

earning the distinguished Michigan Blue Ribbon Exemplary School award.

Since its establishment, Novi Meadows Elementary School has represented a pillar of educational excellence in our community. Characterized by a rigorous academic curriculum and an effective partnership between parents and teachers, Novi Meadows Elementary School offers students a constructive learning environment, caring friendships, and innovative educational opportunities to prepare them for life's challenges. Thanks to the dedicated teachers and staff, each year Novi Meadows Elementary School students graduate prepared for a promising future.

In fact, following an extensive assessment of their academic performance, in February of 2007, the Michigan State Board of Education and the Blue Ribbon committee of educators awarded Novi Meadows Elementary School the distinguished Michigan Blue Ribbon Exemplary School award. Established in 1982, the award recognizes schools demonstrating a strong commitment to educational excellence and significant academic improvement over five years. This year, the selection of Novi Meadows Elementary School demonstrates how dedicated teachers, a stellar learning environment, and an exemplary community benefit students.

Madam Speaker, in honor of its recent selection to receive the 2007 Michigan Blue Ribbon Exemplary School award, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Novi Meadows Elementary School's exceptional efforts to educate students, and its diligent service to our community and country.

#### RECOGNIZING HSBC BANK USA

##### HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 12, 2007

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate the 41st recipient of the Special Presentation Award given by the Cheektowaga Chamber of Commerce. The chamber of commerce wishes to recognize and honor HSBC Bank USA, NA for its contributions to the western New York community.

The employees of HSBC Bank USA, NA have demonstrated a commitment to service and community by volunteering over 135,000 hours of service for nonprofit organizations. HSBC employees donated their time by painting classrooms, picking up litter, tutoring children, and working to improve local areas such as Riverside Park.

HSBC Bank USA, NA has also contributed to the future of western New York and the country through its "HSBC Scholars" program, which last year boasted 1,800 recipients. In addition, the bank also partners with Junior Achievement, a nonprofit organization that works to educate students in the areas of free enterprise, business, and economics.

Cheektowaga has benefited from the presence and activities of HSBC Bank. HSBC Bank has contributed to the Cheektowaga community by acting as a member of the Cheektowaga Chamber of Commerce for 50 years, and has also sponsored events hosted by the chamber of commerce. Employees of the bank have continued to be an integral part of the western New York community through

participation in organizations such as the United States Marine Corps Reserve and National Association of Women Business Owners.

Today, Madam Speaker, I would like to join the Cheektowaga Chamber of Commerce and many others in congratulating HSBC Bank USA, NA for its exceptional contributions to the western New York community and beyond.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF SHARNISHA BRAZZELL

##### HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 12, 2007

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Sharnisha Brazzell as the recipient of the inaugural Tuskegee Scholarship, and to recognize the North Coast Chapter of the Tuskegee Airmen for their service to our country.

As a member of the East Technical High School JROTC program, Sharnisha has demonstrated a strong desire to serve her country. As the 2007 Tuskegee Scholarship winner, Sharnisha will have the opportunity to develop her aviation skills as a student at the Summer Flight Academy of the Black Airline Pilots Association. Her hard work and dedication will take her to new and exciting heights, and I wish her luck in all her future endeavors.

Sharnisha will be carrying on a proud tradition of service to the United States started by the original Tuskegee Airmen. In the face of prejudice and segregation, the Tuskegee Airmen flew over 1,500 missions during World War II to help defeat Nazism and the spread of intolerance.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Sharnisha Brazzell as the recipient of the inaugural Tuskegee Scholarship. May she carry on the proud tradition of Black Aviation started by the Tuskegee Airmen.

#### HONORING DAVIE PIÑA, OF CALIFORNIA

##### HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 12, 2007

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Davie Piña who is being honored by the Napa Valley Grapegrowers as their Grower of the Year on Friday, June 1, 2007. Mr. Piña is being recognized for his outstanding contribution both to the wine grape industry, and to the larger community of the Napa Valley.

Mr. Piña is a sixth generation farmer in the Napa Valley, where he was born and raised. After attending California Polytechnic State University at San Luis Obispo, he took over and has substantially expanded the vineyard management business begun by his father, John Piña, Sr., over 40 years ago. Today he operates the thriving vineyard management group and is a partner running Piña Napa Valley winery as well as involving himself in numerous groups in the community.

