

IN HONOR OF HOWARD JONAS

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2004

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, today I want to praise Howard Jonas, a man who donates enough to charity to be called a philanthropist, who works to better his community, and who is being honored for his work in the United States on behalf of Israel.

Howard was born in the Bronx, attended one of New York City's premier schools, Bronx High School of Science, and then went to Harvard University, graduating with a B.A. in Economics.

He has been manifestly successful in his businesses, starting at the age of 14 with a hot dog stand near a local hospital. Since then he has gone on to travel brochure distribution, business-to-business directories, mail-order bonsai Christmas trees, and to run one of the country's largest direct mail businesses out of his dorm room at Harvard. When one of his employees moved overseas he got into the international telephone callback business.

From there he went on to found IDT in August of 1990, a model of upstart entrepreneurship, serving as Chairman of the Board since its inception.

He has been generous in his giving and serves as a trustee on many university, religious, and social service organization Boards. He also serves as a National Board member of AIPAC where he fosters close relations with some of our nation's most prominent leaders on behalf of a strong United States-Israeli relationship.

Finally I speak of him as a close friend, a man from the old neighborhood who never forgot where he came from. He is a caring and generous man and I am proud that he is my friend.

RECOGNIZING MATTHEW J. BURNS

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2004

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Matthew J. Burns, the "2004 Delaware Valley Engineer of the Year," and commend him on his tremendous achievements in the field of engineering.

Matthew Burns is the President of Burns Engineering Inc. and a resident of Exton, Pennsylvania. He is a registered Professional Engineer in the Commonwealth and has over 20 years of professional experience in the Philadelphia area.

Matt oversees the activities at Burns Engineering, a Philadelphia-based engineering design and construction management firm which was founded by his father, Robert C. Burns. Under Matt's guidance, the company has expanded to five offices in the mid-Atlantic region. Burns Engineering was recognized as the "Service Company of the Year" by the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce in 2002. In addition, the company has been named as one of Philadelphia's "100 Fastest Growing Companies" for the past three years.

Matt's service to his profession and community is extensive. His professional service in-

cludes the following leadership roles: President of the American Council of Engineering Companies of Pennsylvania (ACEC/PA), President of the Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers (PSPE) and Delaware Valley Engineers Week Council (DVEWC), and Chairman of the Engineering Achievement Awards. He is also an active member in several other technical and professional societies. In his community, he is involved in the Saint Phillip and James Church, serves as a volunteer leader with the Boy Scouts, and is a chief for the YMCA's Indian Guides/Princess program.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing Matthew J. Burns for all the work he has done in the field of engineering and as an active member and leader in our community.

IN HONOR OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED IRISH COUNTIES ASSOCIATION

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2004

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, today we celebrate the 100th anniversary of the United Irish Counties Association. The UICA represents people from all the counties of Ireland who came to the United States, helping those who were new to the country and encouraging fellowship among all, no matter where they came from in Ireland.

Until the founding of UICA, most Irish people joined organizations representing their individual counties. What UICA did was give the whole immigrant community, and its children, a unified voice in Irish affairs and a broader ability to help newcomers.

With the assimilation of the Irish into the mainstream of America, it meant that the Irish population was not only rising economically but spreading geographically. With the breakup of the old Irish neighborhoods, the UICA came into its own as a representative of Irish affairs.

The growth and rise of the Irish immigrant community is a story of the success of America. The United States filled its broad spaces with the best from Europe then and the rest of the world now.

Starting in the 1840s, and propelled by the terrible experience of the Great Famine, the Irish came to America, made it their own, and made it better. They overcame prejudice and poverty and within five generations elected one of their own as president. In many ways the Irish were the template of the immigrant waves which followed; arriving individually, coming together to help one another, and then taking advantage of the opportunities that this country offered.

The United Irish Counties Association deserves much of the credit for this success, and for the continuing success of the Irish immigrants who still come to America, many to Woodlawn and Yonkers in my Congressional District. If America is ever to expand geographically again, I suspect that Ireland could be the 51st state.

I congratulate the United Irish Counties Association for a century of growing by helping.

