

CONGRATULATIONS TO LOXLEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ON BEING NAMED STATE CHAMPION SCHOOL BY THE PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL ON PHYSICAL FITNESS AND SPORTS

### HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 1, 2007*

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to offer congratulations to Loxley Elementary School for being named a State Champion school for 2006–2007 by the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports.

With the motto, "EveryBODY is a winner in activity and fitness," the President's Challenge Physical Activity and Fitness Awards program offers presidential recognition and awards for physical activity and fitness participation to children ages 6 to 17. The State Champion award is presented annually to three schools in each State having the highest number of students scoring at or above the 85th percentile on the President's Challenge Physical Fitness Test.

As a State Champion, Loxley Elementary School is a role model for other schools because of its dedication to helping students encourage physical activity and gain fitness skills along with an understanding of the health benefits of being regularly active. Encouraging adequate amounts of daily physical activity is an excellent way to instill healthy lifestyle habits at an early age.

The five assessments of the President's Challenge Physical Fitness Test measure four components of physical fitness: a one-mile run/walk for heart and lung endurance; curls for abdominal strength and endurance; a "sit and reach" stretch for muscular flexibility; pull-ups for upper body strength and endurance; and a shuttle run for agility.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Loxley Elementary School in Loxley, Alabama, for this honor. This school deserves public recognition and our appreciation for their concerted efforts to instill healthy lifestyle habits in the children of south Alabama.

ORGAIN, BELL, & TUCKER—TEXAS LAWYERS

### HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 1, 2007*

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, today I am honored to recognize a Texas institution, the Orgain, Bell, and Tucker law firm, on its 100th anniversary. Orgain, Bell, and Tucker is located in many cities throughout Texas and was founded in Beaumont, TX.

William Edmund Orgain, the initial founding partner, was lured to Beaumont from his native Bastrop, TX by the need for land litigation that sprung from the Spindletop Gusher and the Texas oil boom in 1901. With the onset of the second oil boom the firm's second partner Major T. Bell joined Mr. Orgain's firm in 1925 to help with business generated by the second major oil unearthing in Beaumont. John G. Tucker joined the firm in 1933 and the firm was coined Orgain, Bell, and Tucker.

Orgain, Bell, and Tucker has, for the past 100 years, served clients with integrity in the areas of insurance defense, commercial litigation, utility law, labor law, and medical and legal malpractice.

Community service, starting with Mr. Orgain's service on the Texas Supreme Court Committee, which wrote the Texas Rules for Civil Procedure, and Major Bell's service as President of the State Bar of Texas in 1942, has always been a core philosophy of Orgain, Bell, and Tucker. Through service to the great State of Texas and to their local community Orgain, Bell, and Tucker's history of service has influenced generations of attorneys and community leaders.

And that's just the way it is.

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. BRAD MILLER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 1, 2007*

Mr. MILLER of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, on Wednesday, October 31, 2007, I missed rollcall vote No. 1026 a motion to instruct the conferees on H.R. 3034. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

HONORING MIKE LOWELL: THE 2007 WORLD SERIES MOST VALUABLE PLAYER

### HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 1, 2007*

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the accomplishments of one of my constituents, Mike Lowell of the World Champion Boston Red Sox, for being named the 2007 World Series Most Valuable Player.

Mike grew up in Miami where he was a high school baseball star at Coral Gables Senior High School. He made the All-Dade First Team and was an All-State/All-Star in 1992. He did all this while maintaining a 4.0 GPA.

Mike was offered a full scholarship by Florida International University, FIU, where he excelled both as a student and an athlete and was honored as an Academic All-American.

In 1995, he was drafted by the New York Yankees and quickly moved up the minor league system. His parents, Carl and Beatriz, always stressed the importance of a good education, and after being drafted, he returned to FIU. He graduated magna cum laude in 1996 with a degree in finance.

In 1999, he was traded back home to play for the Florida Marlins. However, less than three weeks later, Mike's plans were put on hold by a startling discovery. While undergoing a regular physical examination, Mike was diagnosed with testicular cancer. The surgery and three weeks of radiation were successful. Mike recovered with the love and support of his family, including his lovely wife Bertica, and today he remains cancer-free.

Mike created the Mike Lowell Foundation, which helps raise funds for cancer research and helps pay for medical care to low income cancer patients.

While a member of the Marlins, he was a key contributor to their exciting 2003 World Series Championship. Mike was a 2002 and 2003 All-Star and won the 2003 National League Silver Slugger Award, which is given to the top offensive players at each position. In 2005, he won his first Rawlings Gold Glove Award for his "superior fielding performance" at third base.

On November 21, 2005, the Marlins traded Mike to the Boston Red Sox. He was voted onto the 2007 American League All-Star Team by his peers. In the 2007 season, he had a .324 batting average, hit 21 home runs and was the Red Sox team leader with 120 RBIs.

