

file disclosure reports with the IRS monthly. Previously, organizations in this category were only required to file quarterly. Third, organizations that have less than \$25,000 in receipts must file quarterly. Fourth, the Department of the Treasury and the Federal Election Commission must work together to improve the database disclosure system.

This bill will provide the American people with more information about who is donating to the political process and how that money is being spent. If we want to inspire and encourage more Americans to participate in the political process, we must make all aspects of the process accessible to them.

The guidelines in my bill will expose political organizations' donors and demonstrate they have nothing to hide. Moreover, this information will help Americans to make more informed choices.

I believe that efforts to restrict 527 organizations could raise First Amendment concerns and may merely result in their reconstitution as 501(c)4, 501(c)5 and 501(c)6 organizations, which have virtually no public disclosure requirements. I believe that it would be more beneficial to our political process to mandate greater transparency of 527's rather than attempting to shut them down or otherwise curtail their participation in the political process. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

HONORING MARTIN FUNERAL HOME

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 9, 2004

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to acknowledge the 75th anniversary of the Martin Funeral Home, of Mt. Morris, MI. On Saturday, September 11, 2004, the funeral home along with the community will commemorate this milestone with a full day of festivities that will include the sealing of a time capsule, a replica of President Lincoln's coffin, and free workshops on grief management.

Mr. Miles B. Martin established the Martin Funeral Home in November of 1929. Miles received his mortuary license from Worsham School of Anatomy in Chicago on June 28, 1928. He married Mildred C. Doyle and of this wonderful union were born three sons, Patrick J., Michael A. and Miles T. "Tom". Mrs. Martin worked alongside her husband as a licensed funeral director to build one of the largest family owned funeral businesses in Genesee County. Of the three sons, Miles T. "Tom" Martin took on the interest of mortuary science. He received his degree in Mortuary Science from Wayne State University. His desire to assist his father in the business was delayed by the call to serve his country in the U.S. Army as a combat medic in Vietnam. On January 1, 1972, Miles T. acquired the family business from his father. On October 21, 1988 Miles B. Martin passed away and Mildred C. Martin on August 30, 1993.

Miles T., in his commitment to honor his father's mission of providing affordable and caring funeral service for Genesee County, has expanded the operation by opening homes in Vassar and Fairgrove. The process of bereavement can be overwhelming. The commu-

nity has come to know they can depend on the Martin family to help them through this difficult process. I commend the Martins for taking on, and being committed to this delicate task.

Mr. Speaker, as a member of Congress, I ask my colleagues in the 108th Congress to please join me in honoring the Martin Family and their Funeral home for 75 years of unwavering support and guidance to those who have lost loved ones.

SALUTING MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND, STUDENTS, TEACHERS, PRINCIPALS, SCHOOL PERSONNEL AND PARENTS FOR OUTSTANDING SAT SCORES

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 9, 2004

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to share with my colleagues the news that the highest systemwide average SAT score (1102) ever achieved by the Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) was produced by the graduating class of 2004, marking the first time the average score has exceeded 1100. The average included the highest ever average mathematics score (561) and the highest average verbal score in 12 years (541), the first increase in the average verbal score in five years. The improvements were achieved with a student participation rate of 80.2 percent, representing the largest group (7,263 students) ever to take the test in the school district.

The higher SAT scores mark the achievements of the first graduating class of students taking the SAT who were exposed to the full range of the ongoing high school reforms in Montgomery County. The reforms began when the students were ninth graders in the 2000–2001 school year and have expanded greatly the opportunities for more rigorous coursework in preparation for college.

In addition, the improvement included a significant gain in the system's "average highest score," the same number used by colleges to identify the best performance among students on the SAT. The system's average highest score increased to 1115 last year, the best result ever and an increase of eight points over the year before.

Overall, there were numerous achievements in the 2004 SAT results for which MCPS should be proud:

Highest ever average SAT score of 1102, a gain of eight points;

Best ever "average highest SAT score" of 1115, a gain of eight points;

Highest ever average math score (561);

Largest number of students ever taking the SAT (7,263 students);

Highest average score for white students (1163), a gain of 10 points;

Highest average score for Asian American students (1160), a gain of 33 points;

Most high schools (four) with average scores above 1200;

Most high schools (11) with average scores above 1100; and

Average score of students receiving special education services increased by 26 points to 924.

The average scores for African American and Hispanic students receiving Federal meal assistance also increased significantly—up 17 points among African American students (854) and six points among Hispanic students (837). This is an important point because the percentage of both groups of students participating in the Free and Reduced-price Meal System (FARMS) is increasing, lowering the overall average score for each group even as the specific subgroup scores increase.

