

by the AAM is the highest honor a museum can receive and is a testament to the professionalism and the public service provided to my community and the nation by the Louisville Zoo.

Founded in 1969, the Louisville Zoo has made tremendous strides to become one of the nation's premier botanical and zoological facilities. To achieve its mission of educating the public about the wonders of animal and plant life and raising awareness for wildlife conservation, the zoo currently has over 1,300 animals exhibited in beautiful natural settings, including some of the rarest species found on the planet. It offers state-of-the-art animal care and award-winning exhibits that educate residents and visitors of all ages. Almost 800,000 people visit the Louisville Zoo each year.

In 1980, the Louisville Zoo obtained its first major professional recognition when it received accreditation by the American Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA). In 2003, the AZA presented its Exhibit Award to the Louisville Zoo for outstanding commitment to conservation in the construction of its new, four-acre Gorilla Forest exhibit space which so closely replicated the natural habitats for the gorilla.

Accreditation by the American Association of Museums is a major accomplishment for the Louisville Zoo. It signifies excellence within the museum community and is recognition of the ethical and professional practices employed by the organization.

The process for accreditation is difficult and intensive. Over the period of three years, the Louisville Zoo underwent a thorough self-evaluation, a total audit of all collections, an accounting of business and operating procedures and a review of the procedures and protocols that govern the tasks of plant and animal management. After all this was done, a team of museum association peers conducted an on-site inspection.

As a result of this rigorous review process, very few museums have received this recognition. Only 750 of the Nation's 16,000 museums, or less than 5 percent, are currently accredited and the Louisville Zoo is one of only four institutions in the Commonwealth of Kentucky to receive this honor.

Mr. Speaker, Louisvillians are proud of the achievements of the Louisville Zoo and appreciate the contributions it has made to our community. Recognition by the AAM confirms what Louisville residents have known all along: that the Louisville Zoo provides a first-class experience and education to students and animal lovers of all ages, and it will continue to do so for many years to come. I would like to offer my heartfelt congratulations to all of the Louisville Zoo's staff for this most recent honor.

IN SUPPORT OF THE NATIONAL  
EATING DISORDERS AWARENESS  
WEEK

**HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 1, 2005*

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I wish to recognize the efforts of the Eating Disorders Coalition and its affiliated organizations for promoting awareness regarding the need for education, prevention, and treatment of eating

disorders. They are commemorating the "National Eating Disorders Awareness Week" from February 27 to March 5th of 2005, and they have been devoted over the years to educate the community and offer help and support to our population to promote the well-being of patients with eating disorders.

Eating disorders include anorexia nervosa, bulimia, and binge eating disorder, and impact millions of Americans each year. The consequences of these disorders could be devastating to the physical and mental health of those afflicted. Although eating disorders affect mainly females, males can be affected by these disorders. We need to educate the general population to recognize the problem and teach them how to seek adequate help. Prevention should start at an early age, and the best method of prevention should be education and the promotion of healthy eating habits and self-esteem.

Please join the efforts of all those who work hard to fight these serious medical conditions, and recognize the important work that the Eating Disorders Coalition and its affiliated organizations do on a daily basis to promote the health of patients with eating disorders.

IN HONOR OF GINA AHEARN

**HON. ROBERT MENEDEZ**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 1, 2005*

Mr. MENEDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Gina Ahearn for her years of community involvement and demonstrated leadership. Ms. Ahearn was honored at the annual brunch for the Bayonne St. Patrick's Parade Committee, which was held on February 20, 2005.

A member of the Irish American League for eight years, she has held a variety of positions within the organization, including President, Vice President, Contestant Coordinator, and member of the Parade Committee. In 1999, she was named Irish Woman of the Year. An assistant to the Grand Marshall for the 2005 parade, Ms. Ahearn's community participation also includes coaching the Holy Family Cheerleading Squad. When she is not helping these various groups, she works as a substitute teacher.

Born and raised in Bayonne, Ms. Ahearn holds a degree in business from Rutgers University and a master's degree in education from Kean University. She and her husband are the proud parents of one daughter.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Gina Ahearn for her outstanding leadership and dedication to serving the Bayonne community.

INTRODUCTION OF THE COMMERCIAL  
TRUCK HIGHWAY SAFETY  
DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM ACT  
OF 2005

**HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD**

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 1, 2005*

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, today, along with my good friend Tom Allen, I am introducing the Commercial Truck Highway Safety

Demonstration Program Act of 2005. This bill would allow Maine to increase the weight limits for trucks on interstate highways, by granting a three-year waiver of federal rules. It mandates a study process that will help demonstrate the positive safety effects of this change, and permit the waiver to be extended pending these safety determinations.

