

STATEMENT CONGRATULATING FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY AND FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY ON BEING RANKED AMONG THE TOP 100 COLLEGES AWARDING DEGREES TO HISPANICS

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**  
OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 19, 2008*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate two exemplary South Florida institutions of higher learning: Florida International University (FIU) and Florida Atlantic University (FAU). These universities were recently ranked by Hispanic Outlook Magazine as 1st and 28th, respectively, among the top 100 colleges awarding degrees to Hispanics in the United States.

Both institutions have built a rich tradition of ensuring an exceptional educational experience to quality students of all backgrounds. FAU and FIU are dedicated to imparting knowledge through excellent teaching, groundbreaking research, and a commitment to public service.

In today's global society, it is imperative that we recognize the importance of scholastic achievement without forgetting how vital it is that the learning experience extend beyond the classroom. FIU and FAU are committed to ensuring that their students are well-rounded, socially conscious, and constantly exposed to various cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds. The graduates of these universities serve as trailblazers in Florida's continuous endeavor to provide educational opportunities that will improve the social and economic disparities that Florida's minority communities face.

As one example, FIU will open South Florida's only public medical school in August 2009. The new school will serve as the cornerstone of a broader, university-wide Health Science Center. Through this effort, the University aims to expand healthcare access to traditionally underserved populations and to train physicians who are sensitive to South Florida's unique cultural diversity.

FAU is also impacting the South Florida community by encouraging economic development in urban core areas through its Sustainable Community Planning curriculum. This curriculum prepares students who aspire to become practicing planners, public administrators, civic leaders, and neighborhood activists. Programs are geared towards community revitalization which will ultimately affect how neighboring cities cope with increasing challenges associated with growth and change.

I commend FAU and FIU for serving as role models to colleges and universities throughout our Nation. They are exemplary examples of two schools which continue to uphold a commitment to cultural diversity, public service, and academic excellence. Their effectiveness is truly demonstrated through every student who earns a degree, every researcher who makes a discovery, and every community that benefits from the efforts and accomplishments of these two noteworthy institutions. I am proud to congratulate FAU and FIU for this noteworthy achievement and the indelible impact they have had on both our local and national landscapes.

TRIBUTE TO SHERIFF STAN W. BURCHARDT

**HON. TIMOTHY WALBERG**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 19, 2008*

Mr. WALBERG. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sheriff Stan W. Burchardt of the Hillsdale County Sheriff's Office for interrupting a breaking and entering incident in Pittsford, Michigan and arresting the suspect. It is with great pride that I congratulate Sheriff Burchardt on behalf of all of those who have benefited from his dedicated service to Hillsdale County and his proven ability to protect its citizens.

On May 23, 2008 at approximately 1:15 A.M., Sheriff Stan Burchardt was awoken by a noise outside his residence in Pittsford. Upon hearing the noise, the Sheriff exited his home and positioned himself outside in the dark for approximately five minutes. Sheriff Burchardt soon observed a subject running from his next door neighbor's house, heading toward Pittsford Tire & Gas Company. The suspect, wearing a ski mask and camouflage clothing, ran to the main entrance of the building and broke in through the front door.

Sheriff Burchardt immediately ran from his residence to the front door of the business. He witnessed the subject walk behind the counter and place items into a backpack. After identifying himself, Sheriff Burchardt proceeded to arrest the suspect. He held the suspect at bay and called a patrol unit using a telephone at the business. Deputies from Hillsdale County Sheriff's Office arrived on the scene and transported the suspect to the Hillsdale County jail where he was booked for breaking and entering.

Sheriff Stan Burchardt has honorably served as Hillsdale County Sheriff for over 12 years and has a total of 29 years of law enforcement experience. While serving in this position, Sheriff Burchardt has significantly advanced the force by increasing training for staff members, establishing minimum physical agility standards for staff to meet, and graduating 23 student cadets representing many schools within Hillsdale County. Continually engaged in the community, the Sheriff has sponsored many successful outreach programs to train in areas such as school safety, senior citizen protection, and methamphetamine awareness. Sheriff Burchardt is highly respected throughout the community for his proven law enforcement leadership and reputation for honor and integrity.

Madam Speaker, today I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Sheriff Stan W. Burchardt of the Hillsdale County Sheriff's Office for his brave actions and esteemed leadership. The Sheriff's arrest of the suspect will undoubtedly make criminals think twice, lower breaking and entering incidents in the area and ease the minds of many throughout the community. May others know of my high regard for his outstanding performance and honorable service to Hillsdale County, as well as my best wishes for Sheriff Stan Burchardt in the future.

