

I congratulate William Pender for his achievements in school and in his community and am proud to represent such talented and dedicated people in the District of Texas.

IN HONOR OF NATIONAL DRUG  
COURT MONTH

**HON. JOHN BOOZMAN**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 22, 2008*

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam Speaker, I stand here today to congratulate drug courts in Arkansas and nationwide during National Drug Court Month. Over 2,100 drug courts in the United States provide an alternative to incarceration for non-violent, drug-addicted offenders by combining intense judicial supervision, comprehensive substance abuse and mental health treatment, random and frequent drug testing, incentives and sanctions, clinical case management and life skills services. The tireless efforts of the judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys, treatment providers, rehabilitation experts, child advocates, researchers, educators, law enforcement representatives, correctional representatives, pre-trial officers and probation officers that are involved in drug courts provide substance abusing offenders with the much-needed chance at long-term recovery and productive lifestyles.

I have seen firsthand the impact of the 40 operational drug courts in my state, where drug court programs have enhanced public safety, saved taxpayer dollars and, most importantly, saved lives. Nearly 1,000 people have graduated from the program according to state records and currently 1,600 people are enrolled all across the state.

For example, the Fifth Judicial District Drug Court in Russellville, Arkansas, has graduated 43 clients since it opened its doors in 2004. Four of these drug court graduates have received their college degrees and started careers. One client has even advanced into the position of general manager for his company. The Fifth Judicial District Drug Court has set up a dental plan for clients, along with a work placement assistance program. This drug court and its achievements are just a small example of what is happening in the numerous drug courts across the state of Arkansas. In addition, the efforts of people like Judge Mary Ann Gunn and the 4th Judicial District Drug Court have helped make the program a success in the Natural State. More than one thousand people have been treated through that program that has an 89 percent retention rate. Town Hall Meetings held by the group help to promote awareness and prevention of substance abuse in our families and schools.

As we face a growing population of drug-addicted offenders in the American justice system, we must expand our efforts to bring treatment to a larger number of those in need. According to a recent study by the Urban Research Institute's Justice Policy Center, approximately 1.5 million drug-involved offenders should be diverted to drug court, which would generate \$32.3 billion in savings to American taxpayers. Armed with our existing research that drug courts work, reduce recidivism, and

save lives, we must work on taking drug courts to scale. There is no greater opportunity for change in the American justice system and there is no greater opportunity to heal families and communities.

Again, congratulations to the dedicated drug court professionals and graduates from Arkansas and around the country on a job well done.

TRIBUTE TO THE 300TH ANNIVERSARY  
OF HEBRON CONNECTICUT

**HON. JOE COURTNEY**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 22, 2008*

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the 300th anniversary of the incorporation of the town of Hebron, Connecticut. Throughout 2008, the town and its residents have and will continue to celebrate 300 years of rich history.

From its original settlement, agriculture production has supported the growth of the town as well as agriculture development and growth of neighboring communities. From colonial labors to modern agricultural machinery, cultivation of the land has remained an important economic and communal component of the town of Hebron. Hebron's agricultural history, reflecting on the distinct New England seasons, will be highlighted in the yearlong third centennial celebration.

This past March, residents enjoyed Maple Fest, which focused on a favorite New England winter harvest and culinary tradition. Families in Hebron and across the New England community joined in the festivities, which featured regional treats from local sugar houses. The sweet products of the maple trees were enjoyed in traditional to untraditional forms, from maple syrup to maple cotton candy. In the coming September, Hebron Harvest Fair will highlight the products of the New England fall harvest.

Three hundred years after incorporation, from its colonial origins through its modern evolution, Hebron represents the very best of a Connecticut and more broadly, small-town America. I ask my colleagues to join with me and my constituents in honoring and celebrating Hebron's third centennial and welcome many more to come.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF COLONEL  
ANTHONY JOSEPH WENDEL  
III, U.S. MARINE CORPS

**HON. DARRELL E. ISSA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 22, 2008*

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 30 years of dedicated service of United States Marine Corps Colonel Anthony Joseph Wendel III.

Since being commissioned a Second Lieutenant in August 1979, Colonel Wendel has served the Marine Corps in a variety of roles, both at home and abroad. During his 30 years

of total service, he has served his country in positions of leadership in Okinawa, Japan; Washington, DC; Eugene, Oregon; Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Los Angeles, California; and at Camp Pendleton, California.

In 1980, Colonel Wendel attended Basic Combat Engineer Officers Course, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. Between 1986 and 1987, he attended Amphibious Warfare School, Quantico, Virginia. He graduated from the U.S. Marine Corps Command and Staff College in 1994 with a Masters of Military Studies, and in June 2000 he graduated from the U.S. Naval War College, Newport, Rhode Island with a Masters of Arts in National Security and Strategic Studies. Thereupon, he served as Assistant Chief of Staff, G-4 U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Korea from July 2000 to July 2001. During this period, he was selected to the grade of colonel.

Colonel Wendel has served in two major combat operations, Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm and Operation Restore Hope. His leadership background encompasses a wide range of roles, responsibilities, and spectrum of experience. With his diversity of knowledge and talent, Colonel Wendel has given much to this country through his dedicated military service, which will be formally concluded with retirement on June 5, 2008.

Colonel Wendel currently serves as the Program Officer, Western Regional Environmental Coordination Office, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, California. He continues to serve to protect and defend U.S. Marine Corps western region training interests and entities. He and his wife Susan have their home in Oceanside, California.

On behalf of the people of the United States whom he has served with courage and honor, we commemorate the service of Colonel Anthony Joseph Wendel III.

REMEMBERING FORMER PRESIDENT  
OF AZERBAIJAN HEYDAR  
ALIYEV

**HON. J. GRESHAM BARRETT**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 22, 2008*

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, On May 10, 2008, we commemorated the 85th Jubilee of the late President Heydar Aliyev. When Azerbaijan reclaimed independence in 1991, most Americans had never heard of the country. Soon after, the country found itself involved in a war with neighboring Armenia over Nagorno Karabakh, which resulted in one million refugees and 20 percent of Azerbaijani soil occupied by Armenian forces.

Out of chaos, economic turmoil, and questions about the viability of the country's independence, President Heydar Aliyev emerged as the President of the Republic. He was re-elected in 1998, and served until he passed away in December 2003. In May it is the 85th anniversary of his birthday, and it is fit to note the milestones that were reached under his leadership. The first state visit by a President of an independent Azerbaijan to the United States was realized July 27-August 7, 1997.