

shown generosity and compassion by donating to the reconstruction effort.

In honoring Taiwan's National Day, we need to continue to support their efforts under the framework of the Taiwan Relations Act, to ensure that our ally has the capability to defend herself. Moreover, as Taiwan is our 10th largest trading partner, I believe we should seek ways to further enhance the bilateral trade relationship.

To the people of Taiwan, I extend my congratulations on their National Day. Our mutual relations will continue to be strengthened in future years.

#### HONORING OUR NATION'S HEROES ON NATIONAL POW-MIA RECOGNITION DAY

**HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 21, 2012*

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in observance of National POW/MIA Recognition Day and to express my gratitude to the soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines who have suffered unimaginable hardships as prisoners of war and to those courageous service members who remain missing in action.

One of the great tragedies of war is the inability of a family to lay a beloved fallen service member in a final appropriate resting place at home here in the United States. Sadly, since World War II, the families of over 84,000 servicemen and women are left to wonder the fate of their family member who went missing in action. My thoughts and prayers go out to these service members and their families; that these Americans heroes may find peace, and that one day we can return them home.

During the same time period, more than 138,000 brave American service members have been detained as prisoners of war, with many suffering through barbaric treatment by their captors. POWs have seen and experienced some of the most horrific acts of which mankind is capable, and they certainly deserve our unending recognition and gratitude. The loyalty and bravery they demonstrate while at the hands of our enemies cannot be overstated.

While we pause to remember the sacrifice so many brave men and women have made for our country, we must also thank those who have worked tirelessly to find and return home those who went missing. The Defense Prisoner of War and Missing Personnel Office (DPMO) is responsible for the investigation and recovery process for missing service members. The DPMO also works closely with the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command, or JPAC, which is responsible for worldwide investigations, recoveries, and identifications. Together, and with other dedicated private organizations, DPMO and JPAC do the difficult work of bringing our service members home to rest and bringing closure to their families.

I was honored to be a part of the effort of JPAC returning to the south Pacific island of Betio, where the historic battle of Tarawa took place in World War II. One of the first Marine beach assaults of the war, an entrenched Japanese force inflicted immense casualties on U.S. forces, yet after 76 hours of battle, our victorious troops raised the American flag

above the battlefield. Unfortunately, among the 1100 Marines, soldiers and sailors lost in this engagement, 564 remain unrecovered and lost in battle. Following language I was able to include in a defense authorization bill in 2010, JPAC has returned to Tarawa for one recovery mission in 2010, and plans another for next year. I will continue to promote the recovery of these servicemen until they are home.

Since 1979, our nation has observed National POW/MIA Recognition Day to remember those who were prisoners of war (POW) and those who are missing in action (MIA), as well as their families. That year, Congress passed a resolution to mark the third Friday of September as a day to ensure Americans would never forget. I encourage my colleagues and all Americans to take a moment today to remember those who sacrificed for our freedom.

We are all forever indebted to these men and women, and on this somber day, we must reiterate our promise that "We will not forget."

#### HONORING AARON RILEY BRADSHAW

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 21, 2012*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Aaron Riley Bradshaw. Aaron 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 271, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Aaron has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Aaron 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, Aaron has refused to see his autism as a handicap, but rather as an opportunity to grow and thrive as an individual. His journey to the rank of Eagle Scout has been an inspiration for his friends, fellow scouts and especially his family, all of whom are extremely proud of what he has accomplished as an Eagle Scout.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Aaron Riley Bradshaw for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

#### CELEBRATING NATIONAL GEAR UP WEEK

**HON. CHAKA FATTAH**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 21, 2012*

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Speaker, last week the nation celebrated National GEAR UP Week. Communities across the country committed themselves to a brighter future for their students and families and emphasized the important role college plays in future success. I would like to draw the attention of my colleagues to a few of these celebrations. Governors in Arizona, Hawaii, Kentucky, Oklahoma, Washington, Wisconsin and North

Carolina received proclamations from their governors. In Santa Ana and Sacramento, California and Roswell, New Mexico, they received proclamations from their mayors.

Our colleagues Mr. LUNGREN and Ms. MATSUI issued proclamations celebrating the GEAR UP work in their Districts. In San Marcos, California they hosted an inaugural GEAR UP partnership reception with their local Chamber of Commerce and presented certificates of recognition to Congressman HUNTER and State Senator Mark Wyland. In Waterbury, Connecticut they held a middle school parent evening and were joined by special guest NBA star, Ryan Gomes. Congressman HANNA issued a proclamation and Congressman REYES presented a letter to the GEAR UP community in Deep South Texas. Congressman CUELLAR spoke to students in Laredo, Texas along with Debra Saunders-White from the US Department of Education.

Many other GEAR UP partnership and state grantees conducted college scavenger hunts, created Dream Walls, discussed the college experience of school faculty and staff and engaged parents and partners.

I'm proud of the hard work of our students, their parents, and GEAR UP program staff and I know I speak for this body when I say congratulations on what you have accomplished so far and best of luck in the school year ahead!

#### CONGRATULATING MS. DIANE SCHRIER FOR COMPLETING THE NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART'S SUMMER TEACHER INSTITUTE

**HON. DANIEL WEBSTER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 21, 2012*

Mr. WEBSTER. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize Ms. Diane Schrier of Ocala, Florida, a teacher at Fort King Middle School, upon her completion of the National Gallery of Art's Annual Summer Teacher Institute. During the National Gallery's six-day seminar, Ms. Schrier intensively studied the foundation of twentieth-century art by examining the pioneering artists of French impressionism and post-impressionism.

In order for participants to be accepted in to the Gallery's Teacher Institute seminar, they must first complete a rigorous application process. Ms. Schrier was one of only forty-five teachers from across the nation chosen to participate in this year's National Gallery of Art's Teacher Institute. From this seminar, teachers are able to return to their schools and students with new tools and ideas that will enhance education curriculum of all grade levels and subjects. The students of Central Florida are blessed to have such a dedicated educator as Ms. Schrier.

On behalf of the citizens of Central Florida, I am pleased to recognize and congratulate Ms. Diane Schrier on her acceptance to and successful completion of the National Gallery of Art's Annual Summer Teacher Institute. May her dedication to our nation's educational institutions and students inspire others to follow in her footsteps.