

and later was the first Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. He has also been called the "American Wilberforce" for his efforts to work with his British friend William Wilberforce to end the slave-trade. What is not often known is that this great statesman was the second president of the American Bible Society and argued throughout his life for the importance of biblical principles to the future of the United States.

Jay had a strong grasp on God's guidance of the formation of our Nation. In 1809, he wrote to a friend, "A proper history of the United States would have much to recommend it: in some respects it would be . . . unlike all others; it would develop the great plan of Providence."

God's provision to America was clear to Jay's Federalist Papers' co-author John Adams, as well. He knew that it was found in more than our abundant natural resources, but also in the very conscience of the people. Adams put it this way: "We have no government armed with power capable of contending with human passions unbridled by morality and religion. Avarice, ambition, revenge, or gallantry, would break the strongest cords of our Constitution as a whale goes through a net. Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other."

In a statement made in 1778 to the Virginia General Assembly, James Madison, the future father of the Constitution and President, said, "We have staked the whole future of American civilization, not upon the power of government, far from it. We've staked the future of all our political institutions upon our capacity . . . to sustain ourselves according to the Ten Commandments of God."

George Washington echoed these same views in his Farewell Address to the Nation at the end of his presidency: "Of all the dispositions and habits, which lead to political prosperity, Religion and Morality are indispensable supports. In vain would that man claim the tribute of Patriotism, who should labor to subvert these great pillars of human happiness, these firmest props of the duties of Men and Citizens . . . Whatever may be conceded to the influence of refined education on minds of peculiar structure, reason and experience both forbid us to expect, that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle."

America's Judeo-Christian religious heritage is rich and profound. It has shaped our institutions and nurtured our national soul. It is also the fount of the religious freedom we cherish: Those of us who believe in the God of the Bible believe He gave men and women the freedom to serve Him or not to serve Him. If that's true, we should allow that same freedom to our fellow citizens.

Our Declaration of Independence refers to "Divine Providence," our "Creator" and "the Supreme Judge of the World." Our Founders recognized their need to rely on, and submit to, His will in all things. May we, in our day and in this Chamber, continue to learn from their example.

IN HONOR OF THE DOVER AIR FORCE BASE WINNER OF THE 2008 COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF'S AWARD FOR INSTALLATION EXCELLENCE

### HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2008

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize the Dover Air Force Base upon receiving the prestigious 2008 Commander-in-Chief's Award for Installation Excellence. This is the first time in the 23-year history of the award that an Air Mobility Command installation has been recognized as the best in the Air Force.

The Commander-in-Chief's Annual Award for Installation Excellence honors the efforts of those who operate and maintain U.S. military bases. The Dover Air Force Base was one of only five recipients of this award, given for their outstanding support of Department of Defense missions through exceptional practices, which enhance the quality of life for members of our military and allow for better mission performance. The Dover Air Force Base competed against 117 wings throughout the entire Air Force to win the award and \$1 million to be used to further enhance the quality of life for base residents. Team Dover was distinguished for its many efforts to increase efficiency, including the opening of a technologically advanced Air Freight Terminal and its use of Air Force Smart Operations for the 21st Century. In addition, the base was named the Air Force's Outstanding Housing Installation Team for a Privatized Location.

The award money will be used to continue to keep Dover Air Force Base top among the nation's air bases in terms of quality of life for its residents. Selected projects include making needed upgrades to the base's movie theater, repairing the running track and football field, constructing a jogging and walking path, and putting in a new wireless audio system in the Fitness Center. Part of the funds will also go toward installing flush-mounted lights along three crosswalks to better alert drivers to pedestrians on the street. The goal of these projects is to keep the fitness and safety of our soldiers and their families at the top of Team Dover's list of priorities.

I congratulate the military and civilian employees at the Dover Air Force Base for the momentous achievement of receiving the Commander-in-Chief's Award for Installation Excellence. It is a compelling testament to the excellence with which each and every duty is performed by the men and women of Team Dover. The superiority of their work is vital to the critical task of maintaining our military's prominence in the world.

TRIBUTE TO SANDRA J. HAMLIN

### HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2008

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the induction of Sandra J. Hamlin

into the West Virginia Affordable Housing Hall of Fame.

