

from Morristown, TN, ending Gladstone's chances to be world champions. Nonetheless, the Gladstone team can take heart that their loss was to a formidable opponent: Morristown would eventually go on to win the Little League World Series of Softball.

Despite their loss to Morristown, the Gladstone All-Stars' World Series was not quite over. In fact, the team would continue playing well. Ultimately, with a 5–2 victory over Waterford, CT, the Gladstone All-Stars secured their position as the number three softball team in the world.

Throughout their visit to Portland, OR, and their participation in the Softball Little League World Series, Gladstone's team conducted themselves with dignity and class and continued to exhibit fine sportsmanship.

When they returned last month to Gladstone, they were greeted in triumphant fashion by approximately 300 fans from Gladstone and the surrounding area. Gladstone area residents came together to show these returning young heroes the deep support the team enjoyed in the community.

Madam Speaker, in small town America, local sports are often the soul of a community. The Gladstone Major Girls' All-Stars made all of Gladstone, indeed all Michigan's U.P., proud with their efforts this season and I congratulate each of them: Alison Austin, Nicole Barteld, Jammie Botruff, Neena Brockway, Ashley Hough, Averi Kanyuh, Jordan Kowalski, Heather Sanderson, Jordan Schwartz, Nicole Sharon, and Shannon Wolf. I also congratulate the team's coaches, Andy Schwartz and John Nevala.

Madam Speaker, as the citizens of the Gladstone area celebrate these young women's achievement, I would ask that you and the entire U.S. House of Representatives join me in congratulating these young women on their winning record, their participation in the Little League World Series of Softball and, most of all, the sportsmanship and dignified demeanor they displayed in representing Gladstone and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

TRIBUTE TO JENNIFER DUNN

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 6, 2007

Mrs. MYRICK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the late Jennifer Dunn. Jennifer was a role model for those of us who were fortunate to serve in Congress with her. She blazed many paths in politics for other women to follow.

Jennifer always gave of herself and was willing to reach out and help wherever it was needed.

I am so thankful she was able to enjoy a happy marriage to Keith and spend time with her family these last few years. Our hearts go out to them in their loss. Please keep the family in your prayers.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO VIDA LIN

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 6, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Vida Chan Lin for her tireless efforts on behalf of the Las Vegas community.

Vida Chan Lin has been an outstanding member of the Asian Community in Nevada for more than ten years. She currently serves as the vice-president for both the Las Vegas Asian Chamber of Commerce and the Las Vegas Organization of Chinese Americans. In addition to these prestigious roles Vida also has the honor of being a founding member of the Nevada Asian American/Pacific Islander Leadership Council, and in 2002 she worked on the fundraising committee of the Japanese American Citizens League national convention. She has also served on the Clark County Business Development Advisory Council, and was a member of the Clark County Library District Asian Pacific American Heritage Month Advisory Committee.

Vida's positive attitude and passion for service in the Asian American community has made her a well respected leader and role model for younger generations. Members of her chapter of the Organization of Chinese Americans have characterized her as the "Queen Bee" of their growing family and state that without her, they would not be where they are today. Vida's efforts and accomplishments provide an atmosphere for others to learn and benefit from her exceptional leadership.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Vida Chan Lin. I would like to personally thank her for her dedicated service to our community, as well as for her support of the Asian Pacific Islander community in Las Vegas.

CONGRATULATING MS. SAMANTHA BEDINGER

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 6, 2007

Mr. TANCREDO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of my constituents Ms. Samantha Bedinger of Golden, Colorado, who will attend a People to People World Leadership Forum in 2008. Her outstanding academic merits and communal involvement have laid a solid foundation of individual integrity and dedication: both characteristics of a qualified leader. I am honored to represent such a promising young woman.

Created in 1956, the People to People Program is an educational travel program dedicated to fostering leadership potential in youth worldwide. People to People has helped more than 200,000 students and professionals develop their leadership skills based upon Dwight D. Eisenhower's belief that "people can make a difference where governments cannot." This unique interaction and exposure will enable Ms. Samantha Bedinger to gain a greater understanding and insider's perspective of Washington, DC.

Madam Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to acknowledge one of Colorado's own. Please join me in congratulating Ms. Samantha

Bedinger and wishing her the best in her future endeavors.

