

Center in Lenexa and the Boy's and Girl's Club in Manhattan, Kan.

At Lakeview Village, he assisted the elderly in daily activities and ran bingo games in Lakeview's Health Center.

The Boy's and Girl's Club provided opportunities for Benjamin to tutor elementary-age students, facilitate anti-drug and anti-alcohol programs and provide structured after-school activities.

Benjamin said he would encourage others to work for this award because it challenges participants to get out into the community outside of their comfort zone.

"I think this award helps youth build a strong, goal driven foundation that is focused on service," he said.

The youngest brother to receive the award, Christopher Connell, 19, said he has enjoyed serving others since beginning the program in 2002.

His service hours include volunteering at Lakeview Village Retirement Community, fundraising for charity causes at Shawnee Mission West High School and planting and mulching trees at Shawnee Mission Park.

For his expedition, Christopher spent six nights in the wilderness at Double H Ranch, associated with Philmont Scout Ranch.

Christopher said this honor is awarded based on a person's willingness to improve.

"Anyone can earn this award because it isn't a competition except with yourself," he said.

Nicholas said he encourages others to pursue the award because many are already doing what is needed to receive it.

"You have to do the necessary paper work and enroll in the program to make sure you get the award," he said. "The Congressional Award won't seek you out—you have to let them know you are working on it and provide the proper documentation."

[From the Kansas City Star, June 28, 2008]  
CONGRESSIONAL AWARD GOES TO LEAWOOD  
TEEN-AGER

(By Alexia Lang)

After three years of hard work and determination, Sydney Ayers got her reward: a trip to Capitol Hill to receive the Congressional Award Gold Medal from Congressman Dennis Moore.

Ayers, a 17-year-old from Leawood, was chosen from among the Kansas recipients to make a speech about the experience of being in the Congressional Award program. "My goal was to improve the lives of others, specifically children and the elderly," Ayers said.

During the ceremony June 19, Moore, who presented the awards to the four Kansas recipients, said he was proud to celebrate their achievements.

"Their dedication to helping others and self-improvement is not only inspiring, but it reminds us that changing the world starts with each of us," he said.

Ayers decided she wanted to work for the award in eighth grade after hearing that a senior at her school had received it.

She consulted with Susan Harper, one of her teachers at Barstow School, and they mapped out a plan that would allow her to accomplish her goal in three years. Harper became her mentor/sponsor.

To qualify for the medal, applicants must spend two or more years completing at least 400 hours of community service, 200 hours of personal development, 200 hours of physical fitness activities, and a four-night expedition or exploration.

Sherry Dodds Ayers, Sydney's mother, said, "Since this was such a big project, she was very careful to pick things that were realistic. There are many kids who start this program and never finish."

Ayers completed her community service hours by volunteering at a memory care center, a retirement home, a children's home, an orphanage in Mexico and for Christmas in October.

She superseded the physical activity requirements, finishing with 638 hours. She is a member of the varsity tennis and cheerleading teams as well as USTA tennis and managed the boys high school tennis team.

To satisfy the 200 hours of personal development, Ayers participated in theatrical productions in roles ranging from actor to stagehand to backstage manager.

"The personal development was to gain a better appreciation of the arts," her mother said.

Ayers' final project was a trip to Alaska with her grandfather that she planned, organized and executed by herself. They spent five days and four nights in a cabin with limited electricity preparing all their food and hiking for water.

Ayers said her trip to a Mexican orphanage was one of the most rewarding experiences.

"It was far outside of my comfort zone and my cultural zone," she said.

She added that she learned and experienced something different everywhere she went.

Sherry Ayers said she is most proud that her daughter stuck with the program and completed her goal.

"It's a lot of hard work," she said.

Ayers said she would recommend the program to others because of the return on the hard work invested.

She said, "After how hard it is and how dedicated you have to be, it's nice to see the result after all of these years."

#### RECOGNIZING THE MINNESOTA CHAPTER OF THE FORMOSAN ASSOCIATION FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND SUPPORTING TAIWAN'S MEMBERSHIP INTO THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

**HON. MICHELE BACHMANN**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 2008

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the Minnesota chapter of the Formosan Association for Public Affairs, FAPA, which has done an exemplary job of keeping the voice of the Taiwanese people alive in my State of Minnesota. This organization has spoken for the people of Taiwan on many important issues including the all important matter of supporting Taiwan's membership into the World Health Organization, WHO.

The WHO is an important international organization that works to attain the highest possible level of health for all people. Unfortunately, the 23 million citizens of Taiwan are denied access to this organization and are unable to take part in international health forums, programs and benefits conducted by the WHO.

The large volume of international travel to Taiwan heightens the transmission of communicable diseases and makes Taiwan an ideal candidate for membership in the organization. For this reason alone, Taiwan and its people should be allowed to participate in the health services and medical protections offered by the World Health Organization.

Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the Minnesota chapter of the FAPA for their continued

efforts to defend Taiwan. And, I urge you to join me in supporting Taiwan's inclusion in the World Health Organization.

#### CICELY TYSON RECOGNIZED AT 2008 CARIBBEAN HERITAGE SALUTE TO HOLLYWOOD AND THE ARTS

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise to enter into the RECORD an article entitled: "Actress Cicely Tyson to be Honored at the 2008 Caribbean Heritage Salute to Hollywood and the Arts," which appeared in the June 24th edition of the New York Carib News, our local weekly newspaper which chronicles and recognizes the achievements of people of Caribbean origin. Ms. Tyson is a legendary actress and has appeared in timeless works such as the miniseries "Roots," the daytime soap "The Guiding Light," and the popular TV show "The Women of Brewster Place."

Cicely Tyson is the daughter of immigrants who came to the United States after leaving the Caribbean island of Nevis. This legendary actress began her career in the '50s and has built up her reputation as a remarkable dramatic actress who continues to grace the screen of television and film today.

Tyson's success is another testament to the courageous spirit and deep determination of Caribbean Americans. Their contributions are innumerable and integral to American culture and were deservedly celebrated during last month's Caribbean Heritage Month activities.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF HELEN K.  
JONES

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Helen K. Jones, and in honor of her dedication and leadership in the field of behavioral health and substance abuse treatment in the Greater Cleveland Area.

Helen Jones was born in Cleveland, Ohio, where she earned her degree in Social Work from Cleveland State University and her master's degree in Social Service Administration from Case Western Reserve University. Her compassion and advocacy on behalf of others led her to pursue a career in the behavioral health field, where she would emerge as a leader and well-known figure in the Greater Cleveland Area. In her role as President and CEO of Recovery Resources, Inc., a non-profit organization which treats and helps people overcome mental illness and substance abuse addictions, she changed the local system of treating behavioral health problems. In 1988, she began working with Neighborhood Counseling Services until it merged with Recovery Resources, Inc. in 2000, when she was appointed Chief Operating Officer. Under her leadership and advocacy, the budget and staff of Recovery Resources, Inc. increased significantly, making it one of the largest and most

successful non-profit corporations in the Greater Cleveland Area and in the state of Ohio.

Helen worked alongside many in the Greater Cleveland Community in variety of leadership roles. She worked often with the Cuyahoga County Community Mental Health Board and was past chairwoman of the Mental Health Advocacy Coalition. She also served on the Board of Directors of the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, Midtown Cleveland and on the Board of the Beck Center for Arts in Lakewood. Helen was also a member of the National Association of Social Workers and the United Way Council of Agency Executives. She was recognized on numerous occasions for her distinguished leadership in the field of behavioral health. This past May, Helen was one of Crain's Cleveland Business Women of Note honorees and in 2004, was awarded the Woodruff Foundation Prize in recognition of her work in the behavioral health field.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in remembrance of Helen Jones, and in celebration of a life dedicated to serving her community. Let her advocacy on behalf of the welfare of others serve as an inspiration for us all.

#### TRIBUTE TO IOWA RIVER HOSPICE

##### HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 9, 2008*

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Iowa River Hospice, serving the communities of Marshall, Tama, Hardin and Grundy counties in Iowa, on celebrating their 25th Anniversary. I also wish to express my appreciation for their commitment to providing a comforting service to Iowans.

In 1983, President Ronald Reagan signed legislation in law that made hospice care Medicare certified and Iowa River Hospice became incorporated. Iowa River Hospice has cared for over 1,900 patients and their families over the past three decades. Hospice care is something that we all wish was not necessary, but is a life touching service which is needed to allow terminal patients to live the final moments of their lives to the fullest. Hospice also helps families cope with the loss of a loved one close to them. Iowa River Hospice is in the process of building a new hospice home and plan on opening their doors in early 2009.

Iowa River Hospice is dedicated to benefiting Iowans during an extremely difficult time. It is an honor to represent Executive Director Marilee Lawler, and all the members of the Iowa River Hospice team in the United States Congress and I wish them continued success in their future service to central Iowans.

#### TRIBUTE TO LARRY PARRISH

##### HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 9, 2008*

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the

community of Riverside, California, are exceptional. Riverside has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated community leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent and make their communities a better place to live and work. Larry Parrish is one of these individuals. On July 24, 2008, a retirement dinner will be held in honor of Larry's 16 years of service as the county executive officer for Riverside County.

As the county executive officer, Larry manages county finances and operations, consistent with the policies established by the Board of Supervisors. In January 1995, supervisors centralized Mr. Parrish's managerial role by expanding his oversight of the many and diverse services provided to the county's 1.4 million residents. Under Larry's leadership, county departments have charted an aggressive course to meet the board's vision of targeting scarce resources to sustain high-priority services despite State reductions to local funding.

Mr. Parrish's 32-year career in county government includes key positions with both local and statewide focus. His experience as a county executive spans nearly 15 years, having served in this capacity in both Santa Barbara and Orange Counties. Prior to coming to Riverside County, he also spent 2 years as a Sacramento-based legislative advocate. Mr. Parrish entered county government in the probation field, rising to become chief probation officer for the counties of Santa Cruz and Santa Barbara.

For 8 years, Mr. Parrish served as a school board member of Santa Cruz City Schools. He was an instructor at Cabrillo Junior College in Santa Cruz County and a lecturer at the U.C. Irvine Graduate School of Management. He has also served as a Finance Corporation Board Member for the California State Association of Counties. Larry received a B.A. in sociology from Northwest Nazarene College, Nampa, Idaho.

In 1996, the University of California at Riverside named Mr. Parrish Public Management Leader of the Year. Mr. Parrish and his wife, Kathie, currently reside in Rancho Mirage, California. He has two grown children, one granddaughter and one grandson.

Larry's tireless passion for community service has contributed immensely to the betterment of the community of Riverside, California. I am proud to call Larry a fellow community member, American and friend. I know that many community members are grateful for his service and salute him as he retires.

#### THE DAILY 45: HONORING CHICAGO POLICE OFFICER RICHARD FRANCIS

##### HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 9, 2008*

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, the Department of Justice tells us that, every day, 45 people, on average, are fatally shot in the United States. Sometimes, sadly, the victims of this carnage are the men and women who've pledged to serve and protect our society. Today, I reflect on the senseless loss of life of 60-year-old Chicago Police Officer Richard M. Francis. Officer Francis was a 27-year

veteran of the force and a first class officer. A heroic Vietnam War Veteran and a member of the Navy Special Forces, Officer Francis survived two bomb attacks in the Mekong Delta and was described by friends, family and co-workers as a man who loved life. But, on July 2nd, Francis could not survive a bullet discharged when a homeless woman grabbed his service revolver and shot him in the head.

Officer Francis leaves behind his wife of 10 years, Deborah, and his mentally challenged stepdaughter, Bianca. While charges are pending against his alleged perpetrator, the cruel irony is that this man who loved his job, loved his family and survived the Vietcong, lost his life in an instant when an allegedly disturbed woman got her hands on his weapon.

On behalf of my constituents and a grieving city, I extend my prayers and sincere condolences to Officer Francis' family and friends.

Americans of conscience must come together to stop the senseless death of "The Daily 45." When will we say "enough is enough, stop the killing!"

#### ON THE OCCASION OF MIKE AND BEV HOLLAND'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY

##### HON. JOHN M. McHUGH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 9, 2008*

Mr. McHUGH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. and Mrs. Michael D. Holland, Sr., as they celebrate their 40th wedding anniversary. They were married in the Dutch Reformed Church of Kinderhook, New York, on July 13, 1968.

Mike and Beverly reside in the Town of Brandon in northern Franklin County, New York, which I have the privilege of representing. Mike and Bev have lived there since 1971 and have long operated a farm, on which they currently have about 50 beef cattle and calves.

Prior to their retirements in 2001, Mike and Bev taught in the Malone Central School System. Bev taught fourth grade at Flanders Elementary School while Mike taught fifth grade at St. Joseph's Elementary School, where he also spent many hours supervising intramural sports during lunch recesses. Mike, who is also known for good reason as "Coach Holland," coached Franklin Academy High School's junior varsity (1968-1985) and varsity baseball teams (1986-2001), the modified football team at the Malone Middle School, and various Malone Minor Hockey teams, including one New York State Class "C" championship team.

In addition to the work involved in raising their three children, Mike, Maya, and Jesse, Bev was very involved with the Franklin County 4-H Horse Club and the Franklin County Trailriders Association. Today, she remains busy as a volunteer for the Franklin County House of History and as a grandmother to Joseph and Maybelle Alvarez. Accordingly, I now extend my sincere congratulations and best wishes to Mike and Bev Holland on the occasion of their 40th wedding anniversary.