

friend, Bob Sega, by entering his name in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, the official record of the proceedings and debates of the United States Congress since 1873. Today, I pay tribute to Bob Sega for his advocacy on behalf of cancer patients.

Bob was diagnosed with cancer in 2005 and has undergone extensive treatments to combat the disease. Following his diagnosis, Bob resolved to not only fight his own personal battle with cancer, but also assist other suffering from the disease, ease the suffering of cancer survivors, and advocate for funds for cancer research.

Bob volunteered to join the Lance Armstrong Foundation's fight against cancer and has participated in several LIVESTRONG Challenges since 2006. The LIVESTRONG Challenges allow individuals and teams to help raise money for the Foundation by holding cycling events. Bob participated in his first 100-mile fundraising effort in Orange County, California, in June 2006. That year Bob raised over \$15,000 for the Lance Armstrong Foundation and was invited to the Ride for the Roses, the Foundation's main fundraising event, in Austin, Texas.

Following his first LIVESTRONG Challenge, Bob joined the Cyclists Combating Cancer Team and has been riding with them ever since. Bob has also participated in the Moad Skinny Tire Festival in both 2007 and 2008, a 4-day 200-mile event, the Portland LIVESTRONG Challenge, in 2007 and the Ride for the Roses in 2007. Bob also plans to participate in the Portland Challenge in October and next year he and his team are planning a ride that will start in a number of locations in the United States with all of them meeting in Washington, DC and culminating in the participants talking with their Members of Congress about cancer research.

In 2007, Bob rode over 4,800 miles and plans to complete 3,500 miles this year as well as raise over \$20,000 for the Lance Armstrong Foundation. Bob attributes his success to his grassroots methods, which include personal solicitation and sponsorships.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor my friend, Bob Sega. His advocacy on behalf of cancer research and treatment is commendable and his accomplishments with fundraising for the Lance Armstrong Foundation as well as riding over 7,000 miles the last 2 years are truly inspiring. I applaud Bob for all his success and wish him the best in his future endeavors.

CONGRATULATING DR. REGINA BENJAMIN FOR WINNING A JOHN D. AND CATHERINE T. MACARTHUR FOUNDATION FELLOWSHIP

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2008

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, I am proud to rise today to congratulate Dr. Regina Benjamin of Bayou La Batre, Alabama, for winning a 2008 John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation Fellowship. As one of 25 recipients of this year's prestigious "genius grant," Dr. Benjamin's star is rising on the national level even as she continues to work daily to

improve the lives of the people of south Mobile County and the State of Alabama.

Dr. Benjamin, a lifelong resident of Alabama, has dedicated herself to serving the underserved—providing high-quality medical care to shrimping communities of the Alabama bayou. When Bayou La Batre was devastated by Hurricane Georges in 1998 and again in 2005 by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, Dr. Benjamin rode from house to house in a pickup truck, caring for her patients one by one until her clinic could be rebuilt. Her dedication to serving her community stands out as an example for us all, and I am so glad she has been recognized by one of the world's truly prestigious foundations.

The MacArthur Fellowship is awarded annually to individuals recognized for "extraordinary originality and dedication in their creative pursuits and a marked capacity for self-direction." Fellows are awarded \$500,000 with absolutely no strings attached, a complement to the virtues of creativity and self-direction recognized by the foundation. Though Dr. Benjamin has not yet decided how she will use her grant, she is considering a program to help lower-income students pursue careers in medicine. It would be a worthy use of this award and truly a gift that would keep on giving.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the proud citizens of the First Congressional District and the entire State of Alabama, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Dr. Benjamin on her MacArthur Fellowship. I know I speak for all my colleagues in the House of Representatives when I say we can't wait to see what she does next.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF FREDERICKTOWN

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2008

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker: Whereas, the dedicated people of the First Presbyterian Church of Fredericktown celebrate the church's 200th anniversary with great joy; and

Whereas, occasions such as these illustrate the resiliency and determination of spirit a congregation such as this can have over such a long period of time; and

Whereas, it is the fond wish of this body that you will continue to be a model for worship and a beacon for hope to the destitute and that your presence over these two centuries has made the community a better place to live due to the contributions made by members of the congregation both past and present, therefore, be it

Resolved that along with friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I commend the congregation for your unwavering commitment to the residents of Fredericktown and recognize the tremendous impact the church and members of the congregation have had on the community over two centuries. With great appreciation and respect, we express great appreciation for your 200 years of service to the community and to the lives of those people you have touched.

TRIBUTE TO RUDY GARCIA-TOLSON

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2008

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, I stand here today to congratulate an amazing athlete who broke the world record time, winning him a gold medal, in the 200m individual medley in addition to winning a bronze medal in the 100m breaststroke at the Beijing Games of the XIII Paralympiad this summer. He was awarded 2 of the 99 medals the United States proudly won.

By the age of five, this brave young man had already undergone 15 surgeries as a result of having been born with pterygium syndrome, resulting in a clubbed foot, webbed fingers on both hands, a cleft lip and palate, and the inability to straighten his legs. However, having endured so much at such young age, he decided to have both legs amputated above the knee.

Mr. Garcia-Tolson took it upon himself to embrace these new prosthetic legs and began running, cycling and swimming. By 1999 at the age of 10 years, he had become the youngest bilateral amputee to ever complete a triathlon on his own. Within that same year, he also set his first national record in swimming.

In 2000 and 2001, Mr. Garcia-Tolson finished in first place in the Silver Strand Marathon. In 2002, he was a recipient of the Casey Martin Award which honors individuals with a disability fighting for the right to compete in sports. In 2004, Teen People Magazine names him one of "20 Teens Who Will Change the World."

In 2004, having just turned 16 years old, Rudy Garcia-Tolson received his first gold medal at the Paralympic Games by breaking the 200m individual medley world record. He continued his training as well as passion for sports by completing the Ford Ironman World Championship 70.3 in 2006. Not long after, he broke the world record swimming the 200m individual medley at the 2007 U.S. Paralympics Open Swimming Championships.

As an athlete myself, I recognize the necessary courage, strength and dedication one must possess to triumph all that Mr. Garcia-Tolson has accomplished. Turning 20 years old earlier this week, he is to be celebrated not only for achieving the most impressive awards in his sport, but smashing world records along the way. More than anything, he is an inspiration to us all, conquering so much despite what hurdles laid in his path.

God Bless Rudy Garcia-Tolson for his talent, passion and love of country and mankind.

LOCAL HEROES

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2008

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with great appreciation and sincere gratitude that I take this time to honor three local men whose recent selfless acts have made them heroes to grateful communities in northwest Indiana. This exceptional group of heroes consists of