

Sameer is a competitive student. He participates in contests such as Spell Bowl, Academic Super Bowl and Indiana State School Music Association. With his spelling bee days behind him, Sameer looks forward to high school and lofty goals that include a career as a neurosurgeon.

Sameer Mishra is a remarkable young man. His competitive spirit and drive will take him far in life. His ability to set goals and work hard to achieve them makes him a shining example that other children can aspire to.

U.S. ARMY RESERVE RETURNS TO
LIFE-SAVING AIR AMBULANCE
MISSION

HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2008

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Madam Speaker, with the delivery of the first two HH-60 Blackhawk helicopters this past Saturday to F Company, 1st Battalion, 159th Aviation Regiment, at the St. Petersburg-Clearwater International Airport in Florida, the U.S. Army Reserve is preparing to resume its life-saving air evacuation mission.

Lieutenant General Jack C. Stultz, the Chief of the Army Reserve, and I joined in ceremonies to accept the delivery of the first of the 12 helicopters that will be assigned to this unit, which officially stands up its operations this September. The Army Reserve stopped flying air evacuation missions in 1993, but General Stultz, realizing the tremendous demand for these operations throughout the world, made it a priority to reestablish this capability.

Given the advancements of armored vehicles, body armor, and medical care administered in the field, we are able to save the lives of servicemembers who in prior conflicts would have died. With the state-of-the-art helicopters like those we received Saturday, we are saving lives and getting those injured men and women to field hospitals quicker than ever so they can receive the care they need and they so richly deserve.

The HH-60 air ambulance helicopters are emergency rooms in the air. They are equipped with the finest possible medical systems to provide critical care for up to six patients. These systems include an electronic patient litter system, on-board oxygen generation system, medical suction system, patient monitors and high intensity night vision goggle compatible lighting.

The aircraft are also equipped with the most advanced avionics and special mission systems to assist the crew in locating and rescuing injured personnel on the battlefield. These include forward looking infrared (FLIR) systems and an external rescue hoist to quickly raise and lower patients and rescue personnel. In addition, the new HH-60s have additional payload and range to allow them to carry more patients and fly longer distances without refueling.

The men and women who fly these missions as pilots, flight engineers, and medics are the best our Nation has to offer. We owe

them the finest equipment to perform their mission safely and securely, but the machinery and technology means nothing if we did not have the people willing to fly into harm's way to save a fellow American.

The MEDEVAC crews are defenseless in flying their machines. They have no defensive systems on board and they often fly unaccompanied and must land under hostile fire to pick up their patients. As I said Saturday, it takes a special person to perform this mission and to perform it so well.

They fly with the same spirit as one of the legendary MEDEVAC pilots, Major Charles "Combat" Kelly, who died while flying a mission in Vietnam in 1964. He coined what is now the motto for all MEDEVAC crews: "No compromise. No rationalization. No hesitation. Fly the mission. Now!"

Madam Speaker, let us take time today to honor the MEDEVAC crews that have brought home so many of our heroes to their families and friends. It is my distinct honor to have the privilege to represent the newly formed F Company in Pinellas County, Florida, and I look forward to being with the unit when it officially stands up later this year.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2008

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, unfortunately, I was unable to make the following votes yesterday because of a developing crisis in Iowa's 1st Congressional District. Massive flooding is leading to evacuations and it is only expected to get worse. Although I realize how important it is to cast votes in Washington, the well-being of my constituents comes first, and I need to be in the District to assist in any way I can.

On Rollcall 394, H. Res. 1063, I was not present. If I had been there, I would have voted "yea."

On Rollcall 395, H. Con. Res. 318, I was not present. If I had been there, I would have voted "yea."

On Rollcall 396, H. Con. Res. 336, I was not present. If I had been there, I would have voted "yea."

HONORING GOODWILL INDUSTRIES
OF SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2008

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Goodwill Industries of San Antonio, Texas, in its mission of helping change lives through their participation in the AbilityOne Program. In the city of San Antonio, Goodwill has a strong presence, providing over \$15,000,000 of services in document management, administration, and custodial maintenance through the AbilityOne Program. The AbilityOne Program provides employment opportunities to those with disabilities.

