

individual student achievement and progress. Constantly interacting with students, parents, colleagues, and administrators, Mrs. Waller works collaboratively to ensure the academic success and social development of her students.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join with me today to honor Leah Waller in her acceptance of the 2007–2008 Baltimore City Teacher of the Year Award. Her legacy as a dedicated, enthusiastic educator will be forever remembered by the grateful students who walk through her classroom doors. It is with great pride that I congratulate Leah Waller on her exemplary career in education and her outstanding performance at Maree G. Farring Elementary School in Baltimore City.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2008

Mr. WELLER of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to enter into the RECORD votes I would have cast had I been present for rollcall votes 361 through 369. I was absent on part of the day Thursday, May 22, and Tuesday, June 3, due to personal reasons.

If I were present I would have voted “nay” on rollcall vote 361, “nay” on rollcall vote 362, “nay” on rollcall vote 363, “yea” on rollcall vote 364, “yea” on rollcall vote 365, “yea” on rollcall vote 366, “yea” on rollcall vote 367, “yea” on rollcall vote 368, and “yea” on rollcall vote 369.

GUYANA’S 42ND BIRTHDAY: MUCH TO CELEBRATE, QUITE A LOT TO HOPE FOR

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Guyana’s 42nd anniversary of independence.

Guyana achieved independence on May 26, 1966, and became the Co-operative Republic of Guyana on February 23, 1970, with a new constitution. Guyana is a located on the northern coast of South America between Venezuela, Brazil, and Suriname. It is the lone English-speaking nation on the South American mainland, a country of 83,000 square miles, dense tropical forests, and 800,000 people.

This former British colony is rich in human resources, bauxite, gold and arable land. The young country had promising expectations but success was not immediately attained. In fact, Guyana, at times, is described as one of the poorest countries in the Western Hemisphere and qualifies for debt concessions through the global initiative to reduce burden on the world’s highly indebted poor countries.

After years of economic decline, failure to maintain its infrastructure, political conflict between Afro and Indo Guyanese, Guyana’s largest ethnic groups, and factors that fueled an exodus of its brightest, the country needed reform. Today, it is rebuilding both its econ-

omy and infrastructure and with prospects of finding large deposits of oil, Guyana now has the potential for growth and prosperity expected of it since the 1960s.

Guyana still faces many obstacles today. Earlier this year, two massacres took the lives of more than 20 men, women and children but a period of relative calm has followed. Yes, crime and violence remain a serious problem as they do elsewhere in the Caribbean.

The latter is the dichotomous image that Guyana presents to the world as it celebrates its 42nd anniversary of independence.

As a member of the international community, Guyana has made important contributions to the resolutions of major conflicts around the world through its participation in the United Nations Security Council, in the Organization of American States, on the World Court and in other global bodies.

This anniversary offers us an occasion to thank the people of Guyana for their strength, their courage, and their contributions to our global community. So, on this anniversary of independence, I stand in camaraderie with the Guyanese people to celebrate and appreciate the growth and change of Guyana.

CONGRATULATING TEXAS’ EXEMPLARY CHILDREN’S HOSPITALS

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2008

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the outstanding accomplishments of our leading Texas hospitals. Texas Children’s Hospital in Houston, Children’s Medical Center in Dallas, Children’s Cancer Hospital at M.D. Anderson in Houston, and Cook Children’s Medical Center in Fort Worth were recently recognized as among our nation’s top hospitals by U.S. News and World Report.

Texas Children’s Hospital in Houston was ranked sixth in the country in general pediatrics, third in heart surgery, and in the top five of several other specialties. Cook Children’s Medical Center in Fort Worth was ranked 29th nationwide for its respiratory disorders specialty. Children’s Medical Center in Dallas was ranked 15th among cancer specialties, and ranked in the Top 30 on four other categories as well, including General Pediatrics and Digestive Disorders. Children’s Cancer Hospital at M.D. Anderson in Houston was ranked 21st among cancer specialties.

The U.S. News rankings were based on surveys of pediatricians, outcome of patient care including surgeries, and care-related measures including nurse staffing, availability of important technologies, and patient volume.

As a physician, it is inspiring to see that the medical profession, and specifically the hospitals and doctors serving Texas, are so adamantly dedicated to their service and are able to provide such exceptional care to our nation’s children. Health care affects every facet of our lives, and America’s devotion to innovation and advancements in medicine is vital in maintaining our position as having the best health care system in the world.