CONGRATULATING FREDERICK WILLIAMS FOR BEING NAMED BROWARD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2004

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Frederick Williams of McFatter Technical High School in Davie, Florida for being selected as the Broward County Public Schools Teacher of the Year.

Mr. Williams has been an educator for the past 22 years, the last 17 years of which have been spent in Broward County. He studied at Florida State University where he earned his Bachelor's and two Master's degrees in music education and arts administration. Since 2001, Mr. Williams has been a teacher of technology for 11th and 12th grade students at McFatter Technical High School.

Among Mr. Williams' many achievements as an educator, is a program he developed for teaching computer technology. His students are educated to such a level that upon completion, they are able to visit other schools and assist as computer technicians. Additionally, Mr. Williams supports his students as a Big Brother and mentor. He has been involved as a New Educator Support System (NESS) Coach for teachers at Plantation High and is currently a NESS Coach for the Computer Programming Instructor at his school.

Mr. Speaker, underscoring Mr. Williams' success is his learned philosophy on teaching. He believes in many underlying principles: learning to use one's mind; a student as worker and teacher as coach philosophy; tone of decency and trust; and demonstration of mastery. He accurately describes the teaching profession as "one of the most important in our country," and understands that the education of our children "is one of the greatest and most important investments of time and money for creating a brighter future."

Mr. Williams embodies what Americans desire from their educators. He is passionate about his profession and takes a keen interest in the academic and personal development of his students. In his acceptance speech, Mr. Williams acknowledged that he teaches not for prestige or job benefits, but for knowing that he has touched a student's life. He is a role model for educators in our country.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Mr. Williams on being named the Broward County Public Schools Teacher of the Year, and I thank him for his invaluable contribution to the future of his students and to the Broward County Community.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN TILLEMA

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2004

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise before you today to pay tribute to a remarkable man from my district. John Tillemma of Pueblo, Colorado, has devoted his life to instructing both the young and old to ski

the slopes of his beloved state. I would like to take this opportunity to recognize John's tremendous enthusiasm and contributions to the sport of skiing before my colleagues here today.

John learned to ski while serving with the Army Air Corps during World War II. After the war, he returned to Colorado where he graduated from the University of Colorado and went on to a career in the insurance business. John's true passion, however, was on the ski slopes. As an instructor, he has spent over thirty years teaching his craft. John's commitment to the sport has earned him several prestigious awards, such as the USA Ski Instructor of the Year and the Ski Country USA Lifetime Achievement Award.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to rise and pay tribute to John Tillema and his zest for life and the sport of skiing; a passion that I am sure resonates throughout his many students over the years. I would like to thank him for his contributions before this body of Congress and national today, and wish him all the best in his future endeavors. Thanks John for your service.

**RECOGNIZING THE CAREER AND RETIREMENT OF DAVID HAYES—
SECRETARY/TREASURER OF
BLUFF CITY LODGE 660, INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
MACHINISTS AND AEROSPACE WORKERS**

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2004

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the career and retirement of David W. Hayes, the Financial Secretary-Treasurer of the Bluff City Lodge 660, International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers in East Alton, Illinois.

David Hayes has honorably served the area and the union in a number of capacities for nearly 45 years—27 of those as an officer of the union. The local that Dave represents has over 4400 retirees and workers at 14 area businesses—Olin Corporation, Beall Manufacturing, Conoco Phillips, Lenhardt Tool and Die, Owens-Illinois, Rotary Ram, Dugan Tool and Die, Dooling Machine Products, ASF Keystone, Gebco Machine, M&W Machine and Gear Shop, Cooper B-Line and the Warren G Murray Development Center.

Dave started his career at Olin in 1959 and held in-plant positions with the union that included Steward, Committeeman, Lodge Trustee, Recording Secretary and Chairman of the Mechanical Groups. He was elected as the full-time Financial Secretary-Treasurer of Bluff City Lodge 660 in 1989 and has been re-elected four times since. He has served as the First Vice President of the Greater Madison County Federation of Labor for the past 15 years and has represented the Federation on the Board of Directors of the Greater Alton/Twin Rivers Growth Association. He has been the Labor Representative on the United Way Partnership for many years, serving on both their Executive Board and Personnel Committee. As part of the Federation of Labor, Dave served on their Political Committee for

many years and has served on both the 12th and the 19th Congressional District COPE Committees.

Each year, Dave is also responsible for organizing the Alton, Illinois Labor Day parade. During the two-month Olin strike, Dave was responsible for the payments of over 2.1 million dollars in strike benefits to the 2,538 Machinists on strike at Olin. Dave has been the recipient of the 2001 Labor Leader of the Year Award presented by the Federation of Labor.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the contributions of David Hayes and wish him and his family the very best in the future.

**IN HONOR OF BLACK HISTORY
MONTH**

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2004

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, the month of February is dedicated to recognizing and celebrating the often overlooked achievements and contributions of African-Americans throughout our country's history.

Although African-Americans settled the American frontier alongside British colonists, it was not until the establishment of "Black History Month" in 1926, that they were afforded the respect and dignity they are rightfully due. If not for the efforts of Dr. Carter G. Woodson, who first noticed a glaring disparity in historical texts and established the "Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History," the stories of prominent and influential African American men and women would still be hidden in the shadows today.

The choice of February as the month of celebration honors the birthday of two important figures in the history of African-Americans. The first is Frederick Douglass, a leader of the abolitionist movement during the Civil War, as well as a prolific author, newspaper editor, and dedicated civil servant. The second is none other than our sixteenth president of the United States, the author of the Emancipation Proclamation, Abraham Lincoln. The month of February also marks the anniversary of important events such as the birth of civil rights leader W.E.B. Dubois, the ratification of the Fifteenth Amendment granting black suffrage, the first black senator and the establishment of the NAACP.

I proudly represent the 17th district of New York, which is rich in African-American history. From early politicians to entertainers, African-Americans in the Bronx, Westchester, and Rockland counties have contributed to our nation. This month I would like to recognize Denzel Washington's contribution to our culture through his talented work in film. A native of Mount Vernon, this actor, producer and director is one of only two African-Americans to have received an academy award in the best actor category. While living in Mount Vernon, Denzel Washington was an active community member taking advantage of the Boys' Club of America. Today he continues his work as a leading spokesman for the organization, as well as a being an outstanding supporter of the Nelson Mandela Children's Fund and an AIDS-hospice called The Gathering Place. Through his talent and dedication, Denzel

Washington has left his mark as a positive leader in our community and important contributor to our culture.

I am always inspired by the community spirit and leadership I witness from African-Americans in New York and around the country. It is my hope that as we commemorate Black History Month in the future, we will continue to celebrate the many achievements and rich culture of African-Americans.

**TRIBUTE TO ROBERT GREENE
BAKER**

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise before you today to pay tribute to a man from my district. Robert Greene Baker, of Grand Junction, Colorado, passed away recently at the age of eighty-eight. Robert will be remembered as a patriot and devoted community member, and it is my honor to recognize his life and accomplishments before this body of Congress here today.

After serving his country as a Marine in World War II, Robert returned to Colorado. He later married his best friend Mary, a loving marriage that lasted sixty-three years. Together, they raised three wonderful children. Robert spent almost four decades with the Public Service Company of Colorado, earning the title of supervisor. Upon retiring, Robert was fortunate to enjoy time spent fishing and traveling to a variety of exotic locations with his family. Robert was also passionate about giving back to his community. He could be found volunteering for a variety of civic organizations, such as the Mesa County United Way, Grand Junction Planning Commission and the Grand Junction Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to rise before this body of Congress to pay tribute to the life of Robert Greene Baker. Robert served this nation and he leaves behind a legacy of dedication and commitment to his family and community. My heart goes out to his family and friends during this difficult time of bereavement.

**FREEDOM FOR ANGEL JUAN MOYA
ACOSTA**

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2004

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about Angel Juan Moya Acosta, a prisoner of conscience in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Moya is a tireless advocate for the freedom of Cuba. He is the founder and president of the Alternative Action Movement, a member of the Independent National Labor Federation and a signatory of the "All United" manifesto that asked for changes in Cuban society and demanded the release of all political prisoners.

Mr. Moya has dedicated much of his work to the cause of freedom for the Cuban people. However, under Castro's totalitarian regime,