

leadership, volunteers and network of supporters whose dedication has built Yu-Ai-Kai into an integral part of the fabric of our local community.

SALUTING THE LAMAR LITTLE LEAGUE ALL-STARS

HON. TOM DeLAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 7, 2004

Mr. DeLAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Lamar National Little League All-Stars of Richmond, Texas, on their magnificent performance in the Little League World Series this year.

I want to thank Jim Michalek, the team's manager, not only for leading the Lamar All-Stars to Williamsport for the second straight year, but for doing it the right way—by teaching his players the fundamentals of baseball and of teamwork and sportsmanship.

If he keeps this up, I wouldn't be surprised to hear the Astros want him in their dugout next year.

Mr. Michalek and his coaches—Tommy Abraham and Bobby Murski—gave more than their time and energy to this team. They gave themselves to it, and the character the boys displayed during their tournament run showed the Houston community and our nation once again that there is no substitute in a boy's life for the strong influence of good men. I want to thank them for their dedication and example.

As for the players—Joey Scheurich, Dustin Moehlig, Chance Murski, Stephen Michalek, Tyler Ford, Steven Crawford, Cody Abraham, Ray Cervenka, Randal Grichuk, Christian DeLeon, Matt Daniels, and Daniel Homann—well, I'm certainly glad these young men are from my district. They did Richmond and Fort Bend County proud this year, and I'm honored to represent them and their families here in Washington.

It is often said that sports teach kids important lessons about life. Well, Mr. Speaker, I think the Lamar All-Stars taught us a thing or two this year.

Throughout their season, they modeled the virtues of hard work, perseverance, courage, and determination. Their amazing performance this summer is a testament to their talent, certainly, but most of all a testament to their character.

I offer every player, coach, parent, and friend who followed the Lamar All-Stars this year my congratulations for their success, but more importantly, my thanks for their example.

THE EUGENE O'NEILL FOUNDATION 30TH ANNIVERSARY RECOGNITION

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 7, 2004

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 30th anniversary of The Eugene O'Neill Foundation, Tao House, in Danville (Contra Costa County), California, and the unrelenting work this organization has accomplished in realizing its mission of cele-

brating the life and works of the only American playwright to receive the Nobel Prize and four Pulitzer Prizes.

The all-volunteer foundation is headquartered at Tao House, which was the residence where O'Neill and his wife Carlotta lived from 1937 to 1944. It is here that O'Neill wrote his last six plays, including the classics "A Moon for the Misbegotten," "A Long Day's Journey into Night," and "The Iceman Cometh." O'Neill's works helped shape American theater as we enjoy and appreciate it today.

I am honored to have played a role three decades ago in helping the foundation realize its goal of preserving Tao House, which is on a 158-acre ranch bordering the Las Trampas open space in the rolling hills west of Danville, with a commanding view of the San Ramon Valley and Mt. Diablo. Our collective efforts resulted in the house and property achieving designation as a National Historic Site under management of the National Park Service. It has also become a valuable resource center that is shared and enjoyed by hundreds of scholars and visitors today and for future generations.

The foundation has brought worldwide attention to Contra Costa County and its cultural activities through development of Tao House into a center for literary, performing, and visual arts and a resource center for scholars studying O'Neill and the American theater, as well as historians and producers of film and television documentaries on O'Neill.

The library at Tao House houses a rare collection of O'Neill memorabilia that has been amassed through the efforts of individual board members and donations from close friends of Eugene and Carlotta Monterey O'Neill. The priceless collection includes photographs, letters, signed and annotated editions of O'Neill's plays, and personal clothing.

In 1991, the foundation established a program for encouraging creative expression in talented high school students. Through the program, students learn about O'Neill and are given an opportunity to spend time in the environment that O'Neill found so inspiring. Instruction in art, photography/video, writing and drama is provided by college professors and actors.

Five years later, the foundation initiated the Playwrights' Theatre in the Old Barn on the Tao House estate, where staged readings of plays are presented on Sunday afternoons. Prominent Bay Area directors and actors take part. The name of the series honors O'Neill's Playwrights' Theatre, formed in 1916 in New York City by the Provincetown Players who committed themselves to fostering American playwrights.

Each year, Bay Area artists are selected to create new works in the natural setting of the Tao House estate. Works are displayed during the O'Neill Festival in the Danville Fine Arts Gallery.

This month September 2004, the foundation will present its fifth annual Eugene O'Neill Festival, a community celebration that includes performances of O'Neill works, lectures and seminars by authorities on O'Neill, discussions with prominent actors, authors and O'Neill scholars, and exhibits.

