

across the United States. Since its inception in 2000, the program has awarded more than \$5.8 million in scholarships.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the following award winners from my congressional district: Caitlin M. Powell, of Olathe, attending Olathe North High School; Francis N. Pamatmat, of Olathe, attending Olathe Northwest High School; William C. Cromer, of Olathe, attending Olathe South High School; Heidi D. Golubscki, of Olathe, attending St. Thomas Aquinas High School; and Jacqueline Behnen, of Overland Park, attending Olathe East High School.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN DEAN

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 18, 2006

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating John Dean as he retires as Police Chief of the Waterford Township Police Department. John will be honored for his lifetime of service at a dinner in Waterford Township Michigan on July 28.

John Dean began his career with the Waterford Township Police Department as a 15-year-old cadet. After serving our country in the Marine Corps Reserve, John joined the Detroit Police Force. In 1975 he joined the Waterford Township Police Department as a Patrol Officer. Over the years he has served as an Undercover Officer, Patrol Sergeant, Detective Sergeant, Youth Liaison Officer, Patrol Lieutenant, and Detective Bureau Commander. He was promoted to Police Chief in 2000.

A graduate of the FBI National Academy, John has received many awards for his consummate police work over the years. They include Officer of the Year, Medal for Bravery, Meritorious Service, Waterford Township Employee of the Year, and the Oakland County NAACP's Presidential Award for implementing the policy to end racial profiling by the police department. His retirement plans are to spend more time with his wife, Andrea, and their three sons.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate John Dean for his exemplary work as a law enforcement officer in Waterford Township. I ask the House of Representatives to join me in applauding his wonderful career and wish him the best in his future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 18, 2006

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, July 17, 2006, I could not be present for rollcall votes 375, 376, and 377 due to a previous commitment in my district.

Had I been present, I would have cast the following votes: "yes" on rollcall 375 (H.R. 3085)—To amend the National Trails System Act to update the feasibility and suitability

study originally prepared for the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail and provide for the inclusion of new trail segments, land components, and campgrounds associated with that trail); "no" on rollcall 376 (H.R. 3496—National Capital Transportation Amendments Act of 2005); and "yes" on rollcall 377 (H.R. 3729—Federal Judiciary Emergency Tolling Act of 2005).

HONORING THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS ON RECEIVING THE INNOVATIONS IN AMERICAN GOVERNMENT AWARD FROM THE ASH INSTITUTE

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 18, 2006

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, as Chairman of the Military Quality of Life and Veterans Affairs Subcommittee, I would like to congratulate the Department of Veterans Affairs on receiving the prestigious Innovations in American Government Award on Monday, July 10 from the Ash Institute in the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, for their work in developing and implementing the Veterans Health Information Systems and Technology Architecture (Vista). The VA was one of seven winners who were selected from more than 1,000 entries, including 200 forward thinking federal programs, that implemented a creative approach to a significant problem and demonstrated that their solution worked. This \$100,000 award will provide VA the opportunity to share Vista's success story as a role model to other government agencies and the private sector. I am proud of the Department of Veterans Affairs dedication in providing excellence in health care to our Nation's veterans.

The Vista system includes an electronic health record that organizes and presents all relevant patient data to directly support clinical decision-making, and improves safety and efficiency while reducing costs and staff requirements. Patient files are readily available, easily searchable, and proactive in that they alert providers to vital patient information. The records system enables physicians to review a patient's medical history, diagnoses, medications, charts and X-rays at any of the 1,400 VA sites.

At a time when Americans are wrestling with the high cost and complexity of medical services, VA officials point to Vista as the model for delivering on the key components of health care: accessibility, quality, and cost.

Five years ago, VA won an Innovation Award for creating a health management system that worked to reduce medical mistakes. Vista is a system whereby any authorized caregiver in VA's network has immediate access to every veteran's complete electronic medical record.

According to Dr. Jonathan B. Perlin, VA's Undersecretary for Health, the key to the success of the system was the full support of caregivers from the start. In fact, it was VA physicians who pushed for the system. It was developed in-house so that VA had complete control over the design and implementation.

On the quality-of-care front, the system has reduced outpatient medication errors from the national rate of 5 percent to a fraction of 1 percent. The system also enabled VA to manage vaccinations much more effectively, increasing the vaccination rate for pneumonia from 26 to 92 percent in a decade.

Also important, Vista has helped VA offer enrolled veterans better quality care than a decade ago. Their health status, as defined by patient functioning, has measurably improved. All of this has been provided at the same cost per patient as VA expended 10 years ago, while the rest of the country has seen costs nearly double.

This was a proud day for the VA. Secretary Jim Nicholson said "The VA is now at the forefront of America's health-care industry."

Once again, I would like to congratulate the veteran health providers at the Department of Veterans Affairs on receiving this well deserved award and thank them for their dedication in providing excellence in health care to our Nation's veterans.

ADDRESS BY FORMER SENATOR SAM NUNN AT NUCLEAR DANGERS SYMPOSIUM

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 18, 2006

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, in reference to H. Res. 905, I submit an address by former Senator Sam Nunn, Co-Chairman and CEO of the Nuclear Threat Initiative, presented on December 16, 2003 at a symposium entitled Kazakhstan: Reducing Nuclear Dangers, Increasing Global Security.

SYMPOSIUM KEYNOTE ADDRESS

(By Sam Nunn)

I want to thank our guests for joining us today in the United States Senate, where so much deliberation has taken place on how to stop the spread of nuclear weapons, and where the example of Kazakhstan has been welcomed and celebrated as a model of what we must see in the 21st century.

President Nazarbayev is one of the greatest champions of nuclear nonproliferation in the world—not merely by his words, but—most importantly—by his actions and his nation's example.

President Nazarbayev tells a very striking personal story in the prologue of his book *Epitome of Peace*. As a child, he remembered having in his home an army rifle that had been taken by one of his relatives—a Kazakh militiaman—in a rebellion against a regular Russian army unit in 1916. One day his grandmother said that the rifle had brought suffering—that it should be cast out of the house. So President Nazarbayev's father took the rifle to the authorities, but not before removing the bayonet, which the grandmother ordered be made into a sickle. She supplied the handle that she made herself from her old spindle. As a young boy, the President used that sickle to cut hay. This childhood event—dismantling a weapon and building from it a tool of peace and commerce—foreshadowed the work of his adult life. It is the heart of the Biblical passage "they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks."