

been the silent killer of developing and growing LGBT enterprises and a better quality of life for all LGBT Americans. Too often it is the experience that LGBT Americans feel compelled to remain in the closet to safeguard their personal and professional financial condition . . . That millions of LGBT Americans live half lives in the financial marketplace, and the workplace is simply not in the best interest of a strong, vibrant and competitive American economy.

"It is a universal truth that as human beings, we are at our best when we can represent ourselves as whole and complete individuals, encouraged to contribute with vibrant creative energy the many talents unique to each of us as individuals. That LGBT Americans are shackled by institutionalized discrimination is not only shameful, it is not good business."

It is not easy to start an organization, and it is particularly difficult when the organization being started is one that seeks to bridge significant gaps that divide people in our society. There are a number of organizations that effectively advocate for the rights of LGBT Americans. There are others that are forceful supporters of the legitimate interests of the business community. I know no other at the national level that exists precisely not simply to show that these two goals are not inconsistent, but that, properly understood, they reinforce each other.

I have had the opportunity to work with Mr. Mitchell and Mr. Nelson on several occasions, and I am impressed by the quality of their work. I make this statement today on the floor to call attention to this excellent example of how people can work truly to better our country in every way.

Mr. Speaker, Members seeking more information on this useful organization can consult the hearing of the Subcommittee on Oversight of the House Financial Services Committee on diversity and financial services, which was conducted on July 15, 2004.

IN HONOR OF OUR UNITED STATES
VETERANS AND HOLLY LANE
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL OF
WESTLAKE, OHIO

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of all veterans of the 10th Congressional District of Ohio—for their service, bravery, and dedication on behalf of our country. Most significantly, we stand in tribute and remembrance of those veterans who have made the ultimate sacrifice when they answered the call to duty.

I also stand in honor and recognition of the children and educators of Holly Lane Elementary School. By allowing our students the opportunity to meet and know our veterans, we are presenting them living examples of real heroes. We are giving them a true understanding of the meaning of the words conviction, courage and selflessness. We are offering them the understanding of a vital, living lesson that speaks to our American history and to the preservation of our liberty—the brave men and women who have endured great pain and sacrifice in order to secure

freedom and democracy for us all—our United States Veterans.

Every veteran that stands before us today at Holly Lane Elementary School represents the heart and soul of America and reminds us of our quest for justice and peace here at home, and the struggle of those who seek justice and peace around the world. The staff and students of Holly Lane Elementary School reflect the gratitude and respect for our men and women in the armed forces, sentiments that are shared by all Americans. The students of Holly Lane Elementary School also reflect a vision of hope and faith for our future.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor, tribute and gratitude to the men and women of our armed forces, past and present. They reflect the quest and struggle for human rights and freedom from oppression, a basic human element that unifies us all. Let us forever remember and honor their ultimate service, great sacrifice and unwavering sense of commitment to the preservation of our American democracy and our freedoms.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be in Washington, DC yesterday. Two weeks ago, I injured my leg and my physician prefers that I not put it through the stress of an airplane flight from my home in Seattle, WA to Washington, DC. Were I able to attend today's session in the House of Representatives, I would have voted in support of H.J. Res. 110, H. Res. 750, S. 2693, S. 2214, S. 2640, and H. Res. 641.

IN RECOGNITION OF SUNNYSIDE COMMUNITY SERVICES

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives to offer my congratulations to the Sunnyside Community Services Center on its 30th anniversary.

The residents of New York's 12th Congressional District have been enriched by this institution's outstanding example of community cooperation, which provides valuable social, recreational, and educational services to the seniors and families of Western Queens. Thanks to the exemplary board, staff, and volunteer base of the Sunnyside Community Services Center, this once small organization that started in a church basement has blossomed, and has grown to provide an array of integrated activities and programs to over 12,000 residents, annually.

The center offers these services to ensure that members have the opportunity to fully participate in all aspects of community life, while maintaining their independence and healthy lifestyle. This institution has also become a local economic engine, employing 90 percent of its staff from within the Queens

community. The staff runs caregiver programs for frail elderly and homebound seniors, after school programs and camps for elementary and middle-school children, and a variety of educational, social, and recreational activities for active adults.

