

rose to the challenge and served our country proud.

Our heartfelt prayers and sympathies are with Jonathan's family and friends during their time of great loss. We will always remember his bravery and the sacrifice he made while serving our nation.

CONGRATULATING THE WILKES-BARRE FINE ARTS FIESTA ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 18, 2005

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to the Fine Arts Fiesta in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, which is celebrating 50 years of artistic and cultural presentation to the citizens of northeastern Pennsylvania.

Founded in 1956 under the leadership of Annette Evans, Ruth Schooley and Alfred Groh, the Fine Arts Fiesta is the oldest full-scale arts festival in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Making the event even more special is the fact that it has never charged the public for admission, preferring to make the event open to anyone, regardless of ability to pay. Instead, the Fine Arts Fiesta, always held on Wilkes-Barre's historic Public Square, has managed to fund itself through state grants and voluntary contributions from individuals, corporations and foundations.

Throughout its history, the Fine Arts Fiesta has always highlighted children's entertainment.

At noon on May 24, 1956, then Mayor Luther M. Kniffen sounded the Old Ship Zion bell and the Fine Arts Fiesta was born. It was also a highlight of Wilkes-Barre's Sesquicentennial that was being observed in 1956.

Dr. Eugene S. Farley, then president of Wilkes College, offered remarks and stressed the interrelation between the Wyoming Valley's cultural assets and the economic and industrial well being of the community. He concluded that the Fiesta plays a significant role in the overall growth of the community.

By 1962, the Fine Arts Fiesta had grown to include 36 organizations. More than 1,000 volunteers were working to present artistic displays from virtually every art and craft.

In 1963, Mrs. C. Wells Belin, of Scranton, a leader in the local art world, delivered the Fiesta's opening address. She spoke of the "four great assets of Fiesta." She went on to describe those assets as "public relations value . . . positive example for other cities . . . importance to industries already here and those planning to come here and, finally, as a way of helping people broaden their horizons and appreciation of culture and the arts.

Also in 1963, The Fine Arts Fiesta gained national recognition after George Ralston, chairman of the Wilkes-Barre Recreation Board, nominated the Fiesta for an award from the National Recreation Committee. That award was presented to Fiesta founder Annette Evans in the presence of the late U.S. Congressman Daniel J. Flood.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating The Fine Arts Fiesta on a half century

of cultural service to the citizens of northeastern Pennsylvania and beyond, some of whom travel great distances to attend and enjoy the Fiesta. Clearly, the Fiesta has enriched the lives of hundreds of thousands of people and our community is a far better place because of it.

DEDICATION OF THE CONGRESSMAN IKE SKELTON BRIDGE

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 18, 2005

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, it has come to my attention that Highway 13 Missouri River Bridge has been named for my good friend, and fellow Missourian, The Honorable Ike Skelton. The dedication ceremony took place on May 14, 2005, in Lexington, Missouri, Mr. Skelton's hometown. I know that all the Members of the House will join me in congratulating Mr. Skelton on this honor. Mr. Skelton's remarks at the event are set forth as follows:

Thank you so much, Joe Aull, for your generous introduction. Members of the Missouri General Assembly, Ray and Lafayette County neighbors, and my fellow Missourians.

Today, we dedicate an engineering feat—the magnificent new bridge across the wide Missouri. What an opportunity to kindle pride in our community and pride in our state. This is truly a moment to remember.

Anyone who lives around here or who travels along this portion of Highway 13 can testify that for years people have asked, "when are we going to get a new bridge?" More recently the question has changed to, "when is that new bridge going to open?" So believe me, I think it is impossible to exaggerate what a very happy day this is for those who have waited so long for this day to arrive.

According to the Roman orator Cicero, the greatest of all virtues is gratitude. And, I want to express my gratitude to my neighbors, the members of the Highway 13 Missouri River Bridge Dedication Steering Committee, the members of the Missouri Department of Transportation, and the members of Missouri's General Assembly for the naming of this bridge. Most of all, I am grateful to my wife, Susie, for her tireless support that allows me to carry out my public service. I must add that I am pleased that so many of my high school graduating class are with us today.

I acknowledge this honor with a deep sense of humility. Representing Missourians is such a privilege, as I have had a love affair with the State of Missouri all my life. Suffice it to say that I will endeavor, in the days and years ahead, to merit this high honor.

This day opens a notable chapter in the history of Ray and Lafayette Counties, and in the history of our State. The taxpayers generously paid for the bridge and the surrounding roads, with the politicians and government officials setting aside the money—almost \$53 million in Federal and State funds for the bridge itself. But the achievement lies in the skill of the designers, engineers, and laborers whose work translated our dream of a new bridge into reality, providing us with a safe way to travel and taking us into the future, across the wide Missouri.

But because this is such a momentous day, it is appropriate to look back and reflect on the previous chapters of our history that led

us to this place today. This is a bridge over truly historic waters—the wide Missouri.

