

Armenian General Benevolent Union and the Tekeyan Cultural Society.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of Mr. Kevork "George" Arslanian, whose brave heart, warm smile and fascinating life continues to educate and inspire those who know and love him well, especially his family and friends. Mr. Arslanian's life, outlined by hard work, integrity and family, personifies the phrase 'American citizen.'

The remarkable story of the young Arslanian brothers, their courageous journey and creation of new lives in America, is the story of the American immigrant, retold in a thousand languages, connecting all of humanity by the will to survive and the promise of freedom and peace. The incredible journey of citizens such as Kevork "George" Arslanian is the strength and foundation of our country. In honor of Mr. Arslanian's 100th birthday, we offer him an abundance of peace, health and happiness, and offer our gratitude to him for enriching our community and our nation. His great love for his family, community and for his beloved Armenia, transcends time and distance, serving as a bridge of goodwill, forever connecting America to Armenia.

TRIBUTE TO CATHOLIC CHARITIES

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 6, 2005

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge and commend Catholic Charities, an organization that is celebrating 50 years of service to the Santa Clara Valley community.

Catholic Charities strives to empower the working poor to move beyond basic subsistence to a state of meaningful, quality living by encouraging economic, familial and emotional stability. It does this by developing cultural programs, supplying educational resources about ailments affecting older adults, and providing all of its services in various languages.

While born out of Catholic gospel values, Catholic Charities serves people of all beliefs, cultures, ethnicities and ages. The organization's mission is to create a more just and compassionate community in which people of all cultures and beliefs can fully participate and thrive. They serve a diverse population from various ethnic backgrounds including Vietnamese, Chinese, Filipino, Mexican, Sudanese and Bosnian people. The agency works under the premise that the most effective way to affect a person is to connect with them from their personal, cultural perspective.

Catholic Charities integrates services address the multiple factors that impact one's ability to be self sufficient and stable. Because these issues have an intergenerational impact, agency programs are geared across age groups to reach entire families. Their services include older adult programs, immigrant and refugee assistance, and housing programs. The agency also offers employment, youth, financial education and behavioral health services in addition to operating neighborhood centers.

I have worked with Catholic Charities for over twenty years, and I can tell you from first-

hand experience that I am proud of the leadership, volunteers and network of supporters whose dedication have built Catholic Charities into an integral part of the fabric of our local community.

INDUCTION OF THOMAS JAMES KATONA INTO THE UPPER PENINSULA LABOR HALL OF FAME

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 6, 2005

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a leader who truly left his mark on the labor movement in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan as well as throughout the United States. Thomas James Katona has increased union effectiveness by partnering the historic strengths of labor unions with the innovation of technology. Mr. Katona's induction into the Upper Peninsula Labor Hall of Fame is warranted and deserved.

As a dedicated Staff Representative for the Office and Professional Employees International Union (O.P.E.I.U.), Local Union 512 of the AFL-CIO and a proud member of the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW), Mr. Katona was a committed organizer of working people in the public and private sectors. He has devoted himself to their cause of fair and just representation in the work place.

Mr. Katona has been on the forefront of worker education by designing and delivering labor education classes for employees and staff. Always advocating for his membership, Mr. Katona was constantly arguing before the National Labor Relations Board, the Michigan Employment Relations Commission and Administrative Law Judges. He served his larger community as a volunteer mediator for the Delta County Resolution Services, UPCAP and was an active member and participant in the Association Conflict Resolution.

Mr. Katona has been described by his union brothers and sisters as a great leader showing persistence and assertiveness as an advocate and problem solver for his union and fellow workers. Mr. Katona was a trusted labor and community leader.

However, while Mr. Katona will always be remembered by his colleagues and friends for many accomplishments, he has left his mark through his tireless commitment to the development and propagation of "cyber unionism" as a means of strengthening and improving communications within the labor movement. As a published author on the subject, Mr. Katona blazed the trail for technological improvements including helping trade unionists design, post and maintain Web pages, Web sites and e-mail magazines.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in thanking Mr. Thomas James Katona and his family for his dedication and service to the labor movement and to the Office and Professional Employees International Union, Local Union 512, AFL-CIO. Mr. Katona has more than earned his place in Michigan's Upper Peninsula Labor Hall of Fame for his commitment to his community and the labor movement.

