

Mrs. Santa Anna has been recognized as the most reliable volunteer by two of the most active Senior Citizens' Clubs in the region, the Abraham Lincoln Club and John F. Kennedy Club. In 2006 she was elected by over four hundred seniors to serve in two of the most coveted positions on the Board of Directors for each Club. She has been recognized as the "voice of the seniors" by personally leading and shepherding voter registration drives and absentee ballot campaigns for the elderly.

Mrs. Santa Anna, as a Cuban-American, has a strong passion for social justice issues, which empowers her to advocate on behalf of the elderly and the disenfranchised within her community. She was recently appointed to represent the City's Senior Citizens Advisory Committee as a member of the Seniors Grievance Committee, which addresses difficult and contentious issues for five senior citizens clubs in Santa Fe Springs. According to Santa Fe Springs City Councilmember, Luis M. Gonzalez, "Her amazing mental agility and high physical energy combined with her passionate spirit provide for a truly engaged community gatekeeper who keeps our elected officials on the edge of their seats."

Most importantly, Mrs. Santa Anna (lovingly known as "Fina") embodies the characteristics of a highly respected community leader. She is humble, lovable, and spirited. She is a passionate engine that mobilizes seniors, families, and elected officials for the betterment of Santa Fe Springs.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me, her family, friends, and community in honoring Josephine Santa Anna for her service in and contributions to the City of Santa Fe Springs.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 14, 2007

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Madam Speaker, I was on official leave of absence June 12 and 13, 2007, due to a health matter in my family. I would like the record to show that, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 451, 452, 453, 456 and 457 and "no" on rollcall votes 454, 455, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, and 465.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE HENDERSON NEVADA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 14, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Henderson, Nevada, Chamber of Commerce. The Henderson Nevada Chamber of Commerce has been serving the Henderson community as a private, non-profit voluntary organization since 1945. They are committed to the civic, commercial and industrial growth and development of Henderson. Much of the area's economic success is a direct result of the hard work and dedication of the Chamber.

The members of the Henderson Chamber of Commerce divided themselves into issue committees in order to prepare according to their predominant interests. The following are the committees and those who are leading those committees: Kristine Shattuck—Transportation; D.J. Allen and Francine Mayfield—Education; Scot Muelrath and Bob Unger—Water; David Chavez—Taxes; Ben Brown; and John Holman—Bureau of Land Management; Charles Perry—Homeland Security; Arnold Lopez and Rick Smith—Yucca Mountain; David Dahan—Health Care; and Laird Sanders—Small Business Administration. In addition, Karen Marshall, Alice Martz, Diane Holman, Gayle Rogers, and Richard are contributing to the weeklong event.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor The Henderson Chamber of Commerce. I would like to personally thank all of those participating for taking time out of their busy schedules to meet with Members of Congress as well as members of the Administration for the Inaugural Henderson on the Hill.

HONORING THE LIFE OF TECHNICAL SERGEANT RYAN BALMER OF MISHAWAKA, INDIANA

HON. JOE DONNELLY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 14, 2007

Mr. DONNELLY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the sacrifice of Technical Sergeant Ryan Balmer, native son of Mishawaka, Indiana, who died on June 5, 2007 while proudly serving his nation in Kirkuk, Iraq. Ryan risked everything in service to America, and for that we are eternally grateful.

Ryan was stationed at Hill Air Force base in Utah where he lived with his wife, Danielle and their two children Anthony and Gabby. His family, including his mother, Patricia Balmer, was anticipating his scheduled arrival home five days later when they were informed of his death. Danielle had made posters, buttons and banners to welcome Ryan home and had planned to line the road to their home with American flags. She also made a shirt for Gabby that read, "My daddy's finally home."

However, when Danielle saw the uniformed Air Force officers, including Ryan's saddened commanding officer, arrive at her work, she learned he was not coming home. Danielle said, "He died doing what he loved."

Shortly after graduation from Mishawaka High School, Ryan joined the Air Force where he became part of the Office of Special Investigations. His mission was to help identify, investigate and neutralize criminal, terrorist and espionage threats, one of the most dangerous assignments in today's Air Force. At the time of his death, he was serving as a liaison between Iraqi police and U.S. military officials in Kirkuk.

Ryan was killed when the vehicle in which he was riding, the first of a three vehicle convoy, was hit by an improvised explosive device. His commander, General Dana Simmons, called him a "warrior" who made the ultimate sacrifice in his brave performance of duty.

It is my somber duty to honor and remember Ryan and a life cut tragically short. I am saddened by the loss to his family, our com-

munity and our country. We were all blessed by his presence and diminished by his passing.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. BARBARA CHRISTEN, DISTINGUISHED EDUCATOR AND FOUNDER OF "FUTURES AND OPTIONS"

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 14, 2007

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Dr. Barbara L. Christen, an extraordinary leader and teacher. Her passionate commitment to excellence in education has inspired countless students and colleagues to realize their dreams. Dr. Christen's remarkable career is being celebrated this month at a reception hosted by Futures and Options, Inc., an outstanding program that provides New York City high schoolers worthwhile opportunities for paid, supervised internships in the business world.

Dr. Christen embarked upon her distinguished career by teaching English in New York City's public high schools. In 1970, she was named Assistant Principal for English at the High School of Art and Design on Manhattan's East Side. Five years later she became the founding Principal of the Murry Bergtraum High School for Business Careers in Lower Manhattan and launched its internationally acclaimed "magnet" program to prepare students for both college admission and entry into the workforce.

As the principal at Bergtraum over the course of a decade and a half, Dr. Christen oversaw the education of a student body of 3,000, one of the largest high schools in our Nation's biggest city. As the educational leader of the first American high school with a dual program preparing students both for college admission and for entry into the business world, Dr. Christen presided over Bergtraum's rapidly expanding application pool while managing a complex educational enterprise during New York City's dire fiscal crisis.

Working with the Downtown-Lower Manhattan Association, Dr. Christen became a pioneer in establishing public-private partnerships, thereby immeasurably benefitting the school she led as well as its students and teachers. She established a highly successful educational model, introduced an innovative business curriculum, initiated the first high school computer science business program, and secured internships for all Bergtraum students. Dr. Christen thus forged a unique learning experience for her students, one that melded a rigorous and stimulating academic curriculum with exciting opportunities to gain invaluable experience in the business world by working in Lower Manhattan's world-famous business and financial districts.

Following her retirement from New York City's public school system, Dr. Christen continued to put her flair for innovation and enterprise to work helping others achieve their full potential. As the Vice President for Workforce Development at the Alliance for Downtown New York, she created the Futures and Options, Inc. (FAO) paid internship program that was subsequently cited by the U.S. Department of Labor as a model project. Since then,

more than 2,000 students have benefitted from FAO, and its bright future is one of the proudest legacies of her storied career.

A native of the great Empire State, Dr. Christen is a proud graduate of the College of Mount Saint Vincent and performed her graduate studies at the City University of New York, where she earned a masters degree, and at the Teachers College of Columbia University, where she received her Doctorate in Education.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my distinguished colleagues join me in recognizing the remarkable successes enjoyed by Dr. Barbara L. Christen in educating and inspiring countless individuals and colleagues.

TRIBUTE TO THE ESSEXVILLE-
HAMPTON SCHOOL DISTRICT
50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 14, 2007

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, today I am happy to rise before you and ask my colleagues in the 110th Congress to celebrate 50 years of education in the Essexville-Hampton School District. This momentous event will be marked by a "Celebrating Success" event on Saturday, July 7, 2007.

It all began with visionary W.R. Bush, educational leader Quinton E. Cramer, and community leader Mark M. Jaffe. Special thanks go to those who served on the school board in 1955: Melvin Steggall, Austin Nickel, George Ryers, Clifford Mader, and Lowell Cuthbert. On July 1, 1957 their joint efforts created a school district, which joined together the City of Essexville and the Charter Township of Hampton.

The Essexville-Hampton School District began with a small number of students, and has grown to produce over 6,000 graduates. Garber High School, Cramer Junior High School, Hughes Elementary School, Verellen Elementary School, and Bush Elementary School continue to offer a wide variety of curriculum and extracurricular activities. The schools encourage educational exploration and support all facets of the learning process. Today, all five schools in the district are committed to a Pattern of Excellence and are dedicated to providing the richest educational experience possible.

Madam Speaker, once again I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Essexville-Hampton School District.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF
STEPHANIE N. STEELE

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 14, 2007

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of Stephanie N. Steele, of Port St. Lucie, Florida. Ms. Steele was a very talented artist who died recently at just 21 years of age, after fighting a long and valiant battle against cystic fibrosis.

I first became aware of her great courage and remarkable skill in 2002, when she was the subject of a feature story in *The Palm Beach Post*.

Despite her disability, Ms. Steele remained optimistic throughout her short life. She painted beautiful murals that attracted widespread attention and brought cheer to everyone who knew her. Ms. Steele was known for her sparkling personality and her sweet demeanor. In addition to her art, she was an accomplished writer, compiling 27 journals about her life. She underwent two lung transplants, both of which her body rejected.

