

To his family, I humbly extend my thanks and the sincere appreciation of a grateful community, State, and country for his sacrifice. On behalf of the people of the 7th Congressional District and the U.S. Congress, I extend my heartfelt sympathy to the Parker family.

CONGRATULATING STUDENTS
FROM NASHVILLE'S HILLSBORO
HIGH SCHOOL ON THEIR
ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE NA-
TIONAL "WE THE PEOPLE"
CIVICS COMPETITION

HON. JIM COOPER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 2004

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate an extraordinary group of students from Hillsboro High School in Nashville, Tennessee, who are this year's State winners of the Nation's largest annual competition in civics education: We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution. I am proud of these outstanding students for having earned a chance to represent our fine State and to compete in the national finals here in Washington.

These students should be honored not only for their achievements in this prestigious competition but for their interest in politics, government and current events. As citizens of this great Nation, we are all duty-bound to exercise the rights and obligations of citizenship. Recent times, however, have seen a steep decline in voter turnout and increased cynicism about the political process. I am refreshed by the energy and enthusiasm of these students and am impressed by their commitment to the democratic ideals of our Nation. These students will no doubt serve as role models for their generation.

I am also proud to support the annual We the People competition, which is the most extensive educational program in the country developed specifically to educate young people about the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights. This program is administered by the Center for Civic Education and funded by the U.S. Department of Education. Since its creation, We the People has won widespread recognition for its effective and innovative programs to encourage civic participation in our younger generation. I am confident that Congress will maintain its support of this fine program and ensure its continued success.

On behalf of the people of the Fifth Congressional District of Tennessee, I extend my heartiest congratulations to the following Hillsboro High School students: Emily Bacon, Susan Bursch, Molly Caldwell, Julianne Codd, Maeve Cornell-Taylor, Jonathan Cox, Emelyn Davies, Alice Floyd, Maisha Grigsby, Claire Hipkens, Anna Holt, Hal Nichols, Caitlin Pinhey, Kaitlin Reinhardt, Andrew Schneider, Lauren Smyth, Michael Terrell, Lee Tice and David Winjun. I also commend the leadership of their teacher, Ms. Catherine Bradshaw.

I applaud the tremendous achievement of these students and wish them well.

IN HONOR OF THE 75TH BIRTHDAY
FOR THE UNIVERSITY PARK EL-
EMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 2004

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the 75th Birthday for the University Park Elementary School in Dallas, Texas. I am proud to represent the University Park Elementary School in Congress, and four of my staff members in my Washington, D.C. and Dallas offices are graduates of the Highland Park Independent School District, and so I am well aware of the quality education that University Park Elementary School and the Highland Park Independent School District deliver on a yearly basis. One of my staff members has three generations of his family that attended University Park Elementary School.

The State of Texas is celebrating 150 years of publicly educating young Texans, and along with this important anniversary is the 75th Birthday for the University Park Elementary School. This is a very special milestone in the history of the school, its students, families, teacher professionals, support staff, and the greater community that it has served with distinction for three-quarters of a century. I congratulate the school's principal Dr. Lynda Carter for her excellent leadership of the school during this birthday year.

University Park Elementary School opened its doors in September of 1928 with six teachers and 165 students. The school has come a long way from its initial academic year, as in 1988 the United States Department of Education cited University Park Elementary School for its excellence in education; and it has also received national recognition for excellence in the area of character development. In 2001, University Park Elementary School received special recognition from the Texas Commissioner of Education, Jim Nelson, for being one of the eight schools in Texas to receive an "Exemplary" rating for nine years of the rating system's existence.

University Park Elementary School will formally celebrate its birthday on Friday morning, and I am very much looking forward to being there personally in honor of such a great occasion. I sincerely salute the University Park Elementary School on its birthday, and I wish it continued success for many years to come.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO ALEX
MADONNA

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 2004

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to Alex Madonna of San Luis Obispo, California, in my district. Alex died on April 22, leaving a hole in the heart of his wife of 55 years, Phyllis, and in those of his large and devoted family. He will truly be missed by the people of San Luis Obispo County, and throughout the Nation.

Alex Madonna was a second generation American whose grandparents emigrated from Switzerland. A self-made man who was guided by a strong work ethic, Alex made his mark building and paving highways throughout the state and in numerous building projects. During World War II, Alex used his construction skills as a soldier in the Army Corps of Engineers. A champion of the agricultural community, Alex was also known as "the host from the coast" at the Madonna Inn, a landmark in San Luis Obispo.

