

returned more than \$400,000 in earned income revenue to dozens of groups.

As part of its mission, the Willows engages youths in a variety of programs, including a conservatory, a round theater arts and student internship training program. In addition, it offers greatly reduced student ticket rates to encourage family and school attendance at live theater.

With a remarkable record of achievement in the past 30 years, the Willows is now focused on the future. Later this year, the company will expand its operations by opening a 220-seat cabaret-style theater in Martinez, the seat of government for Contra Costa County. Earlier this year, the company completed a 9,000 square-foot production facility in Waterfront Park in Martinez, in close proximity to the 1,000-seat John Muir Amphitheater. The facility was constructed to accommodate multiple performances of "John Muir's Mountain Days," a musical, commissioned by the Willows, based on the life of the famed preservationist John Muir, whose residence in Martinez is a National Historic Site.

These activities are part of the John Muir Festival Center, an educational, cultural heritage and economic development project in which the Willows has taken a leadership role along with its partners—the city of Martinez, the John Muir Association, the National Park Service, and the Martinez Historical Society.

On July 3, 2006, the Willows will celebrate its 30th anniversary with a gala that includes a dinner and a show in the John Muir Amphitheater featuring the Diablo Symphony and performers from past Willows Theatre productions.

I am proud to join in the celebration.

TRIBUTE TO THOMAS M. PRISELAC

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2006

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, we rise today to pay tribute to our good friend, Thomas M. Priselac, President and CEO of Cedars-Sinai Health System. Mr. Priselac has held the position of President and CEO since January 1994, and has helped transform Cedars-Sinai Health System into one of the premier providers of health services, graduate and continuing medical education services, and medical research. He has proven himself to be a strong leader who gets impressive results. We are pleased that he will be honored by B'Nai B'Rith International with the prestigious National Healthcare Award on June 5, 2006.

Mr. Priselac began his career in healthcare after receiving his Bachelor degree in Biology from Washington and Jefferson College in Pennsylvania and his Masters in Public Health from the University of Pittsburgh. He began his career at Montefiore Hospital in Pittsburgh as a member of the executive staff. In 1979, he began working at Cedars-Sinai. He was appointed to the role of Executive Vice President in 1988, which he fulfilled for six years prior to being appointed President and CEO. During his tenure at Cedars-Sinai, Mr. Priselac has turned it into one of our nation's finest healthcare establishments.

In addition to his work at Cedars, Mr. Priselac makes many contributions to the

healthcare community through his dedication and commitment to several healthcare related organizations. He has served on numerous healthcare related boards. He currently serves as Chair of the Association of American Medical Colleges, and chairs the Health Care Committee of the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce.

It is our distinct pleasure to ask our colleagues to join with us in saluting Mr. Priselac for his outstanding achievements and to congratulate him on receiving this prestigious award.

HONORING THE STUDENTS AT HALF HOLLOW HILLS HIGH SCHOOL EAST

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2006

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the students from Half Hollow Hills High School East in Dix Hills, New York for their hard work in the "We the People: the Citizen and the Constitution" national finals. These outstanding young Americans placed fourth in this nationwide competition and I am honored to call them my constituents.

The students, Jason Aronson, Matt Bauman, Jillian Bernstein, Eric Bierman, Emily Chen, Davina Etwarn, Leily Faridzadeh, Zach Goldberg, Chris Green, Arun Gupta, Jennifer Kim, Praneet Korrapati, Emily Kuznick, Tia Mansouri, Joshua Milber, Brooke Schachner, Stephen Schiraldi, Dana Schwartz, Dara Seidl, Fauzia Shaikh, Kunaal Sharma, Kavita Vani, Alyssa Weinberg and Joshua Wohl, led by their teacher Scott Edwards, demonstrated a remarkable understanding of the fundamental ideals and values of American constitutional government.

Also worthy of special recognition is Eileen Gerrish, the state coordinator, and Charles Trupia, the district coordinator, who are among those responsible for implementing the "We the People" program in my district.

Their success in the competition is also a testament to the excellent teachers at Half Hollow Hills East High School and elsewhere on Long Island.

I offer my congratulations on their success and commend these students on their dedication to the study of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

TRIBUTE TO CHAIRMAN HENRY J. HYDE

HON. MICHAEL T. McCAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2006

Mr. McCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a man who has for the past 31 years brought honesty, integrity and distinction to this Chamber, to his party and to the people of Sixth District of Illinois. I consider myself fortunate to have my congressional career overlap with his, even if only for one term.

At several points throughout Chairman HYDE's career, he served in a position of leadership within the U.S. House of Representa-

tives when a strong and competent leader was needed, and at all times he was the right man for the job. He served as chairman of the Judiciary Committee during a difficult time in our country's history, and brought the highest level of integrity to his position.

Mr. HYDE was appointed chairman of the International Relations Committee shortly before 9/11, where he has valiantly led us through the early crucial years of the War on Terror. In his career, Chairman HYDE has worked diligently to protect and expand the freedoms of unborn children, to protect the honored symbols of this Nation from desecration and to protect the freedoms of citizens all over the world.

Chairman HYDE has dedicated his career in public service to ideals worthy of a great Republican, and to principles worthy of a great statesman. His determination to seek truth and justice has earned him the respect of his colleagues on both sides of the aisle.

My single regret is that I only had 2 years to learn from Chairman HYDE, but those are lessons I will carry with me throughout my career. I wish him the best of luck in all his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING 30 YEARS OF SERVICE BY COLONEL JOHN C. COLEMAN, USMC

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2006

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the 30 years of dedicated service of Col John C. Coleman, USMC.

Col John C. Coleman assumed duties as Commanding Officer, Marine Corps Base, Camp Pendleton on 21 October 2005.

Colonel Coleman was born 11 February 1954 and is a native of Warner Robins, Georgia. He was commissioned through the PLC Program following graduation from the Virginia Military Institute in May of 1976. Since commissioning, he has completed seven tours of duty in the Corps' operating forces, two in the supporting establishment, and two with the joint community.

As a Company Grade Officer, Colonel Coleman served tours of duty with 2nd Battalion, 1st Marines, 3rd Battalion, 4th Marines, and with 3rd Battalion, 25th Marines. Assignments during these tours included Rifle Platoon Commander, 81mm Mortar Platoon Commander, Company Executive Officer, Assistant Battalion Operations Officer, H&S Company Commander, Rifle Company Commander, Weapons Company Commander, and Rifle Company Inspector/Instructor. In addition to these assignments, he served in the supporting establishment as the Training Support Officer, Officer Candidate School, and as a Company Grade Monitor, Headquarters Marine Corps.

As a Field Grade Officer, Colonel Coleman served tours of duty with 1st Battalion, 2nd Marines, 1st Battalion, 4th Marines, 2nd and 6th Marine Regimental Headquarters, 1st and 2nd Marine Division Headquarters, and I Marine Expeditionary Force Headquarters. Assignments during these tours included Battalion Operations Officer, Battalion Executive

Officer, Regimental Operations Officer, Assistant Division Personnel Officer, Battalion Commander, MEF (Fwd) Operations Officer, Division Operations Officer, and Regimental Commander. In addition to these assignments, he completed two joint tours. The first of these was with U.S. Central Command serving in the J-3, Command Control, and then Joint Exercise Division. Later he served with the Joint Staff, Washington, D.C., in the Office of the Vice Chairman.

On 23 August 2002, Colonel Coleman assumed the duty as Chief of Staff, I Marine Expeditionary Force. He initially deployed to Kuwait and Iraq with Headquarters, I MEF in conjunction with Operation Iraqi Freedom from November 2002 to October 2003. He returned to Iraq with I MEF in March 2004 serving there until the MEF redeployed to the U.S. in March 2005.

Colonel Coleman is a graduate of Amphibious Warfare School, U.S. Army Command and Staff College, Armed Forces Staff College, U.S. Army School of Advanced Military Studies, and the U.S. Naval War College. He is a designated Joint Specialty Officer and has been awarded two masters of arts degrees, the first in Military Arts and Science, and the second in National Security and Strategic Studies. His personal decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal (second award), Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (second and third awards), and the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal.

Colonel Coleman and his wife Teri were married in 1976 and have four children, Christina, Jay, Robby, and Lara.

On behalf of the people of the United States whom Colonel Coleman spent a career serving, I thank him for his service and commitment to the defense of our Nation.

STATEMENT HONORING JEREMY BONNER

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2006

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jeremy Bonner, an extraordinary young man whose dedication and achievements are to be commended. Jeremy Bonner recently graduated from A. Maceo Smith High School after 14 years of perfect attendance. This means that from the age of three, Jeremy never missed a day of school.

In a time when drop-out rates and truancy are on the rise, this is truly an exceptional achievement. The efforts and devotion of Jeremy Bonner and his mother, Joan Bonner, are to be celebrated.

In addition to his perfect attendance, I was pleased to learn of Jeremy's plans to join the military and pursue a career in public service. Both the military and America are fortunate to have the commitment of such a fine young man.

The recognition Jeremy is receiving is immensely well-deserved, and I know this is merely the first step of many bright years ahead.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2006

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, during consideration of H.R. 5427, the Fiscal Year 2007 Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act, I was not present for rollcall 196, 197, 198, 199, 200 and 201. Had I been present, on rollcall 196, I would have voted "yea," on rollcall 197, I would have voted "nay," on rollcall 198, I would have voted "yea," on rollcall 199, I would have voted "yea," on rollcall 200, I would have voted "nay," and on rollcall 201, I would have voted "yea."

TRIBUTE TO CAROL DAVIS

HON. RICHARD W. POMBO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2006

Mr. POMBO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements and hard work of Carol Davis. Carol is President and CEO of Manteca's Give Every Child a Chance Program. Give Every Child a Chance is committed to developing and maintaining a quality mentor program that will have a positive impact on the lives of children in our community. In 2005, the Association of California School Administrators, ACSA, had selected the Give Every Child a Chance Program as the year's Partners in Educational Excellence Award recipient.

Through Carol's leadership, Give Every Child a Chance has touched the lives of thousands of students throughout the San Joaquin area. The program provides innovative approaches to deal with the complex challenges facing public education. Give Every Child a Chance was nominated by Manteca Unified School District Superintendent, Dr. Cathy Nichols-Washer and was selected by a panel of school administrators throughout the State.

Carol's dedication to the future of our children is one that has not gone unnoticed, and I would like to wish her many more years of continued success.

INTRODUCTION OF LT. COL. JAMES MEGELLAS MEDAL OF HONOR BILL

HON. THOMAS E. PETRI

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2006

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to honor a true American hero by awarding him the Medal of Honor. On January 28, 1945, during the Battle of the Bulge, Lt. James Megellas led his platoon of the 82nd Airborne Division on a surprise and devastating attack on a much larger advancing German force, killing and capturing a large number of the enemy and causing others to flee. In an act of fearless courage, Megellas singlehandedly destroyed an attacking German Mark V tank with two hand-held grenades. He then led the charge of his men and

seized Herresbach, Belgium, during this fierce action of the Battle of the Bulge. Due to his aggressive, fearless and superior leadership, Lt. James Megellas inspired his men to excel.

After serving 4 years as a rifle platoon leader during World War II, including many combat jumps into Italy and Holland, Megellas left the active Army and served for 16 years in the Army Reserve. He retired after 20 years of service as a lieutenant colonel.

His awards and decorations include the Distinguished Service Cross, two Silver Star Medals, two Bronze Star Medals, two Purple Hearts, and he is credited with being the 82nd Airborne Division's most decorated officer. During World War II, Gen. James Gavin selected one 82nd officer—Lt. James Megellas—to receive the Military Order of Wilhelm Orange Lanyard from the Dutch Minister of War on behalf of his division.

To this day, James Megellas continues to inspire. In February, 61 years since that momentous battle, James "Maggie" Megellas set foot on a battlefield with fellow 82nd Airborne Division soldiers, this time in a current theatre of war—Afghanistan. Megellas was impressed with what he saw of the paratroopers and their work. He listened to their stories of their past year of deployment and shared with them his own experiences during World War II.

Today, at 89 years old, James Megellas is currently in the Netherlands, to be decorated by Her Majesty Queen Beatrix in a surprise ceremony to once again receive the Military Order of Wilhelm Orange Lanyard for outstanding service.

I urge my colleagues to also recognize James "Maggie" Megellas by supporting this bill to authorize and request the President to award him the Medal of Honor for his acts of valor on January 28, 1945, during the Battle of the Bulge. As time goes by, true heroes should never be forgotten, so please join me in honoring this outstanding American hero.

THE ONE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF PASSAGE OF THE STEM CELL RESEARCH BILL

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2006

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of stem cell research.

Last May, the House of Representatives narrowly passed H.R. 810, supporting federally funded embryonic stem cell research.

My vote, recorded in support of this bill, reflects my strong views on the potential for stem cell research to benefit society.

Stem cells can mature into nearly any type of cell, including nerve cells to repair damaged spines or heart cells to pump blood through the body.

The therapeutic possibilities of stem cells are endless.

It is my hope that the other body will work with us to support stem cell research.

Somewhere out there is a little girl who suffered a spinal injury and is unable to walk.

Therapy utilizing stem cells is her only hope.

How much longer will she and millions of others have to wait?