

Samantha was selected as one of the 20 Presidential Scholars in the Arts this year for her success and accomplishments as a classical pianist. She was selected for this honor by virtue of being a national Finalist in the NFAA Arts Recognition and Talent Search (ARTS) program, a program in which 6,524 high school students applied to in 2006. Samantha and her fellow Presidential Scholars in the performing arts will be featured in a showcase performance during the Salute to the Presidential Scholars at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

Samantha, who will graduate as valedictorian of The Harker School in Sunnyvale this June, began her piano studies at the age of 5. Currently, she is enrolled in the Preparatory Division at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, where she was named an "Honorary Distinction" student, the highest award presented by the Preparatory Division. Additionally, Samantha was named the California state winner of the 2005 MTNA (Music Teachers National Association) Senior Piano Competition, has performed in the Weill Hall at Carnegie Hall as winner of the Russian-American International Festival and will be broadcast as a soloist on WQXR radio's Young Artist's Showcase this June.

I am proud to stand here today to recognize Samantha for her accomplishments as an exceptional artist and student. I urge Samantha to continue to take an interest in the performing arts, as artistic and creative innovation is a crucial component of America's cultural fabric, and I wish her the best of luck as she continues her education at Harvard this fall.

IN HONOR OF JOHN C. HALL, SEPTEMBER 15, 1953–FEBRUARY 25, 2006

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2006

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with profound sadness to pay tribute to Mr. John Hall, a dear friend, a devoted community leader and a passionate champion for America's working men and women, who passed away suddenly of heart failure on the evening of Saturday, February 25, 2006. He was the loving son of Joann Hall and the devoted father of his only child, Katrina Susan Hall.

Born September 15, 1953, in Los Angeles, John was a lifelong Angeleno devoted to his family, his trade and his community. He began his career as an apprentice plumber in 1980 with the United Association of Plumbers Local 78 in Los Angeles. John quickly mastered the skills of a journeyman plumber and became an active member of UA Plumbers Local 78. While working at his trade during the day, he donated his time as a plumbing instructor at night at the union's training center. John eventually worked his way up to Business Manager of Local 78 in 1995, a position from which he advocated for the preservation of pensions and health coverage for working people. John was also known for his civic participation, serving honorably on the Contractors State Licensing Board following his appointment by Governor Gray Davis.

It was fitting with John's generous character and sense of responsibility that he volunteered

much of his personal time to the charitable organization Big Brothers of Greater Los Angeles. He spent many years as a big brother to Sean Wall, imparting his wisdom and leadership skills onto the next generation.

John was highly admired by the labor community and policy-makers alike for his efforts to improve the lives of working families, and for his warm personality and generous spirit. John was a selfless leader, who dedicated himself completely to his craft, his union and all those who looked to him for support and guidance.

Mr. Speaker, it is with heartfelt sorrow, yet great admiration and appreciation, that I ask my colleagues to join me today in saluting John C. Hall. May his generosity and dedication to improving conditions for working families be remembered and carried on by those of us who were fortunate enough to call him "friend."

RECOGNIZING KYLE THOMAS KING FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Kyle Thomas King, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 351, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Kyle has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Kyle has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Kyle Thomas King for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

CONGRESS REAPS WHAT IT SOWS

HON. C. L. "BUTCH" OTTER

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2006

Mr. OTTER. Mr. Speaker, there has been an awful lot of talk the last few days about the FBI's Saturday night raid on the office of a Democrat U.S. Congressman. It's tough for me to get too excited about the howls of protest from members of Congress. I understand their concerns about protecting the independence of the legislative branch and possible abuse of executive powers. But it makes me wonder: Where were these voices of outrage and righteous indignation when we learned the executive branch was monitoring the telephone conversations of ordinary Americans? Where were they when the executive branch sought, and the USA PATRIOT ACT granted, more power to search the homes and businesses of ordinary Americans without notification? At least we know there was a legitimate warrant issued by a judge for the search of

the Congressman's office. Are my honorable colleagues suggesting that members of Congress or the institution itself should be treated differently in the eyes of the law than those who hold the most important position in America—that of "citizen"? I hope not.

