

War. When he came back to the Friendly Sons dinner in 1956, he had served two terms as president.

Perhaps the most notable speaker came in 1964. The Friendly Sons dinner was the first public appearance made by then-U.S. attorney general Robert F. Kennedy following the assassination of his brother, President John F. Kennedy. In September of that year, Robert Kennedy resigned to run for the U.S. Senate in New York. A column written 10 years later by one of his aides stated that Mr. Kennedy made his decision to remain in public service because of the amazing support and outpouring of affection shown to him in Scranton as 2,000 people lined the streets to greet him.

Many politicians have spoken at the Friendly Sons dinner. Beginning with John K. Tener in 1911 and including our current governor, Ed Rendell, in 2003, almost all Pennsylvania governors have attended the dinner, including Lackawanna County residents William W. Scranton and the late Robert P. Casey, who himself was a member of the Friendly Sons.

My good friend former U.S. Rep. Joseph McDade, also a Friendly Sons member, spoke in 1986. U.S. senators, including Eugene McCarthy, Henry "Scoop" Jackson, John Glenn, and Delaware's JOSEPH BIDEN—a native of Scranton—have spoken at the dinner.

Guests from abroad have also graced the stage, including former Irish Prime Ministers Garret FitzGerald and Albert Reynolds, Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams and British Parliament member Martin McGuinness.

The Friendly Sons organization has about 900 members and elects officers each year. The president has the intimidating job of organizing the dinner and arranging for the speaker.

This year's president is Dr. Joseph T. Kelly Sr. and the speaker is Alex Maskey, the first Catholic mayor of Belfast, Northern Ireland.

Mr. Speaker, please join me and my fellow colleagues in the House of Representatives in congratulating the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick of Lackawanna County, an organization steeped in rich traditions, as they celebrate their 100th anniversary.

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RECOGNIZING THE WE THE PEOPLE CIVICS TEAM FROM FREMONT, CALIFORNIA'S IRVINGTON HIGH SCHOOL

**HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 16, 2005*

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the 2005 "We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution" class of Fremont, California's Irvington High School in my district for winning the state championship in January.

The We the People competition is an educational program administered by the Center for Civic Education of Los Angeles and funded by the U.S. Department of Education. The main focus of the program is to commemorate the framing and adoption of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights and to revitalize educational programs on the Constitution in our Nation's schools. It provides a course of instruction on the basic principles of our Nation's constitutional democracy and the history of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. Par-

ticipants then enter into competitive simulated congressional hearings following the course of study.

Students who wish to participate in the program must go through an interview process the year prior to the start of the class. The applicants must answer questions similar to the ones they will be asked during competition.

Accepted applicants learn and familiarize themselves with current event topics along with curriculum taught in the class. There are six different areas that are taught in the course and each participant must become an expert in each and every area.

The participants prepare for several months before testifying to a panel made up of judges representing the community. The judges ask detailed follow-up questions regarding the presentation, which require the students to think quickly and provide spontaneous answers. They compete first at two competitions at the local level before going to the state championships. Those who win at the state level go on to compete nationally.

In January, students from ten schools representing various areas of California came to Sacramento to compete in the state We the People championship. I am proud to say that the Irvington High School team, coached by their teacher Mrs. Cook-Kallio, won the competition and will be representing California during the national finals, which will be held from April 30th through May 3rd here, in Washington, DC.

The victory reflects the hard work and dedication these students put together after about nine months of preparation. The Irvington team spent countless hours in and out of class getting ready for the competition. Most groups stayed past 10 p.m. on some nights to take part in practice sessions where their teacher, Mrs. Cook-Kallio, along with other teachers and alumni of Irvington High School, drilled them on their subjects to try and simulate the environment of the competition.

I applaud the We the People class, Mrs. Cook-Kallio, and Irvington High School in reaching the national finals and am honored to have them represent the state of California at the national level. I join with other admirers and members in the community of Fremont in wishing the team luck. I hope to be giving another congratulatory speech once they become National champions.

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HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF BEXAR COUNTY CONSTABLE ROBERT "MIKE" BLOUNT

**HON. HENRY CUELLAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 16, 2005*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Constable Robert Blount in my congressional district, for his exceptional career in law enforcement.

Robert Blount was elected as Constable of Precinct Four in January 2005, but has been actively serving his community for the last sixteen years. He believes in establishing a solid law enforcement agency that is committed to the needs of the community, and has devoted his department to serve the public through honesty and integrity.

