

grades 4–12. Its repertoire has as much diversity as it has breadth, incorporating music from a broad range of cultural styles, from key classical and modern works to voice and instrumental soloist performances.

Invitation to this international music festival is a testament to the Louisville Youth and Children's Choir's passion for excellence in singing and choral performance, which has captivated audiences for nearly thirty years. Thanks in no small measure to Mr. Don Scott Carpenter, Executive Director, and Mrs. Terri E. Foster, Director of Operations, the Louisville Youth and Children's Choir will be sharing their talents with their European peers and perhaps, new musical friendships will form as a result.

Next summer, the hills will indeed be alive with the sound of music. The Louisville Youth and Children's Choir will be performing in two of the original venues where Amadeus Mozart himself performed: the Salzburg Dom (or Cathedral) and the Votivkirche (Votiv Church) in Vienna. In fact, not only did Mozart perform here but he was also employed as the Cathedral's Choral Director. In addition to visiting the many historical, artistic and cultural sites in Austria, the Louisville Youth and Children's Choir will have the great honor of performing under the co-directorship of Janos Czifra, who is the Cathedral's present Choral Director, and Dr. Z. Randall Stroope, one of America's foremost conductors and composers. I can only imagine the thrill this must be for a group of young music performers and enthusiasts.

I am incredibly proud of such a talented group of artists which, next year, will find itself immersed with the sights and sounds that inspired some of the world's greatest musical geniuses such as Haydn, Beethoven, Schubert, and Strauss. Mozart mastered his first piece when he was five years old and, in time, performed before French and English royal courts. In their own special way, these young artists will be following in Mozart's footsteps when they perform in the great halls of history.

Mr. Speaker, I join the state of Kentucky in praising the Louisville Youth and Children's Choir for their persistence and hard work. I would like to offer heartfelt congratulations for this most recent honor and I wish them the very best in Austria.

A TRIBUTE TO MR. ALBERT R. ROBBINS

**HON. ROBERT A. BRADY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 20, 2005*

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Albert R. Robbins. Known to most of his friends as Al or "Abbie," he has been a well respected pillar of the community and a man of many accomplishments since his early years.

Mr. Robbins has been a life long resident of Philadelphia. A product of the Abington Public School System, Abbie served our country with honor as a member of the US Army's 5th Division in Europe. He resumed his education after completing his tour of duty, earning a Bachelor of Science Degree from Cheyney State Teachers College in 1959. Sports and music have always been an important part of his life. While at Cheyney, he sang with the

traveling choir for four years and was a member of the football team. While beginning his career as an Industrial Arts teacher in the Pottstown School District, he enrolled in graduate courses at Temple University and Penn State for his Masters degree in education. In 1964, during the Civil rights movement, Al broke through color barriers by becoming the first African American bus driver hired by Eastern Greyhound Lines where he worked part time until 1980.

Mr. Robbins has been a member of countless public service organizations, including the Sanctuary Choir of the St. Paul's Baptist Church of Philadelphia, LAAP, ALAA, NEA, PABA, NAACP, Pottstown Education Assoc., and the Montgomery County Industrial Arts Association. He is also a past commander of V.F.W. Post 3389 and a lifetime member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity.

Mr. Robbins is retiring after 34 years of service in the field of Technology and Education with many great accomplishments. In recognition of his years of service I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues rise to congratulate him on his retirement.

A TRIBUTE TO REAR ADMIRAL  
MICHAEL L. HOLMES

**HON. MIKE McINTYRE**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 20, 2005*

Mr. McINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding Naval Officer, Rear Admiral Michael L. Holmes. Admiral Holmes is a member of the Lumbee Indian Tribe and hails from Lumberton, North Carolina. After graduating from Pembroke State University in 1972, he was commissioned as a Naval Officer and designated a Naval Aviator. Admiral Holmes has served with distinction for nearly 32 years in the Navy, including several tours in command of operational forces and several important staff positions. Admiral Holmes is a person of tremendous talent, determined drive, and rich personality. His record of achievement is among the most remarkable on a long and distinguished list of military officers hailing from the Tar Heel State. He displays leadership that inspires others to give their all and puts them at ease as they strive to excel. He embodies the core values of honor, courage, and commitment. This great North Carolinian continues to bring great credit and honor to his native state, to his people, and to his family. As a nation, we are indeed honored by his long, faithful, and productive service to our country.

