

together and unite as members of a free, democratic Nation. These individuals realize the great things America has to offer. They realize that there is nowhere else in the world that offers a better opportunity for success and a good life than here in America.

On July 4, 2007, the following individuals, representing many countries throughout the world, will take their oath of citizenship in Hammond, Indiana: Daniela Gomez Alba, Vanhvilay Thongsawath, Fayeze Ghaly Samaan, Sean David Sternfeldt, Maria Del Carmen Garcia, Khaled Abdullah Mohamed Alkadhi, Jovica Georgiev, Evica Jankovic, Khadija Nasreen, Muhammad Munawar Uddin, Ljubica Andonova, Yasser Yousof Hussein Alsalahi, Reina Ahmad Elabed, Heidemarie Nealon, Nidal Khaleel Bader, Rosa Navarro, Irma Guadalupe Gallegos, Victor Manuel Salas, Hildeberta Ignacio, Ivan Ignacio Esquivel, Edgar Ignacio, Maria Gonzalez, Vassilka Ivanova Sokolova, Jose Ernesto Munoz Munoz, Margarita Lomeli, Rosalia Aguilar De Hernandez, Ramona Garcia, Hector Miguel Rivera Gallegos, Rafael Negrete Gentil, Stan Krzysztofak, Juan Carlos Bustos, Angelina Rico De Becerra, Maria Teresa Paredes De Sanchez, Thomas William Fridel, Mirko Koceski, Zivka Koceski, Phuoc Hong Tran, Ramachandra Mukkamala, Cristina Chavez Melesio, Maureen Allyson Fridel, Omar Mehidi, Priya Venkata Vishnu Mukkamala, Kameswari Kalluri, Carlos Alberto Garcia Morales, Sonja Sabo-Djuric, Maria De Jesus Galvan Briseno, Paul Derek MacGregor, Layda Eunice Salazar, Mary Ortiz, and Nancy Takla.

Though each individual has sought to become a citizen of the United States for his or her own reasons, be it for education, occupation, or to offer their loved ones better lives, each is inspired by the fact that the United States of America is, as Abraham Lincoln described it, a country "... of the people, by the people, and for the people." They realize that the United States is truly a free Nation. By seeking American citizenship, they have made the decision that they want to live in a place where, as guaranteed by the First Amendment of the Bill of Rights, they can practice religion as they choose, speak their minds without fear of punishment, and assemble in peaceful protest should they choose to do so.

Madam Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating these individuals, who will become citizens of the United States of America on July 4, 2007, the day of our Nation's independence. They, too, will be American citizens, and they, too, will be guaranteed the inalienable rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. We, as a free and democratic society, congratulate them and welcome them.

NATIONAL HIV TESTING DAY

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2007

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, today I rise in support of H. Con Res. 169, and in recognition of National HIV Testing Day. As I speak, it is estimated that 180,000 to 280,000 individuals nationwide are HIV-positive but unaware of their status.

Today we commemorate this day because the HIV/AIDS pandemic continues to plague our Nation. In Chicago, 22,000 people are living with HIV/AIDS, and more than 1,000 are infected annually.

And this disease is disproportionately impacting minorities. People of color account for 69 percent of the city's total population but represent 81 percent of recently diagnosed adult AIDS cases and 77 percent of recently diagnosed HIV cases.

Madam Speaker, these numbers continue to rise and we must do everything in our power to educate, prevent, treat and stop the spread of this deadly virus.

Madam Speaker, National HIV/AIDS Testing Day promotes awareness and empowers individuals to know their status, learn the facts about HIV and AIDS and take the proper steps to protect themselves and their communities.

In closing, I commend all of the organizations and individuals who participate in National HIV/AIDS Awareness day.

I encourage my constituents to get tested and I thank Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church, the AIDS Foundation of Chicago, Englewood Neighborhood Health Center, the South State Family Health Center, the Taylor Family Health Center and others for hosting confidential testing services today in Chicago.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF HURRICANE AUDREY

HON. CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR.

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2007

Mr. BOUSTANY. Madam Speaker, I rise today as a native of Southwest Louisiana to remember the lives that were lost 50 years ago today when Hurricane Audrey swept across the bayou. In the early morning hours of June 27, 1957, the Category 4 storm barreled ashore, claiming at least 500 lives in Cameron and Vermillion parishes. Two hundred of the storm's victims were children.

