HONORING EVdyna B LAAHaw Szczech

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH
OF OHIO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 25, 2004

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of my dear friend, Evelyn Blaha Szczech of Newburgh Heights, Ohio, as she gathers with family and friends to celebrate her birthday on February 7—eighty years young and as lively as ever.

With family central to her life, Mrs. Szczech and her late husband, Clarence T. Szczech, raised four children: Clarence, Roseanne, Robert and Brian. She is blessed with ten grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Beyond caring for her family, Mrs. Szczech has been an involved member of the community, and continues to dedicate her time and talents to many civic endeavors. For nearly fifty years, Mrs. Szczech has been an active member of the Democratic Party of Newburgh Heights since 1959, and has held all positions within the Party throughout the years, from entertainment committee member, to treasurer, to president.

With a quick and agile mind, and an equally energized spirit, Mrs. Szczech continues to volunteer her time and talents in service to her community. She continues her involvement in the Democratic Party of Newburgh Heights, and serving on the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections—as she has for the past fifty years. She also continues to serve as a member of the Executive Committee of the Cuyahoga County Democratic Party and is President of the Golden Agers of Newburgh Heights.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor of Evelyn Blaha Szczech, in joyous celebration of her 80th birthday. Mrs. Szczech continues to be an inspiration to everyone in her life—especially to her family and friends. Her loyalty, friendship, convictions, boundless energy, joy, and good works are invaluable gifts to all of us. We know her well, and her dedication and work has uplifted the Village of Newburgh Heights, and our entire community. We wish her continued health and happiness today, and all days to come.

CONGRATULATING THE HONORABLE JACK TILLMAN ON HIS ELECTION AS PRESIDENT OF THE ALABAMA SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION

HON. JO BONNER
OF ALABAMA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 25, 2004

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise to honor the Honorable Jack Tillman, Sheriff for Mobile County, Alabama, on the occasion of his being elected as president of the Alabama Sheriffs Association (ASA).

The ASA was designed to provide a professional network and a link for the sheriffs in Alabama's 67 counties. Along with providing this link for law enforcement officials throughout the State, the Sheriffs Association also serves as an important legislative tool for the State and Federal levels and advocates on behalf of its membership and their families. Since 1990, the ASA has also been actively involved with the "Jail Assistance Project," a program created to provide sheriffs, chiefs of police, and representatives of prison administrators with the tools to plan and staff new jail facilities, provide expert advice and assistance in evaluating correctional equipment, and develop training on various correctional issues.

Jack Tillman is very qualified to serve as the president of this organization and has an extensive background in the law enforcement field. On January 15, 2003, he was sworn in to begin his third term as Mobile County Sheriff. Prior to that, he served in the Mobile County Public School System as a Resource Officer. During his tenure with the school system, he successfully conducted numerous criminal investigations requiring collaboration with representatives from law enforcement agencies at the local, State, and Federal levels.

Sheriff Tillman's concern for and involvement in his community also extends outside the professional boundaries of the sheriff's office. He serves on numerous boards for civic and church groups and organizations dedicated to the young people of Mobile County. Along with his wife, Deborah, their children Brian, and Lindsay, and his many friends and colleagues, I wish to extend to Sheriff Jack Tillman my warmest congratulations on his election as president of the Alabama Sheriffs Association.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO FRAN WEAVER

HON. SCOTT McINNIS
OF COLORADO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 25, 2004

Mr. McNINIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise before you today to pay tribute to a remarkable woman from my district. Fran Weaver of Pueblo, Colorado passed away recently at the age of seventy-nine. Fran was a successful author and friend to many, and I would like to recognize her tremendous contributions to the Pueblo community before this body of Congress and this nation.

Fran was renowned for her devotion to education, and after raising her children, decided to return to college where she earned a degree in journalism. She delighted in writing her weekly column, "Midlife Musings," for The Pueblo Chieftain, as well as lecturing on national television and Crystal Cruises. She felt that old age should not be a reason to slow down, and, according to her former newspaper, "urged them to open themselves up to new experiences." As I reflect on Fran's accomplishments, it is evident that she heeded her own advice.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to rise before this body of Congress and this nation to pay tribute to the life of Fran Weaver. Fran's love of and devotion to her community is a true inspiration for us all. The Pueblo community and the State of Colorado will truly miss her, and my thoughts go out to Fran's loved ones during this difficult time of bereavement.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF MR. KENDALL P. DEXTER

HON. JO BONNER
OF ALABAMA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 25, 2004

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, Mobile County and indeed the entire State of Alabama recently lost a dear friend, and I rise today to honor him and pay tribute to his memory. Mr. Kendall Parker Dexter was a devoted family man and dedicated community leader throughout his life. Following his graduation from the University of Michigan, he joined International Paper Company in 1950 as a forester. After serving in various positions with the company in Mississippi, Mr. Dexter moved to Mobile, Alabama...
in 1955 and began work as a conservation for-
estor in International Paper’s Gulf Woodlands Region. From 1962 to 1974, he served as a member of the management development and public relations departments at the Southern Kraft Division headquarters. Beginning in 1974 and continuing until his retirement, he served as the division’s manager of governmental rel-
lations.

Along with his employment at International Paper, Mr. Dexter also served in various ca-
pacities as an outside consultant to the timber and paper industries, the Mobile Bar Pilots, and to representatives in both the Alabama State Legislature and the United States Con-
gress. He also served as president of the Paper Industry Management Association.

In the midst of his intense professional schedule, Mr. Dexter also found time to serve in many community organizations and on several boards of directors. He was actively in-
volved with the Boy Scouts of America and was an important part of the effort to organize and develop Camp Maubilla in Jackson, Ala-
bama. Mr. Dexter was also an active member of the Kiwanis Club, a past member of the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce, as well as a member of the board of directors of the Mobile Symphony and Civic Music Associa-
tion.