The AbilityOne Program got its beginning in 1938 in legislation known as the Wagner-O'Day Act, passed by President Roosevelt, which provided employment opportunities for the blind. In 1971, the program was redesignated as the Javits-Wagner-O'Day, JWOD, Program due to the work of Senator Jacob Javits in expanding the program to include people with disabilities and allowing the program to provide services to the Federal Government. Goodwill Industries of San Antonio was the first agency in the Nation to take on a contract provided by the JWOD Program shortly after its expansion in 1971, and continues to do so through the AbilityOne Program today.

Currently, Goodwill employs over 300 people in 40 diverse commercial, Federal and State contracts. Goodwill is the fourth largest contract services provider in the Nation, amongst 170 other Goodwill locations. Its history of success and development of working relationships has earned Goodwill a 90 percent satisfaction rating for multiple years with their customers. I am proud that the employment of people with disabilities has played a large role in the operation of Goodwill Industries in San Antonio, Texas.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to have had this time to recognize the commitment of Goodwill Industries of San Antonio to ensuring the employment of those with disabilities through the AbilityOne Program.

NEW ERA OF REFORM IN
MALAYSIA

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2008

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, I would like to bring my colleagues' attention to significant political developments in Southeast Asia. Malaysia, which recently held major elections, is embarking on a new set of democratic reforms to deal with some of the serious problems that the country faces. I am pleased to see that Malaysia is moving toward reforms that would support the rule of law and a more open society.

Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Badawi has announced a series of initiatives that would help demonstrate Malaysia's commitment to government reform and to moderate and progressive principles of democracy. The actions respond to the call for reform issued by voters in the March 8 elections.

The Malaysian government has proposed a series of judicial reforms to strengthen the independence of judges and improve trust and respect for the Malaysian judicial system, and steps to fight corruption. The government plans to take steps that would provide greater press freedoms as well.

Malaysia is a moderate country of 25 million people in Southeast Asia with a dominant Muslim population. The country is of significant importance to the United States and our interests in the region. Democratic development in Malaysia is important not only to the political stability and economic growth of Southeast Asia but the fight against extremism.

I would like to submit for the RECORD and for the benefit of my colleagues an editorial by the Wall Street Journal Asia that comments on these reforms.

In closing, I encourage my colleagues to take notice of recent developments in Malaysia and to support the government as it works to implement democratic reforms that could benefit Malaysia and help support U.S. interests.

[From The Wall Street Journal, Apr. 24, 2008]
REFORMING MALAYSIA

Malaysia's economy has long been open to competition, but its political system has not. Last month's opposition-party electoral victories changed all that. Now, Prime Minister Abdullah Badawi has started to compete for voters' hearts, based on what the people want.

Mr. Abdullah's announcements over the past two weeks are nothing short of remarkable. Last Thursday, he acknowledged "perceived corruption" in the judiciary and announced an independent committee to vet prospective judges. On Monday, he promised to beef up the nation's Anti-Corruption Agency, implement laws to protect whistleblowers, and make changes to government procurement practices—long a source of patronage for his party, the United Malays National Organization, and the coalition it leads, the National Front.

None of these ideas are new. In fact, Mr. Abdullah himself promised better, cleaner governance when he took office in 2004. Malaysia's voters gave him four years to implement his promises. Last month, voters delivered their verdict: They handed opposition parties control of five out of 13 states, up from one—their biggest parliamentary gains since the country's founding.

With that reprimand, Mr. Abdullah now seems to realize that democracy in Malaysia matters. And he's ripped reform ideas straight from the opposition parties' playbooks. Anwar Ibrahim's National Justice Party, for instance, has long advocated judicial reform and the protection of whistleblowers. The new chief minister of Penang, a member of the Democratic Action Party, called for an open tender system for government procurement last month.

A wise leader will always appropriate good ideas, especially ones recently endorsed at the ballot box. Doing so is also a savvy political move for Mr. Abdullah. His standing as head of UMNO was put in question after his party's electoral losses last month. It still is—on Sunday, a former finance minister, Razaleigh Hamzah, said he'd contest for the party leadership.

If the Prime Minister can reposition himself as a reformer who enjoys public support, it will be harder for his internal challengers to unseat him, come the party congress in December. Showing that UMNO can reform is also a chance for Mr. Abdullah to slow the opposition's political momentum at a time when it is still enjoying the aftermath of last month's election victories.