This bill is important both for public safety and economic reasons. The administration of the current 80,000 pound federal weight limit law in Maine has forced heavy tractor-trailer and tractor-semitrailer combination vehicles, traveling into Maine from neighboring States and Canada, to divert onto small State and local roads where higher vehicle weight limits apply under Maine law.

The diversion of those vehicles onto such roads causes significant economic hardships and safety challenges for small communities located along those roads. Permitting heavy commercial vehicles to travel on Interstate System highways in Maine would enhance public safety by reducing the number of heavy vehicles that use town and city streets, and as a result, the number of dangerous interactions between those heavy vehicles and other vehicles such as school buses and private cars.

It would also reduce the net highway maintenance costs in Maine because the Interstate System highways, unlike the secondary roads of Maine, are built to accommodate heavy vehicles and are, therefore, more durable.

Finally, this bill would ensure that Maine can remain competitive in the transportation and manufacturing sectors, and that our neighbors do not pass us by in development. This change is fair, and will promote parity in transportation throughout New England.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill, which will enhance safety, lower maintenance costs, and promote economic development.

HONORING THE SAN LUIS OBISPO  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

**HON. LOIS CAPPS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 1, 2005*

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the San Luis Obispo Chamber of Commerce, the oldest and largest voluntary organization in San Luis Obispo County, on the occasion of their 100th Anniversary.

Rarely has a local organization done more to improve the quality of life of an entire region than the San Luis Obispo Chamber.

When the Chamber opened in 1905, the railroad had come to town just a few years before, and San Luis was developing an economy that went beyond farming for the first time. Led by CEO Dave Garth for the last 32 years, the Chamber now boasts 1,389 members and a staff of 15.

The Chamber will celebrate its centennial with a dinner at California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo on March 12, 2005. This vibrant and active organization has contributed an enormous amount to a community that I am terribly proud to represent.

IN HONOR OF THOMAS WALSH

**HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 1, 2005*

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Thomas Walsh for his years of outstanding service to his community and country. Mr. Walsh was honored at the annual brunch for the Bayonne St. Patrick's Parade Committee, which was held on February 20, 2005.

Serving as an assistant to the Grand Marshall this year, Mr. Walsh previously spent twelve years working as the publicity chairman for the parade. Since 1993, he has been the coordinator of the event. An active member of the Bayonne community, Mr. Walsh has been affiliated with numerous organizations, including the National Defense Transportation Association, the Bayonne Elks Club, and the Bayonne PAL Board of Directors.

Mr. Walsh graduated from Trenton State College with a degree in English. Later, he worked in Bayonne as a public information officer before becoming a public affairs specialist for the U.S. Navy Military Sealift Command, Atlantic, and the U.S. Army Fort Hamilton Military Community. Throughout the years, Mr. Walsh has utilized his public relations skills to assist organizations such as Hudson County Cerebral Palsy, the Hudson County Association of Retarded Citizens, and the Bayonne Friends of the Handicapped with publicity.

During his time with the Armed Forces, he received ten Outstanding Performance and Special Act Awards. For the past seven years, he has been teaching at the Police Athletic League Day Care Center where he assists students with school assignments and manages field trips and other recreational events. Mr. Walsh also helps the center by writing funding proposals and press releases. When he is not working with children, he participates in the Military Sealift Command Retirees Association.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mr. Walsh for his strong leadership and tireless efforts to help others.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO SISTERS, EMPLOYEES, VOLUNTEERS, AND PHYSICIANS OF OSF ST. JOSEPH HOSPITAL

**HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 1, 2005*

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, on March 22, 1880 the Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis opened St. Joseph's Hospital in Bloomington, Illinois. Today, 125 years later, OSF St. Joseph Hospital remains open and ready to care for the sick.

From the very beginning, the Sisters faced adversity, but with the support of the community the hospital was able to endure. Even those outside the Sisters' religious community joined in caring for the sick, thus establishing a bond between the Sisters and the people of McLean County that is strong to this day.

Over the past 125 years, St. Joseph's Hospital has seen its share of changes. A new St.