In addition to his numerous business accomplishments, Alex Madonna was also a philanthropist of legendary proportions. Alex Madonna's generosity to the people and the organizations of San Luis Obispo is part of history. Nearly everyone in town has a story about a donation that Alex and Phyllis have made to our community.

San Luis Obispo will be wearing pink on Thursday, the day of Alex Madonna's funeral. The church will be packed with people wanting to say goodbye to a man whose life can be summed up in these words: determination, hard work and a great heart.

HONORING ISRAEL INDEPENDENCE
DAY

HON. MARTIN FROST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 2004

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Israel Independence Day on the 56th Anniversary of its birth as a state.

As Americans, we all take great pride in the founding of our country. The birth of Israel also serves as a sense of pride—not only to the people of Israel, but also to Jewish people throughout the world. Almost every day, we receive news of Israelis falling victim to terrorism and tragedy, yet every day, Israel stands as a symbol not just of the Jewish faith, but of freedom loving people who have the courage, even today, to live in danger, fight for freedom and work for peace.

While Israel and America were founded in different centuries, a world away from each other, both countries share similar values which provide a foundation for a strong society. These values are rooted in educating our children, keeping our families healthy, and protecting our citizens from harm.

I applaud Israel for all it has accomplished throughout the past 56 years. It has weathered war and terrorism, and yet it still remains a democratic state committed to improving the quality of life for all its citizens. The commitment to serve its people is the mark of a great country, because only when a state wants its citizens to succeed, will it too succeed. In its short but rich history, Israel has proven its success by this unwavering dedication.

Mr. Speaker, it is with honor and respect of Israel's great history, that I congratulate the country for its successes, and look forward to a long-lasting relationship between our two countries, based on our shared values.

NATIONAL CERVICAL CANCER
SCREENING MONTH**HON. MICHAEL G. OXLEY**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 2004

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, in honor of National Cervical Cancer Screening Month in January, I would like to bring attention to the tremendous opportunity our country has to make cervical cancer the first real victory in the war on cancer. For the first time in over 50 years, we have a new screening approach that offers great hope for finally eliminating cervical cancer. We must seize this opportunity by ensuring that all women have access to the best tests available.

Worldwide, cervical cancer is the second most-common cancer among women. Approximately 470,000 women are afflicted and 230,000 die each year, according to the World Health Organization. In the United States, incidence and deaths from cervical cancer have decreased by almost half since the early 1970s, largely due to widespread screening with the Pap test, according to the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. However, research shows that cervical cancer rates have remained steady for the past few years. According to the American Cancer Society, over 10,500 American women will be diagnosed with cervical cancer this year and 3,900 will die.

No American woman, however, should die of cervical cancer because it is nearly 100 percent preventable. It is a slow-developing disease that can usually be treated easily before abnormal cells develop into cancer. According to the American Cancer Society, when detected at an early stage, cervical cancer has one of the highest 5-year survival rates of all cancers. The key to prevention and successful outcomes is to screen women early using the best screening approaches possible.

While the Pap test has gone a long way toward reducing cervical cancer rates, it is not perfect. It relies upon a visual examination of cervical cells, and errors in collecting the cells or interpreting them can lead to false-negative results. According to the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, the accuracy of the conventional Pap smear at identifying women with cervical cancer or precancerous conditions was only 51 percent. Newer, improved Pap tests bring that accuracy up to a range of 61 percent to 95 percent, depending upon the study cited.

While imperfect, the Pap test has been so successful to date largely because it is done with high frequency. If cervical cancer or its precursors are missed in one screening round, they are likely to be detected in a subsequent screening round. At the same time, women who receive "false-positive" results from the Pap test usually undergo necessary follow-up Pap tests or other procedures.

We know that a virus, human papillomavirus, (HPV) is the cause of cervical cancer. Studies show that it is found in 99.7% of cervical cancers and must be present for the disease to develop. Most people will be infected with HPV at some point in their lives, but their body's immune system will clear the virus without any noticeable symptoms. However, persistent infection over several years with high-risk types of HPV can lead to cer-

vical cancer in women. Persistent HPV infections are more likely to be found in women aged 30 and older.