In the post-season, Mike was truly "El Señor Octubre". In the American League Divisional Series and the American League Championship Series, Mike batted in 11 runs for Boston as they defeated the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim and the Cleveland Indians.

But it was on baseball's grandest stage that Mike Lowell shined brightest. During the World Series, Mike batted .400, scored 6 runs and drove in 4, including a home run in the decisive Game 4 against the Colorado Rockies. For his extraordinary performance, he was named the 2007 World Series Most Valuable Player.

I wish to congratulate Mike for his extraordinary accomplishments. He has earned the profound respect and affection of millions of baseball fans, and shown the entire Nation what the south Florida community has known for a long time, that Mike Lowell is an extremely talented, intelligent, and decent man. I am truly honored to be able to call Mike Lowell my friend.

CONGRATULATING JULIUS GOLDSTEIN & SON INC. OF MOBILE ON ITS RECOGNITION AS AN ALABAMA CENTENNIAL RETAILER

### HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 1, 2007*

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor Julius Goldstein & Son Inc. located in Mobile, Alabama, for being recognized by the Alabama Retail Association as an Alabama Centennial Retailer.

The Alabama Retail Association, in conjunction with the University of Alabama at Birmingham, sponsors the Retailer of the Year program. Awarded in three categories based on annual sales volume, the awards are presented each year at the association's Retailing Day luncheon.

The designation of Alabama Centennial Retailer by the Alabama Retail Association recognizes century-old retail businesses for their contributions to Alabama's past, present, and future. I am proud to recognize that two of the honorees are located in Alabama's First Congressional District.

One of this year's honorees, Julius Goldstein & Son Inc., which does business as Goldstein's Jewelry, was founded in 1879 by Julius Goldstein. One of the South's leading fine jewelry stores, it is now owned by Richard Frank Jr., whose family purchased the business in the 1950s. Originally located on Dauphin Street in downtown Mobile, Goldstein's moved to Royal Street in 1905. Relocating to

Bel Air Mall in 1967, Goldstein's was the first of Mobile's jewelry stores to "move west." In 1974, Goldstein's built a second location in the mall, where it stayed until moving to its current location on Hillcrest Road in 2002.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Goldstein's Jewelry for being recognized as an Alabama Centennial Retailer by the Alabama Retail Association. I know Richard Frank Jr., along with the company employees, their friends, families, and members of the community also join with me in praising Goldstein's Jewelry for their many accomplishments and for extending thanks for their continued service to the Alabama business community and the First Congressional District.

RECOGNIZING THE PONTIFICAL  
VISIT OF HIS HOLINESS  
KAREKIN II TO MICHIGAN

**HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 1, 2007

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Madam Speaker, I want to recognize his Holiness Karekin II, the supreme patriarch and catholicos of all Armenians, as he visits St. John Armenian Church in Southfield, MI, during his second tour of the United States.

Catholicos Karekin II was born Ktrich Nersessian in Voskehat, Armenia on August 21, 1951. He graduated from the seminary of Holy Echmiadzin with honors in 1971, and was ordained a deacon in 1970 and a monk in 1972. It was then that he received the priestly name "Karekin." In the late 1970s, His Holiness Vasken I encouraged Karekin to continue his theological studies abroad, where he spent time in Vienna, Austria and Zagorsk, Russia; eventually returning to Armenia.

On October 23, 1983, Karekin was consecrated as a bishop in Echmiadzin. After the Spitak Earthquake in 1988, Karekin took an active role in helping the victims overcome the devastation. His leadership is evidenced by the many schools and churches erected after the tragedy. In addition, after the fall of the Soviet Union, Karekin nurtured the usage of modern technology and telecommunications to help bring new life to his churches as well as dealing with the legacies of the Soviet era.

In 1999, Karekin was elected catholicos of Armenia and of all Armenians at Echmiadzin, succeeding His Holiness Karekin I. Since his election, his holiness has fostered relations with religious leaders around the world including Pope John Paul II and Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I. Furthermore, on October 10, 2007, he courageously stood on the floor of the House of Representatives and prayed for the victims of the Armenian genocide.

Today his holiness visits Michigan and its over 100,000 citizens of Armenian descent. His message of "bringing faith home" is exemplified by Michigan's involvement and contributions to Habitat for Humanity here and abroad. Their willingness to support one another during difficult and troubling times is truly an inspiration to us all.

Madam Speaker, I commend His Holiness Karekin II for all of his work for his faith, followers, and people of Armenia. I am proud of the many accomplishments of those he has inspired in Michigan and around the world.

