

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

struggling with serious health problems caused by 9/11. In particular, I would like to recognize the achievements of the Co-Founders of Unsung Heroes, John Sferazo and Marvin Bethea, as well as the organization's treasurer, Mike Arcari, and secretary, Julie Hernandez.

John Sferazo arrived at Ground Zero on the morning of September 12th. A structural iron worker, John immediately began removing crushed vehicles from the site. For the next 30 days, John cut through and removed iron and steel to try to rescue or recover those trapped under the pile. John suffered significant damage to his lungs as a result of his work and has not been able to perform his regular job since August 1, 2004. Since that time, he has poured his considerable energies into helping others, primarily through his work as the President of Unsung Heroes Helping Heroes.

An independent paramedic with a private hospital, Marvin Bethea was dispatched to Ground Zero on September 11th by the New York City Fire Department. Marvin was a block away from Ground Zero when the first tower fell. He was buried in the lobby of a nearby bank building, but was able to get out and attend to the medical needs of people nearby. When the second Trade Center tower collapsed, Marvin was again covered in debris. Marvin returned to Ground Zero on September 14th to continue giving medical assistance to victims and to rescue workers. Five weeks later, he suffered a stroke attributed to 9/11. Like his friend and colleague John Sferazo, he has since worked tirelessly, despite major, persistent health problems, to help others.

In a few short years, Unsung Heroes Helping Heroes has established an impressive track record of advocacy on the city, state and federal levels. In 2006, the organization worked with the State of New York to extend the deadline for 9/11 responders to apply for workers' compensation benefits. I was proud to work with Unsung Heroes in our successful campaign to provide the very first federal funding for 9/11 health care needs. In support of their very worthy cause, John and Marvin have organized countless press conferences, rallies and fundraisers, and have lobbied officials on all levels of government.

Madam Speaker, as John and Marvin and their colleagues would no doubt tell you, we are in the middle of a gathering health crisis. The deaths of at least eight 9/11 responders have been widely documented in the media, although I believe that there are many more untimely deaths out there that have yet to come to light. I strongly believe that we must act now to make sure that tragedies like these never happen again. If we fail to meet our obligation to care for those sickened or injured by 9/11, I fear that no one will be either willing or able to help in the event of a future disaster.

I believe that all Americans should be proud of leaders like John Sferazo and Marvin Bethea and their colleagues at Unsung Heroes Helping Heroes, who have dedicated themselves to making sure that in America, we will take care of those who take care of us. Madam Speaker, I ask that my distinguished colleagues join me in saluting Unsung Heroes Helping Heroes, Inc.

## HONORING FORMER BAY CITY MAYOR ROBERT KATT

### 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 honor former Bay City Mayor Robert Katt.

Robert Katt was born in Pontiac, Michigan on July 30, 1942. His family then moved to Bay City where he attended Washington Elementary School. In 1960 Mr. Katt graduated from Bay City Central High School. He went on to attend Delta College before joining the U.S. Army. Bob served his country in the U.S. Medical Corps from 1962 to 1965. During that time, he married his wife Barbara. He is also survived by two children and two grandchildren.

In 1981 Robert Katt decided to further serve his community and was elected Bay County Commissioner. He served as 6th Ward Bay City Commissioner from 1987 to 1993 and from 1995 to 2003. Bob served as Commission President from 1991 to 1993 and from 2000 to 2003. In 2003 Mr. Katt decided to begin his campaign for Bay City Mayor, and was elected to the position in November of that year, where he remained until his death in 2006.

Aside from his elected positions, Mayor Katt was active throughout his community. He was affiliated with the Bay City Central Booster Club and served as chairman of the South End Citizens District Council. Bob was a member of UAW Local 362, having worked at General Motors Corporation for 38 years.

Madam Speaker, once again I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Robert Katt and his legacy to Bay City, Michigan.

## IN RECOGNITION OF MRS. RUTH ZISES

### HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 14, 2007

Mr. ACKERMAN. Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to honor the memory of Ruth Zises, a dear friend and role model, who sadly succumbed to illness earlier this year.

Ruth was a unique woman whose presence brightened the faces and warmed the hearts of everyone she encountered. Ruth was a deeply principled woman who wore her passions with profound pride. She was enormously dedicated to her family and friends and intensely devoted to her beliefs. Ruth translated her convictions into action by founding, together with her family, the Genesis Center in Jerusalem, an academy devoted to enhancing the lives of young adults by incorporating Jewish scholarship with civic engagement and political action. Ruth's service and support of countless other institutions, organizations and charities made her a model of generosity.

While Ruth's attention to the needs of her community was commendable, her family was always the focal point of her life. Ruth's devo-

tion to her husband Bernie, sons Selig, Seymour and Jay, her nine grandchildren and six great-grandchildren inspired all who knew her.

Madam Speaker, words can not capture the generosity of spirit and warmth that Ruth Zises exuded. All that can be said is that she will be terribly missed by the scores of people fortunate enough to have had known her.

Madam Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in recognizing and remembering the exemplary life of Ruth Zises.

## IN RECOGNITION OF COLONEL TODD R. SMITH

### HON. BRAD ELLSWORTH

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 14, 2007

Mr. ELLSWORTH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Colonel Todd R. Smith for his extraordinary service as Commander of Crane Army Ammunition Activity (CAAA) in Crane, Indiana. Colonel Smith has been selected to serve as the Chief of Staff for the Joint Munitions Command in Rock Island Arsenal, Illinois. Rock Island's gain is Crane Army's loss. I know I speak for everyone at Crane when I say that Colonel Smith leaves a strong legacy of achievement and CAAA is a more efficient operation because of his leadership and service.

Colonel Smith, a native of Bluefield, West Virginia, arrived at Crane Army in July 2004 as a highly regarded and decorated leader in the Army having served in leadership positions in Germany, Korea and the U.S. He also commanded the Lone Star Army Ammunition Plant in Texarkana, Texas from July 1999 to July 2001. Prior to arriving at CAAA, Colonel Smith served as Chief, C/J4 Munitions Division, Combined Forces Command and United States Forces Korea.

Colonel Smith's vision and leadership at Crane Army, particularly through his focused implementation of the Lean Six Sigma and Continuous Improvement, has resulted in the creation of an organizational culture that resulted in increased efficiency and quality of service throughout all operational areas at CAAA. In fact, Colonel Smith was able to decrease annual project costs by \$2.6 million while maintaining the expected high level of production.

The Crane Continuous Improvement program highlights the determined leadership Colonel Smith has provided at CAAA. Under his leadership, CAAA has produced 6 Lean Six Sigma Black Belts, 40 Lean Six Sigma Green Belts, 22 Lean Six Sigma Executive Leaders, and 24 Lean Six Sigma Project Sponsors. CAAA's establishment of the Ammunition, Transportation, Tracking, and Control Center (ATTACC) remains the hallmark of the Continuous Improvement program. ATTACC, located on base at CAAA, allows depot operators to utilize proactive logistics through a shared computer application. The result is more accurate schedules and efficient planning for the processing of ammunitions receipts and issues. ATTACC is a sterling example of Crane Army's mission statement, "Only Our Best for the World's Best!"

It is a testament to Colonel Smith's leadership that CAAA has been nationally recognized for excellence. CAAA was honored with