

Throughout the years, AKA's purpose has expanded as it strives to promote high scholastics and ethical standards, vocational and career guidance, health services and the advancement of human and civil rights. Led by national Basileus, Norma S. White, Alpha Kappa Alpha focuses on five national targets including: education, health, the black family, economics, and the arts. Most importantly the women of AKA seek to make a difference in our communities and to be of supreme service to all of mankind.

When you look at AKA's distinguished membership it is easy to see its impact on America. Amongst these women are: Coretta Scott King, Rosa Parks, Maya Angelou, Toni Morrison, Ella Fitzgerald, and Dr. Mae Jemison—just to name a few.

The impact of black fraternal, social and civic organization is truly immeasurable. They have brought together and inspired the leaders that have made America what it is today.

CONGRATULATING ALFRED K.Y. LAM ON BEING NAMED GUAM'S 2006 MINORITY SMALL BUSINESS CHAMPION OF THE YEAR

### HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 28, 2006*

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and commend Mr. Alfred K.Y. Lam, affectionately known to everyone on Guam as "Uncle Alfred," on being named the 2006 Minority Small Business Champion of the Year by the United States Small Business Administration Guam Branch Office.

Alfred's entrepreneurial spirit, diligence, and perseverance have made him a successful businessman on Guam, but his commitment to the development and promotion of other minority businesses over the last 30 years makes him deserving of the Minority Small Business Champion of the Year award.

Since coming to Guam in 1972, Alfred has operated his own business, finding a wealth of business opportunity in Guam's burgeoning shipping industry. Even in those early days, Alfred saw the need to nurture other small businesses for the benefit of the entire community.

From 1974 to 1976, he served as the vice president of the United Chinese Association, and was the charter president of the Asian Pacific Lions Club in 1982. During this time, Alfred also helped form the Sea Transport Association, which was created to promote and stabilize the shipping market between Guam and the Far East for the benefit of Chinese merchants and Guam's economy as a whole.

For the last two years, Alfred has also served as president of the Chinese Chamber of Commerce, which has begun to form alliances with other Chinese Chambers of Commerce in Hong Kong, Mainland China, and Los Angeles.

Alfred is a proven business leader, and continues to be an inspiration to the next generation of businessmen on Guam, including the 2005 Small Business Person of the Year, George Lai of Quality Distributors.

I congratulate Alfred for being selected as the 2006 Minority Small Business Champion of the Year for Guam. Our island celebrates

his recognition with his wife Kathy and his children. Uncle Alfred, we are all proud of you and we wish you continued prosperity.

### IN RECOGNITION OF MILLER ELECTRIC CREDIT UNION

### HON. MARK GREEN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 28, 2006*

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor and pleasure to recognize before this House Miller Electric Credit Union, which was recently awarded the Desjardins Youth Financial Education Award for its extraordinary service to its members and the community of Appleton, Wisconsin.

Helping young people learn the value of money is one of the most significant social and economic challenges we face as a nation. Despite the principles of thrift and prudence embraced by our parents and grandparents, today the importance of saving is being overshadowed by the ease at which folks can spend. And, as a result millions of Americans have charged and financed their way into a life of debt and financial turmoil.

Fortunately, there are folks out there working to break the spending cycle. Miller Electric Credit Union spends hours upon hours teaching individuals lessons on financial education. They've created innovative programs to help their members, young and old, learn how to budget and save for important purchases down the road. One program in particular—the Undersea Saver's Club—gives prizes to kids who make a habit out of depositing, rather than withdrawing, money in their savings account.

Mr. Speaker, Miller Electric Credit Union has been a valued member of the Appleton community for nearly 60 years, and its 2,800 member-owners are a testament to its success. I congratulate them on receiving this outstanding honor, and wish them continued success in the years to come.

### TRIBUTE TO BLACK HISTORY MONTH

### HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 28, 2006*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am most pleased to join my colleagues and millions of Americans in commemorating African-American History Month and particularly this year's theme "Celebrating Community: A Tribute to Black Fraternal, Social and Civic Institutions". This theme as announced by the Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History (ASALH) is most appropriate and timely as we enter a new millennium and hopefully a new and even brighter era of African-American progress.

Mr. President, I rise today to recognize February as Black History Month and to honor the rich cultural heritage of African-Americans in Dallas and my State of Texas. In the arts or letters, history, business, sport, or education, Greater Metroplex's African-American community has made a significant and lasting impact on our Nation's culture.

This evening, in honor of Black History Month, I would like to call the House's attention to four distinguished African-Americans entities that made major contributions to my congressional district, city of Dallas as well as the State and our country.