Admiral Holmes will retire from the United States Navy on October 1st, 2005. Mr. Speaker, Mike Holmes and his wife, Vee, have made many sacrifices during his long and illustrious career, and I offer a profound thanks to him from the citizens of North Carolina's Seventh Congressional District for his service. As they embark on the next great adventure beyond their beloved Navy, may God's strength, joy, and peace be with them both.

RECOGNIZING MS. MELISSA FYE  
AND MR. JIM JENKINS

**HON. FRANK R. WOLF**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 20, 2005*

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor two outstanding constituents and educators from the 10th Congressional District of Virginia. Melissa Fye and Jim Jenkins are to be commended for their extraordinary efforts to bring real scientific research to the classroom.

Melissa Fye, elementary school teacher at Ashburn Elementary School in Ashburn, VA, and Jim Jenkins, elementary school teacher at Mountain View Elementary School in Purcellville, VA, were chosen by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to participate in the Teacher at Sea Program. This three-week-long research program involved a trip to sea in the Pacific Ocean this spring. As Teachers at Sea, Ms. Fye participated in coral reef research and Mr. Jenkins participated in fisheries and ocean current research.

Ms. Fye embarked on NOAA Ship H'I'ALAKAI in Honolulu, Hawaii, and cruised in the waters of the south Pacific. Mr. Jenkins's cruise, on the other hand, explored cold Alaskan waters, where he embarked on NOAA Ship MILLER FREEMAN in Kodiak, Alaska, and disembarked in Dutch Harbor, Alaska. While onboard, Ms. Fye and Mr. Jenkins wrote lesson plans, maintained daily logs, took photographs, interviewed scientists, and engaged in dialogue with their students, other teachers and students, and the general public. Ms. Fye and Mr. Jenkins participated in the Teacher at Sea experience in order to enrich their curriculum and excite their students about the sciences.

In her final log, Ms. Fye wrote that she ". . . wants [her] students to know that life is not a collection of things, but a collection of experiences . . . [and hopes] this trip—the resources and anecdotal stories [she] brings back to the classroom—encourages them to explore opportunities as they arise in their own lives."

Mr. Jenkins engaged his students each day in daily e-mail messages. In one message, Mr. Jenkins told his students that he has ". . . been impressed by the cooperative spirit of everyone on [NOAA ship] MILLER FREEMAN," and, in turn, encouraged his students to work together as a team while he was at sea.

Both Ms. Fye and Mr. Jenkins were supported by a partnership between the Loudoun Education Foundation and the NOAA Teacher at Sea Program. I commend the Loudoun Education Foundation, and also the Loudoun County school district, for supporting the efforts of these two teachers to promote scientific education in the classroom.

I congratulate Ms. Fye and Mr. Jenkins on their spirit of adventure in the name of education, their willingness to try new things, and their ability to bring this experience back into the classroom.

ROBERT W. "BOBBY" HARRELL,  
SPEAKER OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**HON. HENRY E. BROWN, JR.**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 20, 2005*

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an extraordinary South Carolinian by congratulating the Honorable Robert W. "Bobby" Harrell, Jr. of Charleston on his recent election to Speaker of the South Carolina House of Representatives.

Bobby Harrell was first elected to the South Carolina House of Representatives in 1992 and quickly earned the respect of his fellow members. Bobby is a man of diligence, integrity, and ability. In 1994, he was appointed to the Ways and Means Committee, where he served as chairman of the Economic Development Subcommittee and the Public Education Subcommittee. He was elected chairman of the full committee in 1999.

Mr. Speaker, Bobby Harrell has always been a steadfast advocate for tax relief, educational opportunities, and economic development. As he begins his tenure as Speaker, I know he will continue to strive to assist all South Carolinians.

Bobby has excelled in every endeavor he has pursued, and his private life is no exception. He is a devoted family man with deep convictions. Bobby is married to Cathy Smith Harrell and is the proud father of two fine children, Trey and Charlotte. He and his family are members of the First Baptist Church of Charleston, where Bobby served as a deacon for many years. He is a successful entrepreneur, recently celebrating a quarter of a century operating a State Farm Insurance Agency and Oak Haven of Charleston, an assisted-living community. Additionally, Bobby has served as a leader in many national, State, and local civic and business organizations.

Mr. Speaker, Bobby Harrell is a good friend and I am proud to have the Speaker of the South Carolina House as a constituent. I ask my colleagues in the 109th Congress to join me in congratulating him on his recent election to Speaker and wishing him the best of luck in all his future endeavors.

