

not only reduce our dependence on foreign oil, but also create hundreds of thousands of new jobs.

On this Earth Day, I also want to reiterate my commitment to ensuring that Congress fully funds Great Lakes clean-up programs. The Great Lakes are a national treasure and having spent my entire life living in or near Chicago, I have a tremendous connection to the Great Lakes; my home in Evanston is only a few blocks from Lake Michigan.

As anyone who has spent any considerable amount of time in a Great Lake state knows, the Lakes are more than just a group of fresh water lakes—they play a significant part in shaping our way of life, our traditions, and our future. In addition to its sentimental value, the Great Lakes, including Lake Michigan, serve as an important resource, providing 20 percent of all the surface water in the world.

RECOGNIZING THE 2010 RECIPIENTS OF THE MCGOWAN COURAGE AWARD

**HON. JIM JORDAN**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 29, 2010

Mr. JORDAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to share positive stories about young people from my congressional district who overcome adversity. Today, I am pleased to share the stories of seven such individuals.

Nella Blackford, St. Peter's High School. Coping with many physical difficulties stemming from the effects of spina bifida and numerous surgeries, Nella is an inspiration to everyone at her school, where she participates in the volleyball and softball programs. She is undertaking an advanced placement course load and was active in her school's spring musical.

Steven Broeske, Clear Fork High School. Steven has earned the respect of his peers and teachers for the selfless way he deals with cystic fibrosis. He prides himself on his independence and goal-oriented work ethic, carrying a demanding workload in the classroom and dedicating countless hours to his school's Future Farmers of America chapter.

Jackie Bucksbaum, Ontario High School. Jackie's positive attitude in dealing with a lymphatic disorder is a model to her fellow students, who admire her leadership skills. Although challenged recently by medical emergencies and some family-related setbacks, she maintains an aggressive academic schedule and plans to continue her studies at the University of Findlay.

Christian Lauber, Madison Comprehensive High School. Despite the physical challenges presented by cerebral palsy, which he has dealt with since birth, Christian is active in numerous sports. He also enjoys participating in his school's media and technology programs and plans to study business and computer technology in college.

Michael Lupo, Mansfield Senior High School. Michael has worked through many autism-related difficulties in recent years with the assistance of family members and his teachers. He excels as a mainstreamed student—especially in his mathematics and science classes—and routinely ranks in the top ten percent of his class.

Timothy Ritchey, Lexington High School. Tim was diagnosed with Hodgkin's Lymphoma earlier this year and has been undergoing monthly chemotherapy treatments. Although he has missed many school days as a result, he has kept up-to-date on his studies and continues to work in his school's athletic department. Tim plans to study nursing.

Travis Stone, Crestview High School. In addition to his many academic achievements, Travis has amassed 73 career wins as a four-year varsity starter on the wrestling team—all this despite a birth defect that affected the development of his arms and hands. He received the 2010 Team Attitude Award and was ranked third in his conference.

Madam Speaker, the Rotary Club of Mansfield, Ohio, will present these seven students with the McGowan Courage Award on May 11. I am proud to join the Rotary in acknowledging their significant achievements and wishing them continued success in everything they do.

INTRODUCTION OF THE STARTUP VISA ACT OF 2010

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 29, 2010

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing the StartUp Visa Act of 2010, the companion bill to Senator JOHN KERRY's bipartisan legislation of the same name, which he introduced with Senator RICHARD LUGAR this past February.

What do American household names such as Google, eBay and Proctor & Gamble have in common? They are all former start-ups founded by immigrants.

In 2009, the percentage of U.S. residents creating new domestic companies fell to 8 percent from 12.4 percent in 2005. Over the same period, the percentage of residents in foreign countries creating new companies rose to 11 percent from 8.7 percent. Despite this trend, our current visa laws have made it unnecessarily difficult for immigrants to launch new companies in the United States. I am introducing the StartUp Visa Act of 2010 because the economic dynamism of foreign-born talent has always been a crucial factor in our country's growth, and we must take steps to enable it to continue. By allowing immigrant entrepreneurs greater access to American visas, we truly can drive American job creation and channel the power of innovation.

Currently, the EB-5 category visa permits foreign nationals to obtain a green card if their efforts invest at least \$1 million into the U.S. economy and create at least 10 jobs. This bill creates a new EB-6 visa for immigrant entrepreneurs. After proving that he or she has secured initial investment capital (totaling at least \$250,000) and if, after two years, an immigrant entrepreneur can show that he or she has generated at least five full-time jobs in the United States, attracted \$1 million in additional investment capital or achieved \$1 million in revenue, then he or she would receive permanent legal resident status.

The entrepreneurial spirit is ingrained in our country's history and success. I believe that this legislation is a vital component of promoting our global competitiveness. We must

ensure a strong foundation for foreign-born, highly-skilled talent to create American jobs and promote economic prosperity and this bill works toward that end.

HONORING NATHAN T. WILSON

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 29, 2010

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Nathan T. Wilson, 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 249, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

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

SARAH STARNES NAMED SOCIAL WORK LEADER OF THE YEAR

**HON. DENNIS MOORE**

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 29, 2010

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to bring to the House's attention today the recent award of "Social Work Leader of the Year" by the Missouri-Kansas Chapter of the Society for Leadership in Health Care to Sarah Starnes, of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Sarah Starnes received a M.S.W. from the University of Kansas in 1977 and went on to receive a M.P.A. in 1984 from the same institution. After working with the Missouri Division of Family Services, the University of Kansas Upward Bound Program, Project New Pride/Kansas Youth Trust Upward Bound, and Transitional Living Consortium, she has spent the last nineteen years serving the interests of our veterans at the Kansas City VA Medical Center, where she works with them on a daily basis, doing casework, group work program administration, and community organization.

Active in politics during her free time, Sarah represents the best of comprehensive social work practice. As the NASW Code of Ethics states: "Social Workers should facilitate informed participation by the public in shaping social policies and institutions. Social workers should engage in social and political action that seeks to ensure that all people have equal access to the resources, employment, services, and opportunities they require to meet their basic human needs and to develop fully. Social workers should be aware of the impact of the political arena on practice and should advocate for changes in policy and legislation to improve social conditions in order to meet basic human needs and promote social justice."