

Congress for the contributions to education and our society that he made during his lifetime.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF WAMU'S WEEKLY THREE-HOUR PROGRAM HOT JAZZ SATURDAY NIGHT AND OF THE SHOW'S CREATOR, PRODUCER AND HOST, ROB BAMBERGER

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 7, 2005

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I am particularly fortunate to have in my district one of the country's best public broadcasting stations, and Members of the House share in that good fortune while they are in Washington. If Members have had the pleasure of tuning in to WAMU 88.5 FM on Saturday nights you will understand why I rise today to congratulate WAMU and Host Rob Bamberger on the occasion of the 25th Anniversary of Hot Jazz Saturday Night, Washington's only regularly scheduled show devoted to vintage jazz and one of the longest running locally produced shows on WAMU.

Rob Bamberger's commitment to vintage jazz began in 1963 at an elementary school book fair in Shaker Heights, Ohio. Waiting until the mad rush was over; an admittedly shy kid with glasses approached the record table to see if anything was left. While the table had been picked pretty clean, Rob spied a two-LP set with a trombone and a top hat on the cover, set against an elegant red curtain. It was a two-record set of broadcast recordings by Tommy Dorsey and his orchestra. It cost Rob a dime, a fateful investment because all he had to hear was the "Hawaiian War Chant" and he was hooked. That two-LP set became the cornerstone for a life-long love and scholarly interest in American music of the 1920's, 30's and 40's, and the start of a record collection that has been the mother lode for the music featured on Hot Jazz Saturday Night.

WAMU listeners get a weekly glimpse into Rob Bamberger's record collection every Saturday night from 7 to 10 p.m. Rob often focuses on an artist or theme, illuminating the story behind the music and the artists from his own intimate and extensive store of knowledge, and the most recent scholarship. It becomes a lesson in American history and culture, but never stuffy or professorial. Rob's succinct and informative commentaries are laced with dry humor that endears him to his weekly fans.

Rob Bamberger's Hot Jazz Saturday Night represents programming that listeners can't get anywhere else. Listeners who danced to some of the musicians and groups featured on the show enthuse about hearing artists and songs they have not heard in decades. Other listeners once had the impression that jazz is a remote unapproachable music enjoyed only by denizens of smoke-filled bars. Rob disagrees and says there are no prerequisites to enjoying jazz or Hot Jazz Saturday Night. His commitment to introducing this treasured American art form to new listeners is boundless. You can neither be too old or too young to discover and revel in the music of Benny

Goodman, Louis Armstrong, Glen Miller, Ella Fitzgerald, Billie Holiday and countless others who are enduring images of a bygone era evoked every Saturday night on WAMU.

I join jazz supporters in the Nation's Capital in paying tribute to WAMU and Rob Bamberger on the occasion of the 25th Anniversary of Hot Jazz Saturday Night.

HONORING RETIRING ERIE COUNTY LEGISLATOR CHARLES M. SWANICK

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 7, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a longtime member of the Erie County Legislature who has chosen 2005 as his final year of service as a legislator. This person is not a resident of the 27th Congressional District, but is someone with whom I have worked closely, and about whom I still maintain kind and warm thoughts—former Erie County Legislature Chairman Charles M. Swanick, one of that body's longest-serving members.

Now, Mr. Speaker, believe me, there have been and will continue to be many things said about Chuck Swanick, his tenure in the legislature and his service to the people he represented. I choose to remember Chuck's service in a manner once used by The Buffalo News in endorsing his candidacy for re-election in 1995. That word was "indefatigable."

The word indefatigable is defined as "tireless," "unflagging" or "untiring." Knowing Chuck as I have for nearly 20 years, these words could not describe him, or his manner of service to his constituents, more effectively.

Chuck Swanick was born a quintessential "baby boomer"; born in Buffalo on December 18, 1948 and raised in a northern first-ring suburb of Tonawanda, Chuck and his older brother Dave were raised by two wonderful people, his father Dave, a railroadman, and his mother Muriel, a homemaker. Chuck grew up on Moore Avenue in Tonawanda's Lincoln Park area, and like most baby boomers of his generation, made his way through the 1960s and 1970s in a routine way. He finished high school, found work on the railroad like his dad, and spent time with his friends.

It was his friends—or rather a conversation with his friends—that brought Chuck Swanick into the public realm.