Madam Speaker, it is with honor today that I rise and extend my sincerest congratulations to these outstanding children’s hospitals in

Texas. It is my hope that they will continue to lead the way in pediatric care, maintaining the discipline, focus, and compassion that has earned them their reputations for excellence.

TRIBUTE TO MR. CORNELIUS ALLEN

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2008

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute Mr. Cornelius Allen who passed away on May 28, 2008; and an individual whom I learned was my cousin a few years ago.

Madam Speaker, Cornelius Allen was one of the friendliest and most delightful persons I have known. Cornelius was born on October 13, 1928, in Gary, Indiana to the parentage of Mr. Diston and Mrs. Addie P. Allen. Mr. Allen attended high school at Oakwood Academy in Huntsville, Alabama; graduating with the class of 1947. He was then drafted into the United States Army and served as a private first class until honorable discharged in 1952, and remained in the reserve until 1957.

In 1955, Cornelius joined the Chicago Transit Authority and quickly became an Ambassador of Goodwill as he often spoke with passengers and exhibited friendship to school children. After thirty years of loyal service to the Chicago Transit Authority, Mr. Allen retired and spent the rest of his life doing good deeds.

Cornelius Allen was a real proponent of education and encouraged young people to take advantage of every educational opportunity available to them. He was family centered and exhibited great pride in family history, tradition and unity.

To Cornelius’s closest relatives, Dell Allen and wife Debbie, his daughters Addie Allen, grandchildren, Marcus Allen, Dell ‘Rome’ Allen, Justus Cornelius Allen Pugh, great grandchildren Cameron Allen, Lyndon Allen and Lucas Allen; his brother Ray Shepherd and Rosenwald (Eunice) Allen Sr. and his sister, Mary Ann Guyton, I say you have been blessed to have such a great soul to be an intimate part of your life.

Cornelius was a good man whose footsteps were ordered by the Lord and just as he brought joy to your lives, he brought joy to countless others.

May he rest in peace.

IN HONOR OF DR. DAVID HALE, A 2008 HEALTH CARE HERO OF MINNESOTA

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2008

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. David Hale, Chief of Staff and ER Medical Director at Woodwinds Health Campus, for being named a 2008 Health Care Hero by the Twin Cities Business Magazine. A modern day hero not only in his community, but as far away as Iraq, Dr. Hale’s selfless service and dedication to his work

have earned him the respect and admiration of his patients and colleagues spread throughout the world.

Dr. David Hale has earned the reputation as a giant in his field. In fact, one distinguished colleague has even said, "The world is a better place because of Dr. Hale." After hearing his long record of accomplishment, you will surely agree.

As an emergency medicine physician, Dr. Hale is known for his caring and compassionate demeanor towards patients and for his leadership in hospital patient services. Some suggest he is the reason Woodwinds receives some of the highest patient satisfaction scores not only in Minnesota, but across the country.

If that was not enough, Dr. Hale is a Major in the Minnesota National Guard and has completed two tours of duty in Iraq. Among his military honors, Dr. Hale earned a Bronze Medal Star in March 2007, an Army Commendation Medal in March 2005, an Army Achievement Medal in August 2003, a National Defense Service Medal, a Global War on Terror Expeditionary Medal and many other awards for his outstanding military service.

Even more amazing are the contributions he has made on the humanitarian front during his time in Iraq. During his first tour of duty, Dr. Hale started an international humanitarian effort to teach basic medical care to Iraqis, a program that still exists today. During his second tour in Iraq, he expanded his efforts to provide 400 first aid kits and midwife kits to Iraqi women and children, a gesture well received by Iraqi villagers and soldiers alike.

Now back in Minnesota, Dr. Hale is focused on helping veterans returning home from war, many of whom suffered traumatic injuries on the battlefield.

Madam Speaker, it is my honor to rise today to celebrate Dr. David Hale's extraordinary and selfless career of service. His contributions to his community, the state of Minnesota, and the country of Iraq make him a distinguished patriot, and make us all proud to be Americans. I stand today and join his family, friends, and colleagues in wishing him a long and successful career.

IN RECOGNITION OF HIGHLAND
PARK TOWN ADMINISTRATOR
GEORGE PATTERSON

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2008

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Highland Park Town Administrator George Patterson.

After graduating from Texas Tech University, he began his public service career as an Administrative Aide with the City of Lubbock. He then moved on to become the City Manager for Pecos City and Snyder before accepting the position of Town Administrator with Highland Park in 1979. George will be retiring on June 24, 2008 with twenty-nine years of dedicated service to Highland Park.