IN RECOGNITION OF HAROLD AND JUANITA BLAIR'S 57TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 6, 2005

Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate and honor Harold and Juanita Blair who celebrated their 57th wedding anniversary on September 15th. Harold and Juanita have been lifelong companions, having literally grown up next door to each other in North Braddock, Pennsylvania.

Their life together began when Harold asked Juanita out for a date on a dare during their high school years. Harold, who was 17 at the time, was a star on the high school basketball team, while Juanita, at 15, was focused on her school studies. As a result, Juanita didn't really take interest in him until after he had asked her out.

Because of America's culture of segregation during the 1940s, Harold was denied a basketball scholarship to any college, so he enlisted in the army, while Juanita attended college in Maryland.

After Harold was discharged from the Army, they married on September 15, 1948. However, because of their ages, they initially kept their marriage a secret from their families until they moved to Detroit, Michigan where they have lived since 1949.

They have three beautiful children: Harold Jr., Joseph and Lori, my daughter-in-law, and five beautiful grandchildren. Juanita still wears the original wedding ring that Harold gave her in 1948. And although over the years Harold has given Juanita newer and more expensive rings as a show of his love and affection, Juanita continues to wear the original ring that sealed their lifelong journey together.

In celebration of their more than half a century of devotion and love, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in honoring Harold and Juanita Blair as they celebrate their 57th wedding anniversary.

IN HONOR OF THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE LEGISLATURES LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 6, 2005

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the National Conference of State Legislatures Leadership Institute for 10 years of dedication and excellence in the formation of effective public policy makers. Over 300 State Legislators have participated in the Leadership Institute through its first 10 years.

The National Conference of State Legislatures is a bi-partisan organization that serves the legislators and staffs of the United States and its commonwealths and territories. NCSL provides research, technical assistance, and a forum in which policy makers can exchange ideas.

The primary goals of NCSL are to improve the quality and effectiveness of state legislatures, to promote policy innovation and communication among state legislatures, and to

ensure state legislatures a strong, cohesive voice in the federal system.

The ideals of strong and effective leadership are the cornerstones upon which the NCSL Leadership Institute was founded. Leadership is an essential ingredient of any legislature. Moving beyond conflict and partisanship to meet the real needs of people is the fundamental test of legislative leadership.

The NCSL Leadership Institute seminars foster lively discussions and provocative case studies, where promising leaders can explore their common values and the future of the legislature in a bi-partisan setting.

Numerous State Legislators have attended the Leadership Institute in its 10 years of operation. The future of our government depends on the quality and creativity of the men and women who lead it and is imperative that we endorse programs that instill leadership qualities. On behalf of past, present and future Legislators, I extend my continued support and appreciation of the NCSL Leadership Institute.

**HONORING THE MULTI-TALENTED
SUGAR RAY ROBINSON**

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 6, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and honor the esteemed boxer Sugar Ray Robinson for his positive impact on the athletic world as one of the greatest boxers of all time, and to honor his service as a role model with an extraordinary positive influence on his community. Sugar Ray Robinson was a prime example of an American role model, a man from an era where blacks were seen and treated as second class citizens and he focused on his talent in order to achieve greatness, the story of a true hero. At a time when African American youth did not have African American icons to idolize; Sugar Ray more than filled this void, by being an enormous boxing influence to a variety of African American children, some of whom became Muhammad Ali, and Sugar Ray Leonard whom even took Robinson's nickname. He gave these kids something to believe in and something to be proud of.

The phrase "pound for pound the best" was coined in honor of Sugar Ray's boxing success, and has been used to reference successful boxers ever since. Walker "Sugar Ray" Smith was born in Detroit, Michigan in 1921. He began boxing as an amateur in New York City, where he quickly advanced to the professional circuit in 1940. New York has always been a tough city and to make it there as Sugar Ray Robinson did, you have to be among the best of the best. From 1946 to 1951 he became the world welterweight champion and the world middleweight title holder. Sugar Ray's athletic ability clearly outmatched his opponents, fight after fight. A fierce competitor, Sugar Ray's final record was an utterly amazing 174 wins, 109 of them being knockouts, and only 19 losses and 6 draws; this being a remarkable testament to Sugar Ray's amazing athletic accomplishments within the boxing circuit.

