

and assisted 17 soldiers spread throughout Iraq and Afghanistan. Today, they have 1,100 volunteers.

Perhaps the greatest contribution Operation Minnesota Nice has made to American soldiers is the inspiration they provide for others to start similar organizations. Floyd Olesen is one such individual. He and his wife started a local chapter of Operation Minnesota Nice in Becker, Minnesota, followed by another organization, Support Our Troops, headquartered in Elk River, Minnesota. Mr. Olesen clearly speaks with admiration for the work Denise Jorgensen has done.

Madam Speaker, we're able to enjoy the freedoms we have today because of the selfless sacrifices so many brave Americans made to secure them, and veterans in America today deserve our utmost respect. The acts of generosity of men and women like Denise and her army of citizen-volunteers are just a sampling of the generous acts of kindness taking place across America to honor the bravest among us. Thank you for your dedication and sacrifice.

TRIBUTE TO DETECTIVE
SERGEANT JAY POUPARD

HON. TIMOTHY WALBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2008

Mr. WALBERG. Madam Speaker, it is my special privilege to recognize Detective Sergeant Jay Poupard on receiving the 2008 Attorney General Special Commendation Award. It is with great admiration and pride that I congratulate Detective Sergeant Poupard on behalf of all of those who have benefited from his dedicated service to Charlotte, Michigan and his proven ability to protect the lives of its citizens.

Detective Sergeant Poupard is a member of the Michigan Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force. The ICAC Task Force is a nationwide program designed to assist state and local law enforcement agencies increase their capability to investigate offenders who use the Internet or other computer technology to sexually exploit children. The program is made up of 59 regional Task Force agencies and is funded by the United States Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

The fast, shrewd action of Detective Sergeant Poupard and Detective Spence of Florida and the effective information exchange between the ICAC Task Forces directly saved the life of an 8-year-old child. Detective Sergeant Poupard's skillful work and sharp sense of awareness also prevented further manufacture and distribution of child pornographic images. As a model to officers across the country, Detective Sergeant Poupard continues to carry out his duty to protect Michigan and the United States.

The 2008 Attorney General Special Commendation Award was presented to Detective Sergeant Jay Poupard of Charlotte, Michigan for his extraordinary work which saved the life of a young child. His superior performance is worthy of this honor and indicative of his continued commitment to high standards and thorough investigative work.

Madam Speaker, today I honor Detective Sergeant Jay Poupard for his esteemed serv-

ice to the Charlotte community. May others know of my high regard for his outstanding performance and dedication to protecting our children, as well as my best wishes for Detective Sergeant Poupard in the future.

THE STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP
BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES
AND THE REPUBLIC OF MAC-
EDONIA

HON. MARK E. SOUDER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2008

Mr. SOUDER. Madam Speaker, I would like to submit into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the text of the U.S. State Department announcement this month regarding the strategic partnership between the United States and the Republic of Macedonia.

I urge my colleagues to review this document closely, and to remember the geostrategic importance of the United States' continued support for the Republic of Macedonia's membership in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

We in Congress should also fully appreciate the great distance this young country has traveled—reforming itself politically, economically, and militarily—since the dissolution of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

DECLARATION OF STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP AND COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA, BUREAU OF EUROPEAN AND EURASIAN AFFAIRS, WASHINGTON, D.C., MAY 7, 2008

The United States of America and the Republic of Macedonia are determined to expand and deepen the close partnership between the two countries based upon common goals, interests, and values. The two countries wish to enhance their strategic relationship through intensified consultation and cooperation in the areas of security, people-to-people ties, and commerce. The United States and Macedonia reaffirm their support for the principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity of states, the purposes and principles of the U.N. charter, and a unitary, multiethnic Macedonia within its existing borders.

Macedonia and the United States note that a democratic, secure and prosperous Macedonia, with friendly and constructive relations with its neighbors and as an active participant in regional and international economic, political and security fora, is vital to peace and stability in Southeast Europe.

In this regard, the United States continues to support Macedonia's security, stability and economic development.

In the interest of an intensified partnership, the United States intends to immediately provide additional assistance to Macedonia to help build prosperity, strengthen security, and foster deeper ties between our two countries.

Macedonia expresses deep appreciation to the U.S. for its assistance to date in helping the Macedonian people as they work to institutionalize and make permanent a democratic process that realizes our shared values of peace, freedom, the rule of law, and a free market economy. Macedonia also recognizes and reaffirms the support from the U.S. in reforming and strengthening its armed forces.

Building on our existing strong partnership in the fight against global terrorism and

promoting international stability, demonstrated by our troops serving together in Iraq and Afghanistan, our civilian and military officials plan to intensify their bilateral high-level contacts and seek increased joint training and exercise opportunities to enhance the interoperability of our forces, and strengthen our partnership in promoting international security and non-proliferation.

