

With a collection spanning the 2nd to 19th Centuries, combining a variety of artistic mediums from paintings to stone sculptures and textiles, this museum will showcase a diverse and vast compilation of historical and sacred art. The inaugural exhibitions are certainly a testimony to the comprehensiveness of this artistic display. Each of the Museum's six floors and theater level gallery features a different exhibit, with educational wall texts and interpretive panels providing another dimension of thought and understanding for both the casual and more experienced museumgoer. The Museum is also home to a state-of-the-art theater, a classroom, and a space for contemporary and historical photography.

RMA's commitment to serving a broad and diverse audience is further evidenced by the wide range of programs offered. RMA has established an innovative Museum Campus program through which it has forged working relationships with the colleges and universities in downtown Manhattan. The Museum's educational programs bring arts education to many public schools and students from underserved communities. Among the future scheduled events are ArtTalks with the Museum's chief curator, Caron Smith, as well as lectures by noted art historians and professors, and poetry and music by contemporary artists.

I am pleased to congratulate the Rubin Museum of Art and all those whose contributions and efforts made the opening of this creative and new enriching cultural center possible, especially the founders Donald and Shelley Rubin. Lifelong New Yorkers, they have been assembling what is now America's largest collection of Himalayan art for over 25 years. Their desire to give back to the City that they love benefits not only New York and its visitors but the world at large. I am proud to join the artistic community of New York in the celebration of the Rubin Museum of Art and its mission of establishing, preserving and presenting to the public a permanent collection of Himalayan art, which accurately reflects its vitality, complexity and historical significance.

**HONORING THE BALDWIN SENIOR
CENTER AS THEY CELEBRATE
THEIR 25TH ANNIVERSARY**

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 4, 2004

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to extend my sincere congratulations to the Baldwin Senior Center Stratford, Connecticut, as they celebrate their 25th Anniversary. This is a remarkable milestone for an organization dedicated to enriching the lives of Stratford's seniors.

Senior centers play a vital role in our communities and this is especially true of the Baldwin Senior Center. All too often, what are supposed to be one's "golden years" are filled with struggles. Health concerns, increasing health care costs, the loss of independence—these are just some of the challenges our seniors face. Perhaps even more devastating is the sense of loneliness that can come as one moves through their later years. Providing invaluable programs and services, senior centers make a real difference in the lives of some of our most vulnerable citizens. That is

why they are so important to our seniors and our communities.

In addition to regular daily activities—which include bingo, book discussions, yoga, quilting classes, and oil painting—the Baldwin Senior Center offers unique opportunities for seniors to get involved with their community. Their knitting/crocheting group made over two dozen hats, scarves, and mittens which were donated to Stratford's South End Community Center. Over 120 seniors and students from Bunnell High School participated in a "Senior Prom" as a fundraiser for the Relay for Life, the American Cancer Society's annual funding drive. The Community Service group organized a project during the summer which had seniors reading books to youngsters from the town's minority center. And seniors sponsored a cupcake bake sale, using the proceeds to buy books which they brought to the South End Community Center. All of these activities ensure that the seniors stay active and involved which makes all the difference—both in their lives and those of many others.

Just as important as the activities are the services which are provided at the Center. Executive Director Diane Puterski is joined by several dedicated staff who work hard to ensure Stratford's seniors have access to the care and benefits they need. Outreach Coordinator Marie Gunman provides services to homebound adults and those who choose not to use the Center by making home visits to people needing information or who are referred to the Center by other agencies as being in need. Lisa Stone manages the program which provides help with entitlements and benefits including Medicare, energy assistance, Medigap insurances, ConnPACE, and Title XIX among others. Diane Russo coordinates the Family Caregivers Support Program which is funded by the Southwest Area Agency on Aging. Through this program, she provides support, information, and education to persons caring for older adults with chronic illnesses, such as Alzheimer's Disease. Together, the staff of the Baldwin Senior Center are improving the quality of life for our seniors. An unequalled resource for seniors and their families, the Baldwin Senior Center is a true community treasure.

Always welcomed with open arms and warm smiles, I have enjoyed the time I have had the opportunity to spend at the Baldwin Senior Center. As they celebrate their Silver Anniversary, I am proud to stand today and extend my sincere congratulations on this special occasion as well as my very best wishes for many more years of unparalleled service to their community.