Born and raised in West Virginia and a graduate of Marshall University, Hamlin has demonstrated a commitment to affordable housing. As the executive director of the Religious Coalition for Community Renewal (RCCR), Hamlin oversees housing assistance for low income families, people with disabilities, seniors and the homeless.

In addition to her work with RCCR, Hamlin is the chair of the West Virginia Affordable Housing Trust and was instrumental in the development of EcoDwell, a partnership that utilizes an environmentally friendly home in Charleston's East End.

Madam Speaker, the West Virginia Affordable Housing Hall of Fame was created for the purpose of honoring those who are true leaders in affordable housing and have shown dedication and worked diligently to address the affordable housing in the State. Without question, Sandra Hamlin's lifetime of service merits this honor.

Congratulations, to Sandra on her accomplishments to provide West Virginians with affordable housing. The Mountain State is proud to call her one of our own.

CELEBRATING THE DEDICATION OF THE TOM HARPOOL WATER TREATMENT PLANT

### HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2008

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the dedication of the Tom Harpool Water Treatment Plant. The dedication ceremony for this new water plant in North East Denton County, Texas, is scheduled for May 13, 2008. The facility is named after the past president of the Upper Trinity Regional Water District President, Tom Harpool, a water pioneer for the Denton County area.

The water treatment plant incorporates technology that is at the forefront of the industry and will improve the reliability of the water system for the entire region. It is the first facility in the area that will incorporate advanced membrane technology. This new technology is the latest advancement in the treatment of potable water that will provide a barrier against pollutants as well as helping to assure the health and security of all water that leaves this facility.

With the naming of this facility, the Upper Trinity Regional Water District is bestowing a well-deserved honor on a local civil leader. Tom Harpool is credited with securing the large water supply the people of his community will require in the future. Mr. Harpool began his service in 1954 by serving on the Denton Independent School District Board of Trustees. Since then he has committed his life to serving his community, and Denton County is a better place because of it.

Madam Speaker, I hope you will join me in rising to celebrate the dedication of the Tom Harpool Water Treatment Plant in the 26th District of Texas. I am proud to represent this

area and I am glad to know that the people of my district have this remarkable facility to provide them the highest quality water possible. I am comforted knowing the Denton County vicinity will have a healthy and secure water supply for many years to come.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "BIOMETRIC ENHANCEMENT FOR AIRPORT-RISK REDUCTION ACT OF 2008"

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2008

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, today, I am introducing the Biometric Enhancement for Airport-Risk Reduction Act of 2008, also cited as the BEAR Act of 2008.

Nearly a year ago, I stood here before you to discuss H.R. 1, legislation implementing the unfinished business of the 9/11 Commission recommendations to secure America against terrorism. Since its enactment, the Committee has continued aggressive oversight of the Transportation Security Administration's efforts to comply with security mandates set forth in one of the most important laws enacted by this Congress, the Implementing the Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007 (P.L. 110-53).

I must recognize Assistant Secretary Kip Hawley, the head of the Transportation Security Administration, TSA, who has always shown a willingness to engage in open dialogue with me and Committee Members when we have raised particular questions or concerns having to do with TSA. One area of concern that has been raised on numerous occasions is how to best strengthen security for airport workers with unescorted access to sterile and secure areas of the airport. I strongly believe that biometric technologies can be an invaluable homeland security tool—especially with regard to this security challenge.

I am introducing the BEAR Act to promote progress on this issue and legislate a smart security approach that promotes collaboration between TSA, industry, and other key stakeholders to provide airports with a blueprint on how to make biometrics work for them. Specifically, the bill requires TSA to study how airports can transition to uniform, standards-based and interoperable biometric identifier systems for airport workers with unescorted access. TSA, together with a working group comprised of key stakeholders, will examine existing programs and identify approaches that can enhance protections for secure and sterile areas of the airport.

Additionally this bill requires TSA to provide Congress and airport operators with a breakdown on best practices for utilizing biometrics to better protect airports. Today, workers with unescorted access to this critical infrastructure go through background screening to get issued badges that includes terror watch list checks. While this is a necessary and important check, a job applicant's biometrics are not being captured to check against biographic information provided and establish identity. This is a problem, as revealed when Federal law

enforcement raided Chicago's O'Hare International Airport in November 2007 and arrested 23 people for fraudulently securing badges to gain access to sensitive airport locations. According to the charging affidavit, more than 100 temporary workers were found to be in possession of the fraudulent badges and the staffing agency that sponsored told them that they needed identification, but such identification did not have to be legitimate. Studying approaches to bring biometrics into airports is all the more important since the struggling Transportation Worker Identification Credential, TWIC, program is not likely to be introduced into the airport environment any time soon.