During one night's round of discussion and "refreshment," Chuck Swanick and his friends continued a long-held discussion of current events that ordinarily would end with the conclusion that the public officials running Erie County were, shall we say, less than effective. During this conversation, as more beverages were consumed, it was determined that one of the group should stand for election to public office, in order to "make a difference" for their community and, one supposes, for their younger generation.

Then came the kicker for Chuck: he was the only unmarried person—and thus the only person with enough time to effectively campaign for office—among the group. Chuck, it was collectively decided, would be the group's candidate. The office he chose? Erie County Legislator.

Chuck began his quest for public office by answering the local Democratic Party's adver-

tisement for a candidate for the Legislature in what was then the 12th District. Upon attending an endorsement meeting, Chuck was dutifully supplied the party's endorsement and was told, "we'll see you in November." Obviously, the committee wasn't counting on victory. In truth, they were in for a wild ride.

Chuck began his quest for office with a write-in candidacy for the Conservative Party's endorsement—an impossible task, many pundits thought. Chuck began a write-in campaign the likes of which had never before been seen in Erie County, and stunned observers by stealing the line away from the incumbent. Thereafter, Chuck won a difficult general election victory, and so born was a political career that has stretched more than 25 years.

Chuck was a rebel during his early years in the Legislature. Known as a "maverick" Democrat, Chuck always sought to represent the people of his district—in the towns of Tonawanda and Grand Island, the City of Tonawanda and the Village of Kenmore. Chuck had no problems bucking the party line when he thought it appropriate to do so. In so doing, at one point or another, he earned the enmity of public officials from all levels of government. But in his mind, he was representing the people who sent him to County Hall. That was good enough for him.

In later years, as Chuck's years of service in the Legislature grew, he became something of an "elder statesman." Graying hair precipitated the shaving of his moustache, and by the 1990s, Chuck's years of service gave him an institutional knowledge of County government that few possessed. Indeed, it would be that knowledge that would serve him well in years to come.

Chuck served as the chairman of several of the Legislature's standing committees, and was the longtime chairman of the Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board (formerly known as the Agricultural District Advisory Committee).

In 1996, after nearly giving up hope of ascending to the Legislature's leadership, a sudden vacancy in the Legislature's Chairmanship occurred. With a unanimous vote, Chuck Swanick became the 9th Chairman of the Erie County Legislature in May of 1996.

I was proud to work with Chuck during this period. At this time, Mr. Speaker, I had just returned from my studies at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government, and was eager to work with Chuck in his newfound leadership role.

We would have many successes, working together. All told, I worked with Chuck in the Legislature until my election to the New York State Assembly in 1998, and during that time we had many successes. We worked together to keep the county's property tax levy at a reasonable level, and working together with then-Erie County Executive Dennis Gorski, we retired \$108 million in debt left over from the previous county administration.

Chuck made his mark upon the local laws of Erie County as well. Chuck worked with Legislator Ray Dusza on his first Item Pricing/Scanner Accuracy Law, and then forged a coalition of business leaders and consumer advocates to draft a new, more comprehensive law in 1997. Chuck also was the author of many laws involving one of his pet areas of county government, the Erie County Parks system.

After my election to the State legislature, Chuck continued as Chairman and fought battles old and new. Chuck would go on to serve

two stints as Chairman, for a total of six and one-half years as Chairman, which is the longest total amount of service as Chairman of the Erie County Legislature.

There is one other aspect of Chuck Swanick's life that I cannot fail to mention—and that is his family. Chuck's wife Shelly may well be the most patient and understanding spouse of an elected official in the United States, given Chuck's seemingly non-stop campaign schedule. Chuck is also the father of two children, Maverick and Charlie.

Chuck Swanick's record in the Erie County Legislature is an impressive one. Chuck was the author of dozens of local laws and thousands of legislative resolutions. As a member of the Legislature, Chuck served with four county executives, six legislative chairs (excluding himself), ten majority leaders and eleven minority leaders (excluding himself). Over the Legislature's thirty-seven year history, one hundred and three people have served as members of the Erie County Legislature; at one time or another, Chuck Swanick served with 57 of those people.

At the end of the day, Mr. Speaker, there will be a lot of things said about Chuck Swanick and about his 26 years of service in the Erie County Legislature. To me, Mr. Speaker, I will always remember the sincere concern that Chuck had for his constituents, and the earnestness with which he served those constituents. Chuck's legacy of twenty-six years of service will mark an important chapter in the history of county government, and I am proud to honor his service today.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MERCER
COUNTY HEAD START PROGRAM

HON. MELISSA A. HART

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 7, 2005

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Mercer County Head Start Program. This week the program, created in 1965, celebrates its 40th anniversary.

