

significant. Before his retirement he insured that generations of young writers could make an impact in the field of journalism, as he did, by passing on his vast knowledge as a visiting professor at universities across the country.

Dick Smyser was not a personal friend of mine. After all, I am a politician, and he is a journalist. So, we could not be "friends." However, I had many occasions to converse with him and enjoy his warmth and depth of perspective on Oak Ridge and our mutual commitments to this very special place.

Dick Smyser was simply a classic human being who was good to his family and friends. His departure from this earth left a large void, and we will always miss him but never forget him.

May his legacy endure in the many lives that he touched and inspired.

RECOGNIZING GRANT COMMUNITY
MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS, RECIPIENTS OF A 2004 PRESIDENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL YOUTH AWARD

HON. DARLENE HOOLEY

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 9, 2005

Ms. HOOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a group of students from Grant Community Middle School in Salem, Oregon who were awarded a Presidential Environmental Youth Award. Since 1971, this award has recognized young people from across the United States who have demonstrated a commitment to the environment.

This group of thirty 6th grade students from Grant, whom I recently had the pleasure of meeting, has made a real impact in the effort to restore habitat for an endangered animal, the Fender's Blue Butterfly. As the Willamette Valley has been developed, the butterfly has lost its natural prairie habitat, and the Kincaid lupine plant, a major staple of the butterfly's diet, has nearly disappeared. The butterfly has become so rare that at one point it was believed to be extinct.

After learning about the Fender's Blue Butterfly, the class researched, created, and implemented a three-year program to help preserve this rare insect. The students worked with Marion County to convert Bonesteel Park into a native Willamette Valley prairie. Two years after the students began the project, Kincaid lupine plants began to grow and several of the endangered butterflies have been spotted in the area.

The students also sought to raise awareness among other young people about the importance of natural prairie habitat by holding a Celebrating Prairie Festival. Over 600 elementary school students attended the festival, which included a bilingual play in English and Spanish that explained the threats facing the Fender's blue butterflies.

I commend these students for their efforts. Their hard work and dedication made a real difference that will help preserve this butterfly for future generations.

IN HONOR OF THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LADIES AUXILIARY OF THE TOWNSHIP HOSE AND CHEMICAL CO. NO. 1

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 9, 2005

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the services of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Aberdeen Township Hose & Chemical Co. No. 1.

This organization was formed on May 22, 1930 for the purpose of raising funds in order to purchase fire equipment. Over their 75 years of service, they have provided a completely equipped kitchen for a local firehouse, answered fire calls, and served coffee and sandwiches at lengthy fires, as well as many other unnamed services that have invaluable aided the fire company.

The importance of firemen cannot be overstated. We were reminded of that on September 11, 2001. These brave men and women are irreplaceable, and the Ladies Auxiliary of the Aberdeen Township Hose & Chemical Co. No. 1 has supported them through the years. It is never easy to work in a high risk and high stress job, yet the Auxiliary has helped the men and women of the Fire Company maintain a high morale and continue to protect the Aberdeen community.

These women have served the Aberdeen Fire Company admirably for 75 years, and the Ladies Auxiliary stands ready to assist the Fire Company and give it the same unbending support for the next 75 years.

REGARDING THE CEASEFIRE WEEK

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 9, 2005

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support for the CeaseFire Chicago program and to celebrate CeaseFire week. Some of our nation's youth faces gangs, drugs, and gun violence daily. As we proceed through CeaseFire week, from June 4-11, we acknowledge community events such as peace marches, memorial services, and other civic gatherings held throughout Chicago. We must keep in mind the sheer violence our children encounter, and the direction we must take to solve this increasing problem. Programs such as CeaseFire help to steer at-risk children away from such pressures towards graduation and college. Indeed, CeaseFire Chicago sends outreach workers, clergy, and community leaders into rough neighborhoods to mentor, respond to shootings, hand out fliers and encourage the students to stay off the streets. Today, 70 outreach workers volunteer their time to search for at-risk children in the Chicago area. And it works! In my district, where CeaseFire is most active, violence has been reduced by an average of 45 percent.

I believe by taking a more active stance on the issue of gangs and gun violence, we can help protect the children of tomorrow. CeaseFire has even been acknowledged and supported from the First Lady Laura Bush on

her current trip to Chicago. This program has had a phenomenal impact on the children of Chicago, and the success would only be replicated in other cities. Therefore, I urge my fellow colleagues to support such programs as CeaseFire Chicago. With our continued efforts, we can continue to provide safe neighborhoods and successful opportunities for our children.

