

Copperas Cove added to their successes with a commendable performance by the Bulldawg football team, who advanced to the state championship game in 4A Division I. This marks the first time Copperas Cove has played for a state championship in any division and is the fruit of a season marked by hard work and dedication.

Copperas Cove High School has shown what a school can achieve with no small amount of persistence. I am sure that in addition to the achievements of this season they will have an even brighter future. I admire what they do both athletically and academically; I am proud to represent such a fine institution and wish them the best in their future endeavors. I would like to congratulate them on their efforts this season, and their well-deserved success.

TRIBUTE TO PAUL RODRIGUEZ

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 13, 2007

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Paul Rodriguez on representing the United States as Señor Internacional during the Washington Birthday Celebration, the largest celebration of its kind in the United States.

Mr. Rodriguez's career has spanned more than two decades and includes starring roles in over 30 films and countless television series and specials. Some of Mr. Paul Rodriguez's series include "Trial and Error," "Grand Slam," and for over four years he hosted "El Show de Paul Rodriguez," an entertainment talk show for the Spanish-language Univision network. This particular show reached an international audience throughout the United States and 17 other countries in Central and South America.

His directorial debut came in 1994 with the film "A Million to Juan," a family comedy in which he also wrote and starred. Mr. Rodriguez moved nicely from television to motion pictures, making his feature film debut in the picture comedy "D.C. Cab," followed by many films such as "Miracles," "Born in East L.A.," and "Made in America." Mr. Rodriguez recently had the opportunity to work with the legendary Clint Eastwood in the film "Bloodwork." It is estimated that Mr. Paul Rodriguez has performed live to well to over one million concert goers from coast to coast. Within Hispanic communities, Mr. Rodriguez is considered the "Original Latin King of Comedy."

Mr. Paul Rodriguez remains strongly rooted in the Latino Community, working with civic and educational groups, and his main contributions go to The National Hispanic Scholarship Fund (NHSF), but he also contributes to such charitable efforts such as Comic Relief, and hosts the annual Elizabeth Glazer Pediatrics AIDS Foundation Celebrity Golf Tournament. Mr. Rodriguez is the one of the few stand-up comedians who performs in two languages (Spanish/English) and was voted as one of the most influential Hispanics in America. He has also been the recipient of the Ruben Salazar Award by the National Council of La Raza.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to have had this time to recognize the dedication of Paul

Rodriguez to the Hispanic-American community in the United States.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE MARINE MAMMAL RESCUE ASSISTANCE ACT AMENDMENTS: FEBRUARY, 2007

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 13, 2007

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Madam Speaker, Congressman HENRY BROWN (R-SC) and I are introducing legislation today that will extend the John H. Prescott Marine Mammal Rescue Assistance Grant Program. The program was first authorized in 2000 to address the funding needs of facilities assisting the National Marine Fisheries Service with the recovery and rehabilitation of stranded marine mammals. The Prescott Grant Program has been very successful in supporting facilities around the nation volunteering facility space and staff time to rehabilitate marine mammals and return many of them to the wild. For those animals that cannot be returned to the wild, due to illness or other factors, the facilities have taken on the responsibility of caring for those marine mammals.

This legislation will increase the funding for the Department of Commerce from \$4.0 million up to \$6.0 million a year. The bill will cap administrative costs and roll over any unused funds into the grant program to be issued as grants in the following fiscal year. The Administration is authorized to enter into cooperative agreements to respond at-sea to marine mammals entangled in floating debris. It will create an emergency assistance process through which the agency will be able to enter into cooperative agreements with stranding facilities to facilitate the movement of funds to facilities responding to stranding events. In addition, the legislation will reauthorize funding for the Marine Mammal Unusual Mortality Event Fund, which allows the agency to respond to mass stranding events and reimburse facilities that have assisted in the response activity.

I applaud the public display facilities and marine mammal research institutions that have dedicated resources and time toward recovering and rehabilitating marine mammals. This legislation will allow the National Marine Fisheries Service and the stranding facilities to continue their important efforts in the future. I urge support for this important conservation measure.

