

grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Mayor Brown's selfless dedication to Marble, the State of Colorado, and the United States has helped ensure a promising future for our great country and I am deeply honored to bring his life to the attention of this body of Congress and this nation. I am proud to have known such a great man who enriched the lives of his family, community and nation.

RECOGNIZING RABBI JAY STEIN

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 2004

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Rabbi Jay Stein, the newly installed Rabbi at Har Zion Temple in Penn Valley, Pennsylvania.

Rabbi Jay M. Stern received his ordination, an M.A. in Jewish Education and a B.A. in Jewish Philosophy from the Jewish Theological Seminary of America. In addition, he received a B.A., Sociology from Columbia University. From 1990–1991, he served as an Alef-Alef Fellow in Jewish Education at Tel Aviv University. In 1993, Rabbi Stein was awarded The Lowenfeld Prize in Practical Theology from the Jewish Theological Seminary of America. In 1995, Rabbi Stein was named a Wexner Rabbinic Fellow. He served as Rabbi at Temple Beth Ahm and currently serves as Senior Rabbi of Har Zion Temple in Penn Valley, Pennsylvania. He is also the Vice President of and has written the constitution for, the New Jersey Region of the Rabbinical Assembly. He has co-published articles on the subject of domestic violence in the Rabbinical Assembly Newsletter and Outlook Magazine, as well as authored a chapter in the Resource Guide for Rabbis on Domestic Violence published by Jewish Women International. Rabbi Stein serves as a national consultant in the area of Jewish supplemental high school education, as well as the Rabbinic Advisor to the Israel's Ministry of Tourism. Currently, he heads up a regional think tank for rabbis serving as spiritual leaders in Solomon Schechter Day Schools, and is a certified counselor in chemical dependence.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues join me today in recognizing Rabbi Jay Stein and wish him the best of luck in his new position.

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF MR. RICHARD HART AND PROJECT WELD

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 2004

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Mr. Richard Hart—teacher, mentor, guide and source of strength and inspiration for countless young men and women at Max S. Hayes Vocational High School.

Mr. Hart, a Certified Welding Educator, created Project WELD several years ago, intent on energizing the school's welding program. The acronym stands for Worthy Employment, Leadership Development—which is exactly

what students take away from the program. Mr. Hart is so deeply committed to this project that he initiated the program on his own personal time, using his own personal funds.

Project WELD provides students with a real insight and understanding into the profession of welding by bringing industry employees and employers into the classroom. Additionally, students are exposed to the latest in welding technology through funds and equipment donated from local welding companies. Beyond his scholastic and professional contributions, awards and accolades, Mr. Hart's greatest accomplishment continues to be the impression he makes on his students, through his method of teaching by example that offers each student the promise of a bright future.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of Mr. Richard Hart, whose leadership, commitment and belief in the students at Max S. Hayes Vocational High School continues to uplift the lives of countless students.

TRIBUTE TO PEDRO PIETRI

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 2004

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and work of Pedro Pietri, a fine Puerto Rican poet, who passed away on March 3, 2004, just weeks short of his 60th birthday.

Pedro was born in Ponce, Puerto Rico on March 21, 1944. He moved to Harlem in New York at the age of 3. Under the influence of his aunt, Irene Rodriguez, Pedro became very interested in poetry and as a teenager began to compose his own poems. After graduating from high school, Pedro worked a variety of jobs before being drafted. He served in a light infantry brigade in Vietnam. His experience in this war, he claimed, further radicalized his beliefs. Upon his return, he began to seriously pursue his interest in poetry in order to address the social ills that plagued not only his community but America as a whole.

In 1969, a Puerto Rican activist organization named the Young Lords briefly took control of the church Pedro attended as a child. It was during this takeover that Pedro gave the first public reading of what has arguably become his most notable poem, "Puerto Rican Obituary".

Juan, Miguel, Milagros, Olga, Manuel
All died yesterday, today and will die again
tomorrow passing their bill collectors
on to the next of kin

All died waiting for the garden of eden to
open up again under a new manage-
ment

All died dreaming about america . . .

This powerful poem, published in 1973, traces the lives of five Puerto Ricans who came to the mainland hoping to fulfill their dreams of a better life, but whose dreams soon become nightmares as they found themselves shut out of America's economic opportunities and lifestyle. All of Pedro's works, though at times humorous, contain a powerful political message.

Mr. Speaker, Pedro was not special because he was a gifted writer, he was special because he used his gift to inspire his commu-

nity to rise above the oppression they had endured. In his countless poems and plays Pedro defined the Nuyorican (Puerto Rican New Yorkers) experience, inspiring a new generation of Nuyorican poets to take up the cause he dedicated his life to. In addition, his works have inspired poets of oppressed peoples in the United States and abroad since the 1960's.

Pedro's publications include *Illusions of a Revolving Door: Plays* (1992), *The Masses are Asses* (1984), *Traffic Violations* (1983), *Lost in the Museum of Natural History* (1980), *Invisible Poetry* (1979), and *Puerto Rican Obituary* (1973). His work has also been included in anthologies such as *The Prentice Hall Anthology of Latino Literature* (ed. Eduardo del Rio, 2002); *The Outlaw Bible of American Poetry* (ed. Alan Kaufman, 2000), *The Latino Reader* (eds. Harold Augenbraum and Margarite Fernandez Olmos, 1997), *Inventing a Word: An Anthology of Twentieth-Century Puerto Rican Poetry* (ed. Julio Marzan, 1980), and *The United States of Poetry*. He was the recipient of several New York State Creative Arts in Public Service grants and a grant from the New York Foundation for the Arts.

Mr. Speaker, for his invaluable contribution to American literature and his commitment to addressing issues of great importance to our nation; I ask that my colleagues join me in paying tribute to Pedro Pietri.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHRIS CHOCOLA

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 2004

Mr. CHOCOLA. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, March 2nd, and Wednesday, March 3rd, I was on official government travel in Libya and missed several votes.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 32, 33, 34, 35, 36 and 37.

CONDOLENCES ON TERRORIST ATTACK AGAINST SPAIN

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 2004

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my sincere sadness at the extreme loss of life suffered today by the people of Spain after the worst terrorist attack in that nation's history. The people of central New Jersey know what it feels like to lose loved ones to an act of terrorism. We lost so many of our neighbors on the attacks of September 11, 2001. On behalf of my constituents, I stand now in solidarity with the people of Spain.

We are reminded by today's carnage that senseless acts of terror continue to afflict innocent people around the world whether they live in Madrid, Istanbul, New York, or Baghdad. We are reminded today that no nation is immune to the threat of terrorism.

I hope that today's attack will send a signal to all of us that we must remain vigilant in the face of terrorism and that we must continue to work closely with all nations around the world

to destroy Al-Qaeda and its terrorist allies. We cannot avoid the thought that this attack happened because Spain offered assistance to the U.S. in fighting terrorists around the world.

I'm sure the U.S. Government will offer whatever assistance it can to help the Spanish people who are suffering and to find and arrest the savage culprits of this crime.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF
WINIFRED MARY "MA" DUNCAN

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 2004

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of my dear friend, Winifred Mary "Ma" Duncan—devoted mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, friend, mentor and community activist, whose life deeply affected the lives of countless individuals, including my own.

Mrs. Duncan was an unwavering source of strength for her family, as she raised and supported seven children on her own. Armed with a strong sense of determination, faith, and inner resolve, Mrs. Duncan faced the challenges of single parenthood with grace and focus, and was a consistently loving role model for her children, and for all the children in the neighborhood.

Beyond caring for her family, Mrs. Duncan remarkably found the time and energy to volunteer within the community. In the late sixties and seventies, she served as a Council Member for the City of Valley View. During that time, she delivered Christmas and Easter baskets to families in need. Throughout the seventies and eighties, Mrs. Duncan served as a member of the Board of Directors of the Merrick House Settlement and the Tremont Free Clinic. For the past 30 years, Mrs. Duncan was an active member of the St. Augustine Parish Council, St. Augustine Hunger Council, St. Augustine Seniors, St. Vincent DePaul Society and the Cleveland Catholic Blind Community.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and remembrance of Mrs. Winifred Mary "Ma" Duncan. As we deeply mourn her passing, we also joyously celebrate her life. "Ma" Duncan built a foundation of love and security for her children, and for the world around her. Her sense of charity, love for others and giving nature encircled her family, encircled the neighborhood, and uplifted our entire community. I offer my deepest condolences to her children: Valerie, Charles, James, Wayne, Gerald, Kathleen and Rosemary; and to her grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and to her extended family and many friends. The wondrous affect on the lives she touched is immeasurable, and "Ma" Duncan's beautiful legacy—a legacy reflecting giving, compassion and love, will live on forever within the memory and heart of everyone who knew and loved her well. The way "Ma" Duncan lived her life has given light to our community and has raised our corner of the world to a better place.

TRIBUTE TO ARMY PVT. BRYAN
NICHOLAS SPRY

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 2004

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Army Pvt. Bryan Nicholas Spry, a national hero who paid the ultimate price for his country on February 14 in Baghdad, Iraq. This brave, 19-year-old soldier from Maryland's Eastern Shore, fresh out of basic training, had been in Iraq just over a month when he died.

Bryan was born in Wilmington, Delaware, and raised in Chestertown, Maryland, in Kent County on the Eastern Shore. I had the privilege of knowing him personally and found him to be a friendly, gregarious young man who loved the outdoors, baseball and the idea of being a soldier.

Mr. Speaker, on the night of February 13, Bryan attempted to drive his Humvee across a bridge which collapsed, dumping the vehicle into the water said Bryan's mother, Mrs. Beverly Couch Fabri. Three of the Humvee's passengers got out and swam to safety. But Bryan was unconscious when they pulled him out of the murky water. His lungs were filled with water. He died the next day, Valentine's Day, in a field hospital in Baghdad.

As a boy growing up on the eastern shore of the Chesapeake Bay, he idolized his older brother, Michael, a professional baseball player. Michael plays right field for the River City Rascals, a St. Louis area club that competes in the independent Frontier League. The two boys and their father often went deer hunting together. But instead of shooting the animals with a gun, Bryan preferred to shoot them with his camera. On one of those hunting excursions, when his brother was about to pull the trigger on his target, he saved the deer's life by scaring it off, his mother recalled. "After that, his brother didn't take him along [on hunts] for a very long time," Fabri said.

Mr. Speaker, I am told that both of Bryan's grandfathers fought in World War II, and growing up he loved to run in the woods, playing army with his brother and friends. As a child he decorated his bedroom with GI Joe action figures, said one his boyhood friends. Bryan attended Kent County High School where he was an outfielder on the baseball team. Twenty-one days after he graduated from high school, he made good on his dream to become a soldier, shipping off to basic training at Fort Benning, Georgia. After successfully concluding his training, he was detached to the 82nd Airborne Division's Company D, 1st Battalion, 504th Infantry, based at Ft. Bragg, North Carolina.

On Friday, February 20, visitation was held for Bryan at the Fellows, Helfenbein and Newnam Funeral Home in his hometown of Chestertown. A memorial was also held that night at Mear's Great Oak Landing, a waterfront complex in Chestertown, with money raised from a silent auction and raffle to go into a fund in his name that will help military families. How fitting!

Funeral services were held at 2 p.m. on Saturday in the auditorium at Kent County High School in Worton. Bryan was laid to rest with full military honors at St. James United Methodist Church Cemetery, a final tribute to

a paratrooper who, colleagues said, understood the meaning of duty and sacrifice. Major Marvin Luckie, deputy division chaplain for the 82nd Airborne read from the 23rd Psalm and from the lyrics to "Taps." As the chaplain finished reading the psalm and a 21-gun salute broke the quiet, an honor guard slowly folded the flag and presented it to his weeping mother.

"In life, he honored the flag," Luckie said. "In death, the flag will honor him."

On Wednesday, February 25 paratroopers from the 82nd Airborne Division held a memorial service in Iraq to remember him.

Mr. Speaker, the number of fallen heroes emerging from the war in Iraq, unfortunately, continues to grow. Our brave men and women who risk their lives daily are national treasures. I ask my colleagues to join me today in commemorating one of these treasured heroes; Army Pvt. Bryan Nicholas Spry.

CONGRATULATING THE ROCH-
ESTER HIGH SCHOOL "LADY ZE-
BRAS" ON THEIR INDIANA CLASS
2A GIRLS STATE BASKETBALL
CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. CHRIS CHOCOLA

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 2004

Mr. CHOCOLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Rochester High School Lady Zebras on their Indiana High School Athletic Association Girls Basketball Class 2A state championship.

When the final horn sounded on Saturday, March 6, at the Conesco Fieldhouse in Indianapolis, Indiana, over 9,000 fans witnessed the young women of Rochester High School's girls basketball team win their first ever state championship over Heritage Christian 51 to 40. As a team, the Lady Zebras set championship game marks for free throws made (25), free throws attempted (28) and free throw percentage (89). It was the Zebras' 14th consecutive victory. Their state championship win leaves Rochester at an impressive 25 and 2 mark for the year.

I would like to acknowledge Coach Tony Stesiek and Assistant Coaches Katie Felke, Jason Snyder, Stacy Stesiak, Andrea Milliser and Randy Wynn on an exceptional season.

On behalf of the citizens of the Second Congressional District, I would like to congratulate all of the players including seniors Lindsey Dishman, Courtney Felke, Jamie Fornal, Brooke Riddle, Aubry Roe, juniors Randall Heyde, Morgan Thomas, sophomores Ryleigh Carr, Jenna Easterday, Kendra Howard, and freshmen Lesley Cox, Cassie Greives and Bethany Sewell.

Student managers Lindsey Helstern, Ali Hunt and Stephen Williams and Athletic Training student Lindsey Bright also deserve a special congratulation.

I would also like to take a moment to recognize senior Courtney Felke. She was named the 2004 Patricia L. Roy Mental Attitude Award winner for Class 2A. At the conclusion of the girls basketball state finals, the IHSAA Executive Committee presents the award to the outstanding senior in the state finals competition. Courtney's grit and determination to win this state title began four years ago when