

working stints at Southampton Intermediate School and Medford Elementary School. He was working at River Elementary School in Patchogue Long Island at the time of his death.

Mr. Speaker, Gordon embodied the type of role model and educator that all would have liked and wanted their children to be involved with during their educational career.

To the parents he will be remembered as the innovator of bringing computers to the schools. To the children he will also be remembered as a 6-foot, 2-inch, 250 pound bear of a man, who once dressed as the Great pumpkin and donned a Superman costume, swinging onto the school's auditorium by a rope.

Colleagues, Mr. McMillan is an educator who will be sorely missed.

TRIBUTE TO THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA WOMEN'S TENNIS TEAM

HON. KAREN L. THURMAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 1999

Mrs. THURMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the University of Florida women's tennis team. Last season, this fine team won the 1998 NCAA women's tennis championship. It was the third time the University of Florida won the NCAA title, and it was also the third time the team completed an undefeated season.

I've been told the final game turned out to be a war of wills with the Gators tennis team pitted squarely against Duke at Notre Dame's Courtney Tennis Center. On Sunday, May 24 of last year, UF's team took home a hard-earned 5-1 victory.

Just ask Number One Player Dawn Buth how hard it was to bring home the championship. UF coach Andy Brandi refers to her as a real fighter and for good reason. Her match during the championship helped seal the Gators' victory. She was tired. She had cramps. Her right wrist hurt. But she kept going, and got tougher and tougher until she clenched the 151st singles win of her UF career.

Let me tell you what happened. Buth lost the first set, won the second, was losing in the third before coming back to win three games in a row and take the match. Afterward, she told a local newspaper reporter how she was able to do it. "I just tried to stay focused, stay confident and I was able to pull out the next three games." That kind of attitude and perseverance will undoubtedly take Dawn Buth and her teammates far, not only on the tennis court but throughout their lives.

This latest victory carries on a distinguished record for the University of Florida's women's tennis team. In addition to three NCAA championships over the course of Head Coach Andy Brandi's tenure, the Gators have also earned 13 Southeastern Conference titles, six national indoor titles and finished six undefeated regular seasons.

Congratulations is certainly in order for Brandi and last year's coaching team: Assistant Coach Sujay Lama, Volunteer Coach JoAnne Russell and Athletics trainer Kellye Mowchan.

I also want to individually congratulate last year's women's tennis team: Bonnie Bleecker,

Dawn Buth, Baili Camino, Traci Green, Stephanie Hazlett, Whitney Laiho, Stephanie Nickitas and M.C. White.

Go Gators!

IN HONOR OF THE FLYERS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 1999

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an active, strong, and vigorous group of senior citizens, the Flyers, in Lakewood, Ohio.

This group of 15 senior citizens plays in local and national softball, basketball and volleyball leagues and tournaments. The group is a frequent participant in games at Elmwood Park in Rocky River and also plays in the Lakewood League. On a national scale, the Flyers have played in tournaments sponsored by Amateur Softball Association and other Senior organizations in St. Louis, Dallas and Mississippi. The group often holds fundraising events to raise the money to travel to different games across the country.

The members of the group have paid their dues and worked hard lives, and they now are enjoying their retirement and doing exactly what they love to do. One of the group's members, Mr. Vern Carr, would even like to see the Flyers compete against teams in Europe someday.

My fellow colleagues, please join me in saluting the Flyers and wishing them continued success, and most importantly a lot of fun, in their upcoming tournaments.

TRIBUTE TO THE BRONX COMMUNITY COLLEGE

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 1999

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with joy that I rise today to once again pay tribute to Bronx Community College, which will hold its 21st Anniversary Hall of Fame 10K Run on Saturday, May 1, 1999.

The Hall of Fame 10K Run was founded in 1978 by Bronx Community College's third President, Dr. Roscoe C. Brown. Its mission is to highlight the Hall of Fame for Great Americans, a national institution dedicated to those who have helped make America great.

The tradition continues, first under the leadership of Acting President, Dr. Leo A. Corbie and now under Dr. Carolyn G. Williams, the first woman President of Bronx Community College. Both Dr. Corbie and Dr. Williams have endorsed and follow the commitment made by Dr. Brown to promote physical well-being as well as higher education.

As one who has run the Hall of Fame 10K Run, I can attest that the excitement it generates brings the entire City together. It is a celebration and an affirmation of life. It feels wonderful to enable more than 400 people to have this experience—one that will change the lives of many of them. It is an honor for me to join once again the hundreds of joyful people who will run along the Grand Concourse, University Avenue and West 181 Street and to

savor the variety of their celebrations. There's no better way to see our Bronx community.

For its first 20 years, Professor Henry A. Skinner has coordinated the Bronx Community College Hall of Fame 10K race, a healthy competition which brings together runners of all ages from the five boroughs of New York City. He is also the President of Unity and Strength, the organization of minority faculty, staff and administrators of Bronx Community College. Dr. Atlaw Beligne of the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science, as the 1999 Director of the race, continues this rich Bronx tradition. He is also Director of Self Help and Resource Exchange (S.H.A.R.E.).

