

families during a storm. These results are particularly troubling when we consider how many citizens of the Gulf Coast did not have plans and were forced to accept relocation to toxic trailers.

The Homeland Security Relief Corps Act of 2008 will ensure that the areas ravaged by Katrina will not go unattended by providing trained workers to engage in actual rebuilding efforts. This bill will assist us in addressing some of the harms caused by Katrina.

As introduced, the Homeland Security Relief Corps Act will establish a much needed Response and Recovery Corps within the Department of Homeland Security. The Corps members will receive core training in emergency response, post-incident recovery, and rebuilding efforts. Equipped with the knowledge and preparation needed to make the disaster recovery process more efficient, the Corps members will be of tremendous assistance to the ravaged areas.

With the floods in the Midwest and the other disasters this Nation has seen since Katrina, it is time for citizens to get more involved in disaster response and recovery. This bill provides a path to the rebuilding of the Gulf Coast and provides hope for quicker recovery for residents of other ravaged areas.

RECOGNIZING EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT, DISASTER RECOVERY AND RELIEF EFFORTS IN RUSH COUNTY

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and recognize the extraordinary contributions of emergency management, disaster response, and recovery personnel as well as elected officials and community leaders in my district which was devastated by the recent severe weather in Indiana.

I wish particularly to honor the Board of Commissioners and County Council, as well as these outstanding individuals in Rush County:

Mike Ooley, Director, Emergency Management Agency.

Jeff Sherwood, Sheriff.

Merv Bostic, Mayor, City of Rushville.

Ron D. Cameron, Chief of Police, City of Rushville.

These areas suffered greatly from severe storms and weather, creating a catastrophe of nature that inflicted injuries, destroyed property, and displaced many of our citizens. In response, these officials went above and beyond the call of duty, showing great poise while saving many lives and serving the people of their communities.

Madam Speaker, I commend these fine men and women for their tremendous dedication to the Hoosier families, businesses, farmers and communities that they serve. As Hoosiers continue to recover from Mother Nature's fury, I feel confident that the people of Rush County will be well served by these officials.

SUPPORTING THE SUPREME COURT RULING ON SECOND AMENDMENT RIGHTS

HON. JOHN S. TANNER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mr. TANNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to offer my support for the decision made by the U.S. Supreme Court to uphold an individual's right to keep and bear arms. Today, the Court rightly struck down the ban on handguns in the District of Columbia. Throughout my tenure in Congress, I have co-sponsored legislation to end this ban, which contradicts the Second Amendment rights guaranteed to all Americans by the U.S. Constitution.

In issuing its decree, the Court protected the right of a sportsman to have a shotgun in his home and affirmed the right of a homeowner to keep a handgun to protect his family and property from intruders. Our Founding Fathers fought and died for the individual liberties we all enjoy—among them, the right of the citizens of this country to possess firearms.

We are not given the latitude to pick which of those liberties we choose to follow or enforce, be it the freedom to speak or the freedom to worship. Like those fundamental freedoms, we cannot dismiss or dilute the right to keep and bear arms.

As an avid hunter and strong gun rights advocate, I applaud the Court for its decision. I look forward to continuing our work in Congress to protect the integrity of the Second Amendment.

RECOGNIZING THE 2008 JEFFERSON AWARD FOR PUBLIC SERVICE HONOREES FROM MISSISSIPPI

HON. TRAVIS W. CHILDERS

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mr. CHILDERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the recipients of the Jefferson Award for Public Service from the great state of Mississippi. Nancy Collins of Tupelo, Mississippi, one of only 5 national honorees, and the 4 local winners Robert Davison of Steens, Mississippi, Claire Crawford, Armondo de la Cruz, and Cooper Kennard all of Starkville, Mississippi.

The Jefferson Award for Public Service is presented to the most dedicated and hard working of our nation's volunteers. Last week, I had the tremendous honor of attending the 2008 National Jefferson Awards Ceremony in Washington, where Nancy Collins was awarded one of only 5 national awards.

Ms. Collins was instrumental in getting funding for Sanctuary Hospice House and was also a co-founder, realizing her goal of providing physical and spiritual care to the terminally ill. She was inspired by a visit to a similar hospice she visited in Mexico. To date the Sanctuary Hospice House, located in Tupelo, has served more than 600 people and has been an invaluable resource for the families and patients in its care.