Hurricane Audrey is the seventh deadliest storm in the history of the United States. To date, Audrey remains the only storm of its size to make landfall in June. Too many of Southwest Louisiana's lifelong residents who had been seasoned by years of hurricanes did not heed the warnings to evacuate. Additionally, the storm struck the coast hours before its anticipated arrival, cutting off evacuation routes and trapping residents in the hurricane's path.

Unfortunately, we know that the kind of devastation and misery that Audrey brought to Louisiana are not isolated to that fateful day in 1957. Two years ago, when Hurricanes Rita and Katrina hit Louisiana, a new generation of Americans experienced first hand the destruction these storms can bring.

Powerful hurricanes continue to assault the shores of Louisiana. As we enter into the 2007 hurricane season, I urge Americans living along the Gulf Coast to take steps to protect their families and their property. Scientists predict that 17 named storms will develop in the Atlantic and Caribbean this year. Nine of these storms are expected to reach hurricane status.

Advanced preparation is key to weathering these storms. Let us take lessons from our past so we can minimize the potential for harm in the future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2007

Mr. CARTER. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 550, I was unavoidably detained and unable to be present to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2007

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 533 and 534, I was unavoidably detained and unable to vote. When submitting to the record how I would have voted, I inadvertently stated the rollcall numbers incorrectly as 553 and 554. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on rollcall No. 533 and "aye" on rollcall No. 534.

RECOGNIZING CHARLES PAUL BUTLER JR., ON HIS EIGHTIETH BIRTHDAY

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Mr. Charles Paul Butler Jr., on the occasion of his eightieth birthday. Charley Butler, a long time resident of Brundidge, Alabama, in Pike County, has been widely recognized for his community service, and I am honored to add my recognition on the floor of the House of Representatives today.

Charley Butler and his family relocated to Brundidge, Alabama, in 1961. There began what would become a lifetime commitment to the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 34. That troop had been languishing for a number of years, but Mr. Butler spearheaded an effort to restore its vitality. He recruited a superb bullpen of adult leaders and lined up important sponsors such as the local Army National Guard Armory. The troop became the pride of the Alabama-Florida Council as one of the best equipped, most active troops in the region. Troop 34 consistently spent more days encamped than any surrounding troop and was the envy of all when it showed up at Camp Ala-Flo in its custom-painted Troop 34 school bus. Of most significance, Scoutmaster Butler was constantly teaching and imparting the values that are so important to the development of young men. During Mr. Butler's tenure as scoutmaster of Troop 34, seventeen members of the community earned the rare rank of Eagle, a remarkable achievement for a small troop from a small town.

Mr. Butler's contributions to the Boy Scouts have been widely recognized. The Boy Scouts of America awarded him the prestigious "Silver Beaver Award," top recognition for an adult volunteer leader. And in 1988, at "Scout Day" at the Brundidge United Methodist

Church, he received a particularly fitting tribute. On that day, a group of his former Eagle Scouts gathered to present Mr. Butler with a statue of a scoutmaster as a simple expression of thanks for the important role he had played in each of their lives. Among the Eagle Scouts gathered that day were his own two sons, as well as several fatherless boys who considered him very much like a father.

Charley Butler has also been widely recognized by the broader community. He received the "Civic Achievement Award" for 2007 from the alumni association of Kettering University (formerly GMI Engineering and Management Institute) of Flint, Michigan. In 2003, he received the Brundidge Business Association "Humanitarian Award." Active for many years in the Brundidge Rotary Club, he has been recognized frequently by that organization. He is a three time recipient of the group's "Service above Self Award," a 2001 recipient of the "Rotary Special Service Award," and in 1986, the recipient of Rotary's highest recognition, the "Paul Harris Fellow Award." More recently, the Brundidge Rotary Club presented Mr. Butler a "Lifetime of Service Award" for his outstanding service from 1975 to 2007.

Madam Speaker, Charley Butler truly personifies the motto "service above self." His sacrifices of time, effort and energy have truly made his community a better place. His legacy is well-established and will be long-lasting. I am proud to add my name to the list of those recognizing him, and I offer him best wishes on his eightieth birthday.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2007

Mr. CARTER. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 549, I was unavoidably detained and unable to be present to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2007

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 284, passage of H.R. 1429, Head Start for School Readiness Act, I was unavoidably detained and unable to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

CONGRATULATING BARBARA
WHITNEY CARR ON HER RETIRE-
MENT

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2007

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Barbara Whitney Carr, the president and CEO of the Chicago Botanic Garden for over a decade.

