

RECOGNIZING THE JAPANESE AMERICAN CULTURAL AND COMMUNITY CENTER

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2005

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding work of Little Tokyo's Japanese American Cultural and Community Center (JACCC) located in my congressional district. This year, the JACCC is celebrating its 25th anniversary of presenting, propagating, communicating and promoting Japanese American arts and culture.

The JACCC is the realization of a dream of visionary Issei and Nisei (first-generation and second-generation) Japanese American pioneers to create a permanent cultural center for all generations to enjoy. Its beginnings are rooted in the 1971 redevelopment of Little Tokyo, when a citizen's advisory committee made the cultural community center an essential component of a new Little Tokyo.

As one of the leading arts organization in Los Angeles and the nation, the JACCC has successfully introduced Japanese and Japanese American arts and culture to diverse audiences for 25 years.

The JACCC opened its doors in 1980 and was completed in 1983. The five-story Center building houses the George and Sakaye Aratani/Japan America Theatre; the JACCC plaza designed by Isamu Noguchi; the award-winning James Irvine Japanese Garden; the George J. Doizaki Gallery; meeting and conference rooms; and nonprofit community tenant offices.

One of the largest ethnic cultural centers of its kind in the United States, the JACCC has presented throughout the United States over 250 premiers of Japanese art, over 100 premiers of Asian American artists, and more exhibitions of Japanese performing arts than any facility outside Japan. It is the most active facility in the United States for the exhibition of Japanese contemporary design. It is also home to a variety of cultural, educational, and community organizations.

The JACCC also presents annual events celebrating the traditional holidays of New Year's and Children's Day. These celebrations preserve traditions inherited from Japan and define uniquely Japanese American traditions and values to younger generations. To ensure the continuation of the next generation of Japanese American artists and audiences, the JACCC has developed artist-in-residency and artist resource programs, which provide support services such as rehearsal and workshop space.

As part of the JACCC's 25th Anniversary celebration, the Shochiku Grand Kabuki Chikamatsuzza troupe will provide four special performances of the Grand Kabuki of Japan. This troupe, based in Osaka, Japan, is led by Living National Treasure Nakamura Ganjiro III and features a cast of 45 actors and musicians. It will be the first full-scale company of the Grand Kabuki to tour the United States in nearly ten years.

I congratulate the JACCC on the occasion of its 25th anniversary, and I commend them for the outstanding work they do to ensure that Angelenos and all Americans benefit from the beautiful Japanese culture and Japanese American history.

RECOGNIZING JARED HILL FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2005

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jared Hill of Weston, Missouri, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 249, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout. Jared achieved the rank of Eagle Scout on February 10, 2005.

Jared has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years that Jared has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

For his Eagle Scout project, Jared organized the placement of park benches, tables, parking, and landscaping at Weston Bend State Park.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Jared Hill for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL ROBERT J. DEVLIN

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2005

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Colonel Robert Devlin upon his retirement from the U.S. Army after more than 24 years of outstanding service to our country.

Colonel Devlin has been assigned to several key military positions throughout his career, which culminated as the Garrison Commander of the Redstone Arsenal located in Huntsville, Alabama. It is in this role that Colonel Devlin helped modernize and strengthen Redstone to better meet the demands and challenges of today's Army.

Colonel Devlin has distinguished himself throughout his military service in many challenging and diverse assignments. Throughout his remarkable career, he has received many medals and awards for his ability to lead by example, encourage excellence from his peers and subordinates, effectively manage the Army's resources, and consistently produce outstanding results. I commend Colonel Devlin for his ability to energize a diverse staff toward a common purpose, setting high goals and inspiring his staff to achieve them.

Mr. Speaker, during Colonel Devlin's tenure in North Alabama, he has been a true partner with our community. His openness, visibility, and willingness to help has done a great deal to bring Redstone and the larger community closer together.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of North Alabama, I congratulate Colonel Devlin for his 24 years of service to our country.

