Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, few times each week I open our newspapers and read about someone who is making important contributions in a particular field. It is these individuals who continue to make America a great place to live, and we should never fail to recognize their contributions. However, it is with much less frequency that we hear about people who have spent a lifetime contributing to our society in numerous different areas, always rising to the top level in each endeavor.

One such individual is Al Fowler, a native of Douglasville, Georgia. After graduating from Douglas County High School and the University of Georgia, where he earned high honors and was active in Student Government and the Future Farmers of America, Al answered his country's call and left to fight in World War II.

During the war, Al served in the 483rd Bomber Group in Italy, where his group of B-17s suffered a casualty rate of 107%, including replacements. Although he had the option to leave after surviving 30 missions, Al Fowler stayed on the front, and stopped flying only when the war ended on the morning before his 34th mission. During his tenure, he was promoted to Brigadier General and earned a Distinguished Flying Cross for bringing his crippled aircraft back to the ground after a particularly dangerous mission.

Fortunately, Al Fowler's time in Italy was marked by more than just war and bloodshed. It was during this time that he met his wife, who was serving with the Red Cross in Italy. They went on to be married on the Isle of Capri. At that wedding, they exchanged rings made of silk, which was hard to find at that time. German soldiers by a friendly Italian jeweler, the bride wore a dress sewn from German parachute silk, and the couple departed from their wedding in a B-17 Flying Fortress flown by the groom.

After returning to Douglasville, Al won election to the Georgia General Assembly, where he served with pride and distinction for 16 years. Next, he won election to the Georgia Public Service Commission. During his political years, he truly helped develop the state of Georgia, and was instrumental in building its communications and transportation infrastructure. Later, Al went on to become Georgia's Adjutant General, where he started the National Guard program we rely on today, and once again contributed immensely to our nation's defense.

After leaving politics in the 1970s, Al must have still felt he had not done enough to improve his community, because he took a job as President of Douglas Country Federal Savings and Loan. During his tenure of over 30 years in banking, Al helped countless families achieve their dream of owning a home or starting their own business. He also helped reform the savings and loan industry after many of his competitors outpaced themselves. His work to reform these institutions has made many of them stronger today than they ever were before.

Al Fowler has already been honored by his community and the State of Georgia for his service. He was recently named the 2nd recipient ever of the Chairman's Award at our Aviation Hall of Fame in Warner Robins, Georgia. An exhibit there will honor his contributions to freedom and prosperity in America.

As Al reaches his 81st birthday, and finally begins a well-deserved retirement, I hope that other members of this body will join me in thanking him for his service to our nation and our community in Georgia.

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of a great man who has dedicated his entire life to spreading Christian values and beliefs, Brother Nivard, for his life-time of dedicated service.

Born Joseph Martin Stanton in 1945, Brother Nivard has served his community in countless capacities from a very young age. At age 17 he boarded a train in the Old Union Terminal of Cleveland bound for Kentucky to commit his life to Christianity. His quest for true happiness eventually led him to the Abbey of Gethsemani in Trappist, Kentucky, where he became a monk.

His love and devotion to Christian values and beliefs earned him the respect and admiration of all his peers. His friends and family describe him as a man that has inspired many. Brother Nivard is truly a man that has given back to his community in numerous ways and that has touched an incredible number of people.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring the memory of a man that has reached out into his community to improve mankind, Brother Nivard. His kind spirit, gentle demeanor, and warm smile will be greatly missed.

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Butler, Kentucky's Philip A. Sharp Middle School on their recent award, and I thank them for their hard work and for setting a fine example for students across the United States. They are on the right track, and I wish them continued success.

Mr. Speaker, Jim Samuelson contributed throughout his life to his community, his family, and to his world. He acted beyond expectations to make a positive impact where he saw the need, and for that, I ask to pay him tribute on behalf of Congress.