

woman in her law school class, the first woman on the Wisconsin Supreme Court, the first woman to serve there as Chief Justice, Shirley Abrahamson, among other honors, was elected by her peers as President of the Conference of Chief Justices and Chair of the Board of Directors of the National Center of State Courts because of their "abiding confidence in her leadership and her judicial acumen."

She paved the way for women in the law and set a standard of excellence in the Court, always reminding us, "We need to be careful to appreciate our system of judicial independence and ensure it survives."

Last year, while standing patiently in the line of mourners outside the U.S. Supreme Court to pay respects at the bier of Chief Justice Rehnquist, Chief Justice Abrahamson was recognized and urged to exert her celebrity and move to the front of the line. "That's not the Wisconsin tradition," she replied.

Shirley Abrahamson not only respects Wisconsin's tradition of equal justice and equal opportunity, she enforces both with strength, courage, and grace.

I join the people of Wisconsin in paying tribute to a great jurist and citizen, Chief Justice Shirley Abrahamson.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2006

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall vote No. 426. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye".

NEW BEDFORD CELEBRATION OF THE NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2006

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, on September 12th, the Annual Hispanic Recognition Awards Ceremony will take place in New Bedford, Massachusetts. These awards express the admiration and appreciation of the community for outstanding individuals who have shown leadership in a variety of ways. Unfortunately for me, we will be in session when this awards ceremony takes place, and I will not be able to attend in person, which I would have liked to do so that I could express directly my admiration and gratitude to the winners of these awards for the work they have done.

Mr. Speaker, since I cannot be there and because the work that is being recognized is so important not just for the Hispanic Community but for the Greater New Bedford Community and indeed all of Southeastern Massachusetts, I wish to take the opportunity here to commend Mayor Lang, elected officials and the committee, led by Director Emilio Cruz, who have done the work that is culminating in this important ceremony and to express my deep appreciation of the winners of the awards.

Mr. Speaker, the list of the awardees is: Reverend Eva Amaro, Senior Pastor of the Christian Revival Temple, Dr. Guillermo Gonzalez, MD, renowned psychiatrist, Mr. Anibal Lucas, Director of the Maya Kichee USA, Ms. Raquel Tejedadas, businesswoman.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO TERRY AND LEE KISTNER

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Terry and Lee Kistner of Overton, Nevada for their overwhelming commitment to serving others.

Terry and Lee moved to Overton nearly ten years ago. Shortly thereafter, they opened Valley Boot and Shoe Repair, a small business specializing in leather craftsmanship, including boots, saddles, tack and repairs. Despite the struggles of owning a small business in an economy dominated by large companies and manufacturers, Terry and Lee have managed to keep their doors open and their business running successfully for more than nine years. In order to do so, both Terry and Lee work full-time jobs and stagger their schedules so that each can tend to the needs of their business.

Although their extraordinary work ethic and commitment to their craft is part of what makes the Kistners an asset to the Moapa Valley Community, it is their remarkable compassion for others and their dedication to community service that is truly inspiring. Terry and Lee strive to help others in any way they can. They frequently contribute their expertise in leather craftsmanship to school and community groups. Whether it means donating leather and teaching special education students how to make their own belts, donating labor and craftsmanship to the Nevada High School Rodeo winners or donating custom-made boots to fulfill a young boy's dreams of owning real cowboy boots, the Kistners are happy to give their talents to a variety of worthy endeavors.

Terry and Lee are also committed citizens of the United States of America. They instilled in each of their four children a sense of pride in their country and a commitment to serving others. They currently have a son who is serving in the United States Army in Iraq. In addition to all they do to serve their local community, the Kistners also strive to support their son in his military service. The Kistners have purchased and donated a variety of needed equipment and supplies for their son's 17-member military unit.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Terry and Lee Kistner on the floor of the House for the extraordinary citizens that they are. I commend their patriotism and their inspiring commitment to serving others. I thank them for the sacrifices they have made to brighten the lives of those around them and I wish them the very best in all their future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO STERLING DOBBS OF HOMOSASSA, FLORIDA

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2006

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Sterling Dobbs of Homosassa, Florida.

Joining the Army in June of 1941, Mr. Dobbs spent more than 4 years in service to our Nation. As a pilot, Mr. Dobbs proved his mettle in more than 35 combat missions in the European Theater during World War II.

Awarded his 1st distinguished flying cross on October 20, 1944, Mr. Dobbs had already shown extraordinary achievement as a pilot flying a B-24 aircraft on many bombardment missions.