IN HONOR OF MR. KING GEORGE PITTMAN, U.S. ARMY, RETIRED

**HON. JOHN P. MURTHA**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 19, 2008*

Mr. MURTHA. Madam Speaker, Mr. SKELTON and I rise to honor the life of King George Pittman, who, at the age of 87, passed away on Tuesday, June 10, 2008. A man who was extremely proud of his heritage and the military, King George Pittman lived a full and eventful life.

A native of Florida, Mr. Pittman was the fourth youngest of twelve children born in Tallahassee to Williams Pittman and Carrie Tansy Pittman. There he attended Lincoln High School and was a member of Philadelphia Primitive Baptist Church. At the age of 21, he joined the U.S. Army.

Mr. Pittman served in the U.S. Army from May 22, 1941 to December 14, 1956. He fought in World War II and the Korean War. He earned eight different awards for his service. He received the Good Conduct Medal Bronze Clasp with Three Loops for his loyalty, knowledge, vigilance and merit. He received the Purple Heart for his bravery. In addition to these, he received the World War II Victory Medal, the Korean Service Medal with one Bronze Service Star, the United Nations Service Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation badge and the Honorable Service Lapel Button World War II. Although he received all of these awards, his family never knew of his many accomplishments. He served his country with distinction, and was modest to say the least.

A brother, uncle, great uncle, friend and neighbor, Mr. Pittman was a proud man who leaves behind his sister, and our former colleague, retired U.S. Representative Carrie P. Meek, a constant source of his pride.

He also leaves a nephew, and our current colleague, Congressman KENDRICK B. MEEK of Florida, who proudly serves on the House Armed Services Committee, an assignment that surely put a smile on King's face. King found pride in all of his family, including nephews Samuel Pittman and Charles Bellamy, nieces, Lucia Raiford, Sheila Kinui, Betty Jean Pittman and Katrina Presley.

For his patriotic efforts in the Korean War in particular, King has rated burial at Arlington National Cemetery, a high honor and memorial for a war hero. The Korean War was too significant to neglect, too momentous to ignore, too pivotal to be disregarded, and far too costly to be forgotten. And, so we take this moment to honor King, one of its many heroes.

And, he is honored even more by the great family he leaves behind with us. King George Pittman lived a long and fulfilling time. He can now rest in the arms of the God he cherished and served. Mr. Pittman will truly be missed.

SAFE KIDS USA

**HON. STENY H. HOYER**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 19, 2008*

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize an important milestone in child

safety: Safe Kids USA's inspection of more than one million car seats.

Since 1996, Safe Kids USA, a member of Safe Kids Worldwide, has partnered with General Motors to address one of the Nation's most significant public health issues: Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for children ages 2 to 14 and the leading cause of injury-related death for children under age 2.

Together with GM, Safe Kids USA has redefined how parents and caregivers learn about child passenger safety in order to prevent these injuries and deaths from happening in the first place. We know that when installed and used correctly, child safety seats and safety belts can prevent injury and save lives. Their initiative, Safe Kids Buckle Up, sponsors car seat checkup events, which are essential to show families the intricacies of how to properly use and install child safety seats.

At these events, trained child passenger safety technicians teach families how to safely transport their children and help to make sure everyone in a vehicle is buckled up correctly on every ride. On average, technicians spend about 30 minutes with each child. Most of these events are open to the public and are conducted by Safe Kids coalitions in central locations like Chevrolet and other GM dealerships, hospitals, community centers and shopping centers. Families who need child safety seats, but cannot afford them, are never turned away and children who are being transported in potentially dangerous, recalled car seats are given safe replacements. Parents and caregivers can have the peace of mind that their child will be safer for the simple fact that they participated in a Safe Kids Buckle Up event.

In addition, through the generosity of General Motors, Safe Kids coalitions have access to Mobile Car Seat Checkup Vans which serve communities across the Nation. The vans are specially designed, self-contained units that can turn any parking lot into a full-service car seat safety event site. The fleet was launched in 1999 with 51 vans; today there are 125 on the road with another 12 being added through 2008. There are also more than 400 permanent car seat inspection stations operated by Safe Kids coalitions in order for families to take advantage of trained technicians whenever they are needed.

To date, Safe Kids Buckle Up has reached more than 15 million people and there have been more than 45,000 events that bring much needed car seat inspection services and educational messages to families across the country. The program has also donated 365,000 seats to families in need. On June 12th, the one millionth car seat was inspected at an event in Los Angeles and it personally gratifies me to see the evolution of this outstanding program that serves children and their families.

While crash protection is the backbone of Safe Kids Buckle Up, the program has evolved to offer vehicle safety programs beyond car seats and booster seats. Children can be injured or killed by heat exposure in parked cars, by suffocation when they get stuck in a trunk or when struck in a non-traffic setting such as a driveway or a parking lot. Safe Kids Buckle Up has responded to these risks by introducing three new components to their programming efforts—Spot the Tot, Never Leave Your Child Alone and Preventing

Trunk Entrapment—in order to help prevent children from being left alone in or around a vehicle. I applaud Safe Kids Buckle Up for moving beyond crash protection and for addressing children's safety needs in all types of motor vehicle situations.