Barbara Carr presides over one of America's preeminent public gardens located in

Glencoe, Illinois. For over a century, the Chicago Botanic Garden has been a sanctuary for over 2.2 million plants, including over 8,000 unique species. The 23 unique gardens spread over 385 acres include horticultural displays, natural habitats, and lakes that attract more than 750,000 visitors annually. By embracing its mission to promote the enjoyment, understanding, and conservation of plants and the natural world, the Garden has become one of the finest botanic displays in the country and one of the 10th District's most stunning features.

Barbara led a 10-year master plan for the garden and launched a capital campaign that saw 15,000 donors contribute a total of \$148 million. This drive led to construction and renovation of eight new gardens and the restoration of nearly 6 miles of shoreline. She also oversaw completion of the Botanic Garden Center, Children's Learning Center and the renovation of the 100,000-square foot Regenstein Center.

Thanks to Barbara's leadership, the garden is now partnered with some of the leading academic institutions in Illinois. She created an academic affairs program that now offers a master of science in plant biology and conservation, a master of landscape architecture and a bachelor's degree in horticulture. Barbara spearheaded the effort to develop a partnership with the Royal Botanic Gardens in Kew, England, to preserve endangered prairie plant species and has launched a major science initiative including collaboration with leading organizations.

Madam Speaker, Barbara Whitney Carr is a remarkable woman whose dedication helped to make the Chicago Botanic Garden one of the finest institutions in the country and an essential place of tourism, education, and beauty within the 10th District. I wish her all the best in her retirement and thank her for her years of service.

RECOGNIZING THE OFFICIAL DEDICATION OF THE BETTY J. PULLUM FAMILY YMCA IN NAVARRE

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2007

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is an honor for me to rise today to recognize the dedication of the Betty J. Pullum Family YMCA in Navarre, Florida.

This celebrated facility is named in remembrance of a tireless leader who devoted herself to improving her community and who saw the good in everyone. Ms. Betty J. Pullum was known to her family as "Big Deal." It was her vision and desire to give back to the Navarre community that has made it the close-knit community that it is today. Because of her generosity, it is only fitting that the Navarre YMCA is named in honor of her.

On August 19, 2006, the newly constructed Betty J. Pullum Family YMCA building opened to serve the community of Navarre, Florida. The state-of-the-art facility was conceived by Bart Pullum, President of the Navarre Beach Area Chamber of Commerce. As a Navarre native he believed that the youth of Navarre

needed a YMCA of their own where they could come together to have fun in a safe environment.

He brought the idea to his friend Henry Loper and they presented it to the directors of the Pensacola YMCA. It was there that the project grew. Bill and Jeannie Pullum donated the land for the project and the Bill and Martha Pullum Family Foundation donated a lead gift of half a million dollars. The rest of the fundraising was organized by groups and individuals in the community who loved the idea of having a family-oriented facility that promotes active and healthy lifestyles.

The Betty J. Pullum Family YMCA is the perfect place for a family to balance a healthy lifestyle with fun and games. All the exercise equipment is new and free fitness assessments and personalized exercise programs are offered. There are also gymnasiums for shooting hoops and a children's playroom that allows parents to exercise while children are supervised by the attentive staff. The YMCA also offers classes such as aerobic kickboxing and kids' cardio for children ages 3–6 to make a healthy and active lifestyle a lifelong habit. The biggest draw for children is the outdoor pool which features lanes for lap swimming, water slides and a wading section for small children featuring baby slides and fountains.

The Navarre YMCA has about 700 membership units, which represents about 1,600 individuals. Now that we are into the heat of summer, the Navarre YMCA is expecting its membership to grow. This facility will allow families to build healthy lifestyles together and have fun at the same time. It is a safe place for children to play and is an enormous benefit to the community of Navarre, Florida.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to recognize the dedication of the Betty J. Pullum Family YMCA in Navarre, Florida.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS
ACT, 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 26, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2643) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes:

Mr. REYES. Madam Chairman, I rise today in strong support of an amendment by my friend and colleague, Chairman DICKS, to increase funding for the Border Environment Infrastructure Fund, or BEIF, under the U.S.-Mexico Border Program by \$15 million.

I also want to thank Chairman DICKS for producing a good piece of legislation and for being so responsive to me and other concerned Members from border districts. His willingness to listen to and take into account new information regarding the program are true marking of a fine chairman. As my friend the chairman noted, BEIF has recently instituted measures to ensure that program funds are