

twentieth anniversary of its founding. For the past two decades, Independent Living has championed the cause of equal rights, access, and opportunity for persons with disabilities, and has worked throughout the Hudson Valley region to enhance the quality of life for these individuals and their families.

Founded in 1987, Independent Living currently provides services and assistance to more than ten thousand people annually. Through the hard work, vision and leadership of founder and Executive Director Douglas J. Hovey, Independent Living has continued to develop and expand its programs and advocacy for persons with disabilities, increasing its staff to more than two hundred.

Independent Living continues to make progress towards the goals of eliminating physical and attitudinal barriers for all persons with disabilities and ensuring that these individuals have universal access and opportunity in every aspect of community life. The organization's programs include information and referral services, peer counseling, individual and systems advocacy, and independent living skills training. Independent Living provides critical assistance with housing, education, employment, medical needs and personal attendant services, as well as advocacy for needed public policy changes at the local, state and federal levels of government.

Independent Living has systematically worked to reduce barriers for persons with disabilities by consulting with and educating family members, educators, service providers, public officials and representatives from the business community. The organization is operated by people with disabilities who clearly understand such barriers and can work effectively to resolve these obstacles. Through their diverse programs for individuals with disabilities, Independent Living also has helped to foster motivation, independence, self-direction, employment, social integration, and community participation.

Madam Speaker, I am delighted to honor Independent Living for its 20 years of committed and distinguished service. I congratulate and salute Doug Hovey, the board of directors and the staff and supporters of this organization for their very positive and lasting impact on the lives of so many individuals and families. I offer my appreciation to Independent Living, Inc., which continues to serve as a strong model for similar efforts throughout our Nation.

#### HONORING HELENA TRAFFORD DEVEREUX

#### HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Helena Trafford Devereux—a pioneer in special education. From the beginning of her impressive career, her interest as a young school teacher from south Philadelphia was focused on children, usually in the back of the room who were unable to keep up with the rest of the class and were all too often forgotten by other educators. In the early 1900s, Helena Devereux began working with these children and others throughout Philadelphia as she developed the cornerstones of

modern-day special education. Her passion led her to work further with these children, bringing eight of them into her home so that she could provide the necessary instruction not only educationally, but vocationally and socially as well. Her success led to the 1912 founding of Devereux, which has become the Nation's largest nonprofit provider of behavioral healthcare for people with developmental/intellectual disabilities, behavioral disorders and mental illness. Ninety-five years later, it now serves 15,000 clients in 11 states throughout the country.

Ms. Devereux's work was truly at the cutting edge for its time. Professionals throughout the country and representing diverse disciplines came to Devereux to study her models of treatment and special education. Being a true visionary, Helena Devereux knew the importance of providing educational services to people with special needs. But more importantly, she knew the importance of training professionals in the fields of education, psychology, social work, psychiatry and related areas. It was therefore important to her that this mission be incorporated in the 1938 charter of Devereux and the 1956 bylaws.

Fifty years ago, shortly before her resignation, Helena Devereux established the Institute of Research and Training, now known as the Institute of Clinical Training and Research (ICTR). ICTR is one of the ten oldest, continuously accredited internship training sites by the American Psychological Association in the country. Since its inception, over 1,200 individuals have received their pre- or post-doctoral training at Devereux and many of these individuals have gone on to attain positions of prominence in the field of psychology.

ICTR has also excelled in developing best practices in the field of education for infants and toddlers, children with significant behavioral disorders and mental illness, and children with developmental disabilities, including autism.

In celebration of the 95th anniversary of Devereux and the 50th anniversary of the ICTR, Devereux is planning a Gala celebration at the Independence Seaport Museum on Friday, November 16, 2007. The Gala is expected to draw the greater Philadelphia business and civic community for an evening of entertainment and appreciation.