During his tenure, he has carefully managed and led his staff by example. With his vision and leadership skills, Highland Park is a better and safer community. His commitment to public service extended beyond the workplace. He is actively involved in numerous professional

and community organizations such as the Texas City Managers Association and the Rotary Club. George leaves a legacy of civic duty that will be greatly missed.

Madam Speaker, I ask my esteemed colleagues to join me in expressing our best wishes to him and his family on this special day.

IN RECOGNITION OF RYAN
STEWART

HON. BILL SALI

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2008

Mr. SALI. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Ryan Stewart of Boise, ID.

Ryan is representing Idaho as youth governor during the annual YMCA National Youth Governors' Conference here in Washington, DC.

I am proud of Ryan's commitment and involvement in this program. Ryan was elected youth governor after campaigning in Idaho's youth and government program. This is a hands-on program dedicated to educating high school students on how state government operates. Ryan participated in a Regional Convention giving speeches and ultimately being elected to his current position.

I am honored to take the opportunity to recognize Ryan. His involvement in the YMCA program is a great way for him to learn how our government functions. Ryan is an example to his peers and I wish him all the best for a successful year as youth governor in Idaho.

PLATTE COUNTY ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize the outstanding achievements of the Platte County Economic Development Council (PCEDC) of Platte County, Missouri. Burdette "Pete" Fullerton, Executive Director, has successfully guided the EDC, and I am honored to help celebrate their 20th Anniversary on June 20, 2008. This prestigious recognition is the culmination of twenty years of dedicated work to continuously improve and enhance our community.

The Platte County EDC serves as an authoritative voice in the community on economic development and related issues through an effective program of professional development, public policy, marketing, and communications. The EDC has assisted in several local projects over the past 20 years, including ADT Security Services, Citi Cards, Harley-Davidson Motor Company, KCI Expo Center, Lifetouch Publishing, Argosy Casino Hotel and Spa, Multivac, The National Golf Club, Tiffany Greens Golf Club, and Zona Rosa.

Pete Fullerton is responsible for the growth of this non-profit organization that promotes economic development in Platte County, Missouri. Pete has worked diligently on behalf of EDC to build a partnership between public and private sectors and has assisted in the suc-

cessful completion of 127 projects. The PCEDC has helped to create over 11,000 new jobs for Platte County.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join me in applauding the Platte County Economic Development Council of Platte County, Missouri for its hard work and dedication. Since the EDC began, it has served as a resource to its investors and the community. I want to thank Pete Fullerton for all of his work and applaud him for his accomplishments with the Platte County EDC.

DUNEDIN HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL
TEAM WINS THE FLORIDA STATE
CLASS 5A CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2008

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Madam Speaker, it is with much pride that I rise today to congratulate the Dunedin High School Baseball team for winning the Florida State Class 5A Championship. The Falcons of Dunedin, who I have the privilege to represent, won the championship in an extra innings showdown against the South Fork Bulldogs.

The Falcons won the championship in a ten inning marathon, the longest Florida State baseball championship game since 1997. The defense and pitching were excellent, keeping the score tied at two runs apiece until Max Priest scored the winning run for Dunedin on a Max Kreuter single.

It was only through a season of hard work—both on and off of the field—that the Falcons finished with a 26–6 record on their way to the school's first state baseball title in 44 years. It is a testament to the character of these young men, and they deserve to be congratulated. But let us not forget to send our congratulations to Coach Tom Hilbert who worked tirelessly as a coach and as a mentor to the team. I would also like to congratulate the parents of the players, as well as the teachers, administrators and the staff of Dunedin High School for doing a fantastic job of raising and encouraging these exceptional student-athletes. Following my remarks, I will include for my colleagues the full story of Dunedin's Baseball Championship as reported by The St. Petersburg Times.

Madam Speaker, in closing, please join me in congratulating the Dunedin High School Falcons for their outstanding achievement in winning the Florida State Baseball Championship.

[From the St. Petersburg Times, May 15, 2008]

LONG WAIT IS OVER: DUNEDIN WINS TITLE

SARASOTA—It began the moment the ball disappeared into Cammeron Fisher's glove. Seconds later, a swarm of triumphant Dunedin players rushed toward the mound to celebrate a 3–2 victory and the school's first state baseball title in 44 years.

"This is something you dream about," Fisher said. "To make the final out is unbelievable, especially going through so many ups and downs in a game like this."

There already were lingering memories—of the heart-wrenching moments in the seventh inning, of the nail-biting rally in extra innings, of a game snatched from defeat—that the players swore they never doubted.

The winning run scored in the top of the 10th inning when Max Kreuter singled in