

World Quest Project, and the Spirit of EAA Friendship World Tour. He established the Dick Rutan Scholarship Fund to assist youth in furthering their education and is actively involved in the Experimental Aircraft Association's Science, Math and Technology (S-M-T) program.

Today, Dick continues his quest of traveling the world by educating others through the accounts of his many adventures. He exudes dedicated passion, courage of conviction, and wisdom and he exemplifies the true marks of leadership. His distinguished achievements have gained him renowned recognition and respect, and I am pleased to wish him a happy birthday!

#### STEINHAGEN OIL COMPANY

### HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 31, 2008*

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, today I am proud to honor the Steinhagen Oil Company, for their commitment to community service has earned them the 2008 Spindletop Award for outstanding corporate citizenship.

The Steinhagen Oil Company is a third generation, family owned business that owns over 25 gasoline stations across Southeast Texas and supplies numerous others with unbranded fuel. E. Harvey Steinhagen founded the company and began selling fuel in the 1930's. They currently employ over 200 workers across the region.

The Steinhagen Family has a long history of community service. Mark Steinhagen served as Chairman of the Board of the Beaumont Chamber of Commerce from 1970–71 and encouraged a focus on economic development efforts. His son Roy is the current Chairman and Chief Operations Officer for the company. He helped raise \$2.6 million for the construction of a new Salvation Army building. Roy is currently the President of the Lamar University Foundation and is a member of the Texas State Bank advisory board of directors, the Jefferson Theatre Preservation Society, and the advisory board of trustees of Christus St. Elizabeth Hospital.

On behalf of the Second Congressional District of Texas, I applaud the Steinhagen Oil Company on its outstanding achievement. They have helped make our world a better place to live, and I applaud their unwavering service and dedication to the community.

#### 71ST ANNUAL SOAP BOX DERBY

### HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 31, 2008*

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the winners and all the participants in the 71st annual All-American Soap Box Derby World Championship at Derby Downs in Akron, Ohio, on July 26, 2008.

A record 609 contestants from forty three states and three foreign countries competed at the legendary Derby Downs for the title of Champion. This race is held annually at Derby

Downs, which was created in 1936 by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) after Akron city leaders realized that a permanent track for the race was necessary. The racers, all between the ages of eight and seventeen, compete in six different divisions. All of the cars are powered only by gravity and built by the racers. The racers can reach speeds of thirty miles an hour and the races usually last less than thirty seconds and are decided by mere hundredths of seconds.

I am pleased to note that Elizabeth Underwood, 17, of Barberton, placed 3rd in the Masters division, Joe Puntal, 14, of Youngstown placed 3rd in the Super Stock division, and Johanna Barnowski, 11, of Cuyahoga Falls placed 1st in the Stock division.

Other Akron area racers who participated were Katie Atchison, Brett Chrisman, Dustin Chrisman, Emily Harmon, Tyler Shoff, Sarah Smith, Dennis VanFossen Jr., Cheyenne Wilt and Mary-Kate Wilt. Racers from the Youngstown area included Zachary Krohn of Austintown, Johanna Kuebler of Berlin Center, Julia Castner of Hubbard, Jenn Rodway of Boardman, and Jamie Berndt of Canfield.

I congratulate all the winners on their extraordinary success and commend all those who had a part of this great event.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF COLMA CITY MANAGER DIANE McGRATH

### HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 30, 2008*

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I would like to pay tribute this evening to a dedicated public servant, Diane McGrath, the City Manager of the Town of Colma.

Diane retires next month, capping a 36 year career in municipal government, which began in Breckenridge, Colorado. She moved to California in 1985 to serve Foster City as Deputy Executive Director of the Community Development Agency. After seventeen years in that post, she was hired by Colma as Deputy City Manager and impressed the City Council enough to be promoted, two years later, to City Manager.

During her tenure, Ms. McGrath and her staff oversaw the design and construction of a state-of-the-art public safety facility and community center, completed the reconstruction and beautification of Junipero Serra Boulevard and remodeled the Town Hall Council Chamber and rotunda. Most impressive is that all these projects were accomplished in an era of ever-tightening municipal budgets.

Ms. McGrath is a member of the International City Management Association and was President of Municipal Management Assistants of Northern California. She received a Bachelor of Arts degree from California State University, Long Beach and a Master of Arts from the University of Colorado.