On April 8, 1945, Mr. Dobbs received an oak leaf cluster for a distinguished flying cross as the lead pilot on a mission over enemy occupied continental Europe. On his 30th mission, Mr. Dobbs was the lead B-24 aircraft for the 2nd Air Division that flew into Kassel, Germany where they bombed a factory. After this mission he flew several more as the command pilot, with a final total of 35 combat missions.

Truly one of America's greatest generation, Mr. Dobbs served in the Nebraska National Guard for 3 years prior to his 5-year active duty commitment. Following his honorable discharge from the Army, Mr. Dobbs then served reserve duty for another 17 years.

Mr. Speaker, true American heroes like Sterling Dobbs should be honored for their service to our Nation and for their commitment and sacrifices in battle. It was young men like Sterling Dobbs who saved the world from the threat of Nazi occupation of Europe. Without their help, America and her allies would not have been victorious in World War II.

COMMEMORATING MT. JULIET'S HEROES THIS PATRIOT DAY

HON. JIM COOPER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2006

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the First Annual Patriot Day Community Candlelight Tribute in Mt. Juliet, TN.

Tonight, citizens from across Wilson County will come together to pay tribute to the men and women in uniform who work hard to protect our communities everyday. With flags flown at half-staff, a moment of silence and heartfelt prayer and a candlelight ceremony this evening, Mt. Juliet will remember all those who were lost on September 11, 2001 and honor the Americans who serve and protect our country today.

At home, our law enforcement officers, sheriff's department personnel, firefighters and emergency rescue workers give their energy and expertise to fight a variety of challenges and threats to make sure we are safe. From natural hazards and fires, to crime prevention, and the ever-growing meth epidemic, these local heroes endanger their lives to make ours safer.

Overseas, we count on the brave men and women of the Armed Forces to defend our

freedom and protect democracy. They face countless dangers as they serve under the most difficult of conditions. We remember our family members, friends and neighbors across Wilson County and Tennessee who made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom. And it is with great pride and admiration that we support the Tennesseans who continue to serve their Nation overseas.

Tonight's Patriot Day Community Candlelight in Mt. Juliet is an opportunity to personally thank our local heroes—both at home and overseas—for their dedication and sacrifice. It is a time to remember those patriots we have lost, and it is a chance for us to renew our own patriotic spirit.

NAVY MASTER DIVER CARL
BRASHEAR REMEMBERED

HON. G. K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2006

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember a great American warrior and patriot. Master Chief Carl Brashear passed away on July 25, 2006 at the Naval Medical Center in Portsmouth. His legendary accomplishments, however, live on in Navy lore today and for generations to come.

As a 17 year old, Brashear joined the Navy in 1948, shortly after the service had been officially desegregated. At age 23, he applied for, was accepted to and graduated from the Navy Salvage Diving School. Twelve years later, an accident aboard the salvage ship *Hoist* nearly cost Brashear his career and his life. Brashear's left leg was amputated below the knee, a crippling debilitation for anyone but worse for a man whose dream was to be a master diver in the finest Navy in the world. He refused to give up.

In 1967, Brashear became the first Navy diver to be restored to full active duty as an amputee, and his focus returned to the sea. By March 1968, he was back to work at the NAS Norfolk where he served as the lead diver.

In June 1970, less than 4 years after the accident, Carl Brashear made history again. He became the first African-American to be certified as a master diver in the United States Navy and the only amputee deep-sea diver to ever achieve that status. Brashear would also go on to become the first black man to ever become Master Diver of the U.S. Navy, a position he held from 1975 to 1977. Brashear retired from the Navy in 1979 after 31 years of devoted service.

"Carl, a man with such humble beginnings, has touched so many people," said retired Master Diver J. Lamont King—the fifth black American in history to earn the title. "He represented African-Americans. He represented people with disabilities. He represented the United States Navy. He represented veterans. He was the best of the best of what was truly American." For many, Carl's courage broke barriers and helped changed attitudes, but his legacy is not that of an amputee or of an African-American but rather of a seaman who overcame disability and racial prejudices to join a long blue line of American heroes.

As the Command Master Chief of NAB Little Creek Hakim Diaz remarked, "We pay tribute

to a seaman, a Sailor in whose chest beat the most valiant heart of all." MCBM Brashear's son, Phillip Brashear, an Army chief warrant officer 4, said it best, "He taught people worldwide that your race, your gender, your religion, none of that makes any difference. You can achieve your goals, you can be held accountable to your characteristics as a person, not by the color of your skin."

