

politics from the University of Georgia. She received both her Master of Science and Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Ohio State University, graduating cum laude. She holds a nursing diploma from Mt. Carmel Hospital School of Nursing. One of only 1500 out of nearly three million nurses, Dr. Milstead is a Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing. She is board certified as a Nurse Executive Advanced. Dr. Milstead is also a founding member of the Nightingale Policy Institute, a virtual gathering of U.S. policy nurses. She serves as Chair of the Board of Commissioners of the Commission on Nurse Certification. She is a member of the Health Policy Council of the Ohio Nursing Association and the American Academy of Nursing's Expert Panel on Global Health. Appointed to the Toledo Lucas County Port Authority, Dr. Milstead has traveled to China, Cuba, and Jordan and evaluated programs in these countries.

Jeri Milstead has received many awards and accolades throughout her career. She was awarded the American Nursing Association's first Search for Excellence Award. She has been honored by Ohio's General Assembly for her leadership and service. She was awarded a Duquesne University Creative Teaching Award for her pioneering design and implementation of the first online course taught in the first online nursing PhD program offered in the world. Her own institution recognized her efforts by awarding her its Career Achievement Award.

Internationally respected as an expert in public policy and the politics of health care, Dr. Milstead is well-published in this arena and nursing. In addition to several books and journal publications, she was Editor-in-Chief of *The International Nurse* for eleven years until its recent cessation.

Jeri Milstead has been a guiding light in nursing and health care worldwide. Her caring work has been inspirational, and her counsel invaluable. Her retirement leaves shoes nearly impossible to fill, yet her imprimatur is everywhere: in her profession, the university, our nation and world. She will most certainly be missed. As she begins this new journey in her life we wish for Jeri time spent doing what she most enjoys with those for whom she most cares. Godspeed.

RECOGNIZING WESTCARE HEALTH SYSTEM FOR THEIR DEDICATION AND SERVICE TO WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA

**HON. HEATH SHULER**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 3, 2008*

Mr. SHULER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my gratitude to all of the employees of WestCare Health System.

When an unexpected event occurred at a neighboring hospital in Western North Carolina, the physicians and staff of WestCare Health System, which includes Harris Regional Hospital, recognized the urgency of the situation and took action to address a regional health care crisis. They made the necessary adjustments to serve both those in need of health care, and the professionals responsible for providing vital services, such as surgery and emergency care.

The services and credentialing staff of WestCare worked long hours to assist displaced physicians in obtaining the proper clearance needed to treat patients and perform surgeries at Harris Regional Hospital. Despite the increased patient volume, every member of the staff stepped in to do their part to help, ensuring that Harris Regional Hospital remained a clean, safe place to receive medical treatment.

The flexibility that this staff showed through this time is truly something to be appreciated and admired. The increased workloads were a challenge to both the professional and personal lives of the WestCare staff. Projects were put on hold, sleep was lost, and family time dwindled. For this, on behalf of the patients that were able to obtain care at this facility, who may have otherwise had to do without, I would like to say thank you for the sacrifices that you made in order to make sure they had the care that they needed.

I would like to commend and thank all of the staff of WestCare for ensuring that every patient that walked through their doors would receive the high quality health care that they deserved from staff and were treated in a friendly and efficient manner.

The region has noticed WestCare Health System's efforts. Community leaders have recognized the staff's response and dedication. Patients have expressed their appreciation through letters to WestCare's CEO Mark Leonard. This brand of endurance and care for our neighbors when they are in need is not only a characteristic of the WestCare staff, but rather of the people of Western North Carolina.

I am proud to represent an area where I know that we can count on those around us to help us in times of trouble. To the staff at WestCare, I cannot thank you enough for your hard work and dedication to serving those around you in a time of need.

IN MEMORY OF KEITH AND  
JAYNIE PAULSON, VINCE  
WHITELEY, AND JENNIFER  
DRAKE

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 3, 2008*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the all too short lives of Keith and Jaynie Paulson, Vince Whiteley, and Jennifer Drake, residents of my district, who died tragically in a small plane crash on May 23, 2008.

The epitome of the all-American family, Keith and Jaynie Paulson moved to the village of Albion on the Mendocino coast in northern California in 1976 and immediately became an integral and respected part of the community. A former high school science teacher from the Bay Area, Keith originally planned to develop hydroponic greenhouses.

Once he purchased a tractor, he was hired to do jobs for neighbors and then through word of mouth he found a niche digging trenches and installing underground utilities. In 1977, Paulson Excavating was born with Keith at the helm and Jaynie the chief financial officer. By 1981, the company had grown to the point of bidding on jobs in and outside of

Mendocino County installing telecommunications components and doing projects for public agencies including cities, counties, special districts and the State. Their workforce grew from a core of 15 to as many as 75 employees.

