

who in 1892 took three orphaned babies into her care and started a tradition of service.

The three babies taken in by Kezia were the first of thousands to be cared for by the DePelchin Children's Center. The center currently provides counseling services, parental education, adoption and foster care services, and residential treatment for children with emotional disorders. What is a most remarkable feat is that these services are currently offered to more than 27,000 children and families each year.

Throughout its 110 year continuum of care, DePelchin Children's Center has been a cornerstone of care in Harris, Montgomery, Ft. Bend, and Waller Counties. The services offered at DePelchin are designed to meet the specific needs of individuals and families. At DePelchin, services are offered to individuals regardless of their ability to pay. The Center receives its funding from the United Way, several government agencies, and the generosity of individuals within the community.

From 1892 to 2002, the DePelchin Children's Center has continued to grow. Through its support from the Child Welfare League of America (CWLA) in 1937, DePelchin opened the Negro Child Center and targeted services to Houston's minority population. During the days of segregation DePelchin was a catalyst within the community.

There are many success stories that spawned from the DePelchin Children's Center. The "Bayou Place," a division of DePelchin in Spring, Texas, serves as a group home and hosts classes for foster and biological families. It provides education for children at the shelter, care for children of battered wives, and adoption services for mentally retarded children.

Mr. Speaker, I join the DePelchin Children's Center as it celebrates its 110th Anniversary and the grand opening dedication of the new facility. I commend the staff and volunteers of DePelchin for their unyielding commitment to the ideals of Kezia Payne DePelchin. Their passionate work on behalf of countless young Texans has set an example for generations. I applaud their leadership and service, and wish them continued success in the years to come.

HONORING ROSTEEN STRASSNER

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 17, 2002

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Rosteen Strassner on the occasion of her 100th birthday. The Fresno Temple Church of God in Christ celebrated her birthday on March 23, 2002.

Mrs. Strassner has made numerous contributions to her community; she is truly a giving person. She has served the West Fresno Community and the City of Fresno for nearly 68 years. Her accomplishments have been great, and range in variety. Rosteen's concern for others has made an impact on her career choices. Mrs. Strassner worked as a dietitian at St. Agnes Hospital for many years. She also owned and operated two restaurants in the Fresno area. Mrs. Strassner, unwilling to turn her back on anyone, opened her home to become a full-time caregiver to mentally challenged adults. Her hard work and dedication

was very rewarding, though not in a monetary sense. She became one of the first African Americans to open a residential licensed home in West Fresno for the Central Valley Region and State of California, where she could assist numerous Valley residents.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Rosteen Strassner on the very special occasion of her 100th birthday. The community has been greatly served by this outstanding woman. I invite my colleagues to join me in thanking Mrs. Strassner for her contributions to the community and wishing her many more prosperous years.

RACE RELATIONS IN NORTHEAST OHIO

HON. TOM SAWYER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 17, 2002

Mr. SAWYER. Mr. Speaker, in 1993, The Akron Beacon Journal in Akron, Ohio published "A Question of Color," a year-long Pulitzer Prize winning series on race relations in Northeast Ohio. As part of the series, The Akron Beacon Journal called on local organizations to join together to discuss ways to improve race relations in the community. This effort became known as the Coming Together Project.

Nine years later, the Coming Together Project has grown tremendously. What began as a local effort to address growing disparities between blacks and whites in the areas of housing, income, and educational opportunities, has expanded into a national effort to promote diversity, racial harmony, and cultural awareness. The Coming Together Project established programs that provide people with the opportunity to discuss issues that have historically divided them. Through educational workshops and seminars, the Coming Together Project promotes dialogue and helps foster community-building relationships.

On Wednesday, April 17, 2002, the Coming Together Project will hold its inaugural Annual Meeting and Awards Luncheon in honor of the organization's founders, community volunteers, and supporting groups. The Coming Together Project and its 250 participating member groups and corporations deserve recognition for their dedicated work to improving communities across the country through diversity programs.

RECOGNIZING THE HOUSTON MINORITY BUSINESS COUNCIL'S EXPO 2002

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 17, 2002

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of the Houston Minority Business Council's EXPO 2002. EXPO 2002, Texas' largest minority business development trade fair, assists major corporations, government agencies and educational institutions in identifying proven minority suppliers capable of satisfying product and service needs. This year's business forum will be held on Wednesday,

September 5, 2002, at the George R. Brown Convention Center. Dr. John Mendelsohn, president of the University of Texas' M.D. Anderson Cancer Center will serve as this year's General Chair.

