

between relatives in Mississippi and Texas. Despite this early hardship, the bright and lively Minnie Belle graduated from the Blue Mountain College boarding school and attended college at the Mississippi State College for Women, where she majored in math and physics. Her senior thesis on "The Talking Machines" included correspondence with Thomas Edison.

After college, Minnie Belle took up the only occupation available to an educated woman in that region and became a schoolteacher. The drop in crop prices following World War I hit Mississippi particularly hard, but Roosevelt's New Deal legislation opened up new opportunities for its residents. Minnie Belle became an extension officer; her job was to inform rural families of the best ways to provide their children with good nutrition. Because of her gender, her employment was never stable, and she traveled from Minneapolis to California to Texas to Mississippi to perform her job, but her "people skills" made her an excellent social worker.

During World War II Minnie Belle, like many other women, went to work in Washington, DC. She was employed by the Department of Agriculture, from which she retired in 1972.

Her volunteer work in Maryland in recent years has been exemplary. The Shepherd's Table and The Clothes Closet were founded to feed and clothe the homeless, and Minnie Belle marshaled the efforts of some 50 volunteers. Confronted with a mountain of donated clothes, she used the size measurements from a Sears catalogue to mark trousers and dresses, and she guided the clients with good humor and common sense. The success of The Shepherd's Table in Maryland and Montgomery County owes much to Minnie Belle McIntosh's involvement.

At 85, Minnie Belle moved into a retirement community, Bedford Court in Silver Spring, Maryland, where she turned her attention to recycling. She quickly whipped the residents into shape, creating an army of recyclers, who dutifully washed out bottles and cans, separated paper trash from garbage, and happily signed up to be floor recycling monitors. She and Bedford Court are recipients of more than a half dozen awards recognizing their efforts.

Her greatest asset, however, besides her persistence, is her interest in people and kindness to all. Even now, as she reaches 100 years, she knows everyone's name and story.

On this special occasion, I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring Minnie Belle McIntosh on her 100th birthday and in recognizing her as a woman of great perseverance, kindness, and accomplishment. I am delighted to wish her a year of good health and happiness and to thank her for her wonderful contributions to our community.

HONORING JOHN HEIBEL

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2007

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to honor John Heibel, who serves as a Storekeeper Second Class Petty Officer in the United States Coast Guard. Recently, Mr. Heibel was awarded Baltimore Area Coast Guard Enlisted Person of the Year.

The Coast Guard requires the recipient of this award to demonstrate pride, professionalism, dedication, and to represent the Coast Guard's core values. Mr. Heibel has excelled in all of these categories, over-qualifying him for this prestigious award.

Mr. Heibel possesses a solid set of leadership skills and he has utilized them in the noblest way possible: serving this country. Throughout his career, Mr. Heibel's leadership skills have propelled him forward. He began as a Seaman Recruit, then moved up to Storekeeper Third Class, and currently serves as Storekeeper Second Class. In all of these positions, Heibel demonstrated a commitment to customer service, setting a respectable example for his colleagues to follow. He continues to challenge himself as a leader by enrolling in Officer Candidate School.

Mr. Heibel has also committed himself to community service, volunteering for several causes and organizations. He has volunteered for the Fort Meade Turkey Donation, helping to prepare turkey dinners for low-income families in the Baltimore area. Heibel also served as a unit Morale representative and organized a series of Morale events. He planned a picnic at a Baltimore Orioles game which featured the ELC color guard in the opening ceremony. Heibel coordinated a private viewing of the movie "The Guardian," an event which produced a significant turn-out. He also helps to fundraise by selling raffle tickets and concessions at Coast Guard softball games.

Mr. Heibel's accomplishments extend into the classroom as well. After earning a bachelor's degree in Business Administration, Heibel has decided to continue his education by pursuing a master's degree. He has enrolled in and completed a series of challenging courses such as Business Calculus and Intermediate Accounting.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join with me today in honoring John Heibel. This outstanding individual will never stop challenging himself and his record of success demonstrates that there is no limit to all he can achieve. Mr. Heibel's aspiration for knowledge, strides as a leader, and service to his country all prove that he is worthy of recognition. Let his outstanding accomplishments serve as an example to us all as we work to improve our communities and our country.

A TRIBUTE TO THE REVEREND DR.
M. JWAHIR BRATHWAITE

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Reverend Dr. M. Jwahir Brathwaite. Dr. Brathwaite is a graduate of the Howard University School of Business and Public Administration, the Howard University Graduate School of Divinity, and the United Theological Seminary. She has also received educational certification from the University of Dayton.

