

HONORING ABIGAIL POWERS  
FILLMORE

**HON. RALPH REGULA**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 30, 2004*

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, today, March 30, 2004, marks the 151st anniversary of the death of First Lady Abigail Powers Fillmore, founder of the very first White House Library.

Abigail Powers was born on March 13, 1798, in Stillwater, NY, and received a good education and love for learning and libraries through the personal library of her father, Reverend Lemuel Powers (d. 1800). She became a school teacher at age sixteen and helped establish a small circulating library in Kelloggsville, New York about 1817 that greatly influenced the intellectual development of her future husband and President of the United States, Millard Fillmore.

Abigail Powers Fillmore found the White House destitute of books when she became First Lady in 1850 and encouraged and supported her husband's request for appropriations from Congress to establish a library in the Executive Mansion. She used the \$2,250 appropriated by the 31st Congress to select library books for the Executive Mansion and transform the Yellow Oval Room into the first official White House Library. Subsequently, the White House Library was the center of many cultural, social, and political activities during the Fillmore Presidency and has been a legacy enjoyed by subsequent presidential administrations for over 150 years.

We honor the life and work of Abigail Powers Fillmore. She serves as a reminder to us of the importance of continuing to advocate for libraries and for educational programs. In these times of economic difficulty and challenge, we continually are reminded of the key role libraries play in providing Americans with the opportunities they need to promote lifelong learning.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JULIUS  
DIGREGORIO

**HON. SCOTT MCINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 30, 2004*

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise to pay tribute to the life and memory of Julius DiGregorio, a lifelong resident of Trinidad, Colorado who passed away recently at the age of 89. Julius lived a full life as a patriot, devoted family man, and beloved member of his community. As his family mourns his loss, I believe it is appropriate to remember Julius and the many contributions he made to his community, State and country.

Julius embodied the spirit of America, and his story is a prime example of what makes America such a great country. He grew up in Trinidad, Colorado, where he played on the State Champion Trinidad High School Miners football team. Undeterred by the Great Depression in the 1930s, Julius attended Notre Dame College, earning a degree in mechanical engineering which he put to use as an engineer in South America. He served his coun-

try proudly in World War II, earning a bronze star while serving under General Patton during the liberation of Italy.

Once Julius returned to Trinidad, he staked his claim by building and managing an apartment building, as well as owning and operating the Columbian Hotel. In 1949, he married Frances Amato with whom he had three loving children. A man devoted to education and his community, Julius became the Director of the Head Start programs for Las Animas and Huerfano Counties in the 1970s, and a member of the Western Regional Head Start Director's Board.

Mr. Speaker, we are all terribly saddened by the loss of Julius DiGregorio, and I am deeply honored to bring his life to the attention of this body of Congress and this Nation. My heart goes out to his family during this difficult time of bereavement.

RECOGNIZING MISS LAURIE LYNN  
BARTON

**HON. MAC COLLINS**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 30, 2004*

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize an important member of my staff here in Washington, D.C.: Miss Laurie Lynn Barton. Laurie has received the distinction of being selected by the Georgia State Society as Georgia's 2004 Cherry Blossom Princess. I am proud to congratulate her on this prestigious honor.

Laurie is the daughter of Ed and Jan Barton of Statesboro, Georgia. She graduated in 2002 from the University of Georgia, and later that same year, she became a member of my staff in Washington, D.C. Her tenure with my office is marked by tirelessly serving my constituents with a hard work ethic and commitment to excellence. I often receive thank you letters from my constituents emphasizing Laurie's outstanding service, and for that I am grateful.

The annual Cherry Blossom Festival in Washington, D.C. is a rite of Spring in our Nation's Capital. It is marked by the blooming of the picturesque Cherry Blossom trees that adorn the Tidal Basin of the Jefferson Memorial and surrounding areas on the Mall. The Festival is a wonderful family event that brings people of all ages, from around the world, to Washington, D.C.

I am proud that Miss Laurie Lynn Barton will be representing the great State of Georgia in this international event.

CELEBRATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY  
OF THE TAIWAN RELATIONS  
ACT

**HON. PETER T. KING**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 30, 2004*

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in celebration of the 25th anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act.

On April 10, 2004, the Taiwan Relations Act (TRA), which has provided the framework for a strong and mutually beneficial relationship

between the United States and the Republic of Taiwan (ROC), will commemorate 25 years since its enactment by Congress. The TRA has helped provide peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait making possible the extraordinary economic expansion and democratization that has taken place there.

In 1979, during the process of normalizing relations with Beijing, there was great apprehension in the Congress that American security and economic interests in Taiwan would not be protected. What evolved is the only law which oversees almost every facet of U.S. relations with a foreign entity in the absence of diplomatic relations.

The new law provided for the security of Taiwan, formed a legal framework to protect the close relationship between the United States and Taiwan, and established Congressional oversight of that relationship including requirements that the President inform and consult with Congress when confronted by anticipated danger to Taiwan.

Today the TRA has withstood the test of time. Taiwan has built one of the world's top economies with nearly \$52 billion in trade with the United States, making it our eighth largest trading partner.

The Taiwanese constitution guarantees its 23 million citizens freedom of assembly, expression and association, freedom of religion, and freedom of the press. In addition, Taiwan has established strong support for human rights, committing itself to the major international human rights conventions.

Taiwan has become an openly democratic society with free and fair elections held at all levels of government. Over 80 percent of voters participated in Taiwan's recent elections, demonstrating the vitality of Taiwan's democracy. President Chen Shui-bian who has already been certified as the winner by the central election commission has agreed to a recount and hopefully one will take place in the very near future.

But whatever the final result, the fact remains that Taiwan has provided a moving example of democracy in action and one can only hope that it will serve as an inspiration for the more than one billion Chinese living in the People's Republic of China who will one day have an opportunity to elect their own government in a comparably democratic fashion.

It also should serve as a powerful and poignant reminder of the extent to which Taiwan and the United States share a common commitment to the principle that governments should be elected by the people they serve as well as underscore the vitality of the TRA and the need for continued American support for this vibrant democracy.

RECOGNIZING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY  
OF THE MASCOUTAH PUBLIC  
LIBRARY AND THE CONTRIBUTIONS  
OF THE MASCOUTAH WOMEN'S CLUB

**HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 30, 2004*

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the 75th Anniversary of the Mascoutah Public Library and the contributions of the Mascoutah Women's Club at helping establish the library.

In 1929 a small group of civic-minded women had a dream. Their dream was for Mascoutah to have a free public library. In their first formal meeting in January, 1929, Mrs. William Freivogel stated that the members of the Mascoutah Women's Club would take an active interest in civic affairs and that they would try to start a library. They then discussed the feasibility of undertaking such a large project.

Establishing a library was a huge task for 19 women who had no money, no books, no building to house the library and no furnishings. Their first major step was to find a suitable building for their needs. For six dollars a month they rented a small, two room brick house at 15 West Main Street across from the Cottage Hotel, the present site of the Mascoutah Post Office. Their goal was to have the building ready for occupancy by April 1, 1929. The women, along with a high school teacher and his assistants, built shelving and tables and opened the library with a small number of donated books.

The women's club then looked for a funding source for their new library. Funding was secured for the library by going directly to the citizens of the community. The club divided Mascoutah into sections and assigned members a group of homes or businesses to visit and ask for financial support for the library. Citizens were eager to support the library and their first fundraiser netted \$125.61. The club also appealed for donations of books for the new library and the response from the public was overwhelming.

By 1930, the library had between 1,500 and 1,800 books on its shelves. Other fund-raising projects by the Women's Club included public card parties and tea receptions. The Club also saved and redeemed soap wrappers for cash and sponsored book reviews. However, financial operations for the library continued to be a burden. It was during this time that the Works Progress Administration (WPA) opened many libraries in the area and they became interested in assisting the Mascoutah Public Library. The WPA-aided library reopened on October 31, 1938 and extended the operating hours. With the addition of these new funds, a librarian and custodian were appointed.

In January, 1939, another step was taken toward giving Mascoutah a very modern, up-to-date library. At a meeting of the Women's Club Executive Committee and the Library Committee, Mascoutah Mayor Raymond Pfeifer announced that a room in the new City Hall would be set aside for the library. Not only would the city supply the room, but they would furnish tables, chairs, and book shelves.

The new room would be on the second floor of the new City Hall and would extend across the entire front of the building. As the new City Hall was still under construction, the library would be available for occupancy when the municipal building was complete. When the library moved from 15 West Main Street into its new City Hall location on June 30, 1939, it owned 900 books. At this time the Women's Club added an even larger number of volumes to the existing collection. Dedication of the City Hall took place July 4, 1939.

The WPA continued to staff and maintain the library until 1941, when the Mascoutah Women's Club again resumed responsibilities for operation and management. Hours were curtailed, however, to two afternoons a week due to financing constraints. With over-

whelming public support, on March 16, 1942, the city council voted to adopt the library as their project and a small tax was levied for its operation and management. The City Council also appointed members of the Women's Club to the Library Board.

Through the years the Mascoutah Women's Club continued to support the library in many ways from financial support and donations of books to serving as members of the new library board. It is through the direct efforts of this group of dedicated women that has allowed Mascoutah to enjoy a community library providing many opportunities for the young people of the area to learn about their community and the world.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the 75th Anniversary of the Mascoutah Public Library and the contributions of the Mascoutah Women's Club at helping to establish this important community resource.

#### RECOGNITION OF THE BALTIC MEMBERS OF THE COALITION OF THE WILLING

**HON. JOHN SHIMKUS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 30, 2004*

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give recognition to three members of the "Coalition of the Willing"—Latvia, Estonia, and Lithuania.

These Baltic nations have answered the call to freedom. The people of Latvia, Estonia, and Lithuania should feel very proud of the effort their governments have given to the rebuilding of Iraq and during Operation Iraqi Freedom. They have troops deployed in Iraq and these men and women are putting their lives on the line in the fight for freedom and democracy. In fact Latvia has deployed 150 soldiers, Estonia 55, and Lithuania 85. The sacrifice they are making should not be taken lightly.

These countries understand what freedom is, and what it takes to ensure it. I wish more countries had the same sense of duty and responsibility as these three nations. When the future is written, what they have done and sacrificed will not be forgotten. I applaud all of their efforts and I am very proud of what they have accomplished. The Coalition of the Willing has been criticized as being "token allies" and claims of ulterior motives have been made. I for one don't believe any of this and I am glad these countries have joined our efforts. This is a fight worth fighting, and I salute our friends from Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO LARRY EDWARD PENLEY

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 30, 2004*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker it is with great pride that I rise today to pay tribute to one of our nation's top educators. Larry Edward Penley will be inaugurated in the coming weeks as the President of Colorado State University, and with his rich academic back-

ground, the students of Colorado will be well served. Larry has been improving the lives of American students for years, and I would like to join my colleagues here today in recognizing his tremendous service to the Colorado community and this nation.

Larry received both his bachelor's degree in psychology and his master's degree in communication from Wake Forest University before completing his doctorate in Management at the University of Georgia. Following graduate school Larry joined the faculty at the University of Texas at San Antonio where he eventually served as associate dean of the College of Business. In 1991, he was appointed as dean of the Arizona State W.P. Carey School of Business which he saw become one of the nation's most prominent business schools.

Larry is a well-rounded academic who has been involved with several community improvement organizations like the United Way and the Arizona Coalition for Tomorrow. His research has focused on effective management skills and he is published in several of the nation's top academic journals. In addition to his service to the University and multiple associations he has consulted for, Larry has been awarded several honors, such as the MBA Students Associations Lifetime Achievement Award and the Hispanic Business Students Association Century Award for Exemplary Support and Leadership. Larry has raised millions of dollars for Arizona State University as he revised the curriculum to include more technology and actively recruited a diverse range of the nation's top high school students.

Mr. Speaker, Larry Edward Penley is a dedicated, selfless person who has been a wonderful ambassador for education in our country, and I am honored to welcome him to the Colorado academic community. His passion for public service is an outstanding example to set for America's youth, and his enthusiasm and commitment certainly deserve the recognition of this body of Congress and this nation. Congratulations on your new position, and keep up the good work!

#### CONGRATULATING ALEXANDRA HOLDERMAN AND KARVA VAIDYANATHAN FOR THEIR EXEMPLARY VOLUNTEER SERVICE

**HON. CHRIS CHOCOLA**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 30, 2004*

Mr. CHOCOLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate two of my constituents for receiving recognition by the ninth annual Prudential Spirit of Community Awards; Alexandra Holderman of Mishawaka, Indiana, and Karva Vaidyanathan of Granger, Indiana. These awards constitute America's largest youth recognition program based exclusively on volunteerism. The program was created by Prudential Financial in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals in 1995 to impress upon all youth volunteers that their contributions are critically important.

Alexandra was named one of the top two youth volunteers in Indiana for 2004. She will be honored at the national awards ceremony