

HONORING EVELYN BLAHA
SZCZECZ

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 25, 2004

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of my dear friend, Evelyn Blaha Szczecz of Newburgh Heights, Ohio, as she gathers with family and friends to celebrate her birthday on February 7—eighty years young, and as lively as ever.

With family central to her life, Mrs. Szczecz and her late husband, Clarence T. Szczecz, raised four children: Clarence, Roseanne, Robert and Brian. She is blessed with ten grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Beyond caring for her family, Mrs. Szczecz has been an involved member of the community, and continues to dedicate her time and talents to many civic endeavors. For nearly five decades, Mrs. Szczecz has been an integral part of our democratic system—working to support candidates, educate voters, and promote voter registration. She has been an active member of the Democratic Party of Newburgh Heights since 1959, and has held all positions within the Party throughout the years, from entertainment committee member, to treasurer, to president.

With a quick and agile mind, and an equally energized spirit, Mrs. Szczecz continues to volunteer her time and talents in service to her community. She continues her involvement in the Democratic Party of Newburgh Heights, and serving on the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections—as she has for the past fifty years. She also continues to serve as a member of the Executive Committee of the Cuyahoga County Democratic Party and is President of the Golden Agers of Newburgh Heights.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor of Evelyn Blaha Szczecz, in joyous celebration of her 80th birthday. Mrs. Szczecz continues to be an inspiration to everyone in her life—especially to her family and friends. Her loyalty, friendship, convictions, boundless energy, joy, and good works are invaluable gifts to all of us who know her well, and her dedication and work has uplifted the Village of Newburgh Heights, and our entire community. We wish her continued health and happiness today, and all days to come.

CONGRATULATING THE HONORABLE JACK TILLMAN ON HIS ELECTION AS PRESIDENT OF THE ALABAMA SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 25, 2004

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise to honor the Honorable Jack Tillman, Sheriff for Mobile County, Alabama, on the occasion of his being elected as president of the Alabama Sheriffs Association (ASA).

The ASA was designed to provide a professional network and link for the sheriffs in Alabama's 67 counties. Along with providing this link for law enforcement officials throughout

the State, the Sheriffs Association also serves as an important legislative tool on the State and Federal levels and advocates on behalf of its membership and their families. Since 1990, the ASA has also been actively involved with the "Jail Assistance Project," a program created to provide sheriffs, chiefs of police, and representatives of local governments with the tools to plan and staff new jail facilities, provide expert advice and assistance in evaluating correctional equipment, and develop training on various correctional issues.

Jack Tillman is very qualified to serve as the president of this organization and has an extensive background in the law enforcement field. On January 15, 2003, he was sworn in to begin his third term as Mobile County Sheriff. Prior to that, he served in the Mobile County Public School System as a Resource Officer. During his tenure with the school system, he successfully conducted numerous criminal investigations requiring collaboration with representatives from law enforcement agencies at the local, State, and Federal levels.

Sheriff Tillman's concern for and involvement in his community also extends outside the professional boundaries of the sheriff's office. He serves on numerous boards for civic and church groups and organizations dedicated to the young people of Mobile County.

Along with his wife, Deborah, their children Brian and Lindsay, and his many friends and colleagues, I wish to extend to Sheriff Jack Tillman my warmest congratulations on his election as president of the Alabama Sheriffs Association.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO FRAN
WEAVER

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 25, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise before you today to pay tribute to a remarkable woman from my district. Fran Weaver of Pueblo, Colorado passed away recently at the age of seventy-nine. Fran was a successful author and friend to many, and I would like to recognize her tremendous contributions to the Pueblo community before this body of Congress and this nation.

Fran was renowned for her devotion to education, and after raising her children, decided to return to college where she earned a degree in journalism. She delighted in writing her weekly column, "Midlife Musings," for The Pueblo Chieftain, as well as lecturing on national television and Crystal Cruises. She felt that old age should not be a reason to slow down, and, according to her former newspaper, "urged them to open themselves up to new experiences." As I reflect on Fran's accomplishments, it is evident that she heeded her own advice.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to rise before this body of Congress and this nation to pay tribute to the life of Fran Weaver. Fran's love of the written word and zest for life is truly an inspiration for us all. The Pueblo community and the State of Colorado will truly miss her, and my thoughts go out to Fran's loved ones during this difficult time of bereavement.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF
DONALD BOGART

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 25, 2004

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Mr. Donald Bogart—devoted family man, accomplished scientist, social justice activist and humanitarian.

