

permanent homes to children without such a blessing. Multiple States, neighborhoods, and agencies across the United States hold events during this month to encourage families to give children the gift of family through adoption.

There are many types of adoption. In 2007, approximately 51,000 children were adopted from the U.S. foster care system and 20,000 children were adopted internationally. Tens of thousands of children also are adopted within the United States each year. I recognize the joy and love that each of these families offers its adoptive children. I know that Raschke family from Oak Park, IL, exemplifies the happiness and rewards of being an adoptive family. Joe and Cathleen Raschke welcomed Nicholas Dan Raschke to their family in August 2006. Nicholas was adopted from the Vinh Long Orphanage in Vinh Long, Vietnam. As a young Chicagoan, Nicholas loves the Cubs, cold weather, and good food.

We have done great work here in Congress to promote adoption. We recently passed Public Law 110–351, the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008. This new law is designed to help place children in permanent, caring families through reunification, adoption, and guardianship. In addition to reauthorizing the Adoption and Safe Families Act, the new law supports subsidized guardianship, a policy approach that provides Federal support to kinship caregivers who provide their young relatives permanent, loving homes. I am pleased that we are taking steps to improve the lives of America's youth that are filled with desperate need.

So, during the 2008 National Adoption Month, I tip my hat to those who have opened their families via adoption, providing the care and love needed to grow our youngest citizens into tomorrow's leaders.

TRIBUTE TO TAUBMAN MUSEUM OF ART

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Mr. GOODLATTE. Madam Speaker, the Art Museum of Western Virginia has been transformed. Formerly located in Center in the Square in Roanoke, Virginia, the museum has undergone a multimillion dollar makeover under the guidance of renowned architect Randall Stout and has been reborn as the Taubman Museum of Art.

Created in 1951 as the Roanoke Fine Arts Center, and then fully accredited for the first time in 1977, it became the Roanoke Museum of Fine Arts in 1980. Following its relocation from South Roanoke to the downtown multi-cultural structure called Center in the Square, it became the Art Museum of Western Virginia in 1992, testament to the regional nature of its mission. But change beckoned the museum as it sat on the cusp of the 21st century, due both to outgrowing its space and an expansion in its collection.

A vision developed for the new Art Museum of Western Virginia. Museum officials and community supporters determined that instead of renovating an existing structure in downtown Roanoke for the new facility, a state-of-the-art structure was in order. That vision was

developed not only to help bring attention to the museum itself but to help speak to the region's steady movement toward becoming a player in our technology-driven economy.

Thanks to the city of Roanoke, an undeveloped site near one of the city's busiest intersections was donated to house the museum, and the city contributed \$4 million for the project. Once Randall Stout was hired to develop an image of the museum at that site, it became clear that his growing stature in architectural circles would result in the transformative structure that many had hoped for. The plan was to help put Roanoke on the map with a building that would attract visitors not only from around the Commonwealth of Virginia and the United States but from around the world. On September 10, I was honored to be a participant in breaking ground for the new museum.

After just over 3 years of construction, Roanoke's new art museum opened to the public on Saturday, November 8. And I was fortunate to again be present to help cut the ribbon on a building that is difficult to put into words. But once you see the Taubman Museum of Art, you learn to understand that Randall Stout captured the mountains, valleys, rivers, and seasons in rock, steel, and glass.

The new museum in Roanoke is named for Nick and Jenny Taubman, a family name well known to Roanokers. Nick is the former leader of Advance Auto Parts and presently serves as the United States Ambassador to Romania. His wife, Jenny, chaired the museum's capital campaign. And their pledge of \$15.25 million was the largest donation received toward the museum. The facility also benefits greatly from the Horace G. Fralin Charitable Trust, which has contributed financially and formatively. Under the leadership of Heywood Fralin, the Fralin Trust has contributed works by American artists that now make the Taubman Museum a home for some of the greatest our Nation has known—Winslow Homer, Norman Rockwell, and John Singer Sargent to name just a few.

Under the able direction of Georgeanne Bingham, the Taubman Museum is not only a structure housing works of art, it is becoming a true destination. The museum also houses Art Venture, geared toward bringing men, women and children together in a gallery that will permit hands-on opportunities to create their own art. A special new media gallery is courtesy of the great leaders and minds at Virginia Tech, a longtime supporter of the new museum and an integral part of the institution's plans for educational outreach in the arts. The museum even features Hokie Stone, once specific only to the buildings on Tech's campus in Blacksburg.

