

HONORING WALLACE BROECKER
AND COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY'S
LAMONT-DOHERTY EARTH OB-
SERVATORY

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2007

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Wallace Broecker, a geochemist at Columbia University's Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory for recently being awarded the Crafoord Prize in Geosciences by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences. Mr. Broecker was honored with this prize for his stellar work in studying the role oceans play in the carbon cycle. As we debate how to control global warming in this Congress, Mr. Broecker's work will better inform us on the best policy approach to this global threat.

Dr. Broecker did his groundbreaking work at Columbia's Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, which resides in my district. This incredible facility is one of the world's leading research centers on how our biosphere operates. More than 300 research scientists at the observatory research every aspect of our planet including volcanoes, earthquakes and global warming.

To get the data necessary for their work, the observatory has led expeditions around the world to collect data. Using their 239-foot research vessel, the *Maurice Ewing*, the observatory has collected samples from the ocean floor, studied seismic activity and collected ocean soil core samples. Through this work the observatory has amassed the world's largest collection of deep-sea and ocean-sediment cores from every sea and ocean on the planet.

The observatory has taken the massive amounts of data they have accumulated and created some of the world's most comprehensive databases of ocean activity critical to the work of marine geoscientists such as Dr. Broecker.

Madam Speaker, my hat is off to Wallace Broecker for earning this fantastic honor. His work and the work of the entire Lamont-Doherty Earth observatory is an invaluable resource for other scientists and for policy-makers as we struggle to balance our economic well being with our requirement to be stewards of the environment.

RECOGNITION OF MERCER AND
MONROE COUNTIES AS BEST
COMMUNITIES FOR YOUTH

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2007

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of two counties in my district, Mercer and Monroe, which have recently received the honor as two of the Nation's "100 Best Communities for Youth for 2007" by the Alliance for Youth. This is the second such award for Mercer County, which was also honored last year.

These counties competed against hundreds of communities in the 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Is-

lands, who were all vying for the unique distinction.

This award is well-deserved, as these communities have dedicated themselves to fostering a healthy, safe, and caring environment for our young people. I share this vision, and am deeply honored to have the only two localities in West Virginia recognized located in my district.

I pledge to continue my work to make the communities of the Third District a healthy and nurturing environment for our children, by supporting legislation that will keep our children safe. Last year, I supported legislation to better fund our law enforcement. I also supported the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006, a bill that will protect children and save countless lives by dramatically improving efforts against sex offenders and violent criminals. In addition, I took action in the House of Representatives to protect West Virginia children from Internet predators, voting in support of the Deleting Online Predators Act and similar legislation.

While these steps are significant, it is by far the end of our work. As the folks of Mercer and Monroe Counties can attest, we must never waver from our commitment to our youth. As much as we accomplish, we must always strive to do better.

West Virginia native and renowned author Pearl S. Buck once said, "If our American way of life fails the child, it fails us all."

These are words to live by, words that Mercer and Monroe Counties are living by today. I again commend the entire community—the teachers, the civic leaders, the parents and the children as well, who are all so very bright—for the hard work they have done and continue to do.

I encourage other communities in the Third District and across West Virginia and our Nation to follow the fine example set by Mercer and Monroe Counties. As the Alliance for Youth said, "They are shining examples of what it means to keep America's promise to our young people."

IN HONOR OF LOUIS POSEN

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2007

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a distinguished and accomplished constituent: Louis Posen, who has dedicated the last 6 years of his life to two extremely important causes: achieving mental health parity and reducing the unacceptable rate of suicide that plagues this country.

Each year, more than 30,000 people die from suicide. For our youth, it is the third leading cause of death. And these deaths can be prevented.

Louis's story is remarkable in many ways. In 1993, he started his own record label, and called it Hopeless Records—not for lack of hope, but in honor of one of the first songs he produced.

It is hard to imagine that this successful label began in his living room with only \$1,000 of seed money which was contributed by his helpful brother.

As Hopeless Records grew, Louis started a subsidiary label called Sub City. From this

label grew the Take Action Tour, which uses the proceeds from concerts and record sales to support worthy charities.

Since 2001, the Tour has joined with the National Hopeline Network, 1-800-SUICIDE. So far, Louis and the Tour have raised over \$1 million to help target the Hopeline and other mental health issues.

Louis has also collected over 100,000 signatures in support of mental health parity. He has educated both the public and their elected representatives about this and other important mental health issues.

As recently as 2000, the Federal budget had no funding for suicide prevention. Due in no small part to Louis's tireless work, Congress now provides at least modest support for programs to help prevent suicide.

