

HONORING MR. JOHN DANIEL
ARTIS

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 7, 2004

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and honor that I congratulate Mr. John Daniel Artis for being selected as the East Chicagoan of the Year. For fifteen years, the Twin City Community Services in East Chicago, Indiana, has awarded this title to prominent members of the community who have greatly contributed to the city and people of East Chicago. This year's festivities will take place Friday, August 20, at the Knights of Columbus Hall in East Chicago. During this prestigious event, John's friends and family will accompany him in a roast held in his honor.

Throughout his education and career, John D. Artis has accomplished many admirable goals. He graduated from Tennessee State University in Nashville, Tennessee, with a Bachelor of the Arts in political science and history and later received his masters in public administration from Indiana University Northwest's School of Public and Environmental Affairs.

After finishing his undergraduate education, John selflessly devoted two years to working as a caseworker for the Crippled Children Division of Gary's Department of Public Works. John then served as the Assistant Director of the Cooperative Area Manpower Planning Agency followed by a two year term as the Supervisor of Relocation for the Department of Redevelopment. As a hardworking, disciplined, and dedicated leader, John was promoted to Deputy Director of Redevelopment in 1975 and to Director of Housing and Redevelopment in 1978, a position he continues to hold. John has been an integral part of several programs that have bettered the lives of those in his community: he aided in designing The Project 10 Program for rehabilitating multi-family buildings and created the First Time Homeownership Program and the Planned United Development to expand public housing. Through these and other projects, John has been spotlighted as an accomplished citizen devoted to providing affordable housing to his fellow man.

Beyond his full and active career, John has also held several positions in an effort to further serve East Chicago. He serves on the Board of Directors of the Community Reinvestment Project, St. Catherine's Hospital, the Healthy East Chicago Board, and the Enterprise Development and Management Corporation. He is also a board member of the Northwest Indiana Urban League, the Quality of Life Council of Northwest Indiana, the Lake County Integrated Services Delivery Board, the Northwest Indiana Discovery Center, and the National City Community Development Foundation. Additionally, John is President of the Partners in Contracting Board of Directors, Treasurer of the Urban Enterprise Association, and a Member of the Gary, Hammond, East Chicago Empowerment Zone Oversight Committee. John's list of memberships continues and includes several other committees that strive to improve East Chicago, illustrating that John has dedicated his life, his time, and his energy to improving the housing, health care, and economic future of East Chicago.

The Knights of Columbus Hall will be filled Friday night with friends and family who have been blessed with the opportunity to know and work with John and who wish to celebrate with him as he receives his award. John's work, which has earned him East Chicagoan of the Year, has been improving his community and the lives of East Chicagoans for over thirty years. Though John is dedicated to his career and the community of East Chicago, he has never limited his time and love for his family. John and his wife, Karen, have been happily married for over thirty years and have one son, Christopher.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating Mr. John Daniel Artis on being recognized as the East Chicagoan of the Year. It is my privilege to extend my personal thanks to Mr. Artis for his lifelong dedication to the citizens of the First Congressional District of Indiana. I confidently await Mr. Artis' future contributions to society and wish him continued personal and professional success.

TRIBUTE TO DANIEL J. WATKINS

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 7, 2004

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to note the passing of Daniel J. Watkins, of Prairie Village, Kansas, who passed away peacefully at his home with his wife and children around him on Wednesday, July 21, 2004, the feast day of his patron, St. Daniel the Prophet.

Dan Watkins was born on December 18, 1923, the second of four children of Thomas J. and Theresa A. Watkins, and raised on the family farm near Albia, Iowa. He enlisted in the Navy in 1943 and was commissioned and assigned to the 37th Spec. Construction Battalion (Sea Bees) in the Pacific Theatre, where he was Asst. Company Commander on the island of Oahu, Hawaii, near Pearl Harbor. Following his service in the Navy, Dan completed his studies at Iowa State University, where he earned a degree in civil engineering. He was a member of the Phi Kappa fraternity and the track team. He was also inducted into the Tau Beta Pi, the Knights of St. Patrick and the Iowa Engineering honorary societies.

Dan married Barbara L. Van Cleve on September 9, 1946. They moved to Kansas City in 1947 when Dan accepted a position with the firm of Howard Needles Tammen and Bergendoff. His entire professional career was spent with HNTB, culminating as the chairman of the Executive Committee. He took great satisfaction in the many roads, bridges, airports and other projects that HNTB designed. In 1989, Dan was awarded the Marston Medal by his alma mater, Iowa State University for outstanding achievement in engineering. He was also the recipient of the Distinguished Service Award by the National Society of Professional Engineers and by the Missouri Society of Professional Engineers.

