

To help cover both Vienna and other areas in Fairfax County during their absence, the volunteers staffed additional emergency medical units, playing a vital role in helping our community to cope with the crisis.

Today, the Vienna Volunteer Fire Department consists of over 50 active volunteer firefighters, EMTs and administrative personnel. The membership also includes 13 Life Members, each having served 20 years or more, and some having served more than 60 years. Their dedication to public service has been selfless, consistent, and invaluable to the region. Fairfax County is truly indebted to the assistance provided by the Vienna Volunteer Fire Department. I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating these outstanding individuals on their century of service.

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING
SONYA McLAUGHLIN

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 2003

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, Whereas, Sonya McLaughlin has devoted herself to serving others through her membership in the Girl Scouts; and

Whereas, Sonya McLaughlin has shared her time and talent with the community in which she resides; and

Whereas, Sonya McLaughlin has demonstrated a commitment to meet challenges with enthusiasm, confidence and outstanding service; and

Whereas, Sonya McLaughlin must be commended for the hard work and dedication she put forth in earning the Girl Scout Gold Award;

Therefore, I join with the Girl Scouts, the residents of Chillicothe and the entire 18th Congressional District in congratulating Sonya McLaughlin as she receives the Girl Scout Gold Award.

SALUTE TO DR. GREGORY
SPIRAKIS

HON. ADAM H. PUTNAM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 2003

Mr. PUTNAM. Mr. Speaker, when Dr. Gregory Spirakis' 14-month-old baby, Petey, developed meningitis, the child was given antibiotics and recovered fully. When 14-month-old Andre Chionizilli of Balti, Moldova, developed meningitis, he lost his hearing because he had no access to antibiotics.

To help children like Andre, Dr. Spirakis, a constituent of mine from Lakeland, Florida, began a humanitarian mission in Moldova, one of the former Soviet Republics. Dr. Spirakis has made two more trips to Balti, one of the cities of Lakeland's Sister Cities.

During the second trip in August 2000, Dr. Spirakis, with financial support from the First Aviation Sertoma club of Lakeland, brought 115 hearing aids and 90 pounds of antibiotics and started a mobile audiology program.

Dr. Spirakis began traveling to Moldova to treat hearing-impaired children in 1997 after meeting Dr. Iurii Lobeev, his Moldovan coun-

terpart, in a medical exchange program in the United States. Dr. Spirakis and his wife, both audiologists, have made several visits to Moldova, consulting and treating more than 170 children.

In 2001, Dr. Spirakis founded the Moldovan Children's Audiology Foundation (MCAF) and provided financial and technical support for the establishment of the Hearing Protection Center in the city of Belts, Moldova.

The Center provides hearing and medical services for children with disabilities and operates a medical care unit fully equipped, through Dr. Spirakis's support, to solve children's hearing problems.

Dr. Spirakis has personally provided training to his Moldovan counterparts at the Center, Dr. Iurii Lobeev and Dr. Victor Vrabie, and has assisted them in traveling to Lakeland and throughout the State of Florida to learn American techniques for treating disabled children, developing their capacity to perform audiograms for children, choose treatment strategies, and provide other operations that were previously only available in a specialized hospital in Chisinau, the capital.

Through the combined efforts of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the U.S. Department of State, the MCAF, and Counterpart International, a container of medical equipment, consumables, school supplies, and furniture, valued at nearly \$48,000, was delivered to the Hearing Protection Center on October 1, 2002. With this delivery, the Center now has a state-of-the-art audiology clinic and provides services to the city of Belts and throughout the surrounding rural areas. The Center provides services to a larger number of constituents including newborn children, veterans, and pensioners with hearing disabilities.

The U.S. Agency for International Development's Bureau for Europe and Eurasia will be honoring Dr. Gregory Spirakis at a dinner on Tuesday, June 17, 2003 to recognize his efforts to improve the lives of people around the world and salute his continued commitment to foreign assistance. I would like to congratulate Dr. Spirakis for his work and express my thanks to him for his dedication and commitment to children around the world.

RECOGNIZING SAMUEL WELSH
JOHNSEN FOR ACHIEVING THE
RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 2003

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Samuel Welsh Johnsen, 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 135, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Sam has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities such as the H. Roe Bartle Scout Reservation for six years. Over the six years he has been involved in scouting, he has earned 29 merit badges. Additionally, Sam has held numerous leadership positions in his troop and has been honored for his numerous scouting achievements with such awards as the Firebuilder in the Tribe of Mic-o-Say.

