

On behalf of the House Agriculture Committee, I extend to Keith our deepest appreciation for his service to American agriculture and wish him great happiness in retirement.

RECOGNIZING JAYCE H. BERRY  
FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF  
EAGLE SCOUT

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 11, 2007*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jayce H. Berry, 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 13, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Jayce has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Jayce 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 Jayce H. Berry for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. TED POE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 11, 2007*

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, due to other congressional business, I unfortunately missed recorded votes on the House floor on Tuesday, December 4, 2007. Had I been able to vote that day, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall vote No. 1123 and "yea" on rollcall votes Nos. 1124, 1125, and 1126.

ENERGY INDEPENDENCE AND  
SECURITY ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

**HON. BOB ETHERIDGE**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 6, 2007*

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 6, the Renewable Fuels, Consumer Protection, and Energy Efficiency Act of 2007.

Let me congratulate Speaker PELOSI, Chairman DINGELL, and the House Democratic leadership for bringing this legislation to the floor for a new direction for America's energy independence.

Anyone who has filled up a gas tank in the past year knows that gas prices are highly volatile and too high for the average American. Yet while Americans are struggling to make ends meet, oil companies are making record profits. As a former North Carolina small businessman, and a part-time farmer, I believe that it is our duty to find alternatives to what has become a dangerous reliance on foreign oil.

And let me be clear, our Nation has the capability to gain its energy independence. H.R. 6 will move us close to this goal by promoting the use of renewable fuel. This legislation will create a fund, which will be used to extend and expand tax credits for ethanol and biodiesel, extend loan guarantees to farmers to produce renewable energy, and increase the use of flex fuel vehicles.

Today we have the technology to solve our energy crisis growing in our fields. We have the ability to turn soybeans and peanuts, both grown in large numbers in my home State of North Carolina, into biodiesel, and the technology to turn sugarcane and corn into ethanol. What we haven't had up to this point is the leadership to develop the infrastructure needed to facilitate the use of these fuels.

The legislation before us today will begin to do just that. I encourage my colleagues to vote for H.R. 6.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 11, 2007*

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, on December 6, I was unavoidably detained and was not able to record my vote for rollcall No. 1141. Had I been present I would have voted: rollcall No. 1141—"yea."

TRIBUTE TO JIM GRISSO

**HON. BART STUPAK**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 11, 2007*

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a news professional in my district who has served the people of northern Michigan with distinction. The Publisher of the Gaylord Herald Times, Jim Grisso, will retire at the end of this year after a 47-year career in the newspaper industry, 39 of them at the helm of the Gaylord Herald Times.

As the publisher of the Gaylord Herald Times (the Times), Mr. Grisso has made the newspaper a leader in the industry, garnering nearly 500 awards at the state and national levels since 1968. In 2007, the Herald Times was named the national Newspaper of the Year in its circulation class by the Suburban Newspapers of America, a testament to Mr. Grisso's vision and leadership of the paper.

Under Mr. Grisso's leadership, the Herald Times has been a steadfast advocate of the public's right to know, on occasion resulting in challenges, even lawsuits, against public bodies that violated the Open Meetings Law or failed to comply with the Freedom of Information Act. Mr. Grisso has always insisted that the newspaper represent the people of Otsego County and reflect the values of the residents of Gaylord: hard work, honesty, tenacity and telling it like it is.

Mr. Grisso's leadership in northern Michigan extends beyond the Times. Mr. Grisso has held several leadership positions with professional associations: Past President, Michigan Press Association; Past President, Michigan Newspapers Industry and Michigan State Chairman, National Newspaper Association.

Over the years, Mr. Grisso has also been a leader in the Gaylord community and used his position at the Times to promote community service within Gaylord. In 1980, Mr. Grisso established the Buergermeister Award, which the Herald Times annually presents to recognize an individual who epitomizes service and dedication to the community. The Buergermeister Award is considered the most prestigious award in Otsego County and, thanks to Mr. Grisso's leadership, it has been used to recognize and encourage community service throughout the county.

Mr. Grisso's commitment to community does not end there. He has donated enormous space in the Gaylord Herald Times in the form of community announcements and in-kind advertising for charitable and nonprofit organizations. While the Gaylord Herald Times has certainly put plenty on his plate, he has donated generously of his personal time through work on many boards and organizations. He co-founded and was the first vice-president of Otsego County Big Brothers organization. He served as President of the Gaylord Rotary Club and the Gaylord High School Athletic Boosters Club. He served on the Boards of the Otsego Memorial Hospital Foundation, the Gaylord/Otsego County Chamber of Commerce, Gaylord Little League, and Alpenfest. He continues to serve today as Otsego County Economic Alliance Executive Committee and is currently Vice President of the University of Michigan Alumni Club of Gaylord.

Over the years, Mr. Grisso has been recognized with numerous awards for his participation in community and civic groups. The Gaylord/Otsego County Chamber of Commerce honored Mr. Grisso with the "You Made It Happen Award" and the Otsego County United Way recognized his service with the "Thanks To You, It Worked For All of Us." He has been named Otsego County Fair Association Citizen of the Year. Mr. Grisso has received the Founder's Award of Appreciation, presented by Alpenfest Committee as a founder and leader in building Gaylord as the Alpine Village. The Otsego County Emergency Medical Service honored him and five other Gaylord Rotarians for raising \$15,000 to purchase defibrillators as a result of a 150-mile walk from Gaylord to Manistique in Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

Madam Speaker, I have a special relationship with Mr. Grisso. His paper has covered my work since I began serving Michigan's 1st Congressional District in 1992. As might be expected, I have not agreed with every word his paper has written or his angle on every story. However, without a doubt he has endeavored to ensure that the Gaylord Herald Times covers the issues important to the people of northern Michigan and informs and serves them with excellent local journalism. As the Publisher of the Times, he has ensured the Times covers the challenges facing Gaylord and Otsego County. As a leader in his community, he has helped develop solutions to those same challenges.

Today, as he prepares to enter a well deserved retirement I offer him, his wife Sue, his four daughters, four step sons and eight grandchildren all the best for the future. I would ask, Madam Speaker, that you and the entire U.S. House of Representatives join me in thanking Jim Grisso for his service to the Gaylord community, commending him for his many years of exceptional work as a journalist