

marked with the same humility and commitment that Sherburne residents have come to expect of his service. In fact, he thanked the Board for their support, thanked the citizens for the privilege to serve them, and thanked his staff—calling them “unsung heroes.”

Bruce Anderson’s tenure as Sheriff was marked by a number of enormous advances in the Office’s operations. He oversaw an expansion of the County jail and worked out an arrangement to house federal inmates there as well. He brought extraordinary technological advances, including updating their radio system to digital to better enable Sherburne sheriffs to communicate with neighboring jurisdictions. And, he solved some real mysteries and crimes, including a high-profile 1992 murder.

Bruce’s successor will be Captain Joel Brott, who has served in Sherburne County law enforcement for 12 years. Captain Brott has said that he considers Sheriff Anderson a mentor and with such tutelage, Sherburne is sure to be in good hands.

In the meantime, we look forward to seeing what next wonderful adventure in public service awaits Bruce Anderson. Sherburne County Commissioner Felix Schmiesing called Anderson’s retirement “the end of an era” but I believe it is the start of a wonderful new chapter both for Bruce Anderson and for the people of Sherburne County, who I am certain he will continue to serve in some new way.

TRIBUTE TO PRIVATE GRANT A.
COTTING

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 28, 2009

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a hero from my congressional district, Army Private Grant A. Cotting. Today I ask that the House of Representatives honor and remember this incredible young man who died in service to his country.

Grant grew up in Corona, California and attended Santiago High School for three years before graduating from Buena Vista High School in 2007. During his senior year, Grant was part of the ROTC program and hoped to have a career in the military. School officials and counselors remember Grant fondly—he was a quiet student who never hesitated to lend a hand to fellow students.

Private Cotting enlisted in the Army after graduation and was assigned to the 515th Sapper Company, 5th Engineer Battalion, 4th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade based at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. A sapper company handles demolitions, laying and disarming mines, and other combat engineering tasks. On January 24, 2009, Grant was killed in Kut, Iraq, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Grant leaves behind his parents, Craig and Amanda, and four younger brothers, Branden, Nick, Scott and Lucas.

As we look at the incredibly rich military history of our country we realize that this history is comprised of men, just like Grant, who bravely fought for the ideals of freedom and democracy. Each story is unique and humbling for those of us who, far from the dangers they have faced, live our lives in relative comfort and ease. The news of Grant’s death was probably the hardest day the Cotting family

has ever faced and my thoughts, prayers and deepest gratitude for their sacrifice goes out to them. There are no words that can relieve their pain and what words I offer only begin to convey my deepest respect and highest appreciation.

Private Cotting’s family have all given a part of themselves in the loss of their loved one and I hope they know that their son and brother, the goodness he brought to this world, and the sacrifice he has made, will always be remembered.

TRIBUTE TO KATHLEEN CALLAN

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 28, 2009

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask the House to join me in honoring a great Western New Yorker—one of many who are intentional Western New Yorkers, those who have chosen to live in our region as opposed to natives like myself. I rise today to honor Kathleen Callan as she ends her tenure as Executive Director of the Erie County Democratic Committee.

Kathy is a New Jersey native; a product of the Philadelphia, PA suburbs, educated first in local schools and later at American University in Washington, DC, where she earned her undergraduate degree. After high school experiences that included internships with then-Senator Bill Bradley and Congressman Rob Andrews, Kathy and her husband Tim moved to Western New York in 1995, as Tim studied for his PhD at the University at Buffalo.

Following a lengthy stint at the Western New York chapter of the American Lung Association which was marked by successful lobbying for passage of clean indoor air and anti-smoking legislation at the county and state levels, Kathy assumed the Executive Director’s position upon the election of Chairman Len Lenihan in 2002.

From January 2003 to just a few days ago, Kathy served tirelessly as Executive Director, managing the day to day operations of the busiest and most successful county Democratic Party organization in upstate New York. Kathy’s record of successful contributions to candidates for public office runs the gamut of offices in New York State. From trustee positions in the smallest villages of Erie County, to countywide offices like Comptroller and County Clerk, to state legislative and congressional officeholders and Justices of the State Supreme Court, several dozen public officeholders—myself included—owe Kathy a tremendous debt of gratitude for her intellect and instinct, her dedication and loyalty, and her tireless commitment to public service.

For that latter point, Madam Speaker, I do not wish to belabor, but instead to amplify. Over the past six years, Kathy worked literally scores of 80, 90 or 100-hour workweeks, dependent of course upon the time of year and the political calendar’s requirements, in order to ensure that candidates for public office had the services they needed. As myself a former Secretary—a lifetime ago, it seems—of the very party she served so proudly, I can honestly say that no staff member of our local organization ever worked as hard, or as effectively, as Kathy Callan has.

