

create his genius. His spirit, however, remained unbroken; the hardships he endured only served to fuel his devotion and determination. He exhibited his passion for freedom in his poetry and fueled the hearts of Ukrainians toward the goal of independence. During today's commemoration let us honor the memory of Taras Shevchenko, and his unparalleled contribution to a strong, stable, democratic Ukraine.

The June 1964 unveiling of the Shevchenko monument in Washington DC was a major victory for Ukrainians residing in the United States. Despite incredible resistance from the Soviet Union, a united Ukrainian community in America was able to enlist the help of prominent American politicians, academicians and artists to build this monument and establish it as a forum for truth, unveiling the injustices of the Soviet regime.

Forty years later, Ukraine faces very different, albeit equally difficult times. Since the fall of the Soviet Union and the reestablishment of Ukrainian independence, Ukraine has stabilized its economy and taken great strides toward democracy, however, there is still much to be accomplished. The people of Ukraine need support and encouragement. The Ukrainian community in the U.S. has been a very vocal advocate of Ukraine and continues to promote its democratic development. As a longtime supporter of the Ukrainian American community I am pleased to see a renewed effort to unite the Ukrainians in the United States and amplify the power of their voice in Washington as well as in Kyiv. I commend the initiative of the Ukrainian community in the United States in an effort to help Ukraine reclaim its proper place among the developed democratic European states.

I congratulate the Ukrainian American community on this remarkable anniversary and wish them success in their future endeavors.

A TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL WALLACE TUBELL

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 2004

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lieutenant Colonel Wallace Tubell upon his retirement after twenty years of outstanding service to our country in the United States Army. After his effective retirement date of August 31, 2004, Lieutenant Colonel Tubell will reside in my Congressional district.

As the Product Manager for the Army's Tactical Operations Centers Integration Program, Lieutenant Colonel Tubell led a team of military, government and contractor personnel in fielding and sustaining Tactical Operations Centers for 4th Infantry Division, 1st Cavalry Division, the Stryker Brigade Combat Teams, Third U.S. Army and other major commands worldwide. Lieutenant Colonel Tubell's program exceeded all requirements and was delivered on schedule and within budget. Lieutenant Colonel Tubell's personal dedication, sound management, and ability to build a strong team has contributed to the Product Office becoming a "Center of Excellence" in Command Post and Tactical Operations Centers design and development. He has been the driving force behind transforming analog

Tactical Operations Centers into Network-Centric Command Posts for our warfighters and their staffs. His achievements and dedicated service have reflected great credit upon himself, the Army Acquisition Corps, the United States Army, and the Department of Defense.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of North Alabama, I congratulate Lieutenant Colonel Tubell for his twenty years of service to our country and I welcome him to our North Alabama community.

IN HONOR OF UNION ADVOCATE JAMES "JIMMY" DEANE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 2004

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Jimmy Deane, Business Manager of the Laborers' Union, Local 310 of Cleveland, Ohio, as we celebrate his retirement following more than forty years of advocacy, commitment and leadership within this significant union of workers.

Mr. Deane journeyed to America from Ireland in 1962, with the promise of honest work and hope for a new beginning. He began work as a laborer in the construction trades and became a member of the union in 1962. In 1991 he was appointed to the position of Field Representative, and in 1995 he accepted the appointment of Business Manager. Throughout his union tenure, Mr. Deane remained focused on workers' rights, benefits, and safety. As a result of his concern, expertise and leadership, Laborers' Union, Local 310 reflected fiscal responsibility, integrity and effectiveness in representing and protecting its members.

Mr. Deane's activism extends throughout our local labor and political landscapes. He is a member of the Laborers District Council of Ohio, an Executive Board Trustee of the Ohio Laborers Training Fund, and has also served as delegate to the AFL-CIO. Though his Irish homeland lives forever in his heart, Mr. Deane wholly embraced all that is America. His activism within our democratic processes and support of local candidates serves to strengthen our community and, corresponding with the union, illuminates the foundation of America—a foundation of equal representation and justice for all.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor, gratitude and recognition of my good friend, Mr. Jimmy Deane—Business Manager of the Laborers' Union, Local 310, as we reflect on his significant service and dedication to working individuals and their families. Mr. Deane's integrity, conviction, and exceptional ability to bring people and ideas together for the common good, has served to raise the bar on all levels within the union, the workplace, and within our community. His steadfast commitment to the laborers of our community is a guiding force for all union members and leaders to emulate—today, and for generations of workers to come. We wish Mr. Jimmy Deane and his entire family many blessings of happiness, health and peace—today, tomorrow and in the years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 2004

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I was regrettably absent on June 14, 2004 and June 15, 2004. Had I been present, I would have voted the following way: "aye" on rollcall vote 232, "aye" on rollcall vote 233, "aye" on rollcall vote 234, "aye" on rollcall vote 235, "nay" on rollcall vote 236, "nay" on rollcall vote 237, "nay" on rollcall vote 238, "nay" on rollcall vote 239, "aye" on rollcall vote 240, "nay" on rollcall vote 241, and "nay" on rollcall vote 242.

