

space for nursing students. The Adlers' gift will help fulfill a critical need, felt both on campus and across the Nation, for an increase in facilities, resources, and educators to train our future nurses. The Nursing Programs at Ramapo College have clinical partnerships with Englewood Hospital and Medical Center, as well as The Valley Hospital. These unique partnerships allow students to experience some of the best nursing departments in the country. Ramapo College is one of the few institutions that offers a masters of science in nursing, which prepares nurses to serve as educators in their field.

Mike and Elaine are longtime supporters of Ramapo College. Amongst their many contributions, the Adlers have established an endowed scholarship program to ensure that financially disadvantaged students are not excluded from receiving a quality college education. Elaine serves on the Ramapo College Foundation Board of Governors, which exists to provide resources that will make a difference in the college's quest for educational excellence. In 1999, Mike and Elaine received honorary degrees and were recognized at Ramapo College's Distinguished Citizens Dinner. The Adlers are a true embodiment of the American dream. In 1949, they founded Myron Manufacturing in the basement of their home, and it has since grown into a large international corporation, based out of Maywood, New Jersey, within my congressional district.

Madam Speaker, today I would like to express my profound thanks to my dear friends Elaine and Mike Adler for their generous contribution to Ramapo College's nursing programs and for their lifelong commitment to serving their community.

CONGRATULATING MR. EDWARD L. BLACKSHEARE, SR. FOR HIS COUNTLESS CONTRIBUTIONS TO EDUCATION AND THE SANFORD COMMUNITY

### HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 29, 2010*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my dear friend, Mr. Edward L. Blacksheare, Sr., on being honored by the Crooms Academy Alumni Association, Inc. at its first-ever "Legacy of Hope and Love Banquet." This ceremony will honor Mr. Blacksheare's distinguished career as an educator and his countless contributions to the Sanford community. Mr. Blacksheare has always welcomed the challenge to serve the underserved, and it is this devotion that has earned him recognition from the Crooms Academy Alumni Association.

Mr. Blacksheare carries himself with integrity, respect, and dedication in everything he does for his profession and community. A look into his background shows just how successful he has been on both of these fronts. As a Sanford, Florida native, Mr. Blacksheare attended Crooms Academy, graduating in 1943. After college, Mr. Blacksheare came back to Sanford and began his career as an educator at Oviedo High School. In 1948, he returned home to Crooms Academy as a teacher, which marked the beginning of a long and illustrious career. Mr. Blacksheare was ap-

pointed assistant principal in 1960 and was elevated to principal in 1964. After serving as principal for 21 years, Mr. Blacksheare took a position with the Seminole County School Board before retiring in 1992 with 43 years of service in education.

In addition, Mr. Blacksheare is also a proud Kappa man. He was a great role model for me and others in our community, serving Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity in many leadership roles. In fact, I became a Kappa at Fisk University because of Mr. Blacksheare. When he found out that I had pledged Kappa at Fisk University, he was so excited. Years later, when I was nominated for Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity's highest award, the Laurel Wreath, he wrote one of the first letters to the Laurel Wreath Committee on my behalf. Brother Blacksheare truly knows the meaning of PHI NU PI.

Mr. Blacksheare is a man of great faith and excellent character. He is a man known for his many good works and his love for his students, family, and friends. As a Crooms Academy alumnus, I am grateful for the many years of guidance and leadership Mr. Blacksheare devoted to my alma mater. He has always displayed selfless compassion and a desire to help those around him. A student in the Class of 1976 described Mr. Blacksheare as, "a man of great strength and patience . . . a principal who is interested in today's youth, concerned with our welfare and our school." I can think of no one else more deserving of this tremendous honor, which will be bestowed upon him at the "Legacy of Hope and Love Banquet."

Madam Speaker, it is truly a privilege and an honor for me to recognize Mr. Edward Blacksheare, Sr., for his dedication to education, Crooms Academy, its students, and the Sanford community as a whole.

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. JOHN BOOZMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 29, 2010*

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 577, I was not present and am not recorded due to a family illness. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

CONGRATULATING THE 2010 PENN HIGH SCHOOL SPELL BOWL TEAM

### HON. JOE DONNELLY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 29, 2010*

Mr. DONNELLY of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Penn High School Spell Bowl team of Mishawaka, Indiana for winning at the Division I Indiana Academic Spell Bowl held at Purdue University on November 13, 2010. Penn won with a perfect score, and has now won or tied for first place in the Class I Division with perfect scores since 1999.

Spell Bowl team members included Maddy Anderson, Maaz Arif, Nitin Arora, Nisha Bhatt, Alex Cao, Christy Chang, Laura Harmon, Austin Heckaman, Leah Hershberger, Yifei Hu,

Jenny Huang, Richard Jung, Neena Kallookulangara, Marija Lapkus, James McGinness, Sheena Shah, Nithin Varadharajan, and Andy Wang. They are coached by Peter De Keever.

Mr. De Keever noted that their goal was not only winning, but doing so with a perfect score. He said, "They executed perfectly and all their hard work came to fruition." The team practices centered on repetition, and they wrote an estimated 30,000 words this season as part of the training. Again, I offer my congratulations to the members of the Penn High School Spell Bowl team for their accomplishments throughout the competition.

### TRIBUTE TO WALTER J. BECKERT III

### HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 29, 2010*

Ms. DeGETTE. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize the wonderful life and exceptional accomplishments of a remarkable man. This distinguished citizen possessed an impressive record of civic leadership and invaluable service. His achievements in making our city and state a better place merit our recognition and gratitude. It is to commend this eminent citizen that I rise to honor Walter "Uncle Walt" Beckert III.

Walt Beckert, "Uncle Walt" to all, devoted his time, skill and energy to making our state and our community a better place. Walt achieved a Masters in Bilingual Education, Curriculum Development and Administration from the University of Colorado. He served in the Peace Corps where he worked in Ecuador on bilingual education and curriculum development.

Walt was a labor leader and political activist who was in the vanguard of those dedicated to economic and social justice. As an AFL-CIO Colorado executive board member, former president of AFSCME Council 76, and Vice President of local 158; Walt was a union man through and through. Anyone who knew him was impressed by his unending spirit, drive and determination. Walt was an example of a true union leader in every sense of the term. Walt cared about all working people, not just those of his organization. His dedication and commitment to the labor movement was without question.

As a long time employee of the City and County of Denver as Director of Denver's Safe City Office, Walt worked to prevent violence by and against youth. His work allowed him to witness families that have fallen on hard times, whether by drugs, illness, or victimization. These experiences gave him a unique perspective in helping youth and were a motivating factor in his community service interests. These interests lead him to be appointed to the Governor's Commission on Community Service.

Walt was an invaluable member of any committee or endeavor. From labor union, to political party to the St. Patrick's Day Parade committee, he was always there with a smile and a hug and an attitude that made everyone want to work harder. He made every job look easy and fun, and with Uncle Walt it was.

Our thoughts and our prayers are with his loved ones. Please join me in celebrating the