Constable Blount is an excellent example of an elected official who understands the needs of his community. The mission for his department is to promote safety in the community by enforcing court orders, supporting early intervention activities, and to work together with neighboring law enforcement agencies.

Constable Blount is a man who believes in the value of community involvement and intervention. Currently he is focusing his department on lowering truancy levels and high school dropout rates, reducing neighborhood crime, and maintaining clear communication within the people in his community.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Bexar County Constable Robert "Mike" Blount for his dedication and service to the community.

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IN HONOR OF AUDREY HOPE-MILTON

**HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE**

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 16, 2005*

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker it is with great pleasure that I rise today to honor and pay tribute to Audrey Hope-Milton upon her nomination as a Jefferson Award finalist. Ms. Hope-Milton is a volunteer to the Stop the Violence Coalition, as the program administrator for the Playstation Too Mentoring Program. Ms. Hope-Milton is predominately concerned with the health, welfare and safety of young people and takes great care to make sure that they are not overlooked or forgotten.

Ms. Hope-Milton's passion for volunteer work comes from a religious family legacy of working with today's youth. Ms. Hope-Milton's success is a result of her giving back what was given to her. Ms. Hope-Milton's tireless efforts to help young people have touched the lives of many in our community.

Mr. Speaker, I commend and congratulate Ms. Hope-Milton upon her nomination as a finalist for the Jefferson Award. Ms. Hope-Milton's selflessness serves as an example to us all.

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DEATH OF AGENT DAVID WILHELM

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 16, 2005*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my condolences to the family, friends, and colleagues of Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agent David Wilhelm who was killed by a gunman in Atlanta, Georgia this past weekend. I join Agent Wilhelm's family, including the law enforcement community in America, in mourning the tragic loss of Agent Wilhelm.

Mr. Wilhelm dedicated his 18-year career in law enforcement to protecting America. He was one of the many men and women who put their lives on the line every single day, no matter what the danger. He was one of the good guys who helped to make America safer by putting away the bad guys. His specialty was investigating financial crimes, narcotics smuggling, and human smuggling.

Agent Wilhelm's service was distinguished. He was awarded the 2001 Blue Eagle Award for his work on a narcotics investigation—Operation Prospero. Mr. Wilhelm received the award because he went far beyond the call of duty. Indeed, he was the sole recipient of the award in 2001.

Agent Wilhelm's service will not be forgotten. His service will be remembered every day as our law enforcement officers continue his work, carrying on the mission Agent Wilhelm loved so much and did so well.

I would also like to extend my sincere sympathies to the families of Superior Court Judge Rowland Barnes, Julie Brandau, and Hoyt Teasley, who were killed at the Fulton County Courthouse. Our hearts go out to their families and loved ones as well. Their lives will be remembered in the work we do here in Congress.

CHINA'S ANTI-SECESSION LAW

**HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 16, 2005*

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, late last year, the Standing Committee of the Chinese National People's Congress took a very destabilizing action when it voted to submit an "Anti-Secession Law" to the full Congress, which convened on March 5. That Anti-Secession Law was subsequently adopted by the full Congress and is now Chinese law.

There can be absolutely no doubt about the intent of this law, which is to create the legal justification for a military attack against Taiwan.

The law spells out a range of activities which, if taken by the Taiwanese people and their democratically elected leaders, would legally constitute secession to the Chinese. Many of these activities, such as Constitutional reform and popular referenda, are the mainstay of any democracy. Yet the Chinese would use them as an excuse for a military attack on the 21 million people on Taiwan.

The United States fully understands Taiwan is in a very difficult bind. It is a flourishing democracy, one of the most vibrant in Asia, with freedoms of speech, the press and assembly and intensely competitive free political parties. Yet it is claimed as a sovereign territory by the People's Republic of China, which is not a democracy and has no freedom of the press, speech or assembly. And this neighbor now threatens to annex Taiwan by force.

Under the terms of the Taiwan Relations Act, which is the legal bedrock of our policy, the United States insists that the future of Taiwan must be determined by peaceful means. And we have stated that no actions should be taken by either Taiwan or the People's Republic of China, that endanger the peace and stability that now exists across the Taiwan Strait.

Mr. Speaker, during the past year, the Bush Administration cautioned Taiwan about actions which might appear to challenge this status quo. Now the PRC, through this provocative legislation, is challenging the status quo in a very big way. The State Department said this legislation is highly unhelpful. I strongly agree with this position and register my strong opposition to the enactment of the Anti-Secession Law.

