

members host a writing contest, What the American Flag Means to Me; to encourage involvement, members sponsor local ROTC programs; and, to educate young men and women, members speak with students about the role of America in World War II, Korea, and Vietnam.

The members of Chapter 114 also play a vital role in the lives of other veterans. They schedule hospital visits to newly admitted veterans and wounded soldiers, plan bingo nights for hospitalized soldiers and veterans, assist with health benefit claims for disabled soldiers, and donate modified cars to help disabled veterans drive.

The organization is also an institution where veterans of all wars can meet other legendary former servicemen. One of the first members of the 1920 National Disabled American Veterans Convention in Detroit, Joseph Piccola, joined the U.S. Army in 1918 and lost an eye during World War I. At age 98, Joe continues to inspire members to retain their independence and give back to their community. Thomas Silvermail, another inspirational figure, was wounded in the Korean War and is the only surviving charter member of Chapter 114.

Mr. Speaker, to the men, women, and children of our community; to the families of missing and fallen soldiers; and to every veteran of foreign wars, Livonia Chapter 114 is the embodiment of eternal unity and brotherhood. For 50 years, the organization's tireless efforts have commemorated the lives of heroic servicemen, preserved the independence of disabled veterans, and ensured the bravery of our armed forces is never forgotten. We owe the courageous members of Chapter 114 a great debt of gratitude. Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking them for their years of unrelenting service to our community and our country.

#### CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF YWCA SERVICE

### HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 26, 2006*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the YWCA of Fort Worth and Tarrant County as it celebrates 100 years of service in the 26th District of Texas. The YWCA of Fort Worth and Tarrant County, the first YWCA in Texas, has been serving our community since 1907.

Since its start, the YWCA of Fort Worth and Tarrant County has grown to encompass over 100 paid employees as well as 200 volunteers. Together, these individuals have sought to eliminate racism and empower women through residential services such as My Own Place, which houses 14 young women who have outgrown foster care, and Supportive Living, which houses about 20 women and is designed to help homeless women become independent and self-reliant.

After 100 years of service, the YWCA of Fort Worth and Tarrant County continues to find innovative ways to improve the community. In 2005, the YWCA started two new programs: a class on diversity called "Dialogue on Race" and a partnership with a local Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream shop that employs at-risk youth.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I stand here today to honor the YWCA of Fort Worth and Tarrant County for its commitment to playing an active role in the development, improvement, and success of the community.

#### SACRED HEART BASEBALL TEAM WINS CLASS 1 CHAMPIONSHIP

### HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 26, 2006*

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, let me take this means to recognize the Sacred Heart High School baseball team from Sedalia, MO, on winning the Class 1 State championship.

With their 11-4 win against Stoutland, the Sacred Heart baseball team won the first State championship in the school's 61-year history and the Kaysinger Conference's first team championship on June 1. The team has worked diligently and provided many hours of hard work and dedication to achieve such a great accomplishment.

Mr. Speaker, the Sacred Heart baseball team and their coaches can be very proud of this accomplishment. I know the Members of the House will join me in congratulating them for winning the Class 1 championship.

#### A TRIBUTE TO KEISHA ARSO

### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 26, 2006*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to Keisha Arso on the occasion of her graduation from Martin Van Buren High School in New York City on June 27, 2006. It behooves us to pay tribute to this outstanding citizen and student and I hope that my colleagues will join me in recognizing her impressive accomplishments.

Keisha Arso was born in New Orleans, Louisiana, in 1987. As the second of four daughters, Keisha lived in New Orleans until August 2005 when she and her family had to evacuate their home because of the impending onslaught of Hurricane Katrina, one of the most horrific and devastating hurricanes to hit the United States.

Keisha Arso was one of the lucky ones. She was able to escape to Texas prior to the hurricane's landing in New Orleans. However, her mother Brenda Arso, a nurse, had to stay behind. For days, Keisha Arso, like many others separated from family members and unable to establish communication, fretted with anxiety as she watched the visual images of thousands of people fighting for survival among the rising flood waters, lack of food and water, and outlaws victimizing the weak and helpless.

However, with the assistance of clergy, volunteers in New Orleans and New York City, and family members in Texas, Keisha was finally reunited with her mother and other siblings. Add to that, the dedicated teachers and administrators from Martin Van Buren High School, Keisha and her family have been able to face and survive many obstacles that from the outset seemed insurmountable. The Arso family home may not have survived the cata-

strophic levee breach of Lake Pontchartrain, but Keisha's spirit remains intact. Keisha's strength, courage and ability to rise above all obstacles and receive her diploma are prominent examples of the power of faith, freedom, compassion and the American spirit.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that it is incumbent on this body to recognize the accomplishments of Keisha Arso, as she serves as a role model for others facing adversity.

