

Karen's knowledge on State and Federal policy issues is far reaching. She has always been extremely helpful to everyone in the Florida Congressional delegation and she will be dearly missed by all Members and staff.

Karen is a former resident of Palm Beach County, Florida, and is the mother of five children—Christina Kuminski, Richard Craney, Cathy Schwink, Wendy Daniels and Patrick Hogan—and grandmother of eight grandchildren—Alyssa, Keith and Jonathan Kuminski, Ryan Craney, Taylor, Alex and Spencer Schwink, and Carter Daniels. Karen is active in her church and bible study. I have no doubt that Karen will be looking forward to spending more time gardening, a hobby which she loves dearly. If you ask her, Karen would probably say that she isn't retiring, that she's just moving on to the next phase in her life.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Florida Congressional delegation, I wish Karen Hogan all the best in her next phase of life.

TRIBUTE TO THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SGT. STANLEY F. ROMANOWSKI POST 6896 OF THE VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2006

Mr. McCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor and acknowledge the 60th Anniversary of the Sgt. Stanley F. Romanowski Post 6896 of the Veterans of Foreign Wars in Westland, Michigan.

On May 12, 1946, the founding members instituted this Post in the Gymnasium of Munger Intermediate School and dedicated its mission to serving the citizens of Wayne County, Michigan. Named after Sgt. Stanley F. Romanowski, a decorated soldier of World War II who gave his life for his country, the Romanowski Post 6896 courageously pays tribute to the deceased by helping the living.

Each year, the 6896 members of the Romanowski Post 6896 launch charitable initiatives to assist the needy, aid the ill, support the students, and recognize the educators of our community. Among the many notable programs, these veterans host the Christmas Needy Basket Program, which provides food for underprivileged families; a Muscular Dystrophy Drive; a Diabetes Drive; a Cancer Drive; a \$50,000 scholarship fund for students; and a Teacher of the Year program.

In memory of Sgt. Romanowski's birthday, members hold an annual December memorial service in remembrance of United States fallen veterans. This summer, the Romanowski Post 6896 will also hold the first monthly memorial service at Westland City Hall dedicated to Prisoners of War, Soldiers Missing in Action, Blue Star Mothers, and Gold Star Mothers. These deeds serve as a constant reminder, to ensure that the bravery of our soldiers, the fragility of our needy, and the heroism of our fallen will not be forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, in honor of their exemplary love for the United States and our citizens, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending these veterans for their bravery and in thanking the Romanowski Post 6896 for 60 years of loyal and unrelenting service to our community and our country.

INTRODUCTION OF IRANIAN BAHÁ'Í RESOLUTION

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2006

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing a resolution with Congressman TOM LANTOS (D-CA) condemning the repression of the Iranian Bahá'í community. This concurrent resolution exposes the Iranian Government's persecution of the Bahá'ís and calls on Iran to ensure that all of its religious minorities, including the Bahá'ís, are treated in accordance with the basic human rights to which each person is entitled.

The North American Bahá'í Temple is in my district, and the persecution against the Bahá'ís in Iran has been a longstanding concern of mine. This concurrent resolution brings the House of Representatives' attention to the latest action of the Iranian Government against the 350,000-member Bahá'í community of Iran.

On March 20, 2006, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief revealed the existence of a confidential letter by the Chairman of the Command Headquarters of Iran's Armed Services to Iran's intelligence services, military and police forces. In this letter, the Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Khamenei, instructed the Command Headquarters to identify all Iranian Bahá'ís and collect any and all information about their activities.

The Anti-Defamation League recently compared the secret letter to "the steps taken against Jews in Europe" in the 1930s.

This directive is unacceptable. Yet the secret order did not occur in isolation. Over the past 18 months, Iranian security forces have been imprisoning Bahá'ís without charges and Bahá'í youth in Iran have been denied access to universities. I understand that since October 2005, there has been a campaign of vilification against Bahá'ís in Kayhan, the government-sponsored press.

The Concurrent Resolution I introduce today calls on the Government of Iran to cease its practice of monitoring the Bahá'ís, to allow them to practice their religion and to emancipate fully their religious community. I want to thank my good friend Congressman TOM LANTOS for being the lead co-sponsor of this legislation. I look forward to working with him and my other colleagues on this important human rights initiative.

RECOGNIZING CHARLES ANTHONY CURTIS FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Charles Anthony Curtis, 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 8, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Charles has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the

many years Charles has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

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

THE QUALITY INN HOTEL—A "SALUTE TO HURRICANE VOLUNTEERS"

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2006

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute those individuals and organizations that opened their hearts and dedicated both financial and emotional support to the evacuees of Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita. All of the States along the Gulf Coast have endured terrible hardships during last year's hurricane season, and I know that the generosity of North Texans played a vital role in bringing some peace into their lives.

Today I want to specifically thank three individuals and one company for their contributions. Viral Thakkar, Cara Hensley, and Joe Leising from The Quality Inn Hotel generously provided hotel rooms for some of the first evacuees traveling to Denton, Texas, in my congressional district, after the storms. For weeks after the event, the hotel's more than one-hundred rooms remained at capacity.

In the nine-month duration of the Quality Inn Hotel's efforts, they housed more than 800 evacuees. In addition, the Quality Inn worked with the City of Denton to help transition 27 families staying at the hotel into semi-permanent housing, and hosted a number of community and holiday events for evacuees and families.

I stand here today to sincerely thank Viral Thakkar, Cara Hensley, and Joe Leising from the Quality Inn Hotel for their gracious contributions. I am proud to call these people fellow Texans. Through their contribution, they not only stand as devoted and giving American citizens, but they serve as an inspiration to others.

