

leadership role in economic development to advance a positive vision for York County's economic future. York County will continue to experience the positive effects of the organization's commitment for years to come.

Madam Speaker, the observance of the 50th anniversary of YCEDC provides a special time to express our appreciation and gratitude to its employees, board members, and members for their work and dedication to York County's continued economic well-being and quality of life. Therefore, it is with heartfelt wishes that I congratulate YCEDC for their continued success.

HONORING ALEXANDER WILLIAMS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Alexander Williams of Kansas City, Missouri. Alexander 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 1314, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Alexander has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Alexander 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 Alexander Williams for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SINTO SENIOR ACTIVITY CENTER

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2008

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the 50th anniversary of the Sinto Senior Activity Center in Spokane, Washington. Early in the 1950's a group of enthusiastic senior citizens and community leaders began building a dream, a dream that has grown into an integral part of the Spokane community serving over 600 members.

The Sinto Senior Activity Center offers a variety of activities for members which include ballroom dancing, pool, crafts, educational opportunities, lunches, social clubs, entertainment, square dancing, music, speakers, holiday events, pinocle, cribbage, exercise and aerobic classes, round dancing, clogging, community service projects, short trips and tours, and many, many more.

Madam Speaker, the Sinto Senior Activity Center has been a staple of the Spokane community for over 50 years and through its leadership and steadfast commitment has provided senior citizens of the Spokane area a safe and comfortable place to engage in social activities. It is an honor and privilege to invite my colleagues to join me in congratulating the

Sinto Senior Activity Center on its 50th anniversary.

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL EMORY "RAY" HELTON

HON. ROBIN HAYES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2008

Mr. HAYES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and pay tribute to Colonel Ray Helton, United States Army, on the occasion of his retirement from active duty. Colonel Helton has served our great Nation for more than 30 years as a truly exceptional officer and I am extremely proud to call him my friend.

Over the past several years, as Co-Chair of the House Special Operations Forces Caucus, I have had the honor of working with Colonel Helton during his tenure as the Director of Legislative Affairs for United States Special Operations Command (USSOCOM). Soldier, leader, scholar, statesman, gentleman—Ray truly personifies what a warrior should be and he has been an outstanding ambassador for Special Operations.

Colonel Helton's dedication to his work on behalf of the warfighter has been unwavering. There is no doubt that Ray has been instrumental in educating the House Armed Services Committee, other defense-related committees, and Members of Congress on a variety of issues critical to our Special Operators and their missions. His tireless efforts working with Members of Congress and the military perspective he brings to the table have undoubtedly resulted in a better understanding of the Special Operations community and its unique missions, requirements, and needs. He has been a tireless advocate for all of his fellow Special Operators. Though much of it has been behind the scenes, there is no doubt that his work has furthered our nation's goals in the continued Global War on Terror and saved lives in the field.

Colonel Helton graduated as a Distinguished Military Graduate from the University of Illinois Army ROTC and began serving as an Infantry Officer in January 1981. His Infantry assignments include leading two platoons in the 3d Infantry Division and commanding two companies in the 101st Airborne Division. He was transferred to the Special Forces Branch in 1988 and served as a Detachment Commander, Battalion Personnel Officer and Battalion Operations Officer in the 10th Special Forces Group. He served as a Company Commander, Battalion Executive Officer and Battalion Commander in the 3rd Special Forces Group. He has conducted training and operations with Soldiers on five continents. Colonel Helton also served as the Chief of Assignments of the Combat Arms Division in United States Personnel Command, as a Strategic Planner and Writer on the Joint Staff and as the Garrison Commander of Fort Drum, New York. Colonel Helton's military education includes the Infantry Officer Basic Course, Airborne School, Combat Divers Course, Air Assault School, Ranger School, Special Forces Qualification School, Infantry Officer Advanced Course, Survival Escape Resistance and Evasion Course, Combined Arms Services Staff School, Joint Psychological Operations

Course, Command and General Staff College, and the Industrial College of the Armed Forces. He received a bachelor's degree in History from the University of Illinois, a Master of Arts degree in National Strategy and Policy from the Naval War College and a Master of Science degree in National Resource Strategy from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces.

