

A Rocky Balboa figure, Barbaro continued to fight even when the odds were strongly stacked against him. While many veterinarians said that a horse could not survive with the type of injuries Barbaro sustained at the Preakness, he fought for over 8 months, greatly exceeding expectations. What followed the injury was an outpouring of support not frequently seen in our world today. Letters, donations and gifts came in from all over the world, all because of what this wonderful horse embodied.

Barbaro had a strong connection to my home State of Delaware as he raced at Delaware Park and was trained by local trainer Michael Matz. The Barbaro story is an inspirational tale that will be remembered for generations. While a racing champion many times over, Barbaro's greatest talent was bringing people together and inspiring them.

IN HONOR OF MICHAEL L.
PHILLIPS

HON. BRAD ELLSWORTH

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 29, 2007

Mr. ELLSWORTH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Michael Leo Phillips, a man who spent the past 37 years serving the students of Indiana State University, ISU, in Terre Haute. Mr. Phillips passed away on January 18, 2007 at the age of 60.

After graduating from ISU in 1969, Mr. Phillips remained in Terre Haute to work in the university's financial aid office, of which he would later become director. In 1995 Phillips became the student ombudsman at his alma mater, a role which allowed him to personally interact with and assist students.

Beyond all of his hard work at ISU, Mr. Phillips was actively involved in the Terre Haute community. He served as trustee and treasurer for the Spruce Street AME Church. His community involvement included serving as president of the Young Men's Civic Club; membership in the NAACP, I-Club, and 100 Concerned African American Men; and volunteering with the Vigo County Youth Football League, and Bambino youth baseball. He served on the board of directors of the Boys and Girls Clubs of America and as a trustee of the Stewart Lawn Cemetery Association. He was an adviser to many student organizations at ISU and a mentor to students at Sarah Scott Middle School.

In college Phillips played both basketball and baseball. He was on the 1967–68 Sycamores basketball team, which reached the NCAA Tournament championship game and was inducted into the ISU Athletics Hall of Fame in 2005.

Michael Phillips will be greatly missed by his wife Rita, four children, and his many friends and family in Terre Haute and beyond. Mr. Phillips will be remembered as a dedicated advocate for students, a community leader, an accomplished student-athlete, and a loving family man.

IN HONOR OF CHIEF ERNEST
MENDOZA

HON. NICK LAMPSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 29, 2007

Mr. LAMPSON. Madam Speaker, I stand here today to pay tribute to the life of Chief Ernest Mendoza. Chief Mendoza was a dedicated public servant, whose spirit and drive impacted the lives of all of those he encountered. On January 19th Chief Mendoza was on his way home from work when he was killed by a drunk driver. His sudden and tragic death has brought sadness and sorrow not only to his family but also to the students and staff of the Needville Independent School District and the communities of Fort Bend and Wharton Counties.

This 54-year-old father of seven was a Christian and military veteran who led an honorable life. As a part of the Needville Independent School District Police for the past 10 years, and a law enforcement officer for 25, Chief Mendoza's drive and passion for public safety touched many of his fellow officers on the police force. Students and teachers in Fort Bend County will always remember his welcoming smile and that he protected them with care.

His family has established The Ernest Mendoza Law Enforcement Scholarship Fund in his honor. This fund is representative of the commitment and sacrifice which characterized Chief Mendoza's years of service, his character, and integrity. In death, as in life, he and his family continue to be dedicated to educating our Nation's youth in safe and adequate public schools.

My sincerest condolences go to the family, friends, and colleagues of Chief Ernest Mendoza. May God provide peace and comfort to his loved ones, and to those he protected.

I ask you, Madam Speaker, to join me in honoring Chief Mendoza and his family by entering his name and legacy into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

FULLY FUNDING IMPACT AID

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 29, 2007

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce The Government Reservation Accelerated Development for Education Aid Act, GRADE-A, H.R. 701, a bill to ensure the Federal government fully funds the Impact Aid program.

In 1950, President Harry Truman established the Impact Aid program to meet the revenue shortfalls in school districts and communities that occur in districts with federally owned land, which are exempt from State and local property taxes. Public schools are required by law to accept all children from military families, Native American reservations or other Federal establishments. This puts a severe financial burden on school districts that educate a significant number of federally connected children, diminishing the overall quality of education, and increasing the funding burden on local taxpayers.

For years Impact Aid was fully funded and offered some of the strongest direct assistance to military families across the Nation. Unfortunately, over the last decade we have fallen behind on this commitment. GRADE-A has garnered bipartisan support and offers the opportunity to reverse this negative trend.

Earlier this Congress I introduced H.R. 12, in order to ensure that students in my district continue to receive the resources needed to succeed. I introduced this bill to help North Chicago continue to qualify as "heavily impacted" and therefore, receive maximum funding, and to ensure that Glenview and Highland Park receive fair compensation.

