Thank you, Mr.Speaker.

I rise today to honor the Jersey City Fire Department. On September 19, the department received the 2008 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award, right here in Washington, DC, for supporting our Guard and Reserve. For deployments of twelve months, the fire department continues all benefits for service members and their families, as well as full pay for deployments up to six months. They have shown tremendous personal generosity by collecting $6,000 in phone cards to send to their co-workers and units serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. They also collect gifts during the holidays for the children of service members and help families that have fallen on tough times during deployments. I am so proud of the Jersey City Fire Department's dedication to their co-workers, to our community, and our Guard and Reserve. They are very deserving of this high honor.

Thank you, and I yield back the balance of my time.