

from Spain during that period. As a result of this exodus, many Jewish families established themselves in the then Danish West Indies which are now the U.S. Virgin Islands. Some of the surnames which date back to that time are still present in the Virgin Islands today such as: Maduro, Castro, Sasso, Levin, Bornn, and Monsanto.

The St. Thomas Synagogue is also revered as among one of the most architecturally interesting buildings on St. Thomas. This one story, three-bay front building measures forty feet by fifty feet, is rectangular in shape. Its foundations, made of masonry with lime mortar and plaster, and its walls, made of brick and cut stone load-bearing masonry walls with lime mortar and plaster, are still strong and sound. Its interior is immaculate with preserved artifacts and furniture centuries old. The most fascinating aspect is its flooring—13" marble tiles and covered with one inch of loose sand, a poignant reminder of the time when they had to worship in secret. The sand on the floor is a remnant of the days of the Marranos, Jews during the Spanish Inquisition who were forced to convert to Christianity but who secretly practiced their Judaism. Since practicing their faith was punishable by death, they met in cellars with sand covering the floor in order to muffle the sounds of their prayers.

On Friday, September 15, 2000, the United States Department of Interior will honor the U.S. Virgin Islands and the Hebrew Congregation of St. Thomas at a ceremony formally designating the St. Thomas Synagogue as a National Historic Landmark.

On behalf of the Congress of the United States of America, I congratulate the Hebrew Congregation of St. Thomas on attaining this honor and salute them for their dedicated service and contributions to the United States Virgin Islands.

TRIBUTE TO BRIAN M. O'LAUGHLIN

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2000

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a noteworthy resident of the Third Congressional District of Kansas, Brian M. O'Laughlin, who lives in Prairie Village, Kansas, with his wife, Mimi, and their four sons.

Mr. O'Laughlin recently was named "Man of the Year" by the Missouri Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors for his service and leadership to his industry, community and clientele. He has been in the insurance and financial services industry in the Kansas City area for the past 17 years, where his practice specializes in insurance.

Mr. O'Laughlin is a past president of the Kansas City Life Underwriters Association [KCLUA] and currently serves on its board. KCLUA awarded him its highest honor in January 1999, as the "Herbert Hedges Man of the Year." He also has served his community as president of the Rockhurst High School Alumni Association and as the assistant coach and general manager of the Junior Blues High School Rugby Club. He was awarded the American Red Cross "Certification of Recognition for Extraordinary Personal Action" in July

1977 for resuscitating a two year old boy in a 1976 swimming pool accident.

Mr. O'Laughlin is: a charter member of the Serra Club of Johnson County, Kansas; past school board member of St. Ann's School and former PTA co-president, with Mimi O'Laughlin. He currently serves on the finance council for St. Ann's Catholic Church in Prairie Village, Kansas. He has been involved with organizations such as: the Leukemia Society; the Chamber of Commerce of Greater Kansas City; the Salvation Army, the Heart Association; Friends of the Arts and Friends of the Zoo; and the "Leave a Legacy" Foundation.

Finally, Brian O'Laughlin has coached over twenty five seasons of soccer, basketball and rugby. He also is a certified "International Doping Control Officer" for various international sports organizations and tests world class athletes for steroid use to ensure fair competition and the safety of the athletes.

Mr. Speaker, Brian O'Laughlin is the kind of concerned citizen whose selfless dedication to others binds our communities together. I commend him on his recognition as "Man of the Year" by the Missouri Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors and I am pleased to have this opportunity to publicly commend his good works before the House of Representatives.

HONORING SISTER CATHERINE MORAN

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2000

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained in New York and missed the opening ceremonies of today's session. Accordingly, I deeply regret not being here in person to greet Sister Catherine Moran, who delivered the opening prayer earlier this afternoon.

In recent years, while there have been other clergy women who have had the honor of leading this body in its opening prayer, I understand, however, that Sister Catherine Moran is the first person who has never been ordained to be afforded this honor. Truly, this was an historic occasion.

However, Sister Catherine's entire life has been one of breaking precedent. Born in Brooklyn, she entered the convent on September 8, 1945, receiving a Masters Degree in Education from St. John's University, and advanced certificates in Administration from both Hofstra University and the State University of New York in Plattsburgh.

From 1975 until 1983, Sister Catherine Moran was the Principal at Albertus Magnus High School in Bardonia, New York. Albertus Magnus has long been one of the most prestigious and respected high schools in my Congressional District, and its luster is due in good part to the outstanding leadership which Sister afforded during her eight year tenure as its Principal.

Although she is still affiliated with the Dominican Convent in Sparkill, New York, for the past 14 years Sister has traveled over the border into New Jersey, where she serves the New Community Corporation in Newark as Human Resources director. Her outstanding service in this capacity earned the attention of

our colleague from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE), who sponsored Sister's participation in our opening ceremonies today.

