

This year, Mr. Pedroia has surpassed his performance last season by leading the American League in hits, runs, and doubles while also batting in 83 runs and hitting 17 home runs in his own right. He has now become the third player in the history of Major League Baseball to win the rookie of the year award and the most valuable player award in consecutive seasons, as well as winning the golden glove award for best fielding performance at second base.

Madam Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we honor this fine athlete. His record of accomplishments is a testament to his talent, perseverance and character, as well as an indication of a promising career that is just beginning. I join the entire community in congratulating him for these achievements and wishing him and his family all the best in years to come.

TRIBUTE TO SAMUEL E. LANZA
AND ELVA M. POUNDERS

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mr. Samuel E. Lanza of Warren, Ohio and Ms. Elva M. Pounders of Akron, Ohio. In recognition of their honorable service to our nation and selfless dedication to their communities, Mr. Lanza and Ms. Pounders have been inducted into the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame as members of the Class of 2008.

The Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame was founded in 1992 in an effort to honor and to raise awareness of the outstanding military service and post-military accomplishments of Ohio veterans. Each year, an executive committee reviews scores of applications received from across the Nation and recommends 20 inductees to the Governor. These inductees represent each branch of the military and have served in armed conflicts spanning from World War II to Operations Desert Storm and Desert Shield. Since its inception, the OVHOF has inducted nearly 900 veterans who, like Mr. Lanza and Ms. Pounders, have demonstrated a lifelong devotion to country and to community.

Mr. Samuel Lanza served in the United States Marine Corps in World War II and, after his discharge, continued his civil service by advocating and assisting his fellow veterans. He joined the Disabled American Veterans in 1948 and eventually served in every elected position at the DAV including State Commander. Mr. Lanza is a Life Member of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Marine Corps League, and the American Legion. Additionally, Mr. Lanza participates as a member of the National Association for Uniformed Services and the past President of the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association. For more than 45 years, Mr. Lanza has taken an active role in Memorial Day parades and decorated the graves of deceased veterans. For more than 27 years, he has transported his fellow veterans to VA hospitals and other medical appointments. In 1997, Mr. Lanza was appointed to the Trumbull County Veterans Service Commission.

Ms. Elva Pounders served in the United States Marine Corps during the Vietnam Era. Upon her retirement from the Corps after 20 years of active duty which she achieved Marine first sergeant rank, Elva made a commitment to assisting the veterans of her community. Concerned with veterans' healthcare, Ms. Pounders worked part-time at a pharmacy and delivered medicine and supplies to shut-in veterans. She volunteered in VA clinics and medical facilities in Akron and Brecksville, and in 2006, the Brecksville VA Medical Center awarded Ms. Pounders the 500 Hour Award. Ms. Pounders is a Life Member of the Marine Corps League, American Legion, North Coast WAVES 21, and the Retired Enlisted Association and the Fleet Reserve Association. She is the vice chairwoman of the Governor's Advisory Committee on Women Veterans and she has served as a committee member with Summit County Stand Down for Homeless Veterans.

Ms. Pounders serves as the Vice Chairperson for the Ohio Department of Veterans Services Advisory Committee on Women Veterans. In 2007, in acknowledgement of her exceptional commitment to local veterans, the Summit County Veterans Service Commission recognized Ms. Pounders as "Summit County Veteran of the Year."

I would like to commend Mr. Lanza and Ms. Pounders for their extraordinary service and commitment, both in the military and in their communities.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF
JAMIE CATLIN PRAYTOR

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, the city of Mobile and the State of Alabama recently lost a dear friend, and I rise today to honor Jamie Catlin Praytor and pay tribute to her memory.

A realtor for four decades, Jamie was known to many throughout southwest Alabama as the founder and president of Praytor Realty; however, it was her longtime work with area charities and civic groups that gave her such a special place in so many of our hearts.

Jamie served as chairwoman of the Homeless Coalition Task Force, and she was involved with the Salvation Army and in fundraising for the American Diabetes Association. She also served on numerous boards including: Forward Mobile, Art Patrons League, Allied Arts Council, Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce, Mobile United, Alabama School of Math and Science, Junior Achievement, USA Small Business Development Center, Mobile 2000, March of Dimes, American Cancer Society, Florence Crittendon Home, and Mobile Sunrise Rotary Club. Jamie was instrumental in helping to establish McKemie Place, a shelter for homeless women and children.

Named Realtor of the Year in 1981, Jamie was an institution among Alabama realtors. In 1974, she opened Praytor Realty with an all-female sales staff, which was unique at the time. Labeled "Praytor's Pretties" by The Birmingham News, Jamie and her team quickly built a highly successful and respected company. Jamie gave much of her time to the realtor community as well. She was elected

president of the local Board of Realtors and became president of the state association in 1992. This year, the Mobile Association of Realtors established the Jamie C. Praytor Humanitarian Award, honoring her service. In 2001, Jamie was chosen First Lady of Mobile.

A native and lifelong resident of Mobile, Jamie was a member of All Saint's Episcopal Church. She had served as stewardship chairwoman, vestry member, Altar Guild group leader and president of the women of the church.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a dedicated community leader and friend to many throughout south Alabama. Preceded in death by her beloved husband Tommy, Jamie Catlin Praytor will be dearly missed by her family—her daughter, Ellen Praytor Wingard; her sons, Hugh Thomas Praytor III and Wilson Wrath Praytor; four grandchildren, Hayley Catlin Praytor, Hugh Thomas Praytor IV, Charles Lee Wingard Jr. and Blake Dixon Wingard; her sisters, Anita Catlin Miller and Martha Wrath Willcox; her brothers, Paul W. Catlin, James G. Catlin, and Charles P. Catlin—as well as the countless friends she leaves behind.

Our thoughts and prayers are with them all during this difficult time.

HONORING BRANDON JAMES
O'BRIEN

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Brandon James O'Brien of Kansas City, Missouri. Brandon is 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 1261, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Brandon has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Brandon 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 Brandon James O'Brien for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING A TRUE SURVIVOR

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, many people, trapped in a cycle of despair, feel that there is no way out of homelessness, addiction, or prostitution. Exploitative pimps, callously indifferent law enforcement, and a lack of social services combine to make it almost impossible for some to escape the streets. Norma Hotaling not only successfully left that life, but has devoted herself to leading the fight to help those who remain behind.