

tradesman, they deserved respect and a better quality of life for their labor and skills. Throughout its century of history, Local 90 has expanded its jurisdiction—reaching out to other communities, protecting the interests of electrical tradesman through much of Central and Southern Connecticut.

I have often said that we are fortunate to live in a country that allows its workers to engage in efforts to better employee standards and benefits. Local 90 has fought hard for better wages, more comprehensive health benefits for their members and their families, and safer working environments—ensuring that corporations throughout Connecticut listen to their employees and afford them these basic rights. Local 90 has been a true leader for our working families, giving them a voice during the hardest of economic times.

In addition to their professional contributions, the members of Local 90 are dedicated to our community. For the past several years, Local 90 members have used their expertise to create what has become a highlight of the Christmas season—the Fantasy of Lights exhibition at Lighthouse Point in New Haven. The exhibition and their work benefits the New Haven Rehabilitation Center. The tremendous work that goes into this project is truly remarkable—bringing the spirit and joy of the holiday season for all of our children and families to enjoy.

For the many contributions they have made to the working families of Southern and Central Connecticut, I am proud to stand today to pay tribute to former and present members of Local 90—they have made a real difference in the lives of many. I am honored to extend my sincere congratulations to them as they celebrate their 100th Anniversary and my best wishes for another century of success.

FLAG DAY

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2000

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of a day that would not exist without the sacrifices endured by brave men and women throughout our country's distinguished history. Although today is known as Flag Day, it symbolizes much more.

When describing the American flag, George Washington once said, "We take the stars from heaven, the red from our mother country, separate it by white in stripes, thus showing that we have separated from her . . .".

Well, over 200 years later, our flag continues to symbolize the independence fought for by Washington as well as countless others.

From the Revolutionary War to the Gulf War, our men and women in uniform risked—and lost—their lives to promote democracy, and defend the liberties we cherish. These brave men and women defended the most basic belief which our flag symbolizes—that freedom is worth putting our lives in harm's way to preserve.

These were real people, not simply statistics in a history book or names chiseled in stone. They were young men and women with moth-

ers, fathers, dreams and fears just like the rest of us.

When I visit schools back home, and children ask me questions about the American flag or Pledge of Allegiance, I tell them there is more to the flag than pretty colors. If you look behind those stars and stripes you unveil a story of determination and sacrifice.

As we take time out of our lives to honor those who fought to protect our flag, we must never forget that we stand together as a great, proud, and free Nation because of their sacrifices.

The American flag is a fitting reminder of their devotion.

A RESOLUTION HONORING ANDREW POENICKE, LEGRAND SMITH SCHOLARSHIP WINNER OF ADRIAN, MI

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2000

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, let it be known, that it is with great respect for the outstanding record of excellence he has compiled in academics, leadership and community service, that I am proud to salute Andrew Poenicke, winner of the 2000 LeGrand Smith Scholarship. This award is made to young adults who have demonstrated that they are truly committed to playing important roles in our Nation's future.

As a winner of the LeGrand Smith Scholarship, Andrew is being honored for demonstrating that same generosity of spirit, intelligence, responsible citizenship, and capacity for human service that distinguished the late LeGrand Smith of Somerset, Michigan.

Andrew is an exceptional student at Lenawee Christian High school and possesses an impressive high school record.

Andrew has received numerous awards for his excellence in academics as well as his involvement in soccer. Outside of school, he has been active in many volunteer programs such as Meals on Wheels for Lenawee County.

Therefore, I am proud to join with his many admirers in extending my highest praise and congratulations to Andrew Poenicke for his selection as a winner of a LeGrand Smith Scholarship. This honor is also a testament to the parents, teachers, and others whose personal interest, strong support and active participation contributed to his success. To this remarkable young man, I extend my most heartfelt good wishes for all his future endeavors.

HONORING ELWAR "RUBEN" LACOUR

HON. HEATHER WILSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2000

Mrs. WILSON. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to bring to your attention Elwar "Ruben" LaCour, Jr., a student in my district. As a mid-

dle schooler, he was awarded the U.S. National Award in mathematics. His commitment to learning is an indication of great future success.

Ruben's recognition from the U.S. Achievement Academy is a great honor. We all know of the studies and reports that say that students in the United States are falling behind in math performance. Ruben's skills, abilities, and success provides evidence of students excelling in math.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Elwar "Ruben" LaCour on his achievement in and dedication to mathematics. We must celebrate achievements and encourage our children to do their very best.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2000

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for the following vote. If I had been present, I would have voted as follows: June 8, 2000, rollcall vote 247, on agreeing to the rule H. Res. 518, providing consideration of H.R. 4577, the FY2000 Labor, Health & Human Services and Education bill, I would have voted "yea."

TRIBUTE TO GENERAL JOHN RUSSELL BLANDFORD

HON. FLOYD SPENCE

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2000

Mr. SPENCE. Mr. Speaker, I was saddened to learn recently of the death of Major General John Russell Blandford, who was an outstanding American. General Blandford joined the staff of the Committee on Armed Services in the House of Representatives upon its formation in January 1947. He was appointed the Chief Counsel of the Committee in December 1963, and he served in that position until his retirement from the House in 1972.

On behalf of the Members and the staff of the Committee on Armed Services, I would like to extend our deepest sympathy to his wife, Betty, and to the other members of his family. I submit for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the obituary of this remarkable man.

[From the State, Columbia, SC, May 18, 2000]

CAROLINA OBITUARIES

JOHN BLANDFORD

CHARLESTON.—Memorial services for John Russell Blandford, 82, will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday at Johns Island Presbyterian Church. Burial services will be conducted 11 a.m. Wednesday, May 24, 2000 in Arlington National Cemetery with full military honors. In lieu of flowers memorials may be made to the First Marine Division Association Scholarship Fund, 14325 Willard Road, Ste. 107, Chantilly, VA 20151-2110 and/or Johns Island Presbyterian Church, 2550 Bohickett Road, Johns Island, SC 29455. J. Henry Stuhr, Downtown Funeral Chapel is in charge.

Mr. Blandford was born in Buffalo, N.Y., Feb. 20, 1918, a son of the late Raymond and