For his Eagle Scout project, Sam organized a project to clean and paint fire hydrants in Kearney, Missouri. He painted them bright yellow to improve appearance and most importantly, so they could be easily seen in a time of emergency.

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

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING
HANNAH AVERY

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 2003

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, Whereas, Hannah Avery has devoted herself to serving others through her membership in the Girl Scouts; and

Whereas, Hannah Avery has shared her time and talent with the community in which she resides; and

Whereas, Hannah Avery has demonstrated a commitment to meet challenges with enthusiasm, confidence and outstanding service; and

Whereas, Hannah Avery must be commended for the hard work and dedication she put forth in earning the Girl Scout Gold Award;

Therefore, I join with the Girl Scouts, the residents of Kingston and the entire 18th Congressional District in congratulating Hannah Avery as she receives the Girl Scout Gold Award.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF
CONGREGATION B'NAI ABRAHAM

HON. PHIL ENGLISH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 2003

Mr. ENGLISH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the 100th anniversary of the founding of Congregation B'nai Abraham in Butler, Pennsylvania. Such a landmark event exemplifies a foundation based on both strength and unity. I wish the B'nai Abraham Congregation growth and prosperity.

In the year 1903, 25 Jewish families residing in the Butler community elected Abraham H. Goodman to serve as their spiritual leader and guide them in the Jewish traditions. That same year, the first service was held to commemorate the first Jewish High Holiday, Rosh Hashona, at the Knights of Pythias Hall, now the Reiber Building in Butler.

The congregation was officially deemed Congregation B'nai Abraham after obtaining a charter from the Common Pleas Judge James M. Galbreath in 1906. Over time Butler's Jewish community flourished and eventually established a large sanctuary and school facilities on Butler's North Main Street, which remains its home today.

During the 4th of July weekend, Congregation B'nai Abraham will celebrate its 100th anniversary and renew the relationships of both past and present members.

Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me in congratulating the Congregation B'nai

Abraham on their 100th anniversary. And as they often say in the opening prayer of a Jewish mass, "Ma Tovv Ohalecha, Mishknotecha" or "How goodly are thy tents, thy dwelling places."

APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES ON
H.R. 2, JOBS AND GROWTH REC-
ONCILIATION TAX ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. SUE W. KELLY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2003

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, as chair of the House Financial Services Subcommittee on Investigations and Oversight, I would like to spend a moment discussing the Economic Growth Package and the work that was done by Chairman THOMAS, other members of the Ways and Means Committee, the Republican Leadership and, of course, the White House. The subcommittee I chair was very interested in several aspects of the legislation and we conducted a hearing earlier this year to determine the extent of the impact of the dividend exclusion. The final product that has passed the House of Representatives will go a long way towards giving sectors of our economy the shot in the arm so necessary.

Numerous business groups have been part of the process and I want to acknowledge the testimony of the National Association of Home Builders before my subcommittee on the president's package and their contribution in supporting the overall effort. I am also aware and want to acknowledge the effort of the home builders in working with the administration in the same manner, particularly the Department of Treasury. I very much appreciate their expertise, economic research and analysis to ensure that no part of the legislation had any unintended consequences for low income housing. As a result, we are now able to pursue an economic stimulus plan that is good for all segments of the housing industry and all segments of the economy of these United States.

For the past two years, home building has been a leader in moving America's economy forward. Where many sectors of the economy have faltered, housing has remained a source of strength. Enactment of the economic stimulus package that is about to emerge from this Congress will ensure that housing continues to create the jobs and stimulate the economic growth that are needed to restore full prosperity for our nation's families and businesses.

CONDEMNING NEPAL'S FORCED
EXPULSION OF TIBETANS TO
CHINA

HON. JAMES A. LEACH

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 2003

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Speaker, on May 31st in Kathmandu the Government of Nepal turned over to senior diplomatic representatives of the People's Republic of China 18 Tibetan asylum seekers, including several minors, to be forcibly repatriated to China. In so doing, the Nepalese authorities flouted both inter-

national law and repeated strong representations by the United States and other concerned parties. This action also reversed long-standing Nepalese tolerance toward Tibetan asylum seekers, which in the past has allowed access to "persons of concern" by local officials of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

