

a flight on a commercial airline. She would need to fly on a plane equipped for patients. Once more, Americans were there to donate their services. Rod Crane, the CEO of MedFlight of Ohio offered to transport Aurica on an air ambulance. Normally, this would cost \$80,000. But Rod agreed to pay for the flight and for a doctor to travel with Aurica.

The next step was the actual surgery and recovery. Once Aurica got to Dallas, she got the treatment she needed. But the road wasn't easy. She underwent surgery at TBI. Dr. Barton Sachs led a team of physicians during the initial delicate spinal surgery and aftercare. This team included William Struthers, M.D., Anesthesiologist, Ted Wen, M.D., Radiologist, Nayan Patel, M.D., Physiatrist, John Josephs, M.D., General Surgeon, Stephen Rubin, D.O., Anesthesiologist, Son Do, M.D., Gastroenterologist, Mike Gross, M.D., Urologist, James Montgomery, M.D., Anesthesiologist, Andrew R. Block, Ph.D., Psychologist, Michael Blackmon, M.D., Intensive Care Specialist, and Mark McQuaid, M.D., General Vascular Surgeon. This was followed by a second surgery under the care of Dr. Alan Jones at Parkland Hospital in Dallas. After that, she spent three weeks recovering at the highly-acclaimed Zale Lipshy Center located on the UT Southwestern campus. All donated.

Finally, Aurica's journey took her to four months of recovery in outpatient physical therapy. Since she needed a place to stay, we contacted David Tesmer, Vice President for Government and Community Affairs at Texas Health Resources. He offered the services of Presbyterian Village North in Dallas, one of the best assisted-living facilities in the state. At Presbyterian Village, both the President, Ron Bergstrom, and the lead nurse, Becky Williams, made every effort to give Aurica every comfort. When Aurica arrived, she was given a fully furnished room. And today, thanks to the love of so many, Aurica is on the way to a full recovery.

What a journey this has been. This is the story of a very special woman and the very special people who have helped with her recovery. From time to time we hear critics complain about what is wrong with America. This story shows us what is right with America. We are still a nation that is great because our people are good. And not just the ones I named. There are still others.

Like The Kula Group for donating more than \$30,000 in time and expenses; the Texas Back Institute's Physical Therapy division, which donated all of the outpatient physical therapy; Doug Hawthorne, CEO of Texas Health Resources; Jim Boswell and Leslie Baker from Presbyterian Hospital of Plano; the nursing and physical therapy staff at the Zale Lipshy Center; Linda Caram of SBC Communications; The Daniel Dawn Smalley Foundation; AmeriSuites in Plano; Father Dimitru and Gladiola Paun; and everyone else at Presbyterian Hospital of Plano, Parkland Hospital, and Presbyterian Village North.

Thanks for making an effort to make a difference. You have shown the nation and the world that America's generosity knows no boundaries, no barriers, no limits. We will always speak for the voiceless, stand with the helpless, and fight for the powerless.

#### IN HONOR OF CLIFF LEE

#### HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Mr. Cliff Lee, dedicated family man, community activist and Major League baseball player with the Cleveland Indians, whose grace and spirit on the ball field equals his grace and energy off the field.

Mr. Lee's deep sense of helping others is framed by sincerity and humbleness, and has not gone unnoticed by others. In honor of his exceptional service to the people of the Cleveland community, Mr. Lee has been selected as the recipient of the prestigious 2005 John Hancock Roberto Clemente Man of the Year Award.

Mr. Lee continues to dedicate his personal time and talents in vital service on behalf of those families and individuals in need of assistance, with a personal focus on the children of our community. From his regular visits to the children at Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital and the Ronald McDonald House, to his dedication and focus on behalf of Cleveland's Providence House, Mr. Lee is an exceptional role model to the young and old alike, here in Cleveland and across this Nation, and his life personifies all that is good in humanity, reflecting compassion, giving and heart.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in tribute and recognition of Mr. Cliff Lee as he is honored as the recipient of Major League Baseball's 2005 John Hancock Roberto Clemente Man of the Year Award. Mr. Lee's continued concern for others and vibrant spirit of volunteerism, with a special focus on the children of our community, serves to raise their spirits above the struggle and into the light of promise, strength, hope and possibility—thereby uplifting our entire community.

#### SUPPORTING GOLD STAR MOTHERS DAY

SPEECH OF

#### HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 21, 2005

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.J. Res. 61. In 1936, Congress designated the last Sunday in September as Gold Star Mothers Day. This resolution, of which I am a cosponsor, expresses the support of this House for the goals and ideals of Gold Star Mothers Day.