Piña Vineyard Management has been at the forefront of sustainable farming practices in

the Napa Valley for many years, incorporating ecologically friendly agricultural techniques with sophisticated technology to help clients ensure the long-term quality of their vineyards. Mr. Piña's environmental consciousness extends beyond his work in the vineyards, as he has cochaired a local environmental project referred to as the Rutherford Dust River Restoration Team that is working to restore the watershed of the Napa River as it passes through the Rutherford area. He is part of an excellent leadership team that has brought about significant and ongoing changes to the quality of the habitat along the river.

Mr. Piña has also served as the Assistant Fire Chief for the Rutherford Volunteer Fire Department for the past 18 years. During this time he has taken on numerous responsibilities, including storing the department's fire engine on his own property while spearheading the project for a permanent Silverado Fire Station that opened in 2006. As a professional vineyard manager, he was keenly attuned to problems in the industry, and last year he helped organize local farm managers, and ultimately facilitated the Vineyard Managers Facilities Ordinance. This important work has allowed the legalization of vineyard management operations, and will help ensure regulation and quality in Napa Valley agriculture.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, it is appropriate at this time that we thank Mr. Davie Piña for the hard work he has done on behalf of the Napa Valley. As a respected manager and now winemaker, he has advanced the reputation of Napa Valley grapes and wine, and he has also been a model citizen and superb steward of the land he lives on.

#### TRIBUTE TO LARRY E. FOSTER

##### HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 12, 2007

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, it is with deep sadness that I ask the House of Representatives to join me in honoring the memory of Larry E. Foster. Larry passed away Sunday, June 10, at the age of 66, after suffering with cancer for the past several months.

Larry Foster started in public service fighting for the rights of senior citizens after graduating from Mississippi Industrial College with a bachelor of arts degree. He was the director of the Detroit Street Senior Citizen Center and the Hasselbring Senior Center. Elected to the Beecher Board of Education in 1977, Larry has held elected office ever since. He served on the Beecher Board of Education for 14 years.

He went on to be elected as the Mt. Morris Township supervisor in 1992 and has held that position ever since. He was the first African-American ever elected to the supervisor post in the history of the township. He was a devoted servant of the people and worked tirelessly to make Mt. Morris Township a great place to live and work.

Larry was enthusiastic about his community and spent many hours volunteering with Beecher Community Schools. He was the junior high school basketball coach for the past 31 years and a coach for the elementary football and basketball teams. In addition Larry served on the boards of many community organizations and was a member of St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church.

Madam Speaker, Larry Foster was a wonderful friend, a great advocate for Mt. Morris Township, and a revered figure in Mt. Morris for the past 30 years. He leaves a lasting legacy of breaking down barriers, and compassion for his fellow human beings. The mark he left on the community is a true blessing and he will be greatly missed.

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TRIBUTE TO DANIEL PFANNES

**HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 12, 2007

Mr. McCOTTER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor and acknowledge Daniel Pfannes, Chief of Police at the Westland Police Department, upon his retirement from a distinguished law enforcement career in Westland, Michigan.

For nearly five decades, Chief Pfannes dedicated his life to protecting the citizens of Michigan. Upon graduation from Central Michigan University with a Bachelor of Arts in Industrial Supervision and Management, Chief Pfannes joined the Westland Police Department as a Police Officer in the Uniform Patrol Division. Over the next 25 years, Chief Pfannes ascended through the Department's ranks, eventually serving as an Evidence Technician, Patrol Sergeant, Detective Sergeant, Patrol Lieutenant, Special Investigations Lieutenant, SWAT Commander, and Deputy Chief of Police. In 1993, Chief Pfannes graduated from the Police School of Staff and Command at Eastern Michigan University and Northwestern University. One year later, in 1994, he earned a Master's degree in Criminal Justice from the University of Detroit. Then, in March of 2003 he was promoted to the Chief of Police of the City of Westland.

Today, Chief Pfannes is a leader in the city of Westland and Wayne County. He serves on the Executive Board of the Wayne County Chiefs of Police Association, the Wayne County Regional Police Academy Advisory Board, the Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police Legislative Committee, and the Advisory Board of the Wayne County Representative to the Courts and Law Enforcement Management Information System (C.L.E.M.I.S.). He is also a Juvenile Justice instructor at Schoolcraft College and an assistant adjunct professor at Madonna University in Livonia where he teaches Criminal Justice.

For his tireless service to the community, Chief Pfannes has been recognized with the "Most Influential Instructor Award" by Schoolcraft Police Academy; and for his heroic efforts in combating crime, the Westland Police Department has honored him with numerous citations and commendations. The Wayne County Executive, Robert Ficano, also recognized Chief Pfannes for his efforts to secure \$23 million in federal Urban Area Security Initiative funding for Wayne County and the City of Detroit.

