

the direction of Dr. William Gray, professor of chorale conducting, who was instrumental in Zach's participation in the Lafayette & Carmel Bach Chorale. The Jacobs School of Music at IU continued to foster and enrich his gift of music. Numerous teachers, professors, and ministers had a positive influence on Zach throughout his life. While in Bloomington, Zach was the worship coordinator at First United Methodist Church where he directed the Wesley Choir and Children's Choir. During his time in Anderson, he was the choir director at Bethel United Methodist and choir director and organist at St. Ambrose Catholic Church, where he was a member. He touched so many with his musical talents. Zach received numerous awards during his life, including the American Legion Award twice, the Arion Music Award, Best Male Vocalist 1999, and Who's Who Among American High School & College Students. Scholarships include: The Theodore Presser Music Award, The Lilly Foundation, Anderson University Academic Honors, AU Music Award, AU Trustee Award, Tri Kappa Award, Student Exploratory Teaching, AFT Teacher's Award, and the Herman and Anne Leaf Award.

Robert Samels—Born June 2, 1981, in Akron, OH. Robert taught as an associate instructor in the IU Jacobs School of Music Theory Department with the same zeal he approached all his other professional activities. He was in charge of T231 and was loved and admired by his students. As a bass-baritone he had recently appeared as Mr. Gibbs in the world premiere of "Our Town" by Ned Rorem, as Marco in the collegiate premiere of William Bolcom's "A View from the Bridge," as well as Joseph and Herod in the collegiate premiere of "El Nino" by John Adams. In September 2005, he conducted the premiere of his own opera, "Pilatus." As a member of the Wolf Trap Opera Company for 2006, he would have added three roles this summer, including Bartolo in "Le nozze di Figaro," Friar Laurence in "Romeo et Juliette," and Pluto in Telemann's "Orpheus." Other opera credits included the title roles of "Don Pasquale" and "Il Turco in Italia," as well as Leporello in "Don Giovanni," Falstaff in "Merry Wives of Windsor," and Bottom in "A Midsummer Night's Dream." In the summer of 2004, Samels performed Creon in the New York premiere of John Eaton's "Antigone." He also frequently performed in the oratorio repertoire. In the spring of 2005, he was selected as a semifinalist in the annual competition of the Oratorio Society of New York. He began his vocal studies with Alfred Anderson at the University of Akron and Andreas Poulimenos at Bowling Green State University. He was a doctoral student in choral conducting at the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music and had studied voice with Giorgio Tozzi and Costanza Cuccaro. Robert was an announcer as well as host and producer of "Cantabile" with public radio station WFIU. A soloist with Aguava New Music Studio, he recently performed a concert at the Library of Congress.

Georgina Joshi—Born October 21, 1981, in Elkhart, IN and embarked on a life filled with beautiful music. Georgina started singing at a very early age and studied violin from the age of 3. Georgina's first stage appearance was in Canton, OH, where she appeared with Players Guild of Canton in a production of the musical, Oliver. Her operatic debut was as Amahl in Indiana Opera North's production of Amahl and

the Night Visitors. Georgina graduated from John Adams High School where she was a member of the 1999 State Champion Mock Trial Team. During high school she was a member of the IUSB Philharmonic and the South Bend Chamber Singers, concertmistress of South Bend Youth Symphony, and participated in summer music programs at Interlochen, Tanglewood Music Center and Aspen Music School. She received numerous awards, including the YWCA Young Woman of the Year. Georgina attended the Royal College of Music, London, England, where she studied with Eiddwen Harrhy, receiving a bachelor of music, honors, degree in 2001. Since that time she has been a student at the IU Jacobs School of Music where she studied with Alan Bennet. While at IU, Georgina appeared as a soloist in various concert works including Haydn's Creation, Handel's Solomon, the B-Minor Mass of Bach, Britten's Hymn to St. Cecilia, Mendelssohn's Psalm 42, Schubert's Mass in A Flat Major, Mozart's Litanæ Lauritenæ K.195, the Mozart Requiem, and the Brahms Deutsches Requiem. She also appeared with IU Opera Theatre as Clorinda in Cenerentola and Despina in Cosi fan Tutte. She collaborated with other musicians such as the Catacoustic Consort, the Bath Street Studio, and was a member of the Carmel Bach Festival Chorale. Outside the USA she appeared as a soloist in England, Wales, Romania, and Greece.

