

TRIBUTE TO TRINITAS HOSPITAL'S
COMPREHENSIVE CANCER CENTER

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2005

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contribution of Trinitas Hospital to my home State of New Jersey. Their commitment to the health and health care of all New Jerseyans is laudable, and most worthy of our recognition in this chamber here today.

On Tuesday, September 13, 2005, they will dedicate their brand new, \$28 million, five-story Trinitas Comprehensive Cancer Center, which will house the Hospital's state-of-the-art Medical and Radiation Oncology programs, including technology that will be the first of its kind in the State, giving their staff the resources they need to ensure that cancer care in New Jersey is the best in the Nation.

Trinitas Hospital is a full service healthcare facility and a Catholic teaching hospital sponsored by the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth. They care for and serve many of my friends and neighbors in my district.

The hospital already serves our community by offering the greatest of cancer care, providing services from diagnostics to chemotherapy treatment to patient and family counseling, as well as everything in between. In addition, the Hospital conducts a large number of outreach programs for the community to screen for breast, prostate, cervical, and colon cancers, and to educate community members about cancer detection and prevention. In a State like ours, where New Jersey residents have a 16 percent higher incidence of cancer than the national average, education and prevention are the keys to overcoming the battle against this insidious disease, and Trinitas Hospital is, and continues to be, a leader in this all-important fight.

I would also like to commend them for their efforts to raise awareness about minority health disparities in New Jersey, and to offer services to fill the gap in health care quality for our minority citizens. Their concern about the higher incidence of cancer among minorities led to the establishment of the Breast Health Outreach program, which provides crucial information on cancer prevention to thousands of minority women each year.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me as I recognize Trinitas Hospital and the men and women there who are dedicated to making our community a better place; and I encourage my colleagues to join me in sending our congratulatory best wishes as they dedicate their new Comprehensive Cancer Center facility.

CONGRATULATIONS TO JORDAN
ELLIOT, RECIPIENT OF THE
PRESIDENTIAL FREEDOM SCHOLARSHIP

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the superior academic performance of Jordan Elliot, a recipient of this year's Presidential Freedom Scholarship. Thirteen stu-

dents in the 26th Congressional District are receiving this special recognition.

This award recognizes outstanding service and citizenship initiatives by the students, who were nominated, and provides an opportunity to acknowledge their leadership. Administered by Learn and Serve America, the scholarship provides \$500 in Federal funds, matched with \$500 from a community organization or business obtained for the student by their high school or Boys and Girls Club. Winners must have completed at least 100 hours of community service, either through a school-based service-learning program or independently through service at a nonprofit or faith-based organization.

Jordan is a recent graduate at Lewisville High School and the organization matching her \$500 in Federal funds is the Tau Rho Omega Chapter.

Over 38,000 students to date have received this award and I extend my sincere congratulations to Jordan Elliot for being one of them. This student's contribution and services should serve as inspiration to those who wish to make a positive difference in the lives of others.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAY INSLEE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2005

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, over the Labor Day weekend, I volunteered at the Houston Astrodome to assist in relieving the victims of Hurricane Katrina. On Tuesday, September 6, 2005, en route to Washington, DC, from Houston, a passenger on my aircraft attempted to commit suicide and the flight was temporarily rerouted to Nashville, TN. As a result, my flight was significantly delayed in landing at Dulles airport, causing me to miss votes for both H. Res. 360, commemorating the 60th anniversary of V-J Day and the end of World War II in the Pacific, and S.J. Res. 19, a joint resolution calling upon the President to issue a proclamation recognizing the 30th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act.

Had I been present in the House of Representatives, I would have voted in support of both resolutions, H. Res. 360 and S.J. Res. 19.

TRIBUTE TO DR. BILL NASSER

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2005

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, the State of Indiana lost a giant of the medical community last week. On Friday, September 2, Dr. William Nasser passed away at St. Vincent Indianapolis Hospital, where he started a cardiology program 32 years earlier.

Bill Nasser's own battle with heart problems led him to launch a cardiology network in Indiana so that Hoosiers would no longer have to travel hundreds of miles just to receive basic care.

As Bill graduated from the Indiana University School of Medicine in 1961, a bacterial in-

fection made him an open-heart surgery patient at a time when the procedure was performed at great risk with low survival rates. His heart valve was replaced three times over the next 18 years.