Mr. Speaker, please join our community in honoring Keisha Arso, as her steadfast perseverance makes her most worthy of our recognition today.

#### IN TRIBUTE TO CECIL BROWN, JR.

### HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 26, 2006*

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life and work of a noted civil rights leader. Mr. Cecil Brown, Jr., who died earlier this week, was one of the first African Americans elected to the Wisconsin State Assembly, and ultimately became a national leader in the fight for equality and desegregation.

A lifelong Midwesterner, Mr. Brown was born in Chicago and also lived briefly in Iowa but was only nine years old when his family settled in Milwaukee during the depression, hoping to make a better life for themselves and their children. Mr. Brown graduated from North Division High school and went on to pursue a college degree at Marquette University. He worked as an accountant before he won a seat in the Assembly in 1954. His victory helped establish new opportunities for African Americans in elected office, giving rise to a cadre of strong elected officials that included Representative Lloyd Barbee, and County Board Supervisor Clinton Rose, among others. Serving a district that was predominantly white, Cecil Brown became known for his ethics and integrity, as well as exemplary civil rights leadership.

After serving briefly in the Assembly, Mr. Brown went on to become one of the foremost leaders of Milwaukee's civil rights movement. He founded the Milwaukee chapter of the Congress on Racial Equality, and worked alongside Father James Groppi and others to fight for desegregated housing and schools. Inspired equally by Martin Luther King, Jr. and Paul Robeson, he was deeply committed to non-violent strategies for social change. His wife, Loretta Brown, too, was a civil rights activist whom he met while participating in the Milwaukee United School Integration Committee.

All of us who are elected to public office stand on the shoulders of those who came before us. Mr. Brown is one of the giants in our state's history whose efforts enabled me to have a career in public service. I am honored to have this opportunity to pay tribute to his lifelong efforts to advance the African American community and to give thanks to him and his family for their unwavering commitment to equality and civil rights.

BEST FRIENDS KINDNESS TO  
ANIMALS WEEKEND

**HON. JAMES P. MORAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 26, 2006*

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce that this past weekend was designated by Best Friends Animals Society as Best Friends Kindness Weekend.

Best Friends Animal Society, based outside Kanab, Utah, works with shelters and rescue groups nationwide to bring about a time when there will be no more homeless pets. Best Friends operates the country's largest sanctuary for homeless animals, and provides adoption, spay/neuter, and educational programs nationwide.

The purpose of Best Friends Weekend was to remind all of us how animals enrich our lives through their companionship, friendship and love. Best Friends Animal Society believes that dedicating one weekend each year to promoting kind acts towards animals can make our communities and our world a better place.

Cruelty to animals often leads to cruelty to people. I've been a strong and outspoken supporter of animal welfare issues since first coming to Congress, and I've authored legislation to help protect animals and promote their welfare. Organizations like Best Friends serve as a conscience to lawmakers and the country in these matters and remind us that our first duty is to protect the most vulnerable and innocent among us.

This past weekend's activities of kindness inspired by Best Friends should serve as a reminder to all of us, that in this increasing fragmented society we need to be ever more compassionate about the animals in our world, whether they are companion pets, service animals such as seeing-eye dogs, livestock, or nature's wildlife. It also serves as a reminder that the bond between humans and animals is a vital one and is capable of bringing joy and healing to people of all ages. Finally, it serves to remind us to be more kind and compassionate to our fellow man. We coexist in this world—human to human and human to animal—and those bonds must be maintained and kept strong.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. SILVESTRE REYES**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 26, 2006*

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, June 22, 2006, I was unavoidably detained at a Border Health Conference hosted by the Texas Medical Association in conjunction with my office, and missed rollcall votes Nos. 308, 309, 310, and 311. If I had been present, I would have voted no on these votes.

CELEBRATING MRS. OZIA MAE  
STURGIS' 80TH BIRTHDAY

**HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 26, 2006*

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to wish a very special New Yorker, Mrs. Ozia Mae Sturgis, a very happy 80th birthday. Mrs. Sturgis commemorated this occasion with family members and friends at a birthday tea at the William Hodson Senior Center. I would like to join them in celebrating her life, her contributions, and her career of community service.

The eldest of 12 children, she was born Ozia Mae Hammond on June 21, 1926, in Augusta, Georgia, and moved to New York City in the 1940s, where she met and married Jimmie Sturgis.

Mrs. Sturgis and her husband raised seven children in their Bronx home, where she instilled in them the importance of education, a strong work ethic, and the value of family. Their children and seven grandchildren all still reside in the New York Metropolitan Area.

She is very active in her church and her community, serving as a past president and current Board Member of the William Hodson Senior Center in the Bronx. Last year, she was the proud recipient of the Center's "Mother of the Year" award.

On the occasion of Ozia Mae Sturgis's 80th birthday, I am pleased to join her family and friends in wishing her many happy years to come.