We are grateful to Louis and the Tour for helping to fund programs such as the National Suicide Hotline and the Youth America Hotline. These are extremely valuable resources for individuals in times of crisis.

It is also a privilege today to recognize Reese Butler, founder of the Kristin Brooks Hope Center and the National Suicide Hotline.

Together, Reese and Louis have created a public/private partnership that has helped tens of thousands of people and is a great example of how such a partnership can work.

I strongly support legislation to provide mental health parity and additional funding for programs that will help reduce the unacceptably high number of suicides in this country. Again, I congratulate the Take Action Tour, Reese Butler and Louis Posen for their work on these critical issues.

RECOGNIZING ALFRED C. YSRAEL
AS GUAM'S EXECUTIVE OF THE
YEAR FOR 2006

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2007

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge that on Saturday, January 13, 2007, Mr. Alfred C. Ysrael of Tamuning, Guam, was recognized as the 2006 Executive of the Year during a ceremony sponsored by Guam Business magazine. Mr. Ysrael is the chairman and president of Tanota Partners, which owns and operates three hotels and several other profitable real estate holdings on Guam. He has spent the last 50 years growing and diversifying his business interests on Guam, creating thousands of local jobs for Guam's workforce and strengthening Guam's economy. The year 2007 marked the occasion of the 24th anniversary of Guam Business magazine presenting the Executive of the Year award.

It is not uncommon for successful businessmen, such as Alfred, to come from humble beginnings. They start out with only a dream, a few dollars in their pockets, and a commitment to excellence. Hard work and an unfaltering belief in what they seek to accomplish are essential to their success. Alfred was born and raised in the Philippines. He graduated from De La Salle University in 1952 with a bachelor's degree in commerce ready and eager to pursue the American dream. Mr. Ysrael now stands as a prominent figure among the pioneers of post-war business and commerce on Guam.

Mr. Ysrael arrived on Guam in 1952 as a guest worker with a 3-year contract to serve as an accountant for a military bowling alley. He purchased six surplus bowling lanes and opened the Anigua Bowling Alley, Guam's first, post-war civilian bowling alley upon completing his contract. Seven years later, in 1958, he became a U.S. citizen and was drafted into the U.S. Army. Alfred served his adopted country with honor and after his service returned to civilian life to his fledgling business interests. In 1960, he married Diana Zeien, my sister, with whom he has five children: Michael, Elizabeth, Mariana, Catherine, and Donna. Alfred is a devoted father and husband who always placed his family responsibilities first. His son Michael now serves as general manager of Tanota Partners, and his daughter Donna also has joined the firm. Alfred and Diana are the proud, loving grandparents of 13 grandchildren.

Alfred opened the Fujita Hotel, which catered to the Japanese tourists who arrived too late in the evening to secure hotel rooms, in the late 1960s when Guam's tourist industry was in its infancy. Alfred also invested in bringing Hilton International to Guam and remains a shareholder in Hilton Guam Resort & Spa. In 1987, he built the SunRoute, Ohana, Hotel and the Regency, Ohana, 2 years later. Mr. Ysrael's most recent venture was the construction and operation of the Outrigger Guam Resort in 1999. Alfred also developed apartment buildings in addition to building hotels. His tenants were primarily teachers and other workers hired from off-island. In time, however, as Guam's population grew and housing shortages became acute, many came to know Mr. Ysrael as their landlord.

Alfred and his businesses also have given much back to the community. Alfred was elected to serve the people of Guam as a senator in the 12th and 13th Guam Legislatures, from 1973 to 1977. He also served as a member of the Guam Board of Education from 1970 to 1971. Alfred further has a long and established record of philanthropy and community service on Guam. Largely as a result of his commitment to family and community and a strong belief in sports for young people—his own children are accomplished athletes—Mr. Ysrael and Tanota Partners are supporters of swimming, soccer and Tae Kwon Do teams on Guam. They also provide support for the South Pacific Games, the Guam National Olympic Committee, and the American Cancer Society's Annual Relay for Life. Athletics aside, Alfred and his family have also helped to raise funds for the American Cancer Society to increase awareness about breast cancer on Guam.

It is said that successful business persons should give back to the community that fostered their success. For the past 50 years and continuing today, Mr. Alfred C. Ysrael has indeed come far from humble beginnings and has given back in many, many ways to our island community which he proudly calls home.

HONORING THE STATE CHAMPION FRANKLIN HIGH SCHOOL VARSITY CHEERLEADERS

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2007

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in congratulating the Franklin High School Varsity Cheerleading Squad for winning the 2006 TSSAA Cheerleading (Large Squad) State Championship.

