

Mr. Speaker, Matthew Nonnemacher represents the best of Northeastern Pennsylvania. Matthew was once asked why he wanted to help the poor and his answer was plain: "So the poor can have everything that we have—like food, clothes, and a place to stay." I am glad the White House has recognized Matthew's achievement by inviting him to the White House Conference on Philanthropy. Matthew's dedicated parents, John and Sandi, also deserve praise for their heroic efforts to guide and help their son.

I am pleased to have this opportunity to bring Matthew's achievements to the attention of my colleagues and wish Matthew the best in his future philanthropic efforts.

#### A VERY SPECIAL MEMORIAL

### HON. MARTIN FROST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 20, 1999*

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I recently had the opportunity to participate in an extraordinary event in my Congressional District. The Ex-Students Association of Blooming Grove High School in Blooming Grove, Texas, recently dedicated a World War II memorial listing the names of all area residents who had served in our armed forces in World War II.

What made this event so extraordinary is that the memorial contains the names of 324 men and women, and two German Shepherds. These 324 men and women served in the military from a town of less than 1,000 in population. I can't imagine that any community of comparable size anywhere in America contributed as many of its sons and daughters to the war effort between 1941 and 1945.

Of the 324 from this remarkable Navarro County community, a total of 15 lost their lives. Additionally, a tremendously high number of the soldiers, sailors, and airmen from Blooming Grove were officers, with 37 holding officer rank. One of these 37, Ray Morris, rose to the rank of Admiral.

Two dogs, "Snitch" Lane and "Jack" Garrison were pressed into duty as sentries. Bruce Lane, one of the driving forces behind the creation of the memorial, was only eight years old when his German Shepherd, "Snitch," was drafted by the Army. Bruce remembers how the dog's handler wrote letters home on a regular basis, letting him know that "Snitch" was OK.

The memorial, which was dedicated on October 16th, consists of five pieces of Georgia gray granite inscribed with the names, rank, and branch of Blooming Grove residents who served during World War II.

Members of the committee that raised money to construct the monument included Jean Hinkle, Alice Bell, Bob Lane, Bruce Lane, Jack McGraw, Ralph and Reba Ferrell, Shelby Thedford, Brad Butler, and Earl Smith. The committee overseeing construction included Bob Lane, Dana Stub, Loyd and Mary Gowd, and Helen Farrish. The beautification committee for the memorial included Terry Golden, Jean Hinkle, Bruce Lane, Elaine Campbell, and Alynne McCormick. They are all to be commended for their efforts in erecting this memorial.

Every community that contributed to the war effort should have a memorial to those who

served, but few towns are as deserving of a memorial as Blooming Grove. Communities like Blooming Grove won the war and helped save the world for democracy. It is highly appropriate that Blooming Grove residents' service has been recognized with a very special memorial.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 20, 1999*

Mr. JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on October 19, 1999, I inadvertently voted "no" on final passage of the Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act (RC 513). This bill is very important because it will make it easier for the disabled to re-enter the workforce and be productive members of society. America is about freedom, and that includes the freedom to work and not be penalized because of a disability.

I strongly supported this bill when the Committee on Ways and Means approved it, and I hope the President signs the bill when it reaches his desk.

#### COMMENDING THE COLCHESTER LIONS CLUB FOR FIFTY YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

### HON. SAM GEJDENSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 20, 1999*

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend members of Lions Club of Colchester, Connecticut for fifty years of service to their community.

The Club, formed on August 2, 1949, provides support to a wide array of activities in Colchester. It has a long-standing commitment to young people through its sponsorship of sports leagues and the creation and expansion of scholarship programs. Members of the Club work hard each and every year to provide vital support to local food banks. In addition, the Colchester Lions Club has been a leader nationwide in raising funds to eradicate preventable causes of blindness. In 1993, the Club was recognized by its national organization as one of forty "model clubs" in the country for its successful work in support of this effort.

The Lions Club might be most well-known in town for decorating and lighting a large Christmas tree on the town green. Some of the founding members of the Club planted this tree forty years ago and successive generations of members have tended it. Much like the tree, the Club has grown and flourished and become a central part of the community.

Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to congratulate the Colchester Lions Club on its Fiftieth Anniversary. I am confident that it will continue to play a vital role in Colchester for many years to come.

TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN THOMAS G. OTTERBEIN, USN

### HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 20, 1999*

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and say farewell to an outstanding Naval Officer, Captain Thomas G. Otterbein, as he prepares to retire upon completion of 29 years of distinguished service. It is a privilege for me to honor his many outstanding achievements and commend him for his devotion to the Navy and our great Nation.

