

While the loss of Steve Thompson to the state of California and the health care community is great, it is also of great personal loss to me. Steve and I attended grammar school together and were life long friends. I will always cherish my memories of Steve, he was a "good troublemaker" as one of our friends put it. Doris and I will dearly miss his friendship.

Steve is survived by his wife, Nancy; his sister, Dagmar, and his four children, Peter, Schuyler, Hallie, and Scott.

Mr. Speaker, as Steve Thompson's family members and friends gather to honor his legacy and many contributions, I am honored to pay tribute to one of my closest friends. His successes are unparalleled. I ask all my colleagues to join with me in paying my respect and acknowledging the deeds and life of an extraordinary man.

TRIBUTE TO EASTSIDE
COMPASSIONATE MISSION, INC.

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 8, 2004

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to acknowledge the 10th anniversary celebration of the Eastside Mission of Flint, Michigan, which took place on Friday, August 27, 2004, during their fourth annual back to school carnival.

Pastor Bill Burdine and his wife Barbara established Eastside Compassionate Mission Center, Inc. in 1994. The mission is an independent ministry of the Eastern Michigan District of the Nazarene Church. Over the 10 years in operation, the mission has served a quarter million meals, and distributed several tons of food from its food pantry to the needy. Currently the mission has 1,594 households on their rolls and 426 infants registered. The mission is blessed to have a volunteer medical team that visits regularly to provide free health screenings, answer questions, take blood pressure, and make referrals and appointments. The mission also has an optometrist and chiropractor that visit and provide services as needed, also free of charge.

The Eastside Mission is doing marvelous things in the name of our Lord. I commend Pastor and Mrs. Burdine for their leadership, hard work and unwavering dedication to sustain this ministry. Colossians 4: 14-15 reads; "And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness." To that fact I also commend the volunteers who donate hours of their personal time and talent to assisting the less fortunate. The Burdines stated that they praise God for the victories however so few and they pray to God for a mighty harvest for their friends.

Mr. Speaker, as a former seminarian, I truly understand the important role the Church plays in our lives, and as such, I am honored to have people such as Pastor Bill and Barbara Burdine in my district. Self-evident is their lifelong commitment to enhancing the dignity and spirit of people, and our community is a better place thanks to their dedication to performing the Lord's work. I ask my colleagues in the 108th Congress to please join me in wishing them another decade of success.

HONORING THE DISTINGUISHED
PUBLIC SERVICE OF REVEREND
MICHAEL YOSHII

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 8, 2004

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Reverend Michael Yoshii, a clergyman in the city of Alameda, California. Reverend Yoshii has quickly become an integral part of Alameda's Asian community as a champion in the struggle for both human and civil rights. Reverend Yoshii will be honored for his outstanding contributions at a reception in his honor on Saturday, October 16, 2004.

A third-generation Japanese American, Reverend Yoshii has been a strong advocate and spokesperson for a number of important issues, such as housing for the poor, racial diversity, and civil liberties. Reverend Yoshii has also helped to initiate discussion forums among Alameda's citizens, in an effort to encourage those of different ethnic and cultural backgrounds to become better acquainted.

Reverend Yoshii has also been responsible for the creation of several school and community programs. In particular, he was instrumental in the establishment of the Alameda Multicultural Community Center. This center offers services to the Alameda community ranging from yoga classes to children's art classes. Reverend Yoshii has also contributed to the creation of several youth projects, including the Asian Pacific Youth Institute and the Asian Pacific Peer Counseling Project.

Several years ago, Reverend Yoshii worked alongside community members in lobbying the Alameda School District and the Alameda Board of Education to conduct a diversity audit. The diversity audit produced new hiring goals to increase diversity among the district's workforce. Reverend Yoshii has also helped reinvigorate programs like the Organization of Alameda Asians, which promotes voter registration for the Alameda community. He also was the convener for the Coalition of Alamedans for Racial Equality (CARE), a community response to racial controversy within the Alameda Police Department. Currently, CARE has evolved into a multicultural training program for students to address issues surrounding identity, culture, and racism.

I join in congratulating Reverend Yoshii for his commitment in creating new multicultural relationships in Alameda. I am confident Reverend Yoshii will continue to be an invaluable resource to the city and a tremendous asset.

HONORING ANN GRACE SMITH

HON. JIM DAVIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 8, 2004

Mr. DAVIS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Ann Grace Smith, a Tampa Bay native who before losing her own battle with Lou Gehrig's Disease last month, helped countless other ALS patients through their own struggles with this disease.

Ann had been a University of Florida graduate, accountant, dedicated wife and mother of two before she was diagnosed with ALS.

Then, at a time when she was facing her greatest personal challenge, she devoted her energy to helping others.

