

for 24 years. In fact, he was the longest serving legislator from Escambia County.

During his career in the Alabama State Legislature, Representative White worked tirelessly on behalf of south Alabama. He was distinguished as an outstanding legislator and served on the House Rules Committee and the Joint Transportation Committee. He is credited with improving the roads and bridges in his district where he took a great personal interest.

On behalf of the people of south Alabama, I extend deepest sympathy to his lovely wife, Clara; their wonderful children, Todd, Hugh, and Sarah Anne; and his family and many friends.

Representative Skippy White was much loved and respected by his constituents for his tireless dedication to Baldwin and Escambia counties. He will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

HONORING HANK DAVID GAMEL

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 30, 2010

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Hank David Gamel. Hank is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1494, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Hank has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Hank has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Hank has earned the rank of Warrior in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say. Hank has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Hank designed and constructed a sign for the entrance of the Church of the Annunciation in Kearney, Missouri.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Hank David Gamel for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

RECOGNIZING JAMES J. BOLLICH AS 2010 AMERICAN LEGION POST 241 LEGIONNAIRE OF THE YEAR

HON. CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR.

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 30, 2010

Mr. BOUSTANY. Madam Speaker, I want to recognize Sergeant James J. Bollich who was recently named Legionnaire of the Year by American Legion Post 241 in Lafayette, Louisiana. Sergeant Bollich served this Nation with honor and distinction, and has lived an exemplary American life worthy of approbation.

Sergeant Bollich was born in the small farm community of Mowata and attended college at

Southwestern Louisiana Institute, now the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. His time there was cut short, as in 1940 he joined the Army Air Corps at Barksdale Field in Shreveport, and participated in the Louisiana Maneuvers in 1941. His squadron was sent overseas, where he fought for the defense of the Philippines.

Serving as an infantryman during the Battle of Bataan, Bollich was captured by the Japanese and was forced to participate in the Bataan Death March as a prisoner of war. Despite the cruelty endured at the hands of his captors, and the thousands of deaths of his fellow servicemen he witnessed, Bollich bravely persevered and survived. He ultimately spent three and a half years at the Japanese POW camp in San Fernando before he and his fellow survivors were freed by the Russian Army in 1945.

After his harrowing ordeal, he returned to the United States and returned to college. Upon graduating, he worked as a subsurface petroleum geologist until his retirement. He has written several books, including "A Soldier's Story" which told his story of his time as a prisoner of war. For his courage in the face of unimaginable hardship, he received several commendations and medals, including the Bronze Star, the Victory Medal, and the POW medal. In addition to this, he was recently inducted to the Louisiana Veterans Hall of Honor. He has sacrificed much for his country, and should serve as an example and a reminder of true patriotism to this Nation.

It goes without saying that Sergeant James J. Bollich is very deserving of the honor of being named American Legion Post 241's Legionnaire of the Year. His story is one of bravery and dedication, and I am honored to serve as his member of Congress. He is part of our "Greatest Generation" and my words cannot express the gratitude we should all show to those who served in World War II. I wholeheartedly thank Sergeant Bollich for his service to the United States, and I congratulate him on this most recent honor.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 30, 2010

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, unfortunately, on Monday, November 29, 2010, I missed two recorded votes on the House floor. I ask that the record reflect that had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall 581 and "yea" on rollcall 582.

IN HONOR OF DR. RUSS COLSON

HON. COLLIN C. PETERSON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 30, 2010

Mr. PETERSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate one of my distinguished constituents, Dr. Russ Colson, the 2010 Professor of the Year awarded by Carnegie Foun-

ation for the Advancement of Teaching and the Council for Advancement and Support of Education.

Dr. Colson was hired by Minnesota State University Moorhead in 1993 to teach geology at a school that did not have an existing geology program. In an area like the Red River Valley with its rich geologic history, a strong program was necessary and Dr. Colson worked to create a stand-out geology program at one of our nation's stand-out universities.

He has put an emphasis on experiential learning in nearly three-quarters of his classes. A self-described "science coach," Dr. Colson introduces students to geology around the globe through hands-on experiences—applying what is learned in books to the real world.

He is beloved by faculty and students alike. His students praise his teaching style for helping them develop skills necessary in the 21st century. A fellow faculty member refers to Dr. Colson as "the best."

Dr. Colson is the first professor from a Minnesota public university to receive this award but likely not the last. I offer my heartfelt congratulations to Dr. Colson, his family and the MSUM community on this impressive achievement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 30, 2010

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I was absent from the House floor on the legislative day of November 29, 2010. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 581 and 582.

CONGRATULATING MARY, MOTHER OF THE REDEEMER'S CATHOLIC EDUCATION CENTER

HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 30, 2010

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Mary, Mother of the Redeemer's Catholic Education Center on the momentous achievement of being designated a 2010 Blue Ribbon School of Excellence. Mary, Mother of the Redeemer is a Catholic Parish in North Wales, Montgomery County. In 1997, the ten-year old parish saw the need for a school of its own and began laying the groundwork to establishing what would become an award winning educational center. In 2002, after years of planning and fundraising, the parish began construction and only two years later the school had an enrollment of nearly 700 students. The education center has a mission statement of recognizing the uniqueness of each student to provide a quality Catholic education.

The Blue Ribbon Program is a project of the Department of Education that identifies the best school leadership and teaching practices,