

For those of us who live here, we don't want to live among trash and pollution. Our region has turned the corner. We left behind the southern and eastern Kentucky of the past—one with stagnant economic growth and net outflow of people. We turned it into a region for the future—one where business opens its doors and people move in. Simply cleaning up a place invites people to stay.

PRIDE has produced great benefits to the environment. With modern wastewater treatment systems, there is no excuse anymore to dump raw sewage into our creeks and rivers. PRIDE's sweeping efforts to install modern treatment systems enabled our waterways to thrive with plant and animal life again. No longer do we have open sewers moving through our mountains.

What I like best about PRIDE is the spirit of volunteerism behind it. People caused this litter and pollution problem and now people are fixing it. It is an amazing thing to watch what happens when a community pulls together towards a common purpose. Ten years ago there were skeptics and doubters. Today, many statistics clearly show PRIDE's progress over the last 10 years.

Theodore Roosevelt understood the need to protect our natural resources and a short sentence he once said sums up so well the spirit of PRIDE today: "Believe you can and you're halfway there."

What a legacy we have built. There are now 27,907 homes with access to sanitary wastewater treatment. Nearly 2,500 illegal dumps have been eliminated and 500,000 bags of trash have been collected. And the hard work of 238,000 volunteers made this happen.

When we look back 10 years hence, we will see even more progress—a region of the country that is free of the pollution and trash that held it back. On this 10-year anniversary, we remember the PRIDE volunteers and community leaders who believed we could.

IN HONOR OF JOAN AND BOB
RECHNITZ

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 9, 2007

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Joan and Bob Rechnitz's contributions to the arts. This generous couple founded the Two River Theater Company providing the New Jersey community a place to experience the joys of theater.

Bob and Joan Rechnitz share a love for the theater. In 1994, the couple saw the opportunity to provide a home for Monmouth County's first professional regional theater in 30 years. After performing in different venues, in 2005, the Two River Theater Company opened a new, state of the art play house. The theater today provides an intimate space for 350 people to enjoy many fine performances.

Mr. Rechnitz serves as executive producer of the Two River Theater Company. He directs numerous plays including *True West*, *A View from a Bridge*, and *The Glass Menagerie*. Mr. Rechnitz was also nominated Best Director of a Comedy for the *Curse of the Starving Class* by Newark, New Jersey's *Star Ledger* newspaper.

After 13 seasons, New Jersey residents have benefited from the theater's diverse and stimulating array of performances and educational programs. In 2006, the Two River Theater was named Theater of the Year by the *Star Ledger* newspaper. From producing plays by George Bernard Shaw to providing a venue for Bruce Springsteen performances, the Two River Theater has achieved Mr. and Mrs. Rechnitz's vision of a thriving and dynamic community theater company.

Madam Speaker, I sincerely hope that my colleagues will join me in celebrating Joan and Bob Rechnitz. Through their cultural and artistic contributions, the Two River Theater Company has become an integral part of the New Jersey community.

RECOGNIZING LEE MICHAEL CARPENTER FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 9, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Lee Michael Carpenter, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 260, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Lee has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Lee has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Lee Michael Carpenter for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

IN HONOR OF SAN BENITO COUNTY COUNCIL #2890

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 9, 2007

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate San Benito County Council #2890 of the League of United Latin American Citizens, or LULAC, on its 20th anniversary. LULAC is the largest and oldest Latino national membership organization in the United States. This chapter was formed on October 17, 1987, and was the first Latino civil rights organization in San Benito County.

Since its formation, San Benito County LULAC has encouraged its membership to uphold and defend the rights of the Latino community, and serves as a circle of community influence and support. It promotes voter participation by encouraging the Latino community to register to vote, to participate in the electoral process, and to defend their voting rights against violations. The chapter encourages and supports San Benito County agencies and government bodies, ensuring that the Latino population has a voice that represents their needs and concerns.