HONORING JUNE KENYON ON HER RETIREMENT, HEAD OF CASEWORK, CONROE DISTRICT OFFICE

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2006

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor June Kenyon upon her retirement from my district office staff.

Beginning in 1997 when I first took office, June Kenyon brought to the field office in Humble, Texas her wealth of knowledge and experience gleaned from working for my predecessor, the Honorable Jack Fields. Not only did June sign on as Office Manager but took on the role of Head of Casework to help constituents. I was blessed to have June's expertise and long record of commitment to constituents in helping me confront the challenges of being a newly elected Congressman.

For the next 9 years, June excelled at her roles and increased her knowledge of the inner workings of Federal agencies to the point that some even invited her to brief their staffs on the intricacies of casework with Congressional offices.

June's command of the system and successful resolution of thousands of cases are a tribute to her professionalism and relentlessness in serving the residents of the 8th Congressional District.

Extremely hard-working, painstakingly fair, exceedingly knowledgeable—these are qualities June has not only honed but put at the disposal of constituents as she advocates for them and resolves difficult issues. But it was in the challenges faced by our constituents in the aftermath of Hurricane Rita this past fall that June's abilities shown brightly as she led the efforts to resolve quickly and systematically over 1,000 claims for expedited assistance from FEMA. Working long hours, interfacing with local officials and aid agencies, June contributed significantly to the ability of Southeast Texans to survive the aftermath of this devastating storm and begin the recovery process.

While June has always been a diligent staffer, the last 18 months have created personal challenges for her, including a long commute to Conroe after redistricting led to closing the Humble office. The redistricting also meant serving a different and larger geographic area. June did not miss a beat in adapting to the new conditions, including participating in the Mobile Office taking caseworkers to constituents in the small towns of East Texas.

In the years I have worked with June, I have come to know a committed Republican activist and a woman of broad and varied interests which I hope she will pursue in the time afforded by retirement. From her native New York, June brought with her to the Houston area, a distinctive Long Island accent and a deep-seated love of music. Although she has yet to sing for our staff, June has shared with us reminiscences as varied as singing classical music at Carnegie Hall and the blues at

unnamed, smoke-filled venues. A lover of opera, she has long been a subscriber to the Houston Grand Opera and Opera in the Heights.

Mr. Speaker, I know you join with me in saying "thank you" and "job well done" to June Kenyon for her years of loyal service to Congressman Jack Fields and myself, but most of all to the people of Southeast Texas whom she has served with distinction.

INTRODUCTION OF REFUGEES FROM ARAB LANDS RESOLUTION

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2006

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduced a legislation acknowledging as refugees Jewish, Christian and other minorities that fled from Arab lands.

This measure serves to recognize major historical events, sheds light on other refugee populations that are often forgotten in discussions relating to Middle East peace, and underscores the need to address this issue in a comprehensive, balanced manner in order to resolve the conflict that currently exists in the Middle East.

It is imperative that the world knows about the displacement, which was spurred by ethnic and religious persecution, of Jewish, Christian and other minorities living in the Middle East, North Africa, and the Persian Gulf region.

For too long the world has failed to recognize the oppression, human rights violations, forced expulsion, and deprivation of assets these communities had to endure under Arab regimes.

It is essential that the plight of these communities from Arab countries be integrated into discussions toward any agreement regarding the issue of refugees.

RECOGNIZING TROY VINCENT SHOEMAKER FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Troy Vincent Shoemaker, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 351, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Troy has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Troy has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Troy Vincent Shoemaker for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

IN HONOR OF MARSHALL'S SESQUICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2006

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the town of Marshall in Searcy County, Arkansas, which will celebrate its 150th anniversary this year. This is a significant milestone for the community and for all who helped shape the town's history.

Marshall was established in 1856, after Native Americans roamed the land for centuries. The Osage tribe used the land for hunting and gathering in the 18th century and then sold their claim to the United States government. Nine years later, the government set aside the land as a reservation for the Cherokee Indians.

