

America, Troop 314, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Kyle has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Kyle 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 Kyle Joseph Krug 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. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 27, 2008*

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, on February 25, 2008, I was unavoidably detained and was not able to record my votes for rollcall Nos. 69–71.

Had I been present I would have voted:

Rollcall No. 69—"yes"—Expressing support for the designation of the week of March 3–7, 2008, as "School Social Work Week" to promote awareness of the vital role of school social workers in schools, and in the community as a whole, in helping students prepare for their future as productive citizens.

Rollcall No. 70—"yes"—Supporting the goals and ideals of "Career and Technical Education Month."

Rollcall No. 71—"yes"—Honoring the service and accomplishments of Lieutenant General Russel L. Honore, United States Army, for his 37 years of service on behalf of the United States.

#### IN HONOR OF JOHN STEINBECK

### HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 27, 2008*

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor one of our most famous writers and native sons, John Steinbeck. On what would have been his 106th birthday, my community celebrates Steinbeck's world-renowned body of work and respected place in American literary history.

Born in Salinas in 1902 and raised in and around Monterey Bay, John Steinbeck established himself as one of America's most widely read writers through works including *The Grapes of Wrath*, *Of Mice and Men*, and *East of Eden*. As an author and journalist, Steinbeck became known for exploring the plight of Americans during the Great Depression and the Dust Bowl of the 1930s, garnering international recognition and admiration for his socially astute and engaging writing over several decades.

Graduating from Salinas High School before attending Stanford University, John Steinbeck began writing from an early age. From his first major success with *Tortilla Flat* in 1935, Steinbeck's writing over the coming years was deeply entwined with the Monterey Bay region. Set against the backdrops of Soledad, Monterey, and the Salinas Valley, the experi-

ences and struggles of Steinbeck's characters reflected the social and economic challenges of the times. Much of his earliest writing offered a vibrant and realistic insight into the lives of agricultural and migrant workers during some of the most formative periods of the 20th century. During World War Two, Steinbeck worked in Europe as a foreign correspondent for the *Herald Tribune* of New York.

Steinbeck's profound talent for socially perceptive and captivating writing was continually acknowledged throughout his lifetime. He was honored with numerous awards and prizes, including the Pulitzer Prize for *The Grapes of Wrath* and the 1962 Nobel Prize for Literature. In 1963 he was also named an Honorary Consultant in American Literature to the Library of Congress.

Madam Speaker, in view of this impressive record of recognition for John Steinbeck as an American literary great, today I too would like to honor him for his lasting contribution to literature and culture in this country.

#### HONORING THE POLK COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS 2008 TEACHER OF THE YEAR

### HON. ADAM H. PUTNAM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 27, 2008*

Mr. PUTNAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Danny Whittenton, a history teacher at Lakeland's Kathleen High School in Florida's 12th Congressional District, for being recognized as the Polk County Public Schools 2008 "Teacher of the Year".

Danny Whittenton has devoted his career to teaching American history to three generations of Kathleen High School students. Ensuring that students have the opportunity to learn and experience the importance of history and civic responsibility, he continues to develop innovative teaching methods and is committed to making knowledge accessible to all students.

Polk County Public Schools employ over 12,300 employees, making them the largest employer in Polk County. Over 6,770 are fellow teachers. From those teachers, more than 300 applications were submitted for consideration. Danny was one of eight finalists whose nominee application was reviewed. His leadership, community and school involvement and teaching style earned him the honor of "Teacher of the Year" by a committee of community members, former teachers of the year and school-related employees of the year.

In 2006, Danny retired but it was short-lived as his will to teach was too strong and he returned to the classroom after only 1 month of retirement. Clearly his dedication is unwavering.

Thirty-eight years as an educator taught Danny Whittenton how to truly engage students. Dressing up as historical figures including Davy Crockett and George Washington helps spark his students' interest, and he utilizes game show concepts like History Jeopardy and History Trivial Pursuit as a contemporary way to teach history. His students also take part in the political process; organizing a Get-Out-The-Vote project, corresponding with candidates and even providing transportation to the polls for elderly citizens.

Danny is a leading example of how teachers raise student achievement through an exceptional approach. Principal Cecil McClellan of Kathleen High School shared that, "Danny is an excellent communicator with peers, parents and students. He possesses the ability to have students on the edge of their seats while engaging them in the learning process."

I would like to extend my congratulations to Danny Whittenton for exemplifying the core qualities of a teacher. His hard work and dedication have persevered through many years of teaching, decades of change, and thousands of students. I commend Danny for his service to three generations of Polk County students and wish him the very best in all of his future endeavors.

#### HONORING KYLE WILLIAM DOWNS

### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 27, 2008*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Kyle William Downs, 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 314, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Kyle has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Kyle 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 Kyle William Downs 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. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 27, 2008*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I would like to state for the record my position on the following votes I missed due to personal reasons.

On Tuesday, February 26, 2008 I missed rollcall votes 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, and 77. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall votes 72, 73, 74, 76 and 77, and "aye" on 75.

#### TRIBUTE TO ISAAC W. WILLIAMS, SR.

### HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 27, 2008*

Mr. CLYBURN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a dear friend, a dedicated staff member and a tremendous South Carolinian, Isaac W. "Ike" Williams, Sr. Ike passed away February 15, 2008, and this significant loss has been felt deeply by his family, his friends, his community and his State.