

Commission. He has served as chairman of the board of the Urban League of Pittsburgh, the Negro Educational Emergency Drive, and the Riverfront Working Group for the City of Pittsburgh. He has served on the board of directors of the Salvation Army, ACTION-Housing, the American Red Cross, Magee-Womens Hospital, the Pittsburgh Council for International Visitors, and the PNC Urban Advisory Board. And he has served as a trustee of the National Urban League and the National Center for Social Policy and Practice. He has served as deacon and trustee at the Macedonia Baptist Church as well.

Currently Dean Epperson is the Vice Chairman of the Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh, and he serves on the Allegheny County Department of Human Services Oversight Committee, the William J. Copeland Fund Advisory Committee of the Pittsburgh Foundation, the Lemington Home Advisory Board of the Pittsburgh Foundation. He is also a Trustee of the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary and its Metro-Urban Ministry Advisory Board.

Finally, Dean Epperson has also been active in a number of professional organizations, and he has received many, many awards recognizing his many important contributions and accomplishments.

David E. Epperson is a remarkably talented man who has a tremendous impact at the University of Pittsburgh and southwestern Pennsylvania in the course of his long and productive professional career. I am certain that Dean Epperson will continue to be active in community affairs after his retirement as well. A dinner honoring Dean Epperson on the occasion of his retirement will be held in Pittsburgh tomorrow. On behalf of the people of Pennsylvania's 14th Congressional District, I want to wish him well at this milestone in his life.

A TRIBUTE TO BRETT KAUBLE,
MICHAEL KRUSE, MICAH KUBIC

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2001

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor three students from my district: Brett Kauble of Kansas City, Michael Kruse of Platte City, and Micah Kubic of Kansas City for winning the Congressional Award Gold Medal. In obtaining this award they have spent the last two years completing 400 hours of community service, 200 hours of both personal development and physical fitness activities, and a four-night expedition or exploration.

The Congressional Award challenges our nation's young people to realize their full potential through goal setting in the areas of public service, personal development, physical fitness, and exploration. These three students are an outstanding example of the promise and bright future of this nation. The lessons they have learned striving towards this award will serve them well in future pursuits. This award is a testament not only to the talent, commitment, and discipline of these students, but also to their families, communities and schools who supported these students along the way. For their hard work and dedication I congratulate them. I applaud their accomplish-

ment today and I encourage them to always pursue future goals with the same vigor.

HONORING LEONARD ABESS

HON. PETER DEUTSCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2001

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Leonard Abess, a successful banker whose philanthropy during his 97 years of life contributed greatly to the enrichment of the Miami community. It brings me great sadness to report that Leonard passed away on June 3, 2001. Today, I wish to celebrate his life's achievements and mourn the passing of a great man.

Leonard Abess was born in Providence, Rhode Island to Romanian Jews. He moved to Washington D.C. in 1917 to live with an older sister after the death of his mother. He then enrolled in college at New York University where he took accounting classes at night while working full time during the day.

Leonard moved to Miami in 1925 to open an accounting firm inside First National Bank, where he was an independent auditor. Twenty-one years later he co-founded City National Bank, which is now the largest nationally chartered bank based in Florida. He went from making \$25 a week as a young accountant to making millions.

All those who knew Leonard would tell you he never let his riches stop him from caring about people. Leonard Abess despised bigotry and worked so that others could benefit from his philanthropy. He treated everyone with love and dignity.

In 1949, when local hospitals refused to hire Jewish doctors, Leonard and a group of Jewish residents pooled their resources to form Mount Sinai Medical Center in Miami Beach. The hospital, of which Leonard was a founding member and a former chairman of the board of trustees, now has a \$300 million-plus operating budget.

Leonard's public service won him countless accolades. He was the recipient of the Anti-Defamation League's Man of Achievement Award and was also named their chairman emeritus. Leonard was the Humanitarian Award winner from the National Conference of Christians and Jews. He and his wife, Bertha, who died in 1997, were recognized as Philanthropists of the Year by the National Society of Fund Raising Executives.

Leonard Abess was survived by his daughter Linda Ellis; eight grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. Mr. Speaker, along with his family, the community of Miami will be at a great loss for his wonderful spirit and generous philanthropic contributions.

IN HONOR OF HIRAM HOUSE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2001

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize Hiram House, which will receive a historical marker for the important role it has served in the lives of Ohio youth for over a century.

