

securityman, and following his direct commissioning as an ensign in 1978, he was assigned to Reserve Unit Mobile. Here, he served in numerous positions, including training officer and administrative officer. In 1983, he was accepted as a reserve program administrator and was recalled to active duty in May 1984.

Early tours of duty included serving as chief, Reserve Training, Eighth District from 1984 to 1987; and as assistant chief, Port Operations, Marine Safety Office, Mobile from 1987 to 1990. In 1990, Captain Weeks was assigned to Reserve Training Center, Yorktown, as a member of the Port Security School staff. In this position, he was a member of the Port Security Unit (PSU) Training Detachment and was responsible for training PSUs for deployment during Desert Shield/Desert Storm at Camp Blanding, FL. From 1992 to 1994, he was assigned to the Contingency Planning School as assistant school chief and instructor.

Captain Weeks reported to the Eighth District in 1994 as the assistant chief, Contingency Preparedness Branch and in 1996 was named the branch chief. He became chief, Administration Division, Eighth Coast Guard District in May 1998. In 2000, Captain Weeks became the chief of the Force Optimization and Training Branch at MLC LANT. In this position, he was heavily involved in the recall of over 4,000 reservists in response to the events of September 11, 2001, and Operations Noble Eagle, Liberty Shield, and Iraqi Freedom. In 2005, Captain Weeks became chief of the Personnel Division, MLCA.

Throughout his career, Captain Weeks has demonstrated a tremendous devotion to his country and dedication to his duty. His long list of professional accomplishments are testament to the trust and esteem in which he has been held by both his superiors and subordinates. His career has also been marked with the receipt of numerous decorations and citations, including the Meritorious Service Medal, seven Coast Guard Commendation Medals, the Joint Services Achievement Medal, the Coast Guard Achievement Medal, three Coast Guard Letter of Commendation Ribbons, both the Coast Guard Reserve and Marine Corps Good Conduct Medals, and numerous unit citations and special operations service awards.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Captain Maury Weeks for his long and distinguished career of service to our country and congratulating him on the occasion of his retirement. I know his family, his wife, Pamela; the four children they share, Allen, Suzannah, Wayne and Tara; and his many friends join me in praising his many accomplishments and extending thanks for his service on behalf of a grateful Nation.

HONORING MRS. SANDRA BARBER

**HON. ROBERT E. LATTA**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 22, 2008*

Mr. LATTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay a very special tribute to one of the truly outstanding citizens from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District, Mrs. Sandra Barber, as she ends her tenure as Chairman of the Fulton County Republican Central and Executive Committees.

Over the past three decades, Sandra Barber has certainly been an indispensable asset to Republicans in Fulton County and the State of Ohio. Her strong commitment to conservative values and leadership has guided her 26 years as Chairman. Through her leadership, she has fostered healthy debate and democracy by leading the Party and representing the principles it embraces at the local, State, and national level. Without question, Mrs. Barber has given unselfishly of her time and talents in order to serve the interests of all Republicans across our Nation.

Mrs. Barber has served as county chairman for various Presidential campaigns including Ronald Reagan, George H.W. Bush, and President George W. Bush, as well as her role as a delegate at the five national conventions. She has also served the Ohio Republican Party as a member of the State Central Committee in addition to involvement in numerous State and local races.

Sandra Barber embodies the spirit of American public service through her commitment as Fulton County Recorder and her community as well. Mrs. Barber has served the State of Ohio as Chairman of the Ohio Lottery Commission and as a member of the Ohio Record-ers' Association. Locally, Mrs. Barber is a member of the Christ United Methodist Church, serving as a member of the chancel choir and church school teacher.

Madam Speaker, at this time, I would ask my colleagues of the 110th Congress to join me in honoring Sandra Barber. On the occasion of her retirement as Chairman of the Fulton County Central and Executive Committees, we thank her for her dedicated service and we wish her well in all of her future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO DR. CARL V. PATTON

**HON. JOHN LEWIS**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 22, 2008*

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Carl V. Patton, President of Georgia State University, who is retiring June 30 of this year.

For 16 years he has led Georgia State University in its transition from what was considered to be a commuter school into a vibrant research university which is home to more than 28,000 students representing every county in the State, every State in the Nation, and 160 countries.

President Patton not only wrote a best-selling book on public policy, he has practiced his beliefs, providing the leadership to create buildings, departments, knowledge, and solutions vital to our prosperity in the 21st century. As the University has grown physically, it has grown in stature as well. Among President Patton's many accomplishments:

He launched a university-wide planning effort that produced what is known as the "Main Street Master Plan", which increases the University's footprint in the downtown community and shapes the University's future growth.