Sharing a desire to expand trade and investment, the United States and Macedonia will seek to enhance their economic ties and undertake additional measures to strengthen the competitiveness of Macedonia's economy and expand opportunities for United States and Macedonian businesses. The United States supports Macedonia's ongoing efforts to build a business-friendly environment attractive to United States and other foreign investment. Macedonia expresses its appreciation for the opportunity to utilize GSP to strengthen bilateral trade. Both countries encourage the further expansion of their trade relations.

Macedonia expresses satisfaction with the successful implementation of the USAID technical assistance programs in the areas of democracy, economic growth and education and reaffirms its desire for cooperation in these areas to continue.

The two countries also seek to build closer and more robust bonds between their citizens and will undertake practical measures to promote educational and cultural exchange.

The NATO Summit Declaration in Bucharest made clear that the Republic of Macedonia has met NATO's democratic, economic, and defense standards through its rigorous participation in the Membership Action Plan. The United States continues to work with our NATO Allies to maintain Macedonia's robust cooperation with NATO under existing mechanisms, while it awaits a membership invitation.

Both countries look forward to Macedonia joining NATO as soon as possible. Our intensified cooperation at this time will further strengthen Macedonia's readiness to take on Alliance obligations and responsibilities in the near future.

CONGRATULATING OUTSTANDING
HIGH SCHOOL ARTISTS OF NEW
JERSEY'S 11TH DISTRICT

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2008

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, once again, I come to the floor to recognize the great success of strong local schools working with dedicated parents and teachers. I rise today to congratulate and honor a number of outstanding high school artists from the 11th Congressional District of New Jersey. Each of these talented students is participating in the 2008 Congressional Arts competition, "An Artistic Discovery." Their works of art are exceptional!

We have 46 students participating. That is a wonderful response, and I would very much like to build on that participation for future competitions.

Madam Speaker, I would like to congratulate the three winners of our art competition. First Place was awarded to Jessica Pester of Millburn High School for her work "Waiting." Second Place was awarded to Rebecca Bailey from West Morris Mendham High School for her work "Mark." Third Place was awarded to Kristen Capote from Parsippany Christian School for her work "Digital Camera."

I would like to recognize each artist for their participation by indicating their high school, their name, and the title of their contest entry for the official record.

Boonton High School: Cathy Yang's "Self Portrait" (Honorable Mention); Elyssa Hunziker's "When I Was Seventeen;" Jennifer Vasta's "The Gift;" Steve McKeown's "Self Portrait".

Chatham High School: Anna Zamecka's "Charcoal Still Life;" Grace Oakley's "Global Fabric;" Michelle Mruk's "Miniature Eggplants and Egg".

Livingston High School: Jordana Geller's "Timelessness;" Kelly Keltos' "Carnival;" Victoria Xia's "Steel;" Wei Li Cheng's "Vanilla".

Madison High School: Alexandra Coultas' "The Luke Miller House;" Frank Wulff, III's "Valor;" Frederick Greis' "Elaine;" Kimberly Smith's "He loves me, He loves me not".

Millburn High School: Kelly Blumenthal's "Venetian Landscape;" Jessica Pester's "Waiting" (First Place); Jacqueline San Filippo's "Riding Shadows".

Montville High School: Christine Riccio's "Summer;" Grace Lee's "Spring Flowers;" Jennifer Eishingrelo's "Montville Farmer;" Michael Johnston's "Book Smart".

Morris Knolls High School: Elizabeth Westerman's Toy Trains;" Liana Kelly's "A Brighter Life;" Jennifer Engleson's "Sunburnt Lawn".

Mount Olive High School: Kristen Cignavitch's "Puzzle Portrait;" Laura Smith's "The Approach;" Olga Kazakova's "Belarus in America;" Rachel Tenenbaum's "Photography".

Parsippany Christian School: Austin Dimare's "Austin Splendor;" Kristen Capote's "Digital Camera" (Third Place); Samantha Dahl's "Go Fish".

Ridge High School: Christina Stillwaggon's "P.M.S.;" Frankie Cocuzza's "Untitled #3;" Lara Charavantes' "Purificacao" (Honorable Mention); Sojin Ouh's "Leftovers".

Roxbury High School: Christian Peslak's "Conscious Man;" Sam Knopka's "Self Portrait;" Bret Koblyka's "Self Portrait" (Honorable Mention); Jacob Mandel's "The Artist's Mindset".

Watchung Hills High School: Kim Delli Paoli's "My Vacation".