Mr. Bogart grew up in a small apartment in Brooklyn, NY. He earned a degree in mechanical engineering from Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Arts. Immediately following graduation, Bogart, a brilliant scholar, was recruited by the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics—NASA's forerunner. In 1943, Bogart moved to Cleveland to begin his accomplished career in nuclear physics at NASA—a career that spanned nearly 40 years. From 1958 to 1974, Mr. Bogart served as director of the nuclear physics branch at NASA Lewis Research Center, where he led a team of scientists to develop a nuclear rocket for a proposed manned space flight to Mars. Mr. Bogart moved into the area of solar energy and technology, making great strides in the field. Later, as a representative of the State Department, Bogart brought his expertise in the area of solar energy to India and the Philippines.

Outshining his significant achievement was his compassionate heart, strong convictions, and unyielding bravery as he consistently led local efforts on behalf of matters of human rights and civil rights, here at home and overseas. Mr. Bogart spoke publicly about the plight of Soviet Jews during the height of the cold war, and organized local groups to assist Jews to escape religious persecution in the former Soviet Union.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor, gratitude and remembrance of Mr. Donald Bogart—an exceptional man, scientist, and leader whose life reflected accomplishment, caring and joy. I offer my deepest condolences to his devoted wife, Marilyn, beloved children, Carol, Valerie, and Wendy, devoted grandchildren, Sam, Alex and Andre, and extended family and friends. Donald Bogart's brilliant and flawless legacy—both personally and professionally, will be remembered forever by family, friends and colleagues.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF MR.
KENDALL P. DEXTER

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 25, 2004

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, Mobile County and indeed the entire State of Alabama recently lost a dear friend, and I rise today to honor him and pay tribute to his memory.

Mr. Kendall Parker Dexter was a devoted family man and dedicated community leader throughout his life.

Following his graduation from the University of Michigan, he joined International Paper Company in 1950 as a forester. After serving in various positions with the company in Mississippi, Mr. Dexter moved to Mobile, Alabama

in 1955 and began work as a conservation forester in International Paper's Gulf Woodlands Region. From 1962 to 1974, he served as a member of the management development and public relations departments at the Southern Kraft Division headquarters. Beginning in 1974 and continuing until his retirement, he served as the division's manager of governmental relations.

Along with his employment at International Paper, Mr. Dexter also served in various capacities as an outside consultant to the timber and paper industries, the Mobile Bar Pilots, and to representatives in both the Alabama State Legislature and the United States Congress. He also served as president of the Paper Industry Management Association.

In the midst of his intense professional schedule, Mr. Dexter also found time to serve in many community organizations and on several boards of directors. He was actively involved with the Boy Scouts of America and was an important part of the effort to organize and develop Camp Maubila in Jackson, Alabama. Mr. Dexter was also an active member of the Kiwanis Club, a past member of the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce, as well as a member of the board of directors of the Mobile Symphony and Civic Music Association.

Mr. Dexter was also a proud veteran of the United States Air Force and served with distinction during the Korean War as both a navigator and bombardier aboard a B-26 "Invader." For his service, he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a dedicated community leader and friend to many throughout South Alabama. Mr. Dexter will be deeply missed by his family—his wife, Lila Webb Dexter; his children, John Kendall Dexter, David Parker Dexter, Elizabeth Dexter, and Katherine Dexter Allen; his stepchildren, Lila McDuffie Bailey, Virginia McDuffie Siniard, and Hunter McDuffie, III; and 14 grandchildren—as well as the countless friends he leaves behind. Our thoughts and prayers are with them all at this difficult time.

TRIBUTE TO THE MARCELLUS GIRLS VARSITY SOCCER TEAM

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 25, 2004

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute to the Marcellus girls varsity soccer team. The team had an outstanding season with a record of 23 wins, one tie, and one loss. They rose to become the section III class B champions, defeating Skaneateles, South Jefferson, and Ilion.

The team continued on to become the New York State class B regional champions defeating Chartham and Potsdam and became State champions defeating Alden by a score of 4 to 2 and Oneonta by a score of 1 to zero. The girls were all named Channel 9 Athletes of the Week on account of their many accomplishments.

In addition to their dedication to athletics, the team has also demonstrated outstanding academic achievement. All the girls on the team were selected as New York State Public

High School Athletic Association Scholar Athletes.