Ms. Collins and her fellow honorees are the embodiment of public service. I am honored for Ms. Collins to represent North Mississippi

with her dedication to the community. Please join me today in congratulating Ms. Collins for this prestigious recognition of her contributions to the greater good.

THE DAILY 45: A PYRRHIC VICTORY FOR SOME IN TODAY'S SUPREME COURT RULING

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, since February of this year, on virtually every day the House has been in session, I have decried the senseless loss of life, due to gun violence, for what I call the forgotten "Daily 45." This number refers to the fact that, on average, 45 people are fatally shot in the United States at the hands of an assailant or, worse, a loved one with a gun.

There's still no national outrage at the fact that this number dwarfs the number of fatalities—Iraqi and American—that lose their lives daily, or even weekly, in the Iraq war zone! And, in the midst of all this, Madam Speaker, today, in a 5-4 decision, the U.S. Supreme Court has ruled that residents in the District of Columbia have an individual right to own and maintain a gun in their homes. This decision will negate the efforts made by D.C. Mayor Adrian Fenty, and the Metropolitan Police Department, to reduce the skyrocketing murder rate as a result of firearms.

I don't know what community the Justices live in but in my community, on the South Side of Chicago, there will be no celebrations in praise of this pyrrhic victory. Unfortunately, I can guarantee you that, tonight, some parent, some brother, some sister or some community leader will, once again, cry out in agony at the loss of yet another life from the violence wrought by a gun.

Americans of conscience must come together to stop the senseless death of "The Daily 45." When will Americans say "enough is enough, stop the killing!"

RECOGNIZING LIEUTENANT GENERAL FRANK SACKTON (RETIRED)

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in celebration of retired Lieutenant General Frank J. Sackton in honor of his upcoming 96th birthday. Leading a life of service to his country and the State of Arizona, Frank has shown himself to be a man of honor, intelligence, and dedication.

Frank served in the U.S. Army for 30 years, retiring as a Lieutenant General in 1970. In 1945, Sackton was personally decorated and promoted by General Douglas MacArthur to Colonel on the battlefield in the Philippines. He later served three years as Secretary of the General Staff for General MacArthur during the occupation in postwar Japan. Frank has fought valiantly to protect this Nation, and I am deeply grateful for his service.

For 25 years, Sackton, a Ph.D., has served Arizona State University as honorably as he did our country. He was the founding dean of the College of Public Programs, vice president for business affairs, athletic director, and then professor. Although technically retired, Sackton still teaches a class every semester at ASU. He utilizes his creativity and passion for teaching to create classes that are popular among his students, opting for interactive case studies over the traditional format of textbook reading and lectures.

He also helped secure a brighter environmental and economic future for Arizona, working for three years as Governor Jack Williams' special assistant for energy planning and economic development.

Frank remains committed to contributing to his community. He is active at St. Barnabas Episcopal Church, has addressed the Rotary Club on several occasions, and often visits the Children's Center at Scottsdale Healthcare to cheer up the children who are ill.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Frank Sackton on nearly a century of service.

JACK BROWN

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jack Brown, of St. Joseph, Missouri. Mr. Brown will retire from the St. Joseph, Missouri Fire Department after an impressive 38-year career with the department.

Chief Brown was named the 15th Fire Chief in the St. Joseph Fire Department's history in September of 2003. Previously he served in many capacities, including Battalion Chief and Captain. Chief Brown is also the recipient of three life-saving awards during his career.

Jack is someone that I developed a personal friendship with, as we had the opportunity to work together on various issues. He is a sincere, honest individual that never wanted any of the accolades; he always felt he was just doing his job. You knew when visiting with Jack that firefighting was not a career, but rather a passion. Chief Brown is a stand-up individual, who will be truly missed by the St. Joseph Fire Department, the St. Joseph community and all those who had the opportunity to work with him.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Jack Brown, whose dedication and service to the citizens of St. Joseph, Missouri has been truly exceptional. It is truly an honor to serve Chief Brown in the United States Congress.

HONORING COLONEL RICHARD J. MASON, JR.

HON. BEN CHANDLER

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mr. CHANDLER. Madam Speaker, COL Richard J. Mason, Jr. demonstrated exceptional meritorious service from 30 June 2005

to 10 July 2008 as Commander of Blue Grass Army Depot (BGAD), a 15,000 acre depot in Richmond, Kentucky. He was responsible for the production, receipt, storage, issue, maintenance and demilitarization of conventional munitions.

