

anti-aircraft guns, the ball turret gunner was hit and severely wounded.

Taking charge of the situation, Mr. Witter pulled the gunner, Victor Ray, out of his seat to examine the wound and administer first aid. Finding a severed artery, Mr. Witter knocked out Mr. Ray, closed off the artery with needle nose pliers and parachute cord and saved Mr. Ray's life. All this took place while under continued attack from German anti-aircraft guns.

Recommended at the time to receive the Distinguished Flying Cross, Mr. Witter went more than 60 years without seeing the results of his bravery that winter day high above Germany.

I am proud to present his Distinguished Flying Cross to his widow Evelyn Witter, who was his loving wife for many years. While Mr. Witter did not live to receive this great honor, his family will long remember his bravery and fortitude in battle and how he saved the life of gunner Victor Ray.

Mr. Speaker, true American heroes like James Witter should be honored for their service to our Nation and for their commitment and sacrifices in battle. Mr. Witter is truly one of America's Greatest Generation.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO RYAN
REGNELL

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 3, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor National Park Service Ranger Ryan Regnell for his heroic actions that helped save eight lives and to commend him for receiving the U.S. Department of the Interior Valor Award.

On July 25, 2003, Ranger Ryan Regnell was on boat patrol in the Boulder Basin of Lake Mead when 50-mile-per-hour winds and four-to-six foot waves formed. He observed a boat in distress and went to their aid. When he arrived he found three adults, three children and two infants in a vessel that was taking on water and in danger of sinking. Recognizing the seriousness of the situation, Ranger Regnell attached a tow line to the boat and towed the troubled vessel to Lake Mead Marina. He then called for back-up from Nevada Division of Wildlife. En route to the marina, the tow line snapped twice due to the extreme marine conditions and the heavy load. Due to Ranger Regnell's skill, courage and decisive action, the boat and all eight occupants were safely delivered to shore.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Ranger Ryan Regnell for his heroic actions, courage and professionalism. I further congratulate Ranger Regnell for receiving the U.S. Department of the Interior Valor Award. I thank him for his distinguished service and wish him the best in all of his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO AMOS PACHECO FOR
HIS 80TH BIRTHDAY

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 3, 2006

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to honor Amos

Pacheco, a World War II veteran who recently celebrated his 80th birthday.

Mr. Pacheco enlisted in the U.S. Army in August 1944. After basic training, he joined General George S. Patton's Third Army as it raced into Germany. Serving in Company I, 358th Infantry, 90th Division of the 3rd Army, Corporal Pacheco participated in some of the fiercest battles on the Western front. While the Germans were retreating, resistance was stiff. American soldiers were fighting an enemy that might have been beaten but wasn't ready to surrender.

In April 1945, as Allied forces were making the final push towards Berlin, Mr. Pacheco was wounded in action on the Rhine River. A grenade exploded and wounded him, which left shrapnel in his hip. After a period of convalescence, he returned to active duty and was stationed in Europe until 1946.

Unfortunately, as each year passes, we have fewer World War II veterans among us. Men like Amos Pacheco witnessed and participated in the events that changed the world for the better.

This Greatest Generation led our Nation into the American century. They lifted America out of the Great Depression and committed our Nation anew to our founding ideals of liberty. Brave Americans like Mr. Pacheco fought and defeated the Nazi and Japanese regimes, and in the process, secured freedom for millions here and abroad. But their work was not done.

Even after winning World War II, the Greatest Generation had another war to fight: the Cold War. An Iron Curtain descended across Europe, and President Truman articulated a policy of containment to make sure the sacrifices we had made during World War II were not in vain.

Ultimately, freedom and liberty triumphed again, and it was thanks to people like Amos Pacheco, who had returned to San Antonio in 1946 and started working at Kelly Air Force Base. There, thousands of civilian employees worked long hours to repair and equip the planes our Air Force used to safeguard our nation.

I was honored to have attended the celebration of Mr. Pacheco's 80th birthday, where his granddaughter, Chriselda, presented him with replicas of the medals he earned for his service.

Mr. Pacheco has been a father figure to Chriselda, whom he adopted when she was just five years old. Out of love and appreciation for her grandfather, she purchased and presented to him replicas of the medals that were lost over the years. Chriselda gave her grandfather a Purple Heart for the wounds he received and a Bronze Star, which had been awarded to all World War II veterans. It was touching to watch Chriselda and the entire family honor and show their love for Mr. Pacheco. It still humbles me to think they wanted me to be present.