IN HONOR OF JENNIFER CROUSE

**HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE**

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 16, 2005*

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to honor and pay tribute to Jennifer Crouse upon her nomination as a Jefferson Award finalist. Ms. Crouse is the founder of Fun Packs. Fun Packs are for use by children patients at area hospitals to help young children through difficult times in their lives. In 2001, the program was expanded to include Care Packs, which were distributed to service people who were deployed through the Dover Air Force base. Ms. Crouse has volunteered within the community for more than 10 years, and has logged more than 3,200 volunteer hours.

Ms. Crouse's volunteer efforts have touched the lives of many in our community. Ms. Crouse is a deserving candidate for the Jefferson Award.

Mr. Speaker, I commend and congratulate Ms. Crouse upon her nomination as a finalist for the Jefferson Award. Ms. Crouse is truly worthy of this honor.

A TRIBUTE TO BEATRICE JACKSON-WALLS

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 16, 2005*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Beatrice Jackson-Walls in recognition of her commitment to her church and her community.

Beatrice is a vivacious, effervescent Virginia Belle. A member of Cornerstone Baptist Church in Brooklyn for 57 years, she has dedicated her teenage and young adult life to serving in the Youth Fellowship, Young People's Choir and as a teacher in the Baptist Training Union, Junior Department.

Professionally, Beatrice serves Cornerstone Baptist Church as a skillful efficient Administrative Assistant and has had the honor and pleasure of working with three spiritual giants: the late Pastor Emeritus, Reverend Dr. Sandy F. Ray; the Reverend Dr. Harry S. Wright; and her present Pastor, the Reverend Lawrence E. Aker, III.

Artistically, Beatrice is a gifted soprano soloist in the Senior Choir and has performed in concerts throughout the New York Metropolitan area, including Carnegie Recital Hall and the prestigious St. Peters Church in Manhattan. A past Sunday School Teacher, she continues to utilize her educational and volunteer leadership skills as Secretary of the Board of Directors of the Cornerstone Day Care Center, Inc., Chair of Special Projects of the Capital Fund Raising Committee, President of the Senior Choir, Corresponding Secretary of the Brooklyn Ecumenical Choir of Bedford Stuyvesant, and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Food Pantry. She also served on the Board of Directors of the American Lung Association of Brooklyn.

A product of the school systems in Virginia and Delaware, she pursued her education at New York Community College (now New York Technical College) in Brooklyn. She is the re-

ipient of numerous religious, community and business awards and honors. Her hobbies include stained glass designing, traveling, serving, gardening, poetry and people.

God blessed her with 39 years of marriage to the late Deacon Joseph M. Walls. She is mother of two sons, Joseph Demetrius and Darryl Christopher and the grandmother of three of the most precious and special children, Jasmyne Marie, D. Christopher II, and Amara Aurellia.

Mr. Speaker, Beatrice Jackson-Walls has strengthened her community through her numerous volunteer efforts with her church. As such, she is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable person.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF HAYS COUNTY COMMISSIONER SUSIE CARTER

**HON. HENRY CUELLAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 16, 2005*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the many accomplishments of Hays County Commissioner Susie Carter.

Susie Carter is a proud lifelong citizen of Hays County. She and her husband, John, live on the same farm where Susie grew up. She earned degrees from Southwest Texas State University and the University of Texas at Austin, and returned to rural Hays County to serve her neighbors.

Susie has served Hays County in a variety of capacities: as a health professional, college instructor, character education consultant, and public servant. She was elected President of the Concerned Taxpayers of Hays County, and remains an advocate for taxpayer rights and fiscal responsibility.

As county commissioner, Susie has consistently worked to make Hays County a better place to live. She led the reconstruction of some of the county's worst roads, installed traffic signals to make intersections safer, passed resolutions to protect the local environment and water supply, and fought against illegal dumping. She has been an advocate for low taxes and budget discipline, and a watchdog for the rights of taxpaying citizens and local government. Susie Carter has been a farsighted and effective advocate for her county.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have had this opportunity to recognize the many achievements of Hays County Commissioner Susie Carter.

CONGRATULATING MICHAEL PATRICK HINCHEY ON BEING NAMED MAN OF THE YEAR BY THE WILKES-BARRE FRIENDLY SONS OF ST. PATRICK

**HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 16, 2005*

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the