

Among its many achievements, Serbian National University established an endowment fund at The Ohio State University's Hilander Room, which provides an environment for students to advance the language, heritage, and traditions of the Serbian people. In addition, the University supports the Serbian Orthodox Church, Cleveland Institute of Music and similar schools in Serbia.

The Serbian National University is dedicated to and inspired by the works and achievements of Vuk Stefanovic Karadzich. During the 18th and 19th Century, Vuk Karadzich founded the modern Serbian language and developed the Serbian Cyrillic alphabet. Vuk Karadzich received a degree of Doctor of Philosophy from the University of Jena, Germany and was knighted by the country of Russia. One of the many legacies of Vuk Karadzich that the Serbian National University carries on today is the mission of bridging the gap between Serbian and American cultures.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring the Serbian National University "Vuk Stefanovic Karadzich" for all the amazing contributions they have made to the advancement of Serbian and American culture. May the good work that they have done endure into the future.

TRIBUTE TO MERV GRIFFIN

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 19, 2007

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a truly outstanding gentleman, Merv Griffin. Merv is a distinguished entertainer and business entrepreneur, as well as a man who is deeply committed to helping others.

Merv is a special friend of the Louis Warschaw Prostate Cancer Center and gives generously of his time and energy to fight this disease. As a prostate cancer survivor, he is deeply aware of the importance of medical research being done by the Center which was established by the Warschaw Family at Cedar Sinai Medical Center in memory of Louis, their beloved husband and father.

Merv is one of the world's great performers. He began his distinguished career as a singer at 19, and shortly thereafter formed his own record label, Panda Records. His self-released album "Songs by Merv Griffin" was the first American album recorded on magnetic tape. Freddy Martin, impressed with Merv's talent, asked him to tour with his orchestra. Four years later, Merv started as a solo performer, scoring a number one hit with "I've Got a Lovely Bunch of Coconuts."

In 1958 Merv launched his brilliant television career as host of the game shows "Play your Hunch" and "Keep Talking." In 1963, he hosted and produced "Word for Word." The following year, he produced the incredibly successful "Jeopardy" and followed that with "Wheel of Fortune." These two shows established Merv as a television legend.

Merv was also much admired and respected as a television talk show host. Among his most interesting and controversial guests were journalists Adele Rogers St. John, futurist Buckminster Fuller, writer Norman Mailer, and philosopher Bertrand Russell.

In addition to his show business success, Merv is a real estate magnate with prestigious

properties in Beverly Hills, Palm Springs, Atlantic City and Scottsdale. He raises thoroughbred racehorses on his ranch in Carmel, CA and owns St. Clerans Manor, an 18th century estate, near Galway, Ireland.

In 2001, Merv returned to singing with the release of the album "It's Like a Dream," and this year his production company began pre-production on a new syndicated game show, "Let's Play Crossword," which is expected to air in September.

I am proud to ask my colleagues to join me in saluting Merv Griffin for his lifetime of extraordinary accomplishments, and in expressing our appreciation for his support of the Louis Warschaw Prostate Cancer Center.

HONORING MICHAEL HOWE

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 19, 2007

Ms. LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary career of Michael Howe. Mike served as the president of the East Bay Community Foundation (EBCF) in Oakland from 1993 until 2006. Throughout his career, Mike has been known for his tireless work on behalf of the East Bay community. This year Mike, who currently serves as the EBCF president emeritus, celebrates his retirement after more than a decade of unparalleled service to that organization, and many more to the 9th Congressional District.

Mike holds a B.A. in sociology from the University of San Francisco, as well as an M.A. and an ABD in sociology from the University of California, Davis. Before joining the EBCF, Mike was the senior planning and evaluation officer for the Marin Community Foundation from 1986 until 1993. Prior to that, he was a professor of Sociology and founding dean of the College of Professional Studies at the University of San Francisco, where he was also tenured as an associate professor.

Mike came to the East Bay Community Foundation in 1993. Under his leadership, the EBCF evolved from a small grant-making organization into one of the top 50 community foundations in the country. Mike's work was central to the EBCF's transformation into an organization that is known for leading change-making initiatives that successfully solve community problems. Working with government agencies, non-profit organizations, business leaders and civic groups, Mike has sought to improve after-school programs for youth; prevent street crime and violence; provide arts education; enhance land-use planning to incorporate features for sustainable communities; and expand community philanthropy.

