

Agent Luis Aguilar of the Border Patrol from Yuma, Arizona. Agent Aguilar was killed in the line of duty on January 19th while trying to apprehend a suspected drug smuggler in the Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area. He was 32 years old.

The core values of the Border Patrol emphasize vigilance, service, and integrity in the defense of America and its laws. Those individuals who commit themselves to these principles recognize the prominence of the American way of life as well as its fragility; something that must be defended against those elements which seek to undermine democracy and freedom. Agent Aguilar spent much of his life as a guardian of these values and this Nation.

Agent Aguilar began his career with the Border Patrol in 2002 when he enrolled in the 519th session of the Border Patrol Academy. Following graduation, he was stationed at the Yuma Border Patrol Station where he quickly earned the respect and loyalty of his fellow agents and the surrounding community.

This tragic incident highlights not only the dangers border agents encounter, but also emphasizes the extreme heroism and valor exhibited by those whose job it is to keep Americans safe.

Madam Speaker, my most heartfelt condolences go out to Luis' family and friends. He will undoubtedly be missed by all those who knew and loved him.

CITY OF CHANDLER TOP 100 BEST COMMUNITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 29, 2008

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the City of Chandler, which was recently honored by America's Promise Alliance, with the designation as one of the 100 Best Communities for Young People for 2008. This organization, founded by General Colin Powell, is the largest alliance dedicated to children and youth. Recognition just once is a proud achievement, but this is the third year in a row that the city has been recognized, and so is deserving of special praise.

Chandler was recognized for this honor because of its intense commitment to youth. One of the key items noted by the Alliance was the Coalition for Chandler Youth, which was organized in September 2006 to address youth issues on a communitywide basis.

This award was not earned due to the efforts of a single entity, but rather from the combined efforts of members of government, local businesses, youth representatives, and numerous other organizations throughout the city.

America's Promise Alliance evaluates applicants based on Five Promises which have been shown to ensure that children receive the fundamental resources they need to successfully lead healthy and productive lives. These are: caring adults, a safe place, a healthy start, an effective education, and opportunities to help others.

The City of Chandler has made a commitment to keeping these promises, and has been justifiably recognized for the effort. I ex-

tend my congratulations and thanks for a job well done.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF JOHN WATKINS JR.

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 29, 2008

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, the city of Atmore and the state of Alabama recently lost a dedicated community leader, and I rise today to honor Mr. John Watkins Jr. and pay tribute to his memory.

After graduating from the Escambia County Training School, Mr. Watkins continued his studies at Faulkner State College in Bay Minette, Alabama, and received an associate's degree in applied science.

A World War II veteran, John served in the United States Army on the Marianas Islands in Guam. Following his service in the Army, he spent 31 years at Monsanto/Solutia Textile and Chemical Plant in Pensacola where he served as a cook, cafeteria foreman and a main plant foreman.

In 1992, John was elected to the Atmore City Council. As the councilman for District 3, he was influential in securing various grants for housing rehabilitation, paving streets and demolishing condemned houses throughout the community. He served as chairman of both the Atmore Planning Board and the Escambia County Quality Assurance Committee for 12 years. In 1996, he was named the mayor pro-tempore of Atmore.

In addition to his work as an elected member of the Atmore City Council, John was a member of the Atmore Lions Club and served as its president from 2000–2001. He was also a member of Gaines Chapel AME Church in Atmore and served as a chairman of the trustee board for over eight years.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a dedicated community leader, a friend to many throughout Alabama, as well as a wonderful husband and devoted father. John Watkins will be dearly missed by his family—his wife of 55 years, Veola Watkins; their children, Brenda Jackson, John Watkins III, and Roderick Lynn Watkins; his sisters, Bessie Brock, Carrie Millender, Ella Quaker, Ethel Spaulding; his 10 grandchildren; and his one great-grandchild—as well as the many countless friends he leaves behind. Our thoughts and prayers are with them all during this difficult time.

CELEBRATING 61 YEARS OF BROADCASTING AT WKRM IN COLUMBIA, TN

HON. LINCOLN DAVIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 29, 2008

Mr. LINCOLN DAVIS of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, on November 25th, 1946, at 7:00 p.m., Robert McKay, Jr. put WKRM on the air from the Bethell Hotel in Columbia, Tennessee for the very first time. Over sixty years later, Robert continues to provide quality broadcasting to the people of Columbia.

Robert's service to Columbia, to Tennessee and to our country goes beyond his work at WKRM. A veteran of World War II, Robert served our military in the Philippines from 1942 until the War's end. When he returned, Robert took it upon himself to found the area's first local radio station with its own News Director.

Since its founding, WKRM has continually provided Maury County with outstanding news coverage, bringing the news to Columbia and its surrounding areas and, beginning in 1947, covering the annual Mule Day celebration live from the front porch of WKRM's station.

From their inaugural broadcast at the Bethell Hotel, Robert's tenacity has made WKRM the success that it is today. Even a devastating fire in 1950 that destroyed all but the station's antenna only kept WKRM off the air for thirteen days before Robert was again bringing news to Columbia. Robert's firm resolve has grown WKRM into two stations that he continues to operate today. At eighty-seven year's old, Robert is still working hard for Tennessee, and I join my colleagues today in commending him for his work, his life and his service.

INTRODUCING THE INNOCENCE PROJECT GOLD MEDAL BILL

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 29, 2008

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, today I rise to introduce a bill to award the Congressional Gold Medal to Barry C. Scheck and Peter J. Neufeld in recognition of their outstanding service to the Nation as co-founders and co-directors of the Innocence Project.

Madam Speaker, the Innocence Project is responsible for exonerating 210 innocent individuals who were on Death Row. In my home State of Illinois, through their work in the Innocence Project, Mr. Scheck and Mr. Neufeld have helped free 27 innocent individuals. Twenty-seven, Madam Speaker, twenty-seven individuals that if not for the work of these two men and their colleagues may be dead right now.

Dead for crimes they did not commit.

Madam Speaker, in addition to helping with wrongful convictions Mr. Scheck and Mr. Neufeld have worked to create clinics across the country that help prove the innocence of the wrongfully convicted. Furthermore, their work through the Innocence Project has been instrumental in encouraging States across the country to reform their death penalty systems. These reforms range from preservation of evidence, to providing access to DNA evidence for convicted individuals.

Madam Speaker, even today the inconsistencies and injustice of the death penalty system continues to come to light.

A recent study by the American Bar Association illustrates the very problems that the work of these two men hopes to counter. For example, the ABA study found that:

"States are not requiring that crime laboratories and medical examiner offices be accredited";

States "are failing to provide for the appointment of counsel in post-conviction proceedings";