

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Cox Family for its patriotism and courageous efforts to promote freedom and democracy. I invite my colleagues to join me in conveying deep gratitude to the Cox Family.

THE NATIONAL ANTHEM
"SINGAMERICA" COMMEMORATION PROJECT

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2003

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Con. Res. 262, the National Anthem "SingAmerica" Project, and to bring to the attention of my colleagues this wonderful, new national initiative to commemorate American patriotic music and the role it has played in our history. This new initiative will involve several exciting music-related patriotic programs over the next 3 years.

The National Anthem "SingAmerica" project is designed to invigorate and inspire the American people to a greater appreciation of their patriotic musical heritage. Through this project, we will be able to renew our appreciation for the patriotic music that so movingly expresses our core national sentiments. The members of the National Association for Music Education, in collaboration with the Smithsonian Institution, and with support from the American Sportscasters Association, are already actively pursuing the laudable goals of the project.

The National Anthem "SingAmerica" project includes a series of activities calculated to bring the music, words, and sentiments of the Anthem and our nation's patriotic songs to everyone and to energize the participation of students and adults alike in this essential expression of patriotism. America's youth will give voice to our national anthem and be able to sing it proudly, accurately, and with a full understanding of its rich text. The American Sportscasters Association will be working to increase the emphasis on our national anthem at major sporting events, reaching many of those who otherwise would not have this musical experience. The National Association for Music Education will release a CD with patriotic music played by the Marine Band, complete with a history of this music's role in our nation's development. Teachers' guides will be distributed across the nation to help educators bring the practice and meaning of this music to our nation's students.

All of this activity will culminate on June 14, 2006, when the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History unveils the newly restored Star Spangled Banner. This event plans to include history's largest performance of the National Anthem with millions of participants from around the country joining thousands of high school band and chorus members on the National Mall to celebrate the display of the restored Star Spangled Banner, the Flag that inspired the National Anthem.

Even more than producing these rousing patriotic events, the National Anthem "SingAmerica" project is a catalyst for all Americans to experience a greater understanding and appreciation of our patriotic music history. It will also remind us of the

countless sacrifices made by so many and of the courage displayed by all Veterans' who have served our country with great honor and pride.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I am proud to introduce H. Con. Res. 262 and to honor the flag and the song that are the symbols of America. I call upon my colleagues for their unanimous support in passing the SingAmerica Act.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2003

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, on November 5, 2003, I was unavoidably detained and missed the vote on rollcall No. 609 on H.R. 3365, the Fallen Patriots Tax Relief Act. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MEIJER INC.
AND UNITED PARCEL SERVICE
FOR REACHING OUT TO IRAQI ORPHANS

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2003

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the compassionate actions of two Michigan businesses for reaching across the globe to touch the lives of orphaned children living in an Iraqi orphanage.

Leaders at Meijer Inc. and United Parcel Service learned that soldiers in the U.S. Army 101st Airborne stationed near Mosul, Iraq, were helping nearly 70 children in a nearby orphanage.

Meijer, a large supermarket/department store, immediately agreed to donate several large cartons of toys for the children. United Parcel Service supported the project, providing additional funds for toys.

In September, the toys were shipped to soldiers at the 101st mobile military hospital near the orphanage and this past week, they were distributed to the children.

These two generous organizations are to be commended for their efforts that not only help the individual children but also impact the relationships our military men and women are building with the citizens of Iraq.

The long-range impact of this compassionate act by Americans is immeasurable. As these children grow up, they will remember the care and love of Americans who came to free their nation from tyranny and give them a future with hope.

Mr. Speaker, we wish to extend congratulations to Meijer Inc. and United Parcel Service for their generosity and for being willing to reach across geographic and cultural borders to express their care and concern for children in need.

We are honored to recognize their accomplishments and ask that our colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives join in recognizing these Michigan businesses for their humanitarian efforts.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. LIONEL
A. KAPLAN, ESQ.

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2003

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the esteemed Mr. Lionel A. Kaplan, ESQ., a man devoted to his community. On November 10, 2003 The Orthodox Union's Institute for Public Affairs, which serves the Orthodox community as the central voice for public policy advocacy and religious liberties, will present Mr. Kaplan with the National Distinguished Leadership Award.