First, Mr. President, I would call your attention to Dallas Black Dance Theatre celebrates its 29th season as the oldest, continuously operating professional dance company in Dallas. The ensemble, a contemporary modern dance company, consists of 14 professional dancers performing a mixed repertory of modern, jazz, ethnic and spiritual works by nationally and internationally known choreographers which include: Alvin Ailey, Talley Beatty, Donald Byrd, Alonzo King, Milton Myers, Elisa Monte, Donald McKayle, Kevin Jeff, Christopher Huggins, Jessica Lang, Bruce Wood, David Parsons and Darryl Sneed. The company and company's dancers have studied, trained and performed with some of the pre-eminent performers and teachers in the American dance world.

Second, Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the African American Museum which has more than 25 years, has stood as a cultural beacon in Dallas and the Southwestern United States. Started in 1974 as a part of the Bishop College Special Collection, the Museum has operated independently since 1979.

The African American Museum is the only museum in the Southwestern United States devoted to the preservation and display of African American artistic, cultural and historical materials. It also has one of the largest African American folk art collections in the United States. The African American Museum incorporates a wide variety of visual art forms and historical documents that portray the African American experience in the United States, Southwest, and Dallas.

The main objective of the Museum is the presentation of meaningful experiences for children and adults who would not ordinarily visit a museum. The rich heritage of black art and history is housed in four vaulted galleries, augmented by a research library. Living African American culture is experienced through entertaining and educational programs presented in the theater, studio arts area and classrooms. The Museum's permanent collections include African art; African American fine art; magazine, historical, political and community archives.

Third, I would like to recognize the Black Academy of Arts and Letters, Inc. (TBAAL) is a Dallas-based multi-disciplined cultural arts institution. TBAAL's primary objectives have been to stimulate an increased awareness of Black artistic accomplishments rooted in the African culture among the races; to honor those who have made significant and continuing contributions in the arts and letters of the past and present and; to identify, encourage and support young, promising talented artists and scholars in Black arts and letters.

After more than two decades of producing and presenting programs in music, theater, dance, film, television and video, literature and visual arts throughout the United States, TBAAL has continued to create strong ties among many emerging and well known artists and scholars. In the organization's early history (1977), it established a professional Resident Touring Company called the Third World Players. Renowned actress Regina Taylor was a member of that company in 1978 and other

artists such as Erykah Badu are a product of the Academy.

The 'cultural icon' of the Dallas/Fort Worth area, TBAAL presents and produces exciting cultural arts programs annually in dance, theatre, music, literary, fine, and visual arts. Local and emerging artists participate in TBAAL programs, and noted artists and celebrities have participated such as: Oleta Adams, Debbie Allen, Maya Angelou, Roy Ayers, Akin Babatunde, Obba Babatundé, Erykah Badu, Romare Bearden, The Barrett Sisters, Angela Bofill, Avery Brooks, Cab Calloway, Bill Cosby, Ruby Dee, Ossie Davis\*, Mari Evans, Antonio Fargas, Kim Fields, Lou Gossett, William Greaves, Alex Haley, Irma P. Hall, Tramaine Hawkins, Jennifer Holliday, Linda Hopkins, Kim Jordan, Ella Joyce, Eartha Kitt, Dr. C. Eric Lincoln, Les McCann, Barbara McNair, Garrett Morris, Roger Mosley, Tyler Perry, Florence Quivar, Phylicia Rashad, Dan Rather, Esther Rolle, Sonia Sanchez, Karen Clark-Sheard, KiKi Shephard, Carole Simpson, Mavis Staples, Glenn Turman, Cicely Tyson, Albertina Walker, Margaret Walker\*, Dionne Warwick, Lillias White, Hal Williams, Nancy Wilson, Vickie Winans, the late James Cleveland and many more.

TBAAL is the only African-American multi-disciplined cultural arts organization in the country housed inside a major convention center, which increases the awareness of African American cultural history.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I like to recognize the Dallas Youth Council of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). The purpose of the Youth Council is to inform youth of the problems affecting Black people and other minority groups as well as work towards those measures to advance the economic, educational, social, and political status of African Americans and other minority groups and to stimulate an appreciation of the African American contribution to civilization. I commend Bosha Jagers, President, Tayana White, 1st Vice President, Crystal Armstrong, 2nd Vice President; Danielle Whyte, Secretary; Nucleous Johnson, Treasurer and Linda Darden-Lydia, Youth Advisor for their hard work in my district towards betterment of younger generation.

Let me just say in closing, that Black History Month should be a time for reflection and appreciation; a time to reflect on the accomplishments of African-Americans throughout this country and throughout our history, accomplishments that often were made in the face of racism, of poverty, and unequal opportunity. It should be a time to increase our awareness and understanding of African-American history and culture, and a time to reaffirm our understanding of our rich cultural diversity, our commitment to social equality, and our support of racial justice.

