

Agency for International Development (USAID) enables the U.S. to demonstrate both its generosity and its willingness to provide a tangible learning tool. Last year, in partnership with USAID's Africa Education Initiative, 18 containers of books were delivered to Ghana, Liberia, Madagascar, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania, and Zambia. All told, Books for Africa delivered 119 containers of books in 2007 to 22 countries, a truly impressive accomplishment.

This form of public diplomacy—putting the book in the hands of a child or elder—is truly the best face of America and should not only be sustained, but expanded. In the U.S. we take books for granted, but we should never forget the power of a book. And, when they are distributed by the millions, the benefit cannot be overstated.

Let me conclude by also recognizing the extraordinary effort of the volunteers for Books for Africa, as well as the donations of high quality books from publishers, schools and organizations. This combined and coordinated effort is transforming lives. If this generosity and determination to provide books can continue to match the hunger for knowledge, learning, and education by the children and adults all across the African continent then we will have even greater accomplishments to celebrate in the future.

Again, congratulations to Books for Africa for 20 years of extraordinary work to build a bridge of knowledge, education and hope between Minnesota and communities all across Africa.

A TRIBUTE TO RICHFIELD'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2008

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Speaker, I am honored to congratulate the citizens of Richfield, Minnesota on the celebration of the city's 100th anniversary.

Richfield is a diverse, vibrant community whose history mirrors that of the State of Minnesota. Originally, the territory was inhabited by the Ojibwe and Dakota tribes, and, in the late 18th century, was claimed by the French. The territory was first settled in 1852 by Riley Bartholomew on the eastern shore of Wood Lake; the Bartholomew homestead remains there to this day, and is listed on the National and Minnesota Registers of Historic Places. In 1804, the territory was purchased by the United States Government from France as a part of the Louisiana Purchase, and in the years following, would become a village, revered for the fertile texture of its soil and its farming communities. Richfield's economy would remain focused on agricultural commodities until the conclusion of World War II.

Today, Richfield is a prosperous community, home to families, education facilities, businesses, community organizations, wetlands and parks. The city will celebrate its first century this year by remembering the past. In honor of the city's centennial, a statue of Charles W. Lindberg, who helped to raise the United States flag atop the island of Iwo Jima on February 23, 1945, will be dedicated at Veterans Park on July 4, 2009. The dedication

will also include a memorial to all veterans from Richfield.

I am honored to represent the residents of Richfield, Minnesota in the United States House of Representatives, and I applaud everyone, past or present, who contributed to the history of this great city. I hope the events scheduled to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the city are enjoyed by all residents and I look forward to making the next 100 years just as successful as the previous century.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIM MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2008

TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 588, Adjournment, had I been present, I would have voted "no."

Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 585, Approval of the Journal, had I been present, I would have voted "no."

Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 586, H. Res. 1420, Recognizing September 11 as a day of remembrance, extending sympathies to those who lost their lives on September 11, 2001, and their families, honoring the heroic actions of our nation's first responders and Armed Forces, and reaffirming the commitment to defending the people of the United States against any and all future challenges, had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 587, H.R. 6531, To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to restore the Highway Trust Fund balance, had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

HONORING THE WEST HAVEN ITALIAN-AMERICAN CIVIC ASSOCIATION AS THEY CELEBRATE THEIR 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2008

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the members of the West Haven Italian-American Civic Association as they celebrate a remarkable milestone—their 50th Anniversary. As they mark this golden anniversary, their many members and their families can be proud of all that they have contributed and continue to contribute to our community.

My hometown of New Haven, Connecticut and its surrounding communities have always had a large and very proud Italian-American population. Over the years, a number of Italian-American clubs and organizations were formed by small groups within different neighborhoods and most were dedicated to particular towns or regions in the old country or were affiliated with certain Saints or religious societies. It was, is still today, a means of preserving and celebrating the traditions and culture brought to America from Italy.

The founders of the West Haven Italian-American Civic Association wanted to create a place where all Americans of Italian descent

could meet and socialize—an organization that was more general in its appeal and that encompassed all that the local Italian-American communities had to offer. They also wanted to create an organization that would allow them to give back to the community and country that had offered them so many opportunities and blessings.