Mr. Speaker, I would like all of our colleagues to be aware that on October 20th of this year, Sister Catherine Moran will be the recipient of the 2000 Founders Award from St. Thomas Aquinas College in my Congressional District, in Sparkill, NY. This highly prestigious award is presented annually to the individual who has exemplified the motto of St. Thomas Aquinas College: "Enlighten the Mind through Truth."

I plan to be on hand at the Aquinas Medal banquet this year as this truly remarkable woman is recognized for her compassion and for her service to humanity.

Mr. Speaker, it is notable that our opening prayer today was delivered by a truly unique individual who made history by being here with us.

TRIBUTE TO RAJ SOIN

HON. DAVID L. HOBSON

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2000

Mr. HOBSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding Ohioan and an individual who has helped to show that the American Dream can become a reality.

Raj Soin came to this country from India in 1969 to attend graduate school. The airline which brought him to this country lost his luggage and Mr. Soin began his American odyssey with \$3 and only the clothes he was wearing. Through hard work and determination, he received his degree and began a career with Williams International in Michigan.

By 1984, Mr. Soin had created Modern Technologies Corporation and established it in Dayton to be near Wright-Patterson Air Force Base and its extensive military research facilities. As his businesses grew, he never forgot the importance of family. His wife and sons have publicly praised his ability to balance his professional and family commitments.

Mr. Soin is currently president and CEO of MTC International, a parent company for a number of high-tech and manufacturing businesses involving engineering, consulting work for the military, computer applications and services, plastic materials and land development. Mr. Soin is living proof that America is still a land of opportunity.

Mr. Soin's belief that the best investment is an investment in good people has given him a vision of excellence and helped him provide crucial leadership to Wright State University. Mr. Soin is committed to Wright State's development as a premier institution of higher learning and he has consistently demonstrated his ability to help this dream take form.

While building his own successful business ventures, Raj Soin has served on Wright State University's Board of Trustees since 1993 as well as its Business College Board of Advisors. He also serves on the boards of the Victoria Theatre, the Dayton Foundation, and the Ohio Business Roundtable. Additionally, he founded the Asian Indian American Business Group in 1987 and the Ohio India Project which raises funds for charitable work.

As a result of his steadfast support, Wright State University publicly recognized Mr. Soin

on September 11, 2000 by naming the school's College of Business and Administration in his honor.

As Ohio's Seventh District Representative to the Congress of the United States, I take this opportunity to join with Wright State University and our entire local community to honor the efforts and the achievements of Raj Soin. His many contributions to the Miami Valley are greatly appreciated by all.

A DAY AT THE RANCH

HON. SONNY CALLAHAN

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2000

Mr. CALLAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding accomplishments of A Day at the Ranch Youth Foundation. Founded in Mobile, Alabama, by Peggy Thrash and Gabriel Peck, Jr., A Day at the Ranch is currently headquartered in St. Elmo, Alabama, on a ten-acre horse ranch.

A Day at the Ranch provides a very unique opportunity for today's youth, especially disadvantaged young people. Away from the hustle and bustle of the city, A Day at the Ranch affords young men and women an opportunity to participate firsthand in the environment of a working horse ranch.

In addition to the many chores associated with running a ranch, the program also contains an educational component designed to broaden the young persons' awareness and knowledge of contributions made by African-American men and women in conjunction with horses.

Staffed by volunteers from across the state of Alabama, the ranch also gives students the opportunity to participate in events such as West Fest, as well as an annual trip to Houston, Texas.

West Fest was held in 1998 for Mobile County schools, and more than 5200 students attended the day's events. West Fest was highlighted by cultural activities such as the Bill Picket Rodeo, the largest African-American rodeo in the country, and a cultural exchange spotlighting Alabama's Native American Tribes and Civil War reenactments.

In 1999, A Day at the Ranch Youth Foundation selected 40 disadvantaged young people from across the state, as well as 40 youth in foster care. They traveled to Houston for the weekend and attended the Houston Livestock and Rodeo Show. This trip is now an annual event funded by supporters of A Day at the Ranch Youth Foundation.

Although the program is primarily designed for today's youth, A Day at the Ranch also hosts adult groups. Since 1996, more than 25,000 young people and adults alike have spent A Day at the Ranch. With the overwhelming social problems our young people face today, it is clear this program is informative and beneficial for the young people of Alabama.

Mr. Speaker, I salute Peggy Thrash and Gabriel Peck, Jr., for coming up with the innovative program, A Day at the Ranch. Not only are they helping educate our young people on the importance of good equestrian practices, but they are also providing a valuable lesson on the importance of hard work and responsibility.

