

Main Street Program which has provided outstanding and distinguished service to the town of Ukiah, California, and its citizens for 20 years.

Since its founding by Mayor Colleen Henderson in 1987, the Ukiah Main Street Program has given merchants and residents tools to improve neighborhoods and advance redevelopment of the commercial district. Through numerous workshops and consultations with business owners the UMSP has helped make Historic Downtown Ukiah a safe and friendly business district.

Six years later, in 1993, Ukiah was named the number one place to live in California and the sixth best place to live in the United States by Norman Crampton in his book *The 100 Best Small Towns in America*. The recognition brought lots of publicity, and Ukiah was featured in publications around the country.

The UMSP Economic Restructuring Committee has facilitated the openings of dozens of new businesses in the downtown including the Ukiah Brewing Company, the first organic brewpub in California. UMSP produces a map of the historic downtown and directory of businesses that is useful to tourists as well as locals.

The UMSP Design Committee is responsible for beautification projects in the historic downtown. Landscaped planter triangles and painted crosswalks throughout the downtown corridor have helped create a safer and more clearly defined pedestrian area. Trees were planted and are maintained in the adjacent Alex Thomas Plaza, a place for many events and community gatherings. UMSP installed decorative lighting in the trees to enhance the ambiance and walkability of downtown at night.

The Ukiah Main Street Program began many popular community events including the Annual Country Pumpkin Fest, Winter Wonderland, Taste of Downtown, Thursday Night Farmers Market, Fabulous Flashback Car Show, Cinco de Mayo Festival, North Coast Express Bike Race, Home for the Holidays, Moonlight Movie Madness, Downtown Halloween, Deep Valley Brew Tasting, Comedy Alley and First Night Ukiah. These events attract locals and visitors alike who enjoy the amenities of small town life and neighborliness.

UMSP created a mini-park in the parking lot adjacent to the post office and started the Standley Street demonstration block façade improvement program that spurred refurbishment and façade improvement on 38 downtown properties with an investment of roughly \$713,441 in public and private funds. In addition nearly 2 million dollars have been raised by the UMSP, which is organized as a non-profit with a dedicated volunteer board of directors composed of the community's business leaders.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to enter my remarks honoring the Ukiah Main Street Program for two decades of exemplary successes, making it a model of public and private partnership.

# REGIONAL ACADEMIC ALL-STAR TEAM FROM THE PENNYROYAL REGION IN WESTERN KENTUCKY

## HON. ED WHITFIELD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 24, 2007*

Mr. WHITFIELD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize nominees for the Regional Academic All-Star Team from the Pennyroyal region in western Kentucky. The regional academic All-Star program's purpose is to recognize top academic scholars and performers.

Students from Caldwell, Christian, Trigg and Todd Counties of Kentucky were nominated based upon their academic performance in seven disciplines: English, foreign language, journalism, mathematics, science, social studies and the creative and performing arts. The students are judged on their core academic score, the curriculum of the student, their grade point average, academic honors earned, unique accomplishments and achievements, extracurricular activities, both school related and outside school activities, employment history, and an autobiographical essay.

Madam Speaker, education is the foundation upon which we reach our human potential. Students in my district are developing their talents, furthering their education and pursuing their aspirations in life through programs like the Academic All-Star program. Encouragement and recognition develop confidence and achievement among young Americans—the future leaders of our country.

The following students have been nominated for their academic excellence:

William Cole Davis, Emily Faulkner, Rachel Marie Furnas, Britni Kay Holder, Stephen R. Incata, Adrian Leigh Nelson, Darian Goldin Stahl, Kelsey Leigh Willen, John David Fourqurean II, Erika Michelle Kirby, Andrew Boyd Newton, Prentice Kyle Robertson, Alexandria Frances Soyk, Jessica Lynn Stallons, Kyle Andrew Winn, Ashlee Castle, Taylor Elizabeth Cline, Kyle Raymond Cobb, Crystal Jo Fishburn, Sarah Joy Galloway, Morgan Michelle Milburn, Matthew Franklin Morse, William Thomas Noel, Philip Allen, Brittney Ann Beebe, Elizabeth Hope Chester, Hykeem M. Craft, Kelsey Elizabeth Lewis, Adrian Leigh Nelson, Clayton Alan Sanderson, Catherine Clark Smith, Millie Beth Deason, Hayla Joi Frye, Clara Elizabeth Heisterberg, Kelsie Marie Nelson, Seth Thomas Riker II, Ami Prakash Shah, Samantha Danielle Adams, Shaena Maria Godwin, Brianna Rose McGuire, Kevin M. McLendon, Joshua Lee Robinson, Paula Lynn Southall, Robert Zachary Thompson, Cameron Ross Williams, Barron Stewart Adams, Benjamin Charles Boden, Carrie Louise Burks, Adam Blake Humphries, Bonnie McCullagh, Margaret Oats, Laura Don Oliver, Robert Joseph Williams, Jr., James Tyler Chapman, Skye Lynn Darnell, Emily Paige Doss, Danbee Mishell Kim, Michael Lee Mason, Heather Nicole Moore, Rebecca Schultz, Amy Ja-Le Weatherford, Kelsey Jo Brown, Cahle Buckingham, Zach C. Gaines, Lester W. Gibbs, Jessica Hanks, Cori Hatley, Meaghan Ann Key, Ashley Matlock, Matthew Kyle Spencer, Rebecca Vargas, Cassie M. Whitt, Craig Hodge, Donovan Kates, Eunbee Grace Kim, Mary Gayle Martin, Shelby Martin, Tess Miller, Ryan Michael Russell, James Sears, Nicki Seay, Matt Treadway,