After the official incorporation of both the West Haven Italian-American Civic Association and its sister organization, the West Haven Italian American Auxiliary, member contributions made possible the purchase of a plot of land and through the volunteer efforts of the membership, the buildings and grounds were renovated and improved. In less than a decade, because of increased membership, it became clear that they would need additional space for their meetings and social gatherings. Once again the generosity and volunteer efforts of the club's membership allowed them to build a new meeting hall which is still used today.

The West Haven Italian-American Civic Association has always been more than a social organization. One of their founding principles was a commitment to give back to the community in which they and their families had found the opportunity to prosper. Through the years, local schools, service organizations, police, fire, and volunteer organizations have all benefited from the generosity of the Association's members. Through its Civic and Welfare Fund, more than \$70,000 has been contributed to various causes. The Association also sponsors numerous youth sports teams and offers free use of their hall for, among many things, school bingos, sports affairs, and community fundraisers. It is not an exaggeration to say that the Association and the Auxiliary have not only realized the vision of the founding members, but have far exceeded them.

For their many invaluable contributions, I am proud to stand today to pay tribute to the membership—past and present—of the West Haven Italian-American Civic Association and Auxiliary as they mark their golden anniversary. I have no doubt that they and future generations of members will continue to make a difference in the lives of others leaving an indelible mark on our community. My very best wishes for another 50 years of success!

IN HONOR OF THE POLISH LEGION OF AMERICAN VETERANS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Polish Legion of American Veterans (PLAV) on the occasion of their 39th Biennial National Convention and in recognition of their dedication to veterans' issues and to the community. I am proud to be an honorary member of the Polish Legion of American Veterans and of the leadership of the National Commander, Ernest Stetz.

PLAV, founded in 1920, is comprised of American veterans of Polish descent who actively engage in the community through education, charitable and civic activities. In addition to civic engagement, founding PLAV members worked for an independent Poland,

in congruence with President Woodrow Wilson's "Fourteen Points." President Ronald Reagan signed an Act of Congress, P.L. 98-372, on July 23, 1984, granting the Polish Legion of America a Federal Charter. There are over five posts in my congressional district which host events and volunteer within the community, with dozens more around the country.

The members of PLAV work collectively to ensure that all those who served our country are provided with benefits and work with Congress to support legislation necessary to ensuring that veterans receive these benefits. This year's National Convention features Robert Kupiecki, Ambassador and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Poland.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor of the Polish Legion of American Veterans and in recognition of their outstanding community service and dedication to our Nation's veterans. Their involvement in the community is invaluable; may their work in the community serve as an example for us all.

CONGRATULATING U.S. OLYMPIANS JENNIFER KAIDO AND BEEZIE MADDEN UPON THEIR PARTICIPATION IN THE 2008 OLYMPIC GAMES IN BEIJING, CHINA

HON. JOHN M. McHUGH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2008

Mr. McHUGH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Jennifer Kaido and Beezie Madden upon their accomplishments as participants in the 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing, China. These athletes embody the true spirit of the Olympic games and I am proud to represent them.

Jennifer Kaido grew up in West Leyden, New York and is a 1999 graduate of Adirondack High School. In Beijing, Jennifer competed as a rower in the Women's Quadruple Sculls and her crew finished ranked fifth in the world. Beezie Madden, a resident of Cazenovia, New York competing with her horse, Authentic, brought home two medals as a member of the U.S. Equestrian Team.

Jennifer Kaido began her Olympic participation on August 10, 2008, when her Quadruple Sculls' crew finished third in their initial heat. In the repechage, they finished in second place, which qualified them for the finals. In the finals, the American crew valiantly rowed their way to an impressive fifth place finish.

At one time Jennifer's journey to Beijing seemed unlikely. It is my understanding that Jennifer had never rowed prior to trying out for the crew team her senior year at Cornell. She is proof positive that through hard work and determination anything is truly possible. Her rapid ascension in her sport to the level of Olympian is simply amazing. Moreover, it has been widely accounted that Jennifer competed in China with a level-headed attitude along with a deep love for her family and community.

Beezie Madden returns home from Beijing as one of the world's greatest equestrian jumpers. She followed up on her gold medal performance in the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens by again earning gold in the Team

jumping competition. Astride her horse, Authentic, she also won a bronze medal in the individual jumping competition. In addition to these accomplishments, Beezie has earned many accolades throughout her career, including being named the U.S. Equestrian Federation Equestrian of the Year in consecutive years; she also has been named the American Grand Prix Association Rider of the Year and the U.S. Olympic Committee's Equestrian of the Year.