Dr. Brathwaite serves the community as an associate pastor at the Stuyvesant-Heights Christian Church in Brooklyn, New York. Ordained at the Concord Baptist Church of Christ in 1997, Dr. Brathwaite is a Professor of Religious Studies and Holistic Health and

Wellness at the College of New Rochelle's School of New Resources at both the Brooklyn and Harlem Campuses.

Dr. Brathwaite has been a fitness-professional for more than 25 years. She has worked with the YMCA in Brooklyn, New York, Washington, DC, and Memphis, Tennessee. She presently serves her community through the YMCA Bedford-Stuyvesant Branch.

In addition to teaching for the College of New Rochelle, Dr. Brathwaite has taught fitness health and wellness for Catholic University of America in Washington, DC, Shelby State Community College, and the University of Memphis in Tennessee. Dr. Brathwaite has trained International Dance and Exercise Association instructors and several others who have gone on to teach at places such as: the New York State Conservatory Police, colleges and universities, family fitness ministries, and numerous other fitness facilities.

Dr. Brathwaite is the president and founder of Family Fitness Ministries, a ministry focusing on fitness and wellness for churches and their communities. Dr. Brathwaite's training roster includes: Author Zora Neal Hurston; the internationally acclaimed singing group Sweet Honey in the Rock; late film, stage, and television actress Rosland Cash; and a host of Fortune 500 Company professionals.

A Christian broadcaster for more than 20 years, Dr. Brathwaite has carried the healing message of God throughout the community through public speaking and outreach. The world of Christian Broadcasting afforded her the opportunity to work with the National Association of Broadcasters' number one religious radio organization in the country, Salem Communications Corp. She also worked with A&M Records where she represented such gospel recording artists as: Richard Smallwood; Al Green; the Clark Sisters; Reverend Shirley Caesar; Rosie Grier; and Sweet Honey in the Rock.

Dr. Brathwaite has been recognized numerous times for her community involvement and leadership. She has received awards from the National Council of Negro Women, Inc., the Ford Foundation, Outstanding Women of America, John Burroughs Elementary School, and the International Who's Who of Professional Business Women just to name a few.

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize this pillar of our community the Reverend Dr. M. Jwahir Brathwaite for all that she has accomplished.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the Reverend Dr. M. Jwahir Brathwaite.

COMMENDING JACOB WEST

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2007

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Jacob West of Marcus High School for his recognition as a 2007 Presidential Scholar.

The Presidential Scholar Commission honors up to 121 graduating seniors each year for outstanding academic achievement. This award is one of our Nation's highest for high school students. Jacob is being honored as a Presidential Scholar for his exceptional performance on the SAT.

At Marcus High School, Jacob is a member and leader within the Marcus band, who won a State championship this year. He is also involved in the Junior Classical League, the National Honor Society, and other organizations. He has received a plethora of academic awards at Marcus and was a National Merit finalist.

Jacob is a notable example of how the education system in Texas is committed to fostering growth in students and giving them the skills they need to achieve. Congratulations to Jacob, his family, and Marcus High School for this outstanding achievement.

IN RECOGNITION OF MARTIN
VIRSIS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2007

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Martin Virsis for his unwavering dedication and service to the veterans' community of Northeast Ohio.

Martin began his path to success by earning a bachelor's degree at Kent State University and later by receiving his master's degree at Ohio University. As a licensed nursing home administrator, Martin used his talents and implemented his knowledge to manage several nursing facilities in Ohio. His devotion to help others in need continued as he began to offer transportation for those in the community who encountered challenges with mobility due to their disabilities.

As an Army veteran, Martin is no stranger to the sacrifices and the hardships that face those who have courageously served our country, only to come home as unrecognized heroes. Because of Martin's desire to help those who have fought to protect us, it was no surprise when he, Joe Paul and Patricia Cicowicz established Mobil Martin.

Since 1996, Mobil Martin has provided Northeast Ohio veterans with quality service and the recognition they deserve. Each year Mobil Martin makes donations to various charities that benefit the veterans' community and local businesses.

Every June, Mobil Martin provides transportation to Founder's Day, a celebration of the Founder's Path Organization, which gives opportunities to disabled and less fortunate veterans without homes. He also ensures that the transportation needs for the VA Per Diem at 2100 Lakeside Avenue are met. In addition to the multitude of services Mobil Martin provides, Mobil Martin also employs a large percentage of U.S. veterans.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Martin Virsis for his commitment to helping those less fortunate. His integrity and selflessness bring great pride to our community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JULIA CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2007

Ms. CARSON. Madam Speaker, I was unable to record my rollcall votes No. 187, No.