Garth Eppley—Garth was born on Feb. 7, 1981, in Wabash, IN, graduated Wabash High School. He graduated from Anderson College in 2003 with a degree in music performance, and was a student at Indiana University Jacobs School of Music. He attended Giest Christian Church, Fishers, and was a member of the BMW Motorcycle Owners of America, Yankee Beamers, and Rounders No. 7. Eppley had a bachelor's degree in voice performance with honors in performance from Anderson University. A tenor, Eppley studied under Fritz Robertson while at Anderson. His IU Opera Theater roles included Lysander in "A Midsummer Night's Dream," the second man in "The Magic Flute," and the lawyer in "Peter Grimes." He was a frequent soloist with the Indiana University Contemporary Vocal Ensemble, with which he recently sang the role of Pilatus in Arvo Part's "Passio." Eppley also was a frequent soloist with the Lafayette Bach Chorale, where he had performed in such programs as Handel's "Solomon," Rachmaninoffs "Vespers", and the Festival of Sacred Choral Music under the baton of guest conductor Craig Jessup of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir. Last summer, Eppley was a participant, along with other singers from the United States and Canada, in the Charley Creek Vocal Workshop, an intense program of aria and song study. He was a master's student at IU, studying with Peru native Timothy Noble.

They are mourned across the country—from Carmel, CA, to New York's Carnegie Hall, to the Wolftrap Farm Park Summer Opera in northern Virginia, to all over the Midwest and Indiana. May we never forget.

TRIBUTE TO MS. CHRISTINE L. GALLO

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2006

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Ms. Christine L. Gallo, who retired from the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) Fort Belvoir, Virginia on April 29, 2006. Her distinguished government career spans 38 years, and her record of achievement during this period reflects greatly upon herself and upon the organizations with which she has served. Her contributions to the National Defense will be missed as she moves on to new and exciting opportunities.

Ms. Gallo was a member of the Senior Executive Service and had received numerous awards over her 38-year career. These include the 1998 Presidential Rank Award (Meritorious), the United States Army Association of Quartermasters "The Distinguished Order of St. Martin," the DLA Exceptional Civilian Service Award, the DLA Meritorious Civilian Service Award, and the Department of the Navy Meritorious Civilian Service Award.

Beginning her Federal career as a planning assistant with the Navy in 1968, Ms. Gallo held progressively responsible logistics planning and management positions with the Naval Supply Systems Command before joining the General Services Administration as Director of Distribution for Federal Supply and Services. After joining DLA in December of 1986, she served as Director of the Defense Spares Initiatives Office, Director for Systems Planning for the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Production and Logistics, Executive Director for Readiness and Customer Support, Executive Director for Business Modernization and Integration, and Director for DLA Enterprise Support (DES).

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Ms. Christine Gallo on her retirement from Federal Civil Service. She epitomizes the dedication and professionalism that make our Federal government a model all over the world.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF JEWISH AMERICANS DURING JEWISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2006

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I am honored to recognize the contributions Jewish Americans have made throughout our Nation's history as we celebrate Jewish American Heritage Month. In 1654, the first Jewish settlers arrived in the New World searching for a place to practice their faith free from persecution and live in liberty. Since then, the United States has continued to serve as a haven for Jewish settlers seeking refuge from waves of anti-Semitic repression and persecution in Europe and around the world. Jewish American Heritage Month should serve to educate all Americans about the rich cultural heritage of the Jewish people and their important contributions to American culture and history.

The United States is better and stronger as a result of Jewish people from around the world choosing to become American citizens. Jewish Americans made invaluable contributions to our Nation's labor movement in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Thousands of Jewish immigrants and their children who arrived in the United States during this time period earned their livings in sweatshops and factories in New York City, often working under horrific conditions. Many Jewish Americans played a key role in improving the working conditions for laborers, which led to collective bargaining and other advancements in the labor movement. Samuel Gompers, one of the founders and first president of the American Federation of Labor, earned his living in the crowded slums of New York as a cigar maker upon his arrival in the United States in 1863. Becoming highly skilled at his trade and earning the respect of his peers, he eventually moved up the ranks of the existing labor organization, transforming the structurally weak and ineffective Federation of Organized Trades and Labor Councils to the American Federation of Labor in 1886, which grew to represent over one million workers 6 years later.

Many individuals within the American Jewish community also made important contributions to the Civil Rights movement. Jewish philanthropist Julius Rosenwald, who funded dozens of primary schools, secondary schools, and colleges for black youth, led the Jewish community in contributing to some 2,000 schools for black Americans, including Howard, Dillard and Fisk universities. At one time, 40 percent of southern blacks were attending these schools. In addition, Jewish Americans like Abraham Joshua Heschel, a writer, rabbi and professor of theology at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America was outspoken on the subject of civil rights and marched arm-in-arm with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in Selma. Professor Ernst Borinski, a refugee from the Holocaust who came to America to teach at Taugaloo University, organized dinners at which blacks and whites sat next to each other, a simple act challenging segregation. Joel Elias Spingarn, a Jewish-American educator and literary critic, was a founder and one of the first Jewish leaders of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). In 1913, as the organization's chairman of the board, he established the Spingarn medal, awarded annually for outstanding achievement by an African American. In addition, organizations such as the American Jewish Committee, American Jewish Congress, and Anti-Defamation League have actively promoted civil rights over the years.

