

"Our Red Cross Club is not just another school program, it's a mindset. A mindset to help anyone in need in any way you can, not because you know them, not for privileges, not for awards, but because in your heart you know you can help this person, you should help this person, so you will help this person."

Thomas Jefferson wrote, "It is part of the American character to consider nothing as desperate." Surely what Jefferson envisioned for his America were people like Janice Lufkin and Andrew Brownstein in Montgomery County; Dan Hagen and Edna Hendricks in Delaware County; and Ed Bittner and Debbie Dorito in Chester County—who have together put in over one century of service to people they will probably never see again, but who desperately needed their help, their shoulder, their kind words in their time of greatest need. These volunteers have served in every corner of this region, and in places like Biloxi, Pascagoala and New Orleans, at wildfires in California, tornadoes in the Midwest, bridge collapses in Minnesota, and hurricanes in Florida.

Jefferson was right—nothing is desperate, when you live in a country with people like them and the other 7,664 volunteers here at the southeastern Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Red Cross.

RECOGNIZING THE 25TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE ON PIPE AND TUBE IMPORTS

HON. JASON ALTMIRE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2008

Mr. ALTMIRE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 25th Annual Meeting of the Committee on Pipe and Tube Imports, known to many as the "voice of the industry" in Washington, DC.

The Committee on Pipe and Tube Imports has strong roots in western Pennsylvania. In fact, a number of local steel pipe and tube industry leaders—including Mr. James Feeney, formerly of Wheatland Tube Co.; Mr. Joseph Nowak, formerly of Cyclops Corporation; and individuals from Allied Tube and Conduit—created the vision of the Committee. Since its beginning, the Committee has worked closely with leaders in Congress to develop sound and fair trade policies that ensure U.S. trade laws are strengthened and maintained.

Throughout its 25-year history, the Committee on Pipe and Tube Imports has had many notable achievements, including the filing of over 100 antidumping and countervailing duty cases challenging unfairly traded imports; inclusion of steel pipe and tube in the President's Steel Voluntary Restraint Agreement program; and work on the enactment of trade legislation. It is obvious that this organization has made a significant and lasting impact on our nation's trade policies and through its advocacy has ensured a future for this important segment of the steel industry and its workers across the country.

I am honored to have this opportunity to thank the Committee's founding members, past chairmen, and staff for all of the amazing work they have accomplished on behalf of the United States steel pipe, tube and fittings industry and wish them continued success in the years to come.

HONORING JENNIFER AND JAMES GRIFFIN ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR MARRIAGE

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2008

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor two of my constituents who were married Saturday, March 8, 2008. Jennifer Lewis Fowlkes and James Sean Griffin celebrated their commitment to each other at a wedding ceremony held at the Griffin home in Land O'Lakes, Florida. A couple firmly dedicated to the Pasco County region, Jennifer works for Verizon, and Jeff is an entrepreneur.

As George Eliot once said, "What greater thing is there for two human souls than to feel that they are joined together to strengthen each other in all labour, to minister to each other in all sorrow, to share with each other in all gladness, to be one with each other in the silent unspoken memories?" Having known the Griffin family for many years, I know Jennifer and James' will have a lifetime of wedded joy ahead of them. I can only hope that their marriage is as long lasting and full of love as that of James' parents, Danielle and Jeff Griffin.

Madam Speaker, we should all be jealous of newlyweds like Jennifer and Jeff. Their lifelong journey began with the first step of a marriage ceremony, and they have yet to see the ups and downs and joys and sorrows that come with every union of man and woman. Their commitment to each other is one to be celebrated and commended and one in which I offer my congratulations and wish them well as they begin their new life together.

OPERATION IRAQI HEALING

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2008

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I wish to recognize the non-governmental organization Severus Worldwide and the work they are doing on behalf of the health and well-being of the Iraqi people through their project, "Operation Iraqi Healing."

Prior to the fall of Saddam Hussein's regime, Iraqi citizens suffered from a humanitarian crisis perpetrated by a totalitarian dictatorship focused on preserving power rather than providing for the citizenry. Following the liberation of Iraq, remnants of that broken system and the emergence of destabilizing violence created a scenario where the Iraqi people are in dire need of medical supplies and medical facilities to support a healthy nation.

While the American military and our coalition partners have worked hard to help build an infrastructure in the face of ongoing violence, our efforts have been impeded by an enemy that targets Iraqi infrastructure and an Iraqi medical community that has not been fully engaged. Thankfully, private organizations are stepping up and providing invaluable assistance.

