

highest honor of professional teaching excellence. Only 116 of more than 20,000 teachers in the Clark County School District, less than 1 percent, have earned this distinction.

Mrs. Strand has a long and distinguished career as an educator beginning with a Bachelor's Degree from Bemidji State University and a Master's Degree in Secondary Language Arts from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. She has been an employee of the Clark County School District for 19 years and has spent the past 8 years at Foothill High School as a member of the English Department. Mrs. Strand is also a co-creator with a fellow teacher of Young Entrepreneur Services, Inc., YES, Inc., is a unique company classroom which has been recognized throughout the district for its unique approach to instructing students. This class applies real world business work situations with the necessities of an English class. Mrs. Strand is known by her colleagues as a tireless worker who is both inspiring and relentless in her pursuit of excellence. Joann has made a profound difference in our community and we are most fortunate to have this leadership which positively impacts student achievement.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Joann Strand. Her efforts to improve the educational experiences of the student at Foothill High School are commendable. I congratulate her on her much deserved recognition and I wish her continued success.

A TRIBUTE TO MS. AURORA
BROWN

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 26, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Brooklyn resident Aurora Brown. Ms. Brown is a native New Yorker and a third generation West Indian who sites education as the strength of her lineage. The Amsted's (family name) were the first black school teachers in Virginia. Ms. Brown taught scholastic and college preparatory classes to youth for employment opportunities. Her students have successfully gone on to colleges and universities such as Morehouse, Spelman and Hampton through her mentoring.

As the Chief Executive Officer and Co-Founder of S&B Cleaning Services, Inc., Ms. Brown's mission to incorporate was derived from previous experiences of managing several janitorial companies and being employed by federal affiliates including 26 Federal Plaza, New York, New York.

Ms. Brown received The Council City of New York Proclamation Award in December of 2005 and the Partner in Education Award from the Occupational Training Center of New York in June of 2004. Known for her generosity and fairness when dealing with clients and employees, she makes it her business to oversee personally the human resources development of employing disadvantaged and handicapped individuals.

Ms. Brown's work ethic serves as encouragement for women to venture out and become business owners. She states, "through long hours, trials, and tribulations, moments were grueling, but definitely worth the effort." She also admits the company motto was her

driving force when faced with opposition and adversity. Tedious daily functions of operating a business, she makes time to give to her community as a facilitator of public functions, contributing donations, fundraising for the welfare of child care. Ms. Brown, in conjunction with public officials and local affiliates, has donated toys to the Young Minds Daycare Center for the 2005 holiday season. Her personal choice for donations in 2006 was Family Life Foster Care.

Ms. Brown has others to thank in establishing herself, such as family, friends, and associates, but likes to acknowledge that her Executive Vice-President Edwin Santiago is a key component in the developmental operation of rapid growth of this organization; she also takes pride in acknowledging that her employees are the backbone of S&B Cleaning Services, Inc. There is much more you can expect to see that Ms. Brown has yet to reveal. Just like her company motto "There's not much we don't do."

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize Ms. Aurora Brown for her accomplishments in business.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Ms. Aurora Brown.

HONORING ANDREW WISE

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 26, 2007

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Andrew Wise of the Neighborhood Housing & Development Corporation in Gainesville, Florida.

On Tuesday, March 20, 2007, Andrew Wise was honored with the Dorothy Richardson Awards for Resident Leadership from NeighborWorks America.

Mr. Wise combined his passion for Neighborhood Housing & Development Corporation (NHDC) and his networking skills to recruit a remarkable stream of community, business and educational leaders who have become active in the NHDC organization. NHDC is a non-profit homeownership center that has been in existence since 1982. The organization's goal is to promote and provide decent and affordable housing for low-to-moderate income residents of North Central Florida.

Mr. Wise has been an eloquent NHDC ambassador to the many church, community and civic organizations to which he belongs. Within NHDC, his board tenure and experience have made him the go-to person for new board members—especially community residents—in understanding the array of NHDC programs and their many and varied funding sources. He has been invaluable in helping new members move past this steep learning curve by getting them to focus on the mission of the organization and how its board and staff are so instrumental in transforming lives and uplifting the community.

Created in 1991, the Dorothy Richardson Awards for Resident Leadership celebrate the outstanding contributions of dedicated community leaders across the United States. Each year, the NeighborWorks network honors residents who exemplify the qualities of Dorothy Richardson, a Pittsburgh activist who helped advance the community-based development

movement that informed the formation of the NeighborWorks network.