RECOGNIZING BLAKE ALEXANDER MCCARTER FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 13, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Blake Alexander McCarter, 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 145, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

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

IN RECOGNITION OF FIREMAN CLINT STEPHENSON

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 13, 2007

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Fireman Clint Stephenson for his dedicated and outstanding service to the Denton Fire Department and the city of Denton, Texas.

Mr. Clint Stephenson has recently been named Rookie of the Year for his leadership and devotion to the Denton Fire Department. Mr. Stephenson never fails to put forth a positive attitude and he is continually respectful to his fellow firemen in the department. He pays close attention to detail during both station duties and on-scene care, leaving no room for error and helping others in need. Not only is he a dedicated and compassionate firefighter, but he is also a loyal coworker and friend.

It is with great honor that I recognize Mr. Clint Stephenson for his hard work and selfless dedication to the Denton Fire Department and the citizens of Denton, Texas. I am proud to represent him in Washington, and his service will be set as a standard of devotion and true leadership, one that will never be forgotten.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC FOR WINNING THE 2007 CARIBBEAN SERIES CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 13, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate, Las Águilas Cibaerñas, the team representing the Dominican Republic at the 2007 Caribbean Series, for winning the championship on February 7. Wearing jerseys emblazoned with the words "Dominicano Soy" (I am Dominican), their pride in their country and in the game of baseball was evident as the team dominated this year's Caribbean Series, where they won a record five of their six games during the Series. Dominicans have once more demonstrated that they are the forerunners in the all-American sport of baseball. The Dominican Republic has now won 16 Caribbean Series titles, the most by anyone country in the history of these championship games. The Dominican Republic has won seven out of the last 11 Caribbean Series, demonstrating their passion and commitment to the sport.

Baseball is the national sport of the Dominican Republic and many of the best Dominican born baseball athletes play for U.S. Major League Baseball teams. Even in the poorest rural villages throughout the Dominican Republic, boys are swinging bats in well-tended baseball fields. They move with an athletic grace and throw without fear. They play barefoot sometimes, and swing with the entire body in one fluid poetic arc. They practice day in and day out with hopes of one day being the baseball player. They play for the love of the game, which is why professional baseball scouts from the United States go to the Dominican Republic in droves.

About 500,000 Dominicans live in New York, the city's second-largest Latino group after Puerto Ricans, according to census officials. The majority of New York's Dominicans live in and around Washington Heights in Upper Manhattan, part of my Congressional district. Baseball is a year-round sport for them. In the winter, after the baseball season finishes in the United States, they enjoy the Dominican baseball season, which includes the Caribbean Series games. This year the Series was watched by over 700,000 fans all over the world, the highest viewing ever.

Please join me in congratulating the team from the Dominican Republic for an outstanding demonstration of commitment, dominance and pride at the 2007 Caribbean Series.

RECOGNIZING AND HONORING THE
EMPLOYEES OF THE DEPARTMENT
OF HOMELAND SECURITY

SPEECH OF

HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 12, 2007

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 134, recognizing and honoring the employees of the Department of Homeland Security for their efforts and contributions to protect and secure the Nation. I would like to commend my colleagues, Congressman CARNEY and Congressman BILIRAKIS for their leadership in bringing this resolution to the floor today.

As an original member of the Committee on Homeland Security, I know firsthand the many challenges within the Department of Homeland Security. Last week, the committee conducted hearings on the status and budget of the agency. A concern that was expressed by a majority, if not all members of the committee, was the issue of employee moral at the agency. We know that it has not been easy to withstand and respond to the harsh and constant criticism resulting from the aftermath of 911 and other disasters that followed.