THE 20TH ANNUAL 116TH STREET FESTIVAL AND ITS ORGANIZERS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 9, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of the 109th Congress the hard work of Mr. Nick Lugo, Mr. David Acosta, Mr. Robert Acosta, and Mr. Peter Spinella in planning the 116th Street Festival in East Harlem, El Barrio community.

The 116th Street Festival is designed to highlight, embrace, and celebrate the cultural experiences of Hispanic families in the United States, the Caribbean, and beyond. This is the largest Latin Street Festival in North America and is nationally acclaimed as one of the three major Hispanic events in the United States. It draws our collective consciousness to the beauty, love, and familial bonds of Hispanic culture as well as the rich historical backgrounds of Hispanic people.

The 20th annual Festival will be held this Saturday, June 11, 2005. It will span 20 city blocks in the heart of El Barrio, have three entertainment stages and hundreds of vendors and corporate attractions, and draw crowds of hundreds of thousands of people from around the world. It is one of New York City's largest and most popular celebrations and has provided over 40 scholarships to local high school students in East Harlem.

The celebration promises to be a remarkable experience and enlightening exposure to the culture of an often-unappreciated but important group of Americans. Major corporations such as Disney, Home Depot, and Fisher Price now join long-time sponsors Telemundo 47, Coca-Cola, and SBS Communications in supporting the success and goals of this Festival.

The success of the Festival is largely thanks to the work of Nick Lugo, David Acosta, Robert Acosta, and Peter Spinella of Abrazo Fraternal organization. They brought the event to the East Harlem community in the 1980s and have tirelessly worked to make it a premier event for hundreds of thousands of Hispanic families and top entertainers.

Nick Lugo is a prominent community and business leader within the New York City Hispanic community. His career spans over three decades and includes pioneering numerous events and activities that have enhanced the lives of Puerto Ricans and other Hispanics within the City. He was born in New York and is a graduate of Inter-American University of San German, Puerto Rico. With his wife and their daughter at his side, Nick has published *La Voz Hispana*, a weekly newspaper, and *Canales Magazine*, a monthly publication dedicated to the Latino arts and entertainment industry. He is also the president of National Hispanic Expositions, Inc, Nick Lugo Travel,

and Hispanic Impact Marketing, Inc. He has been a dedicated and inspiring role model for the Hispanic community in particular and this country in general.

Immediately after graduation, Robert Acosta enlisted in the United States Air Force and served there for the next four years. He was trained as a jet aircraft fighter mechanic and received an honorable discharge. He joined his brothers in a lifetime career as a prominent and successful businessman. While helping his wife raise their son and three daughters remained an important mission in his life, Robert was also committed to the improvement of his community. He chaired the Local Development Corporation del Barrio for ten years and helped to develop the economic and political capital of the community. Robert has been an active contributor to local organizations and events and an important voice on the future of the community.

Like his brother Robert, David Acosta was raised in East Harlem and has become a major community leader and one of its strongest advocates. Starting with El Barrio Hardware in 1970, Robert and David, along with their brother Frank, became promising entrepreneurs in the community. They were part of the influential reactivation of the Third Avenue Merchants Association and helped to revitalize the struggling business community in the area. When David became the president of the Association, it accomplished its goals and provided opportunities for local merchants to advance political agendas and decisions in the interest of the community. David would further apply his entrepreneurial skills to the creation of the Local Development Corporation del Barrio and secured grants to enhance the image and economic base of the Third Avenue. He has and continues to be an active and influential member of the community.

Peter Spinella served this country as a member of the military police corps of the United States Army. He holds a bachelor's degree of science in marketing from New York Institute of Technology and is an Executive Vice President of the Hispanic Marketing & Advertising Group, Inc. He has honorably served on the boards of several organizations including the National Puerto Rican Forum and the Korean American Grocers Association. A member of the board of the New Bronx Chamber of Commerce, Peter brings a cultural awareness and sensitivity to economic development projects. He is also the CEO of "A Taste of East Harlem, Inc." which produces a magazine, a website, and a restaurant/tourism campaign. Peter brings a talented marketing portfolio to East Harlem and has worked to build an active and involved community.

I would like to thank Nick, David, Robert, and Peter for their hard work in putting together these important community-building events surrounding the 116th Street Festival. I join their families, friends, and community in being proud of their accomplishments and success.

A TRIBUTE TO DARREN K.
PEARSON

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 9, 2005

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge Darren K. Pearson, an established entre-

preneur who has developed four running businesses in the Real Estate marketplace in Brooklyn, New York and parts of Queens. These businesses include Darren K. Real Estate, LLC, Darren K. Real Estate, LLC Maintenance Division, Howard Avenue Development, L.P., and Darren K. Real Estate Management Company. A part of Darren K. Real Estate, LLC activities involves the acquisition, rehabilitation and development of quality housing of previously owned city multi-dwelling buildings for low, moderate and middle-income families.