Mr. Kaplan's extraordinary devotion to Israel and his love of the Jewish people have propelled his rise to the top levels of leadership in the American Jewish community. In 1988, Mr. Kaplan joined the American-Israel Public Affairs Committee, AIPAC, one of the leading pro-Israel lobby groups, as chairman of the Princeton/Mercer Area, a position he held until 2002. During those years, he also served as a member of the AIPAC Executive Committee; Member of the New York Regional Board; New Jersey State Chairman; Member of the National Board of Directors; and National Development Chairman. In addition, Mr. Kaplan became President of AIPAC from 1998–2000 and Chairman of the Board from 2000–2002. Throughout his career in AIPAC, he has always been known for his skills as a consummate fundraiser for pro-Israel causes.

Mr. Kaplan's contributions to his community do not stop with AIPAC. In the United Jewish Appeals, UJA, Federation, he served as a Member of the UJA National Young Leadership Cabinet, as a leadership and fundraising trainer at the UJA National Training Center, and has served as Vice President of the Jewish Federations of New Jersey. In his immediate community, Mr. Kaplan has assumed a variety of roles, including Campaign Chairman and President of the Jewish Federation of Princeton, Mercer, and Bucks Counties. Among his other community services, he has been the chairman of the New Jersey "Jerusalem 3000" Committee, which planned and coordinated events for the 3000-year anniversary of Jerusalem and Co-Chairman of the New Jersey Israel Communications.

Mr. Kaplan has a graduate degree from Harvard University and has received his J.D. from Rutgers University. He is a licensed attorney in the Firm of Joseph D. Kaplan & Son, P.C., in Trenton where he has been a partner since 1972. Mr. Kaplan is also a member of the American, New Jersey, and Mercer County Bar Associations. He and his wife reside in Princeton, New Jersey.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Kaplan has demonstrated what it means to be a true contributor to one's community. The extensive list of his tireless efforts shows a genuine compassion and devotion to public service. Accordingly, I ask that my colleagues rise and join me in honoring Mr. Lionel A. Kaplan, ESQ.

HONORING WILL GILL, JR., SENIOR
FARMER OF THE YEAR

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2003

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Will Gill, Jr., as the Madera County Chamber of Commerce and Madera County Farm Bureau Senior Farmer of the Year. Mr. Gill will be recognized at the Madera County Farm Bureau's 82nd Annual Members Meeting and Senior Farmer Presentation on November 6 in Madera, CA.

Will's dedication to his country and his strong work ethic have brought much success for him and his family. He has contributed 61 years to Madera County agriculture. Mr. Gill's family, natives of Iowa, migrated to Porterville, CA, in the 1870s and an agriculture legacy began. By the 1940s, the family's ranching operations were flourishing in Porterville and Madera. Upon the death of his father, Will, and his wife Jane, moved from Southern California to Madera to manage the family's local agriculture interests. Not long after his arrival, he was sent to Fort Sill, OK, where the U.S. Army needed his service in the midst of WWII. Mr. Gill served as an army sergeant of the Military Police in the China-Burma-India Theatre. In 1946, Will returned to Madera and resumed his work in the family's crop and livestock investments, which included oat and alfalfa hay, cows, and stocker and feeder cattle.

As a proud member of many organizations and the recipient of several awards, Will is no stranger to his community. He served on Governor Ronald Reagan's Advisory Committee on Foreign Trade, was past-president of the Madera Rotary Club, a member of the Madera County Air Pollution Board, a 60-year member of the California Cattlemen's and National Cattlemen's Associations, and the list goes on. Will was named Madera County Cattleman of the Year in 1963 and California Livestock Man of the Year in 1972. His favorite venture, raising quarter horses, has made his 53-year membership to the American Quarter Horse Association particularly enjoyable. The list of Will's achievements and commitments goes on, reinforcing his benevolent character.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Will Gill, Jr., for being named Senior Farmer of the Year by the Madera Chamber of Commerce and Madera County Farm Bureau. His contributions to America's agriculture communities have been invaluable. I invite my colleagues to join me in commending Mr. Gill for this achievement.

HONORING MASTER FOLTA

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2003

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Master Nestor Folta on his 50th birthday and 20 years of successful Uechi-Ryu Karate study.

Master Folta is a civil engineer with the U.S. Department of Energy. He resides in Oakton with his wife and two children. For years, he has dedicated notable time and energy to the study and teaching of Uechi-Ryu Karate.

Uechi-Ryu is traditional Okinawan Karate, developed by Master Kanbun Uechi and his son Kanei Uechi. Uechi-Ryu has its origin in the ancient Chinese tradition of martial arts. Today, it is the only form of Okinawan Karate that remains in its original Soke, handed down from father to son from generation to generation.

