

Today, Missourians from the ages of 8 to 80 compete in Special Olympics, with an average age around 25. Special Olympics provide year-round sports training and athletics competition for Missouri's children and adults with intellectual disabilities. Special Olympics Missouri currently serves more than 15,000 athletes with mental disabilities, in 19 sports, at 152 competitions throughout Missouri, with 4 statewide competitions, and more than 1,370 of Missouri's finest citizens who serve as volunteer coaches. Special Olympics Missouri athletes have participated in competitions all over the World from Ames, Iowa in our own backyard to Anchorage, Alaska, Toronto, Canada, Dublin, Ireland, Nagano, Japan, and just last year—Shanghai, China.

Through sports, these individuals develop improved physical fitness and motor skills, greater self-confidence, and a more positive self-image.

My colleagues know that as Co-Chair of the Congressional Caucus on Youth Sports, I wholeheartedly believe that sports involvement improves one's health, character, and leadership skills. The Caucus believes in promoting the values of sportsmanship, civility, respect, safety, fun and fitness among the players, coaches, parents, and officials. I am proud to tell you that Special Olympics promotes these same values in its programs and especially in its Healthy Athletes and Unified Sports programs.

In recent years, Special Olympics Missouri has expanded its reach to address health and fitness issues unique to individuals with intellectual disabilities. The Healthy Athletes Program provides health screenings in conjunction with competitions.

Special Olympics Unified Sports is a program that combines approximately equal numbers of Special Olympics athletes and athletes without mental disabilities (called Partners) on sports teams for training and competition. Throughout the year, in a variety of sports ranging from basketball to golf to figure skating, Unified Sports athletes improve their physical fitness, sharpen their skills, challenge the competition and have fun, too.

The concept of combining athletes with mental disabilities and those without was first introduced in the mid-1980s to provide another level of challenge for higher ability athletes and to promote equality and inclusion. Today, the initiative includes virtually all Special Olympics sports.

Unified Sports enables athletes to:

Learn new sports, develop higher-level sports skills and have new competition experiences;

Experience a sense of meaningful inclusion, as each athlete is ensured of playing a valued role on the team;

Socialize with peers and form friendships (the initiative provides a forum for positive social interaction between teammates and often leads to long-lasting friendships) and;

Participate in their communities and have choices outside of Special Olympics.

In 1997, TIME magazine published a story about a Unified Sports partner from Missouri, Ryan Brimer of Boonville.

The Missouri Police Chiefs Association has been a big supporter of Special Olympics Missouri through its Law Enforcement Torch Run. What began as a 30-mile run is now a four-day relay that covers more than 950 miles and 1,000 runners. Now more than a run, the

Torch Run is a campaign to raise awareness and funds for Special Olympics. It originates at 25 different locations around the State of Missouri and ends at the State Summer Games. Nearly 200 agencies and 2,500 officers volunteer all year to make the Torch Run happen. In fact, Missouri's event consistently ranks as one of the top ten fundraising Torch Runs in the world. I am proud of Missouri's law enforcement officers who give of their time for this noble cause.

Special Olympics themes of inclusion, health, sportsmanship, leadership, and fun in sports make the world and Missouri a better place for individuals with and without disabilities. I am proud to congratulate Special Olympics on its years of achievement and I thank Special Olympics on behalf of all Missourians.

TRIBUTE TO MARGARET SULLIVAN WILSON

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 17, 2008

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the memory of an outstanding citizen and constituent. Margaret Sullivan Wilson of Norwich, Connecticut passed away on Saturday July 12th. I want to take this opportunity to express my condolences and offer my prayers to her family, as well as honor her service to her community.

After graduating from Willimantic State Teachers' College and getting her Masters in Education from the University of Connecticut, Peg Sullivan returned home to Norwich, Connecticut to begin a teaching career. After 44 years of dedicated instruction—from elementary school to college—she retired as an Executive Dean at Eastern Connecticut State University, where she was honored in 2006 by the dedication of the Margaret S. Wilson Child Family Development Complex.

Her retirement from teaching did not end her tireless commitment to helping others. Peg was the President of the Thames Valley Council for Community Action; President of the Connecticut Mental Health Association; founder of Norwich, Connecticut's Head Start program; and in 2004, she founded the Norwich Historical Society. She also served on the Blue Ribbon Commission for the University of Connecticut Health Center, the White House Conference on Children and the National Commission to Reduce Infant Mortality.

