

Virginia Key is a 1,000-acre barrier island, characterized by a unique and sensitive natural environment, situated just off the mainland of the City of Miami, between Key Biscayne to the south and Fisher Island to the north.

Although there has been some limited development, the island is non-residential and includes ponds and waterways, a tropical hardwood hammock, and a large wildlife conservation area.

Beyond its natural attributes, Virginia Key is also worthy of inclusion in the National Park System because it illustrates our nation's progress toward achieving racial justice. When integrated, as they should be, beaches can be democratizing spaces, which naturally perform a communal function of bringing people together. But this was not the case in South Florida where, for decades, beaches were strictly segregated by race.

As the only beach in Miami that permitted blacks from the 1940s to the 1960s, Virginia Key provided the only escape and source of recreation for countless African American families in South Florida. Virginia Key was the site for baptism and religious services, courtships and honeymoons, organizational gatherings, visiting celebrities and family recreation.

Today, Virginia Key is being restored by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, but its value to the nation and to Florida is based not just on its natural beauty, but also as a symbol of the ongoing struggle of African Americans for equal rights and social justice.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to support this important legislation.

DIGHTON HONORS VETERANS

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 12, 2001

Mr. FRANK. Mr. Speaker, the town of Dighton, Massachusetts has been steadfast in its commitment to honoring those who have served our country in time of war. Originally the Veterans Memorial in Dighton covered the Civil War and World War I. The people of Dighton, led by the veterans, have admirably decided to expand, to recognize fully the veterans of all of our wars for their gallantry, patriotism, and sacrifice.

Thus, on Saturday, June 16, at 10:00 a.m., the Town of Dighton will dedicate the Dighton Veterans Memorial Common, which will feature seven flag poles in a semi-circle commemorating each branch of the U.S. military, as well as the flag of the United States and the POW flag. There will also be four granite benches listing the names of all of the residents of Dighton who died in the wars of our country in defense of freedom. World War II veteran John Pimenta spearheaded this effort, which was coordinated by Alice Pimenta, a tireless worker for this cause. And we are all grateful to the Dighton Power Charitable Fund for financial assistance in this very worthy project.

Mr. Speaker, I was pleased to facilitate the flying of a flag over the Capitol that will now take its permanent place in this important memorial.

The dedication will take place under the leadership of Commander Ronald Louis Naro,

of Rapoza/Knott VFW Post 2094 of North Dighton. Mr. Speaker, this is an important event of which the citizens of Dighton are justifiably proud, and I am proud to have played a small part in it, and to be able to call the attention of the nation to this important act of memorial.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 12, 2001

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, last week due to an urgent family matter, I was unable to be in Washington for Roll Call votes #150-155. Had I been here, I would have voted Yea on Roll Call votes #150-155.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO RICHARD HUSBY

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 12, 2001

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Richard Husby of Lansing, Michigan for being selected as the recipient of the national American Water Works Association 2001 Exemplary Wellhead Protection Award.

Mr. Husby has been the manager of West Side Water in Lansing, Michigan since July 1, 1979. West Side Water purchases treated water from Lansing's Board of Water and Light, and sells it to its customers, having to continuously comply with Environmental Protection Agency rules and regulations on drinking water standards.

Mr. Husby is on the Board of Trustees of Mid-Michigan Water Supply which carries out the proper management and protection of ground water. He is also a member of the Capital Area Ground Water Alliance and is a board member of the Youth Education Committee that educates children about the importance of a clean environment and clean ground water.

The American Water Works Association has awarded him with the 2001 Exemplary Wellhead Protection Award for his commitment to plugging abandoned wells and for educating the citizens of Mid-Michigan on how to detect abandoned wells and the dangers they present.

Therefore Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Richard Husby for being awarded the American Water Works Association's 2001 Exemplary Wellhead Protection Award.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY CLASS OF 2001

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 12, 2001

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the 2001 grad-

uating class of Michigan State University. Due to their hard work and dedication, they are now prepared to make significant contributions to the State of Michigan and the United States of America.

As graduates from the first land grant University in the United States, whatever endeavors the Michigan State class of 2001 may pursue, success is certain to follow.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Michigan State University Class of 2001. May this only be the beginning of the great accomplishments they will achieve in their lifetime.

TO HONOR ELVIRA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN TUCSON, ARIZONA

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 12, 2001

MR. PASTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to pay tribute to an elementary school in my district that has an outstanding record of commitment to its children and the community. The accomplishments of this school recently received national recognition from the Department of Education, which named it a Blue Ribbon School. I'd like my colleagues to take a moment and join me in paying tribute to Elvira Elementary School in Tucson, Arizona.

Elvira Elementary School is a kindergarten through fifth-grade school in the Sunnyside Unified School District in the southwest portion of Tucson, Arizona. It is a school that has welcomed many challenges and been described as the "best of the best in public education," by one of our local newspapers in Tucson. In addition, it is one of only three elementary schools statewide to be awarded the coveted "A+" ranking by the Arizona Educational Foundation's Model Schools Program in 1999. Selection for this honor was based on Elvira's exemplary student focus and support, active teaching and learning environments, powerful community and parent partnerships and strong educational leadership.

Let me tell you a little about the student body at Elvira. Currently, 88.6 percent of the school's 690 children participate in the federal freereduced breakfast/lunch program, which qualifies Elvira as a Title I school. Almost 48 percent of the students are Limited English Proficient, 10.4 percent receive Special Education services and the student mobility rate is nearing 30 percent.

But as I said, Elvira welcomes challenges. The culture of Elvira values all stakeholders and has high expectations for each of its members. A strong sense of devotion is exhibited by staff, parents and community members who join together to advocate for children.

While most of the families in Elvira are in a lower socio-economic strata, and while the school community has dealt with numerous adverse circumstances and incidents in the past several years, Elvira's resiliency holds, and the community has reacted with caring and commitment to children and their promise for the future. Elvira continually seeks avenues for close analysis of programming in order to improve and expand upon learning environments which nurture the development of the full potential of each child. High expectations

for student behavior and learning have been manifested in mandatory daily homework, advocacy of parents for school uniforms, and family support enabling Elvira to become a pioneer school for the well-known violence prevention program known as PeaceBuilders.

The examples of commitment and dedication at Elvira Elementary School are numerous. That is why I am so proud of this school and its principal, my friend Mary Jane Santos. Thanks to her commitment and the dedication and work of parents, community and staff, Elvira Elementary School is continually elevating student achievement and moving toward its vision of creating learning environments that empower all students to reach their full potential. For these reasons, I respectfully ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Elvira Elementary School.

A TRIBUTE TO GABRIEL EREM

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 12, 2001

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Gabriel Erem, the publisher of Lifestyles magazine, upon his being selected as the inaugural recipient of the prestigious "Jerusalem Award" by the UJA-Federation of New York. This is in recognition of his thirty years of community involvement and for donating his time and resources to numerous charitable causes. The award will be presented on June 18th, 2001 in New York City.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Erem has lived the quintessential American dream. He was born in Hungary among the ruins of WWII to Holocaust survivors Rabbi Akiva Eichler and Borbala Frank. After winning a national writing contest in 1964, Gabriel caught the attention of the Communist party and was eventually persecuted by them for his writings. Fearing for his safety he escaped to Israel, where he attended Tel Aviv University and later worked as a freelance journalist for several major newspapers. After Mr. Erem arrived in North America he founded a publishing company and has risen to the top of the publishing profession.

Mr. Speaker, in addition to managing a successful magazine, Gabriel Erem serves on a number of humanitarian and charitable boards both in the United States and abroad. He is the Co-Chairman of the Children of Chernobyl organization and has worked on the establishment of the Endowment for Democracy School in Budapest, Hungary. He is a member of the Executive Committee of the Israel Bonds organization, and serves on the Supervisory Boards of Bar Ilan University, Rambam Medical Center, Boys Town of Jerusalem and The Center of the Cantorial Arts. Mr. Erem is also a Member Emeritus on the council that bestows the Raoul Wallenberg Humanitarian Awards on behalf of the Shaarei Zedek Medical Center of Jerusalem and is an advisor to the College of Teshuva where the new Torah Study Center was named after his late father, Rabbi Akiva Eichler.

Mr. Erem is an advisor to New York University Law School, Mount Sinai Hospital in New York, and the Mount Sinai Hospital Foundation in Toronto. Mr. Erem's commitment to edu-

cating people about the Holocaust led him to join Steven Spielberg's Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation. He is also an associate member of the Conference of Presidents of Major Jewish Organizations and is a member of the National Committee on American Foreign Policy. Gabriel Erem has been married for 29 years to his wife, Susan, and they are the parents of two lovely children.