188, and No. 189. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on all three.

A TRIBUTE TO IRVING
FEINARMAN

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2007

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, today I am proud to honor my valiant constituent, Tec. Sgt. Irving Feinarman, as he receives the Jubilee of Liberty Medal for his courageous acts during the Normandy Invasion, and his illustrious legacy of courage throughout World War II.

Mr. Feinarman was drafted at the age of 22 into the army. He trained at Fort Meade, Camp Picket, and Fort Dix before he was sent into combat in North Africa and Sicily. After operations ended in Sicily, he was sent to train in England for the 8 months leading to a great invasion and then, as he put it, "Before I knew it, I was on Omaha Beach on D Day!"

Tec. Sgt. Feinarman was supposed to be part of the second wave on the beach, landing at 6 a.m., but the beach was so overrun, it was difficult to tell the first from the second wave of soldiers. He and his fellow soldiers just kept fighting, cut off from their leadership, and pushing onward until they found themselves fighting in the hedgerows of Normandy.

As the Battle of the Bulge began, Feinarman had been given leave in Paris for a few days. Suddenly, however, all American soldiers were rounded up. He and his compatriots did not know that they were being put back into combat as the Germans were about to start "their big push, trying to get us all out of Europe, period. Giving us everything they had."

Mr. Feinarman was awarded the Bronze Star for his valor in Aachen, Germany. Surrounded by enemy tanks and cut off from the commander of his unit, he volunteered to cross the field and get help. He was shot at, but got through unharmed, and returned with the assistance his company needed.

At the end of the war, Irving Feinarman was the only man from his entire original company—over 200 soldiers—who survived and remained unscathed, an amazing victory itself.

To his family and his lifelong friend Bill Etros, Mr. Feinarman's warmth and laughter are part of every fond memory. With great humility and humor, he insists that he is no hero for his brave actions, that he was only doing his duty. Would that there were some recognition beyond a medal that this country could award Mr. Feinarman who came through the hell of war with a laugh in his heart and a smile on his lips.

I ask my colleagues here in the House of Representatives to join me today in expressing the Nation's gratitude to a brave soldier, Irving Feinarman.

HONORING DAVID K. ISRAEL

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2007

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize David Israel on the occasion of his retirement from teaching. For over 40 years Mr. Israel has served the East Williston School District with passion and commitment. With a degree in English, Mr. Israel graduated magna cum laude from Harvard College, and later received his masters in education from Harvard Graduate School. In 1965 he went to work as an English teacher at the Wheatley School, part of East Williston Union Free School District.

David Israel has been a brilliant asset to his community, to local teachers, to statewide legislators, and to the students he has taught. He became president of the East Williston Teachers' Association in 1980, a position which he holds to this day. Throughout his tenure, he has co-founded the East Williston Teacher's Association Scholarship Foundation, which awards a 4-year scholarship each year to a worthy Wheatley School graduate who intends to become a schoolteacher. Recently he has been elected to the New York State United Teachers as a representative of District 19, comprising the northwestern portion of Nassau County. Not only has Mr. Israel been a valuable member of his community, but he has been a great friend to myself and my staff with his guidance and advice.

The future of this country depends on the hopes and dreams of its children, and our community and our Nation are enhanced by the contributions of passionate and committed teachers like David Israel.

HONORING ROBERT LYNCH

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2007

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and honor one of my constituents, Robert P. Lynch, for his 65 years of service and commitment to the Kensington Volunteer Fire Department.

Mr. Lynch joined the Kensington Volunteer Fire Department in May 1942. Since then, he has served in every appointed and elected position in the fire department, including President, member of the Board of Directors, and Fire Chief, with over 15 years as Assistant Chief for Rescue. He has served as a Delegate or Alternate to the Maryland State Fireman's Association for an astonishing 52 years. Mr. Lynch has served his community at the county, state and national levels for scores of years and served as a Delegate to the Montgomery County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association. He taught emergency care for nearly 20 years and continues to serve on committees and workgroups, playing an active role, attending nearly every function, and participating in every company meeting.

Mr. Lynch retired from the United States Justice Department, where he served since 1941. He earned the American Legion's Citation for Meritorious Service. He was a devoted