

IN TRIBUTE TO SIMI VALLEY HIGH
SCHOOL ACADEMIC DECATHLON
TEAM

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2000

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Simi Valley High School Academic Decathlon Team—champions this year in Ventura County and the State of California, and silver medalists in the national competition.

After winning the Ventura County and State of California titles, the Simi Valley team last month traveled to San Antonio, Texas, for the U.S. Academic Decathlon competition, competing against 37 other schools from across the United States. The rivalry was fierce. Simi Valley lost to the team from Katy, Texas, by a mere 460 points. Each team scored more than 52,000 points in the match-up.

The nine-student Simi Valley High School team is representative of the best and brightest our country has to offer. They have been accepted to such universities as Harvard and Stanford. Seniors David Bartlett, Steve Mihalovitz, Cary Opal, Jeff Robertson, Jennifer Tran, Michael Truex, Justin Underhill and Randy Xu, and junior Kevin White, are truly America's future leaders. Their coaches, Ken and Sally Hibbitts, are dedicated educators who deserve equal praise for a phenomenal job of preparing their students.

Last year, Moorpark High School became the first Ventura County team to win the national title. By winning the silver medal this year, Simi Valley High School has proven that Ventura County is an educational powerhouse. They have also proven that Ventura County students and teachers have the dedication and perseverance to be the best they can possibly be. It takes months of studying from early morning to late at night to prepare for these competitions. Jobs, friends and family are place on the back burner.

If they had won no medals, their dedication to a common goal alone would have made them champions.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues will join me in congratulating the National Silver Medalists, California State Champion and Ventura County Champion Simi Valley High School Academic Decathlon Team for its impressive wins, and in wishing team members great success in their future endeavors.

**TRIBUTE TO BRONX COMMUNITY
COLLEGE**

HON. JOSE E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2000

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with joy that I once again pay tribute to Bronx Community College, which will hold its 22nd Anniversary Hall of Frame 10K Run on Saturday, May 6, 2000.

The Hall of Frame 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 Frame for Great Americans, a national institute dedicated to those who have helped make America great.

The tradition continues under the stewardship of Dr. Carolyn G. Williams, the first female President of Bronx Community College. Dr. Williams has endorsed the race and will continue the tradition initiated by Dr. Brown to promote the physical fitness as well as to highlight higher educational opportunities.

As one who has run the Hall of Frame 10K race, I can attest to the excitement it generates. The race brings the entire city together. It is a celebration and an affirmation of life. It is a wonderful way to enable over 400 people to run in the Bronx. It is an honor for me to join once again the hundreds of racers who will run along the Grand Concourse, University Avenue, and West 181 Street, and to savor the variety of their victories. There's no better way to see the Bronx Community.

For most of the past 22 years, Professor Henry A. Skinner has coordinated the Hall of Fame 10K race, a healthy competition which brings together runners of all ages from the greater Metropolitan area. This year he has passed the mantle to Robert Hill, assistant track and field coach at Bronx Community College.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the individuals and participants who are making the Bronx Community Colleges's 22nd Annual Hall of Fame 10K run possible.

**10TH ANNIVERSARY TRIBUTE TO
100 WOMEN FOR MAJOR OWENS**

HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2000

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I pay special tribute to a group of dedicated community activists in my 11th Congressional District of Brooklyn, NY.

Founded in March, 1990, by Council Member Annette Robinson, Margaret Wiseman, Mary Eccles, Linda Breakenridge, Celeste Green, Sylvia Whiteside and Lorrelle Henry, 100 Women for Major Owens was organized in order to provide an opportunity for women of diverse backgrounds and cultures to work together in order to improve the quality of life for their community.

On May 5, 2000, 100 Women for Major Owens will formally celebrate its 10th Anniversary with a dinner and a special viewing of "Grace In The Light" at the famous Billie Holiday Theater in Brooklyn, New York. This milestone highlights the many years of service this organization has given Central Brooklyn by serving as mentors and role models for young women and their families. Through programs that range from educational seminars focusing on health care, teen pregnancy prevention, HIV-AIDS awareness, public education reform and a number of other important initiatives, the leadership has guided its members to becoming a powerful force for the residents of our community. In addition to also providing scholarships to deserving students in Brooklyn, Ms. Alice Spratley and Ms. Audrei Boyce have skillfully, since the beginning of the program administered the Congressional Awards Program which will, this year nominate several candidates for the Gold Medal.