**IN RECOGNITION OF MR. SONNY
HALL, INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT
OF THE TRANSPORT
WORKERS UNION, ON THE OCCA-
SION OF HIS RETIREMENT**

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 4, 2004

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to salute Mr. Sonny Hall, international president of the Transport Workers Union, on the occasion of his retirement. Sonny Hall is a trailblazing leader of the trade union movement who

throughout his life has selflessly devoted himself in service to our Nation, his family, and the union members whom he has led so ably for generations.

As International President of the Transport Workers Union of America, Sonny Hall has represented more than 100,000 men and women employed in the Nation's transportation and allied industries. Prior to his election to this post at the Union's 19th Constitutional Convention in October 1993, he served as president of Transport Workers Union Local 100, the largest local union of TWU, representing nearly 38,000 members who operate the lifelines of New York City, its extensive network of subway trains and its public and private bus lines.

Over the course of his long and distinguished career, Mr. Hall served in virtually every union position, from shop steward all the way up to the very pinnacle of the labor movement. He was named president of Local 100 in May 1985 and subsequently elected to full 3-year terms in December 1985, 1988 and 1991. He first joined the Transport Workers Union in 1950 as a bus cleaner for the old Omnibus Corporation, and became a bus operator in 1957. In between, he served tours of duty in both the U.S. Marine Corps and the U.S. Army. Elected an international vice president at the Transport Workers Union's Seventeenth Constitutional Convention in September 1985, he was appointed executive vice president by the International Executive Council on January 9, 1989, and was subsequently elected to that post for a 4-year term at the Union's 18th Constitutional Convention in October 1989.

Mr. Hall went on to be elected secretary treasurer to the AFL-CIO Transportation Trades Department in 1995, and was elected to the AFL-CIO's Executive Council at the Federation's convention in October 1995. Throughout his career, he always served both his fellow union members and the transit-riding public with courageous, calm, clear-headed and effective leadership.

Sonny Hall studied military and criminal law at the University of New Mexico, and graduated with a bachelor of arts degree from the Cornell University Labor College. He is the son of a retired New York City bus operator who served the riding public for three decades and was an early member of Transport Workers Union Local 100. Sonny Hall and his wife, Maureen, are proud parents of a son, Kevin Hall.

In recognition of his outstanding accomplishments, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mr. Sonny Hall on the occasion of his retirement.

**CONGRATULATING THE
OKLAHOMA EXPOS**

HON. JOHN SULLIVAN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 4, 2004

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Oklahoma Expos, who won the age 14 and under United States Specialty Sports Association's USSSA youth baseball championship on July 18.

This fine group of kids from the First District of Oklahoma was able to defeat close to 90

teams from 15 states in order to win their division's World Series. Needless to say, I am very proud of every member of the roster, all of whom can rightfully call themselves champions.

Of course, they were only able to accomplish this feat through years of hard work and dedication, not to mention teamwork. During their time together, not only did these kids learn how to win at the game of baseball, but also how to win at the game of life. For, whether it be on the baseball fields of Tulsa, Oklahoma or here in the House of Representatives, magical things can happen when people put aside their differences and work together for a common cause. In fact, as I stand here today, I wonder if some of the members of this great body couldn't learn a thing or two from these kids about teamwork.

As we all know, getting a group of 14 year olds to come together as a team does not happen just by chance, there has to be a guiding force. Thus, I would also like to acknowledge the coaches and parents of the Oklahoma Expos for spending so much time with these boys in order to help mold them into champions on the field and off. Your unquestioned dedication to giving back to the community and raising tomorrow's leaders is commendable.

TRIBUTE TO KRISTEN ADELMAN

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 4, 2004

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to Kristen Adelman who was a member of the Tour of Hope bike ride across America. On Oct. 1, 2004, Kristen joined six-time Tour de France winner Lance Armstrong in a relay bike ride from Los Angeles, CA to Washington, D.C. to help inform the public about the importance of cancer clinical trials.

Kristen is a cancer survivor who has survived three recurrences of an aggressive form of lymphoma. In remission for more than 18 months, Kristen was selected to join 20 other cyclists, including Lance Armstrong, in the eight-day, life-affirming journey across America. Other participants included cancer survivors, physicians, nurses, researchers and advocates who all share one mission—to find a cure for cancer.

Kristen is from Elkridge, MD where she teaches algebra and physical education at the St. Augustine School. She was an active triathlete and marathon runner before her diagnoses of cancer. In fact, while going through treatment, she continued to run and ride her bike.

To prepare for the Tour of Hope, Kristen went through a rigorous 16-week training program. She undertook this ride because she wanted to draw attention to the importance of cancer research. Kristen understands that the only way to find a cure for cancer is through clinical trials, which will help identify safe and effective drugs.