So, Madam Speaker, it is with a somewhat heavy heart that we bid farewell to Kathy as Executive Director of the Erie County Democratic Committee, although I am certain that we will see her often. I hope the House will join me in wishing Kathy and her husband Tim good luck and Godspeed in all of their future endeavors, and again congratulate Kathy on a job superbly done.

DISABILITY BENEFITS FOR PEOPLE WITH HUNTINGTON’S DISEASE

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 28, 2009

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, I have introduced the Huntington’s Disease Parity Act of 2009 (H.R. 678). The purpose of this bill is to improve Social Security Disability Benefits and Medicare coverage for people affected by Huntington’s Disease.

Huntington’s Disease (HD), is a genetic neurodegenerative disease (like Alzheimer’s) that causes total physical and mental deterioration over a 10 to 25 year period. Eventually, every person diagnosed with HD will lose the ability to live independently. It is a rare disease, affecting 30,000 Americans, while another 200,000 are considered “at risk” of inheriting it from an affected parent.

Many people with HD who apply for Social Security disability benefits experience delays and denials due to the continued use of outdated and insufficient medical criteria. Often, by the time persons affected by HD are “under review” for SSA disability, many have already lost their employer-provided health insurance benefits. This legislation would address this problem by directing the Social Security Administration to revise its medical criteria for determining disability for people with HD.

The legislation would also remove the two-year waiting period for people living with HD to receive Medicare benefits after receiving Social Security disability benefits. Eliminating this waiting period will ensure individuals will get crucial care they need in the early stages of the disease. In 2000, the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services waived this waiting period requirement for people disabled by ALS (Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis or Lou Gehrig’s disease), another degenerative neurological condition similar to HD.

IN APPRECIATION OF SPECIAL AGENT SCOTT SAMMIS OF THE BUREAU OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, FIREARMS AND EXPLOSIVES

HON. ALAN B. MOLLOHAN

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 28, 2009

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the valuable contributions that Special Agent Scott Sammis of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) has made to the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies this past

year specifically, and to Members of the Congress and the American people more generally.

Special Agent Scott Sammis came to the Subcommittee in February of 2008 on a professional detail from the ATF. At that time, Special Agent Sammis was Acting Division Chief of the Liaison Division within the Office of Public and Governmental Affairs. Special Agent Sammis joined the ATF nearly 20 years ago, and was first assigned to the Buffalo, New York field office. Soon after being assigned to that field office, Scott was the sole case agent on the Love Canal Bomber investigation. That investigation involved individuals who detonated two pipe bombs and set several fires in the vacant homes around the contaminated area, which had recently been declared habitable again. The individuals were arrested by Special Agent Sammis and ultimately convicted in U.S. District Court.

Then in December of 1993, four package bombs detonated throughout New York State, killing five people and injuring two. Two other packages were intercepted and rendered safe by local law enforcement. Special Agent Sammis had been investigating a large recovery of dynamite from three months earlier, and was able to connect the two investigations on the night of the bombings. He subsequently identified a suspect and obtained a 44-page signed confession within 18 hours of the bombings. The two suspects were convicted in U.S. District Court. Sammis received ATF's Johnny Masengale Memorial Award for his work on this investigation. This annual award was established in memory of Special Agent Johnny A. Masengale to recognize ATF employees involved in a special effort or special achievement in an explosives investigation or an explosives-related support activity. Special Agent Sammis and his impressive work leading to these arrests were featured on American Justice.

In October 1997, Special Agent Sammis was assigned to the Intelligence Division; specifically, the National Church Arson Task Force. As a project officer in this group, Special Agent Sammis utilized his computer skills to set up a database to track the hundreds of church fires occurring in the late 1990s. The honing of these computer skills would prove particularly invaluable to the Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies.

Over the following ten years, Special Agent Sammis would be assigned various positions within the ATF, including a position within the Resource Management Branch (RMB) of ATF's Financial Management Division and as the Resident Agent in Charge of the Richmond, Virginia Field Office.

Upon joining the Subcommittee, Special Agent Sammis was responsible for managing the sizable and complex database of congressional requests made of the Subcommittee. The database included several thousand individual requests made by members of Congress. His tenacity, ingenuity and thoroughness brought clarity and order to the cumbersome and time-consuming process of reviewing and tracking the myriad annual requests. He worked tirelessly into the early morning hours to ensure that the tabular material for inclusion in the Committee reports was complete and accurate and that certification letters were correct and submitted in accordance with the Rules of the House. During con-

ference deliberations with the Senate, Scott ensured that the House and Senate tables merged correctly—a difficult task given that the House and Senate Subcommittees use different databases. Scott, as always, rose to the occasion and volunteered to take on this extremely important, time-consuming task.

