

respect. I want to share with my colleagues and others throughout the nation some information concerning this distinguished individual who is being honored.

Judge John A. Howard is a native of Elyria, Ohio, and graduated from Elyria High School. He attended Florida A&M University where he received Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science Degrees. He went on to attend Ohio State University and Franklin University, receiving his law degree in 1949. He was admitted to the Ohio State Bar that same year.

Mr. Speaker, John Howard was appointed to the Elyria Mayor's Court in 1954. His career also included service as City Prosecutor and City Solicitor, and Chief Adult Probation Officer for Lorain County. In 1983, Judge Howard was appointed Interim Clerk of the Courts. His appointment in 1984 as Presiding Judge of the Elyria District Court represented the highlight of a notable legal career. Throughout his career, Judge Howard has demonstrated the highest level of integrity and devotion to duty. His efforts have won him respect and praise from his friends and colleagues.

Judge Howard has received numerous awards and honors from organizations throughout the State of Ohio. He received an award for Superior Judicial Service from the Supreme Court of Ohio, and an Honorary Doctor of Law Degree from Capital University. He has also been recognized by the National Conference of Black Lawyers, and he received the "Man of the Year" award on at least three occasions. He is also a member of the Florida A&M University Hall of Fame. Judge Howard's memberships include the American Bar Association; Ohio State Bar Association; and Lorain and Cuyahoga County Bar Associations. He is a member of the Lorain County Urban League; the Association of Municipal/County Judges; and the Ohio Judicial Foundation. Judge Howard is a former president of the Ohio State Bar Association.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join in the Appreciation Banquet honoring Judge John Howard. He is more than deserving of this special tribute. I take this opportunity to extend my best wishes and applaud him for a job well done.

A POEM IN TRIBUTE TO PFC.
FERREL F. McDONNELL, UNITED
STATES ARMY, 66TH PANTHER
DIVISION, COMPANY F, 262ND IN-
FANTRY REGIMENT, COMPANY
HEADQUARTERS

HON. JOHN F. TIERNEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 1998

Mr. TIERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recite a Poem written by Tom Cordle that is a tribute to Pfc. Ferrel F. McDonnell and the soldiers of the 66th Panther Division who died during the sinking of the S.S. *Leopoldville* on December 24, 1944.

Hell is not the place you think
For I have seen its murky ink
Though there is fire down in that hole
It's cold and wet and chills the soul
December Channel, dark and cruel
Coffin on that mournful Yule
Fifty years have passed away
Fifty years like yesterday—
Christmas Eve of '44

The *Leopoldville* just off shore
Of Cherbourg and its dancing lights
The U-Boat had us in her sights
Torpedo caught us in the hold
The water rushed in—Oh, so cold!
Steel and wood and flesh all met
Oh, God! I wish I could forget!
But heroes rose up everywhere
Brave hearts fought their own despair
To comfort wounded, dying, weak
And tried to find the words to speak
They gave their all that some might live
Till they had nothing left to give
Then prayed to find the strength to stand
"God, Oh God, make me a man!"

The *Brilliant* came through churning seas
Answering our urgent pleas
She pulled along our starb'rd side
"Jump or die!" her crewmen cried
Men climbed up on the rolling rail
And prayed somehow they would not fail
To breach that twenty feet and odd—
And leaped into the arms of God
Some conquered space and borrowed time
And made the *Brilliant* or its lines
But others lost their deadly bet
And plunged into the dark, cold, wet
And swallowing sea and fought for breath
And knew the briny taste of death
Or fought the water's clawing pull
Till they were crushed between the hulls

Strong, young soldiers watching wept
For promises would not be kept
For children they had never seen
For all the dying of their dreams
Some were but boys, some not quite men
But they would not be boys again
For only men survived such sights
And all grew old in that one night
Cherbourg glittered on the shore
Laughing at our dreams of war
To die and never fire a shot
To die and never know for what
No glory, only senseless waste
With salty, oily aftertaste
No glory, only drowning dance—
Death by simple, crazy chance

But death is not the end of things
For those who've felt its searing sting
For hearts that will forever feel
For wounds that never really heal
We pay with photos, black and white
We pay with voices in the night
We ask the endless haunting why?
A son or husband had to die
What matters why the soldier falls?
What matters but the answered call?
Who measures sacrifices made?
Who dares deny the price was paid?
And there are channels yet to cross
And wars to fight that can't be lost
And men will die and do their part
Till freedom rings in every heart
So let there be no bitter tears
Let us remember better years
And those whose blood has bought and paid
That we might live lives unafraid
And let us honor valiant men
For here tonight, we say again
There is but one thing worth the price
Of such unselfish sacrifice
"Freedom!" "Freedom!" "Freedom!"

IN HONOR OF LINDSAY LEACH,
BRONZE CONGRESSIONAL AWARD
WINNER

HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 1998

Mr. DOYLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in praise of an outstanding young adult from the

18th Congressional District of Pennsylvania, Ms. Lindsay Leach, a Congressional Award medal recipient. Lindsay's commitment to self-development and community involvement serves as an inspiration to people of all ages, and illustrates the accomplishments that come with hard work and determination.

Without motivation, however, hard work and determination are destined to remain unfulfilled ideals. Lindsay's motivation breathed life into numerable commendable acts. Not only did Lindsay involve herself in volunteer work, but invested time in broadening her physical and artistic skills. While much of what is directed towards young people is prescriptive in nature, it is important to note that these acts were of Lindsay's own design and were completed with her own resolve.

Upon review of Lindsay's achievements, one is particularly struck by the considerable amount of time that was devoted to obtaining this award. Hundreds of hours over the course of months were invested. Clearly, Lindsay recognizes the immense value of giving one's time to others. It is my hope that your actions foreshadow a life distinguished by the pursuit of new challenges.

Congratulations Lindsay! Best wishes to you for continued success.

1998 CONGRESSIONAL OBSERVANCE
OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. ALLEN BOYD

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 1998

Mr. BOYD. Mr. Speaker, since 1926, America has designated February as Black History Month, a time when we honor the achievements of African-American leaders and their contributions to our great nation. This month also provides us with an opportunity to reflect upon the progress that Americans have made as a nation in our struggle to promote the constitutional ideals of liberty, equality, and justice. In honor of Black History Month, I would like to take a moment to recognize Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, a Historically Black College in my district that has been nationally recognized not only for the great African-American leaders that it has produced, but for also its success in fostering these sacred constitutional principles.

At a time when there is an urgent need for greater access for minorities to higher education, FAMU has risen to meet the challenge. The school opened its doors on October 3, 1887, when segregation was required by law, with 15 students and one professor, but today, student enrollment is over 10,000. Even more impressive is the caliber of students that FAMU draws to its campus each year: the school competes with Harvard annually for the highest number of National Achievement Scholars. Recognizing FAMU's high quality education program, last year Time magazine and Princeton Review named FAMU The College of the Year.

FAMU's recent successes can be attributed to its President, Dr. Frederick S. Humphries. Dr. Humphries has also received national recognition; last month, The Orlando Sentinel named him the Floridian of the Year, an award that the paper grants each year to a person