Mr. Speaker, it is my hope that all Americans observe Jewish-American Heritage Month by initiating programs and activities that commemorate these and the many other significant contributions Jewish Americans have made throughout our Nation's history. Over the centuries, Jewish Americans have achieved great success in business, medicine, the arts, science and technology, and many other professions. These achievements have strengthened our country and helped shape our way of life. In their commitment to family, faith, and community, the Jewish people have made America a stronger and more democratic society.

AC TRANSIT VOTED THE "BEST OF THE BEST"

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2006

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Alameda County Transit Agency, AC Transit, headquartered in Oakland, California. For the sixth time in 9 years, AC Transit has been recognized as the Nation's most outstanding public bus agency at the American Public Transportation Association, APTA, meeting in Anaheim, California. At its annual "Bus Rodeo" in which bus operators and maintenance teams demonstrate their driving skills and knowledge, APTA has crowned AC Transit's drivers and mechanics as the "Best of the Best."

In addition AC Transit also won first place for its Customer Service in a special competition to evaluate bus operators' courtesy, patience and know-how.

The "Best of the Best" award came after grueling tests of competition involving more than 40 transit agencies with teams of drivers and mechanics from virtually every State in the country. Drivers were tested on their abilities to smoothly stop and maneuver their coaches in and out of tightly constricted spaces, avoiding mishaps and pedestrians. Mechanics were tested on their ability to quickly troubleshoot vehicle malfunctions by quickly diagnosing problems and instituting immediate repairs.

The competition is the "Super Bowl" for transit agencies, offering some of the world's top professionals an opportunity to display their driving skills, reflexes, judgment and superior workshop intelligence.

The "Best of the Best" designation represents the highest combined scores of the operator and maintenance team. AC Transit's team—operator Jesse Delacruz and mechanics, Carlos Leyva, Grant Pinkston and Donald Righter—was deemed number one in the Nation. AC Transit operator Patricia Lock won first place for Customer Service.

Congratulations to AC Transit on winning this prestigious "Best of the Best" award.

RECOGNIZING THE HEALTH OCCUPATIONS STUDENTS OF AMERICA

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2006

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 30th anniversary of the Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA).

HOSA is a national career and technical student organization endorsed by the U.S. Department of Education and the Health Occupations Education Division of the Association for Career and Technical Education. HOSA provides a unique program of leadership development, motivation, and recognition exclusively for middle school, secondary, postsecondary, adult and collegiate students.

HOSA is not a club to which a few students in school join. Rather, HOSA is a powerful instructional tool that works best when it is integrated into the health science curriculum and

classroom. Health Occupations instructors are committed to the development of the total person. Those who join the Health Science-HOSA Partnership recognize the importance of providing students with training far beyond the basic technical skills needed for entry into the health care field. The rapidly changing health care system needs dedicated workers who, in addition to their technical skills, are people-oriented and capable of playing a leadership role as a member of a health care team.

Nationally, HOSA has grown to over 78,000 members in almost every state, and soon, over 5,000 HOSA members will gather in Anaheim, California, for their annual leadership conference. This opportunity provides tours of health care facilities, exhibits presented by professional health care associates, as well as an Educational Symposium—workshops presented by professional partners that provide information about current health care issues.

The members of HOSA, through a student-led pipeline, are making a significant contribution to overcoming the shortage of health care workers in our country, guiding more than 1 million students into health professions. I am proud to say that the Florida HOSA has the fourth largest membership at more than 6,700 members.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the Health Occupations Students of America on celebrating their 30th anniversary, and I wish them luck on their continued success.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE PLUMBERS LOCAL UNION 210 GRADUATING CLASS OF 2006

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2006

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sincerity and respect that I offer congratulations of several of Northwest Indiana's most talented, dedicated, and hardworking individuals. On Friday, June 9, 2006, the Plumbers Local Union 210 will honor the graduating class of 2006 at the Annual Apprentice Graduation Banquet, which will be held at the Patio Banquet Hall in Merrillville, Indiana.

At this year's banquet, the Plumbers Local Union 210 will recognize and honor the 2006 Apprentice Graduates. The individuals who have completed the apprentice training in 2006 are: Nino Arredondo, Joseph Butcher, Robert DePyssler, Lloyd James, Jr., Michael Klaich, Todd Knight, Paul Lacy, William Lawrence, Eric Longoria, Milutin Miljus, Greg Monnier, Eugene Pazdur, Derrick Poper, Jason Powers, Luis Quintana, Sean Severson, Daniel Smith, Bertram Wagner, Adam Westlund, Robert White, and Raymond Zack.

Northwest Indiana has a rich history of excellence in its craftsmanship and loyalty by its tradesmen. These graduates are all outstanding examples of each. They have mastered their trade and have demonstrated their loyalty to both the union and the community through their hard work and selfless dedication.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating these dedicated and hardworking individuals. Along with the other men and women