Serving as the consummate depot commander, Colonel Mason oversaw an organization that supported the troops with ammunition and Chemical Defense Equipment. He safeguarded and ensured the operational readiness of a munitions stockpile while executing the shipping and receiving of over 250,000 short tons of munitions.

As the sole provider chemical personnel equipment, Colonel Mason's untiring efforts to improve support to the troops were superb. By eliminating erroneous shipments to incorrect locations, the cost of transportation was reduced by over 30 percent and ability to provide equipment to soldiers on the battlefield increased significantly without requiring additional manpower. Specifically, Colonel Mason's efforts to support the fielding of Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) armor kits to the troops were commendable.

He contributed to the future of the BGAD by developing its first Strategic Business Plan which integrated all aspects of logistics and business processes while providing a clear vision for the Depot's future. He also initiated a continuous business improvement culture across the Depot by improving processes, reducing costs, eliminating waste and improving ergonomics and safety.

A native of Oldtown, Maryland, Colonel Mason arrived at Blue Grass Army Depot in July 2005 as a highly regarded and decorated leader in the Army. Prior to arriving at BGAD, Colonel Mason served as the Chief of Support for Task Force Sinai in El Gora, Egypt among other leadership positions in the United States and Germany. Colonel Mason's Change of Command will take place July 10, 2008.

IN HONOR OF E. PAT LARKINS

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a true friend and leader who is widely respected, and much loved by the citizens of Pompano Beach, Florida, The Honorable E. Pat Larkins. Pat was born in Pompano Beach in 1942. He graduated Blanche Ely High School in 1960 and enrolled in Tennessee State University. In 1962, he was hired as housing director for the local community action agency, and in 1969, he was one of only two Florida recipients of a Ford Foundation fellowship to attend the National Housing Institute in Washington, DC.

Pat was subsequently certified by HUD as a housing development specialist, and in 1970, he went to work for the Foundation for Co-Op Housing in Chicago, Illinois. In 1972, he returned to Florida and created the Broward County Minority Builders Coalition, Inc. where he still serves as C.E.O. He is also currently president and partner of Malar Construction, State licensed general contractors.

In addition to these accomplishments, Pat has also had a long career in the public sector and has, helped to change the face of local

politics. He was the first chairperson of the City of Pompano Beach Community Development Committee. In 1982, he was the second African-American elected to the Pompano Beach City Commission. He was just the eighth African-American local elected official in Broward County and served 19 consecutive years as city commissioner. In that time, he served a record seven terms as mayor and three terms as vice-mayor, positions to which he was elected by his fellow Commissioners. He also served an unprecedented 14 consecutive years on the Broward County Planning Council and was the first African-American chair of that body.

After an unsuccessful run for Broward County Commission in 2001, Pat Larkins was reelected to the Pompano Beach City Commission in 2003 where he presently serves as vice-mayor. Pat is sometimes referred to as the dean of Broward black elected officials because of his remarkable leadership and role as one of the founders of that group.

He is also recognized throughout the State as a leader and spokesperson for minority involvement in government and business. During his time as mayor of Pompano Beach, the city hired the first black fire chief and first black city clerk in Broward County. Pat initiated the city ordinance to promote minority small business concerns, and along with two others, helped to create the first minority business enterprise program for Broward County government.

In addition to his many professional achievements, Pat Larkins has also taken an active role in countless public service, social, and religious organizations. He is a life member of the NAACP, serves on the Broward County Boys and Girls Club corporate board, the Juvenile Justice Intensive Halfway House, and the Florida black caucus local elected officials, and is a longtime member of Hopewell Baptist Church. He is a founding member of the Urban League board, as well as a leader in the Superintendents' Commission on Public Education, National Black Mayors' Conference, and U.S. Conference of Mayors.

Madam Speaker, Pat Larkins has had an indelible impact on the well-being of his community, as he has worked tirelessly to ensure that every individual has access to safe and adequate housing. Under his leadership, Pompano Beach recently demolished a 140-home development that had been rundown and falling apart and relocated the owners to a modern development of affordable homes on an even swap arrangement at a considerable cost savings to the city. Over the past 5 years, he has led his city in providing financial and other assistance that has resulted in the erection of more than 800 affordable multifamily units.

Pat has often said that he wants to be remembered not for his personal longevity, but most of all for helping to improve the lives of others. In this, he has certainly succeeded. Few people I have known have accomplished so much for the good of their fellow citizens and their community. I am fortunate to call him my friend.