But, today, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize all of the DHS employees, especially those within FEMA who have had to bear the brunt of criticisms post-Katrina. Although this committee has conducted oversight hearings to address these criticisms, we also recognize and know firsthand all the good work that they do. In addition to supporting all that H. Res. 134 provides, I would also like to add that as the members of this committee begin the appropriation process, we will do everything possible to make sure that they have

the resources they need to continue to effectively and efficiently get their job done.

Congratulations to the Department of Homeland Security on their fourth anniversary.

RECOGNIZING JAMES JOSEPH
ARCANO FOR ACHIEVING THE
RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 13, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize James Joseph Arcano, 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 145, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

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

IN RECOGNITION OF TRAINING
CAPTAIN BRAD LAHART

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 13, 2007

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Training Captain Brad Lahart for his dedicated and outstanding service to the Denton Fire Department and the City of Denton, Texas.

Captain Lahart has recently been named Employee of the Year for his leadership and devotion to the Denton Fire Department. As Training Captain, he ensures that all firefighters have proper training and certification, and works with the victim's assistance program to help victims of fires and other disasters. Mr. Lahart was project manager for Station 7, and is currently managing the construction of a new fire and police training center to be built at the Station 7 site. He has greatly contributed to the tripling of the department's documented training hours, which the firefighters need to retain their certification.

It is with great honor that I recognize Mr. Brad Lahart for his hard work and selfless dedication to the Denton Fire Department and the citizens of Denton, Texas. I am proud to represent him in Washington, and his service will be set as a standard of devotion and true leadership, one that will never be forgotten.

RECOGNIZING LEO T. MCCARTHY

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 13, 2007

Ms. SOLIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my good friend and fellow Californian,

Leo T. McCarthy, who passed away February 5, 2007. A devoted public servant, Mr. McCarthy dedicated his life to serving his country and the people of the State of California.

During his long career of service to our Nation, Mr. McCarthy distinguished himself as a fierce advocate for economic justice, social equality, and freedom for all. Joining the United States Air Force in 1951, he served with distinction and honor during the Korean War. From there, Mr. McCarthy entered into public life and was elected as the youngest member of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors in city history. Soon after, he was elected to the California State Assembly, and quickly rose to become Speaker of the Assembly. As Speaker, he championed the causes of human rights, education, and environmentalism, securing major legislative victories while bringing more openness and transparency to the process.

Mr. McCarthy's tremendous record in the Assembly catapulted him to prominence and he was elected Lieutenant Governor of California in 1982. A brilliant executive, he expertly coordinated the relief effort for the devastating Loma Prieta earthquake in 1989. Recognizing his service, the people of California returned him to office for a record breaking three terms until he retired from politics in 1994. Even in retirement, he remained engaged in the lives of Californians, raising over one million dollars to endow the Leo T. McCarthy Center for Public Service and the Common Good at the University of California of San Francisco.

In addition to his dedicated public service, he was devoted to his family. Even while serving in Sacramento at the very top of California politics, he drove home almost every night to be with his wife, Jacqueline, and his children, Sharon, Conna, Adam, and Niall.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the very best that the State of California has to offer in Leo T. McCarthy. He was a leader, a statesman, and he will be sorely missed.

RECOGNIZING THE SIGNIFICANCE
OF THE 65TH ANNIVERSARY OF
EXECUTIVE ORDER 9066 AND
SUPPORTING AND RECOGNIZING
A NATIONAL DAY OF REMEM-
BRANCE

SPEECH OF

HON. BILL PASCHELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 12, 2007

Mr. PASCHELL. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, February 19, we will mark the 65th anniversary of the signing of Executive Order 9066 by President Franklin D. Roosevelt. This resolution authorized the internment of over one hundred thousand American citizens and legal resident aliens of Japanese, German, and Italian ancestry. At the hands of our government, Japanese, German, and Italian citizens suffered grievous violations of their civil liberties. These war-time measures were far-reaching, uprooting entire communities and targeting citizens as well as resident aliens.

Although the greatest numbers of those impacted by Executive Order 9066 were Japanese-Americans, little is known about the impact of the measure on Italian and German-