I believe that it is crucial for schools outside of my district that are affected by the presence of the Federal government to receive support from the Impact Aid program as well. This funding is necessary to maintain school quality, protect surrounding communities from financial burden and to fulfill an obligation to our men and women serving overseas, by caring for their families at home.

TRIBUTE TO JIM HAMILTON

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 29, 2007

Mr. CLYBURN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a legend in South Carolina aviation, community activist, and real humanitarian, Jimmie L. "Jim" Hamilton. Jim is a true friend to me and to many other South Carolinians whose lives he has touched through his work and his service.

Although Jim Hamilton has been recognized as South Carolina Aviator of the Year, been awarded the Order of the Palmetto, the highest civilian honor in South Carolina; and received the Shrine Bowl of the Carolinas Walt Disney Award, he remains a humble man whose big heart and bigger personality mask the adversities he has faced.

The son of a commercial fisherman and ship maintenance father, Jim grew up in Florida's Lower Matecumbe Key, where he was the only school-aged child. He took a boat to school, until his family relocated to Miami, where he attended high school. After graduation, he enlisted in the U.S. Army.

Jim's career in the military would change the course of his life. He became a paratrooper in the 82nd Airborne Division, but he always wanted to be a pilot. Since the Army required officers to fly, Jim applied to officer training school and was sent to Fort Sill, Oklahoma. From 1949–1958, he flew spotter planes for the Army. Jim maintains that learning to fly shaped his character and taught him honor and determination.

When Jim left the Army in 1958, he became a flight instructor and Jack-of-all-trades with Aircraft Sales and Service at the Metropolitan Airport in Columbia, South Carolina, but he always wanted to own his own business.

In 1961, Jim's life changed completely when his wife, Geraldine, died in a car accident. He was left to care for 3 young boys. His mother moved to Columbia from Florida to manage the household, and just a few months later, Jim was managing Owens Field airport.

The next year, he opened Midlands Aviation in a 1-room office in the Five Points area of

Columbia. He got a contract selling Cessna airplanes, and when he sold the 50,000th plane Cessna manufactured, his fledgling company got a lot of attention in the trade publications. This launched his business to new heights.

From the early days of his business, Jim realized there was a need for support of private airplane owners in Columbia. He had to pay to keep his stock of Cessnas at Owens Field, and he had to transport them to Aiken to be serviced. So in 1964, Jim moved Midlands Aviation onsite at Owens Field. He used a trailer as his office and installed fuel tanks nearby. Later he was able to purchase the building that once housed the South Carolina Aeronautics Commission.

For 44 years, Jim provided fuel, parts and service at Owens Field, a contract that he sold in October 2006. He has also managed the county-owned airport since 1961, and continues to do so earning a salary of \$1 per month. One could say that Owens Field is Jim Hamilton's life. However, there is so much more to Jim Hamilton.

In 1974, he started the Jamil Flying Fezzes, which provides free flights for handicapped or burned children to specialty hospitals. He mentors fourth graders through the Rotary Club, helps the Salvation Army recruit bell ringers at Christmas, and for the last 10 years he has driven ladies in a local retirement home on weekly shopping trips. He has also been a member of the South Carolina Board for Mental Retardation and the Babcock Center Board.

Jim has served 3 4-year terms on the South Carolina Aeronautics Commission, and served as its Chairman twice. He has served 2 terms as President of the South Carolina Aviation Trades Association. He was elected Governor and Key man of the Columbia Hangar "Quiet Birdmen." And he has dedicated much of his spare time to educating young people about the adventures of flying.

Jim has been married to his second wife, Patricia, since 1966, and between them they have 5 children. Jimmie Jr., his oldest son and a talented airplane mechanic, tragically drowned in 2000. Despite the difficulties and tragedies in his personal life, Jim has always put others needs ahead of his own.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me today in recognizing the extraordinary contributions of Jim Hamilton. He is an outstanding businessman and community leader, who has overcome many challenges in his life and still put others first. He says that flying taught him honor and dedication, and there are many people today who thank Jim Hamilton for passing those qualities along to them.

TRIBUTE TO THE MEMBERS OF
PREUSS SCHOOL UCSD ROBOTICS
TEAM

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 29, 2007

Mrs. DAVIS of California, Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the members of the Preuss School UCSD robotics team. Team 812, known as the Midnight Mechanics, have competed in the FIRST Robotics Competition—an annual robot design and construction

contest that draws over 20,000 participants from all over the world—for the past 5 years.

For 2 years in a row, Team 812 has won the Regional Chairman's Awards for the Southern California Region. During the 2003–2004 competition, the Midnight Mechanics won the National Engineering Inspiration Award.