The river is central to the history of those who have lived in this region. The Indians who lived along its banks inspired the river's name. The word "Missouri" is believed to have derived from the Indian word for "canoe", and the Missouri Tribe were known as the "people of the wooden canoe."

French trappers encountered the Missouri Indians in the late 1600s in present day Saline County. Another native group, the Little Osage, lived in this area during the 1700s. Scholars say that both tribes used the river for transportation and trade with the Europeans.

In addition to the heritage of the Indians who made their home along the river, the legacy of the French trappers endures. The names the French gave to the tributaries that flow into the Missouri River still adorn our maps: Tabou Creek, the Lamine River, Chouteau Creek, and the Moreau River.

After the fledgling United States of America purchased the Louisiana territory, Lewis and Clark's Corps of Discovery traveled these waters, following the river across the continent. In fact, our new bridge is quite near the spot in present-day Ray County where Lewis and Clark's party of explorers made camp in June 1804.

Fifteen years later in 1819, a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers expedition to explore the Missouri River and its tributaries demonstrated the potential usefulness of the river for the movement of goods, settlers, and troops. It also led to the Corps' assignment to tame the river for navigation, removing the treacherous snags that endangered boats and steamboats.

The Missouri artist George Caleb Bingham immortalized the jolly flatboatmen who plied the waters of this river as the frontier opened in the early to mid-1800s. The flatboatmen were known for their songs, their chants, including the beautiful and haunting American folk song, Shenandoah. The now-familiar boatmen's song, which told of a trader who loved the daughter of Indian Chief Shenandoah, made its way down the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers to the American clipper ships, and thus around the world.

In the years to come, steamboats made the river their home. From about 1819 to 1881, steamboats paddled the river, taking settlers west and carrying trade goods and merchandise. Lexington became a major steamboat port, where manufactured goods from St. Louis and other points east were unloaded, and raw materials were loaded to travel down river.

Local shores witnessed one of the darkest days of the steamboat era when the steamboat Saluda called on the Port of Lexington in 1852. Encountering problems with the river's current and heavy running ice, the Saluda's boilers exploded and more than 200 passengers and crew perished.

During the War Between the States, steamboats carried troops and acted as armed transports, patrolling the river for Confederates attempting to cross the wide Missouri.

In the days before a bridge crossed the wide Missouri here, ferries enjoyed brisk business. The first ferry was established in 1819 by Lexington's founder, Gilead Rupe. Both the steamboat and the ferry operations lost customers as railroads began to lay their tracks throughout the west, but the ferry business held on, providing river crossing services until the opening of the bridge in 1925.

Attempts to bridge the river between Lafayette and Ray Counties were made in 1889 and 1894, before what we now call the "old bridge" was built across the wide Missouri.

Construction began in 1922, and the bridge opened on November 25, 1925. Even today, we can relate to the excitement and the anticipation of those citizens who were anxious to use the bridge for the first time.

As we dedicate the new bridge, we open a new chapter of our history on the Missouri River. For almost 80 years, the old bridge has served us faithfully. But after decades of service, it didn't take an engineer to spot serious problems. With portions of the old bridge floor falling through, and the crumbling of the sides, and the rusting of the superstructure, many have feared that our continued use of the old bridge was an invitation to tragedy. The new bridge comes none too soon.

The safety factor is the most immediate benefit of the new bridge for those who cross the wide Missouri at this point. Countless drivers have suffered from white knuckles on the steering wheel every time they crossed the old span.

Safety comes first, but we cannot underestimate how important modern and well-maintained roadways are for local economic development. A bridge that meets modern standards will enable companies and manufacturers to deliver and receive the goods they need to conduct business. It will allow farmers to safely transport agricultural goods. It will allow residents and visitors alike to travel freely and frequently.

This bridge symbolizes progress and that essential quality of American optimism: faith in the future; belief in ongoing prosperity; and our continuing effort to improve our country that has allowed America to prosper.

For thousands of years, the river has been witness to history. The new bridge will bear witness as those who cross the wide Missouri follow this road and add new chapters to the history of America.

Today, we celebrate. This achievement is a milestone for our state of Missouri. When you cross the bridge over the Missouri River, look down, and in your mind's eye, imagine the boatmen of the early 1800s as they pole their flatboats down the river toward the Port of St. Louis. And, if you listen intently, you will hear them singing that chanty of the day—

Shenandoah, I long to hear you,
Away, you rolling river,
Oh, Shenandoah, I long to hear you,
Away, I'm bound away,
'Cross the wide Missouri.

RECOGNITION OF 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF MT. ST. HELEN'S ERUPTION

HON. BRIAN BAIRD

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 18, 2005

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 25th anniversary of the eruption of Mt. St. Helens.

At 8:32 a.m. on May 18, 1980, Mount St. Helens erupted. The eruption lasted 9 hours, killed 57 people, and devastated 234 square miles of land. The landscape and community of southeast Washington were forever altered.

