A TRIBUTE TO CHRISTOPHER MICHALSKI
HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, December 5, 2007
Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Christopher Michalski of New York City, New York. Mr. Michalski is an asset to our fair city and a testament to the American dream.

Mr. Michalski was born on July 12, 1949 in a small city in Poland where he grew up with huge dreams of coming to America. While in school he studied architecture extensively and eventually received a master's degree in structural engineering. He instantly put his knowledge to good use by following in his family's footsteps to become a third generation church builder.

While Mr. Michalski was in his midtwenties, he was afforded an opportunity to migrate to America of which he eagerly took advantage. With strength and perseverance, Chris was able to build a new life for himself and his family in New York City. He married his long-time love Dorothy and had two beautiful children, Monica and Eric.

Today, Chris Michalski can be found running his company, Solution New York Contracting Inc., while interacting with people from all over the world. He is a dog lover, a church builder, and a one-of-a-kind individual.

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize Chris Michalski: for his hard work and structural contributions to the city of New York.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to this intrepid individual who is fine example of the entrepreneurial spirit upon which America was built.

HONORING THE LIFE OF CAPTAIN TIMOTHY MCGOVERN, U.S. ARMY, OF IDAVILLE, INDIANA
HON. JOE DONELLY
OF INDIANA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, December 5, 2007
Mr. DONELLY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor U.S. Army Captain Timothy McGovern of Idaville, Indiana, who died on October 31, 2007 while serving in Mosul, Iraq. Assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, Tim was leading his troops in a mission clearing roads of IEDs when his group came under fire and his Bradley was hit by a roadside bomb. Today I would like to take a moment to mourn a well-lived life cut tragically short.

After moving to Idaville as a teen, Tim graduated from Twin Lakes High School in 1997 where he excelled in honors classes and was a star in football and track. Even at that point it was clear what Tim was going to do with his life, as his former football coach commented, “It didn’t surprise me at all when he joined the armed forces and became an officer . . . that was just the kind of guy he was.” And it probably didn’t surprise anyone, for a career in the Army was in Tim’s blood: just a year before he graduated from high school, his father Bill retired from the Army having achieved the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

Tim started on that path immediately following high school, when he joined the Reserve Officers’ Training Corps while attending Purdue University. Less than two years after his graduation from Purdue in 2001, Tim set off to serve the first of his two tours of duty in Iraq. “He was on his very first tour when the war in Iraq started, and when he came home, (he) didn’t hesitate to do another,” his uncle Mike recalls.

Although Tim was in the process of buying a house in El Paso, Texas, his heart remained with his family in Idaville and with the Chicago Bears. During his second tour of duty in Iraq, Tim was given a two-week pass to return home to the U.S. He made sure to return home for the Superbowl, and Tim’s parents will never forget their last moments spent at home with their beloved son. “He was a Bears fan,” his mother Jonell said. “He was one of the few rooting for the Bears, him and his grandparents. That was going to stay in my mind for a really long time.”

But if his heart was with his family, his passion and purpose was with the Army. As captain of a ninety-member company, Tim showed exemplary dedication to his duties as an officer and to the safety and well-being of his men. His mother noted, “He said the thing he was the most proud of was that he had not sent anybody home injured and that nobody had been killed from his group. To him, that meant he was doing his job.” Safety did not mean staying away from where the action was; however. He assumed command of Company E from Captain Tim Hudson, who said “We both chose to go to El Paso and Fort Bliss, and we both came here for the same reason. And that was to come out here and command soldiers in combat.”

Having commanded Company E for twenty months, Captain Hudson could only praise Tim’s work upon assuming command in June. “I put my heart and soul into this company,” Hudson said. “And after he took over, Echo Company only got better.”

What was Tim’s secret to being an excellent commander? He may well have shared it with 1st Lieutenant Michael Holbrook. “He told me there was no greater honor than leading American soldiers in combat. I’m going to remember that until the day I hang up my uniform.”

A private man, Tim would not have wanted all the attention placed on his life. “He wouldn’t have liked this,” said his mother. “He would have wanted people to be thinking about the other soldiers still over there fighting.” For that reason, I wish to remember those soldiers Tim commanded in Echo Company still serving in Mosul, and all those serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. Indeed, may we keep all those in the Armed Forces in our hearts and prayers as a way of honoring and remembering Tim’s outstanding service and loyal dedication to our great nation.

CONGRATULATING ERICA FRENCH OF LOWERY ROAD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, December 5, 2007
Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Erica French, a teacher at Lowery Road Elementary School in Fort Worth, Texas. Ms. French was chosen as one of fourteen recipients of the 2007-2008 Chairs for Teaching Excellence award.

