

Bush and this body the Teddy Roosevelt Conservationist Award. And, while it is most important to recognize his achievement in those areas, I would be remiss not to note how he has always been devoted to his family first. I think it shows as his son Brian is ready to take the reins of the business and lead it into the twenty-first century.

Although Dwain will be missed on a daily basis at Hammons Products Company, we all know he will not be far away because his love for the Eastern Black Walnut will keep him close by. So remember, the next time you enjoy the rich, distinctive flavor of the Eastern Black Walnut that you did not have to crack yourself, to be sure to thank Dwain and know he will be thanking you. Thank you, Dwain, for your commitment to your family, the business, and being so willing to give of your time and talents to your community, State, and Nation. Your involvement and self-sacrifice is an example we can all follow and live our lives by.

A TRIBUTE TO JARED MARKGRAF;
FOR HIS PROMOTION TO THE
RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 1999

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my sincerest congratulations to Jared Markgraf, Boy Scout, from San Antonio, TX, upon the notification of his advancement to the rank of Eagle Scout.

Boy Scouts are awarded the prestigious rank of Eagle Scout based on their faith and obedience to the Scout Oath. The Scout Oath requires members to live with honor, loyalty, courage, cheerfulness, and an obligation to service.

In addition the rank of Eagle Scout is only bestowed once a Boy Scout satisfies duties including, the completion of 21 merit badges, performing a service project of significant value to the community, and additional requirements listed in the Scout Handbook.

In receiving this special recognition, I believe that Eagle Scout Jared Markgraf will guide and inspire his peers, toward the beliefs of the Scout Oath. I am proud to offer my congratulations to Jared on this respected accomplishment.

TRIBUTE TO STEVE BAUER

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 1999

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this time to congratulate Steve Bauer on his acceptance into the prestigious Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy in Aurora. Steve is a 15 year-old freshman at Southwestern High School. When the principal of Southwestern, Lynne Chism, was asked about his acceptance she replied, "It's a great honor for Steve and our school." When Steve was asked about his acceptance he said, "It's a

great opportunity in my life to study at one of the best math and science schools in the country."

Steve's parents, Pamela and David Bauer of Brighton are proud of their son but they are going to miss him. "We'll be baking a lot of cookies to send to Steve at school," said his grandmother Betty Wright. Bauer wishes to maybe study engineering or medicine, but whatever he chooses to do in life I'm sure he will be successful.

HONORING THE MEN AND WOMEN
WHO HAVE SERVED THEIR COUNTRY
AT THE EL TORO AND
TUSTIN AIR STATIONS

HON. CHRISTOPHER COX

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 1999

Mr. COX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the July 2, 1999 closing of United States Marine Corps Air Stations Tustin and El Toro, and to pay respect to the many thousands of dedicated Marines and Orange County civilians who served their country at these two military facilities over the past 50 years.

Commissioned in 1942 as a U.S. Naval Lighter-Than-Air Base, MCAS Tustin was originally home to a fleet of helium-filled airships which conducted anti-submarine patrols off the Southern California coast. The site was decommissioned in 1949 but reactivated in May 1951 with the onset of the Korean War. The facility subsequently became a helicopter base, and in 1970 the facility was annexed by the City of Tustin and renamed Marine Corps Air Station Tustin. From World War II through the Persian Gulf War, the Marines at MCAS Tustin have played a critical role in protecting our national security. From 1962 to 1971, elements of Tustin's Marine Aircraft Group 16 were deployed to South Vietnam and Thailand, becoming the largest Aircraft Group in the history of the Corps. In August 1990, MAG-16 began deploying what eventually became five squadrons to Saudi Arabia for participation in Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. In all, MAG-16 flew over 11,000 sorties and 24,000 flight hours in support of the liberation of Kuwait.

Commissioned in 1943, MCAS El Toro was originally established as a training field for Marine pilots as part of the escalating war in the Pacific theater of World War II. In 1955, the Third Marine Aircraft Wing was moved to El Toro from Florida. Between 1968 and 1974, MCAS El Toro served as President Nixon's arrival and departure point to his "Western White House" in San Clemente. In 1975, the air station made history as part of "Operation New Arrival" by serving as the initial point of arrival into the U.S. for 50,000 refugees fleeing the repressive communist government of Vietnam. During Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, the Third Marine Air Wing flew more than 18,000 sorties and delivered approximately 30 million pounds of ordnance against enemy targets. El Toro Marines also participated in Operation Sea Angel in Bangladesh in 1991, Operation Restore Hope in

Somalia in 1992, and Operation Nobel Response in Kenya in 1998.

It has been an honor to represent these fine Marine bases during my career in Congress. The Marines stationed at El Toro and Tustin have been the best of neighbors. Their service to the Orange County community has been an invaluable asset to a wide variety of groups including needy children and the homeless. Their annual air show raised funds for many outstanding local charities and provided a wonderful outreach to millions of people from throughout Southern California.

Most of all, the Marines' service to our country from these bases has helped to ensure freedom and liberty for all Americans.

I know my colleagues will join with me in marking the close of an era, and in honoring the outstanding men and women of El Toro and Tustin for their half-century of dedication and commitment to safeguarding our nation's security.

A TRIBUTE TO HUGH ROBINSON

HON. ROY BLUNT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 1999

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to an aviation pioneer and the community in Newton County, Missouri where he grew up. From Neosho, Missouri, Hugh Robinson entered the annals of aviation history, especially as it relates to the military. He is credited with making the third successful aircraft flight in 1907.

From there he created a series of first flights that may be unequalled in history. He was the first pilot to execute a right turn. Prior to this, it was believed that a plane would be torn apart by the force of such a maneuver. In 1911 he made the first authorized air mail flight; the first medical flight by carrying a doctor to a sick patient by airplane; the first to fly a hydroplane and the first pilot of a monoplane. He also helped design and build the first commercial airplane. Robinson trained the first military test pilots for the United States, as well.

Perhaps he is best known as the inventor of a simple device that still makes even the modern wing of the U.S. Navy possible—the tailhook.

Hugh Robinson wasn't satisfied though. He created his own career in the circus. He developed the "Globe of Death" where he rode, first a bicycle, and later a motorcycle at 60 miles per hour inside a giant globe. His death-defying act, developed in Neosho, made him the highest paid circus act in America.

This 4th of July weekend was chosen as the appropriate time to pay tribute to Robinson and his contributions to aviation and his service to country. The Neosho Municipal Airport will be named in honor of Robinson in ceremonies this weekend.

The Neosho Hugh Robinson Airport as it will be known has just finished several important improvements. The approaches to the runway had obstacles that left several hundred feet of the 5,000 foot surface unusable. Those obstacles have been removed, with crucial aid from