Joseph E. Williams, Jr., Taylor Bennett, Chesika J. Crump, Sarah Curasco, Meagen Dunleavy, Dean France, Daniel Joiner, Griffin Lee Joiner, Kristen Sarene Kursave, Kaitlynn Pritchett, Hayley Stewardson, Mallory Taylor, Russell V. Buzzard, Kaylin Dilbeck, Mara Lynn East, Cory Fish, Cody Grinnell, Rachel Marie Hampton, Brenden Hoffman, Sean Hurd, Russell Jones, Austin C. Norrid, Joel Ben Thomas.

Madam Speaker, these students embody the spirit, commitment and sacrifice that we all should strive for in our daily lives. I am proud to represent them in my District. I extend my thanks to these students for their efforts, and I am proud to bring their accomplishments to the attention of this House.

# INTRODUCTION OF THE NATIONAL OFFSHORE AQUACULTURE ACT OF 2007

## HON. NICK J. RAHALL, II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 24, 2007*

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing by request the Administration's National Offshore Aquaculture Act of 2007. This bill would authorize the Secretary of Commerce to establish and implement a regulatory system for offshore aquaculture in the United States Exclusive Economic Zone.

I commend Secretary Carlos Gutierrez for his leadership, and initiating the debate on aquaculture. While I do not agree with many provisions in this legislation, I think it is important for Congress to take a serious look at marine aquaculture and see if it is possible to establish a program that makes economic and environmental sense.

At the moment, there are no aquaculture projects in U.S. Federal waters, but there are successful farming operations onshore. In my state, West Virginians are successfully raising arctic char, a fish tasting similar to salmon.

The Department of Commerce believes aquaculture has the potential to meet our growing demand for seafood. The United States imports more than 80 percent of its seafood, and half of our imports are fish farmed. With a successful aquaculture program in place, the United States could reduce its \$8 billion trade deficit in seafood, according to the recent report from the Marine Aquaculture Task Force. Additionally, aquaculture could help alleviate the overfishing and exploitation of fisheries world wide.

The aquaculture industry claims the United States is technologically and economically ready to venture into offshore waters to farm fish. Done responsibly, with strict environmental standards, offshore aquaculture has the potential to address the growing demand for seafood, provide jobs, relieve pressure on some of our wild fish stocks, and perhaps even help to replenish some depleted fish stocks.

Again, I commend Secretary Gutierrez for his leadership and look forward to working with him to ensure that offshore aquaculture production occurs in a manner that is both economically and environmentally sustainable.

As we have heard from both national ocean commissions, the oceans are in trouble. We must be very careful that offshore aquaculture

does not further jeopardize the health of our oceans in any way.

IN TRIBUTE TO STAFF SGT. JESSE WILLIAMS OF SANTA ROSA, CALIFORNIA WHO WAS KILLED IN IRAQ

### HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 24, 2007*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to observe the death of Staff Sergeant Jesse Williams of Santa Rosa, California. Jesse was a fine man and a fine soldier, and he leaves behind a loving family bowed but not broken by the loss of a father, husband, and son.

Sgt. Williams was serving his second tour with the 5th Battalion, 20th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division at the time of his death during combat operations in Baqubah, in eastern Iraq.

Before and during his tours in Iraq, Sgt. Williams had served in the army with distinction, earning numerous accolades and awards. During his first tour in Iraq from 2003–2004 he earned a Purple Heart after being injured in an explosive attack. Then, just three weeks before his death, Sgt. Williams proved his uncommon character and valor when he jumped in to rescue two fellow soldiers who were trapped in a flaming vehicle ignited by an insurgent attack. For his heroism he is currently being considered for a Bronze Star.

Sgt. Williams was known to friends and family for his sense of humor and love of life. As a younger man, he found discipline and his calling when he joined the Boy Scouts. In less than 2 years he had completed all the requirements to become an Eagle Scout, indicating the highest level of achievement. During a leave from the Army, he returned to Santa Rosa and spoke to the City Council in favor of establishing a memorial for Sonoma County's Iraq veterans. At the time, he made a strong impression with his words; now his name will be one of those featured on the memorial.