A native of Bad Axe, Michigan, Captain Otterbein is a graduate of the United States Naval Academy, Class of 1970. After receiving his commission, he completed flight training and was designated a Naval Aviator in 1973. His first operational tour was with Fighter Squadron 111 flying the F-4 Phantom II, where he made deployments to the Mediterranean Sea and Western Pacific Ocean aboard USS *Franklin D. Roosevelt* (CV-42) and USS *Kitty Hawk* (CV-63) respectively. Upon completion of F-14 Tomcat training, his next sea tour was with Fighter Squadron 51, where he made an around the world cruise aboard USS *Carl Vinson* (CVN-70). In recognition of his superior aeronautical skills and leadership abilities, Captain Otterbein was selected for F/A-18 Hornet training and subsequently became the Executive Officer of Fighter Squadrons 161 aboard USS *Midway* (CV-41). Following that tour, he was the Executive Officer of Fighter Squadron 195 and had command of that squadron for eighteen months.

Captain Otterbein successfully completed Nuclear Power Training and was soon back in the fleet, serving as Executive Officer of USS *Theodore Roosevelt* (CVN-71). He subsequently assumed command of USS *Nashville* (LPD-13) and led the ship through Operations Support/Uphold Democracy in Haiti, earning the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal and Battle Efficiency "E" Award. The crowning achievement of his career came when he reported as Commanding Officer, USS *Harry S. Truman* (CVN-75), leading the crew of our newest aircraft carrier through her sea trials and initial training operations.

Captain Otterbein completed shore assignments at Air Test and Evaluation Squadron 4, where he was the Operations Officer and Operational Test Director, and as the Executive Officer and acting Commanding Officer of the Navy Fighter Weapons School (Top Gun). He has also had tours on the staff of Commander, Naval Air Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet as the Safety Officer and as the senior aviation representative on the Chief of Naval Operations' Strategic Studies Group.

Captain Otterbein has been a dynamic and truly outstanding Naval Officer who has been a great mentor and a charismatic leader. He is a passionate advocate of the Sea Services and has devoted himself to caring for our Sailors in the Fleet and their families. His contributions and accomplishments will have long term benefits for both the Navy and the country he so proudly honors with his uniform. As Captain Otterbein prepares for quieter times with his wife Catherine Mary, I am certain that my colleagues will join me in thanking him for his many years of Naval service.

HONORING JAMES BOLAND OF WEST HAVEN AND ALL OTHER ALL-AMERICORPS AWARD WINNERS ON THE FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICORPS

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 20, 1999*

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a special anniversary for this country. Five years ago, President Clinton and a bipartisan majority in Congress created the AmeriCorps program. Since then, more than 150,000 men and women have devoted 1 or 2 years of their lives to getting things done for America—making our people safer, and healthier.

AmeriCorps is a bold and innovative approach to building the American community through national service. In exchange for their service, AmeriCorps members receive expanded educational opportunities. In the end, Mr. Speaker, it is our nation that wins.

America has benefited from this service in a wide variety of ways. AmeriCorps members have helped to build or refurbish 11,000 homes for low-income people. They are tutoring children in some of our toughest neighborhoods—more than 2 million at-risk kids have benefited from these efforts. They have contributed to the unprecedented decline in crime rates nationwide by working with law enforcement to establish 40,000 safety patrols. And AmeriCorps members in the National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) have gone to the sites of some of our Nation's worst natural disasters to provide assistance. There is an NCCC team on the ground today in North Carolina helping the victims of Hurricane Floyd.

As part of the AmeriCorps' fifth anniversary celebrating, 21 exceptional AmeriCorps members have been selected to receive the first annual All-AmeriCorps awards to honor exemplary community service. Awards were made in the following categories: Getting Things Done; Strengthening Communities; Common Ground; and Leadership.

One of the Getting Things Done award recipients is from West Haven, CT, in my district. His name is James Boland. Ten years ago, James was a homeless Vietnam veteran. Today, he is getting things done as a AmeriCorps member at the Veterans Administration's Connecticut Community Care Center—the very facility that took him in off the streets and saved his life 10 years ago.

The Community Care Center, or CCC for short, provides veterans struggling with mental illness, substance abuse, or homelessness with a continuation of community-based rehabilitation services. James is an important part of that care. He developed and oversees the CCC's mentoring and buddy programs, and he established and leads the monthly family dinners. He also conducts skills building group sessions for veterans in the CCC's day program. On top of all that, James works 20 hours a week as the property manager for four houses for homeless and mentally ill veterans—he is also the resident manager of one of the homes.

The CCC changed James's life. He has gone from living on the streets to being close to finishing his bachelor's degree from Charter

Oak State College. AmeriCorps will make it possible for him to continue this path of success. He plans to use his education award to go to graduate school.