The Prime Minister may also be thinking about his legacy. The first to hold that office after over two decades of rule under Mahathir Mohamad, Mr. Abdullah was seen as a transitional figure who would bring greater freedoms to his country. At first, he did, loosening controls on the press and cracking down on a few corrupt officials. But largely as last month's vote showed—he has so far failed.

Malaysia needs the reforms now on offer, and fast. Corruption undermines the coun-

try's economic competitiveness and its attractiveness as a place to do business. That depresses investment, and employment opportunities for Malaysians. Without a strong judiciary or a free press, the only way citizens feel they can show their discontent is to protest on the streets. Giving Malaysians a justice system they trust would help alleviate some, if not all, of those grievances.

None of these reforms can be implemented overnight, and most will be strongly opposed by UMNO's political machine, which has benefited for years from its opaque patronage system. But the threat of being unseated from office should be a good motivation for the party to take Mr. Abdullah's ideas seriously. Its about time.

IN HONOR OF THE ROCK AND
ROLL HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum, located in the heart of historic downtown Cleveland, Ohio, and in recognition of the site's significant contributions to preserving American culture.

The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum opened its doors in 1995 and attracts visitors from all over the country and the world. The Museum provides educational programs and opportunities for visitors to fully experience the history and impact that music has had on our culture. Artists and musicians from all over the world perform at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum and teach their audiences about the social significance of making music.

With carefully preserved artifacts from many of our country's favorite artists and the history behind some of the most beloved songs, the Hall of Fame and Museum showcases the significant impact that music has had in so many of our nation's social, cultural and political historical events. Throughout history, musicians have used their music as a vehicle to give voice to the voiceless, to challenge many social, cultural and political norms, and to celebrate that most human of emotions, love. This year, on June 13, 2008, the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum, along with the Joint Veterans Commission of Cuyahoga County, is commemorating Flag Day, the 233rd Birthday of the U.S. Army, and hosting a naturalization ceremony. I join the Hall of Fame and Museum and the JVCOCC of Cleveland in their celebration of these important events.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Museum and in recognition of its unique and significant contributions to preserving American Culture and of its outstanding educational outreach programs.

TRIBUTE TO BONNIE BAKER

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2008

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Bonnie Baker of Clarion, Iowa on her 26-year postal career and congratulate her on the occasion of her retirement. Mrs. Baker has been a shining example of dedicated public service throughout her career.

Mrs. Baker began in 1982 by working as a window clerk in Dows, Iowa. The following year she moved to the Clarion Post Office, again working the front window. During her tenure in Clarion, Mrs. Baker worked periodically at the EDS plant when her services were needed. In October of 1993 she accepted a full-time position working for EDS.

Mrs. Baker was responsible for a variety of duties at her most recent position, including resolving different mailing problems that may arise, managing the transportation system, and instructing new employees on their various assignments.

I commend Bonnie Baker for her service to the State of Iowa throughout her many years in her postal career. It is an immense honor to represent Mrs. Baker in the United States Congress, and I know that my colleagues join me in wishing her a long, happy and healthy retirement.

HONORING THE CHEERLEADERS
OF BOOKER T. WASHINGTON
SENIOR HIGH

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2008

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to offer my warmest congratulations to a special group of cheerleaders in my Congressional District. The cheerleading team of Booker T. Washington Senior High recently took first place in their division at the Ameri-Cheer International Competition in Orlando, Florida. This is a wonderful accomplishment and I know that I join with our whole community in honoring their success.

With all their hard work, skill, and commitment to excellence, these young adults managed to bring home to their school a very notable title. These athletes truly deserve to be recognized as models for perseverance. All who know them can readily appreciate the can-do feeling that emanates from the group and their unyielding desire to succeed. They have shown us what it means to be the best.

I also recognize that it was with the support of their parents, teachers, and friends that these cheerleaders were able to win such a demanding competition. Those closest to this team were just as vital in its success as components in the motivation that allowed them to go so far. The devotion that family and friends offer is incredibly important and I am delighted with their involvement in this endeavor.

At this time I would like to submit into the RECORD the names of the cheerleading team