He started the University's first comprehensive capital campaign, securing private funding sources to supplement state allocations for building projects.

Under Dr. Patton's leadership, Georgia State University has expanded its campus

using a strategy of acquiring and rehabilitating buildings and, when necessary, constructing new buildings like the Student Center, the Recreation Center, the Aderhold Learning Center, the Rialto Theater, Haas-Howell and Standard Buildings, Robinson College of Business, Commerce Building, North Metro Center, student housing at the Village and the Lofts and now the University Commons. Students, faculty, and staff now occupy floor space from the old Fairlie-Popular district to Grady Hospital. Residence halls full of students with dreams to change the world have replaced dilapidated structures empty of any economic hope. Old banks, tired office buildings, and moribund shells of department stores now bristle with the energy of a new commerce based on knowledge and preparing our young students to take on today's problems with tomorrow's solutions. Downtown Atlanta now is a living, vibrant area 24 hours a day thanks to the presence of thousands of students learning, living, and playing while placing more than \$7 million a day into the local economy.

Instead of designing walls to keep the city and its urban ways separate from the campus, President Patton has insisted that the University fully integrate its research, teaching and service mission into the fabric of the urban environment of its downtown Atlanta home.

His vision has included a state-of-the-art urban science park. And, thanks in no small part to the support of this Congress, this science park will support research on the treatment of autism, obesity, and post-traumatic stress disorder. In addition to neuroscience research, Georgia State will employ the efforts of eminent scholars from biology, chemistry, computer science, physics, mathematics, and statistics to better understand the molecular basis of disease.

Finally, each of the six schools that are a part of Georgia State have grown and prospered during President Patton's tenure.

Georgia State has grown into one of this Nation's leading urban-serving research universities reflecting Dr. Patton's vision for a partnership between Atlanta and the University. That vision is best described by his words:

"It's not just us serving the city. It's not the city serving us. It's the idea of together building a city and a university that are second to none. Georgia State is a source of limitless potential that can be unleashed through a clear understanding of how we generate lasting value to our city, our State, and the Nation. Working with our community, we are able to determine our shared future."

Dr. Patton has lived his life in the way he hopes his students live theirs, tirelessly volunteering for service in his community through organizations like Central Atlanta Progress, the Rotary, and the Grady Memorial Hospital Corporation. His example and his hard work will not stop at retirement, however, as he plans to continue to live downtown and assist Georgia State in its future endeavors to raise capital and to expand its student body to tackle the tough issues of our times.

Madam Speaker, I am sure I speak for you and my colleagues in the House of Representatives when I say that Dr. Carl V. Patton is the kind of leader we need to set the right example for the future of our country and our students. He has served Georgia State University, the city of Atlanta, the State of Georgia,

and the United States of America well. God Bless for a well-deserved retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JOHN SULLIVAN**

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 22, 2008*

Mr. SULLIVAN. Madam Speaker, I rise to state that due to unforeseen circumstances, I missed rollcall vote 353 to H.R. 6124 taken on May 22, 2008. Had I been present for this vote, I would have voted "yea" on this measure.

While this Farm Bill is not perfect, I would have voted to support the bill because of the benefit it will bring to Oklahoma's farmers and ranchers. In a time of rampant Government spending, I would like to have seen substantive reform in terms of fiscal responsibility. However, this bill does take necessary steps to help the agriculture industry that is vital to the State of Oklahoma. I look forward to voting on this measure to ensure that it becomes law.

HONORING PLEASANT VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL BOYS CROSS COUNTRY TEAM

**HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 22, 2008*

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding results achieved by the Pleasant Valley High School Boys Cross Country team. This past fall Pleasant Valley captured the Iowa Class 4A Cross Country Championship!

The Pleasant Valley team finished the course with a team average time of 16 minutes, 10 seconds. And the individual winner of the meet was Pleasant Valley runner Devin Allbaugh who finished the course in 15 minutes, 39 seconds.

Madam Speaker, I am extremely proud of the accomplishments of the Pleasant Valley Boys Cross Country team, both on and off the court. Perhaps Paul "Bear" Bryant, the late, great coach of the Alabama Crimson Tide football team, says it best: "Show class, have pride, and display character. If you do, winning takes care of itself." This past weekend, Pleasant Valley proved just that.