Sgt. Williams leaves behind his wife Sonya, and an 11-month old daughter Amaya. Amaya was 5 weeks old when Sgt. Williams was deployed to Iraq for his second tour of duty. His father, Herb Williams, resides in Santa Rosa as well.

On Monday the community of Santa Rosa paused to acknowledge their fallen soldier as hundreds of policemen, firefighters and members of the community took to bridges and overpasses with signs and flags while his casket was brought back into the city. Yesterday, almost one thousand people gathered for a memorial service paying tribute to his life.

Madam Speaker, at this time I ask that my colleagues join me in rising to pay tribute to Staff Sergeant Jesse Williams, who gave his life for his country. I know that his family is immensely proud of his service, and we are all in his debt.

EXPRESSING SORROW OF THE HOUSE AT THE DEATH OF THE HONORABLE JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD, MEMBER OF CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

SPEECH OF

### HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 23, 2007*

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, I come to the floor today with a heavy heart. The passing of the Honorable JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD is being felt by all who knew her, and all who were touched by her career in public service. I want to extend my condolences to her family, friends and constituents in California's 37th District for their great loss.

In fact, we all have lost something in the Chairwoman's passing. For me, I lost a colleague, but my wife Annette and I also have lost a neighbor and friend.

Much has been said in these past days about what she meant to California and to the Congress as a whole. When she won her first election to the City Council of Carson, California, she committed herself to more than two decades of public service. As the first African-American woman to chair a committee here in the House, she was a trailblazer. And as the so-called "Mayor of Capitol Hill" she was charged with ensuring the smooth operation of the people's House, while overseeing the biggest expansion of the Capitol complex as the Capitol Visitors Center nears completion.

Madam Speaker, many of us are so busy that we don't have time to really get to know one another. Seeing JUANITA every morning on my way to the office was an extraordinary way to start off my day, and in the evening we would compare notes on our way home. I will truly miss seeing her and am heart broken by her untimely passing.

Congress has lost a singularly able and warm person whose contributions to the greater good for her District, the people of California, the country as a whole, and African-American women will live on. Our prayers are with her family as we all mourn the passing of Chairwoman JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD.

HONORING ROGER DENNIS ON HIS RETIREMENT

### HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 24, 2007*

Mr. ANDREWS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Roger Dennis who is retiring as Provost of Rutgers University. Roger has been a member of the Camden Campus community in Camden, New Jersey for almost a quarter of a century, and I consider him a dear friend.

Roger has greatly contributed to the reputation of excellence at Rutgers University. Serving as Provost since 1997, he fostered exciting developments in the City of Camden and the Southern New Jersey region. Among these initiatives are the Rutgers-Camden Technology Campus, the Senator Walter Rand Institute for Public Affairs, and the first doctoral program in children's studies to be of-

fered on the Camden Campus. He has also spearheaded several ongoing improvements to the existing campus.

Madam Speaker, I offer my congratulations to Roger Dennis for his outstanding years of service to Rutgers University and the City of Camden. Roger has been a trusted friend and I thank him for his support and advice over the years. I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

HONORING UNITED WAY OF BUCKS COUNTY

### HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 24, 2007*

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize an organization dedicated to improving volunteer service, United Way of Bucks County. The selfless work of the volunteers of United Way has made us a stronger community in countless ways.

For more than 50 years, United Way has been devoted to improving the community at large through the use of social services and volunteer projects. Upon its founding in 1952, it was known as "The Bucks County United Services Foundation." Since then, it has exceeded its own expectations, surpassing its own fundraising goals and touching more lives than was originally thought possible.

Today, United Way of Bucks County strives to spread its impact to the greatest number of people. Funding is distributed to three fundamental categories: ages and life stages, promoting self-sufficiency, and building a healthy community. The services of the organization extend to one in three Bucks County residents, and have forever changed the lives of many.

Madam Speaker, simply put, the work done by United Way of Bucks County touches the lives of thousands of families. The generosity of its members reminds us of the basic giving spirit of Americans. The inner strength and compassion of humanity is exemplified in these outstanding volunteers.

The work of United Way of Bucks County has provided scholarships for daycare and camps, dignity for the elderly, stability and friendship for those who need it most and employment and training for the developmentally disabled. Most importantly, however, they have offered hope and extended a hand to those who most need help.

Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to rise today to congratulate, thank and honor United Way of Bucks County for years of philanthropic contributions to society and for making our community stronger.

NINETY-SECOND COMMEMORATION OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

SPEECH OF

### HON. MICHAEL R. McNULTY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 23, 2007*

Mr. McNULTY. Mr. Speaker, I join today with many of my colleagues in remembering the victims of the Armenian Genocide.