

the embodiment of Captain Flynn's life. May we all use his wisdom, selflessness, and integrity as a beacon of direction and a source of true enlightenment for many, many years to come. Indeed, may God bless to all of our memories the tremendous life and legacy of Captain Samuel C. Flynn, Jr.

CONGRATULATING MICHELLE
CUNNINGHAM

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Michelle Cunningham for receiving an Outstanding Community Service Award from the 16th Annual University of North Texas Latinos in the 21st Century Conference. Ms. Cunningham was selected as an individual whose contributions foster and enhance education for Hispanic students and promotes community values.

The Latinos in the 21st Century Conference was held on October 14, 2006 at UNT. The theme was "Reaching La Raza: Catering to the Future." The conference promotes higher education among Latinos/Hispanics/Chicanos in the North Texas region and discusses issues relevant to this growing population. The UNT Division of Equity and Diversity who works to develop a supportive environment for a culturally diverse faculty, staff, and student body at the University of North Texas sponsored the conference.

Michelle Cunningham is the Community & International Relations Coordinator for the City of Denton Economic Development. She has been employed with the City for seven years. Factors leading to Ms. Cunningham's selection included her long-term support of educational outreach initiatives sponsored by the UNT Center for Outreach and Community Involvement, her vocal advocacy for educating Denton's underrepresented students, and her mentorship and leadership of Hispanic students and families. The Denton LULAC Council has also recognized her initiatives and she was a nominee for the Dallas region LULAC woman of the year.

I extend my sincere congratulations to Ms. Michelle Cunningham on receiving this award and commend her dedication and desire to help her community.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENT
OF ACTON ARCHIE

HON. WALTER B. JONES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2005

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, recently I had the honor to meet an amazing young man from North Carolina, his name is Acton Archie. I wanted the opportunity to not only congratulate Archie, but to tell you about his life.

Too often we hear about the bad choices young people make and the decisions that lead them down a path to nowhere. Fortunately, Acton Archie made the right decisions, despite unimaginable obstacles, which has led him down the right path.

Growing up in Charlotte, Acton moved from one public housing development to another, he moved 12 times in 12 years. His father was murdered when he was just a child and his mother struggled with drug addiction. By 9th grade, Acton rarely attended school; he was surrounded by crime and drugs. He was on the verge of dropping out of school altogether when he was introduced to Communities in School, a program that helps young people successfully learn, stay in school, and prepare for life. Acton credits his grandmother, his strong faith in God and Communities in Schools for literally saving his life.

Acton not only finished high school, he graduated with a 3.8 GPA. He then went on to attend North Carolina State University where he recently graduated with a degree in Business Management. He will soon begin a career as a business analyst with the world's largest privately held software company.

Ten years ago, if someone would have told Acton that he would achieve so much, I doubt he would have believed them, but the wonderful thing is that he has achieved so much. I am certain even greater things are yet to come for this young man.

I would like to congratulate Acton Archie for his achievements, but I also want to congratulate Acton for the tremendous courage he has shown in overcoming barriers in his life. This young man is truly an inspiration to me, and I know he is an even greater inspiration to young kids who feel trapped by their situation in life.

May God Bless Acton Archie and all who continue to overcome roadblocks in their lives to achieve what might have been seen at one time as the "Impossible Dream."

Thank you, Acton Archie.

HONORING RICHARD GORDON ON
HIS RETIREMENT

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2005

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Rev. Richard Gordon for his 43 years of service to First Baptist Church in Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

Since he became involved with First Baptist in 1962, Rev. Gordon has helped the church grow as Rutherford County has grown. After four decades as pastor of First Baptist, Rev. Gordon is now teaching the children and grandchildren of some of the first people he taught there. But Rev. Gordon will give his last sermon to the congregation on Christmas Day.

Rev. Gordon's compassion extends beyond the church and into the community. He serves on the Murfreesboro Affordable Housing Advisory Board and Rutherford County Guidance Center Board. In addition, he has been involved with many national organizations, such as the NAACP, the United Ministerial Alliance and the National Baptist Congress.

In 1967, I attended one of Rev. Gordon's services for the first time. I know firsthand that his leadership and dedication will be deeply missed by his congregation. I also have a feeling that his service to the community will not end with his retirement. As Rev. Gordon says, "You don't retire from the ministry."

