

I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in expressing our appreciation for the work done by all associated with Pascack Valley Hospital and wishing them many years of continued success.

CONGRATULATING HENRY "HANK" AARON ON 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF BREAKING MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL HOME RUN RECORD AND RECOGNIZING HIM AS ONE OF THE GREATEST BASEBALL PLAYERS OF ALL TIME

SPEECH OF

**HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 19, 1999*

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of the greatest baseball players in history—Henry "Hank" Aaron. During his major league career—a career which spanned nearly a quarter century—Hank Aaron broke more batting records than any other player in Major League baseball.

Twenty-five years ago, on April 8, 1974, Hank Aaron hit his 715th home run—breaking the Major League Record for career home runs held previously by Babe Ruth. Hank Aaron still holds a place in the heart of every baseball fan. Along with Ruth, Willie Mays, and Ted Williams, Aaron was recently elected by the fans to the MasterCard All-Century Team.

But Hank Aaron was more than just batting titles, All-Star games and home run records. He was an important part of my childhood, and the childhood of anyone growing up in Milwaukee in the 1950's. I remember going to Milwaukee County Stadium to watch the great Milwaukee Braves teams of the 1950s. The Stadium was always packed—even though Milwaukee was the second smallest city in the Major Leagues, the Milwaukee Braves were the first National League team to draw two million fans in a season.

Hank Aaron was the reason so many people came to watch the Braves. He began his career with Milwaukee in 1952, when a scout recruited him for a Braves farm team. Two years later, Aaron made his first major league appearance. He went on to spend 13 years with the Milwaukee Braves, hitting a total of 398 home runs and leading the Braves to two league pennants and a World Series victory in 1957. On September 20, 1965, Aaron became the last Milwaukee player to hit a home run in Milwaukee County Stadium.

Nearly a decade later, after a brilliant career in Atlanta, Aaron returned to Milwaukee—this time for the Milwaukee Brewers. He ended his career there, retiring in 1976.

Hank Aaron is an integral part of the history of baseball and the history of Milwaukee. I am pleased to join my colleagues in honoring Hammerin' Hank Aaron.

TRIBUTE TO THE CHAPIN HIGH SCHOOL NAVAL JUNIOR RESERVE OFFICER TRAINING CORPS UNIT

**HON. FLOYD SPENCE**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 20, 1999*

Mr. SPENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of the House that the Naval Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (NJROTC) Unit at Chapin High School, in Chapin, South Carolina, has been selected as the "Most Outstanding NJROTC Unit in the Nation" by the Navy League of the United States. Recently, I had the great pleasure to present the Navy League Trophy to Chapin High School NJROTC Unit Commanding Officer David James Riser at a ceremony at the Chapin High School Stadium. This recognition was well received by those in attendance, and it was an obvious source of pride for the entire student body, as well as the faculty and the parents of the cadets.

The Chapin High School NJROTC Unit is composed of a dynamic group of cadets that should serve as a model for others to follow across our Nation. This Unit has a diverse cadet population that includes: a class president, a homecoming queen, Eagle Scouts, the leader of the State Championship SAT Team, the editor of the school newspaper, the captain of the football team, the captain of the soccer team, the captain of the cross country track team, All-State Athletes, 46 varsity athletes, 16 school band members, cheerleaders, and other dedicated students. The NJROTC Unit was established at Chapin High School in 1996, with 42 cadets. From the start, this Unit excelled, being named the "Best New Unit" by the Area Commander for its first year. Three years later, the Unit has grown to include 16 percent of the school enrollment, with a waiting list of 35 students.

The Chapin High School NJROTC Unit is led by two experienced Naval Science Instructors, Colonel Richard C. Slack and Senior Chief Petty Officer Charles W. Cook. Colonel Slack has had a distinguished career in the United States Marine Corps. Upon graduation from East Tennessee State University in 1967, he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant. In 1969, then-First Lieutenant Slack was designated as a Naval Aviator and he served in Southeast Asia for thirteen months. He progressed through the officer ranks for more than twenty years, also earning a Master of Business Administration degree from Webster University, in Saint Louis, Missouri, and a Master of International Strategy and Policy degree from the Naval War College, in Providence, Rhode Island. Colonel Slack served as the Chief of Staff for the Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Manpower and Reserve Affairs) from 1989–1991, and he retired in 1996, as the Commanding Officer and Professor of Naval Science for the Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps Unit at The University of South Carolina.

