

The National Engineers Future City Competition is a competition sponsored by Engineers Week, a consortium of major U.S. corporations, professional, and technical societies. The consortium is dedicated to ensuring a diverse and well-educated engineering work force by increasing understanding of and interest in engineering and technology careers, as well as promoting precollege literacy in math and science.

The competition encourages 7th and 8th grade students to use problem solving skills, team-work, research and presentation skills, practical math and science applications, and computer skills to present their vision of a city of the future. St. Barnabas Catholic School, an elementary school stressing hands on learning, has participated in the National Engineers Week Future City Competition for the last 7 years. Previous St. Barnabas teams have won the Chicago regional competition 3 times, the national championship in 2001, and finished fifth in 2004. The team's current advisors include engineer mentor Timothy Cullina and teacher mentor Jeanne Conway.

As a member of the House Science Committee and one of only 11 Members of Congress with an engineering degree, I am especially proud to recognize these young engineers. Their interest in and commitment to math and science education is admirable and will help our country remain a global leader in science and engineering.

It is my honor to recognize these students and their mentors for these outstanding achievements. Additionally, I commend St. Barnabas Catholic School for promoting the sound leaning atmosphere necessary to foster academic success.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 50TH  
ANNIVERSARY OF MERCI

**HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 8, 2006*

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Merci on its 50th anniversary. Dedicated to serving the developmentally disabled members of our community, Merci has helped countless people make significant strides toward reaching their goals and achieving fulfilling lives.

Merci has its roots working with developmentally disabled children. In 1955, the Monterey Park Exchange Club determined that there was a need for a school dedicated to developmentally disabled children, and Merci was formed. Merci was incorporated as a non-profit in 1959, and the early years were devoted to working primarily with children. In 1967, Merci was authorized by the Regional Centers of California to serve all people diagnosed with developmental disabilities. As the educational landscape changed over time, it became one of Merci's central aims to prepare developmentally disabled children for enrollment in public school special education classes; to this end, Merci added a program geared especially toward preschoolers. Merci continued to grow and thrive, and the organization expanded to include a Work Activity Center for adolescents and young adults. After a series of laws regarding handicapped children and public education passed in the 1970s, Merci's

focus in 1976 shifted to working with its older clients. To this day Merci continues to provide unsurpassed service to its clients.

In keeping with its outstanding tradition of helping others, in the past few years Merci started two new programs that allow the organization to serve an even greater number of clients. As a part of one of the programs, Merci staff travel to the homes of clients with special medical needs and work with them on an individual basis. Merci has also opened its first group home, Ernie's Place, which offers 24-hour supervised care for its clients.

The Merci staff's commitment and dedication to serving the developmentally disabled members of our community is to be commended. Without Merci, many people would not be living the quality lives that they are living today.

I am proud to congratulate Merci on the occasion of its 50th anniversary. I ask all Members of Congress to join me in honoring Merci and the Merci staff for their dedication to making our community a better place in which to live.

HONORING HARRY LESTER

**HON. DALE E. KILDEE**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 8, 2006*

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a man that is a giant in the United Steelworkers of America, Harry Lester. Harry is retiring from the United Steelworkers on February 10 and will be honored at a dinner that evening. With his retirement working men and women are losing a remarkable advocate.

Harry's association with the labor movement began when as a child, he witnessed the tragic death of his father in a coal mining accident in West Virginia. Thus began a lifelong commitment to social justice. Relocating to Michigan, Harry went to work for McLouth Steel Corporation and became a member of the United Steelworkers in 1954.

Working with his local, Local 2659, Harry was elected shop steward that same year. He rose through the ranks of the union and was sworn in as the District 2 Director in 1981. He has been re-elected director ever since. Harry has earned the reputation of a tough and fair negotiator. He negotiated the workplace safety and health language that was later handed down in a Supreme Court decision as the standard for all workers. Twice he has worked to keep McLouth Steel Corporation in operation, first in 1982 and the second time in 1987. At that time his ingenuity saved the company by putting together an employee buyout. The employees owned 87 percent of the company and created, for that time, the largest Employee Stock Ownership Plan in this country.

Simultaneously, as he was working to save McLouth Steel Corporation, Harry was working with the negotiating team for National Steel Corporation. He helped craft the Cooperative Partnership Agreement that gave the company's employees a say in the decisionmaking process. His efforts on behalf of the membership advanced worker input and saved their employers millions of dollars. In 1993 he was appointed chair of the United Steelworkers of America National Steel Negotiating Committee.

