

They shall work for an age at a sitting and never be tired at all!
 And only the Master shall praise us, and only the Master shall blame;
 And no one shall work for money, and no one shall work for fame,
 But each for the joy of the working, and each, in his separate star,
 Shall draw the Thing as he sees It for the God of Things as They Are!

652ND ENGINEER COMPANY FAMILY READINESS AWARD WINNER FOR 2004

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and honor the friends & family of the brave men and women of the 652nd Engineer Company. Their duty and sacrifice are appreciated by all Americans, and it is right that we pay recognition to them today for receiving the Department of Defense Reserve Family Readiness Award for 2004. This award is being presented to recognize the top unit from each Reserve component that demonstrated outstanding family readiness while maintaining superior mission readiness. This award is a great honor and our nation congratulates you.

New challenges facing our nation demand increased vigilance on the part of our armed services. With these increased demands, the role of the National Guard and reserve forces is critical in providing the total force necessary to ensure our nation's security. Over the past year, I have had the opportunity to meet with many National Guard and reserve members from western Wisconsin who have been called to service in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Over 2,200 members of the Wisconsin Air and Army National Guard are serving on active duty. The people of western Wisconsin are proud of their service and the service of all the men and women of our armed forces during this important time in our nation's history.

In the past two years, I have visited Iraq twice and have seen first hand what a fantastic job our soldiers are doing to give the people of Iraq hope for a better future. Although the road ahead will be tough, I know the efforts of the 652nd contributed greatly to our ongoing mission in Iraq.

In addition, over the past two years, I have had the opportunity to meet with many National Guard and Reserve members and families from western Wisconsin who have been called up in support of operations Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and Operation Iraqi Freedom in Iraq. I had the special privilege of attending one of the 652nd Engineer Company's family support meetings. I know from first hand experience the quality of this family support group. I would like to especially recognize Cheryl Iverson, the family support coordinator for the 652nd. I know her hard work and sacrifices are greatly appreciated by the families and members of the 652nd.

The American people and the Congress of the United States stand behind our armed service members and their families. As our military operations continue, I, and other members of Congress, will continue to work to en-

sure that our service men and women have all the resources necessary to do their job safely and effectively.

The efforts of our service people do not come without sacrifice. A member of the 652nd, Private First Class Bert E. Hoyer, 23, of Ellsworth, died on March 10, 2004, in Baqubah, Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He paid the ultimate price to enhance our security and protect our liberties; he also gave the people of Iraq the greatest gift of all: their freedom. I want to extend my heartfelt sympathies to his family and friends. Young leaders like this exemplify all that is good and decent about America.

Once again I would like to congratulate the families and friends of the 652nd on this prestigious award. America is firmly behind our troops, and we're all hoping to see them home safe, secure, and soon.

May God bless our troops and their families during these deployments, and may God continue to bless the United States of America.

TRIBUTE TO CHAMPAIGN COUNTY, OHIO

HON. MICHAEL G. OXLEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor today to salute Champaign County, Ohio, in my congressional district, which is celebrating its bicentennial on March 1. Champaign County is an area rich in history and tradition that prides itself as a fine place to work, live and raise a family.

Champaign County takes its name from a French word describing its flat surface. It became the 18th of Ohio's 88 counties on March 1, 1805. The area was first inhabited by the North American Indian mound builders and became the hunting grounds of the Shawnee tribe. As the State of Ohio grew, Champaign County also grew in business and agriculture. Of particular note was the great success of the railway industry.

During the Civil War, this small county sent 3,235 men to fight for the Union Army. A memorial, the Man on the Monument, stands in the town square of Urbana to remember the ultimate sacrifice made by 578 soldiers from Champaign County.

Champaign County has continued to thrive with successful businesses, industry and agriculture for 200 years. It boasts five school systems and one accredited university in the county seat of Urbana. Urbana University, founded in 1850, has 24 majors for students and houses the largest collection of Johnny Appleseed memorabilia and information known to exist. Today, 36,000 people live and work in the county's city, towns and villages.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Champaign County on this momentous occasion. I know my colleagues will join me in honoring the county's success over the past 200 years.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF GEORGE HODDY

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th birthday of Mr. George Hoddy and to pay tribute to his lifetime of achievements and service to the city of Owosso and people of the State of Michigan. On March 7, 2005, Mr. Hoddy will be celebrating his 100th birthday and deserves recognition for his lifetime of service to his community.

Born in Columbus, Ohio in 1905 and educated at the Ohio State University, George Hoddy came to Michigan armed with a Masters degree in electrical engineering to work for Charles Kettering. In 1942, after several roles as a research engineer for various electric companies, George Hoddy started the Universal Electric Company in Owosso, Michigan. Owosso has been forever touched by the roots Mr. Hoddy has put down there, his legacy of community involvement will not be forgotten by the people who call it home.

In the last 60 years, Mr. Hoddy has served on the Board of Directors for over twenty community organizations in the city of Owosso including an eighteen year tenure on the Owosso Public School Board and fifty years of service and support of the Boy Scouts of America. Mr. Hoddy has served as the Director of the Michigan United Way, President of the Shiawasee county United Way. Has been a member of the United States Chamber of Commerce, the National Association of Manufacturers and Owosso Rotary Club. Mr. Hoddy has also served as the Chairman of the Board of Regents for Baker College and continues to serve as a Regent today.

Mr. Speaker, George Hoddy is responsible for enriching the Owosso community and has been instrumental in the industrial and economic development of Owosso, Michigan. He is an inspiration to all those who have the opportunity to meet him. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the lifetime of achievements of George Hoddy and to wish him all the very best as he celebrates his 100th birthday.

FREEDOM FOR CLARO SÁNCHEZ ALTARRIBA

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about Claro Sánchez Altarriba, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Sánchez Altarriba is a member of the Movement of Cuban Young People for Democracy. He knows with certainty that Cuba needs to be liberated from the nightmare that is the Castro regime. Through peaceful activity, Mr. Sánchez Altarriba has been a courageous voice against the totalitarian regime and their continued acts of tyranny and terrorism.

According to Amnesty International, Mr. Sánchez Altarriba has suffered harassment for