San Benito County LULAC formed a Youth Council on October 5, 1989. It encourages youth participation in community and educational opportunities and has provided scholarship grants to over 140 students totaling \$136,000. They also formed a young adult council on February 10, 2000, whose local members attend colleges and universities throughout California. The chapter also served as the home State council for the local State director and State youth president.

LULAC believes that education is the foundation for the cultural growth and development of every community member. It organizes student conferences and retreats for youth development and leadership training. For the past eight years, this chapter has sponsored the after school Young Readers Program at the former Fremont School and Ladd Lane School, enabling over 240 first through third grade students and their parents to develop strong reading habits.

Madam Speaker, I commend San Benito County LULAC on its many accomplishments. Its exemplary record of civic involvement and extended support to the residents of this community personifies the very best of community involvement. I congratulate them on the 20th anniversary of their chapter's founding and invite all citizens of the county to celebrate their accomplishments.

HONORING ENERGY CORPORATION OF AMERICA

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 9, 2007

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Energy Corporation of America for implementing one of the Nation's most successful employee health and wellness programs.

Energy Corporation of America, with operations in the Kanawha Valley, is being honored by the Wellness Council of America as the recipient of the Platinum Well Workplace Award. Already an honoree of the Gold Well Workplace award, the company had to undergo rigorous requirements and an extensive application process to be considered. Since its inception in 2001, only 21 organizations in the Nation have received the Platinum Well Workplace Award.

The corporation's unique approach to its employees and their well-being serves as a model for other organizations to follow. Compared to the national average, only 30 percent of wellness initiatives are met by employees and the ECA has 95 percent participation from both employees and their spouses. They participate in an annual health screening and health risk appraisal, and then meet with a health coach who outlines an annual regimen with many resources to guide them with their yearly health and wellness goals. Employees and their spouses receive an annual bonus as an extra incentive to meet their fitness goals.

The success of this program is most evident in the health and well-being of Energy Corporation of America's employees and the unprecedented success of the company's ability to contain its healthcare cost since the early 1990's. In a state and in a nation where the health of its citizens is constantly under criticism, it is my privilege to recognize the Energy

Corporation of America, which serves as a model of success for the implementation of a health and wellness program for its employees.

I am honored to recognize the Energy Corporation of America for the Platinum Well Workplace Award. It is an honor to serve a company in West Virginia's Second Congressional District whose health and well-being of its employees is its top priority.

CELEBRATING THE 35TH ANNIVERSARY OF OUTDOOR VENTURES CORPORATION

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 9, 2007

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I want to pay tribute to a company helping our people here at home, our troops at war, and the community in which they are based.

For decades, companies in my Fifth Congressional District were primarily logging and coal mining. Many still are, and their employees are very hard workers, and these are worthy industries on which our Nation relies. However, after the trees are harvested and the coal is mined, these companies go elsewhere and with them our employment opportunities. So it's not surprising that people over the years packed up and moved to places like Michigan, Ohio, and Indiana in search of a career and a future. I was one of those people.

One of the things we're trying to do in our district is attract companies that don't depend on our natural resources, but rather employ our hard workers and innovate and improve their products so that they can compete anywhere in the world. We could fix all of mankind's problems, and it won't mean a thing if people don't have a place to work. Good companies make good communities.

I want to recognize one such company, Outdoor Ventures Corporation, which this year celebrates its 35th anniversary and is located in Steams, KY.

Outdoor Ventures Corporation's 180 employees make specialized tents for the military. For our troops overseas, those tents are home. Like most products these days, what sounds simple is not. These tents require precision engineering and manufacturing techniques perfected over three decades.

Company President J.C. Egnew's dedication to civic life goes far beyond business, however. In his hometown community he was instrumental in creating its first public park, the first library and expanding our local community college. And, he keeps a tourist attraction going strong—the Big South Fork Scenic Railway, where visitors can take a 16-mile round trip ride on the 100-year-old Kentucky and Tennessee Railway.