HONORING PAUL VI CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL'S GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY TEAM'S STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2006

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor the Paul VI Catholic High School's Girls Cross Country Team, who won the 2005 Washington Catholic Athletic Conference (WCAC) Championship, the Virginia State Catholic Championship, and the Virginia Independent Schools (VIS) Cross Country Championship by defeating 40 other schools and their 230 long distance athletes.

The Paul VI Panthers, from Fairfax County, completed the 2005 season with the first triple

crown championship win in 11 years for the school. The Panthers won the WCAC with six of their seven allowed athletes in the top 20, won the Virginia State Catholic Championship with seven athletes in the top 12, and won the VIS with five of 10 allowed runners in the top 22.

Virginia Independent Schools Cross Country Association sponsors the highest level championship among all private schools in the Commonwealth. In the VIS Championship, the Panthers' top five runners completed the 3.2-mile course before 218 of the State's best female long distance runners.

Led by Head Coach Melanie Kiernan and assistants Keith Mitchell, Joe Gesker, and Mike Kiernan, the Panthers trained intensively throughout a dramatic and triumphant season.

I congratulate all the talented members of the Paul VI Girl Cross Country Team: senior Jen Scolese; juniors Kelsey Budd, Nichole Kauffmann, Michelle Kew, Caroline Manning, Rosie Loftus, Tessa Reed, and Lee Shine; sophomores Meg Clark, Mackenzie Singh, and Kate Still; and freshman Natalie Cowden.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to honor their championship, and to wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING ZACHARY LEE WILSON FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Zachary Lee Wilson, a very special young who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 216, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Zachary has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Zachary has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

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

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TRENT FRANKS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2006

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I regret that I was unable to be present for rollcall votes No. 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, which occurred on May 18, 2006. I was unable to cast votes on these important matters because I was traveling on official business in Arizona.

HONORING PAM KOCHER, RECIPIENT OF THE 2006 CONGRESSMAN JOHN JOSEPH MOAKLEY AWARD FOR EXEMPLARY PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. JEB BRADLEY

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2006

Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Pam Kocher of New Hampshire, the recipient of the 2006 Congressman John Joseph Moakley Award for Exemplary Public Service, which is given each year by the Greater Boston Federal Executive Board and the Moakley Family. Initiated in 2002, the Moakley Award is given to a staff member of the New England Congressional Delegation who demonstrates strong innovative methods of thinking and effectively works on behalf of their constituents.

Anyone who knows Pam knows she is a perfect choice for this honor. Pam's public service extends over three decades and includes serving in elected office at the local level and working for Former Senator Warren Rudman, Former Congressman Bill Zeff, and currently as State Director for Senator JOHN SUNUNU. She has worked on a number of projects important to our State for each of her bosses, including the redevelopment of the Pease Air Force Base and acting as an intermediary for small businesses during the bank failure of the early nineties. Her many years of service on the Federal level, coupled with her strong working relationships, came in very handy last summer when the Maine and New Hampshire Congressional Delegations were faced with the daunting task of convincing the BRAC Commission to keep the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard open. Pam's leadership in bringing together a broad community-based coalition was one of the driving factors in our success.

Pam credits her driving force as wanting to make government work for people. She stands for hard work, is a problem solver, and knows how to bring people together to work toward a common goal.

Pam exemplifies what good citizenship and leadership is all about. Her efforts to make New Hampshire a better place have made a lasting impact on the people that know her and know of her. I congratulate and thank Pam on her years of hard work and dedication to New Hampshire; New England, and our great Nation.

RECOGNIZING HUNTER C. GOULD FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Hunter C. Gould, 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 288, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Hunter has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the

many years Hunter has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

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

COMMEMORATING THE 65TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF CRETE

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2006

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 65th anniversary of the Battle of Crete.

This historic battle contributed to the Allies' victory of World War II. On May 20, 1941, thousands of German paratroopers and gliders began landing on Crete. Both the Allies and Nazis wanted Crete because of its strategic location as part of the lifeline to India and its proximity to both Palestine and Egypt. At that time the British controlled the island.

The Nazi invasion force included the elite German paratroopers and glider troops. Hitler felt this was to be easy victory, yet he is quoted to have said shortly after the invasion, "France fell in 8 days. Why is Crete free?"

During the 11-day Invasion of Crete, more than 6,000 German troops were listed as killed, wounded, or missing in action. The losses to the elite 7th parachute division marked the end of the German Military's large-scale airborne operations.

This valiant fight by the Cretan people began in the first hour of the Nazi airborne invasion while other underground movements did not begin until a year or more after being invaded.

Young boys, old men, and women displayed breath taking bravery in defending Crete. Because German soldiers were not accustomed to facing women in battle, they would tear the dress from the shoulders of suspected Cretan women to find bruises from the recoil of the rifle. The penalty was death. On July 28, 1941, The Times (London) reported that "five hundred Cretan women have been deported to Germany for taking part in the defense of their native island."

Another surprise for the German soldiers who invaded Crete was the heroic resistance of the clergy. A priest leading his parishioners into battle was not what the Germans anticipated. At Paleochora, Father Stylianos Frantzeskis, hearing of the German airborne invasion, rushed to his church, sounded the bell, took his rifle and marched his volunteers toward Maleme.

This struggle became an example for all Europe to follow in defying German occupation and aggression.

The Cretans paid a steep price for their valiant resistance to Nazi forces with thousands of civilians executed, starved, or imprisoned. The Germans burned and destroyed entire communities as a reprisal for the Cretan resistance movement. Yet this resistance lasted for 4 years.

The Battle of Crete changed history by delaying Hitler's plan to invade Russia. The invasion was delayed from April to June of 1941.