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the individuals and participants who are making the Bronx Community College's 21st annual Hall of Fame 10K Run possible.

LETTER CARRIERS ADDRESS HUNGER BY SPONSORING NATION-WIDE FOOD DRIVE

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 1999

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, May 8, 1999, letter carriers from around the country will be gathering nonperishable food items set aside by their customers for people in need. Milwaukee is a compassionate community and its benevolence ranks the city, for the second straight year, as number one in the nation in the amount of food collected.

The National Association of Letter Carriers, in conjunction with the United States Postal Service and the United Way, will kick off this year's food drive in Milwaukee with a press conference on Thursday, May 6th, to educate the public about the issues of hunger and convey the importance of each citizen's involvement to stamp out hunger.

I rise today, Mr. Speaker, to ask my colleagues to lend a hand to this worthwhile project by supporting the letter carriers' food drives across the nation. I would also like to invite the residents of Milwaukee and Waukesha Counties to consider adding a few extra canned food items or nonperishables to their grocery carts for collection on May 8th. Let's make this year's food drive better than ever.

Our food pantries are counting on drives like this to help keep their shelves filled. Let's all try to do our part to alleviate hunger.

IN HONOR OF NATIONAL TEACHER'S DAY

HON. JAY INSLEE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 1999

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, today is National Teacher's Day. I do not believe educators are given nearly the amount of accolades they deserve, and I truly appreciate the chance to simply say: thank you for the important and meaningful work you do.

Mr. Speaker, I am especially proud that my father, brother, and brother-in-law are all

teachers. Teachers are on the front lines everyday, preparing our children for the future. Teachers also bestow upon students the intellectual tools they need to become successful and productive members of society.

There is nothing that impacts America's social, economic and political future more than the quality of learning that happens in our schools. We should recognize the countless hours of selfless service that teachers devote to the most valuable resource in this country—our children.

Let me, again, express my appreciation and thanks to the millions of educators who impart their wisdom and knowledge to future generations.

HONORING EMMA JANE
BLOOMFIELD

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 1999

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor and congratulate Emma Jane Bloomfield, who recently won an award from the Concord Rotary Club for her paper on Mongolian Culture. This paper was brought to my attention by her proud grandmother, Blanche Bloomfield, who resides in my district in Kings Point, NY. This essay contest demonstrates how our communities can work with our schools to further the educational goals of all of our nation's children. I hope all of my colleagues will have an opportunity to review this insightful and cogent essay and I would once again like to congratulate Emma on her outstanding work.

Under the control of Genghis Khan, the Mongolian people once had a forceful army, exploding with wrath and rage. However, the mounting tension between other countries and the Mongolians, caused by so many battles, resulted in the shattering of the Mongol empire. Since the 1300s, they have struggled to rebuild their society. Now that the strength and anger have faded from their community, many Mongols today believe in a strong emphasis on politeness and hospitality. Mongols live on the seeping grasslands of Asia and they use their environment to satisfy many needs. In the rural areas of Mongolia, many men are herdsman who supervise the wild horses and yaks that roam the Mongols' homeland. The history of the Mongolian people has influenced their present culture, and their beliefs, styles of life, and natural environment are still contributing to the formation of their society and identities.

Mongolian history is traced back to the days of power when Genghis Khan ruled the Mongol empire. Genghis Khan was a wild horseman and a strong warrior who inspired the bravery of his people. He had great accuracy and distance when shooting a bow and arrow, and he had a keen mind that conjured up strategies he used to win battles. Khan was widely known for ruthlessly attacking towns and cities for the rewards of victory. Genghis Khan conquered more territory than anyone in Mongolian history, and he imposed his reputation on the world. Despite the cruelty that Khan showed toward other countries, the Mongols praised him and viewed him as the founder of their nation, creator of their people. The Mongols called Genghis Khan the "Supreme Ruler Over the Ocean" and "Emperor of Emperors."

A large portion of Khan's success was due to his solid armies, both his soldiers and his horsemen. Genghis Khan's armies were vast, and he grouped his men into units of tens, hundreds, thousands, and ten-thousands, so they could move in to battle quickly. Khan's powerful armies were often forced to cover 225 miles of land within a day. Most of the warriors were horsemen, and they each owned three to twenty horses, which they alternated daily to give each horse sufficient time to rest. Weapons carried by the warriors were strong bows, lances, and swords. The soldiers wore heavy leather called lamellar to shield them from the fierce swipe of a sword.

Many of Genghis Khan's words provoked a feeling of force and fury. "The greatest pleasure is to vanquish your enemies and chase them before you rob them of their wealth and see those dear to them baked in tears, to ride their horses," he once said. Khan was fueled by experiences of the many bloody battles that his armies fought. Genghis Khan relished seeing those inferior to him suffer, and he fought only to claim power and to satisfy his dreams. Khan's dream was to establish a network of riders, used as a spy system, all over Asia. His armies did succeed in taking over parts of China, Middle Asia, and Europe. Khan's empire stretched from Europe to Russia in the north, and from Vietnam to Iraq in the south. With their equipment, strength, and intelligence, the Mongol Empire led by Genghis Khan seemed immortal.

