ed Stizza from Fountain Hills, AZ for his efforts and activities to educate his community about Chronic Kidney Disease and End Stage Renal Disease.

Mr. Stizza is unquestionably a worthy recipient of the DPC Hero Award, which spotlights individuals who have gone above and beyond to positively impact and progress kidney education and care within their communities. A 30-year patient of diabetes and survivor of colon cancer, Mr. Stizza is a model of perseverance. Four years ago, facing a diagnosis of End Stage Renal Disease, Mr. Stizza turned his battle into an opportunity to empower others. As a dialysis patient for these past 4 years, Mr. Stizza has worked tirelessly to help improve the lives of other dialysis patients, and to educate those in his community who are at risk of kidney failure.

More than 20 million Americans have chronic kidney disease, which if left untreated can lead to End Stage Renal Disease. However, with the help of individuals like Mr. Stizza and particularly his work in support of the Kidney Care Quality and Education Act, the need for dialysis can be reduced and the lives of the more than 400,000 patients currently suffering from ESRD will improve.

Mr. Stizza is the quintessential every day hero who, in the face of numerous obstacles, not only triumphed, but simultaneously worked to improve the lives of others. He has undoubtedly improved the lives of many in his community and beyond.

TRIBUTE TO MR. DAVID J. RIGBY

**HON. IKE SKELTON**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 10, 2007*

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, let me take this means to recognize the exceptional service of Mr. David J. Rigby on the occasion of his retirement from the Defense Threat Reduction Agency.

Mr. Rigby is a graduate of the University of Tennessee, where he majored in Journalism, and the University of Oklahoma, where he completed a graduate program in mass communication. He also attended the Defense Information School in Fort Benjamin Harrison, Indiana and the Federal Executive Institute at Charlottesville, Virginia.

Mr. Rigby has a distinguished history of outstanding work and service to his country. A U.S. Air Force Public Affairs Officer, he saw combat duty in Vietnam as an advisor to the Vietnamese Air Force. He was also respon-

sible for directing the news media relations for the Strategic Defense Initiative, also known as "Star Wars." Mr. Rigby has had multiple assignments in The Pentagon and also served on the Reagan White House Transition team.

On October 1, 1998, Mr. Rigby began his most recent position as Chief of the Public Affairs Office in the Defense Threat Reduction Agency. From the office's inception, he played a central role in forging the agency's image, shaping its mission, and spreading its message around the world. His talent and leadership helped change what the U.S. Combatant Commands expect of the agency and better prepared U.S. military bases to respond to disaster.

Please join me in sincerely thanking Mr. Rigby for his unwavering service to this country, and in wishing him the best in the future.

HONORING PATRICK KANE ON BECOMING THE NUMBER ONE DRAFT IN THE NHL

**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 10, 2007*

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Patrick Kane, a native from South Buffalo, New York on becoming the No. 1 NHL draft player of the year. Patrick Kane is an explosive player, a forceful scorer, and we are privileged to have such a reputable future NHL star player representing the City of Buffalo.

Kane not only made Western New York proud by becoming the first draft choice for the Chicago Blackhawks, he made history as, for the first time ever, Americans were chosen to fill the number one and number two draft slots.

Offensively, Kane's skills are unmatched. In 2006 Kane led Team USA to a gold medal at the 2006 World Under-18 Championship. This past season he continued his amateur hockey career with the London Knights of the Ontario Hockey League. During his time there he showed great potential, winning the league scoring title with 62 goals and 83 assists in just 58 games. For his performance he received the Emms Family Award as OHL "Rookie of the Year" and was named to the Western Conference All Star Team.

One of Patrick's greatest attributes is his speed and versatility. His swift moving hands around the net make him an unstoppable and dynamic scorer. With his offensive prowess and quick feet, Kane has been compared to hockey greats Martin St. Louis and Daniel Briere. His accomplishments are truly an inspiration for youth throughout Western New York.

Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize and celebrate the achievements of Patrick Kane, the son of Patrick and Donna, the grandson of Donald, a fine young man respected on and off the ice. Traditionally Western New Yorkers are loyal and passionate fans of our local NHL franchise the Buffalo Sabres, but something tells me this season residents across the region will also tune in to root on the "kid from the neighborhood" our own Chicago Blackhawk Patrick Kane.