

The Special Olympics recognizes that even though some people may have a disability, it does not mean they cannot compete and succeed in sports. The participants in the Special Olympics are shining examples of what motivation, desire, commitment, and strength of will can mean. They never let the fact that they may not have two legs, or two arms stand in their way. They know that even if they are mentally challenged they can succeed at whatever they work hard at.

I think it especially appropriate that we are also considering the Individual with Disabilities Education Act today. Few other Federal laws have ever had such a profound impact on a group of our citizens. It is a testament to our Nation that we have chosen to guarantee all our disabled citizens a free and appropriate education.

Disabled people have always known that given the proper education they are able to contribute to society and lead fulfilling lives. For too long, nondisabled people thought differently. I am pleased that we have come so far—and hope that we will soon see the day that there are no impediments to full inclusion of the disabled in everyday life.

The participants have trained hard and long for their competitions, and I hope all of my colleagues will join me in congratulating them.

IN HONOR OF REV. LARRY D.
MCCUTCHEON

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 1997

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Rev. Larry D. McCutcheon for his many contributions to the Florence, SC community.

Reverend McCutcheon came to Florence in 1990 to assume the pastorate of Cumberland United Methodist Church. Under his tenure, Cumberland Church has grown in membership and built a community outreach center to address a myriad of social, educational, and human needs.

A committed church leader, Reverend McCutcheon has held several important posts in the Methodist Church. Among these posts are: chairperson, South Carolina Annual Conference Health and Welfare Committee; dean, Ethnic Minority Local Church Pastor's School; and, registrar, South Carolina Annual Conference Pastors' Seminar. His affiliations include: Black Methodists for Church Renewal; Congregational Development Committee; and, the South Carolina Methodist Foundation.

In addition to his responsibilities as a church pastor, Reverend McCutcheon has been a community leader and has given tirelessly of his energy and time to numerous causes and organizations, including: president, Florence Area Religious Leaders; president, Florence County Democratic Party; and, vice-chairperson, Lighthouse Ministries. He is a member of many civic organizations, including: the NAACP; Partners in Education; the Mayor's Advisory Board; the United Way; Denmark Technical College Foundation; and, the United Negro College Fund.

Reverend McCutcheon will soon be departing Cumberland Church and the Florence community, and moving to Charleston, SC

where he will be district superintendent of the United Methodist Church. On May 18, 1997, Reverend McCutcheon will be honored by his church and the entire Florence community for his years of unselfish and untiring service. As the representative of the Sixth Congressional District of South Carolina, I join in saluting Reverend McCutcheon and wish him and his family godspeed and success in their new endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO EUGENE T. HORTON

HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 1997

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Eugene T. Horton, a dedicated educator who was taught social studies at the East Moriches School on Long Island for the past 33 years. When the school year ends this June, Gene will retire from the most noble of professions. As he departs, Gene leaves behind a proud legacy for the entire East Moriches community, a gift inspired by his love for history and a desire to impart that passion to each of his students.

A lifelong Long Islander, Gene Horton has given generously of himself to the East Moriches School, imparting his prodigious knowledge and love for history to his students. Rather than force the rote memorization of dates and facts, he brought his lessons to life, inspiring in his students his own abundant pride and expansive understanding of their American heritage.

Realizing that history is a living creature that should be experienced, Gene Horton organized an annual trip to our Nation's Capitol, providing his East Moriches students the opportunity to bear witness to America's own history as it unfolds. His enthusiasm for local history of his own Long Island community inspired many students to join him in developing the book "Strolling Through Old East Moriches." That pride in community extended outside the social studies classroom, inspiring many East Moriches residents to join him and his students in the now annual "Clean Up East Moriches" Earth Day project.

Gene Horton's love for local history has led to another career as an author and newspaper columnist. He has had three books on his home town of Blue Point published: "Blue Point Remembered" in 1982, "A History of Our Lady of the Snow Church" in 1985 and the "Centennial History of the Blue Point Fire Department" in 1990.

An admiring colleague offered this quote by the German philosopher Goethe to illustrate Gene's devotion to his profession and his students: "Happy the person who thinks of ancestors with pride, who likes to tell of their deeds and greatness, and rejoices to feel linked to the end of a goodly chain." As a teacher and American, Gene Horton is inextricably linked to that goodly chain, connecting him equally to those who founded and built this great Nation, and to the leaders of tomorrow to whom he has imparted his knowledge and affection for history.

So I rise, Mr. Speaker, to ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in honoring a man who has given so much to the children of East Moriches. Our Nation's

priceless heritage is truly cherished by the residents of this seaside community along Long Island's south shore, because for the past three decades its children have learned America's story from a gifted teacher whose love for story of his ancestor and a devotion to our American heritage links him forever to the goodly chain.

