

wishing him well as he begins his service to the Nation.

RECOGNIZES THE ACADEMY AT
THE FARM SCHOOL FOR EDU-
CATIONAL SUCCESS

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 9, 2007

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Academy at the Farm School, a Pasco County, Florida charter school that is being recognized for academic achievement at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. The Center for Education Reform has selected the School as an Exemplary Charter School for the past year. The Academy at the Farm School is one of six from Florida, 53 nationwide, and was chosen from over 4 thousand eligible charter schools.

Founded in 2002 as an inclusion school for exceptional student education students, the School is designed to place these gifted students in a regular classroom setting. In addition to its focus on academic success, the School also focuses on learning about the environment.

One of the most successful institutions in Florida, the School has a grade of A and has met 100 percent of the criteria required for adequate yearly progress. Additionally, it was one of only four schools in Pasco County to have achieved adequate yearly progress. With a student to faculty ratio of only six to one, there is a strong focus on individual teaching and learning. All the teachers at the School are certified, with 30 percent of them having advanced degrees and a total of over 225 years experience.

The Academy received a letter from former Florida Governor Jeb Bush recognizing the fourth graders as one of the top 100 elementary schools in the State for improvements in writing. They also received a letter from Governor Bush for being named one of the top 50 combination schools in the State that made the most year-to-year progress.

As is the case with many successful educational institutions, the Academy at the Farm School is headed up by strong leaders and administrators. Dr. Michael Rom, the School Administrator, is the former Provost at Pasco Hernando Community College and is highly respected in the education and professional world. He and the seven teachers attending the event in Washington were original staff members of the Academy and have continued their commitment to Pasco County children and families.

Madam Speaker, educational leaders like Dr. Rom and the teachers at the Academy at the Farm School should be recognized for their outstanding accomplishments. Their record of success has proven them worthy of being named an Exemplary Charter School by the Center for Education Reform. I congratulate them on the award and know that they will continue to focus on educational achievement into the future.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF
CHESTER ALEXANDER HUNT, SR.

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 9, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, the city of Fairhope and indeed the entire State of Alabama recently lost a dear friend, and I rise today to honor him and pay tribute to his memory. Chester Alexander Hunt, Sr., was an institution at Fairhope's Grand Hotel, serving as a waiter, concierge, official greeter, and historian for more than 60 years.

A native of Jackson, Mississippi, Mr. Hunt spent most of his life in Fairhope with his wife of 65 years, Mary Lewis Hunt, who passed away in February of this year.

On April 18, 1941, Mr. Hunt began his career at the Grand Hotel. He left the hotel to serve in the Army during World War II and returned after the war ended. During his time at the Grand Hotel, Chester welcomed countless guests to the 160-year-old hotel, including former President George H.W. Bush, Secretary of State Colin Powell, former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, Dolly Parton, and Bo Jackson.

It goes without saying that Mr. Hunt was well known throughout southwest Alabama. He conducted regular history tours for the guests and special tours for groups. In 1998, Chester was awarded the hotel chain's J.W. Marriott Award of Excellence.

In addition to his service at the Grand Hotel, Mr. Hunt owned an insurance company in Fairhope for more than 20 years and served on the Eastern Shore Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a truly wonderful man, a dedicated community leader and friend to many throughout south Alabama. Chester Alexander Hunt will be deeply missed by his family—his children, Jan Marie Coleman, Julius Hunt, Chester A. Hunt, Jr., Tyrone Hunt, and Kerry Hunt; his brother, Cecil Hunt; 8 grandchildren; and 10 great grandchildren—as well as the countless friends he leaves behind. Our thoughts and prayers are with them all at this difficult time.

IN CELEBRATION OF THE 60-YEAR
ANNIVERSARY OF THE 16 ACRE
LIONS CLUB

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 9, 2007

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, I wish to celebrate the accomplishments of the 16 Acre Lions Club as well as their 60 years of service to the great city of Springfield, Massachusetts. Below is a brief history of the Club as well as their many accomplishments.

The Springfield 16 Acres Lions Club began on April 25, 1947. The Club's charter night occurred on June 18, 1947. In the beginning, the meetings were held in various buildings, including Belle's, the Old School House, and the Foster Memorial Church. During the 1950s, the Club presented movies for the community in the School House for the price of a dime.