By the mid-1800's, the Cherokees traveled west and Littleton Baker, J.W. Gray, and Jack Marshall were appointed to select a site for the new county seat of Searcy County. They originally named this location Burrowsville in honor of N.B. Burrow, a local citizen, but 11 years later changed the name to Marshall in honor of the former U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice John Marshall. The town was eventually incorporated on January 13, 1884.

Marshall played an important role during the War Between the States, becoming a hub of activity for both Confederate and Northern forces after Arkansas seceded from the Union on May 6, 1861. Both Confederate and Union companies organized in the area, participating in the battles of Shiloh, Pea Ridge, Pine Bluff, and Devil's Backbone.

The town worked hard to recover and rebuild in the decades following the war. Marshall established its first school district, constructed the Marshall Academy in 1888, and built a new courthouse in 1889. Agriculture production dominated the economy in Searcy County, with cotton and corn ranking as the primary agricultural products. The community even established the Mountain Wave newspaper in 1890 which continues to inform residents on the latest local and national news.

The town enjoyed great prosperity during these early years. The Marshall Bank was established in 1901 and the town's first telephone system was constructed in 1902. The town's first flour mill came around the turn of the century, quickly followed by its first stove mill in 1909. The community built a new school building known as "Old Main" in 1910 and completed the first all-weather road between Marshall and Harriet in 1916.

Although the first few decades of the 20th century were a time of growth for Marshall, the combination of World War I, the Great Depression, and serious flooding led to difficult times for the community's residents. The population began to decline and those living off the land struggled to maintain a decent livelihood. Fortunately, many of Searcy County's residents joined the Civilian Conservation Corps, CCC, and the National Youth Administration, NYA, where they could earn a decent wage. One of the NYA's projects was to construct a gymnasium in Marshall in 1936.

Marshall and its surrounding communities pulled together during these challenging times, emerging stronger than before. Families in Marshall made victory gardens during WWII,

saved tin cans for reprocessing, and even purchased war bonds. Farmers also began to clear land for cattle production and timber harvesting. These two industries now contribute heavily to Marshall's local economy.

Marshall has always been a town of citizens who pull together during tough times to improve its schools, help businesses grow, and attract new development to the region. The town now boasts a population of 1,313 citizens and is home to the Ozark National Forest and the Buffalo National River. Known for its beauty, tourists visit the mountainous region year-round to participate in a variety of popular recreational activities.

On June 3, 2006, friends and residents of Marshall will gather to celebrate 150 years of history. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Marshall, Arkansas on this significant milestone. We send our appreciation to the town's citizens for years of hard work and dedication to their community, and wish Marshall many more years as a wonderful place to live and raise a family.

THANKS TO ALLEN L. THOMPSON

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2006

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Allen L. Thompson, Senior Professional Staff of the Committee on Homeland Security, for his dedication and service to Congress and our Nation. As the Ranking Member of the Committee, I speak for the entire Committee when I say he will be missed when he leaves the Hill at the end of this month.

Al was one of the original Democratic staffers of the Select Committee on Homeland Security, the predecessor of the now-permanent Committee. During the past 3 years, he has been one of the "best and the brightest" working to secure our homeland and protect our communities. A Coast Guard Academy graduate, Al brought a unique perspective and discipline to the Committee.

With his expertise and knowledge of port security, supply chain policy, and the Coast Guard, Al has certainly been a key member of the House's homeland security team. This Congress, Al has served as the Coordinator for Ranking Member LORETTA SANCHEZ on the Subcommittee on Economic Security, Infrastructure Protection, and Cybersecurity. Representative SANCHEZ has this to say about Al, "During my nearly 10 years in the House of Representatives, I've run across very few people with the level of professionalism and decorum matching that of Al Thompson. As the liaison assigned to assist me with my work as Ranking Member of this subcommittee, Al's expertise and Coast Guard background was invaluable in helping me forward the Democratic agenda of this young Committee, particularly in the area of port security. He will be sorely missed by those of us who had the pleasure of working with him."

Former Representative Jim Turner, who served as the Ranking Member of the Select Committee during the 108th Congress, sent me the following comments when he heard of Al's departure: "When Al first joined the Select Committee in June 2003, I knew he came for