Mr. Dexter was also a proud veteran of the United States Air Force and served with distin-
tion during the Korean War as both a navi-
gation.

Mr. Dexter will be deeply missed by his wife, Lila Webb Dexter; his chil-
dren, John Kendall Dexter, David Parker Dex-
ter, Elizabeth Dexter, and Katherine Dexter Allen; his stepchildren, Lila McDuffie Bailey, Virginia McDuffie Siniard, and Hunter McDuffie, III; and 14 grandchildren—as well as the countless friends he leaves behind. Our thoughts and prayers are with them all at this difficult time.

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**TRIBUTE TO THE MARCELLUS GIRLS VARSITY SOCCER TEAM**

**HON. JAMES T. WALSH**

**OF NEW YORK**

**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**Wednesday, February 25, 2004**

Mr. WALTH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute to the Marcellus girls varsity soccer team. The team has had an outstanding season with a record of 23 wins, one tie, and one loss. They rose to become the section III class B champions, defeating Skaneateles, South Jefferson, and Ilion.

The team continued on to become the New York State Class B regional champions defeat-
ing Chatham and Potsdam and became State champions defeating Alden by a score of 4 to 2 and Oneonta by a score of 1 to zero. The girls were all named Channel 9 Athletes of the Week on account of their many accomplish-
ments.

In addition to their dedication to athletics, the team has also demonstrated outstanding academic achievement. All the girls on the team were selected as New York State Public

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**Paying Tribute to Frances Jones**

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

**OF COLORADO**

**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**Wednesday, February 25, 2004**

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise before you to pay trib-
ute to a remarkable woman from my district. Frances Jones of Pueblo, Colorado, passed away recently at the age of one hundred and eleven. Frances was dedicated to her family, and tried to live each day to its fullest. She will be missed by many and I would like to ask my colleagues to please join me in recognizing her amazing life before this body of Congress and this nation today.

Frances was born when Grover Cleveland was president, and went on to graduate from Central High School. She later helped found the Alpha Mu Delta Sorority, and married her best friend and soul mate John Jones. During World War II, Frances served as the chair-
woman of the local Red Cross canteen. She also remained active in volunteering her time for the greater good of her community and worked with the Pueblo Kennel Club for forty years, taught piano, and mentored young cub scouts before retiring at the age of ninety-six. She is survived by a son, Tom, and his wife Lillian, three grandchildren and five great-
grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to rise before this body of Congress and this nation and pay tribute to the life of Frances Jones. Frances’ love of family and serving her community are truly a model of living life to its fullest. The Pueblo community, and the State of Colorado will truly miss her, and my thoughts go out to Frances’ loved ones during this difficult time of bereavement.

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**In Honor and Remembrance of Roberto Ocasio**

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

**OF OHIO**

**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**Wednesday, February 25, 2004**

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Roberto Ocasio. His love for family, music and community has left an indelible mark upon our city, and his passing has created a significant void for all who knew and loved him.

Mr. Ocasio was born in New York City and raised in Cleveland. By the tender age of ten, he was performing in public, already greatly inspired by Latin music and jazz. He mastered several instruments along the way, including guitar, piano, clarinet and saxophone. As a young man, he left Cleveland for New York City to further his musical education, then onto Boston, where he studied at Berklee College of Music, mastering composing and arranging.

Mr. Ocasio’s Latin Jazz Project, entertain-
ted local and national audiences and won critical acclaim. For two consecutive years, Roberto Ocasio’s Latin Jazz Project was awarded the Cleveland Free Times Music Award for “Best Jazz Band.” More significantly than winning awards, Mr. Ocasio used his mu-
sical genius to reach out to the Hispanic com-
munity, offering instruction, song and hope by performing at schools, universities, churches and community events. Mr. Ocasio was hon-
ored as the “2001 Hispanic of the Year” by the offices of the United States Senate, in col-
laboration with Nuevos Horizontes Newspaper, for his exceptionally dedicated service to our Hispanic community.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and remembrance of Roberto Ocasio, who freely shared his gifts of music, warmth, wit and concern for others. His life was lived joyously and his gift of song and humanity has touched countless lives. I extend my deepest condolences to those who loved and knew him well—his wonderful family and many friends. Although he will be deeply missed, the lyrical song of Roberto Ocasio’s spirited life will resound in the hearts of everyone he loved and inspired—in today, and for generations to come.

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**CONGRATULATING THE HONOR-
ABLE ANN BESDOLE IN RECEIPT OF THE ASSOCIATION OF FUND-Raising Professionals 2004 Outstanding Volunteer Fundraiser Award**

**HON. JO BONNER**

**OF ALABAMA**

**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**Wednesday, February 25, 2004**

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise to honor the Honorable Ann Bedsole on the occasion of her being honored by the Association of Fund-
raising Professionals with the organization’s 2004 Outstanding Volunteer Fundraiser Award.

Senator Ann Bedsole has been a distin-
guished member of the Mobile, Alabama, community and a tremendous advocate for all of south Alabama for over three decades. In 1978, she was elected to the Alabama House of Representatatives and served in that capacity for one term. Four years later, in 1982, she be-
came the first woman ever elected to the Alabama State Senate, and was a candidate for governor in 1994.

During her career in the Alabama State Leg-
islature, Senator Bedsole was instrumental in the creation of the Alabama School of Math and Science in Mobile, Alabama. Working closely with fellow legislators and members of various agencies in state government, she was able to secure support for the institution and has provided a great deal of support since it opened in 1981. In her dedication since its inception, Senator Bedsole has served as both vice president and president of the ASMS Foundation Board of Directors.