While breaking ground for the Taubman Museum, I said that it was a key to the new frontiers that must be crossed in the Roanoke Valley region of Virginia in order to keep it competitive in the 21st century. Now that the structure is complete, I remain convinced that the facility is the latest successful effort that is opening eyes to the vast array of possibilities that are within our reach in western Virginia. I agree with my friend Heywood Fralin that the museum is without a doubt, the most significant new structure in Virginia.

I extend congratulations to Georgeanne Bingham, Nick and Jenny Taubman, Heywood Fralin, Randall Stout, and countless others who toiled for the past 3 years to help the

Taubman Museum rise to the cusp of opening. The expectations were great, but I am sure that everyone who sets foot in the museum will be deeply impressed by what it has to offer to a broad range of art enthusiasts.

The collections inside will speak well. Visitors will get to see old favorites, develop an appreciation for new acquisitions, and experience art in a technologically advanced way. And the building itself—the structure as seen from the exterior and what envelops inside—carries with it special significance. It has automatically become a landmark—and in a setting in downtown Roanoke, it is good company. When given the opportunity to move from ground level and into the museum's interior and then move around it's exterior, one understands that it is surrounded by the landmarks that speak both to the region's past and point the way to its future—from the ancient Blue Ridge and Alleghany Mountains and valleys, to the star atop Mill Mountain, to the railroad tracks that first brought commerce to the region, to the historic buildings that served in previous centuries and have now been reborn for modern times. The Taubman Museum will join so many other efforts leading the way for the region, its citizens, and visitors through the frontiers yet to come.

I am delighted that the Taubman Museum has been erected in the Sixth District of Virginia. I encourage our Nation to embrace the structure and its contents and to come to Roanoke to enjoy this grand cultural attraction for many, many years to come.

HONORING JACKSON ROSS HOBBS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jackson Ross Hobbs of Lee's Summit, Missouri. Jackson 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 1042, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Jackson has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Jackson 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 Jackson Ross Hobbs 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 MR. GARY L. CRAMER

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Mr. UPTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Gary L. Cramer of Kalamazoo, Michigan for his years of outstanding service to Kalamazoo Charter Township and the State of Michigan.

Gary began his work as a public official in 1980, when he was elected to serve as Kalamazoo Township trustee. Over the next 16

years, Gary distinguished himself as a clear-thinking and approachable leader, earning him the trust and respect of government, business, and community leaders alike. In his capacity as trustee, Gary also assumed an active role as a township fire commissioner and as a member of the city planning commission.

From the role of trustee, Gary was elected to the position of township supervisor, where he admirably served the residents of Kalamazoo Township from 1996 to 2008. For those 12 years, Gary also worked as a member of the Kalamazoo Township Policy and Administration Committee, the Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study, the Coalition for Urban Redevelopment, the Kalamazoo Regional Water & Wastewater Commission, and the Community Action Board. In 1999, he was elected to the Michigan Township Association Board, where he retired as president in 2008.

Gary has always risen above the fray of partisan politics to ensure that the interests of those he represents are met. As both an administrator and representative, he truly exemplifies the best of the public servant.

Once again, I would like to congratulate and express my gratitude to Gary Cramer for his many years of distinguished service to the residents of Kalamazoo Township. Southwest Michigan is truly stronger because of his contributions.

IN MEMORY OF NANCY HAWK

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, on Friday, October 17th, South Carolina lost a true Charleston Southern Lady with the death of Nancy Dinwiddie Hawk. A native of Virginia, Ms. Hawk spent most of her life in Charleston where she raised nine children, practiced law as a Broad Street Lawyer, and become a tireless advocate and worker for the needs of her community.

I had the honor of knowing Ms. Hawk as a fellow member of First (Scots) Presbyterian Church and growing up with her children. She was truly a pioneer for women's involvement in political and civic service in our society.

A fitting editorial tribute to Nancy Hawk was published on October 19, 2008, in The Post and Courier newspaper of Charleston, South Carolina.

NANCY D. HAWK

[From the Post and Courier, Oct. 19, 2008]

After Nancy Dinwiddie Hawk was named the United States Mother of the Year, a reporter wrote that chronicling her remarkable life in politics, historic preservation and law was more appropriate for a biographer than for a journalist. That was in 1989. Her impressive story got more so after that.