West Morris Mendham High School: Caitlin Aromando's "Intensity;" Elisa Cecere's "Elephant Eye;" Olivia Sebesky's "Jon;" Rebecca Bailey's "Mark" (Second Place).

Each year the winner of the competition has their art work displayed with other winners from across the country in a special corridor here at the U.S. Capitol. Thousands of fellow Americans walk through that corridor and are reminded of the vast talents of our young men and women. Indeed, all of these young artists are winners, and we should be proud of their achievements so early in life.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating these talented young people from New Jersey's 11th Congressional District.

CONGRATULATING THE CITY OF
BAXTER SPRINGS, KANSAS ON
THEIR 150TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. NANCY E. BOYDA

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2008

Mrs. BOYDA of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the city of Baxter Springs, Kansas on their 150th anniversary. During the past century and a half, Baxter Springs and the state of Kansas have seen its share of ups and downs. Baxter Springs has lived through a handful of wars, including one that happened right on its own turf when the city was still just an infant. It has persisted through the Great Depression, the Dust Bowl, drought, floods, feast and famine. With all of these challenges, some Kansas towns throughout the decades have not survived a century, much less 150 years.

A sesquicentennial is not an easy day to reach for any town and its citizens should be proud for their part in building and preserving such a wonderful community. I have been to Baxter Springs and seen firsthand the wonderful culture and the pride that has blossomed just off of historic Route 66.

Baxter Springs can be looked at by other Kansas communities as a benchmark for morality, patriotism and the spirit of hard work. While I wish I could be there in person to celebrate with them, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the city of Baxter Springs on a great 150 years. Here's to another great 150 years!

HONORING MS. CHERYL MOSIER

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2008

Mr. TANCREDO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate an outstanding teacher from my district, Ms. Cheryl Mosier of Columbine High School in Littleton. Ms. Mosier has been awarded the 2007 Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching, an award given by the National Science Foundation to remarkable educators committed to enhancing the learning of their students.

Established by Congress in 1983, the Presidential award program recognizes extraordinary mathematics and science teachers in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Territories, and the U.S. Department of Defense Schools. This year Ms. Mosier was the Colorado recipient for this prestigious award.

An Earth Science teacher at Columbine High School, Ms. Mosier has over 15 years teaching experience. A Colorado native, Cheryl graduated from the University of Northern Colorado, and went on to complete a master's degree in teaching from Grand Canyon University.

Cheryl inspires her students in the Earth Sciences by teaching them lessons they can relate to everyday life. Cheryl won the PAEMST award for a lesson she taught on Spectroscopy. This was the same lesson Cheryl was teaching on April 20, 1999 when

tragedy struck Columbine High School after two gunmen opened fire inside the school, killing 12 students, and one teacher.

Madam Speaker, I would like to extend my sincerest congratulations to Cheryl, and wish her the best in all her future endeavors.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF ARMY
SPECIALIST BRADEN J. LONG

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2008

Mr. HALL of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life and service of a young man who made the ultimate sacrifice for his country. Army Specialist Braden J. Long, 19, of Sherman, Texas, died in service to his country last year in Baghdad of injuries sustained when his Humvee came under grenade attack. Specialist Long was assigned to the 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division; Fort Riley, Kansas.

Braden's mother, Melanie Thrasher, said that her son wanted to be in the military since grade school and reported for basic training just a month after graduating from Sherman High School in 2005. His family and many friends, as well as his fellow soldiers in the United States Army, can attest to the dedication of this young man who chose to live his life in service to his country.

Specialist Long's wife, Theresa, recalled that he was respectful to all and always kept his word. If he said he could do something, he did it. Long met his future wife while both were students at Sherman High School. They were married Nov. 4, 2005, and were living in Fort Riley, Kansas, at the time of his deployment to Iraq.

In addition to his wife, Specialist Long is survived by his parents, Melanie Thrasher of Sherman and William "Bill" Long III of Arlington; one brother, William Long IV of Sherman; one sister, Michaela Thrasher of Sherman; grandparents, William Long Jr. of Florida, and William Euans, Susan Long, and Shirley Dickinson, all of Ohio; and one great-grandparent, William G. Long Sr.

Madam Speaker, words cannot express the gratitude we owe to those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom; it is a debt that can never be repaid. I pray that his family will find comfort in knowing that America will never forget the tremendous sacrifice he made while defending our country. As we honor America's fallen heroes on Memorial Day, let us pay tribute to the life of this dedicated young patriot, Army Specialist Braden Long.

CONGRATULATING MIKE
GOTTFRIED ON HIS INDUCTION
INTO THE MOBILE SPORTS HALL
OF FAME

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2008

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise to honor Coach Mike Gottfried on the occasion of his