TRIBUTE TO THE 302ND AIRLIFT  
WING OF PETERSON AIR FORCE  
BASE

**HON. DOUG LAMBORN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 1, 2007

Mr. LAMBORN. Madam Speaker I rise today to honor the elite airmen and women of the 302nd Airlift Wing, who are stationed at Peterson Air Force Base. These experienced reservists have again answered the call to duty by entering harm's way to support their fellow Americans in battling the raging fires in Southern California.

The 302nd launched two C-130 Hercules aircraft equipped with the sophisticated Modular Airborne Fire Fighting Systems to support massive emergency response efforts.

Maneuvering their C-130s dangerously close to the flames to help contain these violent fires, the battle-tested firefighting planes are led by aviators from the Forest Service.

The 302nd trains tirelessly in preparation for any situation and recruits only the finest, most experienced aircrews so as to ensure the best possible protection against loss of life to these fierce fires.

I recently accompanied the 302nd on a test run, and can honestly say that these men and women risk their lives each and every time they go up against a deadly fire.

I would like to thank the members of the 302nd Airlift Wing MAFFS crew, who helped save lives and property during these historic fires in Southern California: LTC David Condit, team leader; LTC Edward Strickland, director of operations; LTC Corey Steinbrink; LTC Harold Treffeisen; LTC Ronald Wilt; MAJ Robert Fairbanks; LTC Brian Thomas; SMSgt Kenneth Kunkel; MSgt Daniel Landers; TSgt Scott Agenbroad; MSgt Thomas Freeman; MSgt Darrell Biggs; TSgt Lamont Wood; SMSgt James Crain; TSgt Jimmy Felts; TSgt Steven Blaskowsky; SSgt Mark Shykes; SrA Allen Clutter; SSgt Michael McDonald; TSgt Brian McAmis; TSgt Steven Cisneros; SMSgt Glen Blackmann; MSgt Kenneth Lohle; TSgt Herbert Lehr; SSgt Yvonda Lefebvre; TSgt Kenneth Maness; MSgt Gerald Tuttle; MSgt Jose Gonzalez; MSgt Pamela Ammon.

These men and women are true heroes, who deserve to be recognized for their courage and bravery. It is my great honor to acknowledge their service to our Nation.

HONORING THE LITTLE RIVER  
DRAINAGE DISTRICT'S 100TH AN-  
NIVERSARY

**HON. JO ANN EMERSON**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 1, 2007

Mrs. EMERSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Little River Drainage District on its 100th anniversary. This district oversees and maintains critical drainage facilities which keep low-lying Southeast Missouri free from flooding and swamp-like conditions. It is the largest drainage district in the United States, covering 540,000 acres, which protects 1.2 million acres from unwanted water. This complicated system of drainage outlets, lev-

ees, and water detention basins is crucial to the safety and livability of communities along the Mississippi River, the St. Francois River and their tributaries.

Before this land was cleared and construction commenced, less than 10 percent of Missouri's Bootheel was clear of water. Today, 96 percent of the land is free from water year-round. This enormous change has enabled Southeast Missouri to grow and to expand. Agricultural and industrial businesses that predominate the region's economy are possible today because of the work of the Little River Drainage District over the past 100 years. Even more important, the Little River Drainage District is committed to the future protection of this beautiful region of the country and the people who live there.

If not for the Little River Drainage District, children would go to school on tractor trailers, homes would fill with water after every heavy rain, and a surge in the Mississippi River would be a devastating event to whole communities. Without the men and women who work through the Little River Drainage District to advocate and maintain flood protection measures, life in Southeast Missouri would be very different.

The individuals of the Little River Drainage District are responsible for keeping the ground dry beneath countless businesses, farms, factories and families. They do an outstanding job as advocates for every citizen of Southeast Missouri. I commend them for their work and congratulate them on 100 years of service to our district, State and Nation.

THE PRIVATE SECTOR WHISTLE-  
BLOWER PROTECTION STREAM-  
LINING ACT

**HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 1, 2007

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, employees who expose illegal practices benefit us all. But when they blow the whistle, they are often retaliated against. They are demoted, lose their jobs, and are blacklisted. Congress has established broad protections for Federal government employees and contractors who speak out. But when it comes to the private sector, there are large gaps in coverage.

Last spring, the Subcommittee on Workforce Protections, which I chair, held a hearing on private sector whistleblowers. What we heard at the hearing made it clear that these brave employees who put their jobs and lives on the line by coming forward to report violations of the law need more protection.

The Private Sector Whistleblower Streamlining Act of 2007 is designed to fill the gaps for private sector whistleblowers. First, it establishes whistleblower protections for workers who report violations of Federal law related to health and health care, environmental protection, food and drug safety, consumer protection, transportation safety, working conditions and benefits, energy, homeland and community security, building and construction-related requirements and financial transactions.

Second, it provides for reinstatement, compensatory damages, and in egregious cases, punitive damages for workers who have been retaliated against. In addition, the bill requires