Madam Speaker, I am pleased to have the opportunity to extend my sincere congratulations to Jennifer and Beezie upon their accomplishments. They represented our Nation and the residents of central and northern New York extraordinarily well and I wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE FIFTEENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PENSACOLA, FLORIDA CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL COALITION OF 100 BLACK WOMEN

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2008

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, it is an honor for me to rise today to recognize the 15th anniversary of the Pensacola Chapter of the National Coalition of 100 Black Women. The NCBW of Pensacola is involved intimately in a wide variety of social, religious, economic, and political facets of northwest Florida, and I am proud to recognize its 15 years of service to the Pensacola community.

The National Coalition of 100 Black Women is a service and advocacy organization that supports women of color who want to work towards solutions on issues of concern to African-American women and youth. Started in 1971 by a small group of dedicated women from New York, the National Coalition of 100 Black Women quickly grew to over 900 members and organized as a broad national service group in 1981.

The National Coalition installed the Pensacola Chapter on October 1, 1993 with 38 local women as its founding members. The chapter's mission is to empower African-American women and youth through programs that meet their diverse needs. These programs are targeted to support black women at key stages in life and include important activities such as youth mentorship and community service.

Recent examples of the Pensacola Chapter role in the community include its Annual Hat Show and Luncheon to raise money for college scholarships targeted to African-American high school seniors. This event features a fashion show of fancy and unique hats and attracts over 500 people each year. Over the past six years, the Hat Show has raised over \$50,000 for scholarships and has helped close to 100 students launch their college careers. Another key NCBW activity is its Adopt-A-School and Mentoring Program. Each coalition member is paired with a student from a particular school and provides advice and guidance to that student throughout the year.

For 15 years, the Pensacola Chapter of the National Coalition of 100 Black Women has provided vital service to the people of northwest Florida. Their devotion to empowering Af-

rican-American women is a true testament to the ability of our citizens to work together in order to better our lives and our country.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to recognize the Pensacola Chapter of the National Coalition of 100 Black Women for its 15 years of dedicated service to its community.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF
COUNCILWOMAN FANNIE LEWIS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Councilwoman Fannie Lewis, an outspoken leader and profoundly respected member of the Greater Cleveland Community, and to honor a life spent in service to her community.

One of Cleveland's longest-serving Council Members, Councilwoman Lewis was known for her unfailing support and activism for the working class residents of the Greater Cleveland Area. Recognized as a "neighborhood activist," she emerged as the prominent voice for the economically disadvantaged in Cleveland, fighting for their rights regardless of the opposition. Councilwoman Lewis began her career in public service fighting for civil rights and equality in the Hough neighborhood in Cleveland as a recruiter for the Neighborhood Youth Corps during the 1960s. After helping local residents find work and through the Youth Corps, she continued her activism for the residents of Hough Avenue during her tenure in Cleveland's City Council.

She joined the City Council in 1980 and immediately began working on renovating Hough Avenue. Councilwoman Lewis worked tirelessly on housing development in several neighborhoods, pushing for new apartments and houses as well as a large nursing home in Eliza Bryant Village. She challenged local residents to keep their neighborhoods clean. Her tenacious voice for those with educational and economic needs stood in stark contrast to her personable disposition that enabled her to work closely with the residents she represented. Her leadership skills affected all of those around her and she worked around the clock encouraging her residents to stand up for their needs and beliefs.

In addition to her activism for housing and economic development in Cleveland, Councilwoman Lewis pushed for school vouchers for her residents in City Council, giving economically disadvantaged students and their families the opportunity to attend private schools. The Supreme Court ruled in favor of Councilwoman Lewis's program in 2002, upholding her voucher program. In 2003, the Fannie Lewis Law, which requires that city residents constitute at least 20 percent of the workforce on any construction projects that receive contracts worth \$100,000 or more, was passed.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in celebrating the life of Councilwoman Fannie Lewis, whose career in public service is a shining example for public officials and women everywhere. May her pioneering character and exemplary life serve as an example for all of us to follow.