HONORING KATHY SPOOR, DIRECTOR OF PACIFIC COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT

HON. BRIAN BAIRD

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2005

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Kathy Marie Spoor, Director of Pacific County Public Health and Human Services Department, for her service in promoting the health of her community. Ms. Spoor was recently recognized as a 2005 Robert Wood Johnson Community Health Leader. This prestigious award goes to only 10 recipients annually, and includes with it a grant of \$105,000 to continue her work.

Seeing her grandmother struggle with the effects of childhood polio and losing her mother to a smoking-related illness inspired Ms. Spoor to dedicate her life to preventing and treating illness.

This dedication has led her to serve those who need help the most. Rural Pacific County is one of the poorest regions in the State of Washington. Of its 21,000 residents, close to 10,000 have incomes that are below 250 percent of the federal poverty level. More than 2,000 have no health insurance, and many more are underinsured and have no dental insurance or dental care.

The Health Department offers all of the traditional public health services, from disease surveillance to tracking pregnancy outcomes, but under Spoor's leadership it has extended its work to include HIV and STD testing, family planning, low-cost or free pharmaceuticals, a host of youth development programs, and even dental care.

Ms. Spoor relies on her background as a registered nurse, a talent for raising funds when budgets are tight, and no small amount of ingenuity to serve the area's residents.

In one instance, Ms. Spoor called in the National Guard to increase access to dental services for local residents. She then convinced one of the National Guard dentists to relocate by finding low-rent space for his practice in a local hospital.

Mr. Speaker, it is for her dedication and indomitable spirit that Ms. Spoor is so deserving of this national award as a Robert Wood Johnson Community Health Leader. It is my honor to recognize her today.

RECOGNIZING ARTHUR H. SCHNUCK

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2005

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Arthur H. Schnuck of Cooper County, Missouri. Mr. Schnuck will soon celebrate his 97th birthday.

Arthur H. Schnuck was born on June 22, 1908 on the Schnuck Century Farm known as the "Walnut Range Stock Farm" to Henry E. Schnuck and Ida Vieth Schnuck. The Walnut Range Stock Farm is located in Cooper County, just east of Boonville in Saline Township.

Mr. Schnuck's early schooling took place at a one room school house at Highland. He attended Boonville High School, and after graduating in 1928, he went on to the University of Missouri. While at Mizzou, Mr. Schnuck competed on several judging teams. His main interests were grain farming and cattle. In 1952, Mr. Schnuck won a corn growing contest sponsored by a radio station in Kansas City; he won with 152 bushels of corn on a single acre in the senior division.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Arthur H. Schnuck of Cooper County, Missouri. Mr. Schnuck's lifelong dedication to agriculture and his community is remarkable, and his accomplishments are commendable. It is an honor to represent him in the United States Congress. I offer him my warmest regards on this important milestone, and my best wishes for many more birthdays in the future.

CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-WHITEWATER MEN'S BASEBALL TEAM

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2005

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater men's baseball team who in a stunning display of athleticism, captured the NCAA Division III national championship. Led by head coach John Vodenlich, the Warhawks capped an extraordinary season by winning their first national championship in school history. UW-Whitewater compiled a 45-7 overall record, the best in school history, and became the first team since 1999 to not lose a single game in the double elimination championship tournament.

UW-Whitewater demonstrated impeccable skill both in the field and at the plate. The pitching duo of Senior Kevin Tomasiewicz and Junior Greg Reinhard led the charge for the Warhawks. Tomasiewicz, who was recently selected by the New York Mets in the 2005 Major League Baseball Draft, garnered MVP honors for the championship series after earning two wins and a save during the Warhawks' four game run. Reinhard, who was also selected in the Draft by the Tampa Bay Devil Rays, earned first-term All-American Honors and was named the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference and ABCA Division III Pitcher of the Year. At the plate, junior designated hitter Eddie Adamson batted a Ted Williams like .417 and set the single season school records for hits, RBIs, runs scored and doubles. The Warhawks also demonstrated their toughness and determination off the field. Outfielder Eric Baldwin earned the WIAC Max Sparger Scholar Athlete of the Year award in honor of his academic excellence.

Winning the title in Grand Chute, just outside of Appleton, Wisconsin, the Warhawks brought tremendous pride for people from all over the great state of Wisconsin. I would like to sincerely congratulate the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater men's baseball team for their remarkable achievements and wish them the best of luck in their quest to repeat as National Champions.

