

to offer. Chosen by a diverse group of educational specialists and public officials, ten individuals are to receive this year's precedent award. Ms. Dodson is one of these fine individuals!

As an additional honor, Ms. Dodson and her fellow finalist will have the chance to participate in a congressional briefing to discuss the role of school counselors in obtaining student achievement. I am certain the experiences and insights these accomplished individuals share will enable them to provide Members with unique and valuable insight into this area.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me today in celebrating the accomplishments of Ms. Dodson. She is a shining example of excellence in her field; may her achievements inspire others to be the same.

HONORING RETIRING TOWN OF
CONCORD COUNCILMAN RAY-
MOND HUBERT

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 15, 2008

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to call to the House's attention the dedicated public service of Raymond Hubert, upon the occasion of his retirement from active service as a member of the Concord Town Board.

A well respected leader in the community and staunch advocate for his Town, Ray Hubert has effectively represented his community and has consistently held an open hear to the concerns and ideas of his constituents. Ray's commitment to fellow citizens and taxpayers has been most noteworthy, and his work represents a lasting contribution to our community.

The Town of Concord has been doubly blessed by the Hubert family. Ray's wife Mary served for several years as a Town Justice. Their sacrifice in making the choice to serve their community in this way must be an inspiration to all who serve in public office.

Madam Speaker, I ask that this Congress join me in expressing appreciation to Ray Hubert for his years of dedicated service and commitment to his community. We wish Ray and Mary and their entire family only the very best of health and happiness long in the future.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 50TH AN-
NIVERSARY OF W.L. GORE & AS-
SOCIATES, INC.

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 15, 2008

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the founding of W.L. Gore & Associates, Inc. This company, for six decades, has been committed to providing exceptional products for their customers while demonstrating exemplary business practices.

Founded in 1958, W.L. Gore & Associates has grown to be the global leader in fabrics, medical, industrial, and electronic products. The organization's success has grown from

the dedication, passion, and their commitment of their employees to excellence. For ten consecutive years, they have earned the recognition on FORTUNE magazines "100 Best Companies to Work For," and in 2007 was ranked tenth overall.

To this day, W.L. Gore & Associates is recognized for its unique corporate culture. With a mission of creativity and personal responsibility, their organization adopted a management structure driven by personal interaction. Corporate decisions are made based on knowledge and experience, rather than by official titles or positions. As envisioned by founders' Bill and Vieve Gore, they hoped that associates would constantly be encouraged to grow through knowledge, skill, and individual accountability.

On this 50th anniversary, I would like to recognize the many accomplishments of W.L. Gore & Associates. Their commitment to their customers and employees should be an example for all. I commend the W.L. Gore & Associates family for their commitment to the Delaware community and the nation, and I wish them all the best on this momentous anniversary.

HONORING SERGEANT BRYAN J.
TUTTEN

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 15, 2008

Mr. MICA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to Sergeant Bryan J. Tutten, 33, who died Christmas Day, December 25, 2007 while serving our nation in Iraq during his second tour of duty.

Prior to joining the Army, Sgt. Tutten, born in St. Augustine, Florida, graduated from St. Augustine High School and attended St. Johns River Community College. He was also a member of Holy Greek Orthodox Church in St. Augustine.

We should all remember Sgt. Tutten's courage and his ultimate sacrifice for our nation. The freedom and liberty we enjoy and peace in the world for others for which he fought are part of the great legacy that Sgt. Tutten leaves behind. He was laid to rest at San Lorenzo Cemetery in St. Augustine, Florida on January 4, 2008.

After the devastating events of September 11, 2001, Sgt. Tutten enrolled in the Army. His family remembers him as an avid sportsman who loved to fish and cook, and how he enjoyed the time he had playing with his daughter, Catherine. He was assigned to the 82nd Airborne Division based in Fort Bragg, North Carolina which was deployed to Iraq.

With the passing of Sgt. Tutten, America has lost an outstanding citizen and a shining example of service to our nation. He will be remembered as a patriotic American, a pillar of our community and a compassionate husband and a loving father.

To his wife Constandina, his daughter Catherine, his son Gareth, his mother Ms. Sylvia Smallwood and his loving family and friends, we offer our deepest sympathy.

Madam Speaker, it is my privilege to recognize Sgt. Bryan J. Tutten's contributions and to ask all Members of the U.S. House of Representatives of the 110th Congress to join me

in recognizing his service in our nation's Armed Forces and remembering a great American hero.