Madam Speaker, Diane McGrath is a role model to anyone who aspires to a career in government. She handles her professional responsibilities with the unflappable grace that only the mother of 6 children and grandmother of 4 can pull off. A renaissance woman, Diane is a brilliant conversation partner, whether the subject is ballet, politics or Cal football.

While I wish Diane McGrath could continue in her job forever, she has earned her retire-

ment. Along with husband Fred Biagini, she will travel the world and spend more time with her large family. In addition, I am confident that she will continue to be a dynamic force in her community for many years to come.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. JOHN BARROW

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 31, 2008*

Mr. BARROW. Madam Speaker, due to a death in my family, I was absent from the House of Representatives on Tuesday, July 29, and part of Wednesday, July 30, and missed several rollcall votes. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner: H.R. 6445—yes; H.R. 6604—yes; H. Res. 1370—yes; H.R. 5892—yes; H. Con. Res. 398—yes; H.R. 2192—yes; H.R. 6113—yes; and H.R. 2490—yes.

#### HOLLYWOOD CONSERVATISM

### HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 31, 2008*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I would like to submit the following article published in The Washington Times newspaper on July 23, 2008. It outlines the prevalence of conservatism among actors and leaders in the film and entertainment industry. Moreover, it is encouraging to learn that support for our troops and traditional values are shared by Americans from all walks of life.

#### HOLLYWOOD'S CONSERVATIVE UNDERGROUND

(By Amy Fagan)

A group of politically conservative and centrist Hollywood figures organized by actor Gary Sinise and others has been meeting quietly in restaurants and private homes, forming a loose-knit network of entertainers who share common beliefs like supporting U.S. troops and traditional American values.

Some of those involved are taking more public steps to counter the entertainment industry's tilt toward liberalism and Democratic politics, such as campaigning for Republican Sen. John McCain or crafting projects to portray America in a more positive light.

The group, whose members call themselves "Friends of Abe" after Abraham Lincoln, was organized as an underground movement because of fears that prominent industry titans with outspoken liberal views would retaliate, said participants. They often were reluctant to name members of the group in interviews for fear it would hurt their careers.

"It's a growing movement, and word is getting out that there's many of us in this business . . ." said 1950s singer Pat Boone, one of the few conservatives to talk about the movement publicly. "If certain studio execs—hires and firers—learn that this is a movement and growing, and that some of these people that they hire are of this inclination, these people could be unemployed."

Friends of Abe has functioned like a support group, organizing informal gatherings where actors, producers, screenwriters, key grips and other industry types can share common values or discuss concerns like anti-

Americanism in Hollywood movies or the perception of industry bias against conservatives and Republicans.

The movement has grown over the past few years from gatherings of a few dozen to one last month that drew more than 600 to a billionaire's California estate, Mr. Boone said.

People familiar with the movement credited Mr. Sinise, whose roles range from the blockbuster movie "Forrest Gump" to the TV show "CSI: New York" for helping organize the movement.

Sinise spokeswoman Staci Wolfe said the actor was traveling with a band to entertain U.S. troops overseas and was unavailable for an interview. She would say only: "He is not registered with any political party."

Participants said Friends of Abe is not partisan, but rather functions as a support group where Republicans, Democrats and independents alike can discuss issues they care about. And the low-key gatherings at restaurants and homes have given conservatives a safe place to meet and express their views, they added.

"A Friend of Abe is someone who has reverence for those who serve in our military and believes that American liberal democracy is a unique success, different from others, and it's worthy of the respect of our popular culture . . . of Hollywood in particular," said screenwriter Lionel Chetwynd, who helped organize Friends of Abe luncheons when they began 4 years ago.

Mr. Chetwynd said Friends of Abe generally find themselves at odds with the rhetoric of their hard-left colleagues in Hollywood.

Craig Haffner, a producer who also attended the gatherings, said Friends of Abe is "not a political action group; people are gravitating to it because they love their country."

While the group is not organizing any political activities, some of its members are taking action into their own hands.

Actor Jon Voight, Mr. Boone, Mr. Chetwynd and Mr. Haffner have stepped forward and actively campaigned for Mr. McCain's presidential bid. Mr. Boone said he talked to McCain campaign staffers last week about how he and other stars can help. Supporters now are assembling a formal organization for Mr. McCain in Hollywood, a few of the leaders said.

Meanwhile, many want to produce more movie and theater projects with a positive American message and stronger emphasis on positive cultural values instead of films that paint America as "the great Satan," Mr. Boone said. Mr. Chetwynd said such efforts have been under way for several years, well before the Friends of Abe luncheons began.