Mr. Speaker, in celebration of their 10th Anniversary, I am honored to salute this pres-

tigious and spirited group of leaders, their past Presidents, Ms. Celeste Green one of the founding members and first President, Ms. Bernice Carter and their current President, an outstanding educator, Ms. Verdeen Gaddy and wish them continued success.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge with deep gratitude, the officers and members of this stellar organization: Verdeen Gaddy, President; Audrei Boyce, 1st Vice President; Bernice Carter, 2nd Vice President, Norva Butler, Recording Secretary; Edena Gill, Corresponding Secretary; Eileen Graham, Financial Secretary; Theopia Green Treasurer; Evy Papillon-Juste, Chaplain; Adelaide Wyllie, Parliamentarian; Celeste Green, Historian.

Ms. Mattie Pusey, another dedicated public servant is serving as this year's Anniversary Committee Chairperson. She is being assisted by Ms. Margaret Wiseman, Ms. Annie Nicholson and Mr. Garry Tilzer of my Brooklyn Staff. Her committee consists of Ms. Ann Munroe, Ms. Adelaide Wyllie, Eddy Elijah, Erma McEachine, Martha Greene, Sylvia Whiteside, Alice Spratley, Audrei Boyce, Edena Gill, Lorraine Smith, Orette Spence and Mart Blake.

THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE REESTABLISHMENT OF LATVIAN INDEPENDENCE

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2000

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, today I commemorate the Republic of Latvia on the tenth anniversary of the reestablishment of its independence from the former Soviet Union.

On May 4th 1990, the people of Latvia solidified their full sovereignty which served to further the disintegration of the Soviet Union.

Latvia has since successfully pursued policies to build democracy, protect human rights, expand the rule of law, develop a free market system and pursue a course of integration into the community of free and democratic nations, including the seeking of membership in the European Union and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

Latvia, together with the Republics of Estonia and Lithuania, continues to make a significant contribution toward maintaining peace and stability in the surrounding region, especially in peacekeeping operations in Bosnia and Kosovo.

In honor of Latvian Independence Day, I am introducing a concurrent resolution to commemorate this special occasion. I hope you will join me today in supporting this legislation.

Once again, I congratulate the people of Latvia on their anniversary of independence. I look forward to witnessing all of the future successes from this prosperous emerging democracy.

**25 GRAND RAPIDS GIRL SCOUTS
HONORED WITH ORGANIZATION'S
HIGHEST AWARD**

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2000

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor 25 young women, ages 14 through 17,

from my home city of Grand Rapids, Michigan who are being honored by the Girl Scouts with the organization's highest honor during a ceremony today in Grand Rapids. The young women will receive the Girl Scout Gold Award symbolizing outstanding accomplishments in the areas of leadership, community service, career planning, and personal development.

These future leaders have dedicated the last two years to achieving this award. To be considered for the Girl Scout Gold Award, candidates must earn four interest project patches: the Career Exploration Pin, the Senior Girl Scout Leadership Award, and the Senior Girl Scout Challenge, as well as designing and implementing a Girl Scout Gold Award project. The latter is accomplished by working closely with an adult Girl Scout volunteer. It should also be noted that these Girl Scouts accomplish all of this in addition to their school work, chores at home, and extracurricular activities.

The 25 young women receiving the Girl Scout's highest honor are: Rachel Voorhees, Carla Kaiser, Rachael Goodstein, Anne Clocklin, Nora Hauk, Holly Morris, Theresa Whitaker, Barbie Gatchel, Jennifer Bryant, Jennifer Kelly, Kelly Slezak, Elizabeth Gillis, Kim Farrell, Eda Koning, Jamie Wakely, Kate Chisholm, Jeannette Durham, Melissa Springvloed, Abby Caldwell, Katherine Muszkiewicz, Cristin McNamara, Andrea Tenkel, Nicole Flanagan, Mindy Peterson, and Libby Bode.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great delight that I honor these young women for their outstanding contributions to the Girl Scouts and our community. Their accomplishments and dedication should serve as a model for their peers and future Girl Scouts. To be the best, one must give it their all, and that is what these leaders have done. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating each of these young ladies in reaching this milestone. I wish each of them continued success in their future endeavors.

**TRIBUTE TO OFFICER WILLIAM
"BILL" BURGSTINER**

HON. JACK KINGSTON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2000

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Officer William "Bill" Burgstiner, United Nations police officer, of Savannah, Georgia. Officer Burgstiner is serving as a U.N. police officer in Kosovo, he is a hero by any other name. In late March, 2000, in a war torn Kosovo, an abandon baby lay by the side of a road wrapped in a bloodied blanket and bleeding from its umbilical cord. The baby's good fortune began when Officer Bill Burgstiner was returning from a meeting and driving through the village of Prilep, about 50 miles southwest of the provincial capital of Pristina.