COMMENDING MS. MARTI THOMAS DONEGHY ON SIX YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. JULIA CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 6, 2007

Ms. CARSON. Madam Speaker, today I recognize the laudable contributions of my Legislative Director, Ms. Marti Thomas Doneghy. After nearly 6 years on my staff, and 18 years of government service, Marti will be leaving to add her energy and abilities to bolster the AARP headquarters here in Washington.

Marti joined my staff after 7 years in the Department of Energy, where she was a leader of renewable energy programs, advancing not only a responsible energy policy but also increasing the government's partnership with the energy industry and minority-owned businesses. She also worked closely with the Department of State to bring energy initiatives to communities in Africa, an important part of advancing America's image abroad.

Her knowledge of the energy issues facing this country was of great personal help to me, as renewable energy has become a leading issue of our time. Her leadership as Legislative Director was invaluable, as she worked effectively not only within my staff, but with many staffers across the Hill. Marti's acumen as a staffer came from her earlier experience on the Hill as press secretary for the Honorable Glen Browder, and from her first day in my office, she capably called upon all of her experiences to become a leader in every sense of the word.

Madam Speaker, Ms. Marti Thomas Doneghy has been an invaluable asset to both me and to this House. While I am sad to see her leave, I know that she will carry her knowledge and leadership skills throughout her career, wherever it may lead her.

Marti, I wish you all the best in your pursuits, and I thank you deeply for your many years of service.

IN HONOR OF ROBERT S. "BOB" BONEY

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 6, 2007

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a great man, Mayor Bob Boney of Leesburg, Georgia. I am proud to be able to call Mr. Boney a friend and a constituent of the Second Congressional District of Georgia. He has dedicated most of his life to his community, and the value of his service extends far beyond the meaning contained within his current title.

For the past 17 years, Bob has served Leesburg as Mayor. However, his previous experience in business and public service made him well-equipped for the job. He served in the Marine Corps in World War II, served the state as a revenue agent from 1956 to 1966 and was a state prison warden of Lee Correctional Institute from 1966 to 1986. He retired

from the latter position with the distinguished honor of having become the longest-serving warden in the State of Georgia.

However, retirement from his job within the prison system did not slow Bob down. Four years following his retirement he launched his first mayoral campaign and won. He also never wavered in his commitment to the Leesburg Shrine Club, the Peace Officers Association of Georgia, or the many other political and public service organizations in the state.

In addition to being a great leader, Bob is a devoted husband, father, grandfather, and a member and past Layleader of Leesburg United Methodist Church.

Madam Speaker, people like Bob make my job easy, and it is my privilege to honor this man today for his dedication to Leesburg, to its citizens, to the Second Congressional District, and to the betterment of his state and Nation.

MINORITY SERVING INSTITUTION
DIGITAL AND WIRELESS TECHNOLOGY OPPORTUNITY OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 4, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of H.R. 694, the Minority Serving Institution Digital and Wireless Technology Opportunity Act of 2007. Before I go any further, I want to take this time to personally thank my colleague, RANDY FORBES of Virginia, for his longtime support and hard work on this bill.

This bipartisan bill seeks to improve technology instruction and enhance the communication network systems of minority serving institutions, many of which are located in poor, rural and isolated areas. Further, this important legislation seeks to deal with systemic disenfranchisement within minority communities by providing a means for partnership between MSIs and K-12 schools through teacher education, including the provision of preservice teacher training and in-service professional development. Under this legislation, MSIs are given an opportunity to further focus on disparities in access to quality higher education opportunities and the communities they serve.

Mr. Speaker, as public schools scramble to open for the fall term, principals and superintendents are frustrated by the stress of not having qualified math and science teachers. Just last week, the New York Times published an article entitled: Schools Scramble for Teachers Because of Spreading Turnover, and reported how tough it is to find good qualified teachers to teach science and math in low income neighborhoods. My bill, H.R. 694, will help to produce a new generation of world-class teachers of science and, mathematics and engineers.

Minority Serving Institutions play a unique role in the education of our diverse American workforce. According to a July 2005 House Committee on Science report, 21 percent of all college degrees and certificates awarded to African American, American Indian and Hispanic students are conferred by Minority Serving Institutions. Minority Serving Institutions also help underrepresented students succeed

in all disciplines, science, mathematics, and engineering in particular. For example, of African-Americans earning bachelor's degrees in science, math, engineering or the technology field in 1996, 31 percent received them at an HBCU. Similarly, Hispanic-Serving Institutions produced 20 percent of science, math, engineering or technology bachelor's degrees awarded to Hispanics in 1996.

