

all but one year since Florida first implemented school grades during the 1998–99 school year, BEA's teachers and students continue to distinguish themselves—helping students to continually achieve at high levels while making significant progress in closing the achievement gap.

Further, the school's willingness to explore creative new learning techniques and methodologies, such as “brain-based” learning, attributes to BEA's academic progress and ability to create varying curriculums when it comes to Sunshine State Standards.

I would like to extend my congratulations to Principal Carol Borders and her team of inspiring educators and extraordinary students. You're making a true difference in the lives of so many, and building communities that improve students' learning.

#### HONORING KYLE BORGESON

#### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 22, 2008*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Kyle Borgeson of Gladstone, Missouri. Kyle is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1155, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Kyle has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Kyle has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Kyle Borgeson for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

#### TRIBUTE TO DAN DAVIS

#### HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 22, 2008*

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the recent heroic actions of Dan Davis of Badger, Iowa.

On Saturday, June 14th at 4:00 a.m., Dan heard the sound of popping tires when he looked outside and saw flames shooting out of the neighbor's house. He knew that two teens were in that home while their parents were away. Dan ran into the home and woke Hannah and Max Edwards, who were sleeping through the smoke alarms. Although the house and possessions were nearly a total loss, Dan, Hannah and Max made it out unharmed.

Dan's decisive decision making in such a critical situation goes above and beyond what we are asked of as citizens of this country. His courage illustrates the compassion of Iowans; willing to do whatever it takes for a neighbor in need. I know my colleagues in the United States Congress join me in congratulating Dan Davis on a job well done. It is an honor to rep-

resent such a compassionate Iowan in Congress, and I wish Dan the best in his future endeavors.

#### STENNIS CENTER PROGRAM FOR CONGRESSIONAL INTERNS

#### HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 22, 2008*

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, for 6 years now, the John C. Stennis Center for Public Service Leadership has conducted a program for summer interns working in Congressional offices. This 6-week program is designed to enhance their internship experience by giving them an inside view of how Congress really works. It also provides an opportunity for them to meet with senior congressional staff and other experts to discuss issues ranging from the legislative process to the influence of the media and lobbyists on Congress.

The program is a joint effort of the Stennis Center and a collection of current and former senior congressional staff leaders who are serving as Senior Stennis Fellows. These fellows use their experience and expertise to design the program and to participate in each of the interactive sessions and panel discussions.

Interns are selected for this program based on their college record, community service background, and interest in a career in public service. This year, 21 outstanding interns, most of them juniors and seniors in college, who are working for Democrats and Republicans in both the House and Senate participated.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate the interns for their participation in this valuable program and I thank the Stennis Center and the Senior Stennis Fellows for providing such a unique experience for these interns and for encouraging them to consider a future career in public service.

I ask that a list of 2008 Stennis Congressional Interns and the offices in which they work be printed in the RECORD.

Matt Beato, attending the College of William and Mary interning in the office of Rep. Brian Higgins.

Molly Box, attending the University of Wyoming interning in the office of Sen. Mike Enzi.

Geoff Browning, attending Loyola College interning in the office of Rep. James McGovern.

Chloe Cabot, attending the University of Wisconsin interning in the office of Sen. Herb Kohl.

Zach Chalett, attending New York University interning in the office of Rep. Jim McDermott.

Jason Chang, attending Brandeis University interning in the office of Rep. Emanuel Cleaver.

Shaun N. Christiansen, attending the University of Oregon interning in the office of Rep. Earl Blumenauer.

TJ Garrigan, attending Catholic University interning in the office of Rep. Robert Brady.

Mitch Hunter, attending Harvard University interning in the office of Sen. Amy Klobuchar.

Jon Junig, attending the University of Rochester interning in the office of Rep. Tom Petri.

Jonathan Kay, attending Middlebury College interning in the office of Sen. Hillary Clinton.

Rebecca Lurie, attending the University of Maryland interning in the office of Rep. Robert Brady.