While Devereux is recognized as a national leader in providing services for children, adolescents and adults, the largest population base served is in southeastern Pennsylvania. Almost every town and township in the Delaware Valley, as well as more than 40 counties throughout the state, are served by Devereux. In Pennsylvania alone, it serves 1,800 individuals.

Madam Speaker, I am sure all of my colleagues join me today in celebrating the 95th anniversary of Devereux and the 50th anniversary of the ICTR. Their legacy—and the tireless work undertaken by Helena Devereux—is evident in the countless lives that they have affected, and those students who they continue to help every day.

HONORING ANDREW HERDMAN

#### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Andrew Herdman of Kansas City, Missouri. Andrew is 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 247, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Andrew has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Andrew 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 Andrew Herdman for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

RECOGNIZING ERIKA B. SCHLAGER'S 20 YEARS OF SERVICE AT THE COMMISSION SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE

#### HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, today I am pleased to pay tribute to Erika Schlager for her 20 years of tireless service to the U.S. Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Helsinki Commission. Erika began her advocacy work as a member of the Commission's professional staff on September 8, 1987, during a period marked by repression and widespread violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms in Central and Eastern Europe, the region of her particular expertise.

Driven by a passion for upholding the human rights commitments enshrined in the Helsinki Final Act, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international instruments, Erika devoted herself to documenting the cases of political prisoners, prisoners of conscience, and others denied their fundamental freedoms. Her focus on the countries of the region began with her academic studies as well as her personal experience. Indeed, Erika was in Poland for further studies when the regime imposed martial law in late 1981. Shortly after she joined the Commission staff, she helped organize a delegation of members to Czechoslovakia where, among other activities, they planned to meet playwright and Charter 77 founder Vaclav Havel. The courageous rights leader was detained by the secret police and prevented from meeting the delegation. Erika was an ardent champion on his behalf as well as for those lesser known victims of repression. She was able to accompany a delegation of Commissioners to Poland in 1989 to witness the installation of the first democratically elected government there in more than six decades. Her diligent monitoring of developments in these countries continues

as those nations move to further consolidate democracy, human rights, and the rule of law.

An impressive expert in the field of international law, Erika continues her advocacy in areas such as the plight of Roma and property restitution for victims of the Holocaust to the challenge of preserving human rights in a post-9/11 world.

Madam Speaker, as Chairman of the Helsinki Commission, I am pleased to recognize and commend Erika Schlager for her faithful, dedicated, and tireless service to me and my colleagues.

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CONGRATULATING CARDINAL  
FRANCIS GEORGE

**HON. RAHM EMANUEL**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 15, 2007*

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I. on his election as President of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

On November 13th, Cardinal George was elected by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops to the position of president during the bishops' November meeting in Baltimore. He is the first cardinal to be elected president or vice president of the conference since 1971. Cardinal George will serve in this position for the next three years.

As President of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, Cardinal George will act as spokesperson for the Roman Catholic Church in America and will represent the U.S. church in meetings at the Vatican. Additionally, Cardinal George will accompany Pope Benedict XVI during his first papal pilgrimage to the U.S.

Prior to his election as president of the conference, Cardinal George served as Vice President since 2004. Cardinal George also served on numerous USCCB committees including Liturgy, Doctrine, Pro-Life Activities, and the sub-committee on lay ministry. Since 1990, he has been Episcopal Moderator and member of the board of the National Catholic Office for Persons with Disabilities.

A Chicago native, Cardinal George has been an exemplary leader for Chicago's Catholic community. He currently serves as the Archbishop of Chicago, a position he was appointed to in 1997 by Pope John Paul II. In January 1998, Pope John Paul II announced Archbishop George's elevation to the Sacred College of Cardinals. Cardinal George has been an invaluable asset to Chicago's Catholic Community, and his tenure as Archbishop has been a successful one.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate Cardinal Francis George on his election as President of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, and I wish him the best of luck in his new role.

