

help alleviate the severe nursing shortage which this rural region faces as well as our State of Texas.

As a Hispanic Serving Institution, Coastal Bend College plays a critical role in graduating Hispanic students who will make up a large portion of our future workforce. The Higher Education Reauthorization Act, which is currently being negotiated in Congress, will help colleges like Coastal Bend increase their recruitment of minority students.

This weekend, Coastal Bend College will be celebrating this important 40th anniversary with a variety of events, including musical performances, art exhibits and most importantly, the graduation of students in its 40th graduating class. I want to again congratulate Coastal Bend College for reaching this important milestone and wish every graduating student success in their future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO THE SCOTTSBLUFF
DECA

HON. ADRIAN SMITH

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2008

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, since 1946, DECA has been the premier student organization preparing high school and college students for careers in marketing, management and entrepreneurship. Students are able to develop academic, leadership, communication, and civic responsibility skills.

Through the efforts of this organization, thousands of students have become leaders and have improved their communities in countless ways.

Today, I want to congratulate the thirty-nine students from the Scottsbluff DECA Chapter who qualified for and attended the International DECA Career Development Conference in Atlanta, Georgia. I also want to congratulate their advisor, Mr. Derek Deaver.

Over 14,000 DECA members from all fifty states as well as Canada, Guam, Puerto Rico and Mexico attended the conference, held late last month.

In this international competition, the Scottsbluff DECA Chapter made Nebraska proud. Many members received awards of excellence with one project—whose members include Brittany Shaneman, Jordyn Gray and Breanna Elley—placed in the top twenty, and Seth Wallace finishing in the top ten, placing third in the nation.

The continued success of Mr. Deaver and his DECA students is a testament to the fact young Nebraskans represent a truly valuable resource. I applaud their achievements and wish them the best next year.

COMMEMORATING THE RENOVATION OF THE MONCLOVA, OHIO POST OFFICE BUILDING

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2008

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, this month marks a celebration in the community of

Monclova, Ohio. After four years, hundreds of volunteer hours given by dozens of volunteers, and many donations and financial contributions from generous sponsors, the citizens of Monclova will dedicate a reconstructed and renovated historical Post Office. Bill Strayer and Mary Kay and Connie Nuhfer of the Monclova Historical Society prepared a wonderfully descriptive history of the building and the effort to restore it, which I am pleased to submit for the RECORD.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE MONCLOVA OLD POST OFFICE

By the late 1800s and early 1900s, Monclova Township boasted a variety store, a mercantile, a drugstore and a barbershop, as well as wagon makers, blacksmiths, and a lyceum. Home mail delivery was also provided to area residents following the Rural Free Delivery legislation enacted by Congress. Ira Hinkle became the first mail carrier in the Township, using a horse and covered wagon on good weather days and riding the horse in snowy weather. Claire Metzger became the first Postmistress of Monclova Township on March 19, 1915; she served for 41 years before retiring on October 31, 1956. Prior to Miss Metzger becoming Postmistress, the Trapp Mercantile Store housed the Monclova Post Office. Claire, however, had a cement block building erected on property owned by her father, John Metzger, creating the first stand-alone post office in the Township. This one room building was unique in that it was the only post office in the country to have a piano; Claire would often entertain her customers by playing songs on it. The post office continued to operate until December of 1961, when the current Monclova Post Office opened on the corner of Monclova and Waterville-Monclova Roads.

Within a few years after its creation, the Monclova Historical Foundation was approached by the Kerscher family to see if its members would like to have the old Post Office building that now sat empty. The Kerschers, who owned the land where the old post office was located, requested that the building be moved from its current site and relocated on the Community Center property. At that time, the Foundation did not have the resources to take on the property and so the project was put on hold.

In 2004, however, the Foundation was approached by retired Master Carpenter and builder Ray Parker. He and friend Peggy Brown were willing to take on the project of saving and restoring the old building. In June 2004, a letter was signed granting the Foundation ownership of the old Monclova Post Office with the condition that it be removed from the Kerscher property. In early fall 2004, a meeting with Ray Parker, Peggy Brown, Bill Strayer, then president of the Foundation, and Tom Meyer, architect and friend of Bill's, met to discuss what had to be done to move the building. Ray made detailed drawings of the building including noting where each block was located. There were four different style blocks used in the Post Office and Ray wanted to be sure it would be reconstructed exactly as it was before it was taken down.

A few weeks later a group of volunteers took apart the building block by block. The blocks themselves were the only part of the building that were salvageable, but small pieces of trim were saved to be used as a pattern for creating new trim work. The blocks were stored behind the Community Center until plans, prints, permits and funds were ready. In late summer 2005, reconstruction of the old Post Office began and the building

was under roof by winter. In early 2006, Ray Parker died of cancer. Peggy, along with Bill and many other volunteers, have worked to complete the building the way Ray would have wanted. Over seventy volunteers have put in hundred of hours of work on the project and contributors have given both large and small donations in order to make this restoration possible. On May 24, 2008, the building will be officially dedicated; it will then be used as a museum for area school-children and visitors to explore and to learn about the history of this great community.

CONGRATULATING FORT A.P. HILL

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2008

Mr. WITTMAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I am proud to recognize Fort A.P. Hill as the winner of the 2008 Commander in Chief's Annual Award for Installation Excellence and am honored to represent the men and women of Fort A.P. Hill. The Commander in Chief's Annual Award for Installation Excellence recognizes outstanding and innovative efforts of those who operate and maintain U.S. military installations, and A.P. Hill was selected based on their exemplary support of Department of Defense missions.

Excellent military installations enable better mission performance and enhance the quality of life for military men, women and families. Each winning installation succeeded in providing excellent working, housing and recreational conditions.

To compete for the award, installations completed detailed organizational self-assessment packages answering questions posed in the Army Performance Improvement Criteria. Top installations received a week-long site visit by a team of evaluators, and a final, detailed scoring assessment by a senior panel of judges determined the top three installations.

The assessment was a thorough study of how business processes are designed and deployed, and how the installation fares in its business results across a variety of performance areas. I am honored to recognize the accomplishments of Fort A.P. Hill as the installation continues to sharpen the combat edge of America's Defense Forces, and I am proud A.P. Hill calls the First Congressional District home.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF PFC ADAM LEE MARION

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2008

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of sacrifice and service of PFC Adam Lee Marion of Dobson, North Carolina. Private First Class Marion, who served in the Army National Guard's 171st Engineer Company, made the ultimate sacrifice for his country last week when he fell in combat near Baghdad, Iraq.

Private First Class Marion's life exemplified the citizen-soldier ethic of the Army National