MOUNT VERNON LADIES' ASSOCIATION HOSTS WINE FESTIVAL

HON. GEORGE P. RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 1997

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, congressional colleagues and friends in the U.S. wine industry, I rise today to commend the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association for hosting the first-ever Wine Festival and Sunset Tour of the historic Mount Vernon Mansion, home of our first President, George Washington, May 16, 17, and 18, 1997.

As the first vintner to have the honor of serving in our Nation's Congress since Thomas Jefferson and as the Toastmaster for the opening night of this 3-day event, I wish to announce that my office has been notified that, among the distinguished public planning to attend this event, both Gen. George Washington and Thomas Jefferson will be present.

Twelve of Virginia's award-winning wineries will be pouring samples of their finest wines. The special tour of the Mansion will offer a new special view of the Washington family's hospitality frequently enjoyed by friends, colleagues, and foreign leaders of the period, including a first-ever look at the Mansion's cellar where Washington stored his wines. The participating Old Dominion wineries in this event are Barbourville Vineyards & Historic Ruins, Chateau Morrisette, Gray Ghost Vineyards, Horton Cellars Winery, Ingleside Plantation Vineyards, Jefferson Vineyards, Lake Anna Winery, Oasis Winery, Prince Michel Vineyards, Tarara Vineyard & Winery, Williamsburg Winery Ltd., and Wintergreen Vineyards & Winery.

When George Washington was not meeting the call of the Nation in leading our Continental Army toward independence and the incomparable responsibilities of establishing our fledgling democratic institutions, he remained at heart an agriculturalist, interested in all sectors of farm economy.

Based on his own observations during his travels along the eastern seaboard of America "the spontaneous growth of the vine . . . bent under the weight of the ripe grapes," Washington was inspired to make repeated attempts at planting both native American vines and cuttings brought from Europe.

But, not unlike what Thomas Jefferson faced—the humidity of the region, lack of knowledge of vineyard management and the technology of dealing with pests and plant diseases, these attempts failed.

Our Nation had to wait some 200 years before the knowledge of modern viticulture and enology practices would allow the American wine industry to develop into one that is presently recognized internationally, with a strong competitive presence in the world market.

I wish to commend the work of Mount Vernon staffers, management, and the event's

wine consultant, Gordon W. Murchie, a friend and industry spokesman, for presenting to the American public the proper image of the U.S. wine industry as being a part of our Nation's history, culture, and commerce. Public education that promotes "responsible moderate consumption of wine as part of a healthy adult diet and life style" is the message the U.S. wine industry and I wish to convey.

I am sure the Mount Vernon event will help further promulgate the message that wine is a beverage to be enjoyed in moderation with food, friends and in all manners of social occasions, but never abused.

FACTS AND FIGURES

NATIONAL RANKING

12th among farm wine and commercial grape growing states.

6th among vinifera wine growing states.

	1979	1997	Percent increase
Growth:			
No. of wineries	6	49	700
Acreage	286	1500	424

1996 Production: 1,763 tons of wine grapes producing 282,080 gallons of wine.

VITICULTURAL REGIONS

Virginia has six specifically designated grape growing (viticultural) regions: Monticello, Northern Neck, George Washington Birthplace, Rocky Knob, Shenandoah Valley, Eastern Shore, and North Fork of the Roanoke.

MAJOR VARIETIES

Vinifera varieties: Chardonnay, White Riesling, Cabernet Sauvignon, Pinot Noir, Gewurztraminer, Cabernet Franc, Sauvignon Blanc, and Merlot.

Major French hybrid varieties: Seyval, Vidal Blanc, Villiard Blanc, and Marechal Foch.

Major American varieties: Concord, Delaware, and Niagara.

Variety	Acreage	Percent total acreage	Percent per ton
Vinifera	1140	76	\$1,100 to \$1,200.
French hybrid	285	19	\$500 to \$600.
American	75	5	\$400 to \$500.

Number of Vineyards in 1997—140.

1996 SALES

Cases and retail sales: 191,849; \$23,021,880—9.5% increase over 1995.

DISTRIBUTION OF VIRGINIA WINES

In Virginia: Virginia wine is sold in retail outlets, restaurants, through festivals and special events, and direct at individual wineries.

Other: Distributed primarily in the eastern United States. Virginia wines are also found in major cities abroad as well as American cities such as Chicago, Dallas, Los Angeles, and San Francisco.

Tourism: Through winery tours and tastings, the Virginia wine industry attracts over 500,000 visitors annually.