Severus Worldwide's "Operation Iraqi Healing" brings together Iraqi physicians and med-

ical personnel along with civil affairs officers from both the U.S. Army and U.S. Marine Corps to provide the necessary funding and infrastructure to build, staff, and equip hospitals and clinics to serve the people of Iraq. This type of comprehensive strategy is needed, and I am grateful for Severus Worldwide's tremendous efforts on behalf of the Iraqi people.

The time to act is now. The success that can be achieved by strengthening the healthcare system of Iraq is two-fold. The people of Iraq will have the tools and resources to treat the sick and wounded. But, just as important, the stability that a strong and growing infrastructure can bring to this nation will be invaluable in helping the young democracy of Iraq flourish. The men and women of Severus Worldwide and the numerous other private and public organizations that have continued to contribute to a stable Iraq should be commended for their compassion.

RECOGNIZING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE MODERN STATE OF ISRAEL

SPEECH OF

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the contribution of the State of Israel as it celebrates its 60th anniversary as a vibrant and open democratic society.

Madam Speaker, my colleagues have already gone into detail about the accomplishments of the State of Israel, and how Israel has gone through an astonishing evolution since 1948. I echo many of their remarks.

I had the great privilege to live and work in Israel in the mid-1960s and celebrated Israel's 22nd anniversary by taking part in a 3-day walk from the shores of Tel Aviv to the hills of Jerusalem. Now I marvel with every visit at the extraordinary changes that have taken place.

With every visit to Israel and each article I read about events on the ground, I am reminded of the enormous complexities and challenges Israel faces—internal as well as external. So we must ask ourselves, what will the future bring for Israel? How can Israel reconcile the great contradictions that its victories from the 1967 war delivered and address the occupation of Palestinian territories that now threatens Israel's very existence as a democratic state with a Jewish majority?

Israel has sought peace with its neighbors and made some progress toward peace with neighboring Arab states. Today, with Gaza controlled by HAMAS and the West Bank by the Palestinian Authority, Israel still lacks a real partner for peace. However, this does not mean efforts for peace should not continue. . . . and this does not mean that the United States should not play an active leadership role in the region.

We must continue our strong support for Israel's very right to exist while continuing to bring life to the peace process between Israel and its neighbors. Our assistance must be a sustained diplomatic effort, on the ground in both Israel and the territories, so we can maximize every effort for dialogue and concrete negotiations.

Addressing these concerns will not be easy, but I remain hopeful that Israel, her neighbors, and the U.S. can get the peace process back on track and that Israel will continue to thrive as a vibrant and open democratic society.

I join my colleagues in recognizing Israel's 60th Anniversary.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. DEVONG PECK

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2008

Mr. Castle. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize Mr. DeVong Peck, who was nominated to be the 2008 Delaware Boys & Girls Club Youth of the Year.

The Boys & Girls Clubs of America and the Reader's Digest have nationally sponsored the Youth of the Year program since 1947. The goal of Youth of the Year has been to recognize outstanding members of the Boys & Girls Club and their contributions to their club, community, school, and family. More than 32,000 youth are served by the Boys & Girls Clubs of Delaware.

Twelve students were nominated for the honor of Youth of the Year through an intensive local and state level selection process, including the nominees' personal contribution to home and family, community, school and their Boys & Girls Club. The nominees had to prepare two essays explaining why post-high school education is important and what the club means to them. Additionally, students had to prepare a 3–5 minute speech and have an interview session with a panel of judges. The candidates attended the Youth of the Year Summit, where they received professional guidance regarding public speaking, writing, and interviewing skills.

After winning the local Youth of the Year award, DeVong moved onto the state level competition, where he refined his essay and prepared for the next round of interviews. DeVong was a highly qualified candidate for the Youth of the Year 2008. He won the Governor's Youth Volunteer Service Award, the Robert Taylor Character and Leadership Award, and the Dover High School Superstar Award. At the Welsey College Boys & Girls Club, DeVong is a member of the Keystone Club and an active volunteer with numerous other organizations.

Once again, I would like to commend DeVong Peck for being nominated as the Boys & Girls Club of Delaware's Youth of the Year.

JOINT SESSION ADDRESS BY IRISH TAOISEACH BERTIE AHERN

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2008

Mr. WALSH of New York. Madam Speaker, I was deeply honored to accompany my good

friend and partner in peace Bertie Ahern before one of his last and most prestigious official engagements, less than a week before he stands down from office.