Harry's commitment to social justice extends beyond the workplace. He is active with numerous organizations including the Metropolitan AFL-CIO, the Michigan State AFL-CIO, United Foundation, United Way of Michigan, National Kidney Foundation, Economic Alliance of Michigan, Blue Care Network, Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Parks Authority, Citizens Advisory Committee of the University of Michigan-Dearborn, Greater Detroit Area Health Council, Michigan Economic and Environmental Roundtable and is the founder of the Annual Downriver Community Prayer Breakfast. Harry serves on the Salvation Army Board of Directors and with his wife, Mary, is a bell ringer every Christmas.

As District 2 Director, Harry believed it is essential for local union leaders to be as skilled and as educated as their company counterparts. He developed training classes and encouraged lifelong learning. In this he led by example. Harry has taken every Labor Studies class offered by the University of Michigan, Wayne State University, and Michigan State University. In May 2005 he was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Humanities degree by Michigan State University and actively works with the school's Labor Education Program on curriculum development.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in expressing admiration for a man that has devoted his entire life to the betterment of those around him. Through his foresight every worker in this country has benefited. I, and other Members of this body, have long sought his guidance and I have welcomed his wisdom. I wish to thank Harry Lester for his service and wish him the best as he retires from the United Steelworkers of America.

IN HONOR OF THE CATHEDRAL  
CHOIR SCHOOL OF DELAWARE

**HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE**

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 8, 2006*

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to pay tribute to the Cathedral Choir School of Delaware, who on January 25, 2006, had the honor of singing for First Lady Laura Bush at the White House. The Cathedral Choir School of Delaware was honored as one of the 17 youth arts and humanities programs that will receive the 2005 Coming Up Taller Award from the First Lady. The Choir performed two songs, the National Anthem and a Zulu anthem.

This Award was created by the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities, and its recipients are chosen by members of the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the National Endowment for the Humanities. The Cathedral Choir School of Delaware was selected from a group of over 250 well-qualified nominees.

Led by Choirmaster and Artistic Director Dr. Darryl Roland, this wonderful ensemble boasts 53 area students whose ages range from as young as 7, to as old as 17. The main objective of the choral arts program is to help these young people, many of them disadvantaged, succeed in school and other extracurricular endeavors. While singing is the central activity, it is only one of the important skills that they take away from this program.

The Cathedral Choir School of Delaware boasts an impressive list of alumni, many having been elected to leadership positions at their academic institutions and in their communities. The former Chief Justice of the Delaware Supreme Court is an example of a distinguished alumnus from the group.

I congratulate and thank the Cathedral Choir School of Delaware for their contributions to the State of Delaware and to our country. Many children who have participated in the program as well as music lovers owe the group a sincere debt of gratitude, and I am pleased to be able to vocalize their appreciation. I am thrilled that a group from my home State has been honored with such an illustrious award and I wish them many more years of continued success.

#### TRIBUTE TO MR. DONALD FOX

### HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 8, 2006*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Donald Fox on his retirement from the National Park Service. Mr. Fox retired as a career appointee in the position of Landscape Architect and Pacific West Region, PWR, accessibility coordinator for the National Park Service.

Mr. Donald Fox's expertise in landscape architecture and accessibility compliance in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, AGA, Accessibility Guidelines enabled his success as landscape architect and Pacific West Region, PWR, accessibility coordinator. His service to the Department of the Interior began in 1965 with his first temporary appointment and culminated in his permanent career appointment in January of 1971. Additionally, Mr. Fox served his country faithfully as a dedicated member of the United States Army before beginning his career with the National Park Service.

Mr. Fox worked for over 38 years in the National Park Service and had a long and distinguished career that was mostly spent in the service of preserving one of our country's most dramatic and beautiful National Parks. His efforts to make Yosemite accessible to all will be appreciated for decades to come by those who visit this great American landmark.

#### RECOGNIZING DAVID J. SHENK UPON BEING NAMED TOWN OF BOSTON "DEMOCRAT OF THE YEAR"

### HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 8, 2006*

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I stand here today to recognize David J. Shenk, a man who is being recognized as town of Boston 2006 "Democrat of the Year" for his selfless dedication to his community and his country.

Mr. Shenk currently serves as the Boston town clerk, a position he first won by just three votes in 1991, at the young age of 21.

For the last 14 years Mr. Shenk has served his community well, securing 14 records man-

agement grants, streamlining efficiencies in town government, and establishing a foundation which provides grants to local nonprofit organizations.

Mr. Shenk's allegiance to his hometown is only rivaled by his commitment to this great Nation. Enlisted in the United States Army Reserve in 1988, he has served in Operation Desert Storm and Operation Iraqi Freedom. A health care specialist in the 1982nd Forward Surgical Team, his decorations include three Army Achievement Medals and an Army Commendation Medal.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for this opportunity to recognize David Shenk, a man I am proud to have as a colleague in Western New York government, a friend and a public servant deserving of the title "Democrat of the Year."