In addition, Special Agent Sammis reviewed the congressional budget submissions of several independent agencies, and, at only the appropriate times, offered his impressions and observations based on his unique, personal experience in the field when questions related to law enforcement arose. When the work of the Subcommittee required late-night or extended hours, Special Agent Sammis ensured that the Subcommittee staff did not go without proper nourishment, offering suggestions from the menus of neighborhood eateries. He kept a catalog of quotable quips, day-to-day musings that brought him private amusement. His nail pin compressor, electric drill and hammer were always ready at hand, and for the sake of expediency, he insisted on moving office furniture in his suit and tie. There was little he would not do gladly. He performed his job admirably, with good humor and patience. Simply, Special Agent Sammis covered all the bases, and exceeded everyone's expectations.

It is with regret that the Subcommittee returns Special Agent Sammis to the ATF today. He has represented the law enforcement agents of the ATF with distinction and honor. I personally want to extend my appreciation, and that of Ranking Member RODNEY FRELINGHUYSEN, Senators BARBARA MIKULSKI and RICHARD SHELBY, and the Subcommittee staff for a job very well done. Once again, Scott, you have served the Congress and the American people well.

NATIONAL DATA PRIVACY DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. MARY JO KILROY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 26, 2009

Ms. KILROY. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 31. In this digital age, people from all walks of life are affected by data privacy issues, from teenagers who maintain profiles on social networking websites to business professionals who schedule meetings and place orders online. Instant electronic communications have brought us closer together and made us prosperous in many ways, but they have also created threats to the privacy of our personal information.

As personal information becomes readily accessible online, those who endeavor to use our personal data to their own advantage are becoming increasingly sophisticated in their attempts to obtain it: the harvesting of personal information from public profiles of social networking websites, phishing and scamming e-mails, and passive monitoring of unsecured wireless networks all provide very real dangers to our personal information. The threat of identity theft, which can have devastating consequences that can take years to undo, remains very real to many people across the country as they use the Internet and go about their everyday lives.

These threats can be mitigated if individuals are vigilant in protecting their privacy, but few

people are fully aware of all of the sources of potential danger to their personal information. Online security and computer security are broad subjects that encompass simple security measures such as using strong passwords as well as more complicated subjects such as the dangers of unsecured wireless networks. Increasing the awareness of these threats would greatly benefit individuals whose personal information is at risk online.

H. Res. 31 marks January 28, 2009, as "National Data Privacy Day". Our effort to establish this date as National Data Privacy Day would be in conjunction with numerous other organizations and institutions that are acting to encourage awareness of data privacy issues on this day. The Ohio State University in my district, for example, is strongly concerned with data privacy and will be printing articles, offering daily tips, distributing posters, and actively working with students, faculty and staff to raise awareness of personal information privacy issues.

Commendable efforts such as these encourage the discussion of data privacy in classrooms and living rooms across our country and will help individuals better protect themselves against the misuse of their personal information online and help them develop good security habits overall. I'm proud to be a co-sponsor of this resolution and will work with my colleagues to continue to raise awareness of digital privacy, and safeguard ourselves in the digital age.

TRIBUTE TO THE APOLLO THEATER'S 75TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON AND THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF MR. PERCY SUTTON

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 28, 2009

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Apollo Theater on kicking off its 75th Anniversary Season and its long-time success in showcasing many of the world's greatest entertainers. Additionally, I want to pay tribute to my dear friend Percy Sutton who saved the Apollo Theater and made this moment possible.

I also congratulate the Apollo Theater Foundation president & CEO Jonelle Procope and board chairman Richard D. Parsons for their leadership and their efforts in putting together this anniversary celebration.

Before there was American Idol, there was Amateur Night at the Apollo which launched the dreams of stardom for many of America's greatest entertainers. Among them are some of the legends: Ella Fitzgerald, Stevie Wonder, and James Brown.

Located in the heart of Harlem on 125th Street, the Apollo is the musical soul of our community. For the past 74 years, it has thrilled Americans of every race and religion who have enjoyed unforgettable performances by new and established artists. This year continues and celebrates that tradition.

I truly wish I could be there to celebrate this historic event. However, my work on the House Ways and Means Committee focusing on President Obama's economic recovery plan requires me to be in Washington.

The Apollo is special place in the entertainment world where many celebrities who started here come home and "look back." That is