Mike has attracted new expertise and funding to the EBCF, which now makes grants to more than 1,000 non-profit organizations, primarily in the East Bay. His efforts have made the EBCF a world-class institution for community leadership and social change, and have touched countless lives here in the 9th congressional District and beyond.

In addition to his stellar work leading the EBCF, Mike has been and continues to be heavily involved in a number of other boards and organizations here in the Bay Area. He serves on the boards of organizations such as the Institute for Community Peace; Northern

California Grantmakers; the John Gardner Center at Stanford University, the Coalition of Community Foundations for Youth; and the Richmond Children's Foundation.

Today the friends, family and colleagues of Mike Howe have come together to celebrate not only his retirement, but also his legacy of service, and his permanent and positive impact on our community. On this very special day, I join all of them in thanking and saluting Mike for his profound contributions to California's 9th Congressional district, our country and our world.

IN HONOR OF THE ARC OF WARREN COUNTY'S NEWEST SERVICE TO NORTHWEST NEW JERSEY'S DISABLED COMMUNITY

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 19, 2007

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, today, the Arc of Warren County, New Jersey will break ground on their newest group home at Camp Warren. The Arc has long presented a wide array of services to individuals with developmental disabilities throughout this corner of Northwest New Jersey. They are now expanding into residential services with this barrier-free home for six adults, which they hope to have open by the end of the year.

The Arc of Warren County was founded more than 50 years ago by parents, educators, and others who wanted to meet the needs of children with developmental disabilities in a comprehensive way. It is part of a national network that serves more than 3 million people across the country every year. The more than 1,000 people that the Warren County chapter serves each year receive quality services ranging from residential to recreation to advocacy.

Arc staff and volunteers not only help the disabled individuals, but also their families. And, in the process, they provide a great service to the community at large. The Arc helps these individuals live more self-sufficiently and blend seamlessly into the community around them. And, the tremendous support they get from people of all walks of life throughout Warren County speaks volumes as to their success.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 19, 2007

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding achievement of the University of North Texas basketball team on defeating Arkansas State University, by a score of 83-75, to win the school's first ever Sunbelt Conference title.

The Mean Green's 23 wins this season are the most in team history. Furthermore, this most recent win clinched North Texas a spot in the prestigious NCAA Tournament for the first time since the 1987-88 season.

Senior Calvin Watson, who had 24 points and six 3-pointers, was named the Sunbelt Conference Tournament's Most Outstanding Player. Guard Ben Bell was also named to the all-tournament team.

This victory was a combined effort and would not have been possible if it was not for the incredible work ethic demonstrated by these athletes and coaches. I extend my sincere congratulations to Head Coach Johnny Jones, University of North Texas President Gretchen M. Bataille, as well as the members of the UNT Men's Basketball Team.

I am proud of these young men—their victory in Sunbelt Conference and their efforts during the NCAA tournament. Not only am I honored to serve as their U.S. Representative, but I am proud to be a University of North Texas alumnus.

THE UNFORTUNATE TWO-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF CHINA'S ANTI-SECESSION LAW

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 19, 2007

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, two years ago, China passed its anti-secession law, codifying its use of force against Taiwan. Despite Taiwan's pleas for friendship and worldwide condemnation of the legislation, China has continued its military buildup along the coast of Taiwan and heightened its rhetoric against the people of Taiwan. The 23 million people of Taiwan feel insecure and worry about present or future military confrontations in the Taiwan Strait.

Even more ominously, China recently successfully tested an anti-satellite missile, threatening the surveillance satellites of India, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, the United States, Europe and Russia. China's development of space-based technology will seriously threaten U.S. military operations and world peace. This action, when combined with other actions by the PRC, should raise serious concerns among my colleagues about future moves that China may conduct.

For the sake of world peace, I urge my colleagues to continue to speak out against the Chinese military buildup. China's military intimidations against Taiwan pose a serious threat to the well-being of the peaceful 23 million people that reside in Democratic Taiwan. It is in our best interests for people on both sides of the Taiwan Strait to live in peace and any military action against Taiwan will lead to chaos and destruction for many countries in the region. As a start to maintaining this critical peace on both sides of the Taiwan Strait, China should rescind its anti-secession legislation now. This legislation should have never been adopted by the Chinese, and therefore I ask for its immediate repeal.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA HATCH ACT REFORM ACT OF 2007

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 19, 2007

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, I introduce the District of Columbia Hatch Act Reform Act of 2007 to eliminate discriminatory treatment of the District of Columbia which still falls under the federal Hatch Act, as it did before the Congress made the District an independent jurisdiction that today enacts its own local laws. This bill would retain federal Hatch Act authority concerning prohibited partisan and political activity that applies to every state upon receipt of federal funds or functions, and importantly, would require the District to enact its own local version of the Hatch Act barring similar local violations, to become effective. This bill, of course, would automatically be held over for congressional review as required by the Home Rule Act. In any case, local Hatch Act violations in the District are rare, but the District needs its own Hatch Act to fully account and be responsible for local violations, with which only a local, objective body would be most familiar.