#### IN MEMORY OF FORT WORTH POLICE OFFICER HENRY "HANK" NAVA

### HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 8, 2006*

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a courageous police officer from my district who was slain on December 1, 2005. Fort Worth Police Officer Henry "Hank" Nava died from a gunshot wound to the head that he received on November 29 while searching for a man who was wanted by police. His loving family and many of his fellow officers were at his side when he died.

Officer Nava was a remarkable officer of the peace who was admired both by fellow officers and citizens of Fort Worth. Officer Nava, a native of central Texas, began his career in law enforcement in 1988 as an Austin, TX, park police officer. He became a Fort Worth police officer in 1992 and in the ensuing 13 years worked tirelessly to protect the citizens of Fort Worth. Officer Nava worked for the Plano, TX, police department for a brief period in 1999 but soon returned because he missed Fort Worth.

During his career, Officer Nava served as a Fort Worth patrol officer, a neighborhood patrol officer, a school resource officer and, for the last 2½ years of his career, as a member of the North Division Crime Response Team. Officer Nava quickly earned the reputation of a hard working officer who always had a smile and the officer who wore the Oakley sunglasses. Often, after his shift ended, Officer Nava would take one more call for help. He mentored young people through the Police Department Explorer Scout program. His desire to help others was exemplified when he and several members of the Fort Worth Police Department traveled to New Orleans to deliver relief supplies to the victims of Hurricane Katrina.

Officer Nava was devoted to his wife, Teresa, and his children Kayleigh, 9, and Justin, 4. He was an outstanding and loving husband as well as a friend to Teresa. Because of his love for his wife, he always took time from his work to be with her whether it was on their yearly cruise or a call home. His last call to Teresa came just minutes before he entered the home where he was fatally shot. His children were the joy of his life. He showered them with his love and attention, as only a

proud father can do. Whether it was having fun around the family backyard pool or participating in an activity, Officer Nava always made certain his children had his full attention and that the moment was special for them.

Officer Nava's commitment to law enforcement, his deep love for his family and his pride in Fort Worth made him an outstanding Fort Worth police officer and citizen. I am proud to honor Officer Henry "Hank" Nava for his services to Fort Worth and its citizens. He will not be forgotten.

#### HONORING THE LATE HUGH THOMPSON, JR.

### HON. CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR.

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 8, 2006*

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor a man who will long be remembered for devotion to his country, his community, and his family. Hugh Thompson, Jr. of Lafayette, Louisiana, passed away after a brief illness on January 6, 2006, at the age of 62.

Born in Atlanta, Hugh joined the Navy in 1961 and left 3 years later. He continued his military service in 1966 by joining the Army and becoming a helicopter pilot. Upon completion of training, Thompson was deployed to serve in Vietnam. In 1968, he volunteered for duty that involved flying over Vietnamese forests to draw enemy fire and pinpoint the location of enemy troops.

It was on March 16, 1968, that Thompson and his crew; door-gunner Lawrence Colburn and crew chief Glenn Andreotta, came upon U.S. ground troops opening fire on Vietnamese civilians in and around the village of My Lai. After Thompson landed his helicopter in the line of fire between American troops and fleeing Vietnamese civilians, Colburn and Andreotta provided cover as he went forward to confront the leader of the U.S. forces. Thompson later coaxed civilians out of a bunker so they could be evacuated, and then landed his helicopter again to pick up a wounded child they transported to a hospital. Thompson would later say: "These people were looking at me for help and there was no way I could turn my back on them."

By the end of his tour of duty, Hugh Thompson had been hit eight times by enemy fire and lost five helicopters in combat. He left Vietnam after a combat crash broke his back, and was awarded both a Purple Heart and the Distinguished Flying Cross.

In 1998, the Army honored Thompson and his crew for their bravery at My Lai with the prestigious Soldier's Medal, the highest award for bravery not involving conflict with an enemy. "It was the ability to do the right thing even at the risk of their personal safety that guided these soldiers to do what they did," Army Maj. Gen. Michael Ackerman said at the 1998 ceremony. The three "set the standard for all soldiers to follow."

Following his service in the military, Hugh was a devoted servant in Lafayette as a Veteran's Service Officer with the Louisiana Department of Veteran's Affairs.

Mr. Speaker, the United States has lost a true hero, and the State of Louisiana has lost a devoted leader and dear friend. I want convey my heartfelt sympathy to the Thompson