

The Defeated Creek Volunteer Fire Department was established in 1986. The department is made up of 12 members and three fire trucks.

Without volunteer fire halls like Defeated Creek, many places in the Sixth District would lack effective fire protection. In the State of Tennessee, over 70 percent of fire service is provided by volunteers. Among these volunteers, almost 75 percent work other daily jobs.

Ensuring our families' safety is not without risk. Sadly, an average of two firefighters die each year in Tennessee in the line of duty. In 2005, the Tennessee Fire Services and Code Academy dedicated a memorial on their main campus in Bell Buckle to honor those Tennessee firefighters who have died in the line of duty.

For their willingness to serve, the following members of the Defeated Creek Volunteer Fire Department deserve recognition: Chief Brandon Powell, Hughie Gregory, Donny Martin, Benton Dyer, Rusty Williams, Steve Bennett, Jason Powell, Kerby Comstock, Randy Martin, Scott Edens, Dustin Dillehay, and Chris Fields.

IN HONOR OF CONGRESSMAN
HENRY HYDE

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2007

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the late Congressman Henry Hyde who passed away on November 29, 2007.

Representative Hyde was a man of great honor and a dedicated public servant. He served for 32 years in the U.S. House of Representatives, representing the Chicago suburbs. During that time he served as Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee from 1995 to 2001 and as Chairman of the House International Affairs Committee from 2001 to 2007.

I had the honor of serving with Mr. Hyde as a member of the House International Affairs Committee during his time as Chair. He was a thoughtful and insightful Committee Chair who was willing to mentor a new member of the other party. I will always remember Mr. Hyde's help in including three important provisions in the original President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR). These provisions on drug resistance, orphans and vulnerable children, and tracking the sale of drugs on the black market were ensured a place in the legislation largely because of Mr. Hyde's support. I will also never forget the opportunity to travel with Mr. Hyde to Mexico, where it was evident that he was well-respected by world leaders.

One of the things I recall most clearly about Representative Hyde was his command of the English language and his oratorical skills. When Secretary Rice appeared before the International Affairs Committee, he so eloquently expressed his disappointment that the Bush Administration had failed to live up to its obligation to ensure security in Iraq.

In addition to his many years as an elected leader, Mr. Hyde was a celebrated athlete in college, a veteran, and a lawyer. In recognition of his accomplishments, in October of this year, Congressman Hyde was awarded the

Presidential Medal of Freedom, our country's highest civilian honor.

On behalf of the families of Minnesota's Fourth Congressional District, we extend our prayers and sincerest condolences to his wife, children and all of the family and friends of Representative Hyde. He will be remembered in the highest regard, and I will miss him.

Madam Speaker, please join me in paying special tribute to the life and service of Congressman Henry Hyde.

KAZAKHSTAN AND THE OSCE

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2007

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, this past week, the Organization for Security and Cooperation (OSCE) convened in Madrid, Spain to choose the countries that will chair the organization for the next three years. The 56 member nations of the OSCE voted to give the chairmanship to Greece in 2009, Kazakhstan in 2010, and Lithuania for 2011.

All of these countries should be congratulated for being awarded this important duty. The selection of Kazakhstan as chair for 2010 is especially significant for several important reasons.

First, Kazakhstan will be the first ex-Soviet republic to assume the chairmanship of the OSCE, which is quite timely given that many of the countries in region are continuing to struggle with the transition from communism to full democracy. Kazakhstan, as the largest country in the region, may be in the best position to promote the OSCE's principal mandates of respect for human rights and advancing democracy.

Conversely, while OSCE ministers were meeting, Russia conducted parliamentary elections in open contempt of OSCE's election monitoring program. Reacting to a series of obstructions and delays clearly intended to frustrate their work, the OSCE finally concluded that Russian authorities had made it impossible for monitoring activities to occur before or during the December 2 election.

By contrast, Kazakhstan fully cooperated with OSCE's monitoring and reporting during its August 18 parliamentary election. It allowed 1,200 election observers to cover 1,743 polling stations, whereas Russia set a limit of 450 international observers for its 95,000 polling stations.

Prior to its election, Kazakhstan adopted reforms to increase the transparency and integrity of its elections and ensure public access to election information and the media. The same reforms are being rolled back in Russia.

Kazakhstan may well be that alternative. At the meeting in Madrid, Kazakhstan's foreign minister, Marat Tazhin, stated that "Kazakhstan accepts with a strong sense of duty and firm commitment the role of Chairman-in-Office of OSCE for 2010" and pledged to uphold and protect OSCE's election-monitoring activities.