A villager flagged him down and took Officer Burgstiner to the baby, who was lying on a step, wrapped in a blood soaked blanket. Bill used a table cloth to stop the bleeding. He then whisked the child to the Italian military hospital, rushed through the front gate and delivered Fortunato (the baby's new name) into the arms of Roberto Bramati, a doctor. Doctor

Bramati credited Officer Burgstiner with saving the precious life of little Fortunato.

A Savannah native, Bill joined the Brunswick Police Department after graduating from the police academy. He served from 1990 to 1993, and helped organize the department's K-9 unit. A role model in the local community he has again shown that his compassion and strength of character crosses international borders. It is with great pleasure that I recognize Officer William "Bill" Burgstiner for his kind humanitarian and heroic act.

**IN TRIBUTE TO CLAIRE HOPE, SBA
VETERAN ADVOCATE OF THE
YEAR**

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2000

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Claire Hope, who has been recognized by the U.S. Small Business Administration as the 2000 Veteran Advocate of the Year.

Claire Hope is the founder and president of Claire Hope Enterprises in Camarillo, California, in my district. She has more than 30 years experience in human resources management, and has offered that experience pro-bono to many veterans. Since 1992, she has served on the California Employer Advisory Council Veteran Committee. She specializes in assisting veterans to become small business owners.

Claire Hope is also President and Founder of the Industry Education Council of Eastern Ventura County, implementing strategic plans that included the employment of veterans. Other avenues she has used to promote employment of veterans and small business ownership by veterans include: Regional Vice President of the California Employer Advisory for six years, Committee Member of the Conejo Valley Chamber of Commerce Education Committee, and Task Force Member for Workforce Development for the Conejo Valley Community Foundation.

Claire also served as President of the Simi/Conejo Valley Employer Advisory Council (SCVEAC). In 1997, SCVEAC was chosen as the outstanding EAC in the State of California and outstanding EAC in the United States for encouraging veteran business ownership.

Claire Hope is a very capable and dedicated advocate for veterans and is very deserving of this honor.

I have the pleasure of working with Claire on Ventura County Stand Down 2000, which she founded and chairs and for which I serve as honorary co-chairman. A Stand Down is where homeless veterans gain rest for a weekend from the daily battle for survival, by sleeping in comfortable tents and taking advantage of services that could lead to jobs and housing.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues will join me in congratulating Claire Hope for her recognition as the U.S. Small Business Administration Veteran Advocate of the Year and in thanking her for all her hard work and dedication on behalf of our veterans.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2000

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I unfortunately missed two recorded votes on suspension bills, H. Con. Res. 295, and H. Con. Res. 304. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on both resolutions.

However, I would like to share that my absence from the House floor was because I was hosting a press conference with three women from Afghanistan, Nigeria, Iran on global discrimination against women. These brave women shared their stories of discrimination and suffering living under the restrictive regimes in Iran and the Taliban government, and of being genitaly mutilated as a young child in Nigeria. Their horrifying stories were true anecdotes of why the Senate must ratify CEDAW, the United Nations Convention in the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women.

CEDAW, which was first adopted by the United Nations twenty years ago, formally codifies women's equality and promotes women's inclusion in business, government and other economic and social sectors. While I am very pleased that the House International Relations Committee held a hearing on my bill that urges the Senate to ratify CEDAW (House Resolution 107) I am outraged that it is being held up by one person in the Senate. The Senate Foreign Relations Chair, Jesse Helms, had outright refused to hold a hearing on CEDAW and continues to block its consideration on the Senate floor. This means that the chamber's 99 other Senators cannot express their views on this important treaty. It is unacceptable that the democratic process is being held captive by one person. I am hopeful that today's hearing in the House International Relations Committee is a first step in reversing Congress' inaction on CEDAW and will ignite a true dialogue in the Senate on CEDAW's ability to help empower women around the world. Until then, I will continue to push Chairman HELMS and the Senate to ratify it.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2000

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, due to necessary medical treatment, I was not present for the following votes. If I had been present, I would have voted as follows:

MAY 2, 2000

Rollcall vote 131, on the motion to Suspend the Rules and agree to H. Con. Res. 300, commanding the successful preparation of our Nation to withstand the Y2K computer problems, I would have voted "yea."

Rollcall vote 132, on the motion to Suspend the Rules and pass H.R. 2932, the Golden Spike/Crossroads of the West National Heritage Area, I would have voted "yea."

MAY 3, 2000

Rollcall vote 133, on the motion to Suspend the Rules and agree to H. Con. Res. 295, relating to human rights violations in the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, I would have voted "yea."