All children were welcomed and no child was ever refused for lack of a dime.

Another hallmark of the Club during the 1950s, was the establishment of the Lions Orthopedic Clinic, established by Russell Koch (a past President of the Club) in 1951. The patients of the Clinic were referred by local ophthalmologists and were charged a fee according to their ability to pay. Today the facility remains open and is currently located on Maple Street in downtown Springfield.

Fred Hoare, a past District Governor, formed the sports program. The program included events for soccer, basketball, softball, as well as baseball. The Club held a soccer tournament every year on Memorial Day weekend, with teams from as far away as Virginia participating.

For the past 37 years, the Club has provided food baskets for needy families during the Christmas season. This is coordinated through the local churches. Along with food, presents for children are also included. Money to support this effort has been raised through a raffle ticket sale during the month of November.

The Club has also provided glaucoma and diabetic testing for the community. Eyeglasses as well as eye exams for those in need were provided free of charge through authorized facilities. Other charitable events included an annual Easter egg hunt held the Saturday before Easter at Greenleaf Park. Six local elementary schools participate in the Easter egg hunt every year. The Club also organizes a pancake breakfast at St. Catherine's on Park Street. The proceeds are used for scholarships for graduating high school seniors.

The Club also raises money for funding of the 33Y Lions District Eye Mobile. The mobile will be a fully equipped Winnebago for the testing of diabetes, high blood pressure, and glaucoma. The mobile will be equipped with a special camera to take photos of the retina. The camera will also be equipped with a fax machine that will send the photos to the Massachusetts Eye and Ear in Boston for analysis. This project has taken over eight years to complete and I am happy to report that it will be available this summer for use in any Lions Club in Western Massachusetts.

Fifteen years ago the Club began its participation of a beautification project in the center of 16 Acres. This project was headed by Lion Richard Messier and is now run by Mr. Richard Pond. The Club formed a committee in order to have a Lions Park at the corner of Wilbraham Road and Park Street. Members of the Club contribute by cutting grass, cleaning up the leaves, and planting flowers every spring for the Veterans on Memorial Day. They also place Christmas decorations including a lighted train. The Club has so far spent \$3,500 dollars in order to keep the park beautiful.

Our Club has produced four District Governors. The late Robert Scott, Richard Leary, and Fred Hoare have served in this capacity. PDG John Ingalls is still active in the 16 Acres Club. These four men are held in high regard and are well respected for their accomplishments.

Lastly, it is important to note that the success of the many projects that this Club has undertaken is due to the dedication of its members. Lions truly demonstrate their motto, "We Serve."

PAYING TRIBUTE TO RYAN
PECKHAM

HON. JON C. PORTER—

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 9, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Ryan Peckham, who has distinguished himself as an outstanding and devoted professional in his field as a Registered Nurse.

Ryan Peckham has been a Registered Nurse at Summerlin Hospital for three years. Since arriving at Summerlin Hospital as a New Grad RN, Ryan has excelled both as an outstanding nurse and patient advocate. In his three years, he has worked on several committees to help improve patient care and employee life in Southern Nevada including acting as the lead for a committee that overhauled the Triage process in the Emergency Department. Ryan's actions as a key member of this committee were instrumental to implementing new procedures that have helped save countless lives in the Southern Nevada community. He has also worked diligently to make Summerlin Hospital an employer of choice, not only by increasing the desire for Registered Nurses to work at Summerlin Hospital, but by also helping patients receive the highest quality care. Due to his demonstrated proficiency as a Registered Nurse, Ryan has recently been named a Charge Nurse.

Ryan is the epitome of professionalism and dedication. He has contributed to nursing as a whole in many different aspects. He maintains the belief that nursing is an attitude rather than a job.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to recognize Ryan Peckham. His professional expertise and caring nature have greatly enriched the lives of those in the Las Vegas community. I commend Ryan for his efforts and commitment to his patients and to our community.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF MICHAEL W. HAMPTON ON HIS APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND THE UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 9, 2007

Mr. GILLMOR. Madam Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to an outstanding young man from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. I am happy to announce that Michael W. Hampton of Waterville, Ohio has been offered an appointment to attend the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

Michael's offer of appointment poises him to attend the United States Naval Academy this summer with the incoming midshipmen class of 2011. Attending one of our Nation's military academies is an invaluable experience that offers a world-class education and demands the very best that these young men and women have to offer.