I commend Rev. Gordon for his 43 years with First Baptist Church. And I wish him all the best in his retirement.

FREEDOM FOR ANTONIO AUGUSTO
VILLAREAL ACOSTA

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2005

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about Antonio Augusto Villareal Acosta, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Villareal Acosta is an economist and bookkeeper under a regime that bans truth and facts. As a student of truth, Mr. Villareal Acosta quickly joined the courageous opposition to demand human rights, democracy, and freedom from tyranny. Because he believes in freedom and because he actively and peacefully advocates for liberty, Mr. Villareal Acosta has been targeted by the despotic regime.

In March 2003, as part of the tyrant's heinous island wide crackdown on peaceful, pro-democracy activists, Mr. Villareal Acosta was arrested by the regime. In a sham trial, he was sentenced to 15 years in the totalitarian gulag.

Mr. Villareal Acosta is languishing in the revolting, hellish gulag. However, being confined in these inhuman conditions has not stopped him from continuing to demand freedom and justice for the people of Cuba and his fellow political prisoners. Amnesty International reports that Mr. Villareal Acosta has participated in hunger strikes while imprisoned in Castro's dungeon. He has undertaken these strikes to bring attention to the repulsive squalor of the gulag, the lack of medical attention, and the barbaric punishment cells; all of his actions have been in defiance of the machinery of repression that has unjustly confined him in these repugnant conditions.

Mr. Speaker, it remains categorically unacceptable that men and women who demand freedom from tyranny are locked in the dungeons of tyrannical monsters. Here, under the dome that represents freedom and democracy, we must continue to demand the liberation of all who suffer in the darkness of totalitarianism.

Let me be clear, the willful ignorance of Cuba's suffering under the Castro regime by much of the world's press and most of the international community, amounts to abetting the Castro dictatorship. Let us never forget, and always support, those who are struggling to liberate their people from the grip of tyranny. My Colleagues, we must demand the immediate and unconditional release of Antonio Augusto Villareal Acosta and every prisoner of conscience locked in Castro's totalitarian gulag.

HONORING COACH BARRY
ALVAREZ

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2005

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the coach of the University of Wisconsin football team who retires this year, Coach Barry Alvarez. In Barry Alvarez's 16 years as coach, the Wisconsin Badgers have gone from a 1-10 record in 1990 to three-time winners of

the Rose Bowl and the Big Ten Conference. Coach Alvarez has made the University of Wisconsin into a perennial Big Ten Championship contender. The abilities, both on and off the field, of players led by Coach Alvarez, many of whom have been All-Americans and have gone on to play in the NFL, serve as a testament to the standard of excellence that he established at the University of Wisconsin's football program.

It is with great sadness that I acknowledge Coach Alvarez's retirement from his duties as head coach at the close of this season. However, Barry Alvarez will now be dedicating his full attention to being Athletic Director at the University of Wisconsin. There is no doubt that Coach Alvarez will continue to bring the same determination and commitment he has brought to all of the University of Wisconsin's athletic programs as he continues his role of Athletic Director. It is fitting that in Coach Alvarez's final year as football coach, the team excelled beyond what some had predicted and will take on Auburn in the Capital One Bowl, on January 2, 2006. While at the close of this season he may no longer be Coach of the University of Wisconsin's football team, his legacy of dedication, hard work, and excellence at the University of Wisconsin is far from being complete. Thanks Coach, Job Well Done.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2005

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent from this chamber today. I would like the record to show that, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote 618.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4340, UNITED STATES-BAHRAIN FREE TRADE AGREEMENT IMPLEMENTATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2005

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to represent an area that borders the Long Island Sound. The Sound is one of our Nation's natural treasures, providing important environmental, recreational, and commercial benefits to its surrounding regions. Not only is the Sound the natural habitat for one of the most diverse ecosystems in the Northeast, but it also provides enjoyment for the millions of residents and vacationers who swim and boat in the Sound every year. Moreover, commerce relating to the Long Island Sound generates more than \$5 billion in the regional economy each year.

Preservation of the Long Island Sound is not a parochial issue, but a national one. The Sound is a charter member in the National Estuaries Program, and has been designated as one of only 28 estuaries of national significance. Unfortunately, the effects of having more than 8 million people living within its wa-

tershed have caught up with the Sound, as untreated sewage and other types of pollution have harmed the water quality and caused a dramatic drop in the Sound's fish and wildlife populations.