For many years, major corporations have used EXPO as a tool to disseminate information on how to do business with their companies. Minority Business Enterprises (MBEs) utilize EXPO as an easy and cost-effective means of accessing key purchasing personnel and decisionmakers at major corporations. EXPO allows MBEs to gain valuable insights into both the local and national strategies of major corporations. Nearly 1,000 minority-owned businesses and more than 200 corporations and government agencies are expected to attend. EXPO prides itself in its ability to spur the development of minority businesses by bringing together minority businesses and corporate executives. Last year, as a result of contacts established at EXPO, MBEs made an average of 23 sales calls from which 44 percent reported immediate results. On average, at least two-thirds of the participants reported the establishment of new business relationships that totaled as high as \$2 million within 8 months of the event.

Mr. Speaker, the Houston Minority Business Council serves the important function of incorporating minority businesses in local and national commerce. Regardless of the size of the company, EXPO has something to offer a minority business owner, major corporation, government agency, educational or financial institution, or business resource organization. I applaud the efforts of the Houston Minority Business Council and look forward to another successful event.

HONORING CHARLES M. WALLIN

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 17, 2002

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Charles M. Wallin for receiving the 2002 Hall of Fame Award from the Sanger District Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Wallin has been playing a huge role in the Sanger community nearly his entire life.

Charles Wallin attended elementary school and high school in Sanger. He graduated from Fresno State, and the College of Mortuary Science in Los Angeles. Upon his return to Sanger, Charles went into business with his father at Wallin & Son Funeral Home which he eventually purchased from his father and renamed Wallin's Sanger Funeral Home.

Mr. Wallin is a very active member of the Sanger community. He was a member of the board of directors for the Sanger Chamber of Commerce and was the District Secretary for Rotary District 5230. Charles Wallin has been a member of the Rotary Club of Sanger since 1964, and is currently a member of the Sanger Masonic Lodge No. 316. Charles is an avid supporter of the Tom Flores Youth Foundation, and also promotes numerous programs at Sanger High School. Mr. Wallin is a member of the California Funeral Director's Association. He has been married to Marilyn L. Wallin for 37 years, and the happy couple was blessed with three sons, Mark, Christopher, and Brian.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Charles M. Wallin for receiving the 2002 Hall of Fame Award from Sanger Chamber of Commerce. I invite my colleagues to join me in thanking Mr. Wallin for his community service and wishing him many more years of continued success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BOB RILEY

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 17, 2002

Mr. RILEY. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained for rollcall No. 93, H.R. 1374, the Philip E. Ruppe Post Office Building Designation Act. Had I been present I would have voted "yea."

I was also unavoidably detained for rollcall No. 94, H.R. 4156, the Clergy Housing Allowance Clarification Act (as amended). Had I been present I would have voted "yea."

I was also unavoidably detained for rollcall No. 95, H.R. 4167, the Family Farmer Bankruptcy Extension Act. Had I been present I would have voted "yea."

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL IN BOUND BROOK, NJ

HON. MICHAEL FERGUSON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 17, 2002

Mr. FERGUSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the players, coaches and administration of the Bound Brook Little League on the 50th anniversary of Little League Baseball in Bound Brook, New Jersey.

Nothing symbolizes the springtime and the onset of warmer weather like the first pitch of the baseball season. A season's first pitch is always a special moment, but on Saturday, April 20, the first pitch ceremony of the Bound Brook Little League commemorates 50 years of little league baseball in the community.

Over the years, little league baseball has become a fixture in Bound Brook. The little league does more than merely teach the youth of the area about our national pastime. It fosters camaraderie with teammates, instills respect for fellow competitors, and teaches youngsters that sports are about much more than winning and losing.

On April 20, the community of Bound Brook will come together to have a parade followed by exhibition baseball games to mark the 50th anniversary of the little league. This day of celebration will bring together former and current players and is symbolic of the organization's meaning to the area. The little league brings the community together to give adults the opportunity to share their love of baseball and teach kids lessons that they will carry throughout their lives.

I commend Bound Brook Little Leaguers, past and present, and the many friends of the little league that have helped mold the lives of so many youngsters throughout the past 50 years.

HONORING DR. FRED B. KESSLER

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 17, 2002

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Fred B. Kessler who has been selected The Houston Surgical Society's "Distinguished Houston Surgeon" for 2002. Dr. Kessler's family, colleagues, and friends will honor him at the society's meeting on May 21, 2002.