Grainne Lynn, attending Catholic University interning in the office of Rep. Robert Brady.

Chris Mickey, attending the University of Wyoming interning in the office of Sen. John Barrasso.

Kristina Nesse, attending the College of St. Benedict interning in the office of Sen. Amy Klobuchar.

Jillian Petrella, attending William Smith College interning in the office of Rep. Brian Higgins.

Trevor Pierce, attending the University of Michigan interning in the office of Rep. John Campbell.

William Poindexter, attending Mississippi State University interning in the office of Sen. Thad Cochran.

Betsey Sawyer, attending Louisiana State University interning in the office of Sen. Thad Cochran.

Harrison Tome, attending the University of Pennsylvania interning in the office of Sen. John Barrasso.

Neil White, attending Princeton University interning in the office of Sen. Thad Cochran.

#### HONORING HOLOCAUST MUSEUM AND STUDY CENTER

#### HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 22, 2008*

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, the Holocaust Museum and Study Center over the past 30 years has become an important museum, cultural and educational center for one of the greatest tragedies of history that must never be forgotten.

The museum originated in 1979 with the appointment of the Rockland County Holocaust Commission by the County Legislature. It opened its doors in 1988 dedicated to educate, examine and explore the history of the Holocaust. The museum uses educational programs, lectures, exhibitions, teaching training seminars, and commemoration ceremonies to ensure that the lessons of the Holocaust are not forgotten.

The Holocaust Museum and Study Center uses the witness of Holocaust survivors living in Rockland, stories of triumph and survival in the face of a highly efficient and determined Nazi death machine. The museum also includes the stories of Allied soldiers who, in defeating the Nazis, liberated the death camps.

Remembering and teaching the history of the Holocaust is essential if we are never to repeat its terrible events. The tragic events of Rwanda tell us that the lessons of the Holocaust are still to be learned.

The murder of six million Jews as well as millions more of Gypsies, the handicapped, Slavic peoples and others such as Communists, homosexuals, Jehovah Witnesses, and Socialists, just for being who they were must not be repeated.

The Holocaust Museum and Study Center teaches this dramatic lesson so that we never have to learn it again. It is a powerful force for good in a world that still needs it.

## HONORING STEPHEN GOTT

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 22, 2008*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Stephen Gott of Liberty, Missouri. Stephen is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1374, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Stephen has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Stephen has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Stephen Gott for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

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 TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE  
ALAN WHEAT
**HON. WM. LACY CLAY**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 22, 2008*

Mr. CLAY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Honorable Alan Wheat, former Congressman who represented Missouri's 5th District from 1983 to 1994. Born to James Weldon and Emogene Wheat in San Antonio, Texas on October 16, 1951, Alan is one of three children.

Congressman Wheat made history by becoming one of the Nation's first African-Americans to represent a district with a white majority. Although it was suggested that he would only support African-American issues, one-third of Wheat's vote total in the primary came from white voters.

Throughout his career, Congressman Wheat earned the widely respected reputation of being a strong political leader and coalition builder. This well earned reputation led to him becoming the youngest member and only the third freshman Congressman in history to be appointed to the powerful Rules Committee. Dedicated to public service, Congressman Wheat ran for the U.S. Senate in 1994, won the Democratic primary and became the first minority candidate selected as a major party nominee for statewide office in Missouri. When Congressman Wheat made his bid for the Senate, he was described as "a new kind of black candidate: not simply a representative of black America but a bridge-builder between black and white America."

In 1995, Wheat became vice president of public policy and government relations for the CARE Foundation, an international relief and development organization, one of the largest of its kind in the Nation.

In 1998, Congressman Wheat formed Wheat Government Relations. With his unparalleled knowledge of the legislative process and his reputation for promoting bipartisan support, Wheat Government Relations has established him as a successful, bipartisan liai-

son between the government and the private sector.

Congressman Wheat holds a Bachelor of Arts from Grinnell College. He is married to Yolanda and has three children.