But Team 812's accomplishments do not end outside the engineering lab or the construction shop. The team has initiated the FIRST BUDDY program to mentor disadvantaged students in math and science and established the FIRST STEPS program to reach out to inner-city high school students and share with them their zeal for science.

Team 812 has also brought their passion into the classrooms and corridors of 10 other high schools in the San Diego area and has helped them field robotics teams of their own. Together the Midnight Mechanics and these 10 newer teams have formed the Team San Diego FIRST Robotics Coalition, a coordinating organization to build new partnerships in the community and recruit more high schools to field robotics teams.

I am proud to report that through the hard work of the Midnight Mechanics and the Team San Diego FIRST Robotics Coalition, the City of San Diego will be hosting its inaugural FIRST Regional Competition this coming March.

At a time when our country's young people are falling farther and farther behind those of other industrialized nations in math and science, I want to commend the members of Team 812, for their dedication to their craft, for their excellence in their efforts, and for their ability to instill a love of science in fellow young people. Not only are the Midnight Mechanics first-rate competitors, they are also true servants of the community. We need more role models like these to inspire our younger children.

Finally, I want to recognize Paul Tran, the dedicated young man who first brought Team 812 to my attention. Paul wrote the following to me in a letter:

We need your help to assist us in instituting FIRST Robotics in every high school in San Diego, in California, and essentially, the United States . . . We need your help to bring FIRST to the attention of the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate.

Madam Speaker, dear colleagues, I hope you will help me fulfill Paul's request and spread the word about this wonderful program to all corners of our country.

MOROCCO: A MODEL OF MUSLIM-
JEWISH TIES

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 29, 2007

Mr. ACKERMAN. Madam Speaker, I respectfully request that Serge Berdugo's recent op-ed, "Morocco: A Model of Muslim-Jewish Ties", as published in the January 9 issue of The Christian Science Monitor, be entered into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. Mr. Berdugo, the president of Morocco's Jewish Community Council, outlines the history of Muslim-Jewish relations in Morocco, where Jews and Muslims have peacefully lived as neighbors for hun-

dreds of years. I commend this work to all who want a lasting peace between Jews and Muslims across the world, and everyone who wishes to see the State of Israel and its neighbors coexisting harmoniously.

CASABLANCA, MOROCCO.—As the flames of anti-Semitism continue to be fanned across much of the Islamic world, there is a risk that today's youth will grow up believing that Arabs and Jews were simply not meant to coexist, let alone thrive together.

That idea conflicts with history—and is a falsehood today. My country, Morocco, illustrates the viability and vitality of a Jewish community—my community—in an Arab country. It's a model of harmony other Muslim nations should follow.

The Jewish people have been a presence in Africa's Maghreb region for more than 2,000 years. North African Jews and Muslims traveled north and thrived together in southern Europe for more than 700 years. In 1492, when we refused to convert to Christianity, we were expelled—together—from Spain. And together we successfully sought refuge in Morocco, which accepted us into its society and institutions.

Morocco's leaders have always made the well-being of the Jewish people a top priority. During World War II, when the Vichy government of occupied France announced that it had prepared 200,000 yellow stars for the Jews of Morocco, King Mohammed V replied that he would need 50 more for him and his family. He refused to make any distinction between his citizens.

The importance of a nation's leader setting the tone for recognition, respect, and treatment of minority faiths cannot be overstated. Today, King Mohammed VI has declared his religious, historical, and constitutional obligation to protect the rights, liberties, and sacred values of the Jews in Morocco.

This commitment dramatically affected Morocco's reaction at moments of great challenge. After May 16, 2003—the Moroccan 9/11, when five terrorist bombs exploded, three directed at Jewish targets—King Mohammed VI expressed condolences at a Jewish Center, condemning the criminal acts and reaffirming his determination to protect Jews and all Moroccan citizens.

In doing so, he defined the attack as one upon all Moroccan society, awakening the national conscience and strengthening the bonds between us. Moroccans of all faiths responded with candlelight vigils at bombing sites and demonstrations attended by nearly 1 million participants.

Many Moroccan Jews have emigrated to Israel and elsewhere, but the attachments to our homeland are unique. "Morocco never loses a Jewish citizen—we gain an ambassador," Mohammed VI's predecessor, King Hassan II, once said. Today, there are 1 million such "ambassadors" all over the world and 600,000 in Israel alone.

We Jews who call Morocco home have a vibrant community that includes 30 functioning synagogues and three school networks, which many influential Muslim families choose for their own children. Moroccan Jews serve as counselors to the king, ministers, colonels, members of parliament, judges, and ambassadors. On Jewish holy days, Muslim authorities, out of respect, attend our services.

With help from the Moroccan government, we started a foundation to preserve Jewish historical sites. And we support research on our community—including 30 doctoral dissertations presently under way by Muslim candidates.

Are we an isolated society? Hardly: Moroccans young and old have access to as wide an array of media and ideological diversity as