

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

an able political voice in Southern Missouri for more than half a century, and she was known far outside the boundaries of Doniphan, MO, her home sweet home.

Dorothy missed only one Republican national convention between 1952 to 2000, and not only did she attend, but she was an active participant. She attended numerous State Lincoln Days over the years, traveling from Doniphan to St. Louis, Kansas City or Springfield and one year, after vacationing in Florida, she decided she just couldn't miss it, so she took a bus by herself from Florida to Kansas City. Although Dorothy didn't have a plan on how to get back to Doniphan, she just knew someone would be there from Southern Missouri and she could ride home with them!

I also recall many wonderful Labor Day parades in Doniphan: Dorothy was always there recruiting people to ride the floats or helping with the decorations. One year, it rained so hard they canceled the parade, but Dorothy, ever the patriot, decided it was a shame to waste all our time and effort, so we had our own parade down Walnut Street.

Dorothy Burford's father, T.L. Wright, started a lumber company in Doniphan which later became the T.L. Sand & Concrete, Co. Dorothy graduated from Stephens College in Columbia, MO, and, being the oldest of 8 children, took over the business when her father died in 1928. Not only was it a rare thing for a woman to graduate college in the 1920's, it was even more infrequent that a woman would take over the family business. Dorothy proved herself quite capable, however. She oversaw the completion of one of T.L.'s greatest projects: the first concrete bridge over the Current River. A year later when the bridge was ready to open, instead of doing the usual ribbon cutting, Dorothy pulled on her riding boots and jumped off the bridge.

Once again, Dorothy showed us a different way of doing things. I am still among the many who feel she was too soon taken from us, even at her estimable age of 102. All of these memories and stories about Dorothy only begin to scratch the surface of her drive, her determination, and her individuality. She was a principled, thoughtful, inspiring woman I am proud to call my friend. She will be greatly missed, but through her legendary legacy, I have no doubt she will live on.

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE
AND POSITIVE CONTRIBUTIONS
OF CHEMISTRY TO OUR EVERY-
DAY LIVES AND SUPPORTING
THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NA-
TIONAL CHEMISTRY WEEK

HON. VILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 7, 2005

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 457, a resolution that supports the endeavors of the American Chemical Society to unite businesses, schools, and individuals in celebrating the importance of chemistry in the lives of Americans.

Scientists have led us in the pursuit of discovery and innovation, which has helped make America a great nation. In order to educate the next generation of scientists, in my congressional district local school districts and colleges are actively working to educate future chemists. It will be this generation of students who will lead our society to the next frontiers of science.

I applaud the efforts of the American Chemical Society to educate elementary and secondary school students about the positive effects of chemistry and to encourage them to consider chemistry as a career.

Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues in recognizing the goals of National Chemistry Week, and I urge them to support this very worthwhile resolution.

HOUSTON ASTROS, 2005 NATIONAL
LEAGUE CHAMPIONS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 7, 2005

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, this October, for the first time in Major League Baseball history, the city of Houston, Texas was represented in the World Series. The Houston Astros, a team that I have followed since their days as the Colt .45s, completed an extraordinary season by facing the Chicago White Sox in the Fall Classic. Although Houston fell short of a World

Championship, they achieved a level of success that had never before been seen by the organization or their fans. I join all of Texas in recognizing the players, Owner and CEO Drayton McLane, Jr., General Manager Tim Lincecum, Manager Phil Garner, also known as "Scrap Iron," and the entire Houston Astros organization for their outstanding performance in 2005.

The city of Houston was awarded a Major League franchise on October 17, 1960. The team, then known as the Colt .45s, began play in the 1962 season. With the opening of the Houston Astrodome in 1965, the Colt .45s became the Astros, and they have been recognized by that name for the past 40 years. Led by players such as Cesar Cedeno, Joe Niekro, Larry Dierker, Nolan Ryan—baseball's all-time strikeout king, Mike Scott—Houston's first Cy Young Award winner, Jose Cruz, Jeff Bagwell, Craig Biggio and the other "Killer B's," Houston has been a first-class franchise over the course of four decades. While reaching the playoffs in six of the past nine years, the Astros have proven their skill on the diamond and in the front office.

With the addition of hometown heroes Roger Clemens and Andy Pettitte to their already impressive roster, the Astros reached the National League Championship Series in 2004. Expectations were high going into 2005, but the team faced several roadblocks to begin the season. By the end of May, the Astros were 15 games below .500 and had been written off by many baseball fans and members of the media. Those doubters could not have been more wrong. Houston emerged as the most dangerous team in baseball over the last four months of the season, making a historic run to the World Series.

Whether it was timely hitting by veteran Craig Biggio, a towering home run by breakout star Morgan Ensberg, or nearly flawless pitching performances by Roy Oswalt, Andy Pettitte and the incomparable Roger Clemens, the Houston Astros solidified their status as one of the league's elite teams. I join the city of Houston and the great state of Texas in congratulating the Houston Astros for their remarkable 2005 season, the greatest in franchise history.