I was part of the launch of the Safe Kids—General Motors partnership in 1996 and I have been proud to lend my support over the years to Safe Kids in their efforts to raise public awareness of the serious problem of motor vehicle crashes. We have made considerable progress in child passenger safety but our work is not done. Every American must understand that there are proven ways to keep children safer in vehicles and we can prevent many injuries and deaths through proper safety precautions.

I encourage all of my colleagues to participate in a Safe Kids Buckle Up event in their districts to see firsthand how these safety precautions can make a difference in a child's life. Please join me in celebrating the achievements of Safe Kids USA, their remarkable 310+ coalition network and General Motors, whose combined efforts ensure that every child that visits a car seat safety event leaves safer than when he/she entered.

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SEPTEMBER 13TH—DR. BERNARD LOWN DAY

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**HON. BARNEY FRANK**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2008

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, I am very pleased to join with my colleague, the Senior Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY), in hailing the proclamation of September 13th, 2008 as Dr. Bernard Lown Day.

In fact Madam Speaker, it would be a more accurate representation of the dimensions of Dr. Lown's great career if we were to proclaim several Dr. Bernard Lown Days. He is a man who has made numerous extremely valuable contributions to humanity in a number of fields, because he combines intellectual ability of the first order, a deep commitment to improving the quality of life of his cohabitants of the planet, a capacity to translate his unsurpassed understanding of the actual functioning of the human heart into treatments and instruments that have significantly advanced the fight against heart diseases, and finally, a characteristic not often joined to some of those I have just listed, an understanding of the political process and how to move it.

In his professional life as a cardiologist, Dr. Lown invented the defibrillator and the cardioverter, and he was the first to use the drug lidocaine. In these innovations, in his own practice of over 50 years, and the knowledge he's imparted to countless numbers of younger—and by now not so young—other doctors, Dr. Lown has put all of us in his debt for his contributions to our health.

In addition, he has been a leader in international cooperation in the medical field, and in humanitarian work in general, recognizing early on that the fight against disease and poor health must know no artificial political boundaries.

Finally, he has been a leader in the effort to avert nuclear disaster and to promote a hu-

mane and sensible approach to international conflict. In recognition of these latter activities, Dr. Lown was a Nobel Peace Prize Laureate in 1985 for his work in co-founding the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War and the work he had done—and of course continues to do—opposing the proliferation of nuclear weapons and promoting world peace.

It is sometimes said that people who try to do too many different things can diminish their ability to do any one thing. Bernard Lown's life is an example of exactly the opposite: the many areas of important human activity in which he has excelled have not detracted from each other but rather have reinforced each other, contributing to a life's work that has been a model of how one takes his very considerable talents and puts them at the service of others.

Senator KENNEDY and I are delighted to have been given the privilege of representing Dr. Lown in the Congress of the United States and we are very proud to join here today in observing September 13th as Dr. Bernard Lown Day.

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TRIBUTE TO MR. BOB McCLELLAN

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**HON. JOHN SHIMKUS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2008

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the achievements of Bob McClellan. Mr. McClellan has, since 1994, served as President and CEO of Hortica Insurance, formerly Florists Mutual, headquartered in Edwardsville, Illinois. He had been employed at Hortica from 1987–1994 in several senior management positions. Prior to his time at Hortica, Bob McClellan served as an adjunct faculty member at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville from 1978–1985 and as Management Information Services Director from 1976–1978. It was at SIUE that Mr. McClellan received a B.S. and M.B.A. in 1974 and 1976, respectively.

Bob McClellan's most admirable achievements come not from his professional life, but his personal life. Mr. McClellan has continually dedicated himself to the betterment of his community and the preservation of educational institutions. Mr. McClellan has been a member of the Executive Board of the Boy Scouts of America Trails West Council, for example. In 1996, he worked with Edwardsville High School administrators to develop and implement a technology plan that allowed the school to provide modern instruction to its students. In 2005, Bob worked to bring a Hortica donation to SIUE when he personally carried plants and flowers to a celebration on campus. Clearly, Mr. McClellan gives freely of his time and professional expertise.

Mr. McClellan has received numerous awards in his lifetime, including the Rotary International's Four-Way Test Award for Business Ethics in 2007 and the Business Partnership Award from Ameren and the Illinois Development Council in 2005. I wish to honor him today with my words of appreciation. Men like Mr. McClellan deserve deep gratitude and respect. His unwavering enthusiasm for community development, coupled with his keen business sense, is both unusual and exceptionally commendable. As Bob McClellan retires from his post as President and CEO of