Master Folta is a seven-time world champion of Uechi-Ryu and an inductee in the martial arts hall of fame. He has demonstrated a strong aptitude for and commitment to the study of karate.

The Academy of World Champion Nestor Folta (AWCNF), located in Fairfax County, carries on the Uechi-Ryu tradition. Through the study of Uechi-Ryu Karate, over 100 AWCNF students learn self-defense, self-discipline, and self-respect. Uechi-Ryu encourages the formation of high personal standards and respect for fellow men and women. The AWCNF's mission is to use Uechi-Ryu to help students become positive, successful, respected, contributing members of society.

Each year, AWCNF tuition raises an estimated \$25,000 for Fairfax County. In addition, the AWCNF has raised over \$20,000 for 9/11 victims.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to recognize Master Folta's efforts to better himself, his students, and his community through the practice of Uechi-Ryu. I wish him a happy birthday, commend 20 years of success, and extend him all of my best for the years to come. I call upon all my colleagues to join me in applauding Master Folta.

HONORING WILLIAM J. MULVIHILL, SR. AS HE RECEIVES THE ARTHRITIS FOUNDATION'S CHARLES B. HARDING AWARD FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2003

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor William J. Mulvihill, a friend and constituent, who received the Arthritis Foundation's prestigious Charles B. Harding Award during the Foundation's national meeting on November 14, 2003. The Arthritis Foundation is the only nationwide nonprofit organization leading efforts to prevent, control and cure arthritis, which is our nation's number one cause of disability.

The Charles B. Harding Award is the highest honor the Arthritis Foundation presents for service as a volunteer. The award was established in 1976 and is given annually to the individual who best exemplifies the highest standards of concern and commitment to the arthritis cause. Previous recipients of this high honor include former First Lady Betty Ford and actress Jane Wyman.

Bill has spent more than 20 years raising awareness and advocating on behalf of the more than 43 million people affected by arthritis and its related diseases. Diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis at the age of 25, he became active locally in the Southwestern Ohio Chapter of the Arthritis Foundation, and went on to serve as Senior Chair, Chair and Vice President.

In 1985, Bill became active with the Foundation on the national level, becoming a mem-

ber of the House of Delegates and later National Vice Chair, Treasurer, a member of the Board of Trustees and National Chair. As National Chair, he was responsible for leading nearly 600,000 volunteers and staff nationwide. He is currently Trustee Emeritus, and is a member of the National Medical and Scientific Council. Bill also serves on the Board of Directors of the Alliance for Lupus Research, where he is a founding member.

A native Cincinnati, Bill is Senior Associate Athletic Director at the University of Cincinnati, and has been with U.C. for 30 years. He is in his 24th year as head of the athletic department's fundraising efforts, and previously held positions in Alumni Affairs and Public Affairs. He is a graduate of St. Xavier High School, and received his Bachelor's of Business Administration from the University of Cincinnati and his Master's of Education from Ohio University.

Bill and his wife, Beth, live in Anderson Township. Their son, Billy, is a graduate of the University of Cincinnati and is a valued member of the staff of the U.S. House of Representatives' Committee on Ways and Means.

All of us in Southern Ohio congratulate Bill on receiving this prestigious honor, and appreciate his dedicated service.

**RECOGNITION OF THE ARMED
FORCES RELIEF TRUST FUND**

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2003

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding efforts of the National Association of Broadcasters for their partnership with the Armed Forces Relief Trust Fund. The Armed Forces Relief Trust Fund serves as an umbrella organization incorporating the four Military Aid Societies from the Army, Navy-Marine, Air Force and Coast Guard collecting and distributing donations that help reduce the burden on families of our military men and women. The partnership with National Association of Broadcasters will help create and broadcast public service announcements to encourage Americans to donate to the Armed Forces Relief Trust Fund.

While our military men and women are serving our country, it is paramount that the American people band together so that we can ensure that no family incurs hardships while their loved one is away. Military aid programs, funded by private donations, provide services like college tuition for children and health care for pregnant wives, services that could have been provided if their family member had not been called to duty. Last year alone, the four military aid societies provided over \$109 million in grants and interest free loans to 145,000 families.

I am confident that with the help of the National Association of Broadcasters the Armed Forces Relief Trust Fund can far exceed the number of families it was able to help last year. As an increasing number of Americans answer the call to duty, more and more families will be asking the Armed Forces Relief Trust Fund for help. The public service announcements developed by The National Association of Broadcasters will help to increase donations and insure that the trust fund has the solvency to answer this call.