Reasons for Virginia Wine Industry Growth: Favorable climate for growing grapes; Institutional support, especially from Division of Tourism and the Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services; Research and technology support from VPI&SU; Strong wine marketing program; An increasing regional and national awareness of quality of Virginia wines; and Dedication of Virginia wine industry to improving the quality and viability of its products.

A SALUTE TO OUR NATION'S LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 1997

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join others in the nation who this week are recognizing our law enforcement officers for their role in protecting their respective communities. I would like to particularly recognize those officers of the sheriffs and police departments of Texas' district 30 which I represent, for I personally know of the distinction and valor with which they carry out their daily duties. Over the years, we have witnessed many of our communities—particularly in urban areas—undergo drastic change. With the scourges of crack, poverty and family dysfunction fraying the social fabric of our communities, law enforcement officers have been called upon to assume a greater responsibility for the safety of our neighborhoods.

Much has been said about the tensions that exist between law enforcement agencies and the communities they serve; however, I know that in communities such as Dallas and Irving, TX, the police departments are reaching out to neighborhoods residents to establish partnerships in fighting crime and increasing community safety. Many of these policemen and policewomen are unsung heroes, who daily climb into their police cruisers, walk their neighborhood beats or ride their bicycles on patrol, each day knowing that they risk death or serious injury. While communities may be able to function without hostile corporate takeover specialist or sitcom stars, no community could function without a dedicated force of law enforcement personnel. It says something about our priorities as a society that—in spirit of its indispensability—law enforcement is among the lowest paid professions.

I would also be remiss if I did not also recognize the husbands, wives, and children of our law enforcement officers, the ones who stay at home each day not knowing if their loved ones will be facing a life-threatening situation. Should anyone doubt the dangers of the job, they need only visit the Law Enforcement Memorial in Washington, DC, and read the names of those who have given their lives in service to their communities. The families of our peace officers deserve recognition for their steadfast support of their spouse or parent who is often under-appreciated and underpaid. We all should take the opportunity to let our law enforcement officers and their families know that their service and sacrifices are appreciated. As a Member of Congress, I pledge to continue to work to enact legislation that aids our peace officers and law enforcement agencies in the performance of their duties. Mr. Speaker, in conclusion I offer my heartfelt salute to our Nation's police officers, sheriff's deputies, and highway patrol officers.

TRIBUTE TO JUSTINE O'DONNELL

HON. JOSEPH P. KENNEDY II

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 1997

Mr. KENNEDY of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, It is with the greatest of pleasure

that I acknowledge the retirement of an outstanding woman who has given over 30 years of her life to public service. Justine O'Donnell began her distinguished career in Washington, in 1960, where she worked for my uncle, President John F. Kennedy, until his untimely death in 1963.

Following her years at the White House, Justine worked tirelessly on behalf of Democratic ideals. In 1980 she returned to Washington to work for my uncle, Senator TED KENNEDY, in his bid for the Presidency. After a stint with the General Services Administration, Justine served as an ombudsperson for then Massachusetts Secretary of Health and Human Services Phil Johnston, and later as the director of client services for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts until 1990. In this last position, Justine had an opportunity to display her deep and genuine concern for the plight of some of the neediest citizens in the Commonwealth. Her compassion for this same population did not diminish as she finished out the last 5 years of her career in public service at the Massachusetts Division of Medical Assistance.

Rounding out her record of devoted public service, Justine has been very active in community affairs. Justine played an important role in the dedication of the John F. Kennedy Library in Boston, and she continues today as a member of the Friends of the Kennedy Library.

I would like to join with Justine's family and friends as they gather this Thursday, May 15, to commemorate her efforts on behalf of her fellow citizens, and to extend to her my best wishes for the future.

95TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ISLAND OF CUBA

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 1997

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, next Tuesday, May 20, marks the 95th anniversary since the island of Cuba gained its independence. The history of that beautiful nation has been measured, in large part, by the struggle of its people to overcome tyrannies that have attempted to rule over the island—first the Spanish crown, and today, another destructive dictatorship, that of Fidel Castro.

Under the Castro dictatorship, the people of the island enjoy no semblance of human rights or civil rights. Dissidents, independent journalists, and human rights activists are routinely harassed, arrested, and imprisoned.

Others are murdered by the Castro Communist elite that allows no opposition to its repressive policies. Many of the names of those who have been subject to the torturous reign of the Castro regime, men and women, black and white, may never be known.

The immorality of the Castro dictatorship is equaled by the willingness by many of our European allies, Canada, and Mexico to trade with the Castro regime despite them knowing that it only serves to strengthen his grip on power.

As we approach the 96th anniversary of the first time the Cuban flag flew alone over Cuba, let us remember that only 90 miles from the greatest democracy on earth, 11 million Cubans yearn for the freedoms we in the United States take for granted.