

members, directing staff support for the NPA working sessions, and providing essential on-site expertise to Members. Paul has been an invaluable resource to me and the other Members of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly. His knowledge of the issues facing the United States in regards to our relationship with our European allies is immeasurable and he is a truly valued resource to us in our discussions at these meetings. It goes without saying that he will be sorely missed by all the participants in the NATO Parliamentary Assembly meetings both here and abroad.

On behalf of my colleagues in Congress, I want to express my deep appreciation to Paul Gallis for his long service to the Congress and especially for his direct assistance to the United States Group of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly. I will regret his absence in future NPA meetings but wish him well in his retirement.

HONORING THE SACRIFICES AND CONTRIBUTIONS MADE BY DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

SPEECH OF

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2008

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I am submitting this statement to record my strong and enthusiastic support of the House Resolution honoring the sacrifices and contributions made by disabled American veterans.

Today I wish to recognize these men and women for their patriotic contribution in our armed services; who have given so much to defend our Nation.

The brave men and women who defend this country under threat of that ultimate sacrifice truly are our guardian angels. They fight with passion and dedication for an ideal that we all cherish, the notion that this is the land of opportunity, the land of the free. Unfortunately, that freedom comes at a price and too often our guardian angels come home wounded and disabled. They defend us and are willing to throw themselves in harms way before us, and we must not forget that.

These wounded warriors are an inspiration to all of us, and we owe them so very much. It is our duty to them that we always remember what they have fought and sacrificed for. We must always remember the sacred agreement we made with these servicemen, if they go off and fight for us we will forever be in their debt and we must provide for them and their loved ones.

My praise and thanks fall well short of equaling the gift of freedom our veterans bestowed on all of us. They bare the scars that remind us all how costly freedom can be, and all I have to offer in return is my eternal gratitude.

TRIBUTE TO CHARLES CLAYTON

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2008

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Charles Clayton

on earning the Community Hero Award, given by Safeco Insurance, for his longtime dedication to helping others and inspiring positive change in his community of Fort Dodge, Iowa.

Charles is the founder of "Athletics for Education and Success." By receiving a second chance as a youth, he felt the calling to educate and empower underprivileged youth. Athletics for Education and Success gives selected youth the opportunity to participate in athletic programs they are likely unable to afford. Charles incorporates education with athletics by focusing on tough issues that kids face today including drugs, teen pregnancy, and gangs.

In addition, Charles has also organized a Disproportionate Minority Representation Council in Fort Dodge to create partnerships between citizens, law enforcement authorities, and schools in order to reduce the disproportionate amount of minority youth arrests in the area.

Charles's dedication to his community and his commitment to improving the life of others should be commended. I consider it an honor to represent Charles Clayton in the United States Congress and I know my colleagues join me in wishing him the best in his continued work serving others.

IN HONOR OF THE 233RD ANNIVERSARY OF UNITED STATES ARMY

HON. NANCY E. BOYDA

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2008

Mrs. BOYDA of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise in recognition of an important anniversary—the birthday of the United States Army.

Just shy of 233 years, maybe on a day like today, the people of our Nation came together as volunteers to meet the demands of the American Revolutionary War. It was on that day, June 14th, 1775 that the United States Army was born. I believe that on that same day the spirit of democracy was defended and the birth of our freedom was realized.

Since the birth of our Army, we've waged through 24 major engagements including the War of 1812, the Mexican-American War, the American Civil War, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Kosovo War and more recently Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom.

Army's Senior Leadership said it best in their birthday message to the force at large. They stated, "Our sacrifices have preserved our way of life, built a better future for others, and led our Nation to victory over our enemies. We are the best in the world at what we do, and because of our values, our ethos, and our people—especially our people. Our Army is hugely resilient, professional, and battle-hardened." I am reassured through the training that I've personally watched in my travels to Iraq and at home that the U.S. Army is without doubt prepared.

I think about the bravery of our men and women that serve. Not a day goes by when I haven't thought about the priceless human investment our Nation bears through America's Sons and Daughters. Though I continually pray for everyone's safe return, I know that each citizen takes an oath that could mean giving the ultimate sacrifice. I am consistently reminded from faces I see almost daily of the

special qualities of spirit, patriotism and courage that exude from the men and women in uniform today, just as they did in 1775.

Happy Birthday—U.S. Army!

IN HONOR OF STEPHEN G. SCHUELER

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2008

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a dear friend and someone who has served the people of Bradley Beach and my State of New Jersey with distinction—Mayor Stephen G. Schueler.

Steve has served as Mayor of the Borough of Bradley Beach since 1992. Located on the Jersey Shore, Bradley Beach is "New Jersey's Family Resort" with a year round population of 5,000 that swells to 30,000 in the summer months as families come to enjoy the sand, surf, and bustling downtown. Since becoming Mayor, Steve has helped Bradley Beach continue to thrive as a vibrant town with acclaimed restaurants, quaint coffee shops, and a historic movie theater, in addition to its excellent beaches and beautiful boardwalk.

Under Steve's leadership, the many community events that Bradley Beach hosts have continued to provide countless hours of enjoyment for families from all over New Jersey. The Summer Gazebo Concert series on the boardwalk, the annual fireworks display, the Italian-American festival, and the annual Bradley Beach Invitation Lifeguard tournament all provide excellent recreational opportunities for residents and visitors alike. Also, the end-of-summer Mayor's Clambake, which raises funds for local organizations, is one of the nicest events on the Jersey Shore each year.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to call Steve my friend, and I wish him the best as he ends his time as Mayor of Bradley Beach. While he may no longer be mayor, his example will continue to inspire us all and families will continue to enjoy their visits to Bradley Beach because of the path he has set us on.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2008

Mr. ANDREWS. Madam Speaker, I was not present on June 3, 2008. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on the following rollcall votes: rollcall No. 367, rollcall No. 368, and rollcall No. 369.

INTRODUCTION OF 4 BILLS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2008

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I am introducing these four bills, which were part of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2008 and became law as part of Public Law No: 110-161.