My congratulations and respect go out to Mr. Wise on his lifetime of work and commitment to earn this award.

HONORING THE CAREER OF
DENNIS GJERDINGEN

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 26, 2007

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, today I wish to recognize and honor a dedicated and innovative educator, Mr. Dennis Gjerdingen, upon his retirement after 26 years as principal of the Clarke School for the Deaf in Northampton, Massachusetts.

Dennis became interested in childhood deafness when, in 1964, he learned that his newborn son was deaf. He trained as a teacher of social studies and English at Minnesota State University, received his masters in Speech and Hearing at Washington University in St. Louis and did post-masters work there in Educational Administration. He spent 14 years at Central Institute for the Deaf in St. Louis, as a classroom teacher, researcher, associate professor, assistant to the director and as headmaster, before coming to Clarke School for the Deaf in 1981. He is the 6th president in Clarke's 140-year history.

Clarke School is an international leader in teaching listening, speech, language and academic skills to deaf children and assisting families and training professionals to work with them. During his tenure, Mr. Gjerdingen has reorganized the Clarke School and its structure to position Clarke for a rapidly changing future. He designed and administered new Clarke programs, including the creation of the Center for Oral Education on the Northampton campus that helps people of all ages with hearing loss. In the last 10 years, Mr. Gjerdingen spearheaded a strategic plan to expand Clarke to 5 campuses with 4 new schools for young children in Boston, MA, Jacksonville, FL, New York City, and Philadelphia, PA. Clarke School for the Deaf now impacts the lives of more than 10,000 children and adults annually through its educational programs, research, curriculum development and professional training.

The author of more than 30 articles in professional journals, Mr. Gjerdingen is widely recognized as an expert in the field. In 1987 he was appointed by Congress to the Commission on the Education of the Deaf that reported directly to Congress and the President. During this appointment, he helped author a report from which major legislation was adopted. He has also served as president of the International Alexander Graham Bell Association.

It is my great privilege to honor Mr. Gjerdingen for his commitment to providing greater educational opportunities for deaf children and their families and professionals around the country.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE
SCHWARTZ FAMILY

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 26, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Schwartz family for their philanthropic efforts in the Jewish Community of Las Vegas and for their many contributions to provide the Las Vegas Valley with a new community center and synagogue.

The Schwartz family, principals of Great American Capital, a real estate development company found in Las Vegas, have been leaders in the development, acquisition, operation and management of high quality commercial and residential real estate projects in Nevada and Southern California. As a result of their civic generosity, the construction of the Beit Allon Chabad of Summerlin Community Center and Synagogue was completed and opened in April of 2006. This facility has emerged as one of the most magnificent synagogues in Las Vegas and includes the finest, up-to-date facilities for education, socializing, and catering affairs. For their humanitarian efforts and community service the Schwartz family is being recognized as inaugural recipients of the Chabad of Summerlin Founder's Award.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor the Schwartz family. Their commitment to the Jewish Community is commendable and I congratulate them on their much deserved recognition. I thank them for their dedication and loyalty and wish them the best in their future endeavors.

A TRIBUTE TO MELINDA JAMES-
DELROSARIO, RN, BSN

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 26, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Brooklyn, New York resident Melinda DelRosario. Melinda DelRosario was born in Panama City in the Republic of Panama. She attended the Instituto Nacional in the Republic of Panama and became the youngest member of the senior choir and usher ministry at Rio Abajo Methodist Church. Upon migrating to the U.S. Ms. DelRosario attended Erasmus High School in Brooklyn, New York. In pursuit of a nursing career she earned a BSN Degree at St. Joseph College in Brooklyn, New York graduating with Phi Beta Kappa honors.

Upon graduation from St. Joseph College, she assumed various administrative positions in home care and hospitals, among them; Kings Brook Jewish Medical Center as an Administrative Supervisor/Administrator on duty.

Currently, Melinda oversees the Nurse Connection Program with Village Care of New York in conjunction with Roche Pharmaceutical Company. Ms. DelRosario is an HIV Nurse and consultant. She also instructs doctors and nurses in the administration of fuzoen therapy for HIV positive patients. In addition, Melinda provides in home instruction to patients and counseling to families.

