

working and dealing with a wide range of personalities of men involved in combat and the ongoing operations of an aircraft carrier in a war zone.

In 1971, Judge De Groot was released from active duty. For his service he was awarded the National Defense Service Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal, the Vietnam Campaign Medal with device and the Naval Reserve Meritorious Service Medal.

In May 1974, Judge De Groot graduated from Hastings College of Law in San Francisco with a Juris Doctor degree. Later that year, he was admitted to the California Bar and to the U.S. District Court, Northern District of California. He was employed as a police officer in San Mateo, California from 1975 until 1977 when he left the Bay Area to accept a position as Deputy District Attorney in Madera County. In July 1982, he became Judge, Justice Court, of the Chowchilla Judicial District. Eight years later, Judge De Groot was elected to Judge of the Superior Court, Madera County and served in that position until his retirement in December, 2008.

Judge De Groot is a Life Member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9896 and is currently serving as the Treasurer of the Chowchilla District Historical Society. He and his wife, Jeannie, live in Madera. They have three children and nine grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Judge John De Groot upon being named as a "Distinguished Life Member" by the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 9896. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Judge De Groot many years of continued success.

AUSTIN MOHNHAUPT

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2010

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Austin Mohnhaupt who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Austin Mohnhaupt is a 10th grader at Arvada West High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Austin Mohnhaupt is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Austin Mohnhaupt for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character to all his future accomplishments.

FBI USING DIGITAL BILLBOARDS
AS CRIME-FIGHTING TOOL

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2010

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, before coming to the Congress, I served seven and one-half years as a Criminal Court Judge in Knoxville, TN. During this time I tried numerous felony cases, therefore, I have taken a special interest in law enforcement activities.

Some people make the claim that "there aren't any new ideas," but rather recycled, re-packaged old ideas.

I would like to call your attention to the fact that the Federal Bureau of Investigation, FBI, has taken an old idea and made it better.

In the 1950s and 1960s when most of us were growing up, the FBI would put up little photographs inside the Post Office of its "Most Wanted" list. The idea was that someone buying stamps or mailing a package would recognize a wanted fugitive, and contact the authorities.

Nowadays, the FBI is using donated high-tech billboards to publicize fugitives and to ask for help from the public. The results have been dramatic, especially in my State of Tennessee.

In 2009, a fellow was robbing banks in Tennessee and other states. He was so brazen that he did not bother to wear a mask or to conceal his weapon. For four months, the authorities worked to identify this serial robber.

However, within 24 hours of the suspect's image appearing on digital billboards in multiple States, law enforcement got plenty of tips, identified the fugitive, and later apprehended him in Missouri.

The FBI special agent in charge in Knoxville said this case highlights the importance of cooperation between law enforcement and citizens on behalf of public safety.

Encouraged by the success of catching a serial bank robber suspect last year, the FBI is using digital billboards again to identify the "Granddad Bandit," suspected in 18 bank robberies in Tennessee and other States.

On February 17, the FBI announced that digital billboards helped capture an FBI fugitive in northern New Jersey.

Besides the FBI, other law enforcement agencies are also using this tactic. The U.S. Marshal based in the Northern District of Ohio said he was impressed with the speed, the reach, and the effectiveness of digital billboards. A sex offender who escaped from a halfway house in Mansfield, OH, was arrested within 24 hours after his picture was posted on digital billboards in multiple States.

I applaud these federal law enforcement agencies for innovative use of technology to empower the public to help protect our safety. I'll always remember those thumbnail pictures of the "most wanted" at the Post Office. But now I'll also be looking for fugitives' photos on 14- by 48-foot digital billboards.

BETTSABE MITCHELL

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2010

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Betsabe Mitchell who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Betsabe Mitchell is a 12th grader at Jefferson High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Betsabe Mitchell is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Betsabe Mitchell for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character to all her future accomplishments.

SUPPORTING THE MISSION AND
GOALS OF 2010 NATIONAL CRIME
VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2010

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my strong support for H. Res. 1104, Supporting the mission and goals of 2010 National Crime Victims' Rights Week to increase public awareness of the rights, needs, and concerns of victims and survivors of crime in the United States. I would also like to commend Congressman JIM COSTA, the sponsor of this resolution, for his commitment to increasing awareness of protecting the rights, needs, and concerns of victims and survivors of crime in the United States.

This resolution draws critical attention to the impact that crime has on the people of the United States. There are over 25 million individuals in the United States that are victims of crime each year, including over 6 million individuals who are victims of violent crime. Crime is a major part of everyday society. The effects of crime touch just about everyone to some degree; the primary group affected are innocent citizens.

According to a United Nations report, the United States is the leading country in financial loss due to violent crimes; the cost is estimated around \$45 billion. During a time of recession, this information sheds more light on the impact crime has on our society.

In Georgia alone there are over 422,589 crimes that are reported each year. The Georgia Bureau of Investigation, GBI, is working hard to provide the highest quality investigative, scientific, and information services and resources to the criminal justice community and others as authorized by law. At this time, the Investigative Division of the Georgia Bureau of Investigation is prioritizing its resources to combat violent crime in Georgia.