

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending David Ray Meyer for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and Venturing and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of the Silver Award.

TRIBUTE TO THE STUDENTS FROM
HALF HOLLOW HILLS EAST HIGH
SCHOOL

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2003

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the students from Half Hollow Hills East High School in Dix Hills, NY for their top-ten finish in the "We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution" national finals.

The students, Andrew Blaesser, Hye Yeon Choi, Paige Gottheim, Farhang Heydari, Ravi Kambhampaty, Ross Kaplan, Cecilia Lero, Lauren Lichtman, Amitai Perline, Amreen Quadir, Jeremy Rovinsky, Joseph Schlingbaum, Sunjeet Sidhu, Brett Streisand, Tiffany Teng and Joshua Wiener, led by their teacher Scott Edwards, demonstrated a remarkable understanding of the fundamental ideals and values of American constitutional government.

It is truly an honor to call these outstanding young Americans my constituents. Their success in this competition is also a testament to the exceptional teachers at Half Hollow Hills East High School and elsewhere on Long Island.

I offer my congratulations on their hard-won honorable mention and commend these students on their dedication to the study of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL RUSSELL
AUSTIN NEWMAN (RET.)

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2003

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, on March 22nd, 2003, Tennessee lost one of its finest soldiers. Colonel Russell Austin Newman (ret.) was a man who spent his life dedicated to serving and protecting Tennessee and its citizens.

Colonel Newman was born in Knoxville, TN on December 9th, 1929. He grew up there and attended the University of Tennessee, where he earned a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration in May of 1953. He was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant of Infantry in the U.S. Army from ROTC.

His military education included the Infantry Officers Basic Course, the Armor Officers Advanced Course and the U.S. Army's Command and General Staff College, C&GSC. Colonel Newman, during his career, served in numerous command and staff positions while on active duty and in the National Guard. He served as the first Regimental Commander, designated as the First Colonel of the 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment, ACR, in Knoxville when it was initially organized in the Tennessee National Guard in 1977. This unit became one of only two heavy armored cavalry

regiments in the Nation. It is today an enhanced brigade of the Army National Guard of the United States, a very prestigious designation that keeps it a state-of-the-art unit.

Colonel Newman served as an instructor for the Tennessee Military Academy's Officer Candidate School, the Army National Guard Professional Education Center, and the United States Army Command and General Staff College. His military awards include: the Legion of Merit, the Army Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal and the National Defense Service Medal.

Many East Tennesseans served under Colonel Newman's command. As a former Guardsman, I served as his Judge Advocate General. I appreciated both his leadership and friendship.

After retiring from the military in June of 1985, with nearly 32 years of military service, Colonel Newman joined the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency, TEMA. In March of 1986, when TEMA was organized into regions along the lines of the State's three Grand Divisions, Colonel Newman was named the first director of the East Region and retired from that post in March of 1999.

Colonel Newman was well known throughout East Tennessee in both roles and through public service. He was the first of only seven officers to command the 278th ACR and his later emergency management work included developing plans for local governments that still bear his stamp. Colonel Newman did not limit his work to East Tennessee; one of his first acts after becoming East Region director was to go to West Tennessee and help write the regional earthquake response plan.

Colonel Newman was a past president of the National Guard Association of Tennessee and served numerous public service organizations in East Tennessee, including tenure as Chairman and member on the Board of Directors of Goodwill Industries, President of the Knoxville-Knox County Volunteer Emergency Rescue Squad, Vice Chairman of the Knox County Emergency Management LEPC, President of the North Side Optimist Club, Chairman of the Knox Area Council, Boy Scouts of America, and a counselor for the John Tarleton Home for Children.

Colonel Newman was the only son of Russell A. and Georgia Newman. His loving daughter, Ann Rita Ditmore, son, Sergeant Charles Newman, only grandson, Hunter Ditmore, son-in-law, Floyd Ditmore, sister and brother-in-law, Barbara and Howard Bozeman, and brother-in-law, J. W. Morton, all of Knoxville, Tennessee, mourn the passing of this great commander, soldier, leader, father, grandfather, father-in law, brother and brother-in-law.

A celebration of life and reception was held at the Tennessee Army National Guard Armory on Tuesday, March 25, 2003, prior to inurement at the Tennessee Veterans Cemetery in Knoxville.

HONORING DANIEL ADISON AYERS
FOR EARNING THE SILVER
AWARD OF VENTURING

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2003

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Daniel Adison Ayers, a very spe-

cial young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America and Venturing, and in earning the most prestigious Silver Award.

Daniel has been very active in Venturing having camped 383 nights, traveling afoot or afloat for 491 miles and taking expeditions at Boundary Waters in 1997 and Philmont in 2000. In the 12 years he has been involved in Boy Scouts and Venturing, Daniel has served in many leadership capacities as patrol leader, junior assistant scout master, assistant scout master, senior patrol leader, assistant senior patrol leader, VOA vice president, crew secretary and crew president.

Additionally, Daniel has received numerous awards for his many achievements. He has been honored with the Arrow of Light Award, the Scout Through Life Award, the Eagle Scout Award, the Bronze and Gold Venturing Awards and the Venturing Leadership Award.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Daniel Adison Ayers for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and Venturing and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of the Silver Award.

NATIONAL NURSES WEEK 2003—
NURSES: LIFTING SPIRITS,
TOUCHING LIVES

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2003

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of National Nurses Week, an established recognition event created to pay tribute to the nurses who give care to millions of patients every day. National Nurses Week is celebrated every year beginning May 6 and ending May 12, Florence Nightingale's birthday. "Nurses: Lifting Spirits, Touching Lives." is the theme for 2003.

As a nurse for over thirty years, I am proud to be part of such a caring and compassionate group of professionals. And as a Member of Congress, I have the wonderful opportunity of fighting for issues and policies that affect nurses and the nursing profession.

A major national issue concerning the nursing profession is the growing nursing shortage. With various new career options for healthcare professionals today, prompting nurses to gradually move away from patient care and into fields with better pay and benefits, nurses are grappling with becoming financially competitive.

Of the estimated 2.5 million licensed nurses in our country, 400,000 have left the profession for other pursuits. In 2000, Long Island had an 8 percent RN vacancy rate and a 16 percent LPN vacancy rate. Nationwide, hospitals need more than 125,000 nurses to fill all the nursing positions available today.

Over the past few years, I have been successful in educating my colleagues on both sides of the aisle about the importance of addressing the nursing shortage. It is vital for the health of this nation that the nursing field continues attracting experienced and educated candidates.

To that end, I played a lead role in the passage of H.R. 1436, the Nurse Reinvestment Act last year. This critical piece of legislation