The eruption was triggered by an earthquake measuring 5.1 on the Richter scale that shook the northern face of the mountain, causing a massive avalanche of rock debris. This landslide opened a crater that engulfed the mountain's summit and produced a massive lateral blast eruption. Mudflows carrying

millions of cubic yards of debris washed down the river valleys and into the Columbia River. Tons of ash were strewn across eastern Washington and into the Earth's stratosphere.

After 18 years of relative quiescence, Mount St. Helens' volcano recaptured the world's attention in September of 2004 when it showed signs of reawakening. On September 23 a swarm of small, shallow earthquakes began in and beneath the 1980–1986 lava dome. Activity has continued on and off since then, with the lava dome growing and letting off periodic steam eruptions.

To protect the safety of communities located near Mount Saint Helens, I worked with Congressman NORM DICKS and Senator PATTY MURRAY to secure an additional \$1.5 million for the United States Geological Survey in the Emergency Supplemental to conduct the necessary monitoring of Mt. St. Helens. This funding will increase the safety of citizens living near the area and help protect commercial aircraft.

Today, to commemorate Mt. St. Helens' 25 years of recovery and renewal, people are gathering at Weyerhaeuser's Forest Learning Center at Mount St. Helens to reflect on the 1980 devastation and celebrate 25 years of nature's recovery, including the return of forests, plants, and wildlife. Additionally, Weyerhaeuser is pledging \$1 million in wood products, funding, and volunteer labor to help build Habitat for Humanity homes at the 2005 Jimmy Carter Work Project and in other communities across the United States and Canada.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE ALEXANDER ASHE, JR.

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 18, 2005

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I want to bring to the attention of my colleagues the passing of Captain Alexander Ashe, Jr., an accomplished law enforcement professional and tireless community servant and activist, who died last Friday, May 13, 2005. Captain Ashe joined the Miami-Dade Police Department (MDPD) in December 1973. He leaves behind a legacy of achievement and inspiration, for he was an example of what genuine caring and unrelenting commitment can accomplish. His passing is a great loss for our community.

To let you know the kind of man Captain Ashe was, I want to share with my colleagues this passage from his last job evaluation, in 2002, which included the following: "He has demonstrated concern for his subordinates, making himself available for guidance and direction. He encouraged his personnel to seek personal growth through departmental training and the promotional process." MDPD Major Chester Butler described Captain Ashe as ". . . someone who thought along the same line as I did . . . it was the best working relationships I've been fortunate to have in my career. I could always depend on him to be there for me."

As a resident of our community, he provided great wisdom and inspiration on issues affecting the Miami-Dade Police Department and was willing and ready to give of himself and put his problems on the back burner to help

others. His colleagues remember him as someone who always had the knack for providing excellent insight and courageous guidance on countless situations aimed at enhancing the professionalism of the MDPD. He was helpful to many junior officers, assisting them in their professional growth and development to help them qualify for higher rank and responsibility, and he did this without asking anything in return. A respected member of the Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, he was a golf enthusiast who was also fascinated with computers.

Captain Alexander Ashe, Jr. is survived by his wife, MDPD Officer Patricia Ashe, son James Ashe IV; daughters MDPD Officer Deidre Ashe, Jasmine and Rene; his mother, Jefferine Richards, his extended police family and numerous other relatives and friends. As a public servant, Captain Ashe truly exemplified a unique leadership whose courageous vision and genuine caring for his fellow officers and the people whom he pledged to serve and protect evokes the character of his humanity. This is the legacy he left behind and it is how we will always remember him.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 2005 U.S. PHYSICS OLYMPIAD TEAM

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 18, 2005

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the achievements of the members of the 2005 United States Physics Olympiad Team. These 24 individuals have shown tremendous aptitude in physics and leadership amongst their peers.

It is very challenging to earn a spot on this prestigious team. After being nominated by their high school teachers and taking a preliminary exam, 200 students qualified to take the second and final screening exam for the U.S. Physics Team. The 24 survivors of that group represent the top physics students in the U.S., and they are now at a 9-day training camp of intense study, examination and problem solving. Five of these students will advance and compete for our country in July at the International Physics Olympiad in Salamanca, Spain.

Members of the 2005 team include: Thomas D. Belulovich, David Chen, Timothy F. Credo, Nickolas A. Fortino, YingYu Gao, Sherry Gong, Timothy H. Hsieh, Anthony E. Kim, John Y. Kim, Jenny L. Kwan, Chor Hang Lam, Samuel S. Lederer, Menyoung Lee, David Lo, Anton S. Malyshev, Sarah E. Marzen, Eric J. Mecklenburg, Aaron H. Potechin, John D. Schulman, William T. Throwe, Madeleine R. Udell, Ameya A. Velingker, Daniel P. Whalen and Fan Zhang.

Mr. Speaker, as a nuclear physicist and formal physics professor, I have worked to promote math and science education and to emphasize the pivotal role these fields play in our nation's economic competitiveness and national security. Educating our K-12 students in math and science is very important. It is encouraging to see so many young, outstanding physics students enthusiastic about science. I hope their enthusiasm will be contagious to other students who will be drawn to challenging and rewarding careers in math and