Known and respected by their peers for exemplary business practices, the Paulsons were also beloved by colleagues and neighbors on the Mendocino coast, where their roots were deep. They raised two children, Amy and Brian, and were involved in their school, sports and other extra curricular activities. Bryan continues the work of Paulson Excavating. Amy is mother to the 3 Paulson grandchildren: Lincoln, Jackson, and Anna.

Jaynie served on the Mendocino Unified School District Board from 1991 until 2004. Keith also served for a short time on the school board and was the coach of the Mendocino High School golf team. He was a member of the Albion-Little River Volunteer Fire Department for 7 years and held various officer positions. A meticulous and expert pilot for 25 years, Keith was appointed as pilot representative to the Little River Airport Advisory Committee in 2007 by the County of Mendocino.

The tragedy, which took their lives, also claimed Amy's husband, Vince Whiteley, a graphic artist from Windsor and Bryan's longtime girlfriend, Jennifer Drake from Albion. The Mendocino coast community is left with a hole in the hearts of so many. Accolades and tributes to this sterling couple and their children's mates help the grieving as we try to make sense of their loss.

Madam Chair and colleagues, please join me in conveying our deepest sympathy to the children, loved ones, and the community, during this sorrowful time as we recognize and honor the lives and contributions of Keith and Jaynie Paulson and Vince Whiteley and Jennifer Drake.

HONORING RICHARD R. NIEMANN  
OF NAPA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 3, 2008*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Richard R. Niemann on the occasion of his retirement from the Napa Valley Unified School District after 39 years of teaching. Richard will be truly missed by his friends, colleagues and most of all, his students.

Mr. Niemann received his B.A. in History and Business Administration from Fresno State University and went on to graduate studies in International Relations at the University of the Americas in Mexico City in 1969. His love for learning led him to get his teaching credential from Fresno State University in Standard Secondary-History, Economics, Political Science, and Business. In 1976, Mr. Niemann received a Life Administrative Credential in Education and his M.A. in History from Sonoma State University in 1981.

Mr. Niemann has devoted his life to the education of others and has greatly influenced many of the students and faculty members he has worked with. He is not only a phenomenal educator, but a sterling role model for the

community. Among many other achievements and activities, Mr. Niemann was co-chair of the NVUSD Educational Plan Committee for the new American Canyon High School from 2005–2006. He also coordinated National History Day for Napa County Schools, with more than 2,000 students participating annually from 2000–2004. Mr. Niemann has reached out to get others involved, serving as a delegation leader for the “People to People” Student Ambassador Program. The program attracted participants from Russia, Latvia, Lithuania, New Zealand, and Australia. He has been a mentor teacher, track coach, and has always made himself available after hours to work with parent volunteers.

Mr. Niemann strives to not just teach history, but to experience it. He has traveled to 49 countries on six continents. He has consulted with educators and observed schools in Mexico, Fiji, Russia, Germany, Japan, Central America, South Africa, India, Kenya, Thailand, Costa Rica, and Nicaragua.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, it is my distinct pleasure to recognize Richard R. Niemann for his many years of service to the Napa Valley, and to thank him for his contributions to the community. I join his wife, Marsha, his children, and our colleagues in wishing him the best as he enters this new phase of his life.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO COLONEL  
MICHAEL L. BARTLEY

**HON. JON C. PORTER**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 3, 2008*

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to rise today to honor my friend Colonel Michael L. Bartley by entering his name in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, the official record of the proceedings and debates of the United States Congress since 1873. Today I pay tribute to Colonel Bartley for his distinguished service to the United States Air Force and his exemplary record as Commander of the 99th Base Wing at Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada.

Colonel Bartley has had a long and illustrious career as an airman. Having graduated from the United States Air Force Academy in June 1983, Colonel Bartley distinguished himself in his early duty assignments as an A/OA–10 and F–16 instructor pilot. He also performed duties as a weapons officer, flight evaluator, flight commander, assistant operations officer, deployment commander, and served as a member of the 354 TFW Gunsmoke team in 1987.

During Operation Desert Storm, Colonel Bartley flew over 40 combat missions over Iraq in the OA–10 and flew 65 combat missions over Northern Iraq in the F–16C during Operation Provide Comfort and over Southern Iraq during Operation Southern Watch as the Operations Officer of the 523rd Fighter Squadron. Following his tenure in the Middle East, Colonel Bartley served as Vice Commander of the 35th Fighter Wing at Misawa Air Base, Japan and was subsequently assigned to serve as the Commander of the 99th Air Base Wing at Nellis.

Over the course of his career as an airman, Colonel Bartley has been highly decorated.