She also dedicated herself to the change she believed would help her compatriots. She served on the Norwich Board of Education, the Democratic Town Committee and as a delegate to the 1968 and 1972 Democratic National Conventions.

Her dedication to early childhood education and educational reform of all kinds did not go unnoticed. She was honored by the Norwich Citizen of the Year Award in 1970 and Natchaug Hospital Lifetime Achievement Award in May of this year.

Peg Wilson will live on through the memory of her achievements and the achievements by those she inspired. Peg, we in Congress honor your great service and you will truly be missed.

IN HONOR OF MANUEL SANTANA

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 17, 2008

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and memory of Manuel Santana, Santa Cruz County's 2008 Artist of the Year and beloved contributor to Central Coast art. He sadly passed away July 8, 2008, ten days before he was to present his award-winning work at the Museum of Art & History in Santa Cruz.

Mr. Santana was born on March 31, 1927, to a family of Mexican descent, and began demonstrating his artistic talent in his youth, drawing bugs and collecting comic books. He grew up in Los Angeles, initially pursuing a career as a teacher but later discovering his talent as an artist. After moving to Santa Cruz in 1961, Manuel worked diligently as owner of the restaurants Manuel's in Aptos and Jardines de San Juan in San Juan Bautista, all while caring for his family.

Manuel's art incorporates a deep connection to Mexican traditions, as well as politics and social movements like that of César Chávez. The numerous sculptures, paintings, and acrylics he produced display a vibrant use of colors, which provide new aspects of the pieces with each view.

In addition to art, Mr. Santana was also intimately involved in the community. He founded the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Convocation at the University of California Santa Cruz, served on the University of California's Water Resources Advisory Board and the Board of Directors for the Bear Republic Theatre Company, and was president and lifetime board member of the Cabrillo Music Festival. He also was president of the Central Coast Counties Development Corporation, working to organize and empower farm workers in Monterey County.

Many people were touched by Manny's generous and enlightening spirit, and his passing leaves our community greatly saddened. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the House, I would like to extend our nation's deep gratitude for Manuel Santana's commitment to his local community. I know I speak for every Member of Congress in offering my condolences to the entire Santana family: his daughter Angelina, son Leonardo, daughter-in-law Patricia, and grandchildren Oliver, Joaquin, and Valentin. California has lost a great citizen, but the legacy he leaves behind is priceless.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO ALLOW FOR THE TAX-EX- EMPT BOND FINANCING FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL AIRCRAFT

HON. DOC HASTINGS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 17, 2008

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing legislation with my colleague from Washington state, Congresswoman MCMORRIS RODGERS, that amends the Internal Revenue Code to allow tax-exempt bond financing for airplanes that

exclusively provide emergency medical services.

Our current tax code prohibits the use of tax-exempt bonds for the purchase of airplanes. This exclusion was meant to prevent the use of tax-exempt bonds for frivolous purposes, including corporate jets. My legislation would continue the ban on using tax-exempt bonds for extravagant reasons and simply allow tax-exempt bond financing for airplanes that exclusively provide emergency medical services.

This issue is particularly important to my district because Inland Northwest Health Services (INHS), a non-profit organization based in Spokane, is looking to expand air ambulance service to rural areas by purchasing new planes. In 2007, INHS provided 2,891 emergency medical flights. INHS currently serves Central and Eastern Washington, as well as parts of Oregon, Idaho and Montana. In my district, INHS serves residents in Adams, Benton, Chelan, Douglas, Franklin, Grant, Kittitas and Klickitat counties.

The IRS currently allows tax-exempt bonds to be used to purchase helicopters for air ambulance services. Some may wonder why then do we need to amend the tax code for fixed wing aircraft. In rural areas, such as my district, the use of helicopters is often impractical because of the long distances that patients must be transported. Airplanes are commonly the best mode of transportation for critically ill patients because they can travel longer distances and provide the safest and fastest mode of travel during inclement weather.

While I have focused on why this legislation is important to the residents of my district, I want to be clear that my legislation does not only assist the non-profit INHS. Under this bill, any organization that would like to obtain tax-exempt bond financing for airplanes that are exclusively dedicated to providing acute emergency care would be eligible.

I urge my colleagues to support this simple change to our tax code and I hope that this bill will become law in the very near future.

HONORING THE STUDENTS OF UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI RECOGNIZED BY THE NASA'S 2008 UNIVERSITY STUDENT FUTURE AIRCRAFT COMPETITION

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 17, 2008

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to honor students from the University of Miami participating in NASA's 2008 University Student Future Aircraft Competition. These four students placed second out of sixty-one students from 14 universities around the world. This is a tremendous accomplishment not only for these four students, but also for the future of our Nation's air transportation systems. I know that I join with our entire community in honoring their success.

Each team was asked to create a future subsonic transport aircraft that could carry up to 50,000 pounds, operate on runways between 1,500 and 3,000 feet long, and cruise at speeds between 595 and 625 mph. The competition also stressed that the planes should

use alternative fuels and be quieter and more environmentally friendly than today's commercial fleet. The team from the University of Miami successfully created The 2058 Aircraft: Quiet Ultra-Efficient Integrated Aircraft, which placed them second over all. The Nation's air transportation system is under tremendous pressure to increase performance and capacity without causing additional damage to the environment and this competition is paramount to aiding the advancement of aircraft technology.

With all their hard work, skill and commitment to excellence, these young adults managed to earn a very notable title. These students truly deserve to be recognized for their accomplishment.

I also recognize that it was with the support of their parents, professors and friends that these students were able to compete and stand out in such a demanding competition. Several NASA experts judge the University Student Future Aircraft Competition and it is no easy task to earn their approval.

I would like to submit the names of the University of Miami students recognized by the NASA's 2008 University Student Future Aircraft Competition: Sebastian Aspe, Joseph Dussling, Nicholas Heinz, and Daniel Martinez.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating these wonderful students and the faculty at University of Miami for their success at NASA's 2008 University Student Future Aircraft Competition.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIM MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 17, 2008

Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 506, on the Wittman Motion to Recommit with instructions, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

TRIBUTE TO THE 40TH BIRTHDAY OF THE SPECIAL OLYMPICS

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 17, 2008

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in commemoration of the 40th birthday of the Special Olympics. Experts agree that this organization has had a more positive impact on the lives of people with intellectual disabilities than any other organization of its kind.

Illinois is divided into 17 Special Olympic areas. My area, area 12 consists of 8 counties and works with over 1000 athletes. At least 8 weeks prior to the competition, volunteer coaches work with individuals to prepare them to compete in one or more of the 12 sports offered by Special Olympics. Through the Special Olympics, athletes better their physical fitness, motor skills, and self-image, as well as gain confidence that will carry over into their daily lives.

The Special Olympics are not only beneficial to the athletes themselves, but benefit the families of the athletes as well. Families gain

a stronger appreciation and respect for their athlete's abilities. Volunteers within the organization also gain a great satisfaction from interactions with the athletes and seeing them succeed.

The Special Olympics can only be made possible through the generous donations of money and time through its supporters and volunteers. Fundraisers and donations make this remarkable program possible. For all those that make this program possible, I would like to thank you for your unwavering dedication and support. You have made an impact on the lives of all the athletes. For the athletes, congratulations on your amazing accomplishments, within the Special Olympics and all other aspects of your life. I wish every one of you nothing but the best in the future.

HONORING AND RECOGNIZING THE DEDICATION AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA DURING ITS NATIONAL BOULÉ CONFERENCE CELEBRATING 100 YEARS

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 17, 2008

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise to express my enthusiastic congratulations and support of the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority during its national Boulé conference celebrating 100 years of the organization in Washington, DC. The sorority, founded at Howard University on January 15, 1908, is the first Greek-lettered sorority established and incorporated by a group of nine African-American college women. The AKA sorority broke barriers for African-American women in areas where little power or authority existed due to a lack of opportunities for minorities and women in the early twentieth century.

Headquartered in Chicago, Illinois, the sorority consists of college-educated women of African, Caucasian, Asian, and Hispanic descent. The sorority serves through a membership of more than 200,000 women in over 900 chapters in the United States and several other countries.

Since its inception, Alpha Kappa Alpha has helped to improve social and economic conditions through community service programs. Members have improved education through independent initiatives, contributed to community-building by creating programs and influenced Federal legislation by legislation advocacy through the National Non-Partisan Lobby on Civil and Democratic Rights.

My wife Vera, is a proud member of Tau Gamma Omega graduate chapter of the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority. Two of my sisters, Ceola and Floretta, are also AKA's. Tau Gamma Omega often meet in our home and I have always been very proud of the leadership and mentoring relationship my wife has established and continues to display with younger women who join. Tau Gamma Omega is a strong voice and positive presence in the community where they serve.

As a member of the fraternity Alpha Phi Alpha and the United States House of Representatives, I commend the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority on all their continuing endeavors to help the community, and I welcome the