HONORING FIRE CAPTAIN SCOTT
KNEPSHIELD

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 15, 2008

Mr. McCOTTER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor and acknowledge Scott Knepschild, Fire Captain in the Wayne Fire Department, upon his retirement from a distinguished 22-year career in Wayne, Michigan.

Fire Captain Knepschild has dedicated his life to helping others. Upon graduation from Churchill High School in Livonia, Michigan, Scott joined the United States Army and served honorably from 1975 to 1977. Following his service to our country, Scott attended Madonna University, where he received his emergency Medical Technician certification. Scott joined the Wayne Fire Department on June 26, 1985, and continued his employment with the department for 22 years. Scott has been a valuable member of the Department, being promoted to Lieutenant on January 2, 1998, and Fire Captain in February 2000, where he served until December 12, 2007.

In his pursuit of public service, Fire Captain Knepschild has attended the National Fire Academy in Emmetsburg, Maryland, served as a Michigan State Fire Inspector, and earned a certification from the State of Michigan as a licensed Paramedic. Fire Captain Knepschild has also been associated with the Metropolitan Detroit Fire Inspectors, the Michigan Fire Inspectors Society, and has been an energetic and vocal member of the Wayne Fire Fighters Local 1620 for his entire career. Scott looks forward to more time with his wife of 32 years, Mary, and their daughter Melissa, who attends college at Grand Valley State University.

Madam Speaker, in honor of his commitment to protecting the citizens of Michigan and his dedication to serving the residents of Wayne, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Fire Captain Scott Knepschild for his years of service to our community and our country.

HONORING RETIRING BOSTON
TOWN COUNCILMAN DENNIS MEAD

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 15, 2008

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the public career of one of the Town of Boston's most revered leaders, Town Councilman Dennis Mead.

For twelve years, Dennis faithfully represented the Town of Boston, serving with unwavering work ethic and a steadfast commitment to his town's progress. Dennis served honorably as the voice of the people of his community and his service has been a model for others to follow.

Although Dennis will no longer serve on the Boston Town Board come January 1, 2008,

there can be no question that his heart lies in his hometown, and his commitment to the town's future will remain steadfast. Madam Speaker, I want to thank you for this opportunity to Dennis Mead in this manner, and I know that you join me and the rest of our colleagues in wishing Dennis the best of luck and Godspeed in all of his future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF LEON N.
WEINER & ASSOCIATES INC.

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 15, 2008

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, it is my great pleasure to rise today in honor of Leon N. Weiner & Associates Inc. (LNW&AI), a company that for almost 60 years now has been accomplishing great feats and doing outstanding work for the housing industry in Delaware and surrounding areas. Today, I wish to call attention to a neighborhood renewal project this group championed. It positively impacted our community to such a degree that the readers of *Affordable Housing Finance Magazine* named it the Nation's best affordable homeownership development.

Leon N. Weiner & Associates Inc. was presented with this prestigious award because they had the vision, drive, prowess and compassion to take an area in need of revitalization and transform it into a true community. Less than a decade ago the Wilmington, Delaware neighborhood now known as Eastlake was home to some of the highest per capita drug and crime rates in the nation. All of that has changed since LNW&AI came in with an innovative renewal plan to construct new homes at below-market rates for neighbors. While designing this community, LNW&AI was mindful of practicality, community, affordability, safety, and aesthetics—all of which help explain the program's great success. Through the work of LNW&AI and its project affiliates, the Village of Eastlake is now seeing an unprecedented influx of residents that are inspired and committed to bettering their community and future.

I have long been a supporter of Leon N. Weiner & Associates Inc. Leon Weiner, whom I had the distinct privilege of knowing and working with while he was alive, founded the company in 1949 and made it a success. He recognized that people from every walk of life, regardless of economic circumstances, share a common need and dream of having a place to call home. His hard work and dedication to such a cause helped put thousands of people of modest incomes in homes. Furthermore, he established a rich philanthropic legacy within LNW&AI. Through my personal experiences with Leon's successors: Kevin Kelly and David Curtis, as well as the rest of the LNW&AI staff, I can assuredly say that Leon's legacy not only lives on, but thrives in the company today.

Once again, I would like to recognize Leon N. Weiner & Associates Inc. Their work at the Eastlake community is remarkable and very deserving of *Affordable Housing Finance Magazine's* Reader's Choice Award. They are an invaluable asset to our community and I wish them all the best now and in the future.