Dan was also very active in civic and charitable organizations serving the metropolitan area. Dan was a member of the Civic Council of Greater Kansas City, serving as a Director from 1985 to 1988. He was also Chairman of the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce in 1982-1983, after serving on the

Board for several years. Dan served two terms as Chairman of Carondelet Health Corporation, after serving on the Board from its inception from 1983 until 1989. He was on the Board of Directors of St. Joseph Hospital for six years. Dan and Barb also spent many years fundraising for the St. Martin of Tours League, which sponsors the annual Snow Ball benefiting Catholic Charities for the Archdiocese of Kansas City, Kansas. Dan was President of the League in 1985. In 1987, Dan was selected as the Catholic honoree of the Greater Kansas City Chapter of the National Conference of Christians and Jews. Dan served on the Rockhurst College Board of Regents, the Board of Trustees for the Midwest Research Institute and the Board of Directors of UMB South. He also served as a Prairie Village City Councilman for six years.

Above all else, Dan was a faithful servant of Christ, a loving husband, and devoted father. His greatest gift to us was his example, including his strong Catholic Faith and his devotion to the Rosary. Perhaps the greatest testament to Dan's trust in the Lord was his willingness, together with Barb, to welcome each of their fifteen children into the world and provide all of them with abundant love. Dan will be missed dearly by the family, and his passing is a loss for the entire community.

Dan was preceded in death by his parents, Thomas J. and Theresa A. Watkins, and one infant son, Paul, in whose name Dan sponsored a church built in Africa. Dan is survived by his loving and devoted wife of 57 years, Barbara, who continues to reside at the family home, and by his children and their families: Daniel and Phyllis Watkins, Lawrence, KS; Robert and Julie Watkins, Dallas, TX; Alice and Jim Scherzberg, Olathe, KS; John and Melissa Watkins, Lawrence, KS; Marianne and Paul Horvath, Prairie Village, KS; Jeanne and Gene Schinstock, Hutchinson, KS; Thomas and K. Watkins, Prairie Village; James and Ruth Watkins, Australia; Barbara Sack Hodges and Gene Hodges, Merriam, KS; William and Connie Watkins, Leawood, KS; Molly and Dan DiCarlo, Covington, GA; Frances Hunt, Prairie Village; David and Theresa Watkins, and Patrick and Shannon Watkins, Overland Park, KS; and by his forty grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren, and by his sisters, Mary Mahoney and Charlene Coady, and his brother, Robert Watkins, of Iowa.

The Watkins family would like to acknowledge the kind, compassionate care of the Sisters, Servants of Mary at the end of Dan's life. I join with all of them, and with Dan and Barb's many friends and neighbors, in mourning the passing of this remarkable man, who gave so much to so many during his rich, full life.

IN HONOR OF MARINE DAVID
PAUL BURRIDGE OF LAFAYETTE,
LOUISIANA

HON. CHRISTOPHER JOHN

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 7, 2004

Mr. JOHN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of a fine American, a devoted son and a brave soldier who gave his life serving our Nation in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

David Paul Burridge served with the U.S. Marine's 1st Marine Expeditionary Force. On the afternoon of the 6th of September, was killed outside Fallujah, Iraq when a suicide bomber detonated a vehicle near a U.S. convoy.

David had been stationed in Iraq since April and most recently, his Marine unit was charged with securing the volatile western Anbar province.

David was one of seven brave Marine's killed outside Fallujah on Monday. While we here in the United States honored America's workers on Labor Day, David and his colleagues were hard at work defending our freedom. In the line of duty, David bravely gave his life to help make this world a better place for his fellow soldiers and indeed for us all.

A 2004 graduate of Lafayette High School, David's principal remembered him as "happy-go-lucky," saying "he was just the kind of kid that if I were a teacher, that's the kind of kid that you say, 'I'd take a whole class of them.'"

Mr. Speaker, please join David's friends, family and me as we honor his memory and thank him for his heroic service to our country.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE WELLNESS COMMUNITY OF THE SAN FRANCISCO EAST BAY AREA FOR ITS COMMITMENT TO INDIVIDUALS, FAMILIES, AND LOVED ONES AFFECTED BY CANCER

HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 7, 2004

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to your attention the accomplishments of the Wellness Community of the San Francisco East Bay area.

The Wellness Community provides support, education, and hope for people with cancer and their loved ones, serving more than 1,000 participants in the Bay Area annually.

Cancer affects three out of four families across our Nation, over 1.3 million Americans each year. Cancer does not discriminate, crossing all ethnic, racial, age, national origin, sexual orientation, and socio-economic lines. It is one of the most devastating diseases afflicting Americans today.

The Wellness Community of the San Francisco East Bay area provides services to improve the quality of life for cancer patients, their families, and loved ones. Services include weekly and monthly support groups, monthly educational programs, stress management and gentle movement programs, and a cancer resource library.

