

Madam Speaker, I stand today to honor the lasting legacy of all former and current Peace Corps volunteers and the important work that