**COMMENDING THE CONTINUING  
IMPROVEMENT IN RELATIONS  
BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES  
AND THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA**

SPEECH OF

**HON. TOM DELAY**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 18, 2005*

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow, the United States Congress will welcome His Excellency Dr. Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister of the Republic of India.

His visit to the United States, and to this House in particular, is a symbol of the strong and vibrant relations between our two nations, the oldest and largest democracies on earth.

But the relationship between the United States and India is more than symbolic.

It is the natural alliance between democratic nations who value freedom, and will defend their people from tyranny and terror.

Since the Indian people achieved their independence from the British crown in 1947, their nation has become an example of political freedom and stability in a region that desperately needs it.

India's economy has become a global leader in trade, science, and health, and its education system annually produces some of the brightest and most innovative minds in the world.

India has become a valued trading partner with the United States, and a trusted ally in the global war on terror.

Internationally, the Indian people—together with Pakistan—in recent years have sought peaceful solutions to their differences, setting aside decades of open hostility.

And here at home, Indian-Americans have enriched our national culture by introducing generations of Americans to the philosophical, religious, and social traditions of their homeland.

My own district in the Houston region is home to tens of thousands of Indian-Americans, who have become an indelible part of our community in recent decades, a fact for which I and my fellow Texans are most grateful.

I am proud to sponsor this resolution commending Prime Minister Singh and his nation, and welcoming him to address the House and Senate tomorrow.

**TRIBUTE TO MR. ROBERT R.  
MANNINGS**

**HON. ROBERT A. BRADY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 20, 2005*

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the lifelong service of Mr. Robert R. Mannings. Serving in the armed service during the Korean War, Mannings selflessly devoted his life to his country and was honorably discharged in 1953. Thereafter, Mr. Mannings began his exemplary career in Philadelphia in 1958 as an employee of both North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company and Yellow Cab Company. Subsequently, he joined the Iron Workers Local 401 and served as a journeyman worker until his retirement in 1992.

As the president of the Dewey and Race Street Civic Organization for over 20 years, he improved the quality of his Philadelphia community and consequently was awarded the Philadelphia Most Beautiful Block award. Mannings' civic engagement extends to countless organizations including his active membership in the West Philadelphia New Life Development Association and the Mount Carmel Baptist Church for over 38 years.

A survivor of two bouts of severe cancer, Mannings' loyalty to the American Cancer Society compelled him to create an educational video portraying the success of cancer survivors. This video is widely shown at medical conventions, in physician offices and seminars.

Robert Mannings' devotion to his community never distracted him from his role as a loving husband to Frances E. Thomas, father of two

children, grandfather of five, and great grandfather of seven. In recognition of Mr. Robert R. Mannings' years of service to the city of Philadelphia, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues rise to congratulate him on his retirement.

**PERSONAL EXPLANATION**

**HON. MIKE MCINTYRE**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 20, 2005*

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, July 19, 2005, I was unavoidably detained and therefore absent for rollcall vote 384, on agreeing to House Resolution 365. Had I been present I would have voted "no" on rollcall vote 384.

**SOUTH CAUCASUS OPEN RAIL  
LINK ACT**

**HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 20, 2005*

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, United States foreign policy toward the South Caucasus nations is one of fostering regional stability and enhanced cooperation. I rise today to bring attention to the great injustice in relations in this region.

I speak today to stress my opposition and to move forward with legislation contesting the proposed railroad connecting Tbilisi, Georgia and Kars, Turkey. The proposed railroad would systematically bypass Armenia, and push them further into isolation.

As we all know, Turkey and Armenia have their differences. Although it is counterproductive to list those differences, instead I want to highlight the fact that it goes against United States policy to be in a position that further advances the turmoil in this region. The proposed legislation would bar U.S. support and funding for a rail link connecting Georgia and Turkey, but which directly averts Armenia.

Eight years ago, the former Turkish president and the former Georgian president meant to discuss the railroad that would "open a third frontier crossing between the two countries," providing further commerce and economic opportunity for the South Caucasus region. Both countries would benefit immensely from this railroad.

While I will always support commerce-based proposals that spawn economic development around the world, this proposal initiates commerce at the cost of another country's economic development. This is unacceptable.

This railroad would cost between \$400–\$800 million to construct, while a perfectly workable and capable rail link already exists. It is evident to all that this new rail system is being proposed for the specific reason of diverting commerce around Armenia.

The construction of the proposed railroad would be equivalent to the people of Ohio building a new bridge to Canada just to avoid traveling through Michigan. The United States government would never condone this action, and we should not be in the practice of condoning the actions set forth by the Turkish government.