While struggling with ALS herself, Ann helped found the ALS Association Florida Chapter in Tampa. Throughout her 19 year illness, she served on the board of directors, helping to build up the chapter and its services to our community.

Always able to see the big picture, Ann recognized the need to support not only ALS patients, but also their caregivers. She worked to provide respite relief for caregivers to relieve the stress and burden on those providing constant care for loved ones.

On behalf of the entire Tampa Bay community, I honor Ann for her selfless dedication to serving others, and I extend my deepest sympathies to her loving husband David, her family and friends. Ann was a true inspiration.

TRIBUTE TO NATIONAL CHAMPION
CONEJO VALLEY LITTLE
LEAGUE TEAM

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 8, 2004

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the coaches and players of the Conejo Valley Little League team, who won 22 consecutive postseason games on their way to earning the title of U.S. Champions on August 30.

To emphasize the enormity of this accomplishment by a dozen 11- and 12-year-old ball players from my district, allow me to cite some stats. About 7,400 teams and more than 88,800 players started the post-season quest. It was a two-month odyssey that began on June 29. The boys from Thousand Oaks, California, outscored their opponents 165-29. They played their final games thousands of miles from home, in South Williamsport, Pennsylvania, before an international television audience and more than 30,000 people in the stands.

Talk about pressure.

They also lost their final game, and the world championship, to the Pabao Little League team of Willemstad, Curacao. But they turned that loss into a victory of respect when they circled the field with the Curacao players, tipped their hats to the Curacao fans and threw baseballs into the stands for souvenirs.

The Conejo Valley Little League team displayed class, talent, drive and true sportsmanship in a long string of wins on their way to becoming U.S. Champions, and during a single loss to Curacao.

As manager Tim Ginther told a reporter: "Now we're No. 2 in the world overall. That's not bad."

Political columnist and baseball fanatic George Will once observed that "sports serve society by providing vivid examples of excellence." The members of the Conejo Valley Little League team are vivid examples of excellence.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues will join me in congratulating manager Tim Ginther; coaches Jim Barrett, Rick Brower and Frank Leon; the players, James Brady, Jordan Brower, Hayden Cronenbold, Derrick Francis, Timmy Ginther, Adam Justinlano, Tyler Karp,

Danny Leon, John Lister, Sean McIntyre, Evan Ocello and Cody Thomson; and their families, for winning the U.S. championship with drive, talent and true sportsmanship.

IN MEMORY OF THE HONORABLE
HARRY WIGGINS

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 8, 2004

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it is with sadness that I inform the House of Representatives of the passing of my friend, The Honorable Harry Wiggins of Kansas City, Missouri. He was 71.

Harry, a son of Dr. John and Helen Murphy Wiggins, was born in Kansas City, Missouri, on August 1, 1932. He spent the entirety of his life in Kansas City, attending grade and high schools and then Rockhurst College. Harry achieved many honors while at Rockhurst. He was elected the president of the student body. He joined Alpha Delta Gamma fraternity and was president of his chapter and then national president three times. When he was a senior he was chosen to be a member and served as president of the university chapter of Alpha Sigma Nu, the National Jesuit honor society. He also was selected for Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities. After he graduated from Rockhurst College with an AB, he was awarded a three year scholarship to attend law school at St. Louis University.

From 1957 to 1959, Harry served in the United States Army as a legal advisor to the 2nd United States Army Missile Command at Fort Hood, Texas. Upon his discharge, he received a Certificate of Achievement for Distinguished Service.

After his discharge, he came back home to Kansas City and began to practice law. Soon he became a part of John F. Kennedy's 1960 presidential campaign, serving as Kansas City's chairman for the campaign. It was during this time that he met and became good friends with Robert F. Kennedy. Once John F. Kennedy became president, Robert Kennedy became United States Attorney General and then appointed Harry as the assistant U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Missouri. He held this position for over five years and during his tenure he handled cases involving federal grand jury probes into organized crime. During his tenure, he also prosecuted a group of liquor and prostitution cases. Then Governor Warren Hearnes appointed Harry as state supervisor of liquor control. After serving as state supervisor of liquor control from 1967 to 1970, he returned to Kansas City to run for western judge of Jackson County and won.

In 1973, Governor Kit Bond asked Harry to serve in his administration as general counsel for the Public Service Commission. After holding this post for a year, he came back to Kansas City in 1974 to run for the 10th District seat in the Missouri Senate against a two-term Republican incumbent. Harry won by 6,000 votes and would be elected six more times. After serving 28 years in the Missouri Senate, Harry retired in 2002. During his time in the Missouri Senate, he was Kansas City's first majority floor leader from 1980 to 1984. He never missed a roll call vote during his ten-

ure—logging a total of more than 17,000 consecutive roll call votes.

