

CONGRATULATING THE JACKSONVILLE PROVIDENCE STALLIONS ON CLASS A STATE BASEBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. ANDER CRENSHAW

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 16, 2003

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to laud the accomplishments of a group of young men from my congressional district that attend Providence School in Jacksonville, Florida.

Mr. Speaker, in just the sixth year of this school's existence, their baseball team has won the Class A state baseball championship. This is no small feat in the state of Florida, for ours is a state known for great baseball and baseball greats such as Fred McGriff, Alex Rodriguez, and Chipper Jones. This year the state of Florida had 50 men on Major League Baseball spring training rosters.

This group of fourteen young men and five coaches compiled a 26–2 record on the way to their state championship, and along the way won the American Plumbing Classic in Jacksonville, the district, and regional championships. For some on this team, these winning ways are nothing new as Providence was District champion and Regional runner-up in 2001 and made the State Final Four in 2002.

Mr. Speaker, while the crowning moment of this team's season came at the end of a 7–2 win over Orangewood Christian at Tampa's Legend's Field, it was more than just 28 games that went into this championship. For most of these young men, this championship started at age 5 or 6 and has continued through many spring and summer league games since. This championship came with the help and sacrifices of family, friends and multiple coaches, many of whom are volunteers. This victory came at the expense of free time, other school functions, and even some blood, sweat, and a few tears.

It takes a lot to be a champion and this team, their family, friends, and coaches have all shown they know what it takes.

I wish continued success to all fourteen of these young men who make up the Providence School's baseball team: Kellyn Townsend, Joshua Maxwell, Kyle Wilson, Austin Heilig, Travis Martin, Jordan Bowser, Tim Aldridge, Connor Hodges, Steven Turner, Hunter Robinson, Ryan Kramer, Blake Gerber, Tim Brown, and Robert Hardee. I also wish continued success to Head Coach Billy Bell and his four assistants: Mark Aldridge, Greg Larrick, Jim Martin, and Mac Mackiewicz.

THANKING MR. MICHAEL ELLIOTT FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE HOUSE

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 16, 2003

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of his retirement on July 7th, we rise to thank Mr. Michael Elliott for his outstanding service to the U.S. House of Representatives over the past 16 years.

Over the years, Mike has provided outstanding customer support to Members, Com-

mittees, Leadership and Support Officers of the House. He began his career with the House on March 25, 1987 and served this great institution in numerous capacities, most notably with House Information Resources (HIR) under the office of the Chief Administrative Officer.

In 1987, he was hired as a User Support Specialist to provide technical support; specifically hardware troubleshooting and repairs for PCs, printers, monitors and system units in all House offices. In this position, Mike became a certified Apple Macintosh technician and served as Team Leader for all Macintosh support. He remained in that position until 1995. Since 1995 he has worked as a Technical Support Representative servicing Member offices. Mike is highly skilled and very proficient in providing office automation and technical services to House offices. His professionalism and work ethic is a true demonstration of excellence and dedication to providing passionate customer service. His technical skills and breadth of knowledge of House office operations enabled Mike to provide and advise others in providing effective resolutions.

I know all of you join me in extending our thanks and appreciation to this invaluable member of the House family. We wish the very best to Mike and his wife Susan as they pursue the next phase of life.

RECOGNIZING VOLUNTEER AND JEFFERSON AWARD RECIPIENT LEANNA RICHARD ALFRED

HON. CHRISTOPHER JOHN

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 16, 2003

Mr. JOHN. Mr. Speaker, many people serve the needs of their community, not searching for public recognition. Their reward is the knowledge that those in need have been helped. Mrs. Leanna Richard Alfred of Lafayette, Louisiana is one such individual.

Friends and colleagues have described her as a terrific role model with a warm smile and a loving personality—a motherly figure, always prepared to lend a helping hand to those in need.

Mrs. Alfred is being honored this week in Washington, DC with the distinguished Jefferson Award. Given by the American Institute for Public Service, this national award is granted to "ordinary people who do extraordinary things without expectation of recognition or award."

Through a partnership with local media sponsor KLFY-TV in Lafayette, Louisiana, Mrs. Alfred's efforts were brought to the Institute's attention. This award is not the first for Mrs. Alfred, but it is a very special honor. In 1972, Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, Senator Robert Taft, Jr. and Sam Beard founded the American Institute for Public Service to establish a Nobel Prize for public and community service.