Over the past 30 years, Sunnyside Community Services Center has expanded its services even further to help meet the challenges faced by emerging immigrant and youth populations that reside in the area today. Their work has reached a significant number of residents of all backgrounds and ages and has allowed them to enjoy an enhanced and comfortable lifestyle.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 30th anniversary of the Sunnyside Community Services Center, and join with my colleagues in the House of Representatives to recognize the organization's outstanding service and dedication in addressing the needs of the Western Queens community.

TRIBUTE TO LEXINGTON VET- ERANS ADMINISTRATION MED- ICAL CENTER

HON. BEN CHANDLER

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Mr. CHANDLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise here today in honor of Veteran's Day; the day our nation sets aside to honor the sacrifice and service of the millions of Americans who risked their lives to protect our country and promote peace. These brave servicemen and women answered the call to defend freedom and serve our country during its time of greatest need. Now, during the month of November, we should repay our gratitude by honoring our commitment to veterans and their families.

As we stand here today and pledge to work for veterans throughout the nation, I am proud to celebrate a recent victory for the veterans of Central Kentucky. Over the last two years, our local veterans fought to keep the Leestown Drive facilities of our Lexington Veterans Affairs Medical Center open in the face of potential consolidation. Thanks to their commitment, the veterans of Central Kentucky will continue to benefit from the excellent medical services and the unique beauty of this facility.

The Lexington Veterans Affairs Medical Center is a nationally recognized health care center with a number of distinguished awards. Most recently, the facility received a \$500,000 award for "Best Overall Performance" among VA hospitals in the MidSouth Healthcare Network, and received the first-ever John M. Eisenberg award for patient safety co-sponsored by the National Quality Foundation and the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations. I am proud that this hospital will continue to serve the community and provide our veterans with the quality service they deserve.

Veterans Day is a time to honor our nation's true patriots for their courage and commitment to this country. These men and women have protected our families over the years, and now it is our turn to take care of them. Let us renew our promise to our veterans and military retirees and honor the sacrifices they have made so that we may live free. As our troops

return home let's treat them with the respect they have earned and continue fighting for a guaranteed stream of benefits for all veterans.

HONORING C. STUART HUNT

HON. JACK QUINN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Mr. QUINN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. C. Stuart Hunt for his outstanding service, tireless dedication and fruitful endeavors for Western New York.

Mr. Hunt served on the Board of Directors of Buffalo Place Inc. from 1991 through 2004. Buffalo Place enjoyed phenomenal growth during his tenure as Chairman from 1994 to 1998. During that time, Buffalo Place Inc. went from a \$1.8 million organization to a \$3.2 million organization.

Beginning in 1997, under Mr. Hunt's leadership and direction, a strong emphasis was placed on increasing funding for special event production in Downtown Buffalo. The success of the Thursday at the Square concert series positively impacted the Downtown economy, representing \$4.4 million annually.

Under Mr. Hunt's leadership, an annual weekend music festival on Buffalo's waterfront was conceived, Buffalo Place Rocks the Harbor. In addition, the Cars Sharing Main Street initiative became one of the top three priorities on the federal legislative agenda for Western New York.

In 1997, under Mr. Hunt's guidance, the Americorps Ranger Escort Program was launched and received federal funding until 2003 when it was eliminated. This important initiative continues today as the Buffalo Place Ranger Program. He also was involved in the Park N' Go Shuttle Program, converting major streets from one-way to two-way traffic and providing both on-street and off-street parking.

In his professional life, Mr. Hunt serves as Chairman of Hunt Commercial Real Estate, a wholly owned subsidiary of Hunt Real Estate, the largest commercial/residential real estate organization in Upstate New York.

With the purchase of the Brisbane Building in 1984, Stuart began a tireless restoration of this beautiful property. The building holds a special place in his heart, as his father, Charles Stanley Hunt, was a tenant in the Brisbane Building for almost 50 years. I'm proud that my district office is located at this historic site also.

Mr. Hunt's career spanned more than half a century. He is a consummate professional and gentleman. His work ethic and professionalism place him at the top of the list of the most well respected professional civic leaders of our time. His commitment to Downtown Buffalo has never wavered and future generations will benefit from and enjoy the fruits of his labor.

Mr. Hunt's college career was interrupted when he answered the call to serve his country. Mr. Hunt is a veteran of World War II and a 1947 graduate of Colgate University.