Hiram House was founded in 1896 as Ohio's first "Settlement House" to address the needs of Cleveland's immigrants and others in poverty. It was one of the first of its kind in the entire nation. For the next 105 years, this organization effectively pursued its mission of providing a quality outdoor experience for youth that promotes character, self-confidence, and leadership.

Today, Hiram House offers a variety of Summer Camps, School Camps, Educational and Adventure Programs, and year-round Group Retreats for children—especially those from the inner city and disadvantaged homes. Following the theme of American History and the Pioneer Spirit, the camp features covered wagons, tepees, log cabins, and a frontier fort to provide children with a glimpse of life on the early frontier.

The Hiram House continues to make a profoundly positive difference in the lives of more than 7,000 children a year. It is my hope that it continues its service to the community for another century and beyond.

My distinguished colleagues, I ask you to join me in honoring Hiram House and the countless individuals who have provided admirable service to the Cleveland area for over a century.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE HONORABLE NAT PATTON

HON. JIM TURNER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2001

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in memory of The Honorable Nat Patton, Jr., a man who embodied my hometown of Crockett, Texas in so many ways. Nat recently passed away on February 13, 2001 after the full life of eighty-eight years.

Nat Patton, the son of former U.S. Congressman and Mrs. Patton, was educated in the public schools of my hometown of Crockett, TX. It was his love for the game of baseball that led him to attend Texas A&M University, where he played shortstop for the Aggie Varsity baseball team. During his days at Texas A&M, Mr. Patton was elected president of his sophomore class and yell leader—a high Aggie honor—for the student body.

Nat Patton was destined for public service from his early years. Following in his father's footsteps, Nat had a special interest in politics and received his law degree from Cumberland University in Tennessee.

After passing the State of Texas Bar Exam, Mr. Patton returned to Crockett to enter private practice. He set his law career aside to serve his country in World War II, where he fought under General George S. Patton's Third Army, 89th Division, European Theater. Following the war he returned to Crockett and resumed his law practice.

From 1950 to 1980, Mr. Patton served Houston County as County Attorney. Upon retiring from public service after 30 years, Mr. Patton continued his private law practice.

Mr. Patton and his wife, Eleanor were married for 60 years. Both were active members of their community, participating in the First United Methodist Church of Crockett. During his service to the church Mr. Patton had served as a Sunday School teacher and as a

member of the administrative board. Mr. Paton was also a member of the Masonic Lodge, Knights of Pythias, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the American Legion.

Nat's friendliness, his welcoming smile, and his warm spirit will be remembered by many of us in Crockett as the personification of the hometown that we love.

We all share his family's profound grief in his passing, just as we have joined them in the celebration of his life.

We'll miss you, Nat.

CONGRATULATING TWILIGHT HAVEN

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2001

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Twilight Haven for 40 years of service to the elderly in our community.

Twilight Haven was the first care facility for the elderly in the Fresno area. It was also one of the first homes for the elderly in the state that provided independent and assisted living with nursing care at one location. Twilight Haven is a volunteer, non-profit organization with government assistance.

In 1957 a group of local leaders from the German community collaborated with a group of local churches to form the Twilight Haven Corporation. Over 700 people joined the organizers to form the initial corporation. Since the companies inception, 1500 people have become members and the corporation presently has 550 members. Although the corporation was initially established by members from local churches, it is fully independent and not a subsidiary of any religious organization. The Twilight Haven facility was opened in November of 1960 in Fresno. Over the course of its 40 year history, the facility has gone through vast renovation. Today, the facility can accommodate about 255 residents. The facility has served more than 6,000 senior citizens and their families.

Mr. Speaker, I want to pay tribute to Twilight Haven for serving the needs of the senior citizens in our community. I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Twilight Haven for its many years of providing outstanding care to the elderly in Fresno.

IN HONOR OF RALPH STANLEY, A MASTER FOR MASS TRANSIT

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2001

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Ralph Stanley. Mr. Stanley recently passed away, leaving behind him a legacy of outstanding public and private sector work in the transportation arena. Throughout his career Mr. Stanley established, among other things, a true expertise for mass transit projects.

Mr. Stanley was a graduate of Princeton University and Georgetown University Law School.