I join her family and friends in grieving this great loss. It is because of such tragedies that I serve on the Cystic Fibrosis Caucus in the House of Representatives. I will continue to fight for more funding for research into a cure for cystic fibrosis and related diseases.

We all owe a debt of gratitude to Stephanie Steele for what she taught us about living with dignity and never admitting defeat. The best way we can honor her memory is to rededicate ourselves to finding a cure for cystic fibrosis so that no one else is taken from us before they can fulfill their life's potential.

TRIBUTE TO PLAUNT
TRANSPORTATION

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 14, 2007

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a family business in my district. For 75 years, Plaunt Transportation has ferried people and goods to Bois Blanc Island in Lake Huron, just a few miles north of Cheboygan, Michigan. For those 75 years, through four generations of Plaunts, the company has remained in one family.

Bois Blanc Island sits about 2½ miles east of Mackinac Island in Lake Huron. While the island is home to only about 25 to 30 year-round residents, during the summer, the population swells to 1,500.

Plaunt Transportation traces its roots to 1932, when Charles Plaunt began transporting supplies and eight passengers to this remote island on his ferry, the *Margaret*. It was that same year, 1932, that Charles Plaunt took over the contract to deliver mail from mainland Cheboygan to Bois Blanc Island. In 1934, the *Adventure* was put into service, carrying up to 20 passengers. In 1937, the *Adventure* was replaced by the *Ada M*, which was named for Charles' wife.

From its earliest days, Plaunt Transportation has been a family business in every sense of the word. Charles' son, Ray, began helping his father on the boat in 1937. At that time, there were only two bags of mail to deliver. Charles would deliver one bag of mail to the post office and Ray would drive the Model T to the Coast Guard Station on Bois Blanc and deliver the second bag.

During World War II, Charles' four sons were away defending our Nation in the war. During this 4-year period, Charles' teenage daughter, Ethelyn, helped out on the boat, first as a deckhand and, eventually, steering the boat. Together, Ethelyn and her father braved storms and the freezing lake to ferry passengers and U.S. mail from the mainland to the island.

Ray Plaunt took over the business from his father in 1948, a year before Charles passed away. In 1954, Ray had the *Char-Leann II* built in Holland, Michigan. The boat, named for his daughters, could carry 28 passengers or 1 vehicle and 6 passengers. To accommodate the changing needs of the island, a barge was used to carry additional vehicles and equipment.

Plaunt Transportation incorporated in 1979, and put into service the *Chee-Maun-Nes*, which carried 2 vehicles and 49 passengers.

Ray's son, Curt, bought the business from his father in 1987. Curt had a boat designed and built in Warren, Rhode Island in 1987. He named it the *Kristen D* after his daughter. The *Kristen D* could carry 8 vehicles and 49 passengers.

In 1998, the *Kristen D* was lengthened by 30 feet in Escanaba, Michigan, making it easier to carry heavy equipment, as well as semi-cement and garbage trucks. The vessel can accommodate 17 vehicles and 149 passengers. Ray's son, Curt, bought the business from his father in 1987. Ray's grandsons, Ryan McLaren and Jason Plaunt, are both fourth generation licensed boat captains. Another captain, Brent Sharpe, is not a Plaunt, but has worked with the Plaunt family for so long he is considered a member of the family.

While they cannot put an exact figure on it, Curt and Ray estimate that together they have made over 50,000 trips across Lake Huron Bois Blanc Island. Today, customers continue each day to board the *Kristen D* and take the 40 minute ride from the tip of Michigan's Lower Peninsula to Bois Blanc Island. It appears the Plaunt family legacy will continue: Charles Plaunt's great-great grandson has already decided at the age of 4 that when he grows up he, too, would like to be a boat captain.

Madam Speaker, family businesses are, in many ways, the core of the American system of enterprise. Since our country's inception, in the biggest American cities and the smallest towns, businesses run by families have built and maintained the infrastructure of our economy. No better example can be found of a family driven entrepreneurial spirit than the Plaunts. Their four generations of dedicated service to Cheboygan and to Bois Blanc Island are to be admired. In frozen lakes, through blinding rain, in good weather and in bad, for three-quarters of a century, the Plaunts have kept Bois Blanc Island in touch with the mainland. As Plaunt Transportation celebrates their 75th year of service, I would ask that you, Madam Speaker, and the entire U.S. House of Representatives join me in saluting them.

IN RECOGNITION OF UNSUNG
HEROES HELPING HEROES, INC.

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 14, 2007

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Unsung Heroes Helping Heroes, Inc., an outstanding organization that provides assistance to sick and injured 9/11 responders and works to help secure proper health care and compensation for the thousands of men and women who are