

After years of hard work and commitment to the community and church, Rev. and Mrs. Cato Brooks and the members of Tree of Life started the Tree of Life Community Development Corporation and Care Center. This center is a spiritual approach to healing and helping the residents of Gary and Northwest Indiana, which began through the establishment of their first two programs: the Rehabilitation of Housing under the Homeless Initiative and Transitional Housing. New programs were later added and include the 21st Century Parents Program, the Misguided Youth and First Offenders Program, and the Homeless Initiative Programs.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues, join me in honoring and congratulating Tree of Life Missionary Baptist Church on their 24th anniversary. They have given selflessly to the Gary community, as well as all of Northwest Indiana, and will continue to serve and support all members of the community through their gracious dedication and commitment.

**RECOGNIZING JAMES RILEY TITUS
BOND FOR HIS ACHIEVEMENTS
AS AN INTERN ON MY STAFF**

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 4, 2003

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Mr. James Riley Titus Bond, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in national government.

Titus is a recent graduate of Rockhurst High School and will be continuing his education at Catholic University in Washington, DC. He has distinguished himself as an intern in my campaign office by serving the great people of the 6th District of Missouri. Through this internship, Titus has had the opportunity to observe firsthand the inner workings of National Government and campaign organization and has gained valuable insight into the process by which campaigns are run.

During his time as an intern in my office, Titus has successfully demonstrated his abilities in the performance of such duties as planning events, assisting in Lincoln Days, and assuming various other responsibilities to make the office run as smoothly as possible.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Mr. James Riley Titus Bond for his many important contributions to the U.S. House of Representatives during the current session, as well as joining with me to extend to him our very best wishes for continued success and happiness in all his future endeavors.

HONORING JAY RUSSEL

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 4, 2003

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jay Russel, a constituent in my Fifth Congressional District.

Mr. Russel was recently named the 2003 Levy County Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Officer of the Year by his colleagues and superiors and I want to take this opportunity before this body to honor him and to say a few words about why he is deserving of this noble distinction.

Mr. Russel, has patrolled the woods and waterways of Levy, Citrus and Dixie County for more than three years, giving him a one-of-a-kind knowledge of Florida's Nature Coast and enabling him to be an excellent Conservation Commission Officer. Often coming to the aid of boaters in distress, his efforts have resulted in successful rescue and recovery missions and his "sixth sense" for detecting law violators has allowed many recreational sportsmen to continue to enjoy Florida's wetlands safely and lawfully.

Mr. Russel has been described by his colleagues as an outstanding officer with an immense knowledge of the outdoors and of the region he patrols. Area police departments and law enforcement agencies often rely on him for help in investigating illegal activity in the area and know they can count upon his support at any time.

He is truly an asset in every way to his colleagues and to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission. His superiors have said that he "exemplifies what the agency stands for—a commitment to protecting wildlife resources and to serving and protecting citizens enjoying Florida's outdoors."

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in saluting Mr. Russel and all officers of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. The work they do is invaluable and of immeasurable importance to our environment, to area wildlife and to our safety.

**A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO MILLIE
COX FOR HER YEARS OF SERVICE**

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 4, 2003

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Millie Cox on her retirement from the Indiana Credit Union League, and to congratulate her for her many years of dedicated and tireless service.

Over the years, Millie has displayed an indomitable spirit in her work and efforts on behalf of Indiana's credit unions. She has taken time to educate and encourage credit union leaders about the legislative process and the importance of political participation. Clearly, Millie's passion for her work on behalf of Indiana's credit unions bespeaks her monumental efforts here in Washington D.C.

Millie Cox's impressive career began in February 1977, when she joined the staff of the Indiana Credit Union League. She was promoted several times, ultimately rising to Vice President of Governmental Affairs in 1986. Millie and her staff have been responsible for analyzing regulations and legislation, as well as serving as liaison between credit unions, regulatory agencies, and other government entities.

On a personal note, Millie is a long-time Hoosier, having grown up in the New Castle area with her two brothers and three sisters. She has one son, Curt, and was married for

more than twenty years to her late husband Jim. Millie and I share a great interest in history and reading in addition to our Hoosier roots.