Taoiseach Ahern is one of the finest public servants I have ever known. For more than 30 years he has served his community and the people of Ireland valiantly and with a prevailing sense of civic duty. Bertie Ahern's persistence led to the signing of the Good Friday Accord, the St. Andrews Agreement and more than a decade of prosperity for Ireland. I believe that will be the hallmark of his legacy: commitment to peace, prosperity and progress.

As a fellow elected official who will also be transitioning back into private life, I wish him and his family well in whatever future endeavors they choose to undertake.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE INAUGURAL FLIGHT OF EMERALD COAST HONOR FLIGHT

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2008

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, it is a great honor for me to rise today to recognize the Inaugural Mission of Emerald Coast Honor Flight on April 30, 2008. The organization's efforts serve as a much-deserved tribute to our Nation's veterans.

Emerald Coast Honor Flight was established as a regional program in my district in Northwest Florida to fly World War II veterans to Washington, DC, for one day and give them a chance to see the memorials specifically dedicated to the conflicts in which they bravely served. The organization is privately funded, and with the support of individuals and businesses alike, the trip is made at absolutely no cost to the veteran.

The Emerald Coast is well-known for its unwavering support for our men and women in uniform in both current and past conflicts. With a strong military presence and nearly 110,000 veterans, there is a tremendous appreciation in the area for those who put their lives on the line to defend liberty. It is therefore of little surprise to me that people throughout Florida's First Congressional District came together so willingly and eagerly to make this day a reality. For many of our veterans, especially World War II veterans who have waited so long for a memorial, this will be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. The Greatest Generation made our world a better place because they fought for what was right, and it is right for us to show them our gratitude at every opportunity.

Our men and women in uniform have always stood ready to defend liberty, and for that we owe them an eternal debt of gratitude. I am deeply moved by Emerald Coast Honor Flight's efforts to convey to these veterans the knowledge that their service will be long remembered and appreciated.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I would like to recognize the efforts of all who worked toward making this inaugural flight possible. The goal of Emerald Coast Honor Flight is noble and commend-

able, and I look forward to many more flights being made by this organization.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DANE BRITTON

HON. JERRY MORAN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2008

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a man who positively influenced the future of central Kansas and in the process touched the lives of thousands of his fellow citizens.

It is a privilege for me to pay tribute to the life of Mr. Dane Britton of Ellsworth, Kansas.

As Kansans, we are dutifully aware of our State motto, *Ad Astra Per Aspera*, which translates, "To the Stars Through Difficulties." Dane lived this theme with passion.

In 1975, at only 23 years of age, Dane was named Police Officer of the Year for Houston, Texas. Five years later, Dane returned home to Ellsworth to serve as president and chief executive officer of Citizens State Bank—representing the third generation of his family's leadership at the bank. At the same time, Dane stepped forward as a civic leader in his hometown. He was instrumental in securing construction and expansion of the Ellsworth Correctional Facility. His efforts helped bring Cashco, a manufacturing firm, to the community and helped prevent closure of the Independent Salt Company in Kanopolis, Kansas. Dane also provided leadership for construction of the local Performing Arts Center and the Ellsworth Fire Station. As a member of the Ellsworth City Council, Dane led an effort to establish 911 emergency services to the community. He also served as chairman of the board for Smoky Hills Public Television.

In 1988, Dane was appointed Director of Security and Drug Enforcement for the U.S. Department of the Interior. In that role, he oversaw law enforcement responsibilities for all interior department lands—including two presidential emergency centers. In 1992, Dane was selected as one of two Eisenhower Fellows and in so doing became the first Kansan ever chosen for this honor.

Later, Dane moved to Salina, Kansas, where he worked as a stock broker and again established a leadership presence in the community. Dane was elected chairman of the Salina Planning Commission and served on the Salina Community Theater Board of Directors.

Dane touched the lives of many people. His civic leadership was marked by strategic thinking, passion and a willingness to work to make certain that good things happen.

"What he did for Ellsworth was incredible," said Nick Slechta, director of the Ellsworth Chamber of Commerce and a longtime friend of Dane's. "He was very proficient in everything he did. He put so much gusto into every part of his work." I can think of no finer tribute.

Dane's dedication to his community, the State of Kansas and our country was exceptional. I join Dane's many friends and admirers in extending my deepest sympathies to his family during their time of loss.