

State." The once-quiet seaside city, geographically isolated for decades, suddenly found itself an exploding center for military life and defense production.

Wilmington's wartime efforts were extensive and honorable. Wilmington based and trained all five military services—the Air Force at the Wilmington Airport, the Army at Camp Davis and Fort Fisher, the Navy at Fort Caswell, the Coast Guard at Wrightsville Beach, and the Marine Corps at Camp Lejeune. The North Carolina Shipbuilding Company of Wilmington, the state's largest employer at that time, constructed 243 cargo vessels with which to provide goods and equipment to our soldiers. Additionally, Wilmington provided the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad headquarters, three housing camps for German prisoners of war, a major training base for P-47 fighters, defense industries producing goods and equipment, a British patrol base, and a shipping Lend Lease supplies to the Allies.

Wilmington's most important contribution by far, though, was its dispatch of thousands of its sons and daughters to fight the enemy. These New Hanover County men and women served in uniform, fighting on land, sea, and air as Navy frogmen, P-51 fighter aces, Tuskegee Airmen, submarine skippers, bomber pilots, Marine riflemen, Army artillerymen, physicians and nurses, and volunteers of all sorts. Tragically, 248 Wilmington men bravely lost their lives as a result of their courageous efforts to defend America. Two New Hanover High School graduates received the Congressional Medal of Honor and numerous others received high decorations for valor including Navy Crosses, Distinguished Service Crosses, and Distinguished Flying Crosses.

Furthermore, Wilmington's strategic position made it vulnerable to enemy attack by German U-boats, which marauded shipping off our beaches. In July 1943 a U-boat fired at the Ethel-Dow chemical plant in Wilmington, perhaps the only German attack on America. Wilmington endured this attack, as well as constant civilian defense restrictions and air raid drills, including black-outs and dim-outs. The city's population more than doubled with the influx of military personnel, forcing locals to cope with strain on housing and schools, transportation, medical and social services, law enforcement, and food supply.

Madam Speaker, Wilmingtonians sacrificed in every imaginable way when our nation needed them during World War II. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognition and appreciation of Wilmington's contributions to the U.S. war effort during World War II. Now, in the spirit of that appreciation, let it be known that Wilmington, North Carolina, should be recognized as "America's World War II City."

DESCUBRIENDO LA LECTURA AND  
READING RECOVERY

**HON. NICK LAMPSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 5, 2008*

Mr. LAMPSON. Madam Speaker, it is truly a pleasure to rise today to acknowledge the achievements of Descubriendo la Lectura and

Reading Recovery in teaching struggling first grade students to read and write in the 22nd House district of Texas.

In April I visited Fort Bend Independent School District to observe an early reading intervention for bilingual children whose initial literacy learning is in Spanish. It is called Descubriendo la Lectura—DLL for short. The goal of DLL is to reduce the number first-grade children who have extreme difficulty learning to read and write and to reduce the cost of those learners to educational systems. DLL is a reconstruction of Reading Recovery for Spanish-speaking children and provides short-term, one-to-one tutoring with a specially trained teacher.

The results in my district are impressive, beginning with the student I met the day of my visit. Jose began his DLL lessons in January reading on a text level of 1, which means he could read a simple book with a single line, supported by single illustrations. He could recognize his own name and write very few other words.

On the day of my visit he was reading at a text level of 12, which means he could read a book with 4–8 lines of text per page. He is able to read books with more challenging ideas, vocabulary and longer sentences. He is able to interpret and understand ideas and characters through discussions with the DLL teacher.

In the Fort Bend Independent School District, 70 percent of the students receiving a full series of DLL lessons were reading on or above grade level by the end of first grade last year. Throughout Texas, the U.S., and Department of Defense schools around the world, three-quarters of children receiving a full series of DLL or Reading Recovery lessons are reading and writing at grade level standard by the end of first grade. These results are remarkable, considering these children began at the bottom of their class for reading and writing—usually the lowest 10–20 percent. I commend the teachers, administrators, and students of Fort Bend ISD for their commitment to assuring literacy for all children.

FIRSTBANK

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 5, 2008*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize FirstBank for being the recipient of the 2008 Golden Rotary Customer Service Award.

FirstBank is a locally owned banking organization headquartered in Lakewood, Colorado and for over 40 years FirstBank has been dedicated to a high standard of customer service.

FirstBank is a full service bank with local personnel, local decisions and outstanding customer service. The employees of FirstBank are available to customers 24 hours a day with fast and friendly customer service. Due to the high standard of customer care, FirstBank has become the premier leader in the banking industry in Colorado.

My deepest congratulations to FirstBank on your continued success and outstanding commitment to the customers you serve.

HONORING WALTER JONES III OF  
MICHIGAN

**HON. FRED UPTON**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 5, 2008*

Mr. UPTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Walter Jones III—decorated Vietnam War hero, active member of the Civil Rights Movement, and dedicated servant to the community of Kalamazoo, MI.

During the Vietnam War, Walter served as a paratrooper in the United States Army from 1965 to 1968. He received three Purple Hearts and two Bronze stars during his combat time and fought bravely in many battles, including the Battle of DakTo—a major victory over the North Vietnamese.

Perhaps even more impressive than Walter's war history, is his tireless work for the Civil Rights Movement. When he was a young man of 14 years, Walter became the vice president of the local NAACP Youth Council in Kalamazoo, and has been fighting for equal rights for all races ever since.

With the combination of Walter's bravery in the Vietnam War and his leadership in the Kalamazoo community, he has been chosen to receive the 2008 Veteran of the Year Award at the Metropolitan Kalamazoo branch of the NAACP Freedom Fund Banquet. I thank Walter Jones for his lifelong commitment to the betterment of our country, and in particular, for his steadfast service to the Kalamazoo community.

RECOGNIZING THE FEDERATION  
OF HELLENIC AMERICAN EDU-  
CATORS AND CULTURAL ASSO-  
CIATIONS

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 5, 2008*

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, as co-founder and co-chair of the Congressional Caucus on Hellenic Issues, I rise today to recognize The Federation of Hellenic American Educators and Cultural Associations who today held a wonderful and historic event in the Capitol entitled, "The Dynamics of the Hellenic Language." Attendees included His Excellency Ambassador Alexandros Mallias; Carolos Gadis, Minister-Deputy Chief of Mission; Stella Kokolis, President, SAE USE Region Educational Committee; Christos Polymeropoulos; Vassilis Polymeropoulos; Maria Gadis; and students from the Greek School of Plato in Brooklyn instructed by Eleftheria Ikouta and Despina Hotzoglou.

I want to acknowledge the honorees receiving the "Capitol 2008 Awards for Promoting Hellenic Language and Culture":

The Honorable ROBERT MENENDEZ (D-NJ), The Honorable OLYMPIA SNOWE (R-ME), Dr. Anagnostis Agelarakis, Professor and Director of Environmental Studies, Angela Kalmoukos, Teacher, Lowell, Massachusetts, George Pumakis, founder of "Athenian Academy",