Millie Cox's dedication to her career is evident in her own words as she states that "I believe in credit unions, I love what I do and I can't imagine working in any other industry." Millie, I congratulate you and wish you all the best. Capitol Hill won't be the same without you.

HONORING RON GIBSON

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 4, 2003

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before this body of Congress today to pay tribute to an inspiring veteran in Grand Junction, Colorado. Despite being confined to a wheelchair, Ron Gibson continues to set unprecedented athletic standards and win numerous medals in national competitions. I have great pride as I rise today to recognize Ron's athletic achievements and his service to our nation.

Ron began competing in the National Veterans Wheelchair Games 15 years ago. After participating in the Winter Sports Games in Grand Junction, Colorado in 1988, Ron fell in love with the area and subsequently relocated there. He has since lost track of the number of medals he has won, recently adding another four at the 23rd annual games in California. Each veteran who competes carries with him an inspirational story of dedication and perseverance. Ron is no exception, and I am proud to recognize his many accomplishments. All those who participate in the National Veterans Wheelchair games are military veterans who have spinal cord injuries or other disabilities that require wheelchairs.

Mr. Speaker, Ron Gibson embodies the courage and strength of spirit that have made our nation strong. I commend him for his service and all of his recent accomplishments. Congratulations, Ron. I wish you all the best with your future endeavors.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO SAINTS
CONSTANTINE AND HELEN
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH**

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 4, 2003

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and enthusiasm that I recognize and congratulate Saints Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church in Merrillville, Indiana on their 90th anniversary. Throughout its 90 years, Saints Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church has provided a welcoming worship and gathering space for all residents of Northwest Indiana.

SS Constantine and Helen and its forefathers began their foundation in Gary, Indiana in 1906 in the dream of preserving the Greek heritage and faith in America. The first steps to making this dream a reality began in the spring of 1911, when an initial meeting was held to discuss the need for a worship space

for the small handful of Greek families that settled in Northwest Indiana. The name was later chosen to signify the importance of Saint Constantine, the Roman Emperor who permitted the freedom of practicing Christianity in the Fourth Century, as well as Saint Helen, Saint Constantine's mother, in their fight for the preservation of their heritage and Greek culture.

In 1913, the first worship services were held in a rented store building, and SS Constantine and Helen became the first Greek Church in the City of Gary. Following two years of leadership by visiting priests from Chicago, Reverend Nicholas Mandilas became the first permanent pastor for the church. In 1919, after years of traveling around the Midwest searching for financial help, and worshiping in tents in the dead of winter, the congregation's valiant and dedicated efforts led them to the opening of their first church building on Easter Sunday. Approximately 50 years later, another church building was constructed in Merrillville, Indiana and the Cultural Center was opened to the residents of Northwest Indiana.

Being a member of the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (AHEPA), Lodge 78, I am a strong advocate for the preservation and promotion of the ideals and morals of Hellenism throughout all of Northwest Indiana. Throughout its 90 years of service and dedication, Saints Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church has offered the inspiration to be good citizens of the community, practice faith freely, and educate our youth so that the Greek heritage may never be forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring and congratulating Saints Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church as they celebrate their 90th anniversary. Their sincere dedication and devotion to the residents of Northwest Indiana deserves the highest commendation and recognition.

RECOGNIZING MEGAN LEFEVOUR FOR HER ACHIEVEMENTS AS A MEMBER OF MY STAFF

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 4, 2003

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Megan Lefevour, a very dedicated and enthusiastic member of my Washington D.C. Congressional Staff.

Meg has served my office for nearly two years, as well as serving as an intern for the Speaker of the House HASTERT. As a Staff Assistant, Systems Administrator, Legislative Correspondent, and Legislative Assistant, she has established a passion for working on the Hill. Meg holds dear the people she has worked with in her many roles as a Hill staffer.

I, and others, greatly value Meg's hard work and commitment. Constituents have grown to know her attention to detail, knowledge of many issues, and personal touch that should not go unrecognized. Her dedication to the Sixth District of Missouri has shown through over the past two years, which is evident by the appreciation of all she works with.