Besides working as a healthcare provider, Melinda has been a prolific community activist and commonly known for her spirit of cooperation and punctuality. Twenty-five years ago, she became a member of "The Diggers." This is an organization led by Mr. Roman Foster who researched historical facts on the building and construction of the Panama Canal. This research resulted in the production of a documentary which provided narratives and anecdotes with the contributions of West Indians and the Caribbean works in Panama during the Canal's construction.

Melinda James-DelRosario was also a member of the Madison Democratic Club; the former Secretary of the Panamanian Nurses Association and the Caribbean Nurses Association; Travel Coordinator with MIPOPA which is an organization group headed by Dr. Carlos E. Russell which advocates the rights of Panamanians to vote abroad. She is a member of Panama Vote 2004, an organization led by Dr. George Priestly, which raised funds to support the candidacy of President Martin Torrijos and Probisida, an organization dedicated to providing assistance to HIV positive patients.

Melinda is also a civic minded, community oriented individual who embraces the concept of caring and sharing in issues affecting those who have been disenfranchised.

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize Melinda James-DelRosario for her good works and accomplishments in our community.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Melinda James-DelRosario.

TRIBUTE TO THE FIRST ANNUAL
CESAR CHAVEZ MARCH

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 26, 2007

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 20th anniversary of the naming of Chavez Drive and the first annual Cesar Chavez March in my hometown of Flint, Michigan. A celebration and fundraiser for the United Farm Workers members will be held on March 31st to coincide with what would have been the late Cesar Chavez's 80th birthday.

Born on a family farm, March 31, 1927, Cesar Chavez witnessed firsthand the suffering of migrant workers. When the family lost the farm during the Great Depression, Cesar toiled in the fields following crops across the Southwest. After serving in the US Navy during World War II he returned to farm work and began his lifelong commitment to justice for migrant workers.

During the 1960s Cesar Chavez, in reaction to the conditions he witnessed in the fields, became a union activist. Adopting the techniques of industrial unions like the UAW, Cesar fought against agribusiness and unfair laws that forbade farm workers from organizing. A nationwide boycott of table grapes and a 25-day hunger strike brought the United Farm Workers international attention. His leadership and personal commitment forced agribusiness to sign the first union contract with the United Farm Workers. He labored to improve the health and safety of the workers. He fought successfully to end the use of harmful

chemicals like DDT and benefited not only the worker but the consumer as well.

When Cesar Chavez died in 1993, over 40,000 people attended his funeral. In a show of respect for the man who had changed so many lives, our nation posthumously awarded him the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Madam Speaker, Flint, Michigan was the first community in our nation to honor this great humanitarian by naming a street after Cesar Chavez. I ask the House of Representatives to join me in honoring the memory of Cesar Chavez and his legacy to the American people.

U.S. TROOP READINESS, VET-
ERANS' HEALTH AND IRAQ AC-
COUNTABILITY ACT, 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 23, 2007

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1591.

On May 1, 2003, on the U.S.S. *Abraham Lincoln* off the coast of San Diego, President Bush announced to the American public and the world that the mission in Iraq had been accomplished.

Now, nearly 4 years later, our military is still deeply involved in Iraq—with no end in sight.

This spending measure puts pressure on the Iraqi government to follow through on their political and security promises and ensures that our government will take the necessary steps to scale down our military involvement in Iraq.

In fact, it actually gives the Iraqis the leverage they need to push the agenda beyond a military solution.

This legislation may not be the preferred way to end this conflict, but not one good choice remains.

Up until now, Congress has been AWOL in its oversight responsibility. As a result, our military readiness has suffered.

Without this legislation, the readiness and strength of United States military will continue to degrade.

As a member of the House Armed Services Committee, I cannot sit idly by and watch our Army and our National Guard be stretched to the brink.

Nor can we tolerate the strategic risk posed by devoting so much of our military's time, training and equipment to the conflict in Iraq.

Mr. Speaker, without this legislation, the administration will not be held accountable to achieve progress and success.

Now is the time to exert oversight of this conflict and make the difficult, but necessary choice of establishing requirements and expectations.

From the deck of the U.S.S. *Lincoln* President Bush said, "Other nations in history have fought in foreign lands and remained to occupy and exploit. Americans, following a battle, want nothing more than to return home."

Mr. Speaker, Americans have bravely fought for 4 years to protect the United States and bring hope to the people of Iraq. For the sake of our military readiness, international credibility and safety of Americans in harm's way in Iraq, it is time to make plans to bring them home.