On behalf of Congress and the United States of America, I express our appreciation of Colonel Helton for his tireless service and support of the warfighter. His professionalism, expertise, and efforts showcase his patriotism, and his dedication to his Special Operators in the field. Though the following phrase is often used, I can say without reservation that it is rarely as appropriate as it is in this case: Colonel Ray Helton is truly a great American.

I want to personally thank Colonel Ray Helton, his wife Colonel Jane Helton, USA, and his entire family for their commitment, sacrifice, and the contributions they have all made throughout his honorable and distinguished military service. I congratulate Ray on completing an exceptional and extremely successful military career and am humbled by his dedicated service to our nation. I wish Colonel Helton and his family many blessings and much success as he begins his future endeavors and embarks on new adventures.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. J. GRESHAM BARRETT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2008

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, due to my attendance at events in my district and state discussing legislation that will help move our country toward energy independence, I unfortunately missed some recorded votes on the House floor on Tuesday, September 16, 2008.

Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on rollcall vote No. 592 (Motion to adjourn), "no" on rollcall vote No. 593 (question of consideration on H. Res. 1433), and "no" on rollcall vote No. 594 (Motion to adjourn).

HONORING THE LIFE OF JOHN F. SEIBERLING

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I wish to honor the life and legacy of Congressman Seiberling, an eight-term Congressman from Akron, Ohio. John Seiberling won Ohio's 14th Congressional District in 1970. He ran for Congress because of his strong opposition to the Vietnam War and a belief that the system could be made to work in favor of a more livable world, a peaceful world. His desire for peace was his primary reason for running.

In a speech at the University of Akron on May 6, 1970, just two days after the tragic shootings at Kent State University John Seiberling said that "the system can be made to work . . . 25 years ago I never thought that a peace candidate would win a congressional

election in this district, even a primary election, in which the principal issue is the cause of peace." He went on to speak about the importance of Gandhi's accomplishments in India; how Gandhi used non-cooperation to bring his cause to the attention of the world and non-violence to win the hearts of his enemies.

During his time in Congress he had many major accomplishments. Among them was the creation of Ohio's first national park, the Cuyahoga Valley National Park and his coauthorship of the War Powers Act. He was elected to and served as Chairman of the Members of Congress for Peace Through Law Caucus. It is reported that he opened his office to Vietnam veterans protesting against the war by allowing them to sleep there.

He was committed to a world that resolved conflict through peaceful means. And as such, throughout his 16 years in the House he prioritized disarmament. When he announced his retirement in 1986 he reportedly told the Plain Dealer newspaper that it was the job of Congress to "maintain a livable world, free of nuclear disaster, a world that we have not polluted to the point where we can't breathe and where we preserve some natural beauty so that we can have the solace and the experience of being out in God's world." Following his retirement he dedicated himself to teaching law at the University of Akron and for a number of years was the head of the university's Center for Peace Studies.

Since his passing on August 2, 2008 he has been sorely missed and will be missed well into the future.

HONORING JACOB FUENFHAUSEN

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jacob Fuenfhausen of Liberty, Missouri. Jacob 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 1320, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Jacob has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Jacob 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 Jacob Fuenfhausen 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. RANDY NEUGEBAUER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2008

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Madam Speaker, due to a family emergency I was absent for the following rollcall votes held on September 15, September 16 and September 17, 2008. Had

I been present, I would have voted as indicated for each rollcall listed.

Rollcall vote 589: "yea"; rollcall vote 590: "yea"; rollcall vote 591: "yea"; rollcall vote 592: "nay"; rollcall vote 593: "nay"; rollcall vote 594: "nay"; rollcall vote 595: "nay"; rollcall vote 596: "nay"; rollcall vote 597: "nay"; rollcall vote 598: "yea"; rollcall vote 599: "nay"; rollcall vote 600: "yea"; and rollcall vote 601: "yea."