The other Commonwealth-of-Independent States in the former Soviet union are surely observing these developments as they approach their own political crossroads. One path is the Russian way of "managed democracy," currently being exemplified by President

Vladimir Putin, which includes consolidation of power within his inner circle, the removal of human rights and press freedoms, and a worrying shift towards more authoritarian rule. The other path is the Kazakh way, which includes improving freedoms for the press and human rights groups, greater confidence in the rule of law, and a strengthening of democratic values. It is my sincere hope that the other CIS countries will take the latter path.

Madam Speaker, the Bush administration has rightly put democratization in the forefront of its foreign policy, but it does not come quickly or easily to countries that have only known authoritarian rule.

Kazakhstan is such a country and while it is not yet a full-fledged democracy, it is definitely moving in the right direction and is deserving of our support to head the OSCE in 2010.

HONORING LARRY HENDRICK

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2007

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Larry Hendrick, a resident of Hardin County, Kentucky. On December 12, 2007, Mr. Hendrick will receive the National Association of Agricultural Educators (NAAE) Teacher of the Year award for a region that includes Kentucky, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Missouri, and Ohio.

Mr. Hendrick was raised on a farm in Breckenridge County, Kentucky. He began his teaching career in 1978 at East Hardin High School. His first job included instructing Vietnam veterans as part of a co-op farming program. In 1990, Hendrick began his tenure at Central Hardin High School, where he continues to work today.

The NAAE Teacher of the Year award is given to an agricultural educator who has demonstrated the ability to involve students in work-based learning projects and a willingness to promote local agriculture programs. Mr. Hendrick is a Future Farmers of America advisor at Central Hardin High School. He was previously recognized in 1995 as the National Young Farmer Advisor of the Year.

It is my great pleasure to honor Larry Hendrick, before the United States House of Representatives on his selection as the National Association of Agricultural Educators Teacher of the Year. I congratulate him on this achievement and thank him for his commitment to educating Kentucky's students.

HONORING THE SHORT MOUNTAIN
VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2007

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the members of the Short Mountain Volunteer Fire Department for their selfless dedication and bravery in protecting our families, day and night.

The Short Mountain Volunteer Fire Department was established with the donation of land and community support. There are 14 active members and eight honorary members.

The department most recently purchased a 750-gallon pump.

Without volunteer fire halls like Short Mountain, many places in the Sixth District would lack effective fire protection. In the State of Tennessee, over 70 percent of fire service is provided by volunteers. Among these volunteers, almost 75 percent work other daily jobs.

Ensuring our families' safety is not without risk. Sadly, an average of two firefighters die each year in Tennessee in the line of duty. In 2005, the Tennessee Fire Services and Code Academy dedicated a memorial on their main campus in Bell Buckle to honor those Tennessee firefighters who have died in the line of duty.

For their willingness to serve, the following members of the Short Mountain Volunteer Fire Department deserve recognition: Chief Michael Underhill, Asst. Chief Albert Summers, Secretary, Equipment Manager Carol Zellman, Brad Odom, Cory Reed, Jordan McGee, Tony Neal, Jonathan Scurlock, Cyndi Hill, Jamie Campbell, Chip Avera, David Smith, Anthony Prater, Leeroy Jones, Honorary Members: Larie Zellman, Billy Youngblood, Connie Cantrell, Cindy Underhill, Tracy Neal, and Sue Youngblood.

CONGRATULATING THE MINNESOTA STATE ARTS BOARD, RECIPIENT OF THE 2007 NATIONAL ACCESSIBILITY LEADERSHIP AWARD

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2007

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the Minnesota State Arts Board as the recipient of the 2007 National Accessibility Leadership Award.

On behalf of the Twin Cities and the citizens of Minnesota, I wish to congratulate the Minnesota State Arts Board for receiving this special award sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies. The National Accessibility Leadership Award recognizes the Minnesota State Arts Board's exceptional leadership and highly effective work to make the arts fully inclusive throughout their organization, programming and State.

Board Chair, Andrew Berryhill, the board members, and Executive Director, Thomas Proehl, are to be commended for their invaluable leadership that has made the Minnesota Arts Board a model of accessibility. The Board has built accessibility into every aspect of what it does: its office space, programming, requirements for grantees, and its efforts to reach and serve artists with disabilities.