And to my great surprise and pleasure, Mr. Pacheco's 80th birthday party was the second time our two families had crossed paths. After the presentation of the medals, Chriselda showed me a photo of her and my father, Rep. Henry B. Gonzalez. More than 20 years ago, Dad had attended a tree planting ceremony at Sarah S. King Elementary School where he met Chriselda, who was a student. Someone snapped a picture of Dad and Chriselda standing next to the tree, and Chriselda still had the photo. I know Dad

would have been honored that she had kept this picture all these years.

It was an honor to help celebrate this signal moment in Mr. Amos Pacheco's life. He is one of San Antonio's heroes, a beloved husband, father and grandfather.

HONORING THE CITY HONORS
SCHOOL FOR RECOGNITION BY
NEWSWEEK AS THE #1 SCHOOL
IN THE NATION

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 3, 2006

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the City Honors Magnet School in Buffalo, New York, which has been recognized for its excellence in education, having been ranked the number four public school in the United States by Newsweek Magazine.

City Honors is a Magnet school, part of the program started in 1975 to afford advanced educational opportunities to academically gifted and talented high school students. Since then, the program has expanded to include grades five through eight and has distinguished itself as a premier academic institution.

Newsweek has recognized that City Honors stands alone as the pre-eminent public institution in the region and the state. In addition, I would like to recognize and thank the teachers and administrators without whom the stimulating academic environment found at City Honors would not be possible.

Public education as exemplified by City Honors has created an environment that instills a love for learning in every student. The value of public education for creating an informed, enthusiastic and responsible citizenry cannot be overstated. Civic duty is an integral part of the American experience and City Honors has inculcated this virtue, encouraging students such as my intern, Samuel Sanders, to dedicate time and effort to the important duty of public service. This recognition by Newsweek reinforces that which I already knew, that Western New York has some of the best schools and students in the nation.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I stand here today to recognize the accomplishment of the City Honors School of Buffalo. Its commitment to academic excellence in public education has improved, and continues to improve, the life of every student enrolled, and the environment and education it provides promotes the civic and intellectual values we as a society hold dear.

CELEBRATING THE GRAND
OPENING OF CROWLEY CITY HALL

HON. CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR.

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 3, 2006

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, April 27th, the city of Crowley celebrated the grand opening of a newly renovated City Hall during a community open house event attended by citizens, elected officials, civic and business leaders. Crowley City Hall is a totally

renovated facility which not only contains city offices but also features the Rice Interpretive Center, the J.D. Miller Recording Studio, and the Ford Dealership Museum.

Crowley earned the title "Rice Capital of America" by milling more rice annually than all other rice-producing countries in the world combined. Also, contributing to its title is the large number of rice mills that line Mill Street. The new building incorporates this heritage with the Rice Interpretive Center, where visitors can take a driving tour down the "rice trail."

At the celebration, Crowley Mayor Isabella delaHoussaye gave the attendees a history of the building and described the renovation and restoration efforts. "This is Crowley pride at its best. We should all be very proud of this accomplishment for our city," said delaHoussaye.

I ask my colleagues to join Mayor delaHoussaye in applauding the citizens of Crowley for constructing this great facility. Construction of the new City Hall building will be marked as a significant milestone in Crowley's long history.

HONORING COMMUNITY ALTERNATIVES KENTUCKY

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 3, 2006

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Community Alternatives Kentucky, an exceptional organization in my Congressional District that delivers community-based supportive services to persons with disabilities.

The noble mission of Community Alternatives Kentucky is to enhance the lives of the individuals they serve by helping them become active members of their communities and realize their personal goals. They provide a wide range of day-to-day residential and employment services to assist disabled individuals with health needs, personal care, physical and speech therapy, transportation, house-keeping, recreation and other personal management services.

Community Alternatives of Kentucky advocates self determination, civil rights, and community inclusion for people with special needs and developmental disabilities. They play an important role in local communities, promoting an inclusive quality of life that allows all people, regardless of personal challenges, to reach their potential as happy and productive members of society.

I applaud Community Alternatives Kentucky, particularly their wonderful support staff, for all that they do to assist disabled individuals and their families. On behalf of so many in Kentucky's Second Congressional District, I would like to express my profound appreciation for their service and for the many contributions to our communities from the people they serve. Together, they are a true inspiration to us all.

It is my great privilege to recognize Community Alternatives Kentucky today, before the entire U.S. House of Representatives, for their achievements as advocates for disabled citizens. Their unique compassion and dedication to the happiness and well-being of all people make them outstanding citizens worthy of our collective honor and respect.