According to the Department of State, our Embassy in Kathmandu has informed the Nepalese Government at the highest levels about this specific incident. The status of Tibetan refugees in Nepal is a long-standing issue of concern to both the Executive Branch and Congress, and is often raised by American officials in Kathmandu. In addition, senior U.S. officials recently met with Nepalese and Chinese officials to raise our strong concerns about this issue.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees has stated that the forcible return of the 18 Tibetans to China without a status determination constituted refoulement (forced return), which is in fundamental contravention of well-accepted international norms. Congress joins with the Executive Branch in condemning the behavior of the Government of Nepal and senior Chinese diplomats for their role in forcibly returning the asylum seekers to China. In the strongest terms, we urge Nepal to cease this inhumane conduct and return to its previous long-term practice of allowing Tibetans to seek protection in Nepal for onward resettlement.

IN MEMORY OF LANCE CORPORAL
MATTHEW SMITH

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 2003

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, it is with equal amounts of profound pride and sympathy that I come to the floor this morning. I rise to honor a noble American . . . Lance Corporal Matthew R. Smith, a Marine Corps reservist from Anderson IN, who was killed Saturday, May 10, while serving his country in Kuwait. Lance Corporal Smith lost his life in a vehicle collision while running supply missions between Iraq and Kuwait. Lance Cpl. Smith was just 20 years old. He is survived by his father David, his mother Patricia, and by his brother Mason.

Lance Corporal Smith was assigned to Detachment 1, Communications Company, Headquarters and Service Battalion, 4th Force Service Support Group based in Peru, IN, an outfit he had served selflessly and courageously since enlisting in June of 2001.

Lance Corporal Smith's father David said that his son had an intense love for the Corps, and his fellow Marines. Mr. Smith told the Indianapolis Star, "How many people on this Earth die doing the job they know they were put here to do." His Aunt Vicki added, "He died doing what he believed in."

Lance Corporal Smith was a student of history—he was enrolled at Indiana University before he was called to active duty—an interest he vigorously embraced in his free time, in the classroom, and as a member of the Social Studies Academic Team. His school teachers recall a young man often expressing blunt, straight-forward and in-your-face viewpoints which they always found to be well researched

and sophisticated for his age. He was also an accomplished athlete; he spent time during high school playing rugby and was active in other outdoor activities.

Mr. Speaker, Lance Corporal Smith joins the 137 other proud and distinguished Americans who have made the ultimate sacrifice—these wonderful men and women gave their lives in defense of freedom, a freedom we all too often take for granted.

May God bless the family of Lance Corporal Smith during this difficult time, and may they experience the prayers and thanks of a grateful nation. May they rest upon the promise of Jeremiah 31:13, "I will turn their mourning into gladness. I will give them comfort and joy instead of sorrow."

PAUL WOLFOWITZ SHOULD LEARN
FROM THE TURKISH MILITARY
ABOUT DEMOCRACY

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 2003

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, before we went on recess, I came to the floor of the House to express my deep dismay at the disregard for fundamental democratic principles shown by Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz. In an interview he gave on May 2 aimed for broadcast in Turkey, Secretary Wolfowitz repeatedly criticized the Turkish military for not having intervened in parliamentary deliberations with sufficient strength when the question of Turkish participation in the war in Iraq came up. I believed then and now that this appalling call on the Turkish military to violate fundamental democratic norms was particularly disturbing because there are few things more important to the stability of the world than the effort now going on in Turkey to show that people who are religious Muslims can preside over a fully democratic regime. While many of us would like to hope that this could be taken for granted, the recent history of the Middle East argues to the contrary and that is why supporting the Turkish government in its effort to implement democracy is so important.

Secretary Wolfowitz in his interview criticized the Turkish military for not speaking out to influence the Parliament, and when the interviewer pointed out to him that the Turkish military had in fact done that, he repeated his criticism by saying that they had not done it with enough strength. Telling a military in a democratic government that it should more strongly be expressing its views to elected officials demonstrates a misunderstanding of democracy in general, and a particular insensitivity to the implications of such statements in a country—Turkey—where there had been a history of military coup that many are trying to overcome.

Subsequent to my comments, I learned of a statement made by General Hilmi Ozkok, Chief of the Turkish General Staff, in which he responded to those who had been critical of the military. While his comments pre-date the interview given by Mr. Wolfowitz, this reads as if he were in part responding to the Deputy Secretary, and in fact he may have been doing so because it would not surprise me if Mr. Wolfowitz had made these criticisms directly to the Turkish military before going public with them.