Before becoming involved in real estate, Mr. Pearson worked as an account executive for Amergold Corporation. He also worked for Vanguard Oil Corporation as a fuel salesperson in the commercial and barge departments, where his duties included fuel sales to Con Edison, PSE & G, LILCO and Government contracts. Within one year, he was promoted to Director of Public Relations for Vanguard and headed the "Robert F. Kennedy Memorial" Home Oil Transfer Program, a program that allowed Mr. Pearson to provide fuel oil to needy families and non-profit organizations at discount prices or even at no cost. Due to his success, he was promoted to Vice President of Procurement and Industrial Sales for Vanco Oil Co., a subsidiary of Vanguard Oil Corp.

After leaving Vanguard, Mr. Pearson worked as the Real Estate Sales Manager for Charles E. Simpson Real Estate Company and obtained his broker's license after one year. After that he started his four companies.

Mr. Pearson is active in both the Brooklyn and Manhattan communities, as Chairman of the Men's Caucus for Congressman TOWNS, member of 100 Black Men, Inc. and Senator David Patterson's Progressive Network.

Mr. Pearson is a devoted husband to his wife Lydia and a loving son to his mother Willie Mae. Mr. Speaker, Darren K. Pearson has continued to demonstrate through his efforts to improve the quality of life in his community that he is more than worthy of our recognition here today.

IN MEMORY OF DARRYEL NACUA

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 9, 2005

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Darryel Nacua, a true hero who passed away tragically and unexpectedly on May 30, 2004 at the age of 48. Most of Darryel's twenty-three year law career was spent with California Rural Legal Assistance, where he dedicated his life to giving legal help to the farm workers of Central California, the community of his own roots.

Darryel's assignments with California Rural Legal Assistance took him to Santa Maria, Gilroy, Salinas and finally to the Watsonville/Santa Cruz office, where he acted as Directing Attorney. He fought hard against poverty, injustice, and substandard housing, and he was equally tenacious in his battles for education and employment. Darryel was fearless in taking on all entities in his pursuit of social justice. Darryel also served the greater Santa Cruz area as a member of the Lawyer Referral Service Governing Committee and the Human Care Alliance Advocacy.

Darryel was endearingly referred to within his community as a man of "sangre liviana," one of "light blood," or a pleasant disposition. They also called him "sano," a person of sincerity, honesty, and one without malice. He was appreciated as a mentor, a profound listener, and for his gentle sense of humor.

Mr. Speaker, it is altogether fitting that California Rural Legal Assistance should name their office building in honor of Darryel Nacua. The community will miss him greatly, but we know his life will continue to inspire those he touched.

HONORING THE EPISCOPAL
CHURCH OF ST. PAUL AND ST.
JAMES FOR ITS CONTRIBUTIONS
TO THE COMMUNITY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 9, 2005

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to join the Reverend Barbara Cheney and the congregation of the Episcopal Church of St. Paul and St. James as they celebrate the restoration of this historic New Haven treasure. This is a very special occasion for the community and this New Haven institution.

Standing on the corner of Chapel and Olive Streets in New Haven, St. Paul and St. James has anchored the Wooster Square neighborhood for more than 175 years. Originally, the church was designed with two wooden towers, however, as the years past, it became evident that these towers would need replacing. In 1893 the west tower was rebuilt in stone and the wooden top of the east tower was removed—creating the church's distinctive look with one short tower and one tall. Recently, the need came once again to restore the west tower and it is the completion of that renovation which the community celebrates today with a rededication ceremony.

Our churches play a vital role in our communities—providing people with a place to turn to for comfort when they are most in need. In the nearly two centuries of its history, there have been many who have worshiped within the halls of St. Paul and St. James and many who have found peace and strength in the outstretched arms of the congregation. Beyond the spiritual guidance it has provided, St. Paul and St. James is also home to several successful outreach ministries. With congregants from New Haven, West Haven, Hamden, and Branford, it is an interracial, diverse congregation with a strong emphasis on social justice and advocacy. For the last twenty-five years, the church has run the Loaves and Fishes Food Closet, one of the largest food banks in the state. Other programs include a Clothes Closet, an alliance with the Neighborhood Health Project, a Children's Mission, and an active membership in the faith-based grass roots organizing effort, Elm City Congregants Organized. It is through all of these efforts that St. Paul and St. James touches the lives of thousands and makes a real difference in their lives.

With the completed renovations, the west tower is now lit at night and clearly visible from the New Haven Green—the heart of the City of New Haven. It serves as a shining beacon of hope for those most in need. For its