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HONORING CAVERNA HOSPITAL

**HON. RON LEWIS**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 15, 2007*

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Caverna Hospital in

Horse Cave, KY, on the occasion of its 40th Anniversary this year.

Caverna Hospital, has been serving Hart County since 1967. Beginning in the early 1960's, the citizens of Horse Cave and Cave City, KY raised the \$350,000 necessary to qualify for federal funding. The community broke ground in July of 1965. Caverna's first patient, Mrs. Lindberg Forbes of Hardyville, was admitted on June 5, 1967.

Caverna has made a number of facility improvements over its four decade history in order to better provide high quality health care to the region. Upgrades were made in 1989 to the patient rooms, CCU, the nursing station, and the cardiac monitoring system. Another major addition occurred in 1997 when a new Emergency Room, x-ray wing, laboratory, waiting area, and more patient rooms were added. Caverna has also made major equipment purchases including a CT scanner, mammography equipment; and ultrasound equipment.

It is my privilege to honor Caverna Hospital today, before the entire House of Representatives, and for its commitment to providing quality health care to the citizens of Kentucky.

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HONORING JUSTIN C. SCHULTZ

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 15, 2007*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Justin C. Schultz of Kansas City, Missouri. Justin is 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 247, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Justin has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Justin 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 Justin C. Schultz for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

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HONORING THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF  
BEDFORD COUNTY,  
TENNESSEE

**HON. BART GORDON**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 15, 2007*

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 200th anniversary of Bedford County, Tennessee, which I have the honor of representing in this esteemed body. The community in Middle Tennessee will commemorate its bicentennial on December 3.

The area of Bedford County was established by the Tennessee General Assembly by carving out a portion of Rutherford County to extend south to the state's boundary with the Mississippi Territory in present-day Alabama.

The county was named for Capt. Thomas Bedford, a soldier who served in the American Revolution.

Today, Bedford County may be best known as the Walking Horse Capital of the World. For nearly 70 years, thousands of people have gathered in Shelbyville, the county seat, during late August and early September for the Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration. During the first Celebration in 1939, more than 40,000 people attended the event.

In June of each year, nearby Bell Buckle hosts the annual RC and Moon Pie Festival. During the weekend of the festival, the tiny town of 400 residents receives about 15,000 visitors who are able to participate in a 10-mile run, watch parades, spit watermelon seeds and have a taste of the world's largest Moon Pie.

County Mayor Eugene Ray and the rest of the Bicentennial Committee will lead next month's celebration. They have done an outstanding job of organizing this event, and I commend their efforts.

The communities that make up Bedford County have great reason to take pride in their beautiful slice of Middle Tennessee. I wish them well and hope the next 200 years are as prosperous as the first 200 years.

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PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE STATE  
UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

**HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 15, 2007*

Mr. HINCHEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the State University of New York's (SUNY) dual diploma program in conjunction with the Turkish Council of Higher Education (YOK). This unique and highly successful international higher education effort has partnered nine top-tier Turkish institutions with nine SUNY campuses. Two of which, SUNY New Paltz and SUNY Binghamton, are located in the district that I represent. This program and others like it are particularly important in the face of our country's current challenges in the Middle East and throughout the world.

The SUNY system, comprised of 64 campuses, provides first-class higher education for over 417,000 students and is the largest comprehensive university system in the nation. Tasked with increasing the number of international students on SUNY campuses, SUNY's Office of International Programs has initiated a broad series of programs to prepare students for an increasingly interconnected world. The dual diploma program with Turkish universities highlights SUNY's commitment and leadership in international education.

Evolving from initial talks held in 2000, the first cohort consisting of 33 Turkish students arrived on SUNY campuses in 2003. These students spend half their undergraduate education at a SUNY campus, half at a Turkish university, and receive a diploma from both. Through committed efforts and diligence, the program now boasts more than 1,500 students in 24 programs and has graduated 100 students. This year the Institute of International Education recognized the program with the Andrew Heiskell Award for Innovation in International Education Partnerships.