COMMENDING JOSEPH CRISOSTOMO UPON HIS BEING NAMED GUAM'S SMALL BUSINESS PERSON OF THE YEAR FOR 2006

**HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO**

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 28, 2006*

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of Mr. Joseph

Crisostomo of Guam and to commend him on being honored as the 2006 Small Business Person of the Year. Each year the U.S. Small Business Administration Guam Branch Office solicits nominations from our community for this award. This year Mr. Crisostomo has earned this distinction and his nomination will go forward for national recognition as well.

Mr. Crisostomo, who family, friends, employees, and customers know as "Joey," is widely recognized and well respected within our island community as a formidable and successful business leader. His has an impressive record of experience in the sales and automotive industries and he has built a reputation of hard work and strong leadership.

The son of Jose R. and Rosario Sanchez Crisostomo, Joey grew up in a military family and developed an interest in cars and motorcycles at an early stage in life. He graduated from John F. Kennedy High School in 1977, and began working at a local company on the island stocking auto parts and assembling motorcycles. After spending several years in Idaho and Hawaii in the industry, he returned to his home island of Guam in 1992 to work in car sales and to serve as the sales manager for two local companies. In 1999, the local Chrysler dealership folded but Joey was instrumental in securing the parts and service agreement with Chrysler International to ensure the Chrysler name remained on Guam.

Despite weak economic conditions, Joey successfully took risk and opened Cars Plus, LLC. Joey demonstrated his ability to start up a new business from the bottom. Today, Cars Plus has grown from a service and parts company to a full line car dealership. Joey has guided the company over consecutive years of record growth, and the business has expanded in employees, size, and sales.

Joey is not only a strong and successful business leader on our island. He has contributed to our community in many ways with corporate sponsorships, board memberships, and his personal time. He is an active member of the Guam Chamber of Commerce and the Guam Visitor's Bureau Sports Tourism Committee. In particular, he has devoted his time to youth programs and youth organizations. Among the many organizations that have benefited from his contributions are Guam's Youth Life Program, the Guam Juvenile Drug Court Program, Operation Outreach USA, the Guam Football Association, the Global Young Leaders Conference, the Guam Girls Fast Pitch Softball League, the Boy Scouts of America, the Make-a-Wish Foundation, the American Red Cross, and the American Cancer Society.

As an avid racer, Joey has also promoted Guam internationally having competed in many races. Today we take this occasion to recognize Joey's achievements and his contributions to our community. I join his wife, Joyce, his daughters, Lenora and Jennifer, and his son, Joey, in honoring his accomplishments and in commending him as the Small Business Person of the Year for 2006. Our community wishes him the best of success as he pursues future endeavors.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. EARL BLUMENAUER**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 28, 2006*

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, had I been present for the votes on Wednesday, February 15, 2006, I would have voted as follows:

Rollcall Vote 10: I would have voted in favor of H.R. 4745, making supplemental appropriations for FY 2006 for the Small Business Administration's disaster loan program.

Rollcall Vote 11: I would have voted in favor of S. Con. Res. 79, expressing the sense of Congress that no United States assistance should be provided directly to the Palestinian Authority if any representative political party holding a majority of parliamentary seats within the Palestinian Authority maintains a position calling for the destruction of Israel.

Had I been present for the votes on Thursday, February 16, 2006, I would have voted as follows:

Rollcall Vote 12: I would have voted in favor of H. Con. Res. 341, condemning the Government of Iran for violating its international nuclear nonproliferation obligations and expressing support for efforts to report Iran to the United Nations Security Council.

Rollcall Vote 13: I would have voted against the ruling of the Chair tabling the privileged resolution by Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi on the budget reconciliation spending cuts legislation.

## TRIBUTE TO ERIN LAVERY, WINNER OF THE PRUDENTIAL SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY AWARDS

**HON. NICK J. RAHALL II**

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 28, 2006*

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Erin Lavery, of Huntington, WV for being named a top honoree in the 2006 Prudential Spirit of Community Award. I would like to congratulate and honor this innovative young woman who has shown exemplary volunteer service in her community.

Ms. Lavery is being recognized for organizing a monthlong nutrition and physical fitness education program that included the use of pedometers by all 1,600 students and faculty at Huntington High School. As an athlete and lifelong volunteer, Erin wanted to help classmates and staff members develop a commitment to healthy eating habits and physical activity. Motivated by the high rate of obesity that is prevalent in West Virginia, she states that she wanted to take a proactive stand to do something about the problem.

Erin had heard about a small pilot program using pedometers at a nearby school, and thought that idea could be of a comprehensive health education program for her entire school. She developed handouts and a video to introduce her program, and then recruited student volunteers to help her distribute pedometers donated by the county health department to all students and teachers, along with sheets for them to record the number of steps taken each week. To encourage participation, Erin publicized the program through