While a tribute to the great literary genius O'Neill, the festival is also a fitting tribute to the Eugene O'Neill Foundation and its 30th anniversary. The foundation represents not only a significant resource and asset in the

cultural life of America, but for actors, artists, authors, playwrights, scholars and visitors from throughout the world.

I invite my colleagues to join me in congratulating the foundation staff on its 30th anniversary.

THE JOSHUA FOUNDATION

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 7, 2004

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning in recognition of the tireless work of the Joshua Foundation, operating out of our capital city of Albany, New York, to bring much needed life-saving medicines to the poor regions of Africa. I want to especially applaud the work of Mr. Lorenzo Hodges, founder of the Joshua Foundation, for his vision and determination in his efforts to help save the lives of adults and children in Africa by providing medicines to treat HIV/AIDS, malaria, diphtheria and other debilitating diseases.

Mr. Speaker, as I understand it, the Joshua Foundation has served to provide humanitarian aid in the form of medicines and clinical support facilities in Kenya and most recently in Tanzania to ensure that deprived areas in these countries receive the medical supplies they need. My further understanding is that the Joshua Foundation has plans underway for additional deliveries of medicines to Liberia, Mozambique and a second delivery to Tanzania. It is well known, Mr. Speaker, that while health care is often available to those who can afford it, the challenge is to provide these basic medicines to those who can't. To this end, the humanitarian efforts of Mr. Hodges and the Joshua Foundation must not go unrecognized.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in this expression of recognition and support for the continuing humanitarian work of the Joshua Foundation in Africa.

IN RECOGNITION OF AMELIA DODY

HON. ROY BLUNT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 7, 2004

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a Southwest Missouri educator who each day stands before a class of fourth graders in a 110-year-old building to teach math, science, social studies and English. For Amelia "Mamie" Dody it has been a routine that began its 58th year on August 19.

Forty years earlier, Ms. Dody agreed to be a substitute teacher for two weeks and ended up staying to teach in the same classroom at Rocky Comfort, Missouri. "I only came for two weeks, to help out while they found somebody else. They haven't found anybody yet," she told me with a smile when I visited her classroom in Rocky Comfort on August 25th to wish Ms. Dody well and congratulate her on a lifetime of achievement.

Ms. Dody began her teaching career at age 16 to save enough money to buy her first car. She told me, "My dad asked 'How are you going to buy gas?' so I kept teaching. I guess

you could say I am still working to buy gas for the car."

"She lives to teach. She loves to teach," says Ms. Dody's daughter Donna Waters, who is a principal in the same McDonald County School District. Ms. Dody's teaching career began in 1946 at the one room school at Henneman in Barry County. She taught in Wheaton, North Kansas City, Fairview and Granby before landing at Rocky Comfort in 1966.

After 58 years of teaching, Ms. Dody is not only a role model to her students and their parents, but to other teachers. She spends her summers in workshops and seminars to improve her skills and better deliver information to those young minds she nourishes each day. In addition, Ms. Dody also works on her 275-acre cattle farm near Stark City. While she confesses to no longer brush hogging, her daughter says she still mends fences and works cattle.

Rocky Comfort Principal Shandra Stephens calls Ms. Dody "A neat lady. She is a person I can go to, because she is such a good sounding board. She has credibility and lastability."

Perhaps the greatest compliment to Ms. Dody's skills as a teacher are from parents and grandparents who want Ms. Dody to teach their children. Her career now spans three generations. Among the countless numbers of students who have passed through her classroom in Rocky Comfort are her two grandsons, her son-in-law, and two current members of the McDonald County School Board.

There had been rumors that Ms. Dody would quit teaching last year, but voters in McDonald County approved the construction of a new elementary school in nearby Longview that will replace the Rocky Comfort Elementary School. That was too much for Ms. Dody to pass up. She returned to the classroom this year and will move into her new classroom when the Longview Elementary opens in January. Now, she is telling her colleagues she will try to stay in the classroom for two more years to reach her 60th year of teaching.

Ms. Dody's spirit, dedication and love of teaching shows up every day in the classroom. She shares the joy of teaching with the children, fellow teachers and parents in her community.

America owes much to Ms. Dody and teachers like her who have given a lifetime to educating our elementary school students in American values.

CONGRATULATING ESPN ON ITS 25TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 7, 2004

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate ESPN on its 25th anniversary. At 7 p.m. on September 7, 1979, the Entertainment and Sports Programming Network began broadcasting SportsCenter from Bristol, CT in my district. Bill Rasmussen had the crazy idea that a 24-hour sports cable network might be a success. It started with a single building with no running water and a

control truck on cinderblocks showing such odd sports as Australian rules football and darts. Twenty-five years later, he has proven to be right. That single building has grown into nine control rooms, 31 edit suites, more than 2,000 television monitors, and a library of over a million tapes.

