

their fight, we will continue to remember the legacy that Farah left behind.

So, I stand here today to pay tribute to Betty and Lex Baquer. As a parent of 4 children and 5 grandchildren, I can think of nothing worse than to lose a child. I commend the Baquers for their determination and commitment to justice. As a former judge and prosecutor, I have witnessed how victims as well as their families are treated in the justice system. It's shameful! The first duty of government must be to make sure criminals who commit crimes pay for their acts of violence.

Justice must be served.

And that's just the way it is.

A TRIBUTE TO JEFFERSON AWARD
WINNER LISA CHAN OF DALY CITY

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to share news of an extraordinary young woman from my home district. Lisa Chan, a 17-year-old senior at St. Ignatius College Preparatory School, and a Daly City resident, has been recognized with a Jefferson Award. It is a fitting honor, but let me say it is but one more accolade for this extremely accomplished young lady.

Some might refer to Lisa as an "over-achiever," but that would hardly do justice to the list of accomplishments she has already achieved. At her school, she is editor-in-chief of the yearbook, President of the California Scholarship Federation, President/Founder of the Leo's Club, and Academic Representative of the Student Council. Lisa is also able to maintain a 4.2 grade point average.

She won this year's Miss San Francisco Outstanding Teen pageant, which is part of the Miss America organization. Her winning theme of "Empowering the Youth Toward an Educational Revolution" highlights her extracurricular activity of creating a non-profit agency to do exactly that. Her "Bay Area Strive" group puts high school students to work helping elementary school students. It is a stunning success in its own right, empowering young adults to become active in the effort to upgrade the California public school system. In fact, Lisa has the goal of publishing a book about the effort by her 18th birthday. I am confident that she will succeed in that goal, as she has succeeded in so much already.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to say that Lisa Chan also was one of just eight teenage girls to win the national Target House Volunteer Contest, which focuses on volunteerism. Few teenagers show the drive and determination evidenced by Lisa Chan at such an early age. She is truly a role model for her peers and I am proud to introduce her to my colleagues in the House of Representatives.

Madam Speaker, I have little doubt that Lisa Chan will fulfill her goal of attending college and eventually studying law. Her commitment to the community, matched by her intelligence and perseverance, will hold her in good stead as she pursues her ultimate goal of political activity.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING
RUBY GILLIAM ON HER 85TH
BIRTHDAY

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Mrs. Gilliam has been a devoted mother and wife, mentor, confidant, and friend to many; and

Whereas, Mrs. Gilliam has demonstrated values of hard work and dedication throughout her life, always maintaining a positive outlook; and

Whereas, she has an unwavering commitment to her community and has been actively involved; and

Whereas, Mrs. Gilliam character and faith has been appreciated for enhancing all of those she has come into contact with; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that along with her friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I wish Ruby Gilliam a happy and healthy 85th birthday. We recognize the tremendous impact she has had in her community and in the lives of all those people she has touched.

HONORING THE BELL BUCKLE
VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the members of the Bell Buckle Volunteer Fire Department for their selfless dedication and bravery in protecting our families, day and night.

The Bell Buckle Volunteer Fire Department was established in 1950 with 15 firefighters, a chief and a truck. Currently, the fire department has 20 volunteers on its training roster and is building an addition to the Fire Hall that will house six trucks.

Without volunteer fire halls, like Bell Buckle, many places in the Sixth District would lack effective fire protection. In the state of Tennessee, over 70 percent of fire service is provided by volunteers. Among these volunteers, almost 75 percent work other daily jobs.

Ensuring our families' safety is not without risk. Sadly, an average of two firefighters die each year in Tennessee in the line of duty. In 2005, the Tennessee Fire Services and Code Academy dedicated a memorial on their main campus in Bell Buckle to honor those Tennessee firefighters who have died in the line of duty.

For their willingness to serve, the following members of the Bell Buckle Volunteer Fire Department deserve recognition: Chief Mary Lokey, Deputy Chief Ronnie Lokey, Deputy Chief Dave Fisher, Richard Miller, Brian Wafford, Brian Lokey, John Crosslin, Jenna Gragg, Matthew Joseph, Nathan Gragg, Jason Rieben, Matthew Gragg, Travis Miller, Robert Gown, Leo Wilcox, Whitt Ross, Ken Del Villar, Adam Prince, Cain Owens and Daniel Gragg. Also listed on the training roster are retired Chief James Elkin and Phillip Daniel, Gone But Not Forgotten.