Unfortunately for Mongolian society, the red heat of their empire soon faded to a covering pink. Because they fought so many battles, the rivalries and conflicts between Mongolia and other countries brought misfortune and an unexpected end to the Mongol Empire. At that time, Russia and China began to expand and they claimed most power that the Mongols had once held. The collapse of the Mongol empire in 1505 scarred its people and society. The power supplied by Genghis Khan was humiliated, and the next centuries were filled with tragedy and struggle. While the Mongols tried to rebuild their economy, Russia and China prevailed over them and took parts of Mongolia under their control. In 1990, the break-up of the Soviet Union provided a blessing to the Mongols, and it offered freedom to some. However, problems still remain in Mongolia. To survive, the people have been forced to roam the grasslands, hunting with bow and arrow, taming horses, and raising livestock. The Mongols' strength has only re-emerged through their formation of a government while they have squirmed out of the reach of Russian and Chinese power.

Having rebuilt their society, natural and spiritual things now claim a higher rank among the Mongols. Mongolians believe that heaven, a home to the gods, holds an abundance of power. The Mongols honor heaven and all of nature under it. In fact, earlier Mongol tribes blessed and proclaimed their leaders as the "sons of heaven."

In their households, Mongols have always strongly emphasize politeness and hospitality. In pre-modern times the Mongols' homes were spread out all over the Mongols' land. This caused many people to travel from camp to camp, who would need a home for one night. Mongols provided shelter for visitors who later would face a hike across the windswept grasslands. With the arrival of a guest at a Mongolian's home, the host would traditionally offer a hospitality bowl, which would hold chunks of pungent cheeses, sugar cubes, candies, and bordzig pastries deep fried in yak and mutton fats. Using the hospitality bowl was the style in which the Mongols welcomed their guests. Mongolians believed in treating visitors as old and be-

loved friends, and in turn, the guest of a household would offer kind words to the hosts, and would express respect and gratitude by accepting foods at the table with customary gestures.

The traditional religion observed by the people of Mongolia is Tibetan Buddhism. Pedestals, in a Mongol's home, hold statues of Buddha, a symbol that is prominent in Tibetan Buddhism. After freedom of religion was introduced to Mongolia in 1990, Buddhism became the most commonly practiced religion. The government of Mongolia offered money to support the restoration of a sacred Buddhist Monastery.

Religion holds importance to the Mongols, yet it only occupies one level of Mongolian life. In the rural areas of Mongolia, the people's lives revolve around hunting or herding livestock. The semi-wild horses who graze in the mountains that enclose the grasslands, are for riding and training purposes. A Mongolian horse herdsman typically makes decisions as to where to let the horses graze, and when to move them to the next camps. Herders of any animal must eventually sell or butcher the livestock. Herdsmen efficiently use parts of the animals for fuel, warmth, and shelter. The job of a herdsman may also be to breed rarer animals, and sell them.

Traditionally, hunting occupies a large portion of Mongolian life. Many Mongol hunters use ancient archery techniques to hunt birds. Keen dogs and cheetahs are also used to track down a hunter's game. Occasionally, in earlier times, large-scale hunts would be organized where beaters would drive entire herds of antelope into the lurking hunters' bows. Falcons, too, were used to lead large game to the hunters.

In the rural places of Mongolia, the rural life of a Mongol is chiefly filled by the needs of the flocks of sheep, goats, herds of horses, cattle, or camels. Springtime is the season in which herdsman have the most commitments to the livestock. The births of animals occupy great spans of time, and often an entire family comes to the fields and helps the herder with a difficult birth. Herdsmen scurry around tending to the needs of animals, trying to establish a health start to the herding season. Summertime is less busy, for herds of animals resort to pasture land and the livestock doesn't demand assistance from herdsman. Yet in the summertime there is still some work to attend to: sheep are shorn for their dense wool and camels and goats are combed for their velvety under-wool. The autumn winds dry the moisture from the grasslands, and as winter approaches groups of herdsman collect their livestock. The animals are confined to graze in small pens and barns, and hay becomes their main diet. In late autumn equipment and tools are replaced or mended for the new births of livestock in the springtime. Mongolian winters come to the land quickly and last for a long amount of time. Temperatures stay low for weeks, which make each day harder for Mongols to endure. Herdsmen stay loyal to the penned animals and help them through the months of winter, so the cycle can repeat.

On the grasslands outside of Ulan Bator, the capital of Mongolia, the Mongols live in tent-like gers (see appendix D). These homes have rounded walls that slope upward to form a point at the top. These traditional homes provide the Mongolian people with warmth and protect them from blizzards that may storm the grasslands. Gers are covered with felt, usually made by women. The process of felt-making typically takes two weeks for enough cloth to cover an entire ger. Because many Mongols are followers of animal herds, the ger satisfies the needs of their culture, for the ger is easy to dismantle and is designed to be transported from place