FRIENDS OF THE CHILDREN NATIONAL DEMONSTRATION ACT

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 2004

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I am introducing the "Friends of the Children National Demonstration Act" that would authorize \$7 million for Friends of the Children to support local program operations at existing sites and dissemination of findings to policymakers and other youth-serving programs. Friends of the Children is the only program in the nation that provides carefully screened full-time professional mentors to at-risk children for 12 years starting at five years of age. The Portland program started in 1993 with 3 "Friends" mentors serving 24 children. Today, Friends of the Children serves over 600 children in 11 communities across the nation. The children served by this innovative program are truly the most defenseless—they are children of poverty; they have been in foster care, on welfare, and have parents who are incarcerated or are homeless. Friends of the Children's first class is now graduating from the Portland program; and the graduates are outperforming their peer group of at-risk children.

Here is a real-life example of the impact this program has: Natasha joined the Friends of the Children Portland program in 1993 and has overcome a family history of drug abuse and prostitution. Natasha has developed a strong relationship with her mentor, Jennifer. When she first enrolled in the Friends program, Natasha was unmotivated and did not enjoy her school work. With Jennifer's guidance, Natasha has found the determination to become a leader and maintain a positive attitude. She follows this philosophy in other aspects of her life, refusing to bow to peer pressure and confronting her friends when they are considering risky behaviors such as smoking. Now 17, Natasha has excelled as a member of her high school softball team and has become an avid photographer. She plans to study photography in college and will begin the college application process this fall by visiting college campuses with Jennifer. Natasha is a wonderful role model for the children and has benefited in a unique way from the Friends program. Natasha lived with her great-grandmother until she passed away in 2000. She is now living with a former Friends of the Children mentor who serves as her legal guardian.

In Portland tomorrow, the first class of Friends of the Children, including Natasha, will graduate from the program. These were children who were identified 12 years ago by their elementary schools as most likely to fail. They now show great progress in leading successful lives.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to pass this bill and make a commitment to improving the lives of at-risk children.

THE MORTUARY SCIENCE GRADUATING CLASS OF 2004 WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 2004

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to recognize an outstanding group of young men and women who on August 1, 2004 will receive their degree in the field of Mortuary Science from Wayne State University Eugene Applebaum College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences located in Detroit, Michigan.

The Eugene Applebaum College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, located on the campus of the Detroit Medical Center, is a unit of Wayne State University. The School of Mortuary Science was formed within the Eugene Applebaum College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences in 1943. Students from all over compete for a spot in this highly selective program. The program provides students with specialized training in the area of funeral preparation and services. The students who graduate from this program are fully prepared psychologically, physically and socially to deal with the process of dying and death. Upon acceptance of their degrees they each will be charged with the duty of providing guidance, advice and support to those who have lost loved ones. The process of bereavement is long and sometimes stressful. Many families will look to these individuals for answers to questions regarding the burial process, as well as words of comfort. I am confident that the instruction given to these graduates over their course of study will assist them in their mission to promote nobility and understanding within the field of Mortuary Science.

Mr. Speaker, as a Member of Congress, I ask my colleagues in the 108th Congress to please join me congratulating the Wayne State University Eugene Applebaum College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences School of Mortuary Science class of 2004 and in wishing them the best in future endeavors.

CONGRATULATIONS TO 2004 DETROIT PISTONS ON ITS NBA CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 2004

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, congratulations to our 2004 Detroit Pistons who brought Detroit its first NBA championship title in 14 years. It has been a long hard climb back up the championship ladder from our two Championships in 1989–90, but the Pistons have fi-

nally reached the top again and can proudly call themselves world champions.

Whereas on June 15, 2004, the 2-time champion Detroit Pistons won the 2004 National Basketball Association championship, defeating the 9-time champion Los Angeles Lakers;

Whereas the Pistons defeated the Milwaukee Bucks 4 games to 1 in the first round of the playoffs;

Whereas the Pistons defeated the Defending Eastern Conference Champion New Jersey Nets 4 games to 3 in the hard fought Conference Semifinals;

Whereas the Pistons defeated the regular season Eastern Conference Champion Indiana Pacers 4 games to 2 in the Conference Finals;

Whereas in the finals against the Lakers, the Pistons won 4 games to 1, giving them their 1st NBA Championship since 1990, and making them the first team from the Eastern Conference to win the title in 5 years;

Whereas the Pistons are the first team to win the three middle games of the finals since the 2-3-2 format went into effect in 1985.

