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Representative Robert E. Andrews

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Honoring graduating high school seniors for their decision to serve the United States of America as a member of the Armed Forces

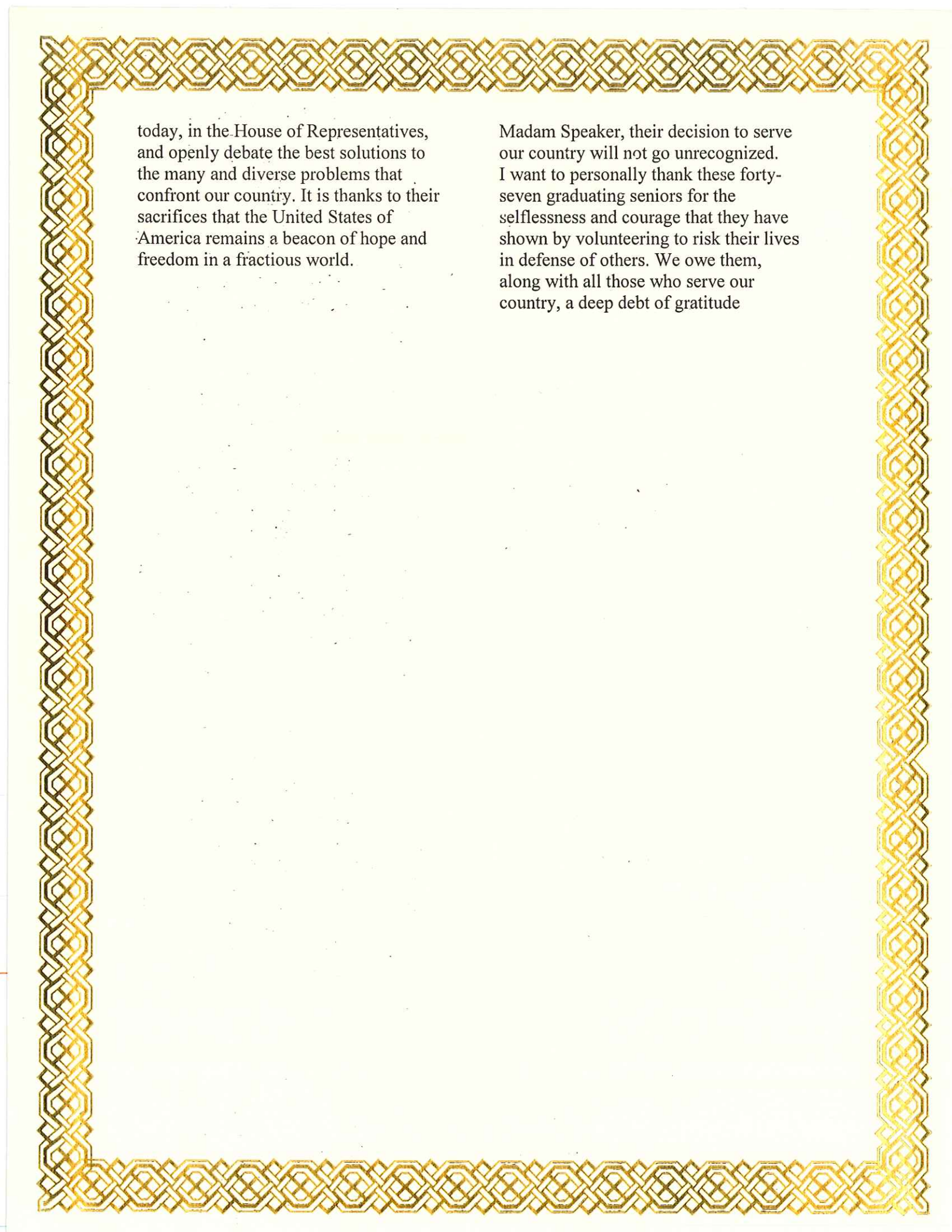
Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor forty-seven high school seniors in Camden County for their commendable decision to enlist in the United States Armed Forces. Of these forty-seven, ten are with the New Jersey Army National Guard; their names are Gabriel Gonzalez-Galarza, Baruch Zepeda, Adam Knight, Carlos Watson, Kourtney Scott, Esamuel Tutt, Louis Alcantara-Narvaez, Timothy Johnson, Resheena Whittington, James Sheridan. Sixteen have joined the Marine Corps; their names are Peter Cuoco, James Baume, Robert Distefano, Ashley Fitzgibbons, Nicholas Lentz, Kyri Chandle, John McConnell, Mark Wyatt, Natasha Rodriguez, David Nguyen, Matthew Deeney, Donato Cancelli, Daehan Bong, Erick Mistretta, Pedro Aldebol, Jasmin Ramos. Three have joined the Air Force; their names are Marc Eisenmann, Jade Bates, Efrain Cardona. Five have joined the Navy; their names are Matthew Wilson, Nicolle Morris, Wayne Young, Nicholas Lugo, Eric Jacot. And fourteen have joined the Army; their names are Chelsea Hunter, Erik Coates, Francis Ayala, Jacob Lambeth, Zachary Tavani,

Ryan Langley, Joseph Olivo, Alexander Gonzalez, John Wilson, Elizabeth Vollmar, Matthew Kline, Matthew Lincoln, Jacob Colman II, and David Reeves. All forty-seven will also be recognized on June 2nd at "Our Community Salutes of South Jersey."

Later this month, these young men and women will join with many of their classmates in celebration of graduation. At a time when many of their peers are looking forward to pursuing vocational training or college degrees, they instead have chosen to dedicate themselves to military service in defense of our country.

Naturally, many may be anxious about the uncertainties that may await them as members of the Armed Forces. But, they should rest assured that the full support and resources of this chamber, and of the American people, are with them in whatever challenges may lie ahead.

It is thanks to the dedication of untold numbers of patriots like these forty-seven that we are able to meet here



today, in the House of Representatives, and openly debate the best solutions to the many and diverse problems that confront our country. It is thanks to their sacrifices that the United States of America remains a beacon of hope and freedom in a fractious world.

Madam Speaker, their decision to serve our country will not go unrecognized. I want to personally thank these forty-seven graduating seniors for the selflessness and courage that they have shown by volunteering to risk their lives in defense of others. We owe them, along with all those who serve our country, a deep debt of gratitude