I hope my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives will join me in offering our gratitude and appreciation to Kristen for her generosity of spirit and fortitude. It is precisely this type of commitment that will allow us to conquer cancer.

MARRIAGE PROTECTION AMENDMENT

SPEECH OF

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 30, 2004

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to this amendment, which would mark the first time in our Nation's history that the Constitution would be amended to restrict the civil rights of a specific group, rather than to expand rights.

I do not support changing the definition of marriage, and in fact, I voted in favor of the Defense of Marriage Act. But like former Republican Congressman Bob Barr, who authored that bill, I oppose this Constitutional amendment. I believe that each state should have the ability to decide family matters for themselves, rather than having the federal government dictate what they must do.

I strongly support recognizing civil unions to give partners the right to access of health benefits, visiting rights at hospitals, pensions, and other benefits granted to committed married partners. These are rights that other Americans are able to take for granted, and frankly it's difficult to believe that in the 21st Century we need to fight to guarantee those rights. But this amendment would prevent civil unions and domestic partner benefits, again, forbidding states and the District of Columbia to decide for themselves whether they want to allow those benefits.

It is wrong to casually amend our Constitution simply to score a political point. This vicious debate is below the dignity of the House. I hope my colleagues will reject the politics of hate and intolerance, and oppose this amendment.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE PHILLIPS BETH ISRAEL SCHOOL OF NURSING ON ITS CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 4, 2004

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to salute the Phillips Beth Israel School of Nursing on the occasion of the centennial anniversary that it celebrates on October 9th and 10th, 2004.

For one hundred years, the Phillips Beth Israel School of Nursing has been one of the leading centers of professional nursing education in the United States. As with so many institutions in New York City, its roots first grew in Lower Manhattan, where it was founded as an adjunct to its namesake, Beth Israel Medical Center, the outstanding health care institution with which it has been so closely connected throughout its history.

Created shortly after the establishment of the Beth Israel Hospital, the School of Nursing was first officially chartered by the New York State Board of Regents in 1904. Thus began its progression toward excellence, a standard that the School quickly met and proudly upholds to this day.

Since its inception as a degree-granting institution, the Phillips Beth Israel School of

Nursing has undergone significant changes reflective of the evolving nature of health care delivery over the course of the last century. During World War II, the Beth Israel Training School for Nurses, as it was then called, participated in the U.S. Cadet Nursing Program under the terms of the Bolton Act, which provided subsidies to train nursing students for combat duty. As that great conflict was ending, Seymour J. Phillips, a Beth Israel trustee, Chairman of the Phillips Van Heusen Company, and a leading philanthropist of the day, became Chairman of the School, which was renamed in his honor four decades later. In 1978, the School of Nursing received approval to grant the degree of Associate in Applied Science in Nursing. A major academic affiliation was established in 1983 with Pace University offering the liberal arts component of the curriculum. The Phillips Beth Israel School of Nursing also has entered into articulation agreements with Pace and New York University to offer its students the opportunity to pursue a baccalaureate degree.

In 1985, the Phillips Beth Israel School of Nursing received full accreditation from the National League for Nursing, and was re-accredited in 2002 for a full eight years. Under the able leadership of its current Dean, Janet Mackin, RN, EdD, the School continues to advance its mission with a view to its long term future, and is preparing to move into new facilities located at 6th Avenue and 27th Street in Manhattan. Its current curriculum prepares graduates to practice nursing in the realities of today's health care system, but throughout its century-old tradition of excellence, it has maintained a constant goal: educating nurses to practice with a philosophy of caring and compassion.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting a century of achievement by a proud New York institution, the Phillips Beth Israel School of Nursing.

IN HONOR OF DR. FRANCISCO OSVALDO CORTINA

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 4, 2004

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Francisco Osvaldo Cortina for his lifelong dedication to practicing medicine and serving others. Dr. Cortina was honored by the Association of Villalareños at their annual banquet on October 3, 2004, in Union City, New Jersey.

As a respected physician, Dr. Cortina has devoted more than 32 years to helping people. He began his medical career in his hometown of Santa Clara, Cuba, after graduating from the University of Havana. After immigrating to the United States in 1967, he opened a practice in Petersburg, VA, and later relocated to New Jersey. Dr. Cortina completed his general practice residency at St. Mary's Hospital in Hoboken, where he became the chief resident and graduated in 1972. He then opened practices in Hoboken and Union City.

Dr. Cortina is the son of Spanish immigrants and is married to his high school sweetheart, Hortensia. They have two sons who have proudly carried on the medical tradition and are also physicians.