

I wish particularly to honor these outstanding individuals in Bartholomew County: 1. Dennis Moats, Director, Emergency Management Agency; 2. Mark Gorbett, Sheriff; 3. Jim Bickel, CEO, Columbus Regional Hospital; and 4. Fred Armstrong, Mayor, City of Columbus.

These areas suffered greatly from tornadoes, heavy rains and flooding, creating a catastrophe that awaits a presidential response. But the catastrophe did not await the efforts of these individuals. And in response, they went above and beyond the call of duty, showing great poise while saving many lives and serving the people of their communities.

I also commend Governor Mitch Daniels and the many state government authorities who have been so instrumental in leading the state through this crisis. I strongly support Indiana's three requests for federal aid and renew my request to the President of the United States, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture to act promptly, make assessments, and declare an expedited major disaster for all 44 counties in the State of Indiana affected by the severe weather.

We need to speed the necessary relief to the families who have fallen victim to Mother Nature's fury and extend full federal assistance to Hoosier families, businesses and farms to include direct assistance to individuals, Small Business Administration Disaster Loans and emergency assistance loans from the Farm Service Agency.

Madam Speaker, Hoosier families and communities are hurting and need to know that help is on the way. I urge this Administration and my colleagues to focus their attention on this urgent Midwestern need for emergency relief.

TRIBUTE TO BUNYAN BRYANT

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2008

Mr. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Bunyan Bryant, Ph.D., for winning the 2008 Helen and William G. Milliken Distinguished Service Award, from the Michigan Environmental Council, on May 28, 2008.

Dr. Bryant is a national leader in the field of environmental justice. His work helped not only to identify the pressing need to actively protect our environmental resources, but it also helped to show the glaring disparities in the communities affected by such harm. He is the founder and director of the Environmental Justice Initiative at the University of Michigan's School of Natural Resources and serves as an Arthur F. Thurnau Professor at the school.

Bunyan Bryant is a pioneering figure in the Environmental Justice movement. His work helped to show the correlations between adverse environmental impacts and the disproportionate affect they have on the lives of the poor and minorities. This relationship and the need to actively address such disparities, forms the bedrock of the Environmental Justice movement.

Dr. Bryant has been more than just a strong voice for justice and the environment. He has been and continues to be a teacher, guide and mentor for his students. In his role as a

professor he has touched thousands of lives. His work has helped to shape the next generation of environmental leaders. Bunyan possesses a unique ability to connect with students individually and help them understand the difference their efforts will make.

I salute Dr. Bunyan Bryant for winning the 2008 Milliken Award. This honor is given to those who have demonstrated a lifelong commitment to the environmental movement and its goals of improving our world through action. Dr. Bryant is certainly worthy of this recognition and I appreciate any chance to recognize him. I honor Dr. Bryant for his tremendous efforts and a lifetime of sacrifice and dedication to a noble cause. I thank him for all that he has done.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CONGRESSIONAL CLUB

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2008

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to recognize the 100th Anniversary of The Congressional Club; the only club in the world established by an act of Congress. Since its founding in 1908, The Congressional Club has provided a nonpartisan setting for the spouses of Members of Congress to form lasting friendships and foster bipartisan collaboration on several projects benefiting our children and communities.

Each year, The Congressional Club hosts the First Lady of the United States for a luncheon and donates the proceeds to a selected charity. The First Lady's Luncheon is the Club's largest and most prestigious event of the year. My wife Julie is currently serving as 3rd Vice President of The Congressional Club and had the privilege of serving as Co-Chair of the luncheon this year, which hosted 1,800 guests including distinguished Members of the House and Senate, the President's Cabinet, and the spouses of the Supreme Court Justices. In honor of First Lady Laura Bush, the Club donated the proceeds from the 2008 luncheon to Ford's Theater; one of the most visited sites in our Nation's capital, celebrating the life and legacy of our 16th President Abraham Lincoln. Past recipients of the Club's charitable giving include mentoring programs, literacy programs, child care centers, and domestic shelters.

Over the past 100 years, The Congressional Club has been a home away from home for many of its members. The friendships made and memories shared will forever be cherished, and the community forever grateful for the kindness and generosity of The Congressional Club.

Congratulations to all members of The Congressional Club on 100 years of outstanding service and friendship to our Nation, and may your next 100 years be as memorable and rewarding as the first.

TRIBUTE TO MONICA BROWN

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2008

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, this Saturday the city of Lake Jackson, Texas, will celebrate the accomplishments of United States Army Specialist Monica Brown, who, at the age of 19, has already earned herself a place in the pantheon of Texas military heroes.

Specialist Brown was recently awarded the Silver Star, the nation's third highest medal of valor, because of her heroic actions in Afghanistan. Specialist Brown is only the second woman to receive the Silver Star since World War II.

On April 25, 2007, Specialist Brown was part of a four-vehicle convoy patrolling near Jani Kheil in the eastern province of Paktia when a bomb struck one of the vehicles. Upon seeing that her comrades needed help, Specialist Brown put aside concerns for her own safety and ran through insurgent gunfire and mortars to protect the wounded soldiers. Specialist Brown used her body to shield five injured soldiers as she administered aid and then dragged each of them 100 meters away to safety.

I am pleased to take this opportunity to salute U.S. Army Specialist Monica Brown and let her know how proud I, and all of Lake Jackson, are of her heroism. I urge all my colleagues, and all Americans, to join me in saluting Monica Brown and all the brave men and women serving in Afghanistan and Iraq.

RECOGNIZING STEVE BARR, AUTHOR OF THE WASHINGTON POST'S FEDERAL DIARY

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2008

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, this Friday an esteemed member of the Washington press corps—our friend, Steve Barr—will conclude his service as the author of the Washington Post's Federal Diary. For 29 years, Steve has served our region as a reporter with the Washington Post, and for the last 8 years he has written the Post's Federal Diary column, covering workplace issues within the three branches of the Federal government.

As someone who represents 58,000 Federal workers, I am especially grateful for Steve's work to make the Federal Diary a highly-valuable resource on the issues of greatest importance to our nation's civil service employees. For those of us monitoring the daily developments affecting our federal workforce, Steve's column has been required reading.

Madam Speaker, as we are well aware, our federal workforce is one of the best in the world, and in Steve, we could not have asked for anyone who recognizes that more. The quality of his work is a mark of the great pride and pleasure he so clearly possesses in his service to our public service workers. So while Steve's departure marks the end of an era at the Post's Federal Diary, I assure you that his contributions will long be remembered. I wish him the best in his future endeavors.