This bill will leave in place the federal Hatch Act restrictions that apply to other jurisdictions on the use of official authority, specifically as it relates to elections; the solicitation, acceptance, or receiving of political campaign contributions; the prohibitions on running for public office in partisan elections; and the use of on-duty time and resources to engage in partisan campaign activity where federal funds or responsibilities are involved. My bill would remove only the federal Hatch Act jurisdiction that applies solely to the District of Columbia and would require the District to have its own local Hatch Act, like every other jurisdiction, instead of requiring the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) and its Special Counsel to devote staff time and other resources on investigation, fact-finding and judgment of unfamiliar local matters.

Indeed, the OPM has asked for the federal guidance my bill offers. In recent cases, OPM cited an ANC commissioner (Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner) for violations of the Hatch Act when he ran for higher office, even though ANC commissioners are "elected officials" under local laws. The application of the Hatch Act to ANC commissioners has been selectively enforced by OPM. For example, recently OPM filed cases charging Hatch Act violations against an ANC commissioner running for the D.C. Council but did not file when several members of the current City Council ran for the Council from positions as ANC commissioners. The present law results in possible violation of the federal Hatch Act while leaving OPM with local responsibility that does not implicate its federal jurisdiction.

The House recognized that the present federal Hatch Act jurisdiction over the District was inappropriate and obsolete by removing this federal responsibility several years ago, but the Senate failed to act. The District should bear this local responsibility. My bill will eliminate the double indignity of placing a local burden on the federal government and depriving the District of a responsibility, which only local jurisdictions familiar with local laws can be expected to handle responsibly.

The Hatch Reform Act is the third in the "Free and Equal D.C." series of bills that I have introduced to eliminate anti-Home Rule or redundant bills that deprive the city of equal treatment and recognition as an independent self-governing jurisdiction.

HONORING BRONZE STAR RECIPIENT PAUL BAKER

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 19, 2007

Mr. WALSH of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today in tribute to Mr. Paul Baker, recipient of the prestigious Bronze Star Medal with Combat Distinguishing Device in recognition of his actions on February 19, 1945 at Iwo Jima.

The Battle of Iwo Jima was a crucial victory in World War II against the Japanese. On the morning of February 19th, 1945, the first of 70,000 Marines and Sailors, including Pharmacist's Mate First Class Paul Baker, U.S. Navy, landed on Iwo Jima. By the end of the battle 35 days later, the Allies were victorious, but suffered over 25,000 casualties, including over 5,000 deaths.

On that initial morning of the invasion, Petty Officer Paul Baker, was among the first infantry troops to land on the island. Baker was rendered unconscious by a Japanese artillery shell that struck his ship. Upon regaining consciousness, despite his injuries and without regard for his own safety, Baker began treating multiple injured Marines, refusing medical treatment for his own injuries to save the lives of his fallen comrades. Only after all of the wounded Marines had been transferred to the medical personnel on the USS *Sanborn*, did Petty Officer Baker allow himself to be treated.

Petty Officer Baker displayed the highest level of dedication and selflessness by his courageous actions that day. He is a shining example of the heroism and valor that was displayed by so many of our troops during World War II. On Friday, March 23rd Secretary of the Navy Donald Winter will personally present Mr. Baker with this Bronze Star with Combat "V" at a ceremony in Irondequoit, New York. I am proud to use this opportunity to publicly recognize Mr. Baker and to congratulate him and his family on this long overdue recognition.

A TRIBUTE TO LILIAN KAWARATANI

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 19, 2007

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Lilian Kawaratani, of Monterey Park, California. Each year in March, in recognition of Women's History Month, we pay special tribute to the contributions and sacrifices made by our nation's women.

Lilian was born in Honolulu, Hawaii where she was raised. She enrolled at the University of Hawaii. After completing the Fifth Year Program for Teachers, Lilian left Hawaii for New York where she attended Columbia University Teachers College and received her M.A. in