Additionally, this bill requests TSA to consider existing parallel biometric security systems such as FIPS 201-compliant cards, TWIC, and the GSA Smart Card. This bill is not about re-inventing the wheel or putting a stop to any good work at TSA on this issue. It is about encouraging public-private partnerships and promoting an open dialogue between TSA, industry, and Congress on how best to secure our airports.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you support the BEAR Act, for it frames a series of important biometric and security credentialing issues that need to be addressed in a study and that will build on what this Congress has supported in the past. More importantly, it will provide Congress with the necessary information to continue building on smart, efficient and effective airport security measures needed to secure Americans and protect this critical sector in our economy.

RECOGNIZING RABBI HOWARD SHAPIRO ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

**HON. RON KLEIN**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2008

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a leader in our community. A man of faith and a deep generosity of spirit, Rabbi Howard Shapiro has served his congregation at Temple Israel in Palm Beach County, Florida, with distinction for the last 27 years. His retirement in June will be bitter-sweet for all those who have come to know the rabbi.

Rabbi Howard Shapiro has served our community for nearly 30 years and has also served our country as an Army chaplain in Vietnam. The rabbi is a family man, and often speaks proudly of his wife, Eileen, his son, David, and daughter, Rachel, and her husband Bobby Green. The Shapiros have five grandchildren—Tali, Jacob, Maya, Samantha and Cory.

Since coming to South Florida, Rabbi Shapiro has been a steadfast leader, serving as president of the Palm Beach County Board of Rabbis and Urban Interfaith Council. He leads his congregation in regular good works, mitzvot, that include helping the elderly and the needy.

Rabbi Shapiro is not only a leader in our Jewish community. He frequently organizes

joint programming with Christian congregations and interfaith groups. The rabbi is a community builder in the Palm Beaches, bridging different institutions and forging links between people, traditions and congregations. He cares deeply for Jewish education and loves to teach and to learn.

Rabbi Shapiro has been a blessing to the thousands of congregants he has served over the years. He will be sorely missed.

HONORING THOMAS S. CONELY, SR., OF DADE CITY, FLORIDA

**HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2008

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an American soldier who was wounded in service to our Nation during the conflict in Vietnam. Mr. Thomas S. Conely, Sr., is a Marine who served with honor and distinction on the battlefield. It is truly an honor to present this brave patriot with his long overdue Purple Heart medal.

Born in Wheeling, West Virginia, Mr. Conely's family moved to Pittsburgh when he was in ninth grade. Enlisting in the Marine Corps at the age of eighteen, Mr. Conely was one of about 78 enlistees dubbed the "Pittsburgh Pirate Platoon" when, all gathered around home plate for the ceremony, they were sworn into the Marines in the 7th inning of a baseball game at Forbes Field.

After completing his basic training at Parris Island, South Carolina, Mr. Conely went on to attend radio operator school in California and then served as the 2531 Field Radio Operator with the 9th Marines in Vietnam. Near the end of his tour of duty, his unit was near the Rock Pile in the Northern Eye Core of Vietnam when a mortar round landed between Mr. Conely and another soldier. The other man was thrown 23 feet and killed, while Mr. Conely ended up with shrapnel throughout his body.

A third generation soldier whose grandfather served in World War I and his father in World War II, Mr. Conely's wounds sadly forced him to leave the military. He had planned to make a career in the Marines, but after the blast injured him in Vietnam he returned to Bethesda Naval Hospital where he remained for 13 months prior to being discharged. Continuing the tradition of military service, Mr. Conely's three sons have all served in the Marine Corps, and one has had four tours of duty in Iraq.

Madam Speaker, it is soldiers like Thomas S. Conely, Sr., who joined the military to protect the freedoms that all Americans hold dear. While brave men like Mr. Conely were wounded fighting for freedom and liberty, his family, friends and loved ones know that this Congress will always remember his bravery and commitment in battle.