In addition to providing a close-knit, home-like atmosphere, the Wellness Community's programs also enable those with cancer to take an active stance in combating the disease by forming a support network for patients and their families.

The Wellness Community believes that hope is a valuable tool for combating cancer. Rather than identifying themselves as passive victims, the Wellness Community empowers patients to play an active role in improving their own lives by working directly with their healthcare teams to bring about the possibility of recovery.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend the Wellness Community on over

twenty years of dedicated service in improving the lives of individuals, families, and loved ones who are affected by cancer in the San Francisco Bay area.

I urge the House of Representatives to recognize their declaration of September 18, 2004 as "The Wellness Community Day of Celebration."

CITY OF COLLEYVILLE RANKED IN TOP TEN

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 7, 2004

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to recognize five communities within my district for being acknowledged as among the "Top Ten Suburbs of the Dallas-Fort Worth Area," by D Magazine, a regional monthly publication. Top honors went to Southlake, Colleyville, Highland Village, Flower Mound, and Coppell based on these communities' excellent schools, affordability, and low crime rates.

Every two years, the magazine ranks some fifty plus suburbs of the Dallas-Fort Worth region, the State of Texas' largest metropolitan area. Colleyville was ranked number five on this year's top ten after receiving top marks as a "laid back" community. D Magazine also noted the city's recognition for being a national "Kid Friendly City," "Tree City U.S.A." and "Texas' Safest City."

I applaud Mayor Joe Hocutt and the City Council of Colleyville for building the City of Colleyville into a distinguished community. I am proud to represent such a vibrant city.

COMMENDING DR. MILDRED C. HARRIS

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 7, 2004

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to announce that the God First Ministries East Chicago, Indiana Chapter will be hosting a heavenly breakfast on Saturday, September 18, 2004, at the Dynasty Banquets Hall, in Hammond, Indiana.

This year's guest speaker, Dr. Mildred C. Harris, is one of the most caring, dedicated, and selfless citizens of Illinois. Dr. Harris graduated from DePaul University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Human Development with an emphasis on Communication Science. She then obtained a Master of Arts degree from Governors State University, a Master of Arts degree in Pastoral Studies from Loyola University, and a Doctorate in Ministry from the International Bible Institute and Seminary. Dr. Harris also holds two honorary doctorate degrees.

Dr. Harris has demonstrated a sincere love for the community in which she lives. In addition to improving the lives of others through her professional career as a retired school teacher, Dr. Harris is an ordained minister. She is the President and CEO of God First Ministries in Chicago, Illinois, and she has also established other God First Chapters in

the states of California, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio. Dr. Harris was selected as one of the 6 leading ministers from the City of Chicago to participate in the Chicago Remembers September 11th Observance in leading the Prayer of Hope for Chicago. She has also volunteered her time to champion many causes aimed at bringing comfort to those in need of assistance. Under her leadership, God First Ministries has fed thousands of people, given scholarships to graduating high school seniors, and hosted a clothing drive in which 21,000 clothing items were distributed to those in need.

Among her many contributions to the care of all people, Dr. Harris is a member of several boards and organizations, including: the Independent Assemblies of God, the National Religious Conference Management Association, the Administration Interacting with Ministers/Concerned Clergy for a Better Chicago, African American Religious Connection, the United Negro College Fund Advisory Board, Chicago Department on Aging Task Force, Women's Board of the Goodman Theatre, and the Local Government Advisory Board for the state of Illinois.

Although she dedicates her life to serving her community, Mildred never limits the time she gives to her loving family. She is the daughter of the late Dr. and Mrs. Jordan Clopton and she is married to Dr. Herbert C. Harris.

For all of her conscientious efforts, both professionally and voluntarily, Dr. Harris has been recognized by her peers by earning numerous awards for excellence. She has authored three books and was awarded the Popular Music Award from the American Society of Composers. Dr. Harris was also featured on billboards and busses throughout Chicago promoting a citywide organ donation drive. In 2000, she was awarded the Woman of the Year Award from the American Biographical Institute. She was then honored with the Dominick's Fresh Spirit Award as one of Chicago's Leading Women Religious Leaders in 2001. Dr. Harris was also featured in the Religious Conference Management Association, Who's Who 2002-2003.

Mr. Speaker, throughout Dr. Harris' career in ministry she has touched the lives of many around the world. Her unselfish and lifelong dedication to those in need is worthy of the highest recommendation. I am proud to commend her for her lifetime of service and dedication.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE RICHARD A. BLOCH

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 7, 2004

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to note the passing of Richard A. Bloch, of Kansas City, Missouri, who was a co-founder of H&R Block, Inc., and a passionate crusader for cancer patients.

In 1955, Richard Bloch and his brother, Henry, relaunched a small family-owned bookkeeping service as H&R Block, focusing on income tax preparation. Richard Bloch was a primary force behind the company's rapid expansion in the two decades thereafter.