THE SPIRIT OF AGGIELAND LIVES
ON

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, College Station, Texas is the home of Texas A & M University, also known as Aggieland. Texas A & M was founded in 1876, and was the first public institution of higher learning in the state of Texas. Although the education received at Texas A & M is of the highest caliber, it is not the only element that attracts prospective students to College Station for their college careers. It is the sense of belonging that is created at Texas A & M—the Spirit of Aggieland, that unique school spirit that sets Texas A & M apart from the rest.

The spirit of Aggieland, besides being the alma mater of Texas A & M University, refers to the "spirit that can ne'er be told." Many people have described Texas A & M as having a unique school spirit that "From the outside looking in, you can't understand it. And from the inside looking out you can't explain it." What has helped develop this sentiment is the time honored traditions that Aggies everywhere hold dear. Such traditions include Midnight Yell Practice, 12th Man, Yell Leaders, Reveille, Muster, Silver Taps, and Gig'Em. And one of the most notable traditions is Aggie Bonfire.

Bonfire is built every year and lit before the big football game against the University of Texas Longhorns, or "t.u." as the Aggies call them. Bonfire is meant to symbolize the burning desire to beat the University of Texas in the annual football game. The first Bonfire built in 1909 was a heap of trash and debris. By 1969 the stack of logs set a record for the height of a bonfire at 109 feet, 10 inches. There have only been 2 years when bonfire did not burn as scheduled. The first was 1963, the year President Kennedy was assassinated. As a sign of respect, the students dismantled the stack. Head Yell Leader, Mike Marlow explained, "It is the most we have and the least we can give." The other year was 1999, when at 2:42 am on November 18th the 40 ft high stack consisting of 5,000 logs collapsed killing 12 people and injuring 27 others.

It was in dealing with this tragedy that the true strength of Texas A & M emerged. Rescue workers were on the scene within minutes of the collapse. The entire Texas A & M football team and many members of the Corps of Cadets rushed to the site to assist in manually removing the logs. An official memorial service was held in Reed Arena less than 17 hours after the collapse. Over 16,000 mourners gathered to pay tribute to those who had died and those who spent all day trying to rescue the injured. At the end of the ceremony, the crowd spontaneously stood, linked arms, and started singing Amazing Grace.

Eric Opiela, Vice President of the Student Government of The University of Texas at Austin, attended the memorial service, and described the scene saying, "Aggieland is a very special place, with special people. It is infinitely better equipped than us at dealing with a tragedy such as this for one simple reason. It is a family. It is a family that cares for its own, a family that reaches out, a family that is unified in the face of adversity; a family that moved this Longhorn to tears."

It is this same sense of unity and family that has compelled current Aggies to continue their tradition of Bonfire. Though the event is now held off campus and not sponsored by the University the passion lives on. And so, on this 8th anniversary of the Texas A & M Bonfire collapse, we pay tribute to the Spirit of Aggieland. May it continue to mystify us, dazzle us, and thrive forever.

And that's just the way it is.

UKRAINIAN FAMINE-GENOCIDE OF
1932-1933

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, there are few more disturbing examples of human cruelty toward its own kind in the history of the world than the Ukrainian Famine-Genocide of 1932-1933. It is inconceivable that a government could have so little value for human life to kill up to 10 million people, including 3 million children, in order to break national resistance to Communism. For 500 days, 25,000 people died daily from hunger, when nature's harvest provided them with everything needed to lead a normal life and when food was in their plain view. The brutality of such a policy and the callous way it was enforced are beyond comprehension. The Ukrainian Famine-Genocide was caused by the imposition of extraordinarily high grain quotas in the agricultural areas of Ukraine, and inhumane efforts by the Soviet government in taking every foodstuff available to fulfill the quotas. Taking a handful of grain or a potato was considered "stealing from the state" and capital punishment could be—and was—applied as a consequence.

The eyewitness accounts are horrifying in their candor. One survivor wrote the following in her diary: "Upon entering [the village] we caught up with a boy of about 7; my fellow traveler shouted [for him to step out of the way] but the boy did not seem to hear and continued to walk, swaying; our carriage caught up with him; I shouted; the boy stepped out of the way as though unwillingly; I wanted to look him in the face. That face left a chilling impression on me, one that I will never forget. I think that this was the expression of people who know that they will soon die, but who do not want to die. But this was a child. [. . .] I cried silently, so that my companion would not hear. The thought that I could not do anything, that millions of children are dying from hunger [. . .] dismayed me. . . . Near the village soviet office we ran into an old man with the same expression on his face."