Joseph's Hospital opened in March of 1968 along Veterans Parkway. Since then many additions have been made, including two new medical plazas, an advanced medicine center, new physician offices, a surgery wing, two urgent care clinics and a musculoskeletal center. In 1987, the hospital's name changed to OSF St. Joseph Medical Center. While the structure and name of St. Joseph's Hospital has changed, the desire and devotion of the Sisters, employees, volunteers and physicians to serve God's people has remained steadfast.

In its 125-year history, OSF St. Joseph Medical Center has accumulated many accomplishments and "firsts". For example, the first successful blood transfusion and Caesarean section in Central Illinois occurred at St. Joseph's in 1929. In addition, St. Joseph's Hospital was home to the first radiation treatments in Bloomington-Normal.

Today, OSF St. Joseph Medical Center cares for over 6,000 inpatients and 250,000 outpatients annually. They also welcome more than 800 babies every year. The Medical Center is now a nationally-recognized leader in the reduction of adverse drug events and surgical safety.

Again Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the many generations of Sisters, employees, volunteers and physicians of OSF St. Joseph Medical Center. For 125 years this hospital has served as a tremendous example of the good that can be done when people come together to serve their communities.

HONORING MEMBERS OF MICHIGAN DIVISION OF THE POLISH AMERICAN CONGRESS

**HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 1, 2005*

Mr. McCOTTER, Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor the members of Michigan Division of the Polish American Congress, as they celebrate the 60th anniversary of the formation of their parent organization.

The Polish American Congress represents close to 10 million Americans of Polish descent and origin. Its members are comprised of fraternal, educational, veteran, religious, cultural, social, business, political organizations and individual membership. The Polish American community prides itself on its deeply rooted commitment to the values of family, faith, democracy, hard work and fulfillment of the American dream. They are present in every state and virtually every community in America, on various social, business and economic levels.

The Polish American Congress promotes civic, educational and cultural programs designed to further not only the knowledge of Polish history, language and culture, but to stimulate Polish American involvement and accomplishments.

The record of the Polish American Congress is a proud one. Indeed, it is as impressive as its fidelity to its historic political aims over the past 60 years. Their accomplishments, which are numerous, include: Representing the aspirations for freedom and self-determination of the Polish people at the United Nations, at international conferences, in the United States Congress, at the national conventions of the

major political parties, and before the Presidents of the United States; gaining U.S. backing for Radio Free Europe to inform the peoples of Communist-ruled Eastern Europe about what was happening in their countries and abroad, and effectively defended continued funding for Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty throughout the Cold War era; contributing more than \$200 million in medical and material help to Poles, following the collapse of the Communist-run Polish economy after 1981.

Mr. Speaker, the Polish American Congress, over the past 60 years, has remained a vibrant and effective political action organization, articulating its concerns in Washington and around the country to a host of government and political leaders. I hope my colleagues will join me in honoring this organization and its members. Through their dedicated efforts, 10 million Polish Americans today can feel a sense of pride in having an organization that represents their interests and aspirations.

IN HONOR OF ADAM CZUBA

**HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 1, 2005*

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Adam Czuba on being named Sir Knight of the Year by the Knights of Columbus (K of C). Mr. Czuba was recognized at the annual Knight of Honors event on February 26, 2005, in Bayonne, New Jersey.

The Sir Knight of the Year award is a special distinction given to the K of C member who has faithfully and commendably executed his role as a Fourth Degree Knight, has been most helpful in aiding the Past Faithful Navigator, and has demonstrated a thorough understanding and respect for the ideals of the Order.

Mr. Czuba became a Third Degree Knight in 1975 and has spent decades serving the Council and the Assembly. He achieved the rank of Fourth Degree Knight in 2001 and currently serves in the Color Corps. As a dedicated member of the K of C, Mr. Czuba has helped coordinate multiple events and activities for the Order, such as the flea market, bowling league, country western dances, and numerous charity events.

Born and raised in Bayonne, Mr. Czuba has worked for 22 years at the Keystone Folding Box Company. In addition to his involvement with the K of C, Mr. Czuba has served as a Cub Master for the Boy Scouts and is a member of the Hudson County Animal League.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Adam Czuba for his recognition as Knight of the Year, his dedicated work with the K of C, and his outstanding service to the community.

CONGRATULATING THE NEW ENGLAND COUNCIL

**HON. CHARLES F. BASS**

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 1, 2005*

Mr. BASS. Mr. Speaker, Mr. NEAL and I rise today to congratulate The New England Council as they celebrate their 80th anniversary of