Minority Serving Institutions have special skills in serving their communities, which include large numbers of low-income or first generation college students. In fact, I am a graduate of North Carolina A&T, as are many of my colleagues here today in support of this bill are graduates of HBCUs and MSIs. Unlike other, larger institutions of higher education, MSIs typically have small or nonexistent endowments and few wealthy alumni. As a result, the ability to purchase and pay for the upkeep of the technology that will prepare these students for the workforce is especially challenging for many MSI.

Developing an educated and technologically literate workforce is an important part of our efforts to compete in an increasingly technology and information-based, global economy. Whether technology should be used in schools is no longer the issue. Rather, the current emphasis is on ensuring that technology is available and used effectively to create new opportunities.

For these reasons, I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 694, the Minority Serving Institution Digital and Wireless Technology Opportunity Act.

In closing, I want to especially thank the higher education community who over the past 8 years have tirelessly worked to make this bill become a reality. Specifically, I want to thank Dr. Michael L. Lomax of the United Negro College Fund, Lezli Baskerville of the National Association of Equal Opportunity in Higher Education, Antonio Flores of the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities, Gerald E. Gipp of the American Indian Higher Education Consortium, the Telecommunications Industry Association, Alcatel Lucent, and the many other advocates who have worked on this issue.

IN HONOR OF THE 35TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GEVA THEATER IN ROCHESTER, NY

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 6, 2007

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate one of my district's true treasures: The Geva Theater. For the past 35 years, the Geva Theater has been providing world-class theatrical performances to the Rochester area, as well as arts-related workshops and educational programs. From its humble beginnings of lunch-time performances in the Rochester Business Institute building, to its current two-stage home in the renovated Naval Armory, the Geva Theater has maintained a stellar reputation for creative and artistic excellence.

The Geva Theater was established in 1972 by William Sheldon and Cynthia Mason Sheldon. The theater was housed in the Rochester Business Institute. Their first performances

were a series of lunch-time plays in the fall of 1973. In 1982, Geva found a permanent home when the theater purchased and renovated Rochester's historic Naval Armory. Today, the Geva Theater Center is the home to the Elaine P. Wilson Mainstage, which produces seven shows each season and holds 552 patrons, and the Ron and Donna Fielding Nextstage, which houses a two-show season as well as Geva's other educational and interactive programs.

Theaters like Geva are increasingly important in light of studies that show the positive economic impact of arts in the community. "Arts and Economic Prosperity III", a study recently released by Americans for the Arts, found that the nonprofit arts and culture industry in the U.S. generates \$166.2 billion in economic activity every year. The arts industry creates quality jobs, generates billions in household income, and in local, state and Federal tax revenues.

Furthermore, studies like Critical Links: Learning in the Arts and Student Academic and Social Development have proved that arts education increases students' cognitive development, motivates and inspires discipline, enhances confidence and inventiveness, and hones communication and problem-solving skills.

There is no greater example of the benefits of arts organizations for local communities than the Geva Theater, which draws over 174,000 patrons annually—more than 16,000 of whom are students. The Big Theater for Little People program allows thousands of students to experience original live professional theater. For each of these performances, Geva also provides workshops for teachers and accompanying study guides to enhance the learning experience. Artists also engage in question and answer sessions with students and are available to travel to schools to continue the dialogue. This type of interactive program has helped provide Rochester-area students with unique and well-rounded arts education experience.

Through its wide variety of educational, outreach and literary programs, including Big Theater for Little People, the Geva Theater truly accomplishes its goals of enriching and deepening the theater-going experience for its audience; providing access and affordable theater to the Rochester community; developing new plays and playwrights; and nurturing the audiences and artists of the next generation. And by recruiting talented actors, directors, designers, and writers at the forefront of American performing arts from all across the country, Geva ensures that it provides its audience with the highest quality performance.

However, given all of the contributions that the Geva Theater has given the Rochester community, perhaps nothing is more impressive than the atmosphere and energy that characterize each show that graces their historic building. From meeting friends at the Geva Café, to the personable confines of the theaters themselves, it is an experience that has thrilled a generation. As Geva moves in to their next 35 years, it warms my heart to know that more generations will be privileged to enjoy the same.