Colonel Bartley has been awarded the Legion of Merit, the Distinguished Flying Cross with Valor, the Meritorious Service Medal with 4 oak leaf clusters, the Air Medal with 6 oak leaf clusters, the Air Force Commendation Medal, the Air Force Organizational Excellence Award and numerous other accolades and awards.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to be able to recognize Colonel Michael L. Bartley. His dedication to defending freedom and his exemplary record of service illustrate that Colonel Bartley is a true American patriot. I thank him for his service, applaud him on all his successes and wish him the best in his future endeavors.

THE 52ND REUNION OF THE U.S.  
AIR FORCE'S 4080TH STRATEGIC  
RECONNAISSANCE WING

**HON. MICHELE BACHMANN**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 3, 2008*

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, recently in Del Rio, Texas, the veterans of the U.S. Air Force's 4080th Strategic Reconnaissance Wing held their 52nd and final reunion.

I am proud to say that many of Minnesota's finest have served in this distinguished outfit, including the man who shared with me their incredible achievements, Minnesota native Jim Wemple, Airmen 2nd Class, who joined the unit the year it was formed, 1956.

The 4080th is one of the most distinguished units in the great history of the American armed services. In fact, it holds the distinct honor of being the highest decorated unit in the Air Force during peace time. The unit has received a Presidential citation, and its members have been awarded the highest honors afforded by the military, including the Silver Star and the Medal of Honor.

With skill and courage, the 4080th flew critical recon missions time and again, including many daring missions during the Cold War. Their efforts and sacrifices averted conflicts, saved lives and secured peace.

The brave patriots who served in this unit have played a pivotal role in many of the defining events of the 20th Century. With courage and dignity, they put their lives on the line to defend our flag and our freedoms and these men truly deserve our undying gratitude.

And so it is my honor to recognize and pay tribute to the all the men of the 4080th Recon Wing. We must always hold the American serviceman in our hearts, for, as General MacArthur said, they hold America's destiny in their hands.

HONORING ALWARD AND HENRY  
MEEKER POST 2833 AND LADIES  
AUXILIARY, VETERANS OF FOR-  
EIGN WARS

**HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 3, 2008*

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Alward and Henry Meeker Post 2833 and the Ladies Auxiliary, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Kenvil, Township of

Roxbury, County of Morris, New Jersey, as we commemorate the Post's 75th Anniversary.

VFW Post 2833 was formed during the winter months of 1932 and 1933 in a road stand which is now the office of the Kingtown Mountain Motel. Twenty-one other charter members were recruited by Frank Van Houten, a Spanish American War veteran, after his move from Paterson, New Jersey to Netcong. Mr. Van Houten was previously a member of the Alexander Hamilton VFW Post 139, Paterson. Netcong had already formed a post a year earlier, but Mr. Van Houten and his recruits from the Netcong/Succasunna area sought to establish their own Post.

The Post was named in remembrance of two brothers, Private Alward Wilson Meeker and Private Henry Fordham Meeker Jr., who both died during World War I. The brothers were sons of Henry F. and Charlotte H. Meeker, who operated a general store on Main Street in Kenvil. On Flag Day, June 14, 1933, the A & H Meeker VFW Post officially was chartered with Frank Van Houten as its first Commander. The Ladies Auxiliary was chartered on October 13, 1933. Ruth Hart was its first President.

On January 12, 1935, Post charter member John Kasweck and Auxiliary charter member Margaret Kasweck deeded land for the new Post home. The members signed for a bank loan to cover the cost of building materials and held fundraisers and dances to pay off the debt. The loan was repaid by the early 1940s, so by the end of World War II, returning veterans had an established post to join.

In the late 1960's a merger took place between Alward & Henry Meeker 2833 and Roxbury Memorial Post 10135, including the Ladies Auxiliaries. The Post retained its name.

During 1988 additions were completed for the Post building, and land was purchased for a parking lot. The flag pole was moved to its present position at the Post building. Sidewalks and wheelchair access were also added, but funds fell short, and loans were once again given by members. In the 1990's the Post and Auxiliary joined forces, sponsoring spaghetti dinners to meet the obligation of these loans.

Today, the Post celebrates its 75th anniversary. The members take pride in all the service they have provided to our veterans and the community of Roxbury Township over many years.

Madam Speaker, I am privileged to honor the Alward and Henry Meeker Post 2833 and the Ladies Auxiliary, Veterans of Foreign Wars. I urge you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the members of this valuable, dedicated organization for their seventy-five years of service!

IN HONOR OF THE STUDENT  
GRADUATES OF SADDLE RIVER'S  
YOUTH LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

**HON. SCOTT GARRETT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 3, 2008*

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey, Madam Speaker, today, the Saddle River Police Department will hold its Youth Leadership Program graduation ceremony with the students of the Wandell School. The young people participating in this important program have made