

Tulare County Housing Authority is managing and administering 5,000 units for families, seniors, and the disabled. It is quite clear that the Tulare County Housing Authority has established a solid reputation for providing safe, affordable housing for low income people.

In fact, the Tulare County Housing Authority is performing so well that their Board of Commissioners has made the decision to return their operating subsidies to the Department of Housing and Urban Development for Fiscal Year 2007. It goes to show that a Housing Authority, that pays attention to rent structures and operating costs, can not only enhance the lives of those directly participating, but also benefit taxpayers by operating independent of federal subsidies.

I commend the Tulare County Housing Authority and their Board of Commissioners for their efficient management and sound business practices.

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GALT CHRISTIAN CHURCH

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 6, 2006*

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Galt Christian Church in Galt, Missouri. This church will be celebrating its 125th year anniversary of service to the community on October 15, 2006. Over these past 125 years, this church grew to meet all the needs of its congregation.

As a staple of the community throughout the years, the church has gone through growth and expansion with the Galt community it serves. From humble beginnings, this church is a stabilizing force for this community. Originally, this church was borrowing space from a neighboring church.

The church buildings grew in concert with its congregation. Growing, even taking in two hundred new members in one afternoon, with a large baptism of faith. Finally in 1974, the church's current building was erected to house the growing congregation.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing the Galt Christian Church. The services which they have provided over these 125 years have been fundamental to the growth of this community. Let us use the Galt Christian Church as a powerful example of the lasting commitment to faith.

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TRIBUTE TO THE 172ND STRYKER  
BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM

**HON. DON YOUNG**

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 6, 2006*

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I rise today I rise to acknowledge the significant contributions and sacrifices of the 172nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team "Arctic Wolves," based out of Ft. Wainwright, Alaska. I would like to congratulate this elite fighting force of men and women who performed with distinction during an unprecedented 16-month deployment in Iraq.

Few units in the history of the Army have developed such a diverse ability to effectively fight in extreme combat situations. The 172nd formed, lived and trained in the harsh Alaska arctic conditions. Alaskan winters have as many as 21 hours of darkness a day and an average daily temperature of 15 degrees. During the initial Iraq deployment in July/August of 2005, these soldiers faced dry, desert conditions in heat topping 120 degrees, quite different from their original training conditions. The ability to adapt and continue to fight insurgents in any environment is one of the many exceptional traits of these Arctic and now, "Desert Wolves."

During their tour of duty, the Stryker Brigade had an outstanding combat record and an exceptional reputation for their relationship with the Iraqi citizens. During their service, 5 soldiers were Silver Star Receipts, along with the entire 172nd receiving the Valorous Unit Award. The sacrifices made by these soldiers over the last 16 months were tremendous; 26 soldiers lost their lives and another 381 soldiers were wounded, while in Iraq. The commitment of these soldiers to their Nation is admirable. This brigade, despite their extended tour, had the highest reenlistment rate in the Army with over 33 percent of assigned personnel signing up for the second life cycle.

Along with the contributions our Alaskan service members make on a regular basis to the security of this Nation we cannot forget the difficulties their families face during these deployments. Close to 5,000 Alaskan family members of the 172nd had been without their loved ones for 16 months and waited to be back in their arms of their husbands, wives, sons and daughters. While soldiers were overseas, these families in the Fairbanks community pulled together with resounding resolve. Not only am I proud to represent the Artic Wolves, but I am also proud to represent the great military families of Ft. Wainwright who patiently waited for their brave soldiers to return.

Over the last 4 months, the 172nd has received increased publicity because of their extended deployment, and the families and soldiers were asked to perform duties few are capable of handling. However, I am proud to say that our Arctic Wolves acted with the utmost level of professionalism and heroism on the ground, from the unit commanders to the most junior enlisted ranks. The 172nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team has made a significant contribution to the proud United States Army military history and I am proud to represent these great American Warriors. On behalf of the state of Alaska, I extend my thanks and appreciation for their exceptional service to this nation. Welcome home, Arctic Wolves.

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IN RECOGNITION OF THE HEROIC  
ACTIONS BY THE STAFF OF  
JEANNE MOORE, INC., IN MONT-  
GOMERY, ALABAMA

**HON. MIKE ROGERS**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 6, 2006*

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask the attention of the House

today to pay recognition to the heroic actions of the entire staff at Jeanne Moore, Inc. Daycare in Montgomery, Alabama, and to specifically recognize the bravery of Ms. Jeanne Moore, Ms. Liberty Duke, Ms. Sharon Ware and Ms. Elaine Edwards.

On November 15th, powerful tornados swept through Alabama, including the City of Montgomery. Jeanne Moore, Inc. Daycare was in the path of one of those tornados and was destroyed while the children were on site. According to Jeanne Moore, one four year old described the terrifying experience as, "my school was breaking in two . . ." Responding quickly and professionally, the staff at the daycare did not flee, but made sure the children were safe and covered the children with their own bodies during the brunt of the storm.

According to news reports, Ms. Liberty Duke had two of her own children at the daycare when the storms hit. Instead of going to look for her children, she saved the ones closest to her knowing and trusting that the staff at Jeanne Moore, Inc. would take care of her own. She was right.

In addition, media reports said that Ms. Jeanne Moore recalls seeing other nearby citizens risking their lives when they realized what was happening. Moore said after the storm passed people were running from surrounding businesses to help pull children from the rubble.

Miraculously, no one died and only minor injuries were incurred.

I salute the heroes from that horrible day—everyday Alabamians working together to save innocent children. It is indeed a miracle that no lives were lost, and I hope we will all look to these brave Alabamians as role models for us all.

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TRIBUTE TO MR. STEPHEN R.  
REED

**HON. TIM HOLDEN**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 6, 2006*

Mr. HOLDEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Stephen R. Reed of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, who was voted America's number one mayor in the World Mayor 2006 online poll by the City Mayor organization.

Mayor Reed, the 7-term mayor of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, is the only United States mayor to ever break into the top 3 spots in the annual online contest finishing third in the world. From January to May each year, citizens nominate mayors in the contest then choose from a list of fifty finalists from June to October. This year, over 103,000 people voted giving Mayor Reed more than 7,000 votes.

Under his leadership, the Pennsylvania state capital has been revitalized with the development of shops, hotels, and restaurants in the downtown area that once stood virtually vacant; the Harrisburg Senators baseball games and other attractions have revived tourism in the city; the Harrisburg University was established; and graduation rates have increases since Mr. Reed took control of the city school district.

Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to be able to recognize a man who has dedicated his entire