Madam Speaker, for 25 years, Chief Daniel Pfannes has unwaveringly protected and defended the citizens of Michigan. His long established legacy of dedication, loyalty, and courage will never be forgotten. As he enters the next phase of his life, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Chief Pfannes upon his retirement and in honoring his years of legendary service to our community and our country.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. MARK UDALL**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 12, 2007

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, on Monday I took part in a meeting in Denver at which the Advisory Board on Radiation and Health considered questions related to a petition to include people who worked at the Rocky Flats site as part of the "special exposure cohort" under the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act (EEOICPA).

As a result, I was not able to be present for three votes in the House.

Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

Rollcall No. 448—H.R. 2356, to amend title 4, United States Code, to encourage the display of the flag of the United States on Father's Day—I would have voted "yes."

Rollcall No. 449—S. 676, to provide that the Executive Director of the Inter-American Development Bank or the Alternate Executive Director of the Inter-American Development Bank may serve on the Board of Directors of the Inter-American Foundation—I would have voted "yes."

Rollcall No. 450—H. Res. 418, Recognizing and welcoming the delegation of Presidents, Prime Ministers, and Foreign Ministers from the Caribbean to Washington, DC, and commanding the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) for holding the Conference on the Caribbean—I would have voted "yes."

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HONORING GEORGE BUCCI

**HON. RON LEWIS**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 12, 2007

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of George Bucci. Mr. Bucci, a noted musician and public servant in Bardstown, Kentucky, passed away on May 9, 2007.

Mr. Bucci retired from the St. Joseph's School, where he spent many years as a music instructor. He was well known throughout the community for his volunteer work at several area nursing homes and charity events. He also served 28 years as the Adjutant for the "My Old Kentucky Home" Post 121 of the American Legion.

His service to his country and dedication to the Nelson County community will be remembered by all who knew him. It is my privilege to honor the memory of George Bucci today before the entire U.S. House of Representatives. May he rest in peace.

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RECOGNIZING PEOPLE INC. UPON RECEIVING THE CHEEKWAGA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 2007 COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 12, 2007

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the accomplishments of People Inc., a nonprofit group that provides assistance to those with developmental dis-

abilities, low-income seniors, and the general public. These accomplishments have earned People Inc. the 2007 Community Service Award from the Cheektowaga Chamber of Commerce.

Since its foundation in 1971, People Inc. has worked selflessly towards its goal of providing individuals with disabling conditions, or other special needs, the tools they need to succeed in society. These tools include over 100 group homes, senior housing complexes, day programs, early intervention programs, young adult life transition programs, and a medical clinic. People Inc. has helped over 10,000 members of the community to make progress in their daily lives.

In addition to this honor from the Cheektowaga Chamber of Commerce, People Inc.'s outstanding efforts have been recognized by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development through the National Best Practices Award.

People Inc. has given back to the western New York community not only through its tireless service towards aiding those in need, but also by employing almost 2,300 residents and has been ranked as number 22 out of the top 30 largest employers in western New York.

Not only has People Inc. provided western New York and beyond with direct assistance, it has also aided other nonprofit organizations with knowledge and resources in the hopes of spreading its fundamental goals even farther throughout the community.

I stand here today, Madam Speaker, to acknowledge the contributions of People Inc. to the community, and am certain that many others will recognize these outstanding contributions as well.

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IN RECOGNITION OF THE COUNCIL ON AMERICAN-ISLAMIC RELATIONS

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 12, 2007

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in order to recognize the achievements of the Council on American-Islamic Relations, on the occasion of their Fifth Anniversary. Since its inception, CAIR has been instrumental in creating dialogue between the diverse communities of northeast Ohio.

The Council on American-Islamic Relations is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to enhance understanding of Islam, encourage dialogue, protect civil liberties, empower American Muslims, and build conditions that promote justice and mutual understanding. With the help of CAIR, the Tenth District of Ohio has become a more inclusive community and a more welcoming place for American Muslims. I thank every member of the organization for their time and dedication to improving the lives of the citizens of the Cleveland area.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognizing the truly outstanding achievements of the Council on American-Islamic Relations. As our community continues to grow in its religious and cultural diversity, the work of CAIR is paramount if we are to thrive. May their efforts to create a more inclusive and peaceful world endure for years to come.