Mr. Speaker, Gabriel Erem's Lifestyles magazine was established to salute Jewish contributions in all areas of life. Over the past thirty years, the magazine has published profiles of extraordinary human beings ranging from Nobel Laureates, to giants of the art world, and individuals who have excelled in their various fields. Under Mr. Erem's leadership Lifestyles has established itself as a respected voice of integrity and continues to spotlight numerous and various humanitarian causes in each issue.

Mr. Speaker, Gabriel Erem, a child of Holocaust survivors, is being honored for his passionate commitment to teaching Jewish history and culture and preserving the Jewish legacy to the world. He has made numerous contributions to Holocaust education in our country, including the dedication of several issues of his magazine to teaching future generations about the lessons of the Holocaust. He is a man of outstanding commitment and accomplishment in the noblest of pursuits, who continues to contribute to culture, education, ethnic understanding, and the spreading of democratic and free market principles. Through his vast commitment to preserving and nurturing Jewish communal life, both in the United States and Canada, Gabriel Erem has made a tremendous and enduring gift to the education of future generations about Jewish history and culture.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me paying tribute Gabriel Erem for his contributions to our society and applaud him on receiving the UJA-Federation of New York's first annual Jerusalem Award.

OUTSTANDING HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS FIRST CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF NEW MEXICO

HON. HEATHER WILSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 12, 2001

Mrs. WILSON. Mr. Speaker, the following graduating high school students from the First Congressional District of New Mexico have been awarded the Congressional Certificate of Merit. These students have excelled during their academic careers and proven themselves to be exceptional students and leaders with their scholastic achievements, community service, and participation in school and civic activities. It is my pleasure to be able to recognize these outstanding students for their accomplishments. Their parents, their teachers, their classmates, the people of New Mexico and I are proud of them.

CERTIFICATE OF MERIT AWARD WINNERS 2001

Jayne Chino, Career Enrichment Center
Julio Dominguez, Rio Grande High School
Tomas Jason Garcia, Menaul High School
Lynda Griego, Evening High School
Margery Martha Gullick, Valley High School
Emiliano Herrera III, St. Pius High School

Sara K. Keller, Temple Baptist Academy
Adriana Kennedy, Freedom High School
Kristin Mitchell, Manzano High School
Christina Cook, Estancia High School
Renee Nicole Eden, Hope Christian School
Sarah Burrows Gonzales, Albuquerque High School

Eric Grossman, Albuquerque Academy
Joel L. Gurule, Evangel Christian Academy
Matthew Jones, Cibola High School
Kristin N. Kelly, Sandia Preparatory School
Matt Long, Eldorado High School
Anthony Montoya, Los Lunas High School
Jessie Montoya, School on Wheels
Bianca Pullen, Del Norte High School
Francisco Romero, Mountainair High School
Basil Jerome Steele Jr., Sandia High School
Megha Narayan, La Cueva High School
Amanda Rogers, Moriarty High School
Diva Sanchez, New Futures High School

IN HONOR OF DAVID L. CHERRY

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 12, 2001

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of David L. Cherry, a member of the New York Police Department. Mr. Cherry graduated from St. Joseph's College in Brooklyn in May 2001. He earned distinguished honors at graduation, including his selection as a member of the Delta Gamma Sigma Honor Society.

David L. Cherry is a distinguished police officer. He began his career in law enforcement in 1984 when he joined the New York City Transit Police Department. David was promoted to Detective 3rd grade in 1990. He has received numerous medals for distinguished police duty.

David has always and continues to display his impressive athletic talent. In his senior year of high school, he was voted outstanding male athlete. He received a track scholarship to Essex County Community College in Newark, New Jersey, where he was named a National Junior College All-American Track Team. His track successes extended beyond his days in college. He was also a member of three National Relay Championships representing the B.O.H.A.A. Track Club of Brooklyn. He also won two more championships while representing the Westchester Puma Track Club.

David uses his athletic gift to the benefit of others. He represents the New York City Police Department at the annual New York State Police Olympic Games. He has been undefeated in the 100 and 200-meter races for the past 17 years.

David's passion for the past 15 years has been working as a volunteer track coach for the Boys and Girls High School Track Team. He shares with the youth his day-to-day activities and experiences with the New York Police Department. He has taken time out of his busy schedule of work, school, and coaching to set aside time to personally counsel many athletes. The personal attention that David brings to his team shows his devotion to his community. He has helped many athletes earn full athletic scholarships to many outstanding universities. Upon retirement from the New York City Police Department, David hopes to volunteer full time for the community.

Mr. Speaker, David L. Cherry devotes his life to serving his community through being a