The American Gold Star Mothers are a group of mothers who have lost sons and daughters who served in the armed services. The group also assists veterans and their dependents in submitting claims to the Veterans Affairs Department.

The Gold Star Mothers are a true representation of the many levels of service and sacrifice that exists in the defense of our country. Like many members across the country, the Gold Star Mothers in my district of El Paso, Texas, remind us of the never-ending bond between families. They remind us of the sac-

rifice that families of veterans make as they endure the fears and concerns of having loved ones overseas, and the loss of loved ones who never return.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues and this House to swiftly pass the resolution before us.

#### RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF JACOB LEE

#### HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2005

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of Jacob R. Lee, Jr. from the Air Force.

Chief Master Sergeant Jacob R. Lee, Jr. enlisted in the Air Force in Albany, NY, coming on active duty in September of 1978. During his 27-year meteorological career, Chief Lee had 13 assignments, including four overseas.

Chief Lee worked in many different jobs in the weather career field, beginning as an observer at a six person unit. He went on to serve as the noncommissioned officer in charge of six different weather stations around the world.

His career culminated with Chief Lee's selection to the very pinnacle of the weather career field as the chief of enlisted matters at the Pentagon. As Chief, Jacob will finish his long and distinguished service to our Nation.

In recognition of his outstanding performance, Chief Lee has been awarded the Meritorious Service Medal on four occasions and has been the recipient of four Air Force Commendation Medals as well.

Chief Lee is married to his wife Kathy, a math teacher, and has three children; Amanda, Benjamin and Casey.

Mr. Speaker, I know that his colleagues and his family wish Chief Lee well as he begins his retirement.

#### HONORING JUDGE MABEL M. JASPER

#### HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of The Honorable Judge Mabel M. Jasper, for her exceptional accomplishments within our educational and legal system, and for serving as an inspiration and role model in Cleveland, Ohio, and far beyond.

Her unwavering integrity and strong work ethic were childhood gifts instilled by family. At age 10, Judge Jasper's family moved from Alabama to Cleveland, where she excelled academically and graduated from Glenville High School early at the age of sixteen. By age nineteen, Judge Jasper had earned a Bachelor's degree in education from Kent State University. She was hired as a substitute teacher at John Burroughs Elementary School and was soon promoted to full-time teacher. Throughout her twenty-year teaching career, Judge Jasper imbued a sense of wonder, confidence and inspiration within her young students. Ready to embark on a new journey, she enrolled in the Cleveland-Marshall College

of Law in 1973 and graduated three years later with a Juris Doctor degree.

Throughout her noteworthy career as an attorney, Judge Jasper worked in private practice and served as general counsel for a local financial institution. She became the assistant attorney general and trial attorney for the Bureau of Worker's Compensation. Judge Jasper served for four years as a magistrate with the Cuyahoga County Domestic Relations Court before being elected as Judge with the Cleveland Municipal Court in 1987. She was re-elected to the bench for two more consecutive terms, in 1993 and 1999. Beyond her dedication to her family and profession, Judge Jasper continues to offer her time and talents as an active leader within her neighborhood, her church and within several civic organizations.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in tribute and recognition of Judge Mabel M. Jasper, as she is being honored on September 16, 2005, by colleagues and friends to celebrate her significant contributions to the Cleveland community, framed by tenacity, integrity and excellence. As a distinguished judge and attorney, Judge Jasper's brilliant legacy will continue to inspire us all, and will serve as a beacon of possibility for people of all races, lighting a clear path along which goals are attained and where others will follow. I wish Judge Mabel M. Jasper continued health, happiness and peace as she journeys onward from this day.

**HONORING THE 216TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED STATES MARSHALS SERVICE**

**HON. PETE SESSIONS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 28, 2005*

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 216th Anniversary of the United States Marshals Service (USMS), our nation's oldest federal law enforcement agency.

The Judiciary Act of 1789 created the United States Marshals Service. That same year, President George Washington appointed the first thirteen U.S. Marshals. At that time the Service's primary mission was to support the federal courts; however, U.S. Marshals and Deputy U.S. Marshals also performed a myriad of duties such as executing warrants, distributing presidential proclamations, registering enemy aliens in time of war, controlling riots, conducting the national census, collecting commerce statistics, and protecting the President. Many of these responsibilities have changed over the past 216 years, yet the Service's dedication to integrity and justice has remained constant.

