

the 2nd Brigade, 1st Armored Division. Upon redeploying to Germany after fifteen months in Iraq, the battalion conducted reset and full-spectrum operations training in preparation to deploy again in late 2005.

From 2005 to 2007, LTC Williams returned to the Office of the Chief of Legislative Liaison to serve as the Legislative Assistant to the Vice Chief of Staff, Army (VCSA). He stood out amongst his peers and made himself an indispensable part of the VCSA's personal staff.

From 2007 to 2009, he was promoted to Colonel and led the division within OCLL that develops the congressional engagement strategy for the Secretary, Chief of Staff, Under Secretary, Vice Chief of Staff, and Sergeant Major of the Army. He performed exceptionally. He personally improved the Army's strategic communication with the Congress, and developed the engagement strategy and legislative objectives for the Army's Senior Leadership.

From 2009 to 2012, COL Williams performed duties as the Chief of Programs. He expertly led the planning of the Army's congressional engagement strategies between senior Army Staff leaders and Members of Congress, leading directly to a defense authorization bill that enhanced the Army's ability to recruit, retain, and reset the world's premiere fighting force.

Through these varying assignments, COL Williams provided outstanding leadership, advice, and sound professional judgment on critical issues of enduring importance to both the Army and Congress. On behalf of Congress, I thank COL Williams, his wife Helen, and his entire family for the commitment, sacrifices, and contribution they have made throughout his honorable military career. Congratulations on completing an exceptional and successful career.

IN HONOR OF MS. SYLVIA  
RUCINSKI

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 20, 2012*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Ms. Sylvia Rucinski who is being honored by the Polonia Foundation on October 7, 2012.

Born and raised in Cleveland, Ohio, Sylvia attended Miles Elementary School and graduated from Holy Name High School. She later attended Cuyahoga Community College and John Carroll University. Before beginning her 22 year career at the Alliance of Poles of America, Sylvia held a number of different positions. She previously held jobs with Harris Seybold, Grabler Manufacturing and several school and public libraries.

Sylvia has been a long-time and active member of the Polish-American community. She has been the director for the Alliance of Poles Federal Credit Union and Ohio Division of the Polish American Congress. She also served as the recording secretary of Circle 9 of the Alliance of Poles. Because of her unwavering service, Sylvia has been acknowledged by the Alliance of Poles as the recipient of the 2004 Meritorious Service Medal and Award and named the 2003 Grand Lady of Pulaski by the Polonia Foundation.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Mrs. Sylvia Rucinski and congratulating her as she is recognized by the Polonia Foundation.

HONORING MR. OLIVER SIEBERT  
OF CHESTERFIELD, MISSOURI

**HON. W. TODD AKIN**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 20, 2012*

Mr. AKIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Oliver Siebert of Chesterfield, Missouri. The French government recently awarded Mr. Siebert the Legion of Honor for his part in the liberation of Strasbourg, France. The medal and the accompanying title of Knight of the Legion of Honor is the highest military award given by the French government.

Mr. Siebert, just twenty years old, was an acting second lieutenant leading the 324th infantry battalion and the 220th field artillery in November 1944. American forces, operating jointly with elements of the French Second Armored Division under the command of Captain Jean Penet, fought across the Vosges Mountains in the French Alps throughout October and November 1944. On 23 November 1944 elements of the French Army entered Strasbourg and liberated the city.

Mr. Siebert's service did not end with the liberation of Strasbourg. While conducting operations in support of the assault of Hangviller on 27 November 1944, Mr. Siebert and a small group of American soldiers were captured by German SS soldiers disguised as U.S. troops. Three days later, after overpowering two SS officers and commandeering their car, he was able to escape and return to his duties as an artillery forward observer.

On Christmas Day 1944 a German shell landed not far from his forward observation post and caused severe damage to his right leg. German strafing of the ambulance that evacuated him that night caused further damage that would require extensive surgery and lengthy convalescence to repair. After treatment at several American military hospitals, Mr. Siebert was honorably discharged on 18 August 1945.

Mr. Siebert returned to St. Louis, earned a degree in mechanical engineering from Washington University and in 1948 married Virginia Turner, his wife now for more than 63 years.

I am truly honored to have the opportunity to share this heroic story. This son of a truck driver for Anheuser-Busch, despite initially being rejected for military service because he was "clinically blind", did not give up his quest to do his part to defeat Nazi Germany. And now, almost seventy years later, I join the French government in honoring his sacrifice and service to the French people and these United States.

Mr. Siebert, thank you. And may God Bless you and your family.

CONGRATULATING MR. DEREK  
CAVILLA FOR COMPLETING THE  
NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART'S  
SUMMER TEACHER INSTITUTE

**HON. DANIEL WEBSTER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 20, 2012*

Mr. WEBSTER. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize Mr. Derek Cavilla of Orlando, Florida, a teacher at Workforce Advantage Academy, upon his completion of the National Gallery of Art's Annual Summer Teacher Institute. During the National Gallery's six-day seminar, Mr. Cavilla intensively studied the foundation of twentieth-century art by examining the pioneering artists of French impressionism and post-impressionism.

In order for participants to be accepted in to the Gallery's Teacher Institute seminar, they must first complete a rigorous application process. Mr. Cavilla was one of only forty-five teachers from across the nation chosen to participate in this year's National Gallery of Art's Teacher Institute. From this seminar, teachers are able to return to their schools and students with new tools and ideas that will enhance education curriculum of all grade levels and subjects. The students of Central Florida are blessed to have such a dedicated educator as Mr. Cavilla.

On behalf of the citizens of Central Florida, I am pleased to recognize and congratulate Mr. Derek Cavilla on his acceptance to and successful completion of the National Gallery of Art's Annual Summer Teacher Institute. May his dedication to our nation's educational institutions and students inspire others to follow in his footsteps.

FIRST ANNUAL AMERICA'S  
FAMILY DAY

**HON. JOE BARTON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 20, 2012*

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on October 6, there will be an event taking place in Santa Monica, CA that I would like to highlight. This event will be the First Annual America's Family Day. The purpose of this event will be to celebrate families and to stress the importance of protecting and investing in our children.

On March 7, 2012, the Bi-Partisan Privacy Caucus, in which I serve as the co-Chairman, held a briefing to directly highlight H.R. 1895, the Do Not Track Kids Act of 2011. On our panel, we were joined by Nick Cannon, Spokesperson for Safe Communications, who shared the same passion of ensuring that our children are protected across all platforms. He graciously publicly endorsed H.R. 1895 and has decided to champion the cause by holding the very first America's Family Day.

I believe that Republicans and Democrats alike can agree that family is a sacred institution that deserves our time, energy, and devotion. I am blessed to have a loving wife, four wonderful children, two stepchildren, and five grandchildren. I want nothing more than to do my part to make sure they are secure, safe, and well protected. In this sentiment, I am