

committed her life to serving her family, her country and her community. May her life serve as an example to us all.

HONORING DEREK SCHIRMER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Derek Schirmer of Gladstone, Missouri. Derek is 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 1247, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

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

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

HONORING STACY PRATER FOR
SELFLESS ACT

HON. LINCOLN DAVIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 2008

Mr. LINCOLN DAVIS of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, it was nearly 100 years ago that the so-called "Central Powers" of Europe opposed the free world in what would become the first of two World Wars. In the midst of our fight against Germany and her Allies at the beginning of the 20th century, one of Fentress County, Tennessee's most famous sons earned a Medal of Honor, and his place in history.

Sergeant Alvin C. York exemplifies perhaps the most common understanding of what a hero embodies: an individual who answered the call of duty and risked themselves for the betterment of others. However, it is the lesser known heroes that I rise today to commend.

Stacy Prater of Pikeville, Tennessee, probably did not have thoughts of heroism in mind as he traveled home from work a few weeks ago. But, when he noticed that the car in front of him was on fire, Stacy stepped in to help the driver and her three children get to safety. With the driver and two children safely out of the vehicle, Stacy rushed into the fire to rescue a third child from a safety seat completely surrounded by flames. Using only a pair of scissors, Stacy released and pulled the child safely out of the vehicle. Through Stacy's efforts, all three children and their mother survived the unexpected incident.

History will probably not remember Stacy, or countless others like him, as it remembers Alvin York. Stacy acted this month not for the glory of heroism, but for what it means to the survivors of that fire. I am proud today to commend Stacy's selfless service, and to commemorate a hometown hero who deserves our continued thanks and appreciation.

HONORING SAINT LUKE CHRISTIAN
METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 2008

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Saint Luke Christian Methodist Episcopal Church as the congregation celebrates the 75th anniversary of the Church's founding. A celebration was held in Saginaw, Michigan on May 31st in honor of this momentous occasion.

Saint Luke Christian Methodist Episcopal Church was founded in 1933 by King Wicker, Otha Wicker, Mildred Wicker, Alton Wicker, Margaret Wicker, Jerry Wicker, Odessa Fields, Bobbie Lou Anthony, Irene Blunt, Robert Taylor, and Reverend S.J. Scott. Shortly thereafter Reverend S.J. Elliott became the first appointed pastor and was active in developing and organizing the Saint Luke congregation. Under Reverend Elliott's pastoral guidance Saint Luke built its first Church where members could gather and worship.

In 1955 the congregation was expanding and they began to look for a new home. The prayers and hard work of the membership were successful and they purchased the Church and parsonage on Tuscola Street in June 1958. Through the hard work and generosity of the congregation, the mortgage was paid in full and burned in a joyous celebration on October 19, 1969. Over the years the congregation has added a new organ, a communion rail, a grand piano, a furnace, air conditioning and the Church and parsonage underwent extensive renovation.

While the physical structure of Saint Luke has changed, the congregation of Saint Luke Christian Methodist Episcopal Church has not wavered from its purpose—faith and devotion to God. Under the leadership of Reverend James C. Hendricks, Saint Luke has embraced the motto, "From Good to Great—Generation of Excellence." Through the guidance of Reverend Hendricks, the members are inspired to meet the daily challenges of life with vision and courage.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in applauding the clergy, staff and congregation of Saint Luke Christian Methodist Episcopal Church. For 75 years they have brought praise and honor to Our Lord, Jesus Christ, and may He continue to bless them for many, many years to come.

REAFFIRMING SUPPORT FOR THE
GOVERNMENT OF LEBANON
UNDER PRIME MINISTER FOUAD
SINIORA

SPEECH OF

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 2008

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I certainly share the concerns of the proponents of this resolution regarding the need to bring peace to Lebanon. I also add my voice in opposition to the use of violence against innocent civilians for any reason. It is wrong. I have always condemned such acts and cer-

tainly want to express my condolences to those killed, injured, or otherwise affected by the recent fighting.

I have been to Lebanon. I have talked to Parliamentarians in that country about the needs of that country. I have also supported a series of resolutions since coming to Congress expressing strong support for restoring and respecting Lebanon's sovereignty, disarming militias, and allowing the Lebanese people and their representatives to direct the affairs of the country without outside influence from any quarter.

My concern with this resolution is that it does nothing to bring the fighting to an end or to achieve any of its goals that it intends to advance, especially in light of recent events. Instead of writing resolutions that make Congress feel good, at this time the U.S. should be supporting and cooperating with countries in the region working to actually bring an end to the violence and putting Lebanon on track to resolve the political paralysis that has gripped the country.

I did not vote for this measure because I believe it does not move us forward in helping to bring peace to the region, especially in light of recent events that saw the Arab League and Qatar in particular take leading roles in actively working diplomatically to end the violence. While this resolution was pending a vote before the House, the Lebanese parties including the Lebanese government and its Arab neighbors were hammering out an agreement to resolve the political crisis fueling the recent violence which has crippled the country.

I have included a copy of New York Times articles on these regional efforts well as another article outlining the announcement by Israel of its negotiations with Syria using Turkey as a mediator. Nothing guarantees that these talks will succeed but it certainly shows that some of the parties most affected by violence in the region are tired of empty rhetoric and are willing to sit down and engage in diplomacy to prevent their country from returning to civil war.

Now is an opportunity to encourage the Lebanese and others in the region to build on these efforts to defuse tensions and begin to take a positive way forward. According to the reports, the Lebanon agreement was reached—not because of the Congressional resolution—but because the Lebanese parties, with the help of their neighbors in the region, sat down at the negotiating table to try and save their country from civil war.

According to these reports, the agreement addresses some of the issues that have polarized and paralyzed Lebanon and also makes clear that all parties "commit themselves not to use weapons or violence in order to achieve political gains under any circumstances."

While the agreement is not perfect and it remains to be seen whether it will change the situation on the ground, it has received the endorsement of all parties, Saudi Arabia, the U.N., and even the Bush Administration. The agreement will not resolve all the pressing problems in Lebanon but it helped check the most pressing of the moment: a slow march back to civil war.

While many Lebanese were expressing relief at this news and returning to deserted streets in Beirut, the House was voting on a resolution which had been eclipsed by events