In 2003, a DNA test for HPV was approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for routine screening in women aged 30 and over in conjunction with a Pap test. Numerous studies show that adding an HPV test to a Pap test can increase to almost 100 percent the ability to identify women with cervical cancer or precursor conditions. Additionally, HPV testing gives clinicians important information: the ability to identify which women are at increased risk of cervical cancer and who should therefore be monitored more closely to ensure that cervical cancer is not missed. Women who test negative with both tests can be better reassured, while reducing their need for unnecessary, invasive exams.

Since its approval last year by the FDA, HPV testing has gained rapid acceptance in the healthcare community. Already, leading medical organizations, including the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the American Cancer Society and the Association of Reproductive Health Professionals, have updated their screening guidelines to include HPV testing in routine screening for women aged 30 and over.

These groups' guidelines recommend that, because HPV testing is so sensitive and because cervical cancer develops so slowly, that women can be safely screened with the combination of a Pap test and an HPV test every three years. Research shows that this can also result in lower long-term costs. With this approach, however, it is important that we not confuse infrequent cervical cancer screening with infrequent gynecologic visits. This essential annual exam also screens for such conditions as breast cancer, hypertension, osteoporosis and STDs. For many women, the gynecologic exam is their only opportunity each year for routine, preventive medical care.

Major private insurers now reimburse for HPV testing as well as covering a woman's annual gynecologic exam. These include Aetna, Cigna and many Blue Cross Blue Shield plans. Last month, Kaiser Permanente, the nation's leading health maintenance organization, announced that its largest region will now offer HPV testing, along with a Pap test, as standard-of-care cervical cancer screening for all women aged 30 and over. Earlier this month, the nation's largest women's health practice in the country also announced that it will offer HPV testing to all of its patients who are 30 and over as part of their routine cervical cancer screening program.

As the private healthcare system brings newer and better technology to women, we must make sure that all women have access to these advanced screening techniques. All women deserve to benefit from the most effective screening technologies available. Having advanced testing technology is the first step in eliminating cervical cancer.

250TH ANNIVERSARY OF
HAMPSHIRE COUNTY**HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO**

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 2004

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 250th Anniversary of Hampshire

County, West Virginia, which I proudly represent here in Congress. The Virginia General Assembly authorized the creation of Hampshire County effective May 1, 1754, removing the South Branch, Patterson Creek, New Creek, and Capon River valleys from Frederick County, Virginia. It was named after the English county of the same name.

Hampshire County was established to provide an accessible local government for citizens on the north side of Cape Capon and Warm Spring Mountain and to more effectively deal with the conflicts stemming from the onset of the French-Indian war.

The history of Hampshire County extends longer than that of the United States or the State of West Virginia. The county has undergone several border changes over the years; at one time it included all of present day Mineral, Hardy, and Grant counties, along with portions of Morgan and Pendleton counties, an area extending 2,800 square miles. Today, the county has an area of just over 640 square miles, but continues to grow in population. The county's population grew by 22.5 percent between 1990 and 2000, and currently 20,798 people call Hampshire County home.

I am honored to represent Capon Bridge, Mill Creek, Romney, and the other communities of Hampshire County here in Congress. I congratulate Hampshire County on its 250th anniversary and wish the county all the best for the next 250 years.

WELCOME TO DANISH FOREIGN
MINISTER DR. PER STIG MOLLER**HON. TOM LANTOS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 2004

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me today in welcoming to the United States and to the American Congress the Foreign Minister of Denmark, Dr. Per Stig Moller. Dr. Moller has served as his country's Foreign Minister since 2001. During his tenure, Denmark has shown strong support for the United States in the war against terrorism and has provided military forces to assist us in Afghanistan and Iraq. In a time of strained trans-Atlantic relations, the Danes have remained steadfast and unwavering supporters of the United States.

Denmark has contributed one of the largest Special Forces contingents in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan, as well as providing F-16 aircraft for use there. From the very beginning of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Denmark has been an active member of the coalition and has contributed combat forces including a submarine and a corvette, as well as a medical team. Denmark has shown its willingness to continue its support in Iraq with stabilization forces and financial and human support. To date, Denmark has appropriated more than 500 million US Dollars for Operation Iraqi Freedom, including assistance for humanitarian aid and reconstruction. This represents a contribution of some 100 dollars per person, making Denmark the country that has contributed the most per capita except for the United States and the United Kingdom. At present, more than 500 Danish soldiers are daily risking their lives in Iraq.