

HONORING SANDY GERMANY

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 2006

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me today in recognizing Sandy Germany the National President of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Ladies Auxiliary. The Curtis-Wolverton Post Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3243 Ladies Auxiliary is welcoming Mrs. Germany to their facility on February 22 in Fenton, Michigan. This is an official visit to the State of Michigan by Mrs. Germany.

Sandy Germany was elected to her position at the 92nd National Convention of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Veterans of Foreign Wars in August 2005. Reflecting the beliefs of the Ladies Auxiliary she underscored the need to remember the sacrifices of the men and women that have fought to preserve our freedom. This belief is an underpinning of the Ladies Auxiliary as they work to preserve the memory of our courageous Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force.

Sandy Germany is a life member of the Kichler-Pippen Auxiliary Post 5658. She is eligible to be a member through her brother, her father and her son. Her son, Curtis, is currently serving with the U.S. Army in Korea and Iraq. She has served in many positions with the Ladies Auxiliary in addition to being employed as the Town Clerk in Elberta, Alabama. She is a mother and grandmother, giving of her time, as a Life Member, to the VFW National Home for Children. Sandy also belongs to the American Legion Auxiliary and the Military Order of the Cooties Auxiliary.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the life and service of Sandy Germany. I commend her for her commitment to helping our service personnel and for working to preserve the ideals that set our Nation apart from all others.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO HENRY PRENDES, KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great American, Sergeant Henry Prendes of the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, who was killed in the line of duty on Wednesday February 1, 2006. Sgt. Prendes was shot as he approached the front door of a house in southwest Las Vegas, while responding to a 911 call, at the age of thirty seven.

Sgt. Henry Prendes joined the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department on February 26, 1991. He spent his first years patrolling the east Las Vegas neighborhood surrounding Charleston and Lamb Boulevards and was quickly promoted to Field Training Officer. On January 2, 1999, after working one year for the narcotics office as a detective, Henry Prendes was promoted to Sergeant. As a Sergeant he worked for the Crimes against Youth and Family Department, and later as Patrol Sergeant in the South West Area Command.

Sgt. Prendes was a native of Nevada and graduated from Las Vegas High School where he was Vice President of his senior class and captain of the football team. He is survived by his wife Dawn and two daughters from a previous marriage, Kylee and Brooke. Sgt. Prendes, along with his family, was a devoutly religious man. He engaged in bible study at home with his wife and mentored children in his spare time. Before he died, he was in the process of building a 17 acre youth camp in Montana called, Creation Camp Jesus.

Sgt. Henry Prendes could be described as everyone's friend, always having a smile on his face, and always helping those in need. Some help people because they are police officers, but Henry was a police officer to help people.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to honor the memory of Sgt. Henry Prendes.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE DANCE THEATRE OF HARLEM

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express how content I was to see President Bush recognize the national treasure that is the Dance Theatre of Harlem at a dinner and performance Monday, February 6 at the White House and to enter into the RECORD a Washington Post article dated Wednesday, February 8 commemorating the event.

In a tribute to the theatre which stands today as the first black classical ballet company, and its esteemed founder Arthur Mitchell, President Bush and many others were able to be exposed to the cultural jewel I am honored to have situated in my Congressional district.

The Dance Theatre of Harlem, founded in 1968, is a leading arts and cultural institution dedicated to the advancement and cultural enrichment of youth from diverse backgrounds. Since its founding, it has brought modern and intrepid new forms of artistic expression to audiences throughout New York City and the world—embodying the beauty of the American spirit.

Even as the performing company enjoyed international acclaim, being the first U.S. ballet company to perform in Russia and then performing in South Africa, the theatre has strengthened its roots in Harlem. Currently the school enrolls some 700 students per year in community, pre-professional and professional programs and offers courses in various dance forms ranging from ballet and tap to modern, jazz- and African dance, and even Irish step dancing. With its exceptional dancers, dazzling choreography, and cultural pride, the Dance Theatre of Harlem continues to be a beacon for all communities.

Mr. Speaker, again please join me in saluting the Dance Theatre of Harlem and expressing my gratitude to President Bush for recognizing its contributions.

[From the Washington Post, Feb. 8, 2006]

EN POINTE AT THE WHITE HOUSE

WITH A FETE FOR FOUNDER ARTHUR MITCHELL,
THE BUSHES GIVE A LIFT TO DANCE THEATRE
OF HARLEM

(By Sarah Kaufman)

There were ballerinas and cavaliers, Broadway singers and a country crooner, but it

took the Rev. Al Green to really get the party started at the White House on Monday night.

The soul man turned soul saver worked his magic on the East Room crowd, gathered to honor the Dance Theatre of Harlem and its famed founder, Arthur Mitchell.

"I-I-I, I'm so in love with you," Green rasped in his signature falsetto, arcing back like a bow about to launch its arrow.

Of course, there were many in the audience of 80 or so who could sing Green's enduring hit "Let's Stay Together" in their sleep. But was one of them President Bush? Green put him to the test.

"Ooh, loving you forever," Green purred, "is what I—" Suddenly, he thrust the microphone right up to the lips of the surprised president, who recovered enough to mouth something back.