HONORING THE STANDARD REGISTER COMPANY IN MONROE, NC

HON. ROBIN HAYES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2000

Mr. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, today it is my privilege to recognize the Standard Register Company's facility in Monroe, NC, for successfully completing over 600,000 hours of operation with no lost time.

John Q. Sherman formed Standard Register Company in 1912 in Dayton, OH. Mr. Sherman and his company introduced Theodore Schirmer's paper-feeding invention, the autographic register, to the industrial world. Today, Standard Register is a member of the Business Forms Industry, and is a \$1.4 billion company with approximately 8,200 associates nationwide.

The plant in Monroe was formed on August 6, 1996, when Standard Register Company acquired Piedmont Printing. Since that date the employees at the Monroe facility have worked a total of 667,613 hours with no lost time, no work-related injuries. This great accomplishment is proof of the excellent work habits of all of the members of the Monroe plant.

I would like to extend special congratulations and commendations to a few of Standard Register's corporate officers and managers, Harry Seifert, Dave Fehrman, Rick Miller, Dan Buchholtz, Earl Ammons, and Terry E. Sizemore.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the employees at Standard Register for their superior achievements, and I would ask all of my colleagues to join me in paying special tribute to them.

TRIBUTE TO GIRL SCOUT GOLD AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. THOMAS W. EWING

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2000

Mr. EWING. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to salute Laura David, Erin Wiggins, Jennifer Iversen, Christina Barnes, and Merideth Holmes. They are outstanding young women who were honored with the Girl Scout Gold Award by Green Meadows Council in Urbana, Illinois. Laura, Erin, Jennifer, Christina, and Merideth were honored on May 8, 2000 for earning the highest achievement that a young woman aged 14–17 or in grades 9–12 can earn in Girl Scouting. The Girl Scout Gold Award symbolizes outstanding accomplishments and has five requirements, each of which helps girls develop skills in the areas of leadership, career exploration, self-discovery, and service. The fifth requirement is a Gold Award Project that requires a minimum of 50 hours of participation.

Girl Scouts of the U. S. A., an organization serving over 2.5 million girls, has awarded more than 20,000 Girl Scout Awards to Senior Girl Scouts since the inception of the program in 1980. To receive this award, a Girl Scout must earn four interest project patches, the Career Exploration Pin, the Senior Girl Scout Leadership Award, and the Senior Girl Scout

Challenge, and also design and carry out a Girl Scout Award project. A plan for fulfilling these requirements is created by the Senior Girl Scout and is carried out through close cooperation between the girl, her troop leader, and an adult Girl Scout volunteer mentor.

Laura and Erin's Gold Award project was "Communities Helping Communities." They are members of Girl Scout Troop 299 in Champaign, Illinois. The idea for their project came when they participated in a school sponsored city clean-up project. They recognized the need to help elderly neighbors with yard work and beautification of their property. Together they organized and coordinated volunteer workers, obtained donations of plant materials and supplies and provided gardening services for eight elderly families and three churches. Upon completing this project, they evaluated the results. Laura felt that one of the benefits of this project was the families were able to provide input into the selection of flowers and how their flowerbeds were designed. Erin said she gained self-satisfaction from providing such a tangible improvement to homes. Benefits of the project were the experience of intergenerational and multi-racial neighbors working together.

Jennifer Iversen's Gold Award project involved obtaining computers for the residents of Manor Care Health Services. She is also a member of Girl Scout Troop 299 in Champaign, Illinois. Jennifer and a friend taught residents basic computer skills and how to access the Internet. These new skills provided residents the ability to use e-mail to correspond with family friends. Jennifer applied for and received a grant for continuation of this project next year with volunteer assistance from the social advocacy class at University Laboratory High School.

Christina Barnes's Gold Award project titled "Assistant Softball Coach" provided her the opportunity to share her talents and love of softball with young women aged 13–15. Christina is a member of Girl Scout Troop 400 in Philo, Illinois. She coached and taught this group fast pitch softball skills through the Park District. Her project also included developing a First Aid kit for the team and emphasizing nutrition in her instruction.

Merideth Holmes is an Independent Girl Scout from Monticello, Illinois, and her project, "Christian Cuddliness" involved working with members of a Junior Girl Scout troop to make teddy bears for children admitted to the emergency room of Ganta Memorial Hospital in Ganta, Liberia. Merideth enjoyed involving the Junior Girl Scouts in her project and being able to make an emergency room more comforting and less threatening for children.

I believe that Laura David, Erin Wiggins, Jennifer Iversen, Christina Barnes, and Merideth Holmes should receive public recognition for their significant service to their communities and country.

RECOGNIZING 5 OLYMPIC TEAM MEMBERS FROM THE 41ST DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2000

Mr. GARY MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to recognize five