Today, the USMS provides for the custody and transportation of federal prisoners, ensures protection for witnesses, and manages the maintenance and disposal of seized and forfeited properties. Also of great importance is the Service's fugitive apprehension mission. The USMS apprehends more federal fugitives than all other federal law enforcement agencies combined. State and local law enforcement agencies nationwide have found the Service to be an invaluable fugitive apprehension resource. U.S. Marshals and Deputy U.S. Marshals carry out complex and life-threatening missions daily, striving to maintain the integrity of the American judicial process.

Over the years, the USMS has earned its reputation as one of the most versatile and effective law enforcement agencies in the world. The 4,500 men and women of the U.S. Marshals Service are justly proud of their history. I too am proud, and wish to commend the United States Marshals Service and thank them for their contributions to the law enforcement community and to our nation.

**THE GOLDEN POPPY AWARD**

**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 28, 2005*

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark the annual selection of The Golden Poppy Award in California. The Golden Poppy Award is given annually by the California State Parks Foundation to individuals or organizations that have made a significant contribution to protecting, enhancing, and advocating for California's state parks. This year's recipient of the Golden Poppy Award is Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A.

Support of our state parks means support of our environment. This company has developed its own "Toyota Earth Charter." In it, Toyota outlines its goal of growing as a company in a way that is in harmony with the environment, including achieving zero emissions throughout all areas of business activities. To that end the company pledges to build close and cooperative relationships with a wide spectrum of individuals and organizations involved in environmental preservation, including governments, local municipalities, and related companies and industries.

One such example of the company's interest in a clean environment is its development of a high-mileage, low-emissions gas-electric hybrid vehicle, the Prius. The technology behind the Prius has made Toyota a leader in environment friendly hybrid technology today.

In keeping with the spirit of their Earth Charter, Toyota supports a wide range of projects, and awarded a major grant to the California State Parks Foundation for its "Coast Alive!" program. "Coast Alive!" underwrites workshops to middle school teachers that enable them to lead their classes on field studies at nearby State Parks. Armed with this knowledge, their students study the fragile marine ecology of our coastline, experience its beauty, and come to understand the importance of restoring and preserving it as a valuable resource. With the generous donation from Toyota, the Foundation will be able to create interactive, multi-media materials for this program.

Mr. Speaker, I join with the California State Parks family in congratulating Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A. on earning the Golden Poppy Award, the symbol of the Golden State.

**IN HONOR OF HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH**

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 28, 2005*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month—a celebra-

tion of Americans of Hispanic heritage and their significant, collective and individual contribution to our community and to our nation.

Hosting one of the events this year is the Cleveland Public Library. The Cleveland Public Library and regional branches continue their commitment to promoting our diverse community, richly infused with Hispanic culture and language. As part of the Library's 2005 Strategic Plan, new and permanent resources of Spanish Language collections is now underway, along with the implementation of a Spanish language website.

Hispanic Heritage Month is reflective of the five hundred-year history of Hispanic culture and contribution to America. Hispanic Americans have contributed immeasurably to all areas of our culture—from medicine, law and business, to education, music and the fine arts. Hispanic Americans in our community and in communities across the country are life-saving doctors and nurses, veterans, inspiring professors, dedicated teachers, committed elected officials, fair-minded judges, and hardworking factory employees. Americans of Hispanic heritage continue to bring energy, innovation, and a real sense of social justice to America, while retaining the cultural traditions of their homeland for all citizens to enjoy.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month, and join me in expressing my gratitude for the outstanding contributions made by Hispanic Americans. Their journey to America, fraught with significant obstacles and strife, paved the way for a better life for their children and future generations, and signifies what it means to be an American. Within our diversity we find strength. Within our traditions we find unity. Because of their journey, and the journey of people from all points of the world, we are stronger as a community, more unified as a nation, and better as people.

**STERLING HEIGHTS' FIRE FIGHTERS UNION ANNUAL DINNER-DANCE**

**HON. SANDER M. LEVIN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 28, 2005*

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, September 30, 2005 the Sterling Heights' Fire Fighters Union will host their Annual Dinner-Dance, honoring their 2005 retirees. This yearly event honors Sterling Heights firefighters for their dedication to their community and recognizes their commendable contributions to the city. I am pleased to be associated with this fine organization and to call many of them my friends.

I rise today to pay tribute to the careers of three retiring firefighters. Tom Kropf was appointed as a Sterling Heights firefighter on May 21, 1979. He was licensed as an Emergency Medical Technician in December 1980. Upon his completion of the maiden medic program in December 1991, he was promoted to firefighter ALS (Advanced Life Support) on June 19, 1992. He has been promoted three times: Lieutenant on March 30, 1995, Fire Inspector on January 3, 1996, and Fire Marshal on May 21, 2003. Throughout his tenure, he has received many awards and recognitions.