Whatever it was could not be heard, but Green was more than satisfied.

"He said 'Nee-eee-eeed!'" squealed the amazed hitmaster, hitting even higher notes than he'd been singing. "He did! He said 'Neeeee!'" After laughter and applause for the president's grace note, the set then became a singalong—was that Karl Rove joining in?—and then a dance-along, after Mitchell, a former star of the New York City Ballet, pulled Laura Bush up onstage.

President Bush, apparently pumped up after parrying to Green's thrust, followed suit, taking with him Shirley Massey, wife of Walter Massey, president of Morehouse College.

"We got the president up onstage!" exclaimed Mitchell afterward. Not a man who ordinarily likes to share the spotlight, Mitchell nevertheless gave Bush points for effort, if not for style. "He did really well," Mitchell said. "He was tapping his foot, and . . . moving. You know."

Mitchell is no stranger to the White House—he says he has been invited there by every president since John F. Kennedy. He's been there so often he knew many of the waiters by name. But this night was different. The dinner and performance by members of the Dance Theatre of Harlem and others were the work of entrepreneur and philanthropist Catherine Reynolds, chairwoman of the board of the predominantly black ballet company. The show will air this summer on PBS.

"What better place to showcase Dance Theatre of Harlem during Black History Month than the White House?" she said. "It's a ballet company in the midst of Harlem—that in and of itself is so American."

The presidential affair, she said, sprang from a conversation she had a few months ago with Laura Bush about the ailing company, on hiatus for the past year and a half because of rising debt.

Reynolds said the first lady asked, "How can I help?" Reynolds had her answer ready, and the result was a cozy little black-tie dinner in Mitchell's honor, with the guests seated at intimate round tables mounded with roses. Among the invited: Attorney General Alberto Gonzales, undoubtedly relieved to be anywhere but in the Senate hot seat where he'd spent the day; donors and arts officials such as the Ford Foundation's Susan Berresford, Kennedy Center President Michael Kaiser and Lonnie Bunch, founding director of the National Museum of African American History and Culture; and a contingent of the black elite, such as "60 Minutes" correspondent Ed Bradley and Spelman College President Beverly Daniel Tatum.

The menu favored creamy comfort foods: puree of parsnip soup, cheesy grits and spinach alongside roast kobe beef, a yellow pepper and avocado terrine, and whipped-cream-dolloped lemon custard cakes with coconut ice cream and a blackberry-ginger sauce,

thick as syrup. It was not fare for the calorie-conscious. But there weren't many of those to be seen, anyway; the dancers were off warming up for the performance that was to follow.

Filing into the East Room after dinner, we found ourselves chatting with Andrew Card, Bush's chief of staff, who seemed eager to show his own artsy side.

"I hit a crossroads when I was a senior in high school," Card said, describing a choice he faced between accepting a scholarship to the Hartt School of Music (on the strength of his trumpet playing) in West Hartford, Conn., or a Navy ROTC scholarship at the University of South Carolina.

Guess which one he chose.

Still, he said, "I believe in the arts very strongly. Every once in a while I get the trumpet out. Of course, my wife wants me to play it in the closet."

It being Monday night, and close to 9 by this time—fans of Fox's "24" know how sacrosanct that hour is—we pressed Card on another issue: Did he ever tune in to the Kiefer Sutherland thriller, which recently revealed that the chief of staff of the show's president is a murderous villain of presidency-destroying dimension?

Card's eyebrows shot up merrily. "I hear the chief of staff is kind of a bad guy. Didn't he drug the first lady?" Yep, and Card's TV counterpart also conspired to engineer a nerve gas leak to incriminate a terrorist organization to prove it had weapons of mass destruction.

Card backed up in mock horror. "I'm not him," he said emphatically, eyes wide, waving his arms in front of himself to ward off any notion of a link to reality. "I didn't do that." And then he was gone, spurred by a desperate need to catch up with his wife.

Addressing the audience, Mitchell pointed out his company's oft-reported origins, that it was the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr. in 1968 that inspired him to found a classical ballet company of African American dancers—which is, all these years later, still a unique institution.

Left unsaid was what it would mean for black ballet dancers if such a company could not survive. In fact, none of the speeches mentioned Dance Theatre of Harlem's having come so close to financial ruin, or the fact that its laid-off dancers' unemployment claims ran out long ago.

Bush, seated with his wife in the front row and within a few feet of the small stage, smiled throughout the show, which included children as well as professionals. Hands clasped in his lap, he kept up a steady piston action with one knee—an intriguing tic, yet what did it mean? Restlessness? Excitement? A dream of mashing the pedals on a mountain bike?

Harolyn Blackwell, Audra McDonald and LeAnn Rimes each sang solos as well as songs that accompanied more dancing. It was all very classy, very polite, if somewhat restrained.

Enter Al Green, the great uncorker, who got throats to open and hands to clap—some on the beat, quite a few off—and got the president to join in the dance.

"The whole evening was so relaxed," Mitchell enthused afterward. "That was a major miracle."

Speaking of miracles, Mitchell stated his favored outcome: "I hope this opens the door, that dance becomes a line item in the federal budget so we can take the arts all across America."