In March 2002, the Minnesota State Arts Board joined with VSA arts of Minnesota to present the first-ever statewide forum entitled "The Art of Employment: Careers in the Arts for People with Disabilities". As a result, the Artists With Disabilities Alliance was formed in the Twin-cities area, bringing artists with disabilities together to work on projects to advance arts training and career opportunities. Subsequently, the Arts Board, in partnership with its regional arts councils, organized and created six regional artists' networks throughout Minnesota. The Minnesota State Arts

Board continues to provide support to the regional groups for a wide variety of activities, such as exhibits, performances, workshops, marketing, and access accommodations. In fact, this highly successful regional model is presently being replicated by the Texas Commission on the Arts.

In August 2007, the Minnesota State Arts Board took a major step to expand its technical assistance work on a national level by co-hosting the "Leadership Exchange in Arts and Disability" conference with the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. The meeting brought together 180 artists, arts administrators, educators, and accessibility consultants from around the country to further advance their skills in making the arts fully accessible. This gathering highlighted the board's work to ensure access to Minnesota's art and programming.

Madam Speaker, in honor of the Minnesota State Arts Board, its staff, board members, and advisors, I am pleased to submit this statement for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD in recognition of their hard work and dedication to increasing access to the arts.

APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES ON H.R. 1585, NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROL SHEA-PORTER

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 5, 2007

Ms. SHEA-PORTER. Madam Speaker, the motion to instruct conferees included language from the Senate stating that "the Senate should not pass legislation that will undermine our military's ability to prevent a failed state in Iraq." I voted for the motion because the brave men and women of our military have done an outstanding job. They have served our country extremely well under difficult circumstances, and they have done everything that we have asked of them.

Preventing Iraq from becoming a failed state is not the job of the United States military; it is the job of the Iraqi Government and people. The Bush Administration assures us that Iraq is not a failed state, so our troops should be allowed to leave. We need to set a firm timeline for withdrawing from Iraq, so that Iraq's political leaders know that they will need to take responsibility for their own future.

RECOGNIZING MR. DANIEL UYECHI

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2007

Mr. TANCREDO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate an outstanding steward and teacher in my district, Mr. Daniel Uyechi of Sierra Middle School in Parker. This year, Mr. Uyechi has been awarded the title and honor of a Milken National Educator for his efforts to expand the knowledge and livelihoods of his students. His efforts have undoubtedly made positive impacts among his students, helping them lay the foundations for a successful and rewarding future.

The Milken National Educator Awards are annual monetary gifts given to individual educators nationwide for their remarkable achievements both in and outside of the classroom. Chosen by an independent commission appointed by each State's department of education, these awards highlight and celebrate the successes of a handful of America's most distinguished and prominent educators. I am honored that I have the opportunity to represent one of these fine citizens.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mr. Uyechi and wishing him the best in his future endeavors.

HONORING THE COTTONTOWN VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2007

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the members of the Cottontown Volunteer Fire Department for their selfless dedication and bravery in protecting our families, day and night.

The Cottontown Volunteer Fire Department was established in 1999. The department covers approximately 90 square miles and protects 1,100 households. In 2006, the department responded to 151 calls.

Without volunteer fire halls, like Cottontown, many places in the Sixth District would lack effective fire protection. In the state of Tennessee, over 70 percent of fire service is provided by volunteers. Among these volunteers, almost 75 percent work other daily jobs.

Ensuring our families' safety is not without risk. Sadly, an average of two firefighters die each year in Tennessee in the line of duty. In 2005, the Tennessee Fire Services and Code Academy dedicated a memorial on their main campus in Bell Buckle to honor those Tennessee firefighters who have died in the line of duty.

For their willingness to serve, the following members of the Cottontown Volunteer Fire Department deserve recognition: Chief Joe McLaughlin, Asst. Chief Mike Owens, Lt. Patrick McLaughlin, Lt. Bill Kelly, Glenn Schirg, Shannon Baker, Tommy Casteel, Lydia Casteel, Chris Casteel, President Laura Owens, Treasurer Marilyn McLaughlin.

HONORING THE RUTHERFORD COUNTY VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2007

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the members of the Rutherford County Volunteer Fire Department for their selfless dedication and bravery in protecting our families, day and night.

The Rutherford County Volunteer Fire Department was established in June 1998 to protect the citizens in District 11 of Rutherford County. District 11 has a population of 7,340. Currently, the fire department has 30 volunteers, 7 officers, and 5 members serving on the board of directors.