TRIBUTE TO RETIRING DR. BOBBY PATTON

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2005

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it has come to my attention that a long and exceptionally distinguished career in the field of education will soon come to an end. Dr. Bobby Patton will be retiring from his position as President of Central Missouri State University on June 30 after six years of service to the University.

Dr. Patton received a BA in Speech, Theatre, and English at Texas Christian University, a Masters in Speech and Drama at the University of Kansas, and a Doctorate in Speech Communication at the University of Kansas.

Dr. Patton has had an exceptional career in education for many years. In 1967, Dr. Patton began his educational career at the University of Kansas as the Associate Chair and Acting Chair of the Department of Speech and Drama. In 1972, Dr. Patton continued his career at the University of Kansas as the Chair of the Department of Speech and Drama. In 1980, Dr. Patton was Chair of the Division of Communication and Theatre at the University of Kansas. After his twenty year career with the University of Kansas, Dr. Patton continued his educational career with California State University as the Dean of the School of Arts and Letters. Following his career at California State University, Dr. Patton served as the Vice President for Academic Affairs and Professor of Communication Studies at Wichita State University. In 1999, Dr. Patton continued his educational career as the 13th president of Central Missouri State University.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Patton has served the field of education for over thirty-eight years. As he prepares for the next stage in his life, I am certain that my colleagues will join me in wishing him all the best.

RECOGNIZING COMMERCE BANK

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2005

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Commerce Bank. In a few days, Commerce Bank will receive the Saint Joseph YWCA Women of Excellence Award for Employer of Excellence.

Commerce Bank has worked to make banking an outstanding career choice for women. Since 1986, the business has continually provided opportunities for Saint Joseph women. High achievement is encouraged by Commerce through educational assistance, career training opportunities, and scheduling flexibility. While maintaining their regular work schedules, several female officers and employees have obtained or are currently working toward college degrees. Currently 61 percent of Commerce Bank's employees are women. From Secretary to Senior Vice President, women are entrusted to fill critical positions.

Commerce has also been widely recognized for its commitment to community volunteerism.

In the 10-year history of the Commerce Commendation Award, Commerce Bank of Saint Joseph has won the award nine times; five of those awards have gone to female employees. Commerce's female employees are engaged in a wide range of community activities including the Partners in Education program, tutoring school children, and even taking part in the Red Cross Hurricane Relief effort.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Commerce Bank, an exceptional employer in Missouri's Sixth Congressional District that has made banking an outstanding career choice for women. Commerce Bank's commitment to excellence is inspiring, and I am honored to represent so many of its fine employees and officers in the United States Congress.

INTRODUCING THE GAS PRICE SPIKE RELIEF ACT OF 2005

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2005

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation that will help ease the effect on consumers and airline passengers if the price of gas spikes dramatically. This bill reduces or refunds federal tax on gasoline and motor fuel when the price of gas spikes dramatically.

My legislation, the Gas Price Spike Relief Act of 2005, temporarily cuts the federal gas tax for consumers by providing a tax refund to retailers if the price of motor or aviation fuel rises 10 percent during the course of a month. When the price of fuel jumps this drastically, the Gas Price Spike Relief Act will reduce the tax on motor and aviation fuel by 4.3 cents/gallon and allow retailers to apply for a refund of this tax, ensuring that this tax relief will not affect any money designated for the repair of highways and roads through the Highway Trust Fund. Providing this relief will spur the reduction of gasoline prices at the pump as well as the price of airline tickets.

This legislation address a growing need to provide relief to average Americans from wildly fluctuating gas prices. For example, from March to April of 2005, the cost to fill up a tank of gas rose by more than 10 percent. That's more than twice the increase for the same period last year! We need to be helping working families out—not abandoning them like Republicans have—when no logical explanation exists for ridiculous gas price spikes.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation. Gas prices have gotten out of control. This legislation will provide some needed relief while maintaining the gas price stability our Nation needs. I look forward to working with my colleagues and moving this legislation forward.

HONORING OSCAR BROWN, JR.

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2005

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of the artistic and political icons of our