Bill's condition undoubtedly connected him with the very patients he served at the Care Group, a partnership with St. Vincent Hospital that runs the Heart Center of Indiana.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the State of Indiana, I extend heartfelt sympathies to the family of Dr. Bill Nasser, specifically his wife Wanda; his sons Thomas and Tony Nasser; his daughter Teresa Carlock; his sisters Beverly Radez and Dolores Polifroni; and his five beloved grandchildren.

Bill Nasser embodied the allegiance to a community that every town in America wishes of its citizens. The State of Indiana was fortunate to call him one of its own. Indiana will miss Dr. William Nasser.

PELL GRANT HURRICANE AND
DISASTER RELIEF ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2005

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this legislation to assist college students who have been victimized by widespread devastation visited on the Gulf Coast by Hurricane Katrina last week. We, in North Carolina, know well the destruction hurricanes can cause as our State has been hit by at least five major hurricanes over the past decade. The Federal Government has a solemn responsibility to help those in need, and H.R. 3169 is one very small step in that effort.

Specifically, H.R. 3169 will relieve some burden for displaced college students who otherwise would be required to pay back their Pell grants. This bill would allow the U.S. Education Department to waive the repayment requirement for Pell grant recipients whose school attendance is interrupted because of the impact of a disaster, provided that the students were living, working or attending school in an area designated by the President to warrant major disaster assistance.

Congress must also pass legislation introduced by Congressman GEORGE MILLER and Congressman DALE KILDEE to provide more comprehensive relief for student victims of the storm. Nearly 100,000 college students have been displaced, while some 30 colleges in the Gulf Coast region have been severely damaged by Hurricane Katrina. Many students and families no longer have the necessary resources to pay for college—even after their current Federal student aid is taken into account. We need to ensure that we help all college students and student borrowers who have been adversely impacted by this disaster.

Congress has much, much more work to do to assist in the relief, recovery and reconstruction in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. H.R. 3129 is a minimal early step in that effort, and I urge its adoption.

RECOGNIZING THE RANCHO BUENA VISTA LITTLE LEAGUE ALL STAR TEAM AND THEIR COACHES

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2005

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Rancho Buena Vista Little League all star team and their coaches. I want to congratulate them on an outstanding performance at the recent Little League World Series in Williamsport, Pennsylvania.

I want to recognize Manager Marty Miller and Coaches Joe Pimentel and Randy Reznicek, whose years of service to the community through Little League Baseball at Rancho Buena Vista have inspired many young athletes throughout our community. It is through the dedication, strength of character, and devotion of men like Marty, Joe and Randy that these young men have flourished, not only in athletic skill but in character.

The Rancho Buena Vista Little League team won 25 of the 26 games they played last season and made it to the United States Championship game. They displayed exemplary sportsmanship throughout both the regular season and during the Little League World Series. From the first pitch of the season to the Little League World Series finals, they played the game with dignity and won our respect in the process.

Unquestionably, the players on the Rancho Buena Vista Little League team are not only exceptional athletes but also exceptional young men. They played with resolve and focus in the face of spirited competition and I am proud to be their Representative, and to stand in their honor today, Mr. Speaker. Their accomplishments serve as an example of the positive impact that Little League baseball has on its young participants.

Once again I would like to congratulate the players on the Rancho Buena Vista Little League Team—Royce Copeland, Daniel Gibney, Danny Vivier, Johnny Lee, Josh Gomez, Aaron Kim, Kalen Pimentel, Austin White, Dylan de Meyer, Ryan Gura, Nathan Lewis, Reed Reznicek and their coaches—on their remarkable achievement. I call upon my colleagues to join me in applauding these young men for their exceptional accomplishments and continued success.

HONORING THE JACKSON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ASSOCIATION FOR 55 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE IN THE PERFORMING ARTS AND DEDICATION TO THE JACKSON COMMUNITY

HON. JOHN J.H. "JOE" SCHWARZ

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2005

Mr. SCHWARZ of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Jackson Symphony Orchestra Association for 55 years of beautiful music and a commitment to community service in Jackson County. I commend the Jackson Symphony Orchestra for both its high quality performing arts programs and its out-

reach to the community through concerts, music education, and partnerships with area educators and community service providers.