Mrs. Alfred's work is directed toward children in our community. She sponsors several annual events—fashion shows, a Christmas Ball, and basketball tournaments—to offer African-American children in the area avenues to showcase their unique talents. Her events often provide scholarships for area youngsters to advance their education, as well as trophies

and certificates of achievement. Her motto is "Making a Difference," and that is just what she does on a daily basis.

I congratulate Mrs. Leanna Richard Alfred for her dedication to making our community an area in which young people can strive, succeed, and know that they are cherished.

CONGRATULATING EMMETT LEDBETTER FOR EARNING THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

HON. JOHN S. TANNER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 16, 2003

Mr. TANNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor an American patriot, Emmett Ledbetter of Jackson, Tennessee. Mr. Ledbetter recently received the Distinguished Flying Cross Award for his bravery and heroism while serving our nation as a top turret gunner and flight engineer during World War II.

As a member of the 455th Bomb Group and the 743rd Bomb Squadron, Mr. Ledbetter flew the greater part of his 50 combat missions in the months leading up to the historic D-Day landing on the beaches of Normandy. Based out of an airfield near Cerignola, Italy, the 455th Bomb Group completed missions throughout Romania and Austria against the German occupiers.

No stranger to military decorations, Mr. Ledbetter received the Presidential Unit Citation twice for missions in Austria as well as the EAME Theater Ribbon and the Air Medal honoring his military prowess throughout the War.

On one such occasion, for which he has now earned the Distinguished Flying Cross, a bomb was found to be caught in the rear of the airplane on a return trip from a mission in Vienna. Facing a serious threat to the safety of the airplane, Mr. Ledbetter and another crewmember, in a moment of bravery, put on oxygen masks and entered the bomb bay, walking across a narrow catwalk at an altitude of 20,000 feet. Once inside, they forced the explosive off the rack, saving the airplane and its crew.

Following this mission, Mr. Ledbetter was recommended to receive the Distinguished Flying Cross, but because of clerical procedures, his award was delayed. Now, almost 60 years after this heroic accomplishment, Mr. Ledbetter has received the recognition he deserves, having finally been awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross on February 13, 2003.

Mr. Speaker, at this difficult time in our nation's history, I know you and our colleagues join me in thinking about and praying for our troops. I hope you will also join me in honoring a man who fought for this country in a different war to guarantee the safeties and freedoms we all cherish so much. We salute Emmett Ledbetter for his honorable career serving our nation and congratulate him on the long-deserved Distinguished Flying Cross Award.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 16, 2003

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, June 4, I attended an important announcement at the U.S. Department of Labor concerning the funding of a vital initiative to assist dislocated workers and retirees in Minnesota pay for their health care expenses.

As a result, I was unable to cast my vote on the rule (H. Res 257) for the Partial Birth Abortion Ban legislation. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall vote 236 because I strongly supported the need for the House to consider this important pro-life legislation.

IN HONOR OF THE RETIREMENT
OF DR. BARBARA BENSON OF
THE DELAWARE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 16, 2003

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of Dr. Barbara Benson upon her retirement as the executive director of the Delaware Historical Society. Dr. Benson has served as the organization's executive director for thirteen years and as staff librarian for ten years prior. She has left the history of Delaware on display for many future generations to cherish and explore our rich heritage.

Dr. Benson is a recognized scholar in her field who set high performance standards for every task she undertook at the Delaware Historical Society. During Dr. Benson's tenure, the Delaware Historical Society grew in both its collections and membership. Furthermore, Dr. Benson led the organization's purchase of the old Woolworth 5 & 10 next to the town hall, which now proudly serves as the Delaware History Museum.

Dr. Benson has challenged Delawareans to think, learn and grow. Delawareans have been called upon to connect Delaware's history with their own lives and relate their own experiences with the future of Delaware's history.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Dr. Benson for challenging the residents of Delaware and for sharing her knowledge with us. The legacy Dr. Benson has left us through her work at the Delaware Historical Society is not one that will soon be forgotten.

HONORING IRVING I. STONE

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 16, 2003

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Irving I. Stone, founder of American Greetings Corporation, whose generosity to his community and abroad is constantly remembered. Mr. Stone's involvement with the company started when he was a

young boy. His father sold postcards from a horse and buggy. Immediately after graduating high school, he became a salesman. He made the largest sale of the company at age 19 to the management of Cleveland's Euclid Beach Park.

In the 1930's, Stone convinced his father that the company should design and print its own cards. In order to implement this, he started the American Greetings Creative Department, one of the largest art studios in the country. Irving Stone continued to bring innovative ideas to the company and retailers, making the greeting card industry what it is today.