HONORING THE LIFE OF HON.
RICHARD F. "RIC" WILLIAMSON

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 15, 2008

Mr. MICA. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a wonderful friend and a great leader in transportation, both in Texas and our Nation, the Hon. Richard F. ("Ric") Williamson. His sudden passing on December 30, 2007 was an incredible loss to his family, the State of Texas and our country.

It has been my honor to know and work with Ric during his service as Texas Commissioner of Transportation. From our first meeting, I knew I had a found a friend, a leader, and a key supporter of building our Nation's infrastructure. Rick's passing is a tremendous loss to all those who respected his leadership and brilliance in government's important work to build the national transportation system. I join the Texas Congressional Delegation and all who knew and worked with Ric in extending our sincere condolences to his wife and family.

As chairman of the Texas Transportation Commission, Ric crafted creative, major, and often controversial decisions about the future of the State's transportation system. He was a strong proponent of toll roads and public-private partnerships as a solution to meet the State's transportation needs and funding shortfalls.

Ric's policies and positions were always well thought-out and passionately defended. He always did what he thought would best serve the transportation needs of the State, and many believe that his support for public-private partnerships was instrumental in inspiring other States to consider similar deals as a way to finance new highway construction or to provide long-range, predictable State revenues.

Ric was a native of Abilene, Texas and graduated from University of Texas at Austin in 1974. In 1985, Ric was elected to the Texas Legislature, as a Democrat, and served 13 years until he left in 1998 as a Republican. Serving on the legislature's House Appropriations Committee, he was one of the "Pit Bulls," conservative lawmakers who questioned how the state spent its money. He believed that agencies should get money based on the goals they set and met, a concept known as performance-based budgeting, which is used today in the Texas budget process.

During his State House years, Ric was known as a maverick, and earned the nickname "Nitro" for his energy. He was an independent and aggressive leader who preferred making good policy over playing politics.

In 2001, Governor Perry appointed Ric to serve on the five-person Commission that oversees statewide activities of the Texas Department of Transportation. In 2004, he became the Commission's chairman. His tenure at the Commission was sometimes controversial, but, as my friend and colleague from the 26th district in Texas, Dr. Michael Burgess, said, Ric Williamson was "unafraid to challenge the status quo, and was a highly regarded leader bringing innovative ideas to provide safe, economic and reliable transportation to improve the daily lives of Texans."

Ric is survived by his wife Mary Ann Williamson and three daughters, Melissa Meyer, Katherine Strange, and Sara Williamson, as well as two grandchildren.

In closing, I will quote another friend of Ric's, the Administrator of the U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration. "Texas has lost a proud son, as has the nation's transportation community." Ric Williamson was a visionary leader and a straight talker. He will be sorely missed.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF JOHN
MICHAEL GRANVILLE, AN AMERICAN DIPLOMAT

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 15, 2008

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an outstanding citizen of Buffalo and Western New York, John Michael Granville, an American diplomat who devoted his adult life to promoting peace through his foreign aid and humanitarian work in Africa.

John Granville, who worked for the U.S. Agency for International Development (US AID) in Sudan, was fatally shot after attending a party at the British Embassy in Khartoum. His sudden passing is a great shock to us all and my thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends at this very difficult time. In this senseless tragedy, we lost a man of peace and purpose, a man who had dedicated himself to making the world a better place for others.

John Granville was a thoughtful and honorable man who was deeply loved by his family, friends and the community. Born and raised in my hometown of Buffalo, NY, John Granville was an outstanding young man. We are proud to salute John and honor him for his lasting service to our nation and to countries abroad and for the important humanitarian work he was doing in Africa.

John was a graduate of Canisius High School, Fordham University and held a Master's degree in International Development from Clark University. The John M. Granville '93 Memorial Scholarship has been established at his high school alma mater in his memory as family, friends and classmates want to make sure he will never be forgotten.

Before joining USAID, John served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Cameroon, where he helped build the first school in a rural village. His love for Africa and the people of Africa was realized during his years of service there. John's most recent work involved distributing radios to people in the southern part of Sudan to maximize the effect of the agency's broadcasting initiatives in Sudan's southern region, which is recovering from a 21-year civil war. The goal was to prepare southern Sudan for elections in 2009, and a possible referendum in 2011 on independence.

We know John will be missed beyond measure by his loving mother, Jane, his beloved sister Katie and brother-in law Sean, his loving nieces Caroline, Julia, Hanna and Molly and nephew Matthew, his extended family and dear friends. Everyone who knew or was influenced by John will mourn his loss in their own way. I will do my part to honor John's memory