According to Dr. Jerry D. Weast, Superintendent of the Montgomery County Public Schools, all of this has occurred during a significant demographic change in student enrollment, characterized by greater cultural and racial/ethnic diversity, a rise in students from low-income families, an increase in the number of students for whom English is a second language, and more students with disabilities.

I want to commend Dr. Weast, the Members of the Montgomery County Board of Education, and all teachers, principals and staff for implementing school improvements including strengthened curriculum, improved assessments, greater coordination among and within schools, and increased staff training and professional development. The improvements also included increased student enrollment in expanded Advanced Placement (AP) and honors courses.

Mr. Speaker, public schools are truly the backbone of our community. Young people across America face ever-changing social and economic challenges. We have an obligation to prepare them for the challenges that lie ahead, and I applaud the great work of the teachers, principals and other education personnel in Montgomery County who offer so much support to our families.

HONORING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF GAYLE RUDOFSKY

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 9, 2004

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Gayle Rudofsky, a Half Hollow Hills High School East student who has been named a 2003–04 High School All American in Diving.

Ms. Rudofsky has a long history of diving accolades, including being named one of the Top 40 High School Divers in the United States, winning the 2003 New York State Public High School Women's Diving Championship and winning the Lester J. Schloen Jr. Memorial Award for Most Promising First Year Diver. She recently broke her own Suffolk County 11–dive meet record and also set a new Suffolk County 6–dive meet scoring record. In addition to these record-breaking performances, the National Interscholastic Swim Coaches Association ranked Ms. Rudofsky the third best high school diver in 11–dive competitions and the fourth best diver in 6–dive meets. She is also a member of Long Island Divers, a U.S. Diving Team, and is qualified to represent the Long Island region in the 2004 Empire State Games.

Not only has Ms. Rudofsky accomplished much on the diving board, she is also gifted in the classroom. She has managed to balance an outstanding athletic career with equally impressive academics. Ms. Rudofsky has been

named an Academic All American, New York State Public High School Athletic Association Women's Swim-Dive Scholar-Athlete of the Year and Half Hollow Hills High School East Female Scholar-Athlete of the Class of 2004. She has also received the Citibank/News 12 Scholar-Athlete Award and the 2004 Scholar-Athlete Milk Moustache of the Year Award.

This fall, Ms. Rudofsky will attend Princeton University, where she will be a member of the diving team. I congratulate her on her many achievements and am confident that she will have continued success in the future.

CONGRATULATING JUSTIN GATLIN ON WINNING A GOLD MEDAL IN THE ATHENS OLYMPICS

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 9, 2004

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor today to recognize one of the finest U.S. sprinters, Justin Gatlin, a 2004 Olympic gold medalist from Pensacola, Florida. As the youngest track and field champion in 36 years, twenty-two year old Gatlin won the gold medal in the men's 100 meters at the 2004 Olympic games in Athens, making him the "Fastest Man in the World."

As soon as the gun went off, he surged immediately to the lead. Never relinquishing his advantage, he finished in a personal-best, world-leading time of 9.85 seconds. After winning the gold he said, "It was going to be the most exciting race in the world, and it was. This is what I train for, that's why I shoveled the snow off North Carolina tracks. That's why I'm here. I'm here to win the gold medal."

Not only did he leave with a gold medal, but also took home a silver and a bronze in the men's relay and 200 meters, respectively.

Returning home as an Olympic medalist, it is Gatlin's self-composure and attitude that set him apart from the rest. "I want to show that nice guys can finish first. I feel that I'm likable. I feel that I'm honest. I go out there and give a good race for the crowd." Gatlin did more than just give a good race. He gave a superb race and is a shining example for all to follow in not only the first district of Florida, but around the world.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I would like to congratulate Justin Gatlin on his Olympic victories and thank him for representing Pensacola to the world in such a first-class manner.

TRIBUTE TO CHEVRONTExACO AND THEIR EMPLOYEES LO- CATED IN CALIFORNIA'S 11TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

HON. RICHARD W. POMBO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 9, 2004

Mr. POMBO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to rise to honor and congratulate ChevronTexaco and their employees located in California's 11th Congressional district on ChevronTexaco's 125th Anniversary.

Tomorrow marks the 125th anniversary of the merger of California Star Oil Works and

Pacific Coast Oil Co., which formed ChevronTexaco's oldest predecessor. ChevronTexaco's history is a story of great progress and innovation spread over dozens of companies that have come together over the last 125 years to become the ChevronTexaco family.