More important than his accomplishments with his company was his commitment to his community by participating with many civic organizations: Chairman of the Board, Hebrew Academy of Cleveland; Member of the Board of Directors, Young Israel of Cleveland; Board Member, Cleveland Institute of Art and Bar Ilan University; Regional Board Member, Liberty Mutual Insurance; Founding Trustee for Life, Cleveland Jewish News.

It is because of his commitment to the community and desire to see it move forward in the future that the Young Israel of Greater Cleveland will honor Mr. Stone by dedicating the Synagogue to him on June 22, 2003. Irving I. Stone was an outstanding man who will always be remembered for his outstanding good deeds to his community and beyond.

HONORING RIPLEY, OHIO, THE
PARKER SOCIETY, ANN
HAGEDORN FOR KEEPING THE
HEROIC STORIES OF THE UNDER-
GROUND RAILROAD ALIVE

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 16, 2003

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the Village of Ripley, the Parker Society and author Ann Hagedorn, for working so tirelessly to commemorate the lives and stories of people who risked life and property for the cause of freedom: the conductors on the Underground Railroad. The Village of Ripley and Ann Hagedorn were honored during the Salute to Trailblazers Underground Railroad event on Capitol Hill in March.

The Village of Ripley is in Brown County, Ohio, which I represent. It is home to two former conductors on the Underground Railroad, Presbyterian minister Reverend John Rankin, and freed slave, John Parker. Both the Rankin house and Parker house have been restored and help tell the story of how hundreds of slaves escaped via the Underground Railroad. Today in Ripley, the Parker Historical Society is comprised of many dedicated people, committed to preservation of the homes, artifacts, and stories of the brave people who believed so strongly in freedom for all.

The mission of the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center, located in Cincinnati, Ohio, is to educate the public about the struggle to abolish slavery and secure freedom for all people. For many years, the Parker Society has worked tirelessly to restore the John Parker House, collecting artifacts, and recounting the life and history of John Rankin, John Parker, and the heroes of the

Underground Railroad. Ann Hagedorn's recent book, *Beyond The River*, recounts in gripping detail the history of bravery and determined resolve of ordinary people who accomplished extraordinary deeds. The Brown County Commissioners had extraordinary vision and were particularly supportive of the Parker Society's restoration efforts.

All of us in Southwest Ohio join in congratulating the Village of Ripley, the Parker Society, Ann Hagedorn, and the Brown County Commissioners for their vision in keeping the heroic stories of the Underground Railroad alive.

RECOGNIZING THE COMMUNITY
LEADERSHIP OF GROVER AND
BETTY POTEET

HON. JOHN S. TANNER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 16, 2003

Mr. TANNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of two outstanding leaders and dear friends, Grover and Betty Poteet. The service they have provided over the years resonates throughout our community.

Both natives of Spring Hill, Mr. and Mrs. Poteet now live in Trenton, Tennessee. They have three children, Melinda Poteet Goode, Doug Poteet, and Melia Poteet Anderson. They are also the proud grandparents of Garner Goode and Crockett Goode. Together, Grover and Betty earned the 1999-2000 Citizens of the Year Award, presented by the Trenton Elks Lodge.

Grover graduated from Spring Hill High School in 1955 and served in the United States Army from 1955-1957. Grover has contributed so much to his community, including his service as a member of the Gibson County Court from 1974-1994. Grover also showed his compassion for people by serving as a member of the National Guard Equal Opportunity Race Relations Council. He is currently chair of the Gibson County Lake/Water Board Authority and was recently honored with the Trenton Elks Dedicated Service Award for 2002-2003.

Betty graduated from Spring Hill High School in 1957 and began working at the Milan Army Ammunition Plant, a career that lasted 45 years. Betty also served for 15 years as the parade director for the Trenton Teapot Parade, one of the biggest local festivals in Tennessee. Her tireless community work earned her the Tennessee National Guard's Hard Worker of the Year Award for 1994-1995.

The Poteets have always been very active leaders in Tennessee, through heavy involvement in the Democratic Party at the local and state level. Their love for our democratic process helps make West Tennessee a great place to live.

Time and time again, Grover and Betty Poteet have proven their love for our neighbors in Trenton and Gibson County. Their dedication has always been and will continue to be appreciated. Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring the accomplishments and dedication of two fine leaders and my friends, Grover and Betty Poteet.