Actor Kelsey Grammer, a Republican, is aware of the group but won't comment further, his publicist said.

David Horowitz, another Hollywood conservative and founder of the Los Angeles-based Center for the Study of Popular Culture, said the group is serving a good purpose but he worries its members won't be aggressive enough.

"There's a kind of . . . intellectual terror in this town. People are terrorized; they're afraid to say what they think. So what Gary is doing to provide aid and comfort to its victims is admirable, and I applaud him for it," he said. "But my concern is it's not going to be much more than that."

## THE INTRODUCTION OF THE "MIDWEST SCHOOLS DISASTER RELIEF ACT"

### HON. PHIL HARE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mr. HARE. Madam Speaker, the Midwest has been hard-hit by record flooding in recent months, disrupting the lives of the farmers, homeowners, and families of my Illinois Congressional District. Flood damage to schools alone is expected to reach nearly \$100 million, and as a result some schools will not open in the fall. Those schools able to open their doors are desperately trying to get ready for the upcoming school year, but repairs and cleanup are ongoing.

Moreover, many schools will see an influx of flood-displaced students, while others will face financial challenges due to the loss of students and property values where the schools are located. I have heard from several regional superintendents in my district, particularly Mr. Ralph Grimm of West Central Community Unit School District No. 235 in Henderson County, with concerns that this situation will make it difficult for them to make ends meet in the coming school year.

To address short- and long-term needs, immediate education disaster assistance for flood-impacted schools is necessary to ensure that students continue to receive a quality education in the aftermath of this disaster. As such, I proudly introduce the Midwest Schools Disaster Relief Act.

Similarly to the assistance Congress approved after Hurricane Katrina, this bill would:

Authorize funds to restart school operations. These monies could be used on transportation assistance, to replace damaged textbooks and computers, rent temporary classroom sites, hire additional staff for counseling services, clean up school buildings, and other services and activities.

Authorize funds for schools to accommodate any displaced students they enroll.

Prohibit the loss of students due to displacement to count against schools when Federal funding is calculated for the next academic year.

Waive the Federal requirement that schools maintain their share of financial responsibility in providing education services.

Ensure the needs of homeless students displaced by flooding are met through the Education for Homeless Youth program.

The natural disasters of May and June 2008 have adversely affected the economy, agriculture, critical infrastructure, and school districts of the Midwest. As weather-damaged schools prepare to welcome students back in just a few short weeks, we simply cannot stand by and watch our children receive a lower-quality education solely because they live in an area where flooding or storms occurred.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation.

## WORLD WAR II MARINE GRADUATES HIGH SCHOOL

### HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, James DeLeon is one this year's 2008 high school graduates. The difference is he is 83 years old.

He was born in Goliad, Texas, and when World War II broke out he dropped out of Ganado High School, lied about his age and joined the U.S. Marine Corps. His 16-year-old brother, Charlie, did the same thing a few weeks later.

James was part of the 6,000 Marines sent into battle at Guadalcanal in the South Pacific in 1942. There, they seized the island's airport and never relinquished it. He was also in the invasion of Okinawa—the site of one of the fiercest battles of World War II—where he remained until the end of the war. He had served 34 months in the Marine Corps.

Then, James returned to Texas and married his sweetheart, Susie Marie Elizondo; raised seven children and worked for 36 years at the Port Arthur, Texas, Texaco refining plant. Recently, his daughter Theresa located a lost letter from the Marines to Ganado High School dated 1947 stating that DeLeon met all the requirements to earn his diploma. She mailed it to the current principal and James was then honored with his own graduation ceremony.

James DeLeon is yet another successful member of the Greatest Generation that answered America's call in time of need.

And that's just the way it is.

## THE DAILY 45: MIGUEL LEON-FREGOSO

### HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, everyday, 45 people, on average, are fatally shot in the United States.

I have another story of unnecessary violence. This time the location is in the city of San Diego. According to reports, 27-year-old Miguel Leon-Fregoso was with a group of friends at a bar early this morning when, upon leaving, he was involved in a verbal altercation outside. Minutes later a man shot Miguel in the face. Thus, in yet another quick, mindless instance—another young life has been taken.

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

## HONORING THE LIFE OF ROBERT L. "BOB" CHANDLER

### HON. TRAVIS W. CHILDERS

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mr. CHILDERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today with deep sadness to honor the passing of a great leader, colleague and dear friend,