I am proud to have this company in my district. And, I'm proud to know, Mr. J.C. Egnew who runs it. His company is built to last and our community is a better place to live as a result.

IN HONOR OF THE DRIFTERS, INC.

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 9, 2007

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the services of The Drifters, Inc.

This organization was founded in Texas in 1954 to enhance the universal image of womanhood and serve as role models to women everywhere. The Drifters have chapters in 31 States in the United States. They have continued to provide for the youth and senior citizens within our society.

The Drifters reach out to educational institutions by awarding scholarships to local area high school students. Every year the Drifters choose one university to give scholarship money to promising students. They devote their time and energy during the holidays by delivering gift baskets to the underserved. Amongst the numerous charitable events, the women of the Drifters are actively involved with aiding the homeless and battered women.

Madam Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me in expressing sincere appreciation to the Drifters. These women work hard to provide for future generations and empower individuals throughout the United States.

RECOGNIZING MATTHEW McEWEN FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 9, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Matthew McEwen, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1220, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Matthew has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Matthew has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Matthew McEwen for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

IN HONOR OF THE SPORTS CAR RACING ASSOCIATION OF THE MONTEREY PENINSULA

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 9, 2007

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Sports Car Racing Association of the Monterey Peninsula, or SCRAMP. SCRAMP held its inaugural race on November 10, 1957. For 50 years, the Sports Car Racing Association of

the Monterey Peninsula has worked to establish Laguna Seca as one of the premier road racing venues in the world. Unlike the operators at other tracks, SCRAMP is a non-profit volunteer organization. As such, they can make donations to the community, but cannot accept donations. Consequently, the Laguna Seca Raceway Fund was established as a 501(c)(3) to be the fundraising arm of the track. SCRAMP has invested more than \$20 million in the Monterey County-owned facility over the last five years, part of an ongoing effort to keep the track positioned as one of the world's finest road courses.

SCRAMP presents five world class motor-sports events each year: the U.S. Sports Car Invitational, the Red Bull U.S. Grand Prix, the Monterey Historic Automobile Races, the AMA Superbike Race, and the Monterey Sports Car Championship. These events bring hundreds of thousands of visitors to Monterey County. The financial impact on the community is significant, estimated at one million dollars annually. SCRAMP itself donates hundreds of thousands of dollars of its proceeds each year to civic and charitable organizations that volunteer at events held at the track, a major source of revenue for these organizations.

Mazda became the title sponsor of the venue in 2001 and it was renamed Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca. The new sponsorship is a major contributor in realizing the continuing vision for improving the raceway, making it more beautiful, functional, and safe.

Madam Speaker, I know my colleagues will all join me in offering congratulations and encouragement for this fine organization on their golden anniversary.

HONORING BURKE FEASTER

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 9, 2007

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Burke Feaster for his 30 years of service and leadership to the Boy Scouts of America.

Burke has been active as a troop master and scoutmaster since the fall of 1977. Over the past three decades, Burke has been involved as a leader of Pack 33 sponsored by New Street United Methodist Church in Shepherdstown, WV. Through his guidance, many Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts have gone on to make the rank of Eagle Scout. During his years of service, Burke has seen 24 young men make the rank of Eagle Scout, which is three times the national average for Scout troops.

For his years of dedicated service, Burke has received numerous awards including the prestigious Silver Beaver Award by the Shenandoah Council, the District Award of Merit, Scout Master and Cub Master of the year of the Potomac District, and the Mannahoac Award. His church which sponsors Pack 33 awarded him the United Methodist Cross and Flame Award.

Burke lives in Shepherdstown with his wife, Carole who has also volunteered for many years with the Boy Scouts of America. They have two sons, Burke, Jr., and Shawn who were both former Scouts and later volunteers. Burke and his wife currently reside in Shepherdstown, WV.