SALUTING BRIAN KROHN

**HON. KEITH ELLISON**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 22, 2008*

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize an outstanding student from my district whose research has helped develop a new biodiesel production method that will help move our country in the direction of energy independence.

Brian Krohn, a Senior Chemistry Major at Augsburg College in Minneapolis recently conducted a summer research project aimed at

investigating new ways to produce biodiesel. His project developed a new, innovative chemical reaction that has never before been described in scientific literature. This new process—"Mcgyan Process," named for the three scientists officially credited with the discovery, can convert a much wider range of feedstock oils and animal fats into biodiesel. The Mcgyan Process can make more biodiesel fuel, faster and with a minimal environmental impact. The wider range of renewable oils that can be used through the Mcgyan Process also has the potential to foster additional environmentally sound discoveries that can help move our country in the right direction of renewable energy.

All of these discoveries were made possible by the research and ideas initiated by Brian Krohn and the learning environment fostered by Augsburg College. Brian's success should serve as a reminder of the potential that exists within every student. With the appropriate encouragement, support and a positive working environment truly amazing discoveries can occur.

Madam Speaker, we salute Brian Krohn and all our nation's remarkable students, teachers, and scientists who are persistently working to bring knowledge, ingenuity and hard work together to move our country toward energy independence.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. XAVIER BECERRA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 22, 2008*

Mr. BECERRA. Madam Speaker, on Wednesday, May 21, 2008, I was unable to cast my floor vote on rollcall vote 341.

Had I been present for the votes, I would have voted "aye" for rollcall vote 341.

RENEWABLE ENERGY AND JOB CREATION ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

**HON. HILDA L. SOLIS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 21, 2008*

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I strongly support H.R. 6049, the Renewable Energy and Job Creation Act. This legislation will extend and expand important tax incentives for renewable energy, will spur business investments, cut taxes for millions of Americans, and retain and create hundreds of thousands of green jobs.

The Renewable Energy and Job Creation Act includes \$18 billion in tax incentives to spur green jobs and energy independence. I am pleased that it includes a six-year extension of the investment tax credit for solar energy, and between one and three year extensions of the production tax credit for additional sources of renewable energy. It also provides tax credits of \$3,000 or more to purchase fuel-efficient, plug-in hybrid vehicles and includes important incentives for energy conservation in commercial buildings, residential structures, and energy efficient appliance. This bill also includes \$3 billion in tax credit bonds for State and local governments to make energy con-

servation investments in public infrastructure, investments which I hope can be targeted toward low-income communities and our schools.

Without these energy tax extensions, our nation could lose an additional 116,000 jobs this year. With additional long-term repercussions in the growth of an industry which has enormous potential at in an otherwise uncertain economic time.

This legislation also invests \$37 billion to spur job creation and cut taxes for millions of middle-class families. It will help the families of more than 13 million children by expanding the child tax credit to those earning \$8,500 a year, saves 3.4 million teachers money by providing a deduction for classroom expenses, extends tax relief under the Earned Income Tax Credit to 22,000 American servicemen and woman in combat, and would help more than 4.5 million families better afford college.

At a time when families are struggling in a slowing economy and oil prices reached yet another record on the world market, this bill is a much needed step toward securing our energy and economic future. I hope my colleagues and the President will join us in enacting this important legislation which makes needed investments without increasing the national debt.

HONORING WOMEN IN THE ARMED FORCES AND FEMALE VETERANS

SPEECH OF

**HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 20, 2008*

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 1054 to express my appreciation to the one million plus female veterans across our Nation and the thousands of women serving in our armed forces today. I want to thank these brave heroines who sacrifice much to not only protect our safety but also defend our freedoms.

Our brave men and women, who have chosen to join our all volunteer military, share not only a passion for their country but a respect for the ideals that it promotes. While women served honorably in World War I, they were not permitted to participate in the armed forces as equals until the passage of the Women's Armed Services Integration Act of 1948. This legislation made it possible for women to serve in active duty and reserve military occupational specialties, other than nursing, and as equals to their male counterparts.

While women are still prohibited from serving in front line military units, their ability to wear the uniform and assist our efforts at home and abroad must be commended. It is important to remember that during our 10 year involvement in Vietnam, eight service women lost their lives. More recently, 110 women have paid the ultimate sacrifice in the Global War on Terrorism. These brave women are not only soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines. They are our daughters, our mothers, our sisters, and our aunts. They are an integral component of our community and we must remember that as they deploy or are lost in action, we too suffer along with their families.

As we honor those serving today and those who have served in the past, we must rededicate ourselves to providing the benefits and