A different miracle may be a bit closer to actually coming to pass. When she became board chairman and vowed to get the troupe back on its feet, Reynolds told *The Washington Post* that "failure is not an option." So how close to success—and public performances—is the company now?

"We're close," she said. "We'll probably be making an announcement in the summer."

HONORING WILLIAM AND DOROTHY ZEHNDER

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 2006

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, on February 17, the Saginaw County Convention and Visitors Bureau will present its Pinnacle Award to William "Tiny" and Dorothy Zehnder for their remarkable contributions to the convention and tourist industry in Saginaw County. The Zehnder family has had a positive impact on Frankenmuth, Michigan, and changed the area forever. Theirs is one of the great American success stories, replete with foresight, courage, and hard work.

In 1950, the Zehnder family purchased the Fischer Hotel, and William Zehnder became the manager. Dorothy Zehnder became the kitchen manager, a role she continues today. At that time, the Zehnder family had 21 years of experience running their own restaurant across the street from the Fischer Hotel. After a series of improvements to the Fischer Hotel culminating in a major renovation in the late 1950s, the Fischer Hotel was renamed the Frankenmuth Bavarian Inn. The décor and architecture of the Bavarian Inn started the transformation of Frankenmuth into "Michigan's Little Bavaria." The weeklong opening celebration held in 1959 proved to be very popular and has turned into the annual Frankenmuth Bavarian Festival. The addition of the Glockenspiel and Wooden Bridge has enhanced the character of Frankenmuth's downtown area.

Dorothy developed most of the recipes served in the restaurant. The restaurant can accommodate 1200 diners at one time, and annually over 750,000 pounds of chicken is served to its guests. Dorothy plays a vital role in ensuring the food is prepared correctly and served promptly. Many local Frankenmuth leaders started their work life in the Bavarian Inn kitchen under Dorothy's tutelage. Today the Frankenmuth Bavarian Inn is one of the top ten family-owned restaurants in America.

In addition to the restaurant, their holdings include Bavarian Inn Lodge, Frankenmuth River Place, Castle Shops, Freeway Fritz, Frankenmuth Motel, and several gift shops on Main Street. The Zehnders employ over 1,000 people and serve one million visitors each year making Frankenmuth a top tourist destination.

Tiny Zehnder's vision for the Frankenmuth community has made it a great place for families to gather, live, and work. The Zehnders buy locally and utilize Michigan commodities. They are always looking for ways to improve their business and their community. They have passed on their skills and work ethic to their children. The Bavarian Inn enterprise is a multi-generational operation with their children and grandchildren managing and working in various capacities. Tiny and Dorothy Zehnder are an inspiration to everyone and excellent role models for our youth. I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me and applaud the outstanding success of the Zehnders and congratulate them as they are honored by the Saginaw community.

HONORING MR. ROCKY SANTILLI FOR HIS CROWNING AS 2006 KING OF BASEBALLTOWN

HON. TIM HOLDEN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 2006

Mr. HOLDEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Rocky Santilli of Leesport Township in Berks County, Pennsylvania, for his 2,000+ career wins as a fast-pitch softball manager, and his naming as the 2006 King of Baseballtown.

Mr. Santilli started his managerial career in 1959 with the Leesport-based Rising Sun Sunners, and has since amassed over 2,000 victories along with dozens of trophies and honors. With Santilli at the helm, the Sunners captured three Amateur Softball Association (ASA) national titles, a number of gold medals at the Olympic Festival, and a share of the International Softball Federation (ISF) Men's World Fast Pitch Championship.

Due to his impressive record with the Sunners, Mr. Santilli was honored with the opportunity to pilot the United States softball team four times at the Pan Am games. The U.S. brought home silver medals in all four games, finishing just behind Canada.

In 1991, Rocky Santilli was inducted into the ISF Hall of Fame on behalf of his remarkable career. Two years later he was enshrined in the ASA National Hall of Honor and the Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame. In 1998 Mr. Santilli returned to coaching and led the Schuylkill Valley High School girls' softball squad to a 64–67 record over 7 years. In 2004, Rocky Santilli retired as a legend.

Mr. Speaker, I had the privilege of meeting Rocky several years ago through Sheriff John H. Kramer, and it is an honor today to recognize such a talented and accomplished man who has brought pride and inspiration to the people of my district. I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. Rocky Santilli on his 2006 King of Baseballtown award, recognizing his remarkable career in softball, and thanking him for the many contributions he has made toward the well-being of the citizens of Pennsylvania.

IN RECOGNITION OF GEORGE SMALL'S SERVICE TO THE UNITED STATES ARMY

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions of a great American, George Small. I honor him today for his service to our great Nation in the United States Army during World War II.

Mr. Small entered active duty from the Army Reserves as a 2nd Lieutenant on April 25, 1941. After receiving training at the Army's Chemical Warfare School, he became Base Chemical Officer in Albuquerque, New Mexico. From Albuquerque, Mr. Small was transferred to Clark Airbase until he was ordered to Bataan in the Philippines on December 24, 1941.

Mr. Small was assigned to the 31st Infantry until the surrender of Bataan on April 9, 1942.