Whereas the Pistons' gritty offense was lead by Rip Hamilton, who averaged more than 21.5 points and 4.2 assists per game throughout the post-season;

Whereas Rasheed Wallace overcame foot injury to provide 26 points and 13 rebounds in the crucial game 4 victory;

Whereas Ben Wallace, two-time NBA defensive player and three-time NBA All-Defensive First Team, lead the Pistons stifling defense and has brought a working-class mind-set that symbolizes the lunch-pail anonymity which has become the face of the team;

Whereas Tayshaun Prince was tenacious on the ball defense and mitigated the Los Angeles Lakers talented back court;

Whereas Chauncey Billups was voted Most Valuable Player, in acknowledgment of his outstanding offensive and defensive performance throughout the post-season, averaging 21 points a game and 5.2 assists versus 2.6 turnovers in the finals.

Whereas Coach Larry Brown has done an outstanding job preparing his Pistons to take on an exceptional Lakers team, giving him the unique distinction of being the first coach to win both the NBA and NCAA championships;

Whereas former Piston and current President of Basketball Operations Joe Dumars, Coach Brown, and his staff John Kuester, Mike Woodson, Dave Hanners, Herb Brown and Igor Stefan Kokoskov have provided strong leadership and solid coaching, resulting in a basketball team in which teamwork and hard work are the rules and not the exceptions;

Whereas the Pistons fans have shown undying support for their team, leading the league in attendance in a year where attendance records were shattered all over the NBA.

Whereas the Pistons exemplify what can be achieved by a talented group of players working together in concert for a common goal, overcoming a championship proven Lakers' team comprised of NBA all-stars.

Whereas the Pistons have shown that basketball remains a team sport and have reminded us fans that the game is still a team game with fundamentals at its heart and soul;

Whereas, as sports writer Eric Neel so cleverly put it "Once upon a time, there was a shared ball on offense and a shared responsibility on defense. In their Game 5 victory, as in the previous four games, it was that time all over again. We've got retro jerseys and throwback sneakers, now we've got a world

champion from back in the day, to go with them."

Whereas the Pistons's success resulted from contributions from the entire roster of players, including Chauncey Billups, Elden Campbell, Darvin Ham, Richard Hamilton, Lindsey Hunter, Mike James, Darko Milicic, Mehmet Okur, Tayshaun Prince, Ben Wallace, Rasheed Wallace, and Corliss Williamson;

Whereas the Pistons have displayed great strength, ability, and perseverance this season, which are all reflective of the hard-working people of the metropolitan Detroit region and the great State of Michigan, which furthermore is reflected in the team slogan "Going to work. Every night.";

Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) Congratulates the Detroit Pistons for winning the 2004 World championship and for their outstanding performance during the entire 2004 season, and congratulates all of the 16 NBA teams who made it into the post-season;

(2) Salutes the achievements of all of the players, coaches, and staff of the Pistons, who worked hard and who were instrumental in bringing the City of Detroit its third NBA championship;

(3) Commends the Los Angeles Lakers for a valiant performance during the playoff finals and for displaying their strength and skill as a team;

(4) Directs the Clerk of the House of Representatives to transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to the Pistons players, Head Coach Larry Brown, General Manager Joe Dumars and President and team owner William Davidson.

IN HONOR OF DR. JOSEPH AND MRS. BETTS SKRHA IN CELEBRATION OF THEIR 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY—JUNE 5, 2004

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 2004

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Dr. Joseph and Betts Skrha, as they celebrate fifty years of devotion to each other, to their family, and to their extended family—the people of their beloved North Broadway community.

The union of Dr. and Mrs. Skrha represents a shared love and commitment not only for each other, but for their family, and their community. Their unbreakable bond continues to embrace and elevate the lives of their children—Joseph Ray, Betsey and John. The memory of their beloved son, Paul, remains eternal within their hearts, and within the hearts of countless residents along Broadway Avenue and beyond.

A united team, Dr. and Mrs. Skrha continue to serve as each other's confidant and advocate. A couple of doors down from the family home, where they continue to live today, Mrs. Betts Skrha supported and worked with Dr. Joseph Skrha throughout his medical practice. Their steadfast convictions and willingness to help others is reflected in the lives of hundreds of families and individuals, some of whom, like the Skrha's, still live in the old neighborhood. Moreover, they have inspired their children and many others—including myself—to reach out in service to others.