

reaching students and challenging them to fulfill their academic potential. They are cultivating future leaders, who may someday stand where I do today.

Mr. Speaker, I commend to you these dedicated students, and I invite my colleagues to join me in congratulating them on their past achievements, encouraging them in their future endeavors, and supporting the successful Project GRAD Newark program as they continue to serve the students in my district.

RECOGNIZING ALEC MESSERALL
FOR HIS SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 14, 2004

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, I'm proud that as we celebrate the life of President Ronald Reagan, a fellow Central Ohioan will participate in our tribute. Air Force Academy Cadet Alec Messerall of Alexandria, Ohio, has been chosen as one of five service members to escort the casket of President Reagan from the White House down Constitution Avenue to the Capitol.

Alec is a 22-year-old senior at the academy who graduated from Northridge High School in Johnstown, Ohio. His leadership skills, academic and athletic record, and his extracurricular activities led my predecessor, John Kasich, to nominate him for an academy appointment.

I know Alec and his family are extremely proud he was chosen to be part of the historic events that are unfolding in our Nation's capitol as we honor our former President. All of us also look forward to Alec's service to our country in the United States Air Force. I am certain he will be an outstanding military officer.

HONORING THE EASTER SEALS
GOODWILL INDUSTRIES REHABILITATION CENTER ON ITS 35TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 14, 2004

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker 35 years ago, a historic merger occurred which resulted in the creation of the Easter Seals Goodwill Industries Rehabilitation Center. Today, community leaders, supporters, advocates, and participants have gathered to mark this very special occasion. It is with my heart-felt thanks and sincere appreciation that I rise today to join them in celebrating this important milestone.

What began as three separate agencies has become one of the most successful and effective non-profit agencies in the Greater New Haven area. This community-based organization is committed to its mission to enhance employment opportunities and the quality of life for people with disabilities and other special needs. Throughout the years, as communities advanced, those needs have changed. As an organization rooted in the community,

the Center has been able to identify those changes and adapt its programs and services to meet them. This could not have been accomplished without the strength of support the Center has received from its staff and the communities of Greater New Haven.

I would be remiss if I did not recognize the vision and leadership of the man who has been leading this agency for the last twenty years—Malcolm Gill. For the last two decades, Mal has worked diligently to ensure that the Center is providing the programs and services that meet the needs of their participants. There is no one who could be more dedicated to fulfilling the mission of the organization. I consider myself fortunate to have had the opportunity to work with him so closely over the years and to call him my friend.

For people with disabilities and other special needs, functioning in the daily activities that we take for granted is not only challenging, but it can be a source of frustration and heartache. While these men and women have a deep desire to contribute to the community, physical or mental limitations make that difficult to accomplish. That is why the Center has become such a fundamental part of our community. They provide a gift which is truly invaluable—the opportunity for success and a sense of belonging. The Center has touched the lives of thousands over the years and mere words cannot describe the difference they have made to those individuals.

For the innumerable contributions it has made to our community, it is with great pride that I stand today to extend my sincere congratulations to the Easter Seals Goodwill Industries Rehabilitation Center on its 35th Anniversary. Through their unparalleled dedication and commitment, they have helped to change the face of our community and have made it a better place for our children and families.

TRIBUTE TO BISHOP RUSSELL
SCOTT ON THE CELEBRATION OF
HIS 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 14, 2004

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to honor Bishop Russell Scott as he celebrates his 100th birthday at a party in his honor at the Galloping Hill Caterers on Saturday, July 3, 2004. To live a century is indeed a significant event; to accomplish so much during that time is truly outstanding.

As a member of Glad Tidings Pentecostal Tabernacle Church, Bishop Scott established himself as an integral part of the church. He served as Superintendent of the Sunday School, a Deacon, Church Clerk and Treasurer. He went on to become Pastor and later, a Bishop. Since he was a mason by training, Bishop Scott supervised the building of the new church edifice which was completed and dedicated on March 20, 1960. Bishop Scott has since retired but still serves as overseer prelate.

In addition to the contributions made to his church, Bishop Scott was active in the community and has received many certificates for his involvement. They include certificates from the Essex County Probation Department, the Cornell Center Chapel Service, the U.S. De-

partment of Commerce, Senior Citizen Nutrition Site in Orange, NJ and a certificate as former Tour Host for Trinity Travel and Tours Abroad to Israel. Bishop Scott also served as President of the United Clergy of Vauxhall and Vicinity. He received his theological and divinity degrees from Miller University.

Bishop Scott is indeed blessed to join a very exclusive club of centenarians. I am delighted to wish him well as he celebrates this occasion. I know that my colleagues join me in sending best wishes for continued health and happiness to Bishop Russell Scott on his 100th birthday.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NATIONAL
OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC
ADMINISTRATION ACT

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 14, 2004

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to introduce H.R. 4546, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Act. Better known as NOAA, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration was created by Executive Order in 1970. As Chairman of the Environment, Technology and Standards Subcommittee of the House Science Committee, I oversee much of NOAA. It is the Nation's lead civilian agency for oceans and atmosphere, yet Congress has never passed an overarching organic act describing the mission and functions of the agency. Instead, over the past 34 years Congress has defined the mission of the agency in a piecemeal manner with legislation focused on specific issues. The bill I am introducing today is a first step toward Congressional passage of comprehensive legislation for NOAA.

On April 20, the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy released its long awaited Preliminary Report with recommendations for a coordinated national ocean policy. One of its key recommendations is that Congress should pass an organic act for NOAA. At a recent Science Committee hearing, the chairman of the Commission emphasized the importance of this recommendation and I strongly agree with him. The time is right for Congress to consider, and pass, this organic act for NOAA, an agency that provides vital services to the Nation that range from weather forecasts and warnings to cutting-edge marine research.

My bill contains three major sections. Title I is an organic act for NOAA. It establishes the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) within the Department of Commerce and defines the mission of NOAA. This mission is "to understand and predict changes in the Earth's oceans and atmosphere and the effects of such changes on the land environment, to conserve and manage coastal, ocean, and Great Lakes ecosystems, and to educate the public about these topics." My bill maintains the current leadership structure at NOAA, but adds a Deputy Assistant Secretary for Science and Technology to serve as the point person for the agency to coordinate the research and science activities of NOAA across the agency.

Title I of my bill also describes the functions of NOAA, which are divided into three broad groups to improve cooperation among NOAA's