A FALL RIVER PRINCE

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 3, 2006

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I have had the pleasure during my years of representing Southeastern Massachusetts to work with Fernando Garcia. Fernando Garcia is a leader in the business community of Southeastern Massachusetts, and has been particularly active in affairs of the large Portuguese-American Community that contributes so much to that part of the state and indeed to the state as a whole. I had the pleasure a few years ago of visiting the Azores in the company of Mr. Garcia and the then Mayor Fred Kalisz of the City of New Bedford, and I have worked with Mr. Garcia on a number of occasions since then on matters of particular interest to the Portuguese-American Communities. At a time when we are talking about immigration, it is important to note that Mr. Garcia, like so many others who have been such important contributors to the life of Southeastern Massachusetts, is an immigrant who was born in the city of Sao Miguel, in the Azores. I note that he knew no English when he arrived here at the age of 11, and like the overwhelming majority of immigrants, strove to become proficient to the point where he is now a significant community leader—in English while of course retaining his facility in Portuguese.

Mr. Speaker, the sort of civic activity that Fernando Garcia exemplifies is a very important asset and I was pleased to read the excellent article about him in the Fall River Herald News, appropriately in the Business section since as the owner of Fall River Ford he is a significant leader in that segment of the life of his community.

Mr. Speaker, as an example of the important positive contribution made by immigration to this country, I ask that the article from the Fall River Herald News about Fernando Garcia be printed here.

[From the Herald News, Apr. 14, 2006]

A FALL RIVER PRINCE

(By Kathleen Durand)

Fernando Garcia said it's easy to be a good corporate citizen in a wonderful environment and community like Fall River.

The owner of Fall River Ford, Garcia will be recognized by the Prince Henry Society tonight for his many acts of charity and service to the community. The Fall River chapter as its Portuguese-American of the year. Similar honors will be bestowed on Thomas Alves, a plumber, by the New Bedford chapter, and Joseph de Melo, an attorney, by the Taunton chapter. The three will receive their awards at a dinner at the Century House in Acushnet.

Garcia said the Prince Henry Society is made up of people of Portuguese heritage, including both immigrants and native-born Americans. The primary function of the society is to promote education, he said, and it has given hundreds of scholarships worth thousands of dollars to deserving students.

A member of the Fall River chapter, Garcia said he was totally surprised to learn it has named him Portuguese-American of the year. "Every member of the chapter is deserving of the award. It's a small chapter but it gives constantly," he said. "It's the first chapter that has women members who have

added to the vision of the society and made it better by their input and views."

Garcia came to New Bedford from Sao Miguel, Azores, in 1957 at age 11. He said he knew no English. "One of the things I've tried to do over the years is to never forget the hardships and sacrifices immigrants must make," he said. "We try to instill that in others and make their journey easier by avoiding the pitfalls we had."

The New Bedford schools had no bilingual program at that time, so Garcia learned English at Our Lady of Mount Carmel School. After four years there he said he was able to navigate through the public schools. He went on to the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, where he was president of his class as a sophomore and a junior. He majored in business and foreign languages and his class, the Class of 1969, was the first to graduate from the Dartmouth campus.

"Then it was out into the business world, and I haven't stopped since," he said.

In October 1998 he said he saw a great business opportunity in Fall River. Ford Automotive Co. was about to close a dealership due to prior failures. Garcia said with proper management and dedicated employees, he was able to restructure it so that it now ranks in the top 10 Ford dealerships in New England, employs about 100 people and generates annual sales of more than \$75 million.

"I'm delighted with the growth I've been in the 7½ years I've been here," Garcia said. "There are so many good people. I find it impossible to say no to worthy causes."

In business and in life, Garcia said he believes in integrity, character and in always keeping his word.

Garcia said Fall River Ford is most grateful for the courtesy and patronage of the community.

"I am very proud to be Portuguese," he said. "On the day I received my citizenship papers I was as equally proud to be a Portuguese-American."

Garcia is involved in numerous activities aimed at improving the quality of life in this region. He is chairman of the Executive Business Council at Charlton Memorial Hospital, a member of the board of the President's Council at the hospital, a member of the board of the local chapter of the American Heart Association, a member of the community advisor board of the Diabetes Association and a board member of the development council for HealthFirst Family Care Center.

Before he bought Fall River Ford, Garcia was a national sales manager for Rusty Jones, an automotive appearance maintenance program. He then founded All-Neads Insurance of New Bedford. When he bought Fall River Ford, he gave his co-workers at All-Neads the opportunity to buy the business. Without them, he said, the business would not have achieved the success it did.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT JEFFREY A. STONE

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 3, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sergeant Jeffrey A. Stone in recognition of his heroic act performed at the Bureau of Reclamation's Hoover Dam resulting in the saving of a life and to commend him for receiving the U.S. Department of the Interior Valor Award.

On October 14, 2005, Sergeant Stone displayed outstanding dedication and commitment to the Hoover Dam Police Department