Over 100 years ago, a converted farmhouse and 80 employees in a rural area not far from San Francisco started handling 10,000 barrels of oil a day. Today, with bustling metropolitan communities surrounding the refinery, 1,300 employees move 240,000 barrels of oil per day.

ChevronTexaco is one of the world's largest integrated energy companies. They are involved in every aspect of the energy industry, from oil and gas exploration and production to transportation, refining and retail marketing, as well as chemical manufacturing and sales and power production.

Active in more than 180 countries, ChevronTexaco employs more than 50,000 people worldwide and about 9,000 in California alone. Over 4,000 of those employees are in San Ramon, the world headquarters for the company.

ChevronTexaco's vision—to be the global energy company most admired for its people, partnership and performance—runs throughout the combined history of all the great companies that today form ChevronTexaco.

The work undertaken by the many generations of ChevronTexaco has made a tremendous and positive impact on the lives of people around the world. I commend and congratulate ChevronTexaco on this very important milestone.

TRIBUTE TO MARY GRACE RAMEY

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 9, 2004

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, on July 23, 2004, McMinn County, Tennessee lost one of its sports legends. Mary Grace Ramey served as a teacher and cheerleading coach for McMinn Central High School since it opened in 1966. She was 73 years old.

Mrs. Ramey touched the lives of hundreds of cheerleaders and thousands of students who passed through the halls of McMinn Central High School. Her colleagues said she was always positive and cared deeply about her students.

Mrs. Ramey, a mother of one and grandmother of three, will be missed by all those who knew her.

I would like to call this Daily Post-Athenian article from July 26, 2004, on Mary Ramey to the attention of my colleagues and other readers of the RECORD.

[From the Daily Post-Athenian, July 26, 2004]

RAMEY LOSS LEAVES HOLE IN THE CENTRAL
FAMILY FABRIC

(By Jack Slayton)

She never hit a home run, sank a clutch basket, or scored a touchdown, but McMinn County was stunned by the loss of a sports legend in her own right this past Friday.

Teacher and cheerleading sponsor Mary Grace Ramey passed away at Chattanooga's Erlanger Medical Center on Friday.

Ramey, who taught Family and Consumer Sciences, was discovered behind the school on Friday, July 16, by two students where she had either accidentally fallen or suffered a seizure and struck her head, suffering a concussion.

Ramey (age 73) had shown some improvement and had been moved from the intensive care unit to a private room before her sudden passing Friday.

"Mary Grace," as I had known her over the past 30 years, had been a teacher for more than half a century and the cheerleading sponsor at Central High School since the doors opened in the 1996-97 school year.

"It's a sad day at Central High School," said Principal Roger Freeman of the last remaining member of the original staff at the school. "She was a legend—an icon of what everybody should aspire to be as both a person and a teacher. She was dedicated to her profession and students, always prepared and way ahead of the game."

Ramey touched the lives of hundreds of cheerleaders and countless thousands of students who passed through her classroom over the past 51 years.

"I don't know of anyone who didn't like Mary Grace—she was always so positive and cared deeply about her students," Freeman said. "It will be difficult, no impossible, to replace her. People like Mary Grace are rare."

Rare, indeed. In a day and time where most people can't wait to call it quits, Mary Grace never discussed retirement, despite being well beyond the required age and with her lengthy years of service.

She had returned earlier in the week from a stay in Knoxville where her latest batch of cheerleaders had attended a camp at the University of Tennessee.

She loved what she did and continued to serve the students of Central with a level of excellence and commitment equally rare today.

I would more often as not run into Mary Grace and husband, Jack, who recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary, going into games at Central or on the road—it seemed we always arrived at about the same time.

She always had a smile and chipper attitude as we exchanged pleasantries walking into the gym or stadium together.

I recall one time several years ago at a basketball game, with the skies threatening, Mary Grace asked me if I thought it was going to snow.

"Not a chance," I said.

Of course, it did and we faced a slippery ride home that night. She never let me forget it.

From that time on, regardless of the conditions, Mary Grace would look at me with that wry smile of hers and asked me if I thought it was going to snow.

The family will receive friends from 5-8 p.m. tonight and funeral services will follow with Bordwine Funeral Home in charge of arrangements (see Page 2 for complete obituary information).

Friends and family will gather at Sunrise Cemetery in Englewood at 11 a.m. Tuesday for the burial service.

And no, Mary Grace, I don't think it will snow.

HONORING OCEAN MIST FARMS

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 9, 2004

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor and pleasure that I am able to rise to