In addition to a successful civic and professional career, Stuart has enjoyed a wonderfully fulfilling personal life. On December 27, 1946, C. Stuart Hunt married the beautiful Jane Helfrich. They have enjoyed a full and rich life and were blessed with three sons and one daughter.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Hunt touched the lives of so many Western New Yorkers and while he vacates his seat on the Board of Directors of Buffalo Place Inc., he will always remain a role model and mentor to the staff of Buffalo Place Inc. C. Stuart Hunt leaves a unique and indelible mark on Downtown Buffalo, as he will never be forgotten.

Thank you, Stuart, for your strong leadership, diligent effort and personal commitment to our community. Thanks also for your friendship.

RECOGNIZING GARRETT KENT, BRANNAN SMITH, NICHOLAS MANLEY, AND WILL WATTS

HON. MAC COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I recognize the achievements of four outstanding young men from Griffin, Georgia: Garrett Kent, Brannan Smith, Nicholas Manley, and Will Watts of Griffin Christian Academy. These young men recently visited our Nation's Capital while working on their Citizenship in the Nation Merit Badge for the Boy Scouts. During their trip they studied the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Federal Government. They learned about our system of checks and balances and how our government is financed. In addition, each of these Scouts wrote to me to share their views on important national issues.

I am proud that these young men are learning about our government and the freedoms and principles on which our Nation was founded. I think we can all learn from the example of Garrett, Brannan, Nicholas and Will, and remember to learn about the great history of our Nation. I encourage everyone to read the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence, or to come to the United States Capitol and walk through its storied halls. All Americans should be active citizens and be conscious of this magnificent creation, and our duty to serve it well. May God bless this great Nation.

RECOGNIZING WORK OF MR. PERLEY BEANE

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work of Mr. Perley Beane, Maine's Director of Economic and Community Development, for more than 40 years in public service at the federal, state and local level.

A graduate of Waterville High School and Thomas College, Perley's first job was as a teacher in Jackman. After working as a business manager, Perley was appointed as the first director of the Waterville Public Housing Authority. He also served as director of the Maine Affordable Housing Alliance at the Department of Economic and Community Development before being appointed to his present position in Madison, Maine.

Perley has dedicated his life to bettering his community. He has served as a board mem-

ber for such organizations as The Salvation Army, the Waterville Housing Authority, the Somerset County Jail Committee, the Somerset County Rural Housing Replacement Committee, the Somerset County Economic Development Corporation, the Waterville Zoning Board and the Kennebec Valley Community Action Program.

Though Perley's retirement is well deserved and begins a new and exciting chapter in his life, it also signifies that Maine is losing one of its most valued service providers. His dedication to the people of Maine has been a blessing for our State, and has improved the lives of countless Mainers. I am both honored and privileged to pay tribute to Perley for his hard work and commitment to the people of Maine. I offer my sincere appreciation on behalf of the entire State.

RECOGNIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF CADET STEVEN J. SARKEES TO CHIEF PETTY OFFICER, USNSCC

HON. LOUISE MCINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of my constituents, Steven J. Sarkees, on his appointment to Chief Petty Officer in the United States Naval Sea Cadet Corps. While a high school senior in Grand Island, New York, Cadet Sarkees is a member of the Sullivans Division, Naval Sea Cadet Corps located in Buffalo, New York. Cadet Sarkees' appointment to Chief Petty Officer is bestowed on less than one half of one percent of the ten thousand Naval Sea Cadets in the program, and is a reflection of his exceptional leadership skills and mastery of seamanship training.

The U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps was established in 1958 in order to provide youth with a drug-free and gang-free environment where individuals between the ages of 11 and 17 could develop an appreciation for the United States' naval history, customs, traditions and its significant role in national defense. The goal of the Sea Cadet Corps is to encourage young people to develop an interest in basic seamanship and teach Cadets patriotism, courage, self-confidence and self-reliance. Chief Petty Officer is the highest level a Cadet can attain and reflects years of hard work and dedication.

Cadet Sarkees has developed into a mature leader, and is a fine example of what the Sea Cadet Corps strives to develop in young people. He has earned his appointment to Chief Petty Officer by completing a challenging course load, passing a leadership exam, completing 6 months time in rank, and attending 2 weeks of advanced training. Again, Cadet Sarkees is a positive role model to his fellow cadets, and exemplifies the best qualities of a patriotic American.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in congratulating Cadet Sarkees for his significant achievement as a member of the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps.