

Bernice was born on April 19, 1924, and subsequently moved to Gary, IN from Alabama in 1944 with her loving husband, Webster Mounia. After moving to Gary, IN, Bernice and Webster were blessed with the births of their 10 wonderful children. Her children, as well as people whose lives are touched by Bernice, admire her for devoting unselfish love, time, dedication, guidance, and spirit to her family, church, and friends.

As we'll as being dearly loved and respected by her family and community, Bernice was also well known for her ingenuity and prudence. Bernice currently resides in the same house at 2700 Jefferson Street that she and her husband built 48 years ago. She displayed ingenuity in constructing insulation out of dryer lint to plug cracks around windows and doors. Along with her many other accomplishments in her community, Bernice was also a pioneer in the practice of recycling. Due to her resourcefulness, Bernice invented ways in recycling aluminum, bread bags, cloths, jars, food, soap, wax paper, and cans of grease that were left over from her gourmet cooking.

Gourmet cooking on a frugal budget was definitely one of Bernice's fortes. Bernice made sure no one in her family went without a first class meal to eat. As well as providing the best meals available for her children, Bernice also wanted the best upbringing for her children. By providing unwavering guidance to her children, she instilled in them the morals and fortitude that have molded her children into successful adults who are raising families of their own.

Mr. Speaker, Bernice Mounia has given her time and efforts selflessly to the people of Northwest Indiana throughout her long and illustrious life. She has taught every member of her family and extended family the true meaning of service to all people in the community. I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating Mrs. Bernice Mounia for her outstanding contributions to Indiana's First Congressional District. I am proud to commend Bernice for her lifetime of service and dedication.

**GAY AND LESBIAN ACTIVISTS ALLIANCE OF WASHINGTON, DC,  
33RD ANNIVERSARY RECEPTION  
HONORING DISTINGUISHED  
SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENTS**

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Tuesday, April 20, 2004*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a Washington, DC institution that has been in the forefront of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered civil rights movement, and that I have the distinct honor and pleasure of representing in this body: the Gay and Lesbian Activists Alliance of Washington, D.C. (GLAA), the oldest continuously active gay and lesbian rights organization in the United States.

Since its founding in April 1971, GLAA has been a respected and persistent advocate in District politics tirelessly asserting equal rights and social equality for lesbians and gay men living in the city through peaceful participation in the political process.

GLAA has long fought to improve relations among the District's gay, lesbian, bisexual,

and transgendered communities and the D.C. Government. GLAA has taken the lead in advocating better training for the D.C. Metropolitan Police Department and Fire and Emergency Medical Service employees. GLAA persuaded the D.C. Public Schools to implement and enforce an effective, antiharassment policy established to protect all students. GLAA advocated effective public health strategies in the fight against AIDS. GLAA fought to insure that treatments and medicine are available to those in need and that the District's spending on HIV/AIDS services be both open and transparent.

GLAA also has long been at the forefront of the efforts to strengthen enforcement of the D.C. Human Rights Act of 1977 by demanding all antidiscrimination policy statements in the D.C. Government reflect the full range of classes protected by that law.

On April 20, GLAA held its 33rd Anniversary Reception honoring the 2004 recipients of its Distinguished Service Awards: Sarah Kellogg, Deacon MacCubbin, The Mautner Project, Cheryl Spector, and Nadine Chandler Wilburn.

Sarah Kellogg is a director of D.C.'s Reel Affirmations film festival and a member of the board of its parent organization, One In Ten.

For 35 years Deacon MacCubbin has been a model community activist and business leader. He created the first D.C. Gay Pride celebration, the gay switchboard, the first D.C. gay youth support group, and his bookstore, Lambda Rising, serves as a de facto community center.

Since its founding in 1990, the Mautner Project has been the only national organization dedicated to lesbians with cancer, their partners and caregivers. Its mission is to improve the health and well-being of lesbians and their families by: delivering services and support to lesbians with cancer, their families and caregivers; educating lesbians about important health issues; educating healthcare providers about the needs and concerns of their lesbian clients; and promoting lesbian health through research, advocacy, and activism.

For over two decades Cheryl Spector has been a community activist. She has documented gay and lesbian life in Washington with her still and video photography.

Nadine Chandler Wilburn who performed excellent service to the LGBT community while she was interim director of the D.C. Office of Human Rights from 2002–2003.

GLAA's thirty-three year fight to secure equal rights for the LGBT citizens of Washington, D.C. is more poignant as United States Citizens living in our nation's capital, who have fought in every American war, including the present war in Iraq, are taxed without representation. Furthermore, GLAA's open and forthright advocacy for rights reminds us that LGBT soldiers, who have sworn to protect our country with their lives, must serve in silence, without the open support of their chosen families and communities, neither asking nor telling.

I ask the House to join me in congratulating the Gay and Lesbian Activists Alliance and its honorees.

**HONORING MT. MORRIS HALL OF  
HONOR 2004 AWARDEES**

**HON. DALE E. KILDEE**

OF MICHIGAN  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Tuesday, April 20, 2004*

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today on behalf of the Mt. Morris community to pay tribute to the 2004 Mt. Morris Hall of Honor inductees. The inductees, Linda Fishell, Jim Corbin, Fredrick Shannon, and Judy Neaves will be inducted into the hall on April 29, 2004, during a lavish dinner and ceremony to be held at the Masonic Temple in Mt. Morris, MI.

The Mt. Morris Hall of Honor was established in 1991. The honor is bestowed upon individuals, both residents and nonresidents who have made significant, long-term contributions to enhancing the quality of life in the Mt. Morris area. Since its creation, the community has inducted 31 individuals into the hall.

Hall of Honor inductee Linda Fishell is committed to the children of Mt. Morris. She has been a volunteer with the Girl Scouts of America for 20 years, and is currently serving as neighborhood treasurer and registrar. Linda is also a volunteer for the Tiger Cubs and Boy Scouts. She has been volunteering at the Mt. Morris High School for approximately 12 years.

Hall of Honor inductee Jim Corbin although no longer a resident of Mt. Morris still finds time to Give back to the community. He does so by donating his D.J. services to Mt. Morris local events, including the 125th August festival. Jim has been a Mt. Morris volunteer for 15 years. Hall of Honor inductee Fredrick J. Shannon has been a Mt. Morris area volunteer for 30 years. He donates his time and resources at the scene of accidents, fires and natural disasters by video taping, and photographing the efforts of rescue workers for documentation and training purposes. Hall of Honor inductee Judy Neaves is a dedicated member of the Mt. Morris Lioness club. She is active on both the local and district level. Aside from placing numerous volunteer hours within her own chapter, she also volunteers with the men's Lions Club by participating in their eye saving events. Judy has also volunteered with the Senior Winter Olympic for 12 years, Genesee County Fair for 10 years, and Crossroad Village.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today and ask my colleagues in the 108th Congress to join me in recognizing these outstanding citizens for their compassion and commitment to the community of Mt. Morris, MI.

**HONORING RONALD E. STEARN**

**HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH**

OF CALIFORNIA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Tuesday, April 20, 2004*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ronald E. Stearn on the occasion of celebrating 40 years of dedication and service to the city of Sonora as a council member. He was sworn into office on April 21, 1964. An event will be held in his honor on April 19 in Sonora, California.

In his 40 years of service, Mr. Stearn has served in many roles within the community. He was mayor of Sonora for three 2-year terms and has only missed 3 council meetings throughout his career. Ron is known as the Parking & Traffic expert, providing a wealth of knowledge and history about the infrastructure of the city of Sonora. He has always voted based on what he believes is best for the city and strives to accurately represent the people of Sonora.

Ron has committed himself to the city of Sonora and its organizations for numerous years. He remains open to new ideas while respecting and promoting the city's history and well-being. Mr. Stearn's dedication to the city has been an inspiration to his fellow council members as well as the public. In addition to being a council member Ron has been a lifetime member of the Independent Hose Company, a volunteer fire organization, since 1950. He also managed and worked for Mundorf's Hardware for 47 years.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to congratulate Ronald E. Stearn on the occasion of his 40th anniversary on the city council of Sonora. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing Ron many years of continued success.

CONGRATULATING THE DEDICATED AND SKILLED WORKERS  
IN NORTHWEST INDIANA

**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 20, 2004*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to congratulate some of the most dedicated and skilled workers in Northwest Indiana. On April 17, 2004, in a salute to their workers' durability and longevity, the Hammond Carpenters Union Local 599 will recognize their members for 25 years or more of dedicated service. They will be recognized during a pin ceremony banquet held on Saturday at the Carpenters Union Hall in Hammond, Indiana. These individuals, in addition to the other Local 599 members who have served Northwest Indiana so diligently for such a long period of time, are a testament to the exemplary American worker: loyal, dedicated, and hardworking.

The Carpenters Local 599, which received its charter in 1899, will honor members for their years of devoted service. The carpenter who will be honored for 55 years of service is Wayne Verble. The member who will be honored for 50 years of service is Ronald Carlson. Those members being honored for 45 years of service include Ezequile (Jack) Lopez and Walter Wisinski. Those members being honored for 40 years of service include: Robert Farkas, Paul Hornak, Joseph Komoroski, Robert Lowry, Harold McMillion, Bernard Ritchey, Edward Scheeringa, Darrel Sills, and John Verbeek. Those members being honored for 35 years of service include: Greg Argentine, Charles Gibbs, Raymond Maida, Jr., Rudy Medellin, Jr., Michael Schaller, and William Underwood. Those members of Local 599 who will be honored for 30 years of service include: Daniel Brown, Timothy Foley, and John Perz. The carpenters who will be honored for 25 years of service include: Thomas Childers, David Jazyk, Fred Kuhn, Richard Meyers, Vic-

tor Michael, Brian Morton, Kenneth Pitts, and Fred Tomkutonis.

Northwest Indiana has a rich history of excellence in its craftsmanship and loyalty by its tradesmen. These workers are all outstanding examples of each. They have mastered their trade and have consistently performed at the highest level throughout their careers. They have demonstrated their loyalty to both the union and the community through their hard work and self-sacrifice.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating these dedicated, honorable, and outstanding members of the Hammond Carpenters Union Local 599, in addition to all the hardworking union men and women in America. The men and women of Local 599 are a fine representation of America's union workforce; I am proud to represent such dedicated men and women in Congress. Their hard labor and resolute courage are the achievement and fulfillment of the American dream.

EIGHTH ANNUAL YOUTH PRIDE  
DAY

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 20, 2004*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, this Saturday, April 24th, marks the culmination of Youth Pride Week in Washington, DC with our Eighth Annual Youth Pride Day.

Youth Pride Day occurs every April in Washington, DC. It is the annual celebration for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) young people, which has brought over 13,000 youth together since its start in 1997. The celebration has grown from just 900 participants in 1997 to over 2,500 young people last year. Youth Pride Day has evolved into Youth Pride Week, which comprises over a dozen events ranging from a conference, dances, and poetry readings, to Youth Pride Day on Saturday.

The Youth Pride Alliance sponsors Youth Pride Day. The Alliance was founded in 1996, and its mission is to celebrate the dignity and courage of all young people as they discover their identities as gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, or straight.

The Alliance challenges society to stop hate, violence, fear, isolation, and denial as it reminds us that LGBT youth in our nation's Armed Forces, do so under the policy of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell." While they have sworn to defend the United States with their lives, they must suffer the hate, fear, isolation, and denial this demonstrably untenable policy engenders.

We, who live in our nation's capital and are taxed without representation, feel a special affinity to any other group that has been denied the full rights and privileges, which most United States Citizens enjoy. I remind the House that Washingtonians are taxed without representation.

I ask this House to join with me in welcoming all those attending Youth Pride Day.

HONORING COMMANDER JOHN J. ROESNER

**HON. DALE E. KILDEE**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 20, 2004*

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to honor an American hero, my constituent Commander John J. "Jack" Roesner for 22 years of faithful steadfast service to the United States Navy. His hard work, dedication and leadership to this Nation is without doubt commendable. On May 7, 2004, the U.S. Navy will join along with his family to honor him during a retirement ceremony to be held at his command, OPNAV—Naval Education and Training.

Commander (CDR) Roesner was born and raised in my hometown of Flint, Michigan. He attended Northern Michigan University, where he earned both his Bachelor and Masters Degrees. In February of 1982, CDR Roesner completed Navy Officer Candidate School and earned his commission. His first assignment as a Surface Warfare Officer was aboard the USS *Mahlon S. Tisdale* (FFG-27), where he served as the Commanding Ordnance Officer and subsequently as Damage Control Assistant and Combat Information Center Officer. During this tour CDR Roesner qualified as Surface Warfare Officer and Gas Turbine Engineering Officer of the Watch (EOOW). In November of 1985 he transferred to the Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps (NROTC) located at the University of Mississippi as an Associate Professor and Instructor of Naval Science. In February of 1989, he graduated from the Surface Warfare Officer Department Head Curriculum, after which he was assigned as the Combat Systems Officer of the USS *John Rodgers* (DD-983), and subsequently afloat as Combat Systems and Material Officer on the staff of Commander, Destroyer Squadron Twenty-Six. CDR Roesner in November of 1992 reported for duty in Washington, D.C. as Aide and Administrative Assistant to the Naval Inspector General, where he served until 1985. After his tour in Washington he returned to sea duty and was stationed aboard the USS *Scott* (DDG-995) as the Executive Officer, followed by subsequent afloat tour as Chief Staff Officer for Commander, Destroyer Squadron Thirty-Two. In 1998, he became the Executive Officer of the Navy Recruiting District Minneapolis, and on April 14, 2000 he assumed Command of the district. In November of 2001, CDR Roesner reported to OPNAV (N-79). During CDR Roesner's career he has deployed five times to the Mediterranean and/or Western Pacific, completed three North Red Sea surges in support of U.N. sanctioned Maritime Interception Operations, and two Counter-Narcotics Operation deployments. He completed JPME phase-1 training through the Air Force Command and Staff College. CDR Roesner was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal w/gold star, Navy/Marine Corps Commendation Medal w/two gold stars, along with various unit and campaign awards. Aside from being an outstanding leader and role model, he is a devoted husband to his wife Stephanie.

Mr. Speaker, as a member of Congress, I ask my colleagues in the 108th Congress to please join me in congratulating my constituent and one of the U.S. Navy's finest sailors Commander Roesner upon his retirement