When the news of the Famine-Genocide reached the free world, the Soviet government denied its existence and refused humanitarian aid that could have saved the lives of millions. For the next 60 years, the government aggressively continued to deny the existence of the Famine-Genocide and even banned the use of the word "famine".

On the event of the 75th anniversary of the Ukrainian Famine-Genocide, I am confident that I speak on behalf of my constituents and our entire nation when I join the Ukrainian nation in mourning the millions of innocent vic-

tims. Their memory will always be with us. I believe it is our moral responsibility to recognize the Ukrainian American community's work and continue to inform the whole world of the crime against the Ukrainian people and humanity committed by the Stalinist totalitarian regime. We cannot let any similar tragedy be repeated ever again. Together, we need to continue to fight totalitarianism and the oppression until every corner of this planet is free and democracy reigns supreme. We honor the memory of the innocent victims and the brave fighters for Ukraine's independence today and we will remember them always.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING
COACH IAN COOKE FOR LEADING
THE GIRL'S SOCCER TEAM TO
PLACE SECOND IN THE MAN-
CHESTER UMBRO INTER-
NATIONAL CUP

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Coach Ian Cooke showed hard work and dedication to the sport of soccer; and

Whereas, Coach Cooke was a leader and mentor for the team; and

Whereas, Coach Ian Cooke has been a role model for sportsmanship on and off of the field; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that along with his friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Coach Ian Cooke for leading the girl's soccer team to place second in the Manchester Umbro International Cup. We recognize the tremendous hard work and leadership he has demonstrated during the 2007 soccer season.

HONORING THE BAPTIST RIDGE
VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the members of the Baptist Ridge Volunteer Fire Department for their selfless dedication and bravery in protecting our families, day and night.

The Baptist Ridge Volunteer Fire Department was established in 2000 in order to serve the city of Hilham. Today, the department has 21 volunteers on its roster.

Without volunteer fire halls, like Baptist Ridge, many places in the Sixth District would lack effective fire protection. In the state of Tennessee, over 70 percent of fire service is provided by volunteers. Among these volunteers, almost 75 percent work other daily jobs.

Ensuring our families' safety is not without risk. Sadly, an average of two firefighters die each year in Tennessee in the line of duty. In 2005, the Tennessee Fire Services and Code Academy dedicated a memorial on their main campus in Baptist Ridge to honor those Tennessee firefighters who have died in the line of duty.

For their willingness to serve, the following members of the Baptist Ridge Volunteer Fire Department deserve recognition: Chief David Boles, Asst. Chief Joe Boles, Capt. Jackie Hamlet, Lt. Ted Tucker, Anthony Boles, Ravy Watson, Dwayne Scott, Johnny Allen, Kevin Taylor, Mark Minske, Kenny Estep, Bobby Gene Lee, Kyle Spear, Farrah Spear, Reba Allen, Brenda Boles, Robert Abney, Kimberly Tucker, Linda Elam, Mary Boles and Wanton Young.

BRILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
EARNS MAJOR ACHIEVEMENT

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, the staff and students at Brill Elementary School, in Klein Independent School District, set a goal for their physical fitness program and worked hard to achieve it.

As a result of their perseverance and determination, Brill has been awarded the title of Physical Activity and Fitness Honor Roll School by President George Bush's Challenge Program.

Brill received this honor by serving as a national demonstration school in physical fitness and sports for the past three years. During this time, other schools looked to Brill as having the model physical fitness program.

I commend the students, faculty and staff of Brill Elementary for their dedication to physical fitness. I would especially like to recognize the efforts of physical education teachers Darlene Sentesi, Jack Hall and April Holbrook.

This elementary school is the only one in Texas to be considered a national demonstration school and to be awarded the honor roll distinction.

I am proud of the faculty at Brill Elementary for their commitment to the well-being and health of its students.

And that's just the way it is.

RECOGNIZING MRS. LINDA
BUZINEC

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with immense gratitude and admiration that I stand before you today to recognize the many accomplishments of Mrs. Linda Buzinec, the longtime Mayor of Hobart, IN. A close personal friend of mine, I can truly say that Linda is one of Northwest Indiana's most distinguished and honorable citizens, as well as one of its greatest leaders. She is one of the most involved citizens that I have ever known, especially when it comes to her service to the people of Hobart, IN. First elected to public office in 1988, Linda has been a constant fixture in Hobart, where she has always been fully committed to the people she was elected to serve. Most recently, Linda has served as Mayor of the City of Hobart for the past 12 years. Her efforts throughout her career in public service and the impact she has had on