The Fort Worth School District recognizes the teachers, and to be chosen, you must be nominated by a principal, parent, or colleague. The selection process also entails an interview and an evaluated teaching demonstration. The teachers were presented with their awards at the Petroleum Club of Fort Worth.

It is my honor to represent a teacher such as Ms. French in the 26th District of Texas. Her dedication to education, her school, and her students and families of Fort Worth, Texas should be viewed as an example for all.

TRIBUTE TO MACK HARMON
HON. SAM GRAVES
OF MISSOURI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, December 5, 2007
Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Mack Harmon, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 412, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Mack has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Mack has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Mack Harmon for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

INTRODUCTION OF PROPERTY TAX DEDUCTION FOR ALL ACT
HON. RON PAUL
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, December 5, 2007
Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Property Tax Deduction for All Act,
legislation making the property tax deduction an “above-the-line” deduction. This simple change makes the property tax deduction available to homeowners who do not file an itemized tax return.

The Property Tax Deduction for All Act will help millions of Americans who struggle with high property taxes, but because they do not itemize, are unable to take advantage of the Federal deduction for property taxes. Extending the property tax deduction to all homeowners will especially benefit senior citizens, whose homes often are the major part of their wealth, and young families struggling to cope with the costs of owning a new home. I respectfully urge my colleagues to help ensure all homeowners can take advantage of the tax deduction for property taxes by cosponsoring this legislation.

IN RECOGNITION OF OPERATION COMMUNITY SHIELD

HON. PETE SESSIONS
OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 5, 2007

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to proudly recognize the Dallas Field Office of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and the Detention and Removal Operations agents who participated in Operation Community Shield—an annual, national law enforcement initiative that brings together federal, state, and local law enforcement to fight gang violence, drug smuggling and organized crime linked to illegal immigration.

I applaud the remarkable accomplishments they produced in just seven days of Operation Community Shield: 120 gang members arrested, including members from 28 alien gangs, 63 criminal arrests, and 8 firearms and over 4,000 grams of marijuana and cocaine seized.

Thanks to Operation Community Shield, numerous murderers, rapists, and drug dealers have been taken off our streets. With the collaborative work of federal, state, and local law enforcement, Operation Community Shield enables officers to more effectively communicate between agencies, developing a “force multiplier” effect in fighting against violent gangs and criminal illegal immigrants. Consequently, I believe that this important initiative represents a critical step in addressing the illegal immigration problem facing our community and nation.

Madam Speaker, I would further like to give recognition to the leadership of John Chakwin, ICE Special Agent-in-Charge, and Mrs. Nuria T. Prendes, Director for Detention and Removal Operations. Both have remarkable staffs that support the mission in light of the challenging times in our nation, and their steadfast commitment is one we can all be proud of in Dallas, Texas.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING KRISTA SIEGFRIED FOR PLACING SECOND IN THE MANCHESTER UMBRO INTERNATIONAL CUP

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE
OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 5, 2007

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker: Whereas, Krista Siegfried competed in England’s largest youth soccer tournament; and Whereas, Krista Siegfried showed hard work and dedication to the sport of soccer; and Whereas, Krista Siegfried has broadened her abilities and skills in the sport of soccer; and

Resolved, that along with her friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Krista Siegfried on placing second in the Manchester Umbro International Cup. We recognize the tremendous hard work and sportsmanship she has demonstrated.

TRIBUTE TO BILL HAMPTON

HON. JO ANN EMERSON
OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 5, 2007

Mrs. EMERSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Bill Hampton for receiving the 2007 Missouri Community College Association News Media Award. Mr. Hampton’s work has been essential to the success of Three Rivers Community College, TRCC.

Academic institutions such as TRCC require consistent and aggressive advocacy to advance opportunities for students. By using innovative means to connect more than 20,000 households to TRCC, Mr. Hampton has effectively conveyed the importance of this institution to our regional communities. Mr. Hampton’s optimistic, community-minded message continues to foster necessary support for the college’s growth and continued improvement.

With career experience in education, business, and government, Mr. Hampton understands the importance of higher education; he remains a generous supporter of the college as a private citizen. Mr. Hampton’s contributions, both professionally and personally, have helped foster TRCC as the source for educational and career opportunities for the entire southern Missouri region.

Madam Speaker, it is a great privilege to honor Bill Hampton on winning this prestigious award. I ask that you join me along with the people of southern Missouri to congratulate him on this wonderful achievement and to wish him a happy and productive future.