The team includes Sami Boyle, Maureen Dooley, Jenna Farneti, Kelly Hanlon, Candy Hoffman, Jocie Jankowski, Alyssa MacLachlan, Meghan Mannion, Alyse O'Brien, Katie O'Laughlin, Sarah Potter, Jessie Reynolds, Amanda Stessen, Hannah Vaughn, Sarah Vulcano, Katie Walter, Amy Ware, Jennifer Young, Katie Young, and Katie Zimmerman. These girls are a source of pride to our community and should be commended for their hard work and dedication.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO FRANCES JONES

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 25, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise before you to pay tribute to a remarkable woman from my district. Frances Jones of Pueblo, Colorado, passed away recently at the age of one hundred and eleven. Frances was dedicated to her family, and tried to live each day to its fullest. She will be missed by many and I would like to ask my colleagues to please join me in recognizing her amazing life before this body of Congress and this nation today.

Frances was born when Grover Cleveland was president, and went on to graduate from Central High School. She later helped found the Alpha Mu Delta Sorority, and married her best friend and soul mate John Jones. During World War II, Frances served as the chairwoman of the local Red Cross canteen. She also remained active in volunteering her time for the greater good of her community and worked with the Pueblo Kennel Club for forty years, taught piano, and mentored young cub scouts before retiring at the age of ninety-six. She is survived by a son, Tom, and his wife Lillian, three grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to rise before this body of Congress and this nation and pay tribute to the life of Frances Jones. Frances' love of family and serving her community are truly a model of living life to its fullest. The Pueblo community, and the State of Colorado will truly miss her, and my thoughts go out to Frances' loved ones during this difficult time of bereavement.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF ROBERTO OCASIO

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 25, 2004

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Roberto Ocasio. His love for family, music and community has left an indelible mark upon our city, and his passing has created a significant void for all who knew and loved him well.

Mr. Ocasio was born in New York City and raised in Cleveland. By the tender age of ten, he was performing in public, already greatly inspired by Latin music and jazz. He mastered

several instruments along the way, including guitar, piano, clarinet and saxophone. As a young man, he left Cleveland for New York City to further his musical education, then onto Boston, where he studied at Berklee College of Music, mastering composing and arranging.

Mr. Ocasio's Latin Jazz eight-piece band, Roberto Ocasio's Latin Jazz Project, entertained local and national audiences and won critical acclaim. For two consecutive years, Roberto Ocasio's Latin Jazz Project was awarded the Cleveland Free Times Music Award for "Best Jazz Band." More significantly than winning awards, Mr. Ocasio used his musical genius to reach out to the Hispanic community, offering instruction, song and hope by performing at schools, universities, churches and community events. Mr. Ocasio was honored as the "2001 Hispanic of the Year" by the offices of the United States Senate, in collaboration with Nuevos Horizontes Newspaper, for his exceptionally dedicated service to our Hispanic community.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and remembrance of Roberto Ocasio, who freely shared his gifts of music, warmth, wit and concern for others. His life was lived joyously and his gift of song and humanity has touched countless lives. I extend my deepest condolences to those who loved and knew him well—his wonderful family and many friends. Although he will be deeply missed, the lyrical song of Roberto Ocasio's spirited life will resound in the hearts of everyone he loved and inspired—today, and for generations to come.

CONGRATULATING THE HONORABLE ANN BEDSOLE ON RECEIPT OF THE ASSOCIATION OF FUND- RAISING PROFESSIONALS 2004 OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEER FUNDRAISER AWARD

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 25, 2004

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise to honor the Honorable Ann Bedsole on the occasion of her being honored by the Association of Fundraising Professionals with the organization's 2004 Outstanding Volunteer Fundraiser Award.

Senator Ann Bedsole has been a distinguished member of the Mobile, Alabama, community and a tremendous advocate for all of south Alabama for over three decades. In 1978, she was elected to the Alabama House of Representatives and served in that capacity for one term. Four years later, in 1982, she became the first woman ever elected to the Alabama State Senate, and was a candidate for governor in 1994.

During her career in the Alabama State Legislature, Senator Bedsole was instrumental in the creation of the Alabama School of Math and Science in Mobile, Alabama. Working closely with fellow legislators and members of various agencies in state government, she was able to secure support for the institution and has provided a great deal of support since it opened in 1991. In the two decades since its inception, Senator Bedsole has served as both vice president and president of the ASMS Foundation Board of Directors.