Countless stories of MCBM Brashear's bravery, determination, courage and friendship show that he was more than a man with a dream; he was a sailor whose skill and dedication make him a hero. Brashear was the recipient of multiple awards and commendations including the Navy Commendation Medal, Navy Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Medal, Navy Occupation Service Medal and the Presidential Unit Citation.

Nearly 800 people gathered last week to honor MCBM Brashear as he was memorialized. To their words I can add only that through the actions of Master Chief Carl Brashear, we are a better nation today. Without the resolve of sailors like Carl Brashear, a man whose boundless determination inspired every walk of life, our country and its people could never truly understand dedication and sacrifice.

IN HONOR OF COLONEL RICHARD
STEPHEN GEBELEIN

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2006

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to pay tribute to Colonel Richard Stephen Gebelein upon his retirement from the United States Army Judge Advocate General's Corps after 26 years of faithful and distinguished service.

Colonel Gebelein's legal career began upon his graduation from Villanova University School of Law in 1970. After law school, Colonel Gebelein served as a law clerk on the Delaware Chancery Court, deputy attorney general for the State of Delaware, State Solicitor of the Delaware Department of Justice, and as the Chief Deputy Public Defender. In 1979, Colonel Gebelein began his military career when he became a member of the United States Army Judge Advocate General's Corps with the HHC 261st Signal Command of the Delaware Army National Guard.

After serving as Delaware's Attorney General from 1979 to 1983, Colonel Gebelein was appointed to the bench of the Delaware Superior Court. Colonel Gebelein's appointment to the bench required that he become what's known as an M-Day Soldier, or a part-time drilling soldier. However, Colonel Gebelein continued to bolster his already impressive credentials by graduating from the United States Army War College and earning a degree in Islamic Studies at the University of Sarajevo in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Colonel Gebelein has also been integral in improving services provided to soldiers in the Delaware Army National Guard. Colonel Gebelein devised the system used for processing administrative discharge boards and courts martial at the Delaware Army National Guard.

In 2004, Colonel Gebelein was called-up and went to Afghanistan and served as the

Rule of Law Officer for the Staff Judge Advocate Combined Forces Command—Afghanistan, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Colonel Gebelein served in Afghanistan for 8 months and shortly after his return to the Delaware Superior Court, his expertise as a premier international jurist was recognized; based on the quality of his character and knowledge in international legal matters, Colonel Gebelein was invited to address the United Nations forum on International Humanitarian Law and Peacekeeping Operations. Colonel Gebelein currently serves as an International Judge for War Crimes and Organized Crime and Economic Corruption on the Criminal and Appellate Divisions of the Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to express my deep personal thanks to Colonel Gebelein for his service to the United States Army, the Delaware Superior Court, and the citizens of Delaware. Colonel Gebelein's distinguished career is a testament to his impeccable character, intelligence, and integrity. I'm proud to call him a friend, but I'm grateful that he is a Delawarean.

TRIBUTE TO MONTY BROOKS AND
THE IMPORTANCE OF BASIC
FIRST AID TRAINING

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2006

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to highlight the importance of basic life-saving skills such as CPR and the Heimlich Maneuver. One of my constituents, Monty Brooks, recognizes the importance of these skills following a frightening experience in August.

On this warm Indiana evening, Monty Brooks and his 9-year-old daughter, Carrington, were spending time together on their porch. Carrington had prepared some leftovers from dinner and after a lull in the conversation, Monty realized something was terribly wrong with his daughter. Carrington clutched her neck indicating that she was choking.

Mr. Speaker, Monty Brooks knows first-hand the importance of basic life-saving skills. Monty is the director of health and safety for the Hoosier Heartland Chapter of the American Red Cross. His experience with Carrington only serves to highlight his long-time understanding that these skills are important.

Monty Brooks put his basic life-saving knowledge to use on that warm August evening. He performed the Heimlich Maneuver on Carrington, dislodging the food and allowing her to breathe freely once again.

I rejoice with Monty Brooks that Carrington is well after this frightening episode. I also commend Monty for his dedication to educating and training others in basic life-saving skills through the American Red Cross preventing the unnecessary deaths of his fellow Hoosiers. Along with Monty Brooks, I encourage Hoosiers and all Americans to get trained and become familiar with basic life-saving skills.