Harry's legislative record is a testament to his commitment to public service. During his time in the Missouri Senate, he had many legislative accomplishments including the creation of 911 emergency calling, laws requiring DNA profiling of convicted felons, anti methamphetamine legislation that would become a national model, legislation to fund and protect the Truman Sports Complex, the establishment of the Parents as First Teachers Program, which would become a national model, and many others.

Mr. Speaker, Senator Harry Wiggins will be greatly missed by all who knew him. I know the Members of the House will join in extending heartfelt condolences to his family.

RICHARD McCLEES: LABOR
LEADER OF THE YEAR

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 8, 2004

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker and colleagues, today I recognize Richard McClees as the 2004 Labor Leader of the Year. This award will be given by the San Diego Labor Community at the Twenty-Second Annual John S. Lyons Memorial Banquet on September 11, 2004.

Rich, as he is known, is currently Chief International Representative of the Sheet Metal Workers' International Association. He comes from a strong union background. His father, Charles McClees, now retired, was a 54-year member of Sheet Metal Workers' Local 206, and two of Rich's brothers, Mike and Chuck, are current members. His older brother, Dwight, recently retired as a San Diego City teacher/school principal with 34 years of membership in the teachers' union. His sister, Margaret, is employed by the San Diego Building and Construction Trades Council.

Rich began working on his father's tuna boat at the age of 12. Until he was 18, he spent each summer on the Pacific Ocean, from Mexico to Washington state, fishing for albacore tuna. Upon his graduation from high school in 1968, Rich joined Sheet Metal Workers' Local 206 and began working at California Neon Products. In 1970, he entered the apprenticeship program at Standard Sheet Metal Works. His work during this period included the sheet metal restoration of the historic 1880s Villa Montezuma at 15th and K Streets in San Diego.

Rich completed his apprenticeship in 1974, receiving the Apprentice of the Year Award from Mesa College, winning the Regional 10 Apprentice Contest for Sheet Metal Apprentices, and competing in the National Apprenticeship Contest in Minneapolis. In 1976, he began his eighteen years at the San Onofre Nuclear Power Plant, working for University Mechanical Engineering Contractors.

As early as 1979, Rich began teaching apprenticeship classes for Local 206. He also coached his daughter's and son's soccer teams and was an active participant in many other of their extracurricular activities. He was elected Business Representative of the Sheet Metal Workers' Local 206 in 1994. In 1996, he

became the Apprenticeship Coordinator for Local 206, in addition to his duties as Business Representative. He was also a member of the San Diego and California Apprenticeship Coordinators Association.

In 2000, Rich was elected Business Manager/Financial Secretary Treasurer of Local 206, while continuing his duties as Local 206 Apprenticeship Coordinator. He also served on the Executive Board of the Western States Council of Sheet Metal Workers, as a Trustee of the Sheet Metal Workers of Southern California, Arizona and Nevada Pension and Health Funds, as Vice-President of the National City Parks Apartments, as President of the San Diego Building and Construction Trades Council, and as an Executive Board Member of the San Diego and Imperial Counties Labor Council.

He is currently attending the George Meany National Labor College and will soon receive his Bachelor of Arts Degree. On April 1, 2004, Rich was appointed by Michael J. Sullivan, General President of the Sheet Metal Workers' International Association, as Chief International Representative/Director of Jurisdiction for the Washington, D.C. office, and he resides in Arlington, Virginia. His daughter and son and their families live in San Diego.

The banquet at which Rich will be presented with his award is named in recognition of the late John Lyons of the Teamsters who was very active in the San Diego community. He was a founder of the San Diego Chapter of the Leukemia Society of America. The friends of Mr. Lyons continue to support his cause, and proceeds from the yearly banquets are used to support bone marrow testing and local research grants. Since its inception, the John Lyons Memorial Banquet has raised over one million dollars.

Through his dedication and willingness to serve, Rich has done much to advance the cause of the labor movement, and my congratulations go to Rich McClees for his significant contributions. He is highly deserving of the 2004 Labor Leader of the Year Award.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS
OF OLYMPIAN MORGAN HAMM

HON. DEBORAH PRYCE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 8, 2004

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Morgan Hamm, member of the silver medal winning U.S. men's Olympic gymnastics team, for his contribution and leadership to this team's historic performance.

Along with his twin brother Paul, Morgan made the Olympic team for the Sydney games as its youngest member at the age of 17. After the Sydney Games, Morgan smashed a nerve casing in his left shoulder and struggled with this injury for two years. However, while only partially recovered, Morgan overcame adversity and showed his determination by winning the floor exercise title in the 2002 U.S. National competition. At the 2003 U.S. Nationals, he won another floor title, and later that year, helped the U.S. to a silver medal in the team competition at the World Championships.

As a two-time Olympian, Morgan has provided a strong leadership role to his team and helped the United States secure its first men's gymnastics medal in twenty years.