With the passage of the Long Island Sound Restoration Act in 2000, which authorized \$200 million for cleaning up the Long Island Sound over the past 5 years, we have seen improvements in the quality of the water in the Sound. However, our work is not complete. We must continue to build on this progress and provide more assistance in cleaning up the Sound. I am confident that the funds authorized in this bill will have a significant impact on the ongoing efforts to improve the quality of the Long Island Sound. We must do everything possible to ensure the continued funding of these efforts, and this legislation is the appropriate means for achieving the desired end.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. ALICIA ZIZZO

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2005

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the extraordinary achievements of an important member of the New York community, Dr. Alicia Zizzo.

Critics have described Dr. Zizzo as one of America's most important classical musicians, both for her skills as a pianist and her research on George Gershwin's body of work, celebrated and forgotten. Her pianistic artistry has brought her international acclaim and has been recognized on four continents.

Dr. Zizzo's musicological scholarship is focused on the research and restoration of the classical piano literature of George Gershwin. She has been able to enhance what was a remarkably small classical piano solo repertoire by working with the Library of Congress, Warner Brothers Publications, the Gershwin estate and other scholars.

Dr. Zizzo succeeded in researching, transcribing and inevitably recreating Gershwin's lost and forgotten classical solo piano manuscripts notated in his own hand. She approaches these manuscripts not with the objective of making yet another arrangement of his melodies as so many musicians have already done, but rather to literally reconstruct from fragments, sketches and partially completed scores that had been long neglected.

Critics have lauded her for the discovery of transitional scores which bring new life to classic Gershwin material. For example, the New York Times, Washington Post and many other widely recognized publications throughout the United States and the world have hailed Dr. Zizzo for her groundbreaking musicological analysis of the original manuscripts of Gershwin's famous Rhapsody in Blue. Dr. Zizzo was able to restore approximately 80 measures, mostly solos, that were deleted during editing—not done by Gershwin himself—for publication.

Dr. Zizzo has also been praised for unearthing material never known to exist. Her landmark, best selling CDs feature lost Gershwin classics like Seven Preludes, Blue Monday, Lullaby, Sleepless Night and other previously

unpublished scores. She also created a brand new manuscript edition of Rhapsody in Blue and a piano solo suite on the background orchestral scores of the movie *Shall We Dance* (1937). Also published is a piano solo transcription of the symphonic work *I Got Rhythm Variations*.

In 1998, during the Library of Congress's four day celebration of the Gershwin Centennial, Dr. Zizzo was the only concert pianist invited to present a full recital and lecture. Later that year, she was recognized by Hofstra University with an Honorary Doctorate degree for her important contributions to American music.

Mr. Speaker, I request that my distinguished colleagues rise and pay tribute to a great New Yorker, Dr. Alicia Zizzo, for her accomplishments. Her many successes have brought to light music scores by our greatest American composer, George Gershwin, important scores that we may continue to enjoy for generations to come.

HONORING THE LAKE HIGHLANDS HIGH SCHOOL PARENT TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2005

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor Lake Highlands High School's Parent Teachers Association (PTA) for achieving the Parent Involvement Schools of Excellence certification from the National Parent Teachers Association in 2005.

Lake Highlands High School (LHHS) is the only school in the Dallas-Fort Worth area to achieve certification from the National PTA and only one of three recipients in the State of Texas. The award is based on excellence in six areas: communication between school and parents, promotion of parenting skills, parent assistance in student learning, recruitment and support of parent volunteers, school decision making and advocacy, and collaborating with the community.

Today, I would like to recognize the LHHS Parent Involvement in Schools Excellence certification committee, including chairwoman, Liz Luthans, Bonnie Blackman, Bob Iden, Sharin Clark, and Jenny Wagner. I would also like to recognize parents Paula Davis, Beth Hanks, Tami Trostel and Lake Highlands Exchange Club representative Jerry Allen who also served on the committee.

As the Congressman for the Fifth Congressional District of Texas, I am very proud to represent Lake Highlands High School. Lake Highlands High School's PTA is truly helping to shape a brighter future for our community and our country. I would like to offer my congratulations on this occasion and best wishes for their continued success.

IN MEMORY OF JAMES CASHMAN, JR.

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2005

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my condolences to the family and