Over the past 40 years this non-profit organization has been committed to improving the lives of low-income families and their children. The organization brings together parents, staff and administrators to enhance the future for children and families.

To commemorate the 40th anniversary there will be a ceremony held on October 24, 2005 in Farrell, Pennsylvania.

I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in honoring the 40th anniversary of the Mercer County Head Start program. It is an honor to represent the Fourth Congressional District of Pennsylvania and a pleasure to salute such a principled organization as the Mercer County Head Start.

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF
CONGRESSMAN JOHN DINGELL,
JR. FOR FIFTY YEARS OF SERVICE
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 7, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of our friend and colleague the distinguished Honorable JOHN DINGELL, Jr. for his fifty years of service to the people of the 15th Congressional District of Michigan and our nation, in the United States House of Representatives.

Congressman DINGELL's unwavering integrity, strong work ethic, and commitment to the service of others have made him a highly respected and distinguished member of the House. His tenure on Capitol Hill is marked by several achievements including developing legislation to protect our nation's health, environment, and wildlife, pursuing justice for participants in corporate corruption, and working diligently to protect Federal road funds for his home State of Michigan.

Congressman DINGELL was born on July 8, 1926, to the distinguished Congressman John Dingell, Sr., who represented the very same 15th district of Michigan Congressman DINGELL represents today. At the age of 18, John joined the U.S. Army and later rose to the rank of Second Lieutenant. He finished his military service in the fall of 1946, and then attended Georgetown University where he earned a bachelor's degree in chemistry. He then continued his studies at Georgetown Law School, graduating in 1952. Congressman DINGELL then worked as a forest ranger and a prosecuting attorney before he began running his own private law office. In 1955, Congressman DINGELL's father passed away while he was still a Member of the House of Representatives. Congressman DINGELL stepped in to fill his father's position, beginning his career on Capitol Hill at the age of 29.

As anyone who has spent some time on Capitol Hill during the past fifty years already knows, Congressman DINGELL has been a leader of not only the Democratic voice in the House, but has been a beacon of light guiding his fellow Members from both sides of the aisle to strive for what is just and in the best interest of the citizens of this nation. During my tenure in Congress we have worked on several bills together and from these experiences, I have learned that Congressman DINGELL is a man that leads by example and is always a champion of causes that help those who embody the heart and soul of this nation, the working class.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of the most distinguished Honorable JOHN DINGELL, Jr., for his fifty-year commitment to serving this nation and improving the lives of Americans all across the country.

H. RES. 220, RECOGNIZING
AMERICA'S BLOOD CENTERS

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 7, 2005

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud the efforts of America's Blood Centers and especially the center in the 16th District of Texas, which I represent.

For more than a half a century, United Blood Services of El Paso and Southern New Mexico has been serving our community as the sole source of blood supplies for blood transfusions and trauma surgeries. The United Blood Services has a staff of over 90 handling more than 30,000 donations a year.

When a fire destroyed our local United Blood Services facilities in 2003, there was a serious shortage of blood supply not only for my district, but also for the Southern New Mexico region. The fire destroyed close to 500 units of blood.

Fortunately, an emergency blood drive was quickly organized to obtain enough supply to serve those in need without having to rely on surrounding areas. I applaud not only the efforts of the center, but also those of my constituents who came out to donate during the time of critical need. The incident was incredibly unfortunate, but it did remind us all of what our blood center means to El Paso, and what the community means to the blood center.

Mr. Speaker, with the life-saving services that the center in my district and those around the country provide, it is only appropriate to recognize the important work of America's Blood Centers today. Therefore, I urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting this very worthwhile resolution.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 7, 2005

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, November 4, 2005, I was unable to vote on Agreeing to the Conference Report to H.R. 3057, making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006 (rollcall vote No. 569). Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

TRIBUTE TO DOROTHY BURFORD

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 7, 2005

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, I have known Dorothy Burford for over 25 years, and I loved her drive and spunk from the very first moment I met her. Although life left her blind and deaf in recent years, she never lost that spunk. I have never known anyone with such energy and enthusiasm for life. I certainly do not know anyone who lived a fuller life than Dorothy. She was an active political mind and