It is unfortunate for countless people that Meg will be leaving the Hill, as she has left

her unique stamp on many. I, as well as my office, wish Meg the very best in her future career with education and wish her and Chris all the happiness in their life together.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Megan Lefevour for her many important contributions to myself, my staff, all those she has worked with on the Hill, and for all those she has served. She will be missed by many.

HONORING ROBERT A. BOWERS

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 4, 2003

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Robert A. Bowers, a constituent of my Fifth Congressional District. Deputy Bowers, an honorable officer of the law, was recently named the 2003 Levy County Law Enforcement Officer of the Year by his colleagues and superiors and I want to take this opportunity before this body to honor him and to say a few words about why he is deserving of this important distinction.

Deputy Bowers has served the Levy County Sheriff's Office since October of 2001 as an officer in the Road Patrol Division and has been active in the "Buckle Up" program, ensuring safety on our highways by enforcing our state's seatbelt and child-restraint laws.

Deputy Bowers has been described by his colleagues as someone with a cheerful and professional demeanor, no matter what the situation or task at hand. His service to Levy County is in its early days and I believe he will continue to be an asset to the Levy County Sheriff's Office for many years to come.

Having law enforcement officers like him is what makes our roadways and communities safe and it is what inspires youngsters to continue in the profession of noble, honorable service to their neighbors.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in saluting Deputy Bowers and all officers of the law, for the work they do is invaluable and of immeasurable importance to our society and to our safety.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 4, 2003

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, due to excessive flooding in North Central, Central and South Central portions of Indiana, I was unable to be in Washington during rollcall vote Nos. 460–462. Had I been here I would have voted "aye" for rollcall vote Nos. 460–462.

TRIBUTE TO STEVE SHERWOOD

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 4, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to stand before this Congress and this nation to

pay tribute to an outstanding public servant from my district, Steve Sherwood. Steve is the Deputy Forest Supervisor in the White River National Forest who works hard to protect and maintain our beloved natural areas. Steve's service throughout the country has helped keep our national forests open to everyone, providing a variety of users with access to recreation.

Steve came to the White River National Forest in 2000, moving from Washington D.C. to be part of the wilderness that he loves. He spends most of his time overseeing the White River's wilderness, recreation, and heritage programs. As an outdoorsman, Steve has a better understanding of the needs of our forests; he is often fishing and biking throughout the lands he protects.

When Steve is not at work protecting our public lands, he is at home with his wife Carolyn and his two children William and Jessica. Steve works hard in the hope that his children will have forests and wilderness areas to enjoy many years after he has gone.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize Steve for his dedication, and it gives me great joy to inform this body of Congress and this nation of his hard work and devotion at the U.S. Forest Service. Thank you, Steve, for your hard work and dedication. Your commitment and involvement in our national forests will not be forgotten.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MR. HANK STRAM

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 4, 2003

Mr. VISCLOSKY. It is with great joy and enthusiasm that I wish to congratulate Mr. Hank Stram on his induction into the Pro Football Hall of Fame. Hank Stram's path to football greatness began many years ago when he was an athletic standout at Lew Wallace High School in Gary, Indiana earning all-state honors as halfback. On Sunday, August 3, 2003, Hank Stram received the ultimate honor with his induction into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio.

After graduating from Lew Wallace High School, Stram attended Purdue University on a football scholarship. He earned four letters in baseball and three in football for the Boiler-makers. His collegiate career was interrupted for three years of military service in World War II. During his senior year at Purdue, Stram received the coveted Big Ten Medal that is awarded to the conference athlete who best combines athletics with academics.

Immediately upon graduation in 1948, Stram joined Purdue's football coaching staff. He served 12 years as an assistant on the collegiate level, with stops at Southern Methodist, Notre Dame and Miami (Florida).

In 1960 he was named head coach of the Dallas Texans in the new American Football League. The rest is history. Stram guided the Texans to the AFL championship in 1962 and the team then moved to Kansas City and became the Chiefs. In Kansas City, Stram led the Chiefs to the 1966 and 1969 AFL Championships.

His 1966 Kansas City team played in the first Super Bowl, losing to the Green Bay