IN RECOGNITION OF THE RETIREMENT OF COLONEL MICHAEL SHUPP, UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2008

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the service of Colonel Michael Shupp, United States Marine Corps, who is retiring after 27 years of dedicated service to this Nation. I came to know Colonel Shupp well as we travelled together on various Congressional delegations. As a consummate professional, he did an outstanding job representing the United States Marine Corps.

Colonel Shupp graduated from the Virginia Military Institute in 1981. In 1985, he reported to the U.S. Naval Academy and was recognized by President Bush and others for his outstanding performance.

In 1990, as a company commander, he deployed to Saudi Arabia for Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm where his unit served with distinction. He also deployed twice to Bosnia-Herzegovina in the late-1990s. Since 2001, I have had the pleasure and honor to come to know Michael well during his assignment as the Marine Corps' Liaison to the U.S. House of Representatives.

Colonel Shupp assumed command of Regimental Combat Team—1 (RCT—1) on 15 September 2004 at Camp Fallujah, Iraq while deployed on Operation Iraqi Freedom II. There he led the Regiment through counter-insurgency operations, the Battle of Fallujah (Operation Al Fajr), humanitarian assistance efforts and the reconstruction of Fallujah, and the first free Iraqi national election in January 2005. In early 2008, he became Legislative Assistant for the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

His personal decorations are numerous and include the Legion of Merit with Combat "Valor" Distinguishing Device and gold star in lieu of second award, the Bronze Star with Combat "Valor" Distinguishing Device, and the Combat Action Ribbon with gold star in lieu of second award.

Madam Speaker, few can match the dedication and professionalism of Colonel Michael Shupp. He epitomizes the values and traditions of the United States Marine Corps. On behalf of the U.S. Congress, I would thank him for his years of dedicated service. Vicki and I wish him and his family best wishes for continued success.

SUPPORTING TAIWANESE MEMBERSHIP IN UNITED NATIONS SPECIALIZED AGENCIES

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2008

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, On August 14, 2008, seventeen of the Republic of China's diplomatic allies once again submitted a proposal to the United Nations General Assembly supporting Taiwan's request "to examine the fundamental rights of the 23 million people of the Republic of China (Taiwan) to participate meaningfully in the activities of the United Nations specialized agencies." The 63rd session of the U.N. General Assembly opened yesterday, September 16, and, therefore, my comments today are especially relevant.

I strongly support Taiwan's request because I believe there is a compelling need for the country to add its expertise, wealth, and dynamism to the U.N. specialized agencies. For example, Taiwan has been campaigning for participation in the World Health Organization (WHO) for years, but has been unable to access or communicate with WHO regarding global disease prevention. Membership in the WHO should not be a political matter. Disease and illness know no boundaries, and we must not let political disputes stand in the way of utilizing all tools available to improve basic health care and fight pestilence. This effort to fight disease takes global solidarity, not isolation campaigns.

Fortunately, Taiwan is ready, willing, and able to contribute to the international community. Moreover, Taiwan's international participation might encourage the cross-strait dialogue and contribute to the easing of tensions between Taiwan and the PRC.

I hope that the PRC will show good will and allow Taiwan to participate meaningfully in the U.N. specialized agencies. I believe this will be a step toward peace and cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region and greater vitality in promoting the missions of the UN specialized agencies.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIMOTHY WALBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2008

Mr. WALBERG. Madam Speaker, on the following rollcall votes I am not recorded due to a death in the family. Had I been present I would have voted the following way: rollcall No. 589, I would have voted "aye;" rollcall No. 590, I would have voted "aye;" rollcall No. 591, I would have voted "aye;" rollcall No. 592, I would have voted "nay;" rollcall No. 593, I would have voted "nay;" rollcall No. 594, I would have voted "nay;" rollcall No. 595, I would have voted "nay;" rollcall No. 596, I would have voted "nay;" rollcall No. 597, I would have voted "nay;" rollcall No. 598, I would have voted "aye;" rollcall No. 599, I would have voted "nay."