Senior Chief Petty Officer Charles W. Cook is the Associate Naval Science Instructor at Chapin High School. A native of Irmo, South Carolina, Senior Chief Cook attended Benedict College, The University of South Carolina, and DePaul University. He completed twenty years of active duty in the United States Navy, with

eight years of regular duty and twelve years of recruiting duty. Among the honors that have been received by Senior Chief Cook during his Naval career are the "Sailor of the Year Award," the "National Recruiter of the Year Award," the "Recruiter-in-Charge of the Year Award," and the "Zone Supervisor of the Year Award."

The Commanding Officer of the Chapin High School NJROTC Unit is David James Riser, who is the son of Mr. and Mrs. David Wayne Riser, of Chapin. David Riser is an outstanding young man who has excelled in many areas as a student. He is the recipient of the "First Place Chapin NJROTC Academic Award," the "Certificate of Honorable (Cum Laude) Mention on the National Latin Examination," and the "Lieutenant Governor's Award for Excellence in Composition," among other awards. He also is a South Carolina Junior Scholar and he has been named to Who's Who Among American High School Students. Prior to his position as Commanding Officer, Cadet Riser served as the Supply Officer, and, then, as the Operations Officer of his NJROTC Unit.

Mr. Speaker, I was an NROTC Midshipman at The University of South Carolina, and that experience provided the foundation upon which I have built my career in public service. As the Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, I am a strong supporter of the JROTC and the ROTC Programs. The fine cadets at Chapin High School are excellent examples of what the JROTC Program stands for. I am very proud of what this outstanding group of high school students has accomplished. Since being established in 1996, the NJROTC Unit at Chapin High School has doubled in size, and 51 percent of the Freshman Class have enrolled in the NJROTC Unit for the 1999/2000 academic year. The Chapin High School NJROTC cadets have worked tirelessly to prove that they exemplify excellence, and I would like to offer my congratulations to them for being named the most outstanding NJROTC Unit in the Nation for 1999 by the Navy League of the United States.

TRIBUTE TO BILL GARRETT

**HON. JOHNNY ISAKSON**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 20, 1999*

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. Speaker, in 1990 during my race for Governor of Georgia I had the privilege to meet and get to know Heath Garrett, then a student at the University of Georgia. In the years since, Heath became my campaign manager, my Chief of Staff, and always my friend.

As our friendship grew, I came to know Heath's father, Bill. On the evening of October sixteenth, Bill Garrett passed away, the victim of a heart attack and a lifetime battle with diabetes. I rise today, to pay tribute to the life of Bill Garrett.

During the past year, Bill volunteered in my Congressional District Office 4 hours a day answering the phone and greeting constituents. He always answered the phone the same way, "Johnny Isakson's office, Bill Garrett how may I help you." Bill Garrett's voice was always pleasant, and his "how may I help you" assured the caller he really wanted to help.

As I came to know Bill, I learned of his battle with diabetes. For over 50 years Bill dealt with the daily blood sugar test, the rigid and limiting diet, and the inevitable complication of the disease that strikes thousands of Americans every year. Like so many Americans with diabetes, Bill Garrett did not complain and led a productive life.

As we pause to pay tribute to Bill Garrett, each of us in Congress should renew our effort to commit the funds for the research to find a cure for diabetes. There are thousands of Americans like Bill Garrett, and many in every Congressional district in this country. Let us work together to make tributes like this less frequent, and the occurrence of diabetes less frequent in America. Let us do it for Bill Garrett.

TRIBUTE TO THE BLACK CANYON  
OF THE GUNNISON AND THOSE  
WHO MADE IT POSSIBLE

**HON. SCOTT MCINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 20, 1999*

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with an overwhelming sense of pride that I now rise to pay tribute to a truly historic event in the proud and distinguished history of the great State of Colorado: the establishment of the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park.

As the House sponsor of legislation that redesignated the Black Canyon as a national park, it gives me great joy to describe for this esteemed body's record the beauty of this truly majestic place. In addition, I would like to offer my gratitude to a community of individuals instrumental in the long process that ultimately yielded the establishment of the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park.

