

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 multidisciplinary 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 Boshia 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

school and community media, and awarded random prizes for turning in completed record sheets. She also hung 252 large posters of nutrition and fitness information all over the school, and arranged for taste tests and fitness demonstrations during lunch. After she had collected and analyzed their data, Erin found that 35 percent of the participants had increased their activity level, and 62 percent said they were more motivated to live a healthier lifestyle.

The program that brought this innovative young woman to our attention—The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards—was created by Prudential Financial in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals in 1995 to show youth volunteers that their contributions are critically important and highly valued, and to inspire other young people to follow their example.

Ms. Lavery should be extremely proud to have been singled out from the thousands of dedicated volunteers who participated in this years program. I fully applaud Ms. Lavery for her initiative in seeking to make her community, and West Virginia as a whole, a better place to live, and for the positive impact she has had on the lives of others. She has demonstrated a level of commitment and accomplishment that is truly extraordinary in today's world, and deserves our sincere admiration and respect. Her actions show that young Americans can—and do—play important roles in our communities, and that America's community spirit continues to hold tremendous promise for the future.

RECOGNIZING THE DEDICATION OF  
THE E. PAT LARKINS COMMUNITY  
CENTER IN POMPAÑO  
BEACH, FLORIDA

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 28, 2006*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. E. Pat Larkins, Commissioner of the City of Pompano Beach, Florida, on the occasion of the dedication of the E. Pat Larkins Community Center. Commissioner Larkins has been a good friend to me and to the citizens of Pompano Beach for more than 20 years.

Born to a carpenter father and a mother who picked beans for a living, Pat has piled success on top of success throughout his life. In the process, he has made possible opportunities for African-Americans they would not have seen otherwise. In 1971, at a time when black-owned companies found it difficult to make headway in the construction industry, Pat Larkins helped start the Broward Minority Contractors' Association to promote the interests of African-American builders.

In 1985, Pat became the first black mayor of the City of Pompano Beach. In all, he has been elected 10 times, for a total of 20 years, during which he has also served three terms as Vice Mayor. Pat Larkins has been recognized numerous times as a fine citizen and an enormous credit to his city and to the people of Broward County, Florida. He is a great American, and I am proud to call him my friend.

Today's naming of the E. Pat Larkins Community Center is a fitting tribute to this excel-

lent man. On behalf of my colleagues in the House of Representatives and all of the residents of Florida's 23rd Congressional District, I congratulate Pat for this honor and wish him health, happiness, and continued success in the future.

HONORING THE LIFETIME OF  
ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF CHUCK WU

**HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO**

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 28, 2006*

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the lifetime of accomplishments of Mr. Wu Jia Chi, affectionately known to us on Guam as "Chuck Wu" and to recognize his humanitarianism. Mr. Wu was born in Taipei, Taiwan on February 21, 1921. He immigrated to Guam in 1971 and opened a small business in Harmon. His business was the first of many successful enterprises he has established on Guam during the last quarter century. Today Mr. Wu is a well respected resident on our island of Guam and in the Pacific Region. His entrepreneurial spirit, his commitment to his family, and his dedication to our community inspires us all.

Mr. Wu is a pioneer in the business community on Guam and is a leader within his own Chinese community. His vision and determination have contributed to his success, and he has used this success to help many nonprofit organizations and worthwhile causes. He is one who has given back to the community through his involvement and his time. He is a dynamic force and his efforts and volunteerism have helped civic organizations on our island on many occasions.

Mr. Wu has never lost his firm belief in the importance of preserving cultural traditions and customs. He established the Chinese School of Guam in 1978 and served as the school's principal for 7 years. He continues to advocate for the improvement of our schools and the development of our young students, both within the Chinese community and throughout our island.

Mr. Wu's commitment to serving and leading the Chinese community was recognized in his appointment as a commissioner for Overseas Chinese Affairs since 1991. He was also the president of the Chinese School Foundation of Guam from 1989 to 1993. Moreover, from 1985 to 1989, Mr. Wu was the president of the United Chinese Association of Guam. Mr. Wu also served as president of the Sea Transport Association of Guam from 1982 to 1985. In 1993 he was honored as the U.S. Small Business Advocate of the Year.

Mr. Wu has made a lasting impression on our island of Guam and his leadership in our community has improved our island significantly. I join his wife Shiu-Fong Lai-Wu, his sons, Fong, Albert, John, and Thomas, his daughters-in-law, Shaina, Sandra, and Janet, and his grandchildren, Vera, Valerie, Stefanie, Alexander, Sophia, Shaun, Chucky, Kaile, and Tommy, and all the people of Guam, in commending Chuck Wu for his lifetime of accomplishments.

TRIBUTE TO SAMUEL J.  
TENENBAUM

**HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 28, 2006*

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to a man who has embraced God's admonition to "do unto others as you would have them do unto you" as his personal motto. Samuel J. Tenenbaum has been honored as the United Way of the Midlands' Humanitarian of the Year, and I can think of no one more deserving of this recognition.

Sam and I have been friends longer than I would like to remember. He has always been a loyal supporter and constant advisor, whether I seek his advice or not. He and his wife Inez are dear friends and true kindred spirits. So when the news images of the devastation in New Orleans following Hurricane Katrina spurred me to call on Columbia Mayor Bob Coble to initiate an effort in South Carolina to welcome those displaced by this enormous tragedy, we both immediately asked Sam to lead the operation that became known as South Carolina—S.C.—Cares.

Under Sam's leadership, S.C. Cares became the model for an effective response to a natural disaster. He assembled thousands of volunteers, every service provider imaginable, and public and private sector organizations to be housed at a community center to provide a one-stop-shop to meet each and every need of our guests from the gulf coast. Sam's adherence to the golden rule meant our guests would stay in hotel rooms not shelters. He provided them with dignity, sustenance, and many times his own personal emotional or financial support. Sam worked around the clock, not because he had to, but because he couldn't sleep until he knew the needs of all our guests were met. Sam was the heart and soul of S.C. Cares, and he embodies the enormity of the compassion this community has to offer.

Although the S.C. Cares center closed its doors nearly 3 months ago, Sam is still involved with the gulf coast guests that remain in the Midlands. He is also taking the experience of S.C. Cares, and transforming it into an ongoing effort to address homelessness in South Carolina's capitol city. Sam knows that if our community could show such compassion for strangers from the gulf coast, we can extend the same graciousness to those who are homeless in our town. He is working with Mayor Coble to create an operation similar to the S.C. Cares center for Columbia's homeless that would provide social services, medical services, counseling, job training, and other programs in a one-stop-shop setting. Access to services and the support of a community can go a long way to transforming those who have been forgotten back into productive citizens. Sam's compassion is as limitless as his vision.

After working 33 years in his family's business, Chatham Steel Corporation, Sam retired in 2000 and dedicated himself to his community. Currently he serves on 19 boards and commissions, which demonstrate the diversity of his passions. His love of his faith manifests in his membership of the governing boards of the Columbia Jewish Federation and the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, Southeast