Michael brings an enormous amount of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming class at the Naval Academy. While at-

tending Anthony Wayne High School in Whitehouse, Ohio, Michael attained a grade point average which placed him at the top of his class. While a gifted athlete, Michael has maintained the highest standards of excellence in his academics, choosing to enroll and excel in Advanced Placement classes throughout high school. Michael has been a member for the National Honor Society, Honor Roll and has earned awards and accolades as a scholar and an athlete.

Outside the classroom, Michael has distinguished himself as an excellent student-athlete. On the fields of competition, Michael has earned varsity letters in track, swimming and cross country. He was named Captain of the Varsity Cross Country team and served as President of the German Club. Michael's dedication and service to the community and his peers have proven his ability to excel among the leaders at the Naval Academy. I have no doubt that Michael will take the lessons of his student leadership with him to Annapolis.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Michael W. Hampton on his appointment to the United States Naval Academy. Our service academies offer the finest military training and education available anywhere in the world. I am sure that Michael will do very well during his career at the Naval Academy and I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing him well as he begins his service to the Nation.

RECOGNIZING SHAWN GRAYBILL

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 9, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Shawn Graybill, a very dedicated and enthusiastic member of my Congressional staff. My office and I greatly value Shawn's hard work and commitment. Constituents have grown to recognize his attention to detail, knowledge of many issues and personal touch. His dedication to the Sixth District of Missouri has shown through over the years, which is evident by the appreciation of all with whom he works.

A native of Tarkio, Shawn began his career within my office as an intern in June of 2002 while completing his undergraduate degree from Park University. He has served admirably whether it was working on constituent case-work or as a field representative for Clay County.

Shawn also worked on my re-election campaign as my campaign manager. As anyone in politics knows, these types of jobs involve long hours and time away from your family. I appreciate his wife, Laura, for sharing her husband with me over the last 5 years.

Shawn will be leaving my office to serve as an Assistant Director for the American Truck Historical Society. In addition, Shawn and Laura are about to become first-time parents. It is my understanding that their daughter will share the name of my favorite President, Ronald Reagan.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in congratulating Shawn Graybill for his many important contributions to myself, my staff, all those he has worked with and for all those he has served. It is truly an honor to

represent Shawn in the United States Congress.

RECOGNIZES THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE'S AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE AND SUBTROPICAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH STATION'S PRESENCE IN THE STATE OF FLORIDA

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 9, 2007

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the United States Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service and Subtropical Agricultural Research Station (STARS) in Brooksville, FL. for the past seventy-five years, STARS has worked in cooperation with the University of Florida to improve animal production. Their hard work to develop superior animal production systems for the subtropical regions of the United States has established them as leaders in beef cattle and water quality research.

STARS began in 1932 with nearly 2,100 acres as a gift to the Federal Government by Colonel and Mrs. Raymond Robins. The STARS program would eventually grow to its current size of 3,800 acres and produce significant research for the categorization and conservation of tropically adapted beef cattle. Their current projects include environmentally focused analysis that will help determine the impact of the cattle on the waters of Florida and their sustainability.

Given its status as the only station located in the South, the STARS program remains a unique and significant research facility. This is extremely significant because of the fact that nearly 40 percent of the entire Nation's cattle herd is located in the southern United States. STARS also serves as a satellite repository to the National Animal Germplasm Program for tropically adapted beef cattle.

Madam Speaker, I applaud all the men and women who have contributed to the success of the STARS program over the past seventy-five years. These individuals exemplify how working tirelessly on animal production and water quality research can greatly enhance the quality of life for America. This program continues to enhance scientific knowledge of beef cattle, and I commend those involved for their efforts to produce research at the forefront of American agriculture.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE NATIONAL SMALL BUSINESS ASSOCIATION'S 70TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 9, 2007

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today on the floor of the House of Representatives to honor the National Small Business Association (NSBA) as it celebrates its 70th anniversary. This first-rate organization currently reaches more than 150,000 small-business