Dr. Kessler has dedicated his life to our country and to the world of surgical medicine. He was born on December 18, 1931, in Houston, TX. He graduated from the University of Texas in 1952 and obtained his medical degree in 1956 from the University of Texas Medical School in Galveston. Dr. Kessler interned at the Philadelphia General Hospital from 1956–1957 and completed his residency training at the Hospital University of Pennsylvania. He returned to Houston after completing his fellowship at Roosevelt Hospital in New York in 1963.

Dr. Kessler is currently Clinical Professor of Surgery and Co-Fellowship Director of the Plastic Surgery Hand Service at Baylor College of Medicine. He has served on numerous committees for the American Society for Surgery of the Hand and the American Medical Association, published numerous articles and chapters, and served as associate editor of the Journal of Hand Surgery.

Mr. Speaker, throughout his career, Dr. Kessler has distinguished himself as a spectacular surgeon, consummate educator and an integral part of the Houston community. It is with great honor that I congratulate him on this outstanding recognition of his commitment to the field of medicine.

HONORING MR. DEAN STANLEY SHELTON

HON. BOB SCHAFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 17, 2002

Mr. SCHAFER. Mr. Speaker, today I am proud to honor Staff Sergeant Dean Stanley Shelton who proudly served in the United States Army and recently received the Purple Heart and Bronze Star medals of honor.

Raised in Kansas, Mr. Shelton was drafted on February 8, 1951 at age twenty-one, and first served in Germany. During his time there he met his soon to be wife, Greta. Once his service abroad was completed, Mr. Shelton came back to the United States and was stationed at Fort Custer, Michigan where he received an Honorable Discharge on January 30, 1955.

However, due to his dedication and love of service, Mr. Shelton re-enlisted in the Army on June 27, 1955. Once again duty sent him to Germany, South Korea, and South Vietnam.

It was in Vietnam, assigned to Company A, Fourth Engineering Battalion, Fourth Infantry Division, where Staff Sergeant Shelton sustained injuries during combat. On March 26, 1968, the Third Battalion Fire Support Base came under intense enemy ground, rocket, and mortar attack. During these events, Spe-

cialist Shelton sustained injuries while positioned in a bunker defending the base perimeter.

Although his fellow soldiers and the U.S. Army recognized his personal bravery, due to his severe medical condition and evacuation to U.S. hospitals, there was unfortunately not time to present his medals when they were actually awarded. On the battlefield, Shelton showed uncommon valor, dedication, and sacrifice that cannot be instilled in training.

Mr. Speaker, I had the honor of attending an awards ceremony on April 8, 2002, when Mr. Shelton finally received his medals. This nation has not forgotten his tremendous service. I would like to thank Staff Sergeant Shelton in keeping with the highest tradition of armed service, and selflessly defending the lives of his fellow soldiers.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BOB CLEMENT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 17, 2002

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 93, H.R. 1374, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

RECOGNIZING SHARON K. DARLING

HON. ANNE M. NORTHP

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 17, 2002

Mrs. NORTHP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate a truly inspiring woman in my district, Ms. Sharon Darling. Ms. Darling has been honored as a 2001 recipient of the prestigious National Humanities Medal. Next month, Ms. Darling will receive her award in a personal presentation from President Bush and First Lady Laura Bush.

As a tireless advocate for education and literacy, Ms. Darling has worked hard to improve and reform the education system. While serving in many capacities throughout her career, she has always remained steadfast in her pursuit of this very noble goal. Ms. Darling pioneered a program that combines early childhood education, adult literacy education, parental support and structured interaction between parents and their children. Encouraged by positive results, Ms. Darling founded the National Center for Family Literacy in 1989. Since its inception, NCFL, which is located in Louisville, Kentucky, has been dedicated to family literacy. Their efforts are internationally recognized, and NCFL is well-known for creating innovative program models, developing effective advocacy strategies and providing research, training and technical assistance to professionals working within the field of family literacy.

Ms. Darling and the NCFL realize the importance of education and literacy. Without the ability to access knowledge, people will not have the tools necessary to fight their way out of impoverishment, and to empower themselves. Ms. Darling serves as an advisor on education issues to governors, policy makers, business leaders and foundations across the nation. By providing advice and creative planning strategies, Ms. Darling works toward