Mr. Speaker, James Boland is proof positive of the value and success of the AmeriCorps program, not only for the opportunities it has given James, but for the care and compassion James has given to homeless vets. His is not an isolated story. Twenty other AmeriCorps members are being honored today. Let me briefly describe them and the categories of their awards:

GETTING THINGS DONE

Christine Packer was an AmeriCorps VISTA member and VISTA leader in Idaho. She helped start a statewide immunization effort that successfully boosted Idaho's immunization rate for 2-year-olds from 50 percent to more than 70 percent.

The highlight of Traci Chevaux's AmeriCorps service in Colorado was the creation of Smoke Free Sheridan. Traci brought together the local school district, school-based clinics, higher education institutions, faith based groups, the health department, community-based organizations, physicians and local residents to develop a program that would prevent and reduce the prevalence of smoking among school-aged children and their families in the town of Sheridan.

Lin Min Kong is an attorney who worked in South Central Los Angeles with low-income Thai immigrants and helped them turn a run-down old hotel into affordable housing with community space for social services, after-school programs, and computer skills development classes for children and families.

Toni Sage organized a tutoring and mentoring program at Parkview Elementary School in Salt Lake City. Alarmed by drug activity that was taking place two blocks away from the school, Toni worked together with her students, students from the University of Utah, and local community organizations, to turn the area into an urban green space.

STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES

Jack Bridges did his AmeriCorps service in Americus, GA, his hometown. He built houses for low-income people for Habitat for Humanity and started a reading and tutoring program for the Habitat homeowners' children.

Scott Finn spent 2 years as an AmeriCorps member in Big Ugly Creek, WV. In his first year, he worked with community residents to turn an abandoned school into a community center, and in his second year, Scott helped start APPALREAD, a childhood literacy program. During APPALREAD's first year, 82 percent of the children served improved their reading scores.

Tera Oglesby served with the Seattle Police Department's Crime Survivor Services Unit. Together with another AmeriCorps member, Tera developed the first Victim Support Team for the Seattle Police Department.

Anna Severens served as an AmeriCorps member with the classroom-on-wheels, a free mobile pre-school program operating out of a converted school bus. Her work in raising money for the program and expanding client referrals resulted in doubling the capacity of the program.

Byrnadett Frerker has done 2 years of AmeriCorps service. She spent her first year establishing Literacy Avengers, a computer literacy program for middle school students. The students then taught computer skills to their

parents. She spent her second year fighting fires and doing hurricane relief work as part of the St. Louis Safety Corps.

COMMON GROUND

Christy Hicks established and supervised a conflict resolution program for middle school students in Pontiac, Michigan training students as peer mediators. She then worked to expand the program to elementary school students.

Mark Payne is an AmeriCorps member who served in his hometown on the south side of Chicago with City Year and Public allies. Mark helped develop a mentoring program that recruited young African-American males as volunteers and role models for youth in the community.

During Jamie Lee Manning's 2 years with AmeriCorps, she distinguished herself as a leader and team builder who organized a 3-day service project to honor and celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King. The project involved parents and children from the diverse San Jose, CA community.

Trampas Stucker was a high school athlete who was paralyzed in a motorcycle accident. That did not stop him from graduating with his class the following year and joining AmeriCorps as a reading and math tutor for economically disadvantaged kids in his hometown of Tonasket, Washington. He also worked with "The New Kids on the Block," a traveling puppet show that taught kids about acceptance and celebration of diversity in race, gender, cultures, and physical disabilities.

During her first term of AmeriCorps service, Graciela Noriega and a diverse team of AmeriCorps members were assigned to do parks and recreation activities with young people in Orlando, FL. When the community did not accept the group at first, Graciela created "Culture Shock" a program that brought a diverse group of guest speakers to the community to participate in activities with local youth, sharing their culture through food, music, dance, arts, crafts, and dialog.

LEADERSHIP

Kyoko Henson joined AmeriCorps as a way to give back to the Pittsburgh, PA, community for the support it gave her as a single mother who escaped an abusive relationship. During her AmeriCorps service, Kyoko organized outreach projects to address community health needs, spearheaded clothing drives, served as a reading tutor and educator about community services and created a summer youth program.

Kelton Young did his AmeriCorps service in Fort Worth, TX, as a TRUCE specialist, working with young people in gangs, or who were at risk of joining gangs, to make positive decisions about their lives. Kelton helped to develop 18 TRUCE sites, each serving more than 200 participants.

Mason Jenkins was an AmeriCorps member and team leader for YouthBuild in New Bedford, MA. In addition to his work with YouthBuild, Mason joined the steering committee of a group formed to address teen pregnancy. He also helped establish Young People United, a youth group that successfully put on a citywide conference called "The City is Mine", to bring young people together to discuss the issues that are most important to them.

Maria del Mar Bosch did her AmeriCorps service in Puerto Rico, where she helped to