Mrs. Hawk, who died Friday in hospice care, was a woman of purpose and drive. After rearing nine successful children, she enrolled at the College of Charleston to finish the undergraduate degree she had begun at the University of Virginia. Then, she commuted between Charleston and law school in Columbia. And before it became routine to see female lawyers, her shingle was hanging on Broad Street.

What Nancy Hawk touched, Nancy Hawk influenced.

East Bay Street might have been in the shadow of a 10-story apartment building had

she not succeeded in stopping the planned building by saving several old warehouses.

She worked to save historic Snee Farm, to shape plans for the Crosstown to mitigate damage to the peninsula, to restore the county courthouse, build the judicial center and organize the Charlestowne Neighborhood Association.

She wasn't afraid to take on controversy. She opposed Charleston Place and supported Lodge Alley Inn. Both were built.

When her two bids for elected office failed—a 1975 race against Joseph P. Riley Jr. for mayor and a 1976 race against T. Dewey Wise for state Senate—she became vice chairman of the State Republican Party.

She later said she probably wasn't suited for politics because the "gamesmanship" that goes along with it didn't fit with her straightforward manner.

Mrs. Hawk was born in Charlottesville, Va., but she was thoroughly committed to Charleston where she moved in 1951 with her husband, Dr. John C. Hawk.

First (Scots) Presbyterian Church. The Girl Scouts. Charleston Civic Ballet. Charleston Opera Company. The Christian Family Y. The American College of the Building Arts. The Council of Urban Quality. H.E.L.P. Piccolo Spoleto. Meals on Wheels. The Lowcountry Open Land Trust. The Charles Pinckney National Historic Site. Parents Anonymous. Mason Prep school. All were strengthened by her hard work and support. In 1993, she received the Order of the Palmetto.

She once told The Post and Courier, "It's hard to live with the knowledge that something happened because you didn't act." Surely she didn't face sleepless nights on that account.

Charleston is a better place because of Nancy Hawk. The city has lost a leader of strength and character.

A TRIBUTE TO THE DISTINGUISHED CAREER OF MILTON M. YOUNGER

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate and honor the distinguished career of Milton M. Younger of Bakersfield, California. After more than 52 years as a senior partner for the law firm of Chain, Younger, Cohn, and Stiles, Milt is stepping down to begin a new law firm, Younger and Lemucchi, with his long-time friend attorney Tim Lemucchi.

Milt was born in Bakersfield and has been a longtime resident of the city. He attended Bakersfield High School where he met his wife, Betty. Upon graduation, Milt attended Stanford University where he received his Bachelors and Masters Degrees. In 1956, he graduated from Stanford School of Law. After passing the California state bar, Milt became certified to practice law in 1957. Thereafter, he served as a JAG officer in the United States Army.

Between 1956 and 2008, Milt served as a senior partner for the law firm of Chain, Younger, Cohn, and Stiles. He joined the law firm, originally owned and operated by Morris B. Chain, in 1956. When Mr. Chain died in 1977, Milt became senior partner. During his tenure, Milt devoted his work to advocate for persons involved in accidents. Notable cases

include representing burned Kern County oil-field electricians where he demanded safe machinery and equipment. In 2001, Milt argued on behalf of a three-year-old quadriplegic child whose car seat broke free from its seatbelt. As a result, infant seats are now required to undergo crash testing.

Milt has proudly supported organized labor for the past 45 years, representing firemen, policeman, correctional officers, California Highway Patrol officers, Naval Weapons Center employees, doctors, educators and senior citizens. A recipient of prestigious awards such as the Presidential Award of Merit by the Consumer Attorneys of California, Bench and Bar Award from the Kern County Bar Association, and honorary doctorate from California State University, Bakersfield attest to Milt's many accomplishments.

Through his public works and relentless community service, fighting on behalf of all injured persons, regardless of socioeconomic background, Milt has accomplished his lifelong endeavor of making the world safer. Known as one of Kern County's most trusted names in law, his significant contributions to the Valley will never be forgotten. Today, I take great pleasure in honoring, through these remarks, a good friend, valued advisor, and public servant Milt Younger.

HONORING DAVID PHILIP ISEMAN, JR.

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize David Philip Iseman, Jr. of Lee's Summit, Missouri. David 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 1391, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

David has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years David 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 David Philip Iseman, Jr. for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

IN CELEBRATION OF NATIONAL AMERICAN INDIAN HERITAGE MONTH

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of National American Indian Heritage Month and to recognize the important contributions of American Indians to our history and culture.

This year's theme is "Celebrating Tribal Nations: America's Great Partners." For me, this