Sugar Ray Robinson was a Renaissance man; he did not restrict himself to solely box-

ing and athletics. He used his fame to experiment in the musical world and also acting. Nevertheless his fame is attributed to his remarkable achievements in his boxing. He was one of the first athletic stars to cross over into different mediums of public spotlight. Sugar was known for his huge entourages and public displays of success, truly a man who enjoyed the life he lived. He showed generations of young African Americans that raw physical talent was not enough. Skill, ability and education were also important.

In 1989 Sugar Ray Robinson died a month before his birthday, leaving behind a plethora of fans, along with countless influences and friends. Sugar Ray Robinson represented hope and optimism for the African American community during an era of blatant and systematic racial oppression. He aided in racial relations in athletics while giving African Americans a sense of pride as an example of African American perseverance and strength over the negative barriers. Sugar Ray broke these barriers, charging forward for his people to be seen, to be respected and to be loved. It was a fight to show that African American people were not inferior and should be granted equal opportunity.

The African American hero, the American idol, Sugar Ray Robinson showed the American people a black man that was a powerful warrior, and clearly the best of his time in and out of the ring. I have reintroduced legislation in the 109th Congress to recognize the stellar career of Sugar Ray Robinson. It is an honor which Sugar Ray Robinson very well deserves and I truly hope my colleagues will join me in this effort.

**INTRODUCTION OF THE NURSING
HOME EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE
ACT**

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 6, 2005

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Nursing Home Emergency Assistance Act. This act makes private, for-profit nursing homes eligible for the same federal aid as is currently available to public nursing homes. Under current federal law, only public nursing homes may receive federal disaster assistance. However, hurricanes, tornadoes, and earthquakes do not distinguish between private and public, or for-profit and not-for-profit, nursing homes.

As I have recently seen in my district, all nursing homes face unique challenges coping with natural disasters and their aftermaths. It is not fair to the taxpayers who work in, reside in, or have entrusted the care of their loved ones to, a private nursing home that private nursing homes are denied the same federal aid available to their public counterparts. Mr. Speaker, the Nursing Home Emergency Assistance Act ensures all residents of nursing homes can benefit from federal disaster aid. I encourage my colleagues to support this legislation.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE STOCKYARD REDEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 6, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Stockyard Redevelopment Organization (SRO), which has done much to oversee the redevelopment of Cleveland's Stockyard neighborhood in Ohio's 10th Congressional District. Once the center of Cleveland's stockyard industry, this neighborhood, like many such neighborhoods in Cleveland and around the country in the decades following World War II, became blighted as companies fled to the suburbs, sunbelt, or overseas while residents followed the new freeways out of town.

In March 2000, when SRO's newly appointed director Alex Brazynetz visited my office for the first time, he brought big dreams, significant problems, and a small request. His dream was the revitalization of this long-neglected inner city neighborhood. The problem was that the privately owned and crumbling West 67th Place was not eligible for highway funding or local road maintenance, while the owner was unable to provide the maintenance. The request was for a creative way to get this street fixed to retain the last remaining businesses and to attract new business to this blighted neighborhood. The key to overcoming the obstacle and realizing the dream was a federal Economic Development Administration (EDA) grant to fix West 6th Place.

In conjunction with the SRO, the Westside Industrial Retention and Expansion Network (WIRE-Net) and the EDA, the City of Cleveland agreed to purchase West 67th Place for a nominal fee, making the street eligible for a federal grant. The \$1.2 million grant was the key to completing a \$1.8 million infrastructure investment. This investment then leveraged \$24.7 million in additional and proposed investment in the immediate area, along with realizing 362 additional jobs.

Building on the success of the West 67th Place project, the SRO is currently undertaking a Land Use Study of the West 65th Street, Denison Avenue & Ridge Road corridors in collaboration with WIRE-Net and with support from Councilmen Matthew Zone (Ward 17) and Kevin Kelley (Ward 16) and the nearby City of Brooklyn, Ohio.

Mr. Speaker and distinguished colleagues, the success in Cleveland's Stockyard neighborhood proves that small federal investments in our nation's cities can be stretched and leveraged to go a long way to help rebuild our cities. More of these opportunities must be made available. We must continue to rebuild the commercial, industrial, and residential bases of our nation's cities like Cleveland and neighborhoods like the Stockyard, with the help of federal investments like what we've seen successfully done in conjunction with the federal Economic Development Administration, the City of Cleveland, and the Stockyard Redevelopment Organization.