Mr. Speaker, anyone who has visited the Black Canyon can attest to its awe-inspiring natural beauty. Named for the dark rock that makes up its sheer walls, the Black Canyon is largely composed of what geologists call basement rocks, the oldest rocks on the earth estimated at 1.7 billion years old. With its narrow openings, sheer walls, and scenic gorges that plunge 2000 feet into the clear blue majesty of the Gunnison River, the Black Canyon is a natural crown jewel second to none in its magnificent splendor. Though other canyons may have greater depth or descend on a steeper course, few combine these attributes as breathtakingly as does the Black Canyon.

If ever there was a place worthy of the prestigious status that only national park status can afford, Mr. Speaker, it is the Black Canyon. But as you know, national parks don't just happen. In this case, it took nearly 15 years, several Congressional Representatives and Senators, innumerable locally elected officials, and a virtual sea of committed citizens in western Colorado.

Included in this group are the good people of Delta, Colorado. During this long and at times difficult process, Delta's civic leaders have given tirelessly and beyond measure in the hopes of making the Black Canyon a national park. Again and again these great Americans rose to the challenge, doing everything in their power to fulfill this dream. Without Delta's leadership and perseverance, none of what we have accomplished would have ever been possible.

It is with this, Mr. Speaker, that I give my thanks to the people of Delta who played a leading role in making the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park a wonderful reality for Colorado, America, and the world to enjoy.

A TRIBUTE TO GEORGE P.  
MITCHELL

**HON. NICK LAMPSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 20, 1999*

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of a man who is not only a great Galvestonian, but a great American, Mr. George P. Mitchell. On Friday, the City of Galveston will pay tribute to George for his service to the community by naming a street after him. Business took George away from the 9th District, but he came back to make it a better place to live.

George Mitchell was born in the Ninth Congressional District, the area of Texas that I have the privilege to represent. Following his graduation from Texas A&M University and his service during World War II, he went to work for a newly formed wildcatting company. In 1959 he was appointed president and guided the progression of the company to its current status as one of the most extensive independent gas and oil producers in the nation and one of the largest real estate developers in the Houston-Galveston region.

A man of great vision, George developed a real estate project in the 1960's on a scale never seen in the flourishing Houston area. He created The Woodlands, a 25,000-acre planned community located 27 miles north of downtown Houston. Today, more than 40,000 people reside in The Woodlands and are living George Mitchell's dream.

George has made the bulk of his substantial contributions to the Galveston community and the people who live there. He believes in Galveston and its residents, and has unfalteringly placed his time and energy into its progression. As I thank George for his contributions, I also must recognize his wife, Cynthia Mitchell, who was by his side lending strong support and partnership throughout his career.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to speak on behalf of Mr. George Mitchell and all of his accomplishments. He is a man that I look to for inspiration as I continue to work for the communities and neighborhoods of Texas. When I drive down "Mitchell Avenue" it will be with great pleasure, as it recognizes a man who has committed his life not to himself, but to others.

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Included in this group are the good people of Montrose, Colorado. During this long and at times difficult process, Montrose's civic leaders have given tirelessly and beyond measure in the hopes of making the Black Canyon a national park. Again and again these great Americans rose to the challenge, doing everything in their power to fulfill this dream. Without Montrose's leadership and perseverance, none of what we have accomplished would have ever been possible.

It is with this, Mr. Speaker, that I give my thanks to the people of Montrose who played a leading role in making the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park a wonderful reality for Colorado, America, and the world to enjoy.

CONGRATULATING THE BOSTON  
DEMONS

**HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 20, 1999*

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following article which appeared in the Melbourne Age on October 20, 1999 for the record and to offer my congratulations to the Boston Demons for their outstanding efforts in winning the 1999 U.S. Australian Rules National Championship.

[From the Melbourne Age, Oct. 20, 1999]

BOSTON DEMONS 1999 U.S. NATIONAL  
CHAMPIONS

CINCINNATI, OHIO (17 October 1999). The Boston Demons Australian Rules Football team today won the 1999 U.S. Australian Rules National Championship by narrowly defeating the Santa Cruz Roos in overtime.

The national championship was host by the Cincinnati Dockers, and consisted of 22 teams from around the country, representing cities such as Nashville, New York, Seattle, Chicago, Denver and San Diego.