On November 18, 2006 at Middle Tennessee State University, hundreds of hours of hard work were rewarded as the Lady Rebels narrowly upset another squad that had recently won a national championship.

This recognition reflects a dedication to practice and commitment to excellence. The teambuilding skills acquired by working together as a squad will doubtless benefit these young women for a lifetime.

Madam Speaker, please join me in thanking the parents, coaches and faculty of Franklin High School and again congratulating the members of the 2006 State Championship squad. I am sure this is not the last we will hear from this talented group of young women.

Laura Satterfield, Lindsey Jones, Taylor Kennerly, Kathleen Engstrand, Christie Kibler, Stacey Caravetta, Carly Joseph, Hannah Johnson, Chelsea Steen, Kacey Capps, Kelsey Raymond, Kate Allman, Rachel Mezger, Mary Musgrove, Kelsi Cates, Corianne Carter, Chelsea Ridens, Taylor Harrell, Grace Tenkhoff, Paige Tenkhoff, Kathryn Chambers, Courtland Harrell, Caroline Watson, Chandler Howell, Sara Thames.

HONORING BILL HILES FOR HIS LONG SERVICE TO TENNESSEE

HON. JOHN S. TANNER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2007

Mr. TANNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Bill Hiles, who is retiring this week after working for 23 years as a journalist at the Dyersburg State Gazette in Dyersburg, Tennessee. He has proven himself a quality writer who fairly, accurately and completely covers the information that is important to our community in northwest Tennessee.

Even before coming to the State Gazette, Bill was a distinguished scholar, journalist and pastor. He received a Bachelor's Degree in Philosophy at Transylvania College in Lexington, Kentucky, and a Master's Degree in Systematic Theology from the University of Durham in Durham, England. He has also studied at Vanderbilt University and the George Peabody College for Teachers, taught college-level writing and public relations courses and, having been ordained as a minister of the Christian Church, Disciples of Christ, served as pastor at several churches throughout Tennessee. After working at the Associated Press and United Press International, Bill was a general assignment reporter and sports columnist at The Tennessean in Nashville, Tennessee, where he

once sat across the desk from future Vice President Al Gore.

Madam Speaker, it has been a pleasure to work alongside Bill during his long service to Tennessee, and I am proud to call him my friend. I hope you and our colleagues will join Betty Ann and me in thanking Bill Hiles for his work, congratulating him on his well-earned retirement and wishing him all the best in the years to come.

THE SESQUICENTENNIAL OF THE ACADEMY OF MUSIC

HON. CHAKA FATTAH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2007

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 150th Anniversary of the grand opening of Philadelphia's Academy of Music—our "Grand Old Lady of Locust Street." Since January 26, 1857, the Academy has hosted more than one billion attendees at almost half a million performances. Generations of the region's children have sat in her elegant auditorium and caught their breath as the curtain rose on their first experience of an opera or ballet performance. Millions of them have sat up in wonder as they heard The Philadelphia Orchestra's rousing sounds for the first time. Hundreds of thousands of Philadelphians have walked proudly across the Academy's stage to accept their commencement certificate. Audiences and artists alike have flocked to Philadelphia from around the world because of the Academy of Music.

What a remarkable legacy for one building—a legacy that has a deeply personal meaning for many generations of the region's families who share memories of attending special events within her walls; a legacy that laid the foundation on which the city created the Avenue of the Arts, built the shining new Kimmel Center, and made Philadelphia one of the most vibrant cultural destinations in the world; a legacy of which all Philadelphia-area residents can be proud.

The Academy of Music 150th Anniversary Concert and Ball, held on January 27, 2007, reflected many facets of the Academy's rich history. World-renowned artists host Tom Brokaw, soprano Deborah Voigt, tenor Ben Heppner and vocalists John Lithgow, with Music Director Christoph Eschenbach and our own celebrated Philadelphia Orchestra and Philadelphia Singers, presented an outstanding program of grand opera, theater, Broadway, classical and popular music.

The concert was attended by over 2,400 of the region's political, civic and corporate leaders as well as special guests Their Royal Highnesses the Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall. Even the Prince's visit has a historical precedent in the Academy's rich past: his great, great grandfather, Edward VII, was one of the early visiting dignitaries to grace the Academy at a gala performance by the popular soprano Adelina Patti in 1860. The Prince of Wales will sit in the same box, dubbed "the Prince of Wales Box" since the 1860 visit that his ancestor occupied before him.

I congratulate the Academy on its sesquicentennial and look forward to many more years of important cultural contributions to our city.