ESPN is now one of the most widely known brand names in the world and more than 90 million people are exposed to ESPN each week. It has expanded its networks to include ESPN2, ESPN Classic, ESPNNEWS, ESPN Deportes, ESPN Today, and ESPN Radio. ESPN.com receives over 2.3 million page views during peak hours with its instant score updates. Meanwhile, workers stuck in their cubicles from 9 to 5 can find a diversion for a few minutes reading Page 2, Page 3, and the Sports Guy's insight on what it means to be a Red Sox fan. ESPN the Magazine has reached a circulation of 1.7 million in just five years and won the National Magazine Award for General Excellence in 2003. ESPN Zone restaurants in eight cities serve as the ideal place to grab a bite and watch the game.

ESPN's signature program, SportsCenter, has developed a cult following and many viewers will admit to watching multiple episodes of the same sports report back-to-back-to-back. It has touched all corners of the globe with locally produced episodes in Canada and Brazil, a Spanish version for the rest of Latin America, China, India, and Taiwan. SportsCenter has not only helped create sports superstars, its personalities have become stars in their own right. Chris Berman, Keith Olbermann, Bob Ley, Greg Gumbel, Dan Patrick, Stuart Scott, and Craig Kilborn have become celebrities and their vernacular has become the language of the sports fan.

Not to be forgotten is the major role ESPN has played in the expansion of women's sports. Who would have thought in 1979 that the NCAA women's lacrosse national championship game would be shown in front of a national television audience? Or that the highest rated basketball telecast ever on ESPN would be the 2004 NCAA women's basketball championship, won by the University of Connecticut. That includes more than 6,000 men's and women's basketball games. Where else can young girls aspiring to become the next Mia Hamm watch their heroes?

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in congratulating Bill Rasmussen for his crazy idea and thanking ESPN President George Bodenheimer and all the folks at Bristol U. for their passion and dedication to bringing the wonderful world of sports into living rooms 24 hours a day, seven days a week. I am proud to say that ESPN is in the First Congressional District and I wish you 25 more years of success.

RIBS TO OUR TROOPS IN IRAQ—COURTESY OF THE HOLTVILLE ATHLETIC CLUB

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 7, 2004

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I rise today to recognize the Holtville Athletic Club and the entire Holtville community for cooking 1,000 pounds of ribs and sending

them to our troops in Iraq, in the "Ribs to Iraq Project." I also want to give special thanks to the Naval Air Facility in El Centro for assisting in the coordination and transportation of the smoked BBQ pork ribs.

The Holtville Athletic Club is a small, non-profit organization that is known in Imperial Valley for its Rib Cook-off Extravaganza that is enjoyed by visitors from all over the world each winter. The "Ribs to Iraq Project" started from a desire to thank our troops in Iraq for their commitment to our country. The project took about a year to implement. Twenty barbecues were built with the assistance of the Navy base. The ribs were completely pre-cooked, sauced and frozen by club members. Holtville citizens wrote letters to the soldiers that were included in the care package. The project ended up bringing an entire and grateful community together to participate in this project.

The BBQ-Ribs were packaged and frozen for transportation via the USS *Denver*, USS *Howard*, and the USS *Mobile Bay* to the Middle East arriving in July of this year. The Athletic Club attached its own special message to each case of ribs: "These specific ribs were prepared on barbecues built by the club with volunteer assistance of Navy specialists, who we welcome and embrace as a very special part of our community and heart. Please enjoy the enclosed ribs wherever they may find you."

I've seen my constituents show their appreciation to our troops in many ways. And this is just one example of a great community project that brings the residents together to accomplish an extraordinary goal.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the Holtville Athletic Club for bringing the community of Holtville together in the "Ribs to Iraq Project." I am sure the troops in Iraq were thankful for a little taste of homemade loving barbecue.

HONORING THE ST. MARY SCHOOL PAROCHIAL INVITATIONAL BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT ON THEIR 30TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 8, 2004

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to join the community in celebrating the 30th Anniversary of the St. Mary Parochial Invitational Basketball Tournament. This is a remarkable milestone and I am proud to extend my sincerest congratulations to all of those involved in making this annual event such a great success.

What first began as a two-day event with eight competing teams has grown into the longest running and largest parochial school basketball tournament in Connecticut. In this, its thirtieth year, sixty teams from across the state will participate in a two-week long tournament that will also include a cheerleading exhibition. Over seven hundred boys and girls in grades three through eight will participate—making this year's tournament a real landmark event.

Each of the teams which will compete in the St. Mary Invitational have already accomplished so much. Through their hard work and efforts they have already learned one of life's