which control flooding, facilitate commerce by improving navigation, generate electricity, and spur agriculture. These projects evolved into a flood control system that has prevented over $25 billion in flood damages to date.

During World War II and the Cold War, the Omaha District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers was involved in numerous aspects of our nation's defense. It constructed the assembly plant for the B–29 Superfortress and the B–26 Marauder, and gained technical expertise in constructing runways which proved valuable for Army Air Force training. The Omaha District also was involved in the construction of the Northern Area Defense Command in Colorado, facilities for Space Command, and various missile control and launch facilities throughout the Midwest. Following the Cold War, the Omaha District helped lead on environmental remediation by removing ordnance from closed bombing ranges, containing below ground chemical plumes, and remediating landfills and wetlands.

In 1982, the Corps added environmental cleanup to its mission. Since that time the Corps has provided technical expertise to the Environmental Protection Agency's Superfund cleanup projects. In fact, the Corps' Omaha District became the Center of Expertise for Hazardous and Toxic Waste. Individuals trained at this facility have assisted in EPA environmental cleanup of projects in California and Pennsylvania. The Omaha District continues to take the lead in remediation of hazardous, toxic, and radioactive waste sites in current and former military sites.

For 75 years, the Omaha District has answered the nation's call for service. I commend the Omaha District Corps' continued commitment to military construction, improving civil works and environmental restoration both in Nebraska and throughout our nation under the current leadership of Colonel David Press. The Omaha District of the U.S. Corps of Engineers has earned the recognition of Congress on the celebration of the 75th anniversary of its founding.

## IN HONOR OF MEMORIAL DAY

### HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 21, 2009*

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I wish to honor our fallen veterans this Memorial Day on May 25, 2009. Our veterans, as well as our troops, risked their lives and their livelihoods for their country and for our freedom. They deserve our utmost respect and appreciation.

Memorial Day was initially called Decoration Day. After the Civil War, Americans honored fallen soldiers in the Union and Confederacy by decorating the soldiers' graves. After World War I, Memorial Day became a day to honor all American soldiers who died in war. In 1971, Congress declared Memorial Day as a national holiday celebrated on the last Monday in May. Today, the national celebration of Memorial Day is held at Arlington National Cemetery. It is a ceremony of sincere solemnity, as well as one of great pride because it pays tribute to those who made the ultimate sacrifice while defending the American flag.

While we pay tribute to our fallen heroes, it is important that we also recognize those veterans who fought valiantly and returned home to their loved ones. Our nation's heroes who fought so bravely to defend the American Dream also deserve the opportunity to achieve it. According to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), on any given night in this country, between 150,000 and 200,000 adult veterans live on the streets, in shelters or in community-based organizations. Unfortunately, approximately 150,000 homeless heroes do not have access to the vital permanent housing and supportive services they need each year.

Last year, I introduced H.R. 3329: The Homes for Heroes Act to address this problem. My bill will provide shelter for homeless veterans and their families and help prevent low-income veteran families from falling into homelessness. On July 9, 2008, the Homes for Heroes Act passed the House by a vote of 412–9, but did not make it through both chambers. Fortunately, the author of the Senate companion bill, former Senator Barack Obama, is now the President of the United States. Therefore, I look forward to working with this Congress and our current President to pass this very important legislation in the 111th Congress. The Homes for Heroes Act will truly honor those who have sacrificed for our country by providing them with the assistance they deserve and have so deeply earned.

I ask all of my colleagues and fellow Americans to pause and observe the great sacrifice that our fallen heroes and veterans made for our beloved country. Our military men and women were there to answer their nation's call to duty and now our government must prove that we will be there for them. In words, deeds and actions, our nation's heroes have earned it. This is the least a grateful nation can do.

## THE 21ST CENTURY GREEN HIGH-PERFORMING PUBLIC SCHOOL FACILITIES ACT

### HON. PHIL HARE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 21, 2009*

Mr. HARE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 2187, the 21st Century Green High-Performing Public School Facilities Act.

Schools all over my district are struggling to find the money to pay for the most basic school repairs, let alone the funding to upgrade school facilities to meet the needs of 21st century learners.

It is estimated that the national need for school construction and renovation is somewhere between $100 billion and $300 billion. While school construction funding has traditionally been a State and local responsibility, the magnitude of the challenge warrants a small Federal role—a role that could help Lewistown Community High School in my district repair a leaky roof and replace World War II era equipment.

The bill before us authorizes $6.4 billion to address unmet school modernization needs. Additionally, the bill guarantees that our nation's lowest-achieving school districts receive a minimum grant of $5,000 for school enhancement projects.

I am also pleased that this bill encourages schools to make energy efficient improvements. By dedicating the majority of funds to green building projects, H.R. 2187 will save schools an average of $100,000 each year in energy costs alone—enough to hire two additional full-time teachers, purchase 5,000 new textbooks, or buy 500 new computers.

Education infrastructure is not an expenditure, it is an investment in our Nation's future. Many of our students are being taught in unsafe and unhealthy conditions that make high-quality learning impossible. H.R. 2187 turns crumbling schools into environments ripe for learning.

Madam Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to vote for H.R. 2187.

## HONORING POLICE OFFICERS AND LAW ENFORCEMENT PROFESSIONALS DURING POLICE WEEK

SPEECH OF

### HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 19, 2009*

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 426, a resolution that honors and celebrates National Peace Officers' Memorial Service Observance Day on May 15, 2009 and National Police Week, May 11–15, 2009.

President John F. Kennedy first proclaimed May 15th as National Peace Officers' Memorial Day. Every year on this day, we celebrate the lives and honor the deaths of our fallen law enforcement officers. We also recognize the important role that our peace officers play in the daily lives of all citizens, and the responsibilities, hazards, and sacrifices of their work.

As a former police officer, I salute those law enforcement officers who died in the line of duty in 2008 and continue to honor those police officers who gave their lives in past years. I join my colleagues on the Congressional Law Enforcement Caucus in urging continued support for programs, such as the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) program, to hire additional police officers and help law enforcement acquire the latest crime-fighting technologies.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and paying respect to our fallen heroes. In these difficult and changing times, we honor their work to protect our communities and families and promote safety and peace on our streets. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

## A PROCLAMATION HONORING CORPORAL CARLOS M. EASTERDAY FOR RECEIVING THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL WITH ''V'' DEVICE CITATION FOR HEROISM

### HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 21, 2009*

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Corporal Easterday was assigned as a Private First Class to Company E, 19th Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division; and

Whereas, Corporal Easterday was involved in a combat mission near Kumsong, Korea on August 8, 1951; and