He joined the Transportation Department in 1981, serving as chief of staff to Transportation Department Secretaries Drew Lewis and Elizabeth Dole. He then served as the chief of the U.S. Urban Mass Transportation Administration for four years. During this time I worked closely with Mr. Stanley, particularly in the expansion of Metro for the Washington Metropolitan area. Had it not been for our working relationship, the vast system of public transportation we all enjoy today would not have been possible.

Mr. Stanley found the Virginia Toll Road Corporation in 1988 and spent four years as chief executive. In 1992, he became vice president for infrastructure and development for Bechtel. While at Bechtel, Mr. Stanley helped direct the expansion of the light rail transit system in Portland, Oregon, as well as the economic development of the land near the rail expansion.

Mr. Speaker, although Mr. Stanley and I did not always find ourselves on the same side of public policy issues, he was fair, forward looking and supportive of the transportation projects on which we worked together. Mr. Stanley was dedicated to create a better and more efficient transportation system for that we are grateful.

HONORING THE FREEDOM TOWER

HON. PETER DEUTSCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2001

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, since its inception, the United States has been a safe haven for those less fortunate. A Nation built around those seeking religious or political freedom. A new chance. A fresh start. Opportunities for themselves, and for their children and their children's children. And so, Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a symbol of our Nation's freedom; one that has already welcomed generations of new Americans to our shores: the Freedom Tower.

The defining landmark of the Miami skyline for nearly 80 years, the Freedom Tower has represented to Cuban exiles the principals upon which our nation is based. And now the Freedom Tower is undergoing a well-deserved \$40 million transformation to become an interactive museum, library, and research center that will chronicle the experiences, hardships and triumphs of Cuban exiles on their journey to South Florida.

Originally the home to a Miami newspaper, the Tower became the Cuban Refugee Emergency Center in 1962 and remained so for over a decade. Known as "El Refugio," the Freedom Tower served as Florida's Ellis Island to the 450,000 refugees that made the journey.

Mr. Speaker, the Freedom Tower has already meant so much to the South Florida community. And a year from now this distinguished Miami landmark will take on new meaning. It will teach new generations of Americans about the history of Cuban refugees and how their bravery and belief in American ideals has shaped and bettered South Florida as well as all of America.

ROCHESTER INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY HONORS PROVIDIAN FINANCIAL

HON. JOHN J. LaFALCE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2001

Mr. LaFALCE. Mr. Speaker, I have addressed the House on numerous occasions in recent years as a critic of the credit card industry and its marketing practices. Today, I would like to share with my colleagues a different story, of how two very different institutions have joined to recognize not only a significant business turnaround, but a change in practices that have enormous consequence for consumers.

One of these institutions is the Rochester Institute of Technology in Rochester, New York, one of the world's outstanding centers of learning in the areas of business and technology. It is also located in Monroe County, one of the four counties I have the honor of representing. The other is Providian Financial Corporation, a financial services company and a major national issuer of credit cards based in San Francisco, California.

Earlier this month, the Rochester Institute of Technology joined with USA Today in awarding Providian the 2001 Quality Cup award for achievement in customer service. The award recognized Providian for the enhanced customer satisfaction program initiated by the company in May 1999 to address consumer complaints and litigation. Under this program, Providian has implemented more than 200 initiatives in the areas of customer outreach and communications, complaint processing, customer service and marketing practices. The results have provided a dramatic turnaround for the credit company. Since 1999, Providian's customer accounts have increased 60 percent and its assets have grown by 78 percent. At the same time, consumer complaints have declined 40 percent and customer attrition rates have dropped 38 percent.

The Quality Cup award was instituted by the Rochester Institute and USA Today in 1991 to recognize and foster quality in American business. It has been awarded annually to businesses, government and educational institutions, and health care organizations who use teamwork and total quality management to reduce costs, solve problems, increase productivity and enhance consumer service. This year, a judging panel consisting of Rochester Institute faculty, together with outside academics, industry consultants and quality experts, considered 146 nominees ranging from Fortune 500 corporations to small businesses. In addition to recognizing Providian in the customer service category, winners were also selected in the categories of government, health care, manufacturing and small business.

The recognition of the Rochester Institute and USA Today symbolizes the dramatic changes Providian has achieved in less than two years. Until recently, the company was mired in controversy and litigation. Late last year, Providian agreed to pay \$105 million to settle earlier class action litigation that alleged that Providian had routinely charged credit card accounts for products and services that consumers had not approved or authorized. The settlement was Providian's second within a year. In June, it also agreed to pay \$300