For more than five decades, the Jackson Symphony Orchestra has brought outstanding artists and a wide variety of music venues to Jackson audiences. Over the years, there have been numerous world premieres; performances in ballet, opera, and jazz; and an emphasis on works by 20th century composers.

The Jackson Symphony Orchestra Association champions the arts through music education. It operates a community music school that provides private instruction on all orchestral instruments, early childhood music classes, home school orchestras, a string academy, and after-school string instruction for children at risk. The Jackson Symphony Orchestra educational programming directly reaches over 1,500 young people each year and reaches an additional 4,000 families each year through family concerts, in-school performances, and special events.

Beyond the concert stage, the Jackson Symphony Orchestra, through its presence in the community, has created an environment that has contributed to the development of many local arts organizations. These include the Jackson Chorale, the Michigan Shakespeare Festival, and the Jackson Youth Symphony. The presence of the Jackson Symphony Orchestra is also regularly credited as a factor in attracting new business and key employees into the community.

On behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to honor the Jackson Symphony Orchestra for its 55 years of dedication in the performing arts, as well as to the community. I commend their use of innovative programs which has provided musical education for the Jackson community. I expect the Jackson Symphony Orchestra to continue their path of excellence for years into the future.

CONGRATULATIONS TO CHRISTOPHER V. SEXTON, RECIPIENT OF THE PRESIDENTIAL FREEDOM SCHOLARSHIP

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the superior academic performance of Christopher V. Sexton, a recipient of this year's Presidential Freedom Scholarship. Thirteen students in the 26th Congressional District are receiving this special recognition.

This award recognizes outstanding service and citizenship initiatives by the students, who were nominated, and provides an opportunity to acknowledge their leadership. Administered by Learn and Serve America, the scholarship provides \$500 in Federal funds, matched with \$500 from a community organization or business obtained for the student by their high school or Boys and Girls Club. Winners must have completed at least 100 hours of community service, either through a school-based service-learning program or independently through service at a nonprofit or faith-based organization.

Christopher is a member of the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Fort Worth—Panther

Branch. The organization graciously matched the federally funding with a \$500 contribution.

Over 38,000 students to date have received this award and I extend my sincere congratulations to Christopher V. Sexton for being one of them. This student's contribution and services should serve as inspiration to those who wish to make a positive difference in the lives of others.

FREEDOM FOR JULIO CÉSAR
LÓPEZ RODRÍGUEZ

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2005

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about Julio César López Rodríguez, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. López Rodríguez is an independent librarian and pro-democracy activist in totalitarian Cuba. According to Human Rights First, Mr. López Rodríguez is Vice President of the Frente Línea Dura movement and Director of its independent library. He is a longtime activist for democratic change.

Independent librarians in Cuba, such as Mr. López Rodríguez, provide the indispensable service of circulating truth at a time when the tyrannical regime provides only propaganda. These heroic librarians circulate important works, including literature written by authors such as George Orwell, Václav Havel, and Dr. Martin Luther King, whose works are among the classics of anti-totalitarian literature.

As part of the tyrant's heinous July 2005 crackdown on peaceful pro-democracy opponents, on 22 July, Mr. López Rodríguez was arrested as he tried to participate in a peaceful demonstration outside the French Embassy in Havana, demanding the release of political prisoners in Cuba. As part of this vicious crackdown, approximately 30 brave opponents were arrested at home, on their way to the demonstration or on the sidelines of the gathering.

Mr. López Rodríguez is currently languishing in an abhorrent, inhuman cell in the totalitarian gulag. The State Department reports that police and prison officials beat, neglect, isolate, and deny medical treatment to detainees and prisoners, including those convicted of political crimes. It is a crime of the highest order that people who work for freedom are imprisoned in these nightmarish conditions.

Despite the regime's constant gangster style repression, freedom and democracy are on the march in Cuba. Courageous leaders like Mr. López Rodríguez defy the dictator's machinery of repression and, despite every threat and obstacle, demand liberty for the people of Cuba. Through their bravery, through their actions, and because of their unwavering commitment, and the works of thousands of other Cuban patriots, Cuba will be free again.

Mr. Speaker, it is completely unacceptable that, while the world stands by in silence, Mr. López Rodríguez languishes in the gulag because of his belief in freedom, democracy, human rights and the rule of law. My colleagues, we must demand the immediate and unconditional release of Julio César López Rodríguez and every political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.