Madam Speaker, I am pleased to induct Congressman Wheat into the Missouri Walk of Fame. I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring Congressman Alan Wheat for his commitment to the great state of Missouri.

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 RECOGNIZING THE BIRTHDAY OF  
DR. CLAYTIE ODESSA SEARCY
**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 22, 2008*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to honor a great leader in the Dallas community: Dr. Claytie Odessa Searcy. Dr. C. O. Searcy was Pastor Emeritus and Founder of "The House of Love Church." A native Texan, Dr. Searcy made history by becoming the first Black woman to receive a Masters degree from the University of Texas. She was the second person in the history of the university to complete a Masters program in only nine months.

Dr. Searcy first began community work at the Moorland Branch YMCA in Dallas, Texas. Concerned about the boys' moral and spiritual life, she secured bibles for the entire boy's division and recognizing the need to strengthen the "total family", she organized a mothers' club which provided funds to send underprivileged boys to camp each summer.

Dr. Searcy launched her community activities when she founded the C.O. Searcy Youth Foundation. The C.O. Searcy Foundation enabled Dr. Searcy to provide food, clothes, household merchandise and other much needed items to the families of her community. She offered the adults and youth extended GED courses in conjunction with the Dallas Independent School District.

In 1966, Dr. Searcy then organized The House of Love Church, where she served as Pastor Emeritus. As Pastor Emeritus of the House of Love Church, Dr. Searcy spent her life serving others. When asked what "life" means to her, her response was, "Life is about helping someone else see who he/she really is." Today, Madame Speaker, I would like to celebrate the full life of Dr. Claytie Odessa Searcy, on this the occasion of her birthday.

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 HONORING JOSEPH LANDERS III
**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 22, 2008*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Joseph Landers III of Smithville, Missouri. Joseph is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1412, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Joseph has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the

many years Joseph has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Joseph Landers III for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

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 TRIBUTE TO RICHARD AVISE
**HON. TOM LATHAM**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 22, 2008*

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the recipient of the Iowa National Association of Active and Retired Federal Employees (NARFE) Federation's Community Service Award, Richard "Dick" Avise of Rockwell, Iowa for his longtime community service efforts.

For 48 years, Dick has volunteered his time to improving the Rockwell Community. Among many other accomplishments, Dick helped establish apartments for retirees, served as President and Secretary of the Rockwell Chamber of Commerce, grew and donated sweet corn for over a decade to the Rockwell Annual Chicken Barbecue, arranged the 1994 Ziedler Park Lion's Club Tree Project, and assisted the Cerro Gordo Extension Crop Clinics for 15 years. Dick's dedication to his community and his commitment to his organization should be commended.

A year after celebrating his 80th birthday, Dick continues his community service and remains active as the NARFE Chapter 170 Alzheimer Chair. I consider it an honor to represent Dick Avise in Congress, and I wish him the best in the future.

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 RECOGNIZING MRS. BILLIE JOHNSON'S  
ADMISSION TO THE OHIO  
WOMEN'S HALL OF FAME
**HON. MARCY KAPTUR**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 22, 2008*

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise today with pride to recognize the entry into the Ohio Women's Hall of Fame of Billie Johnson of my District. Mrs. Johnson is a founder of the Area Office on Aging of Northwest Ohio. She has been a leader of elder and women's issues throughout her accomplished career.

Billie Johnson can claim many "firsts": she was the first African American elected Governor of Zonta International—District 5, Ohio, West Virginia and Kentucky; she was the first African American woman elected to the Board of Directors of National City Bank; she was appointed by former Governor James A. Rhodes to serve two terms on one of Ohio's first Women's Advisory Boards to recognize the achievements of women throughout the state and to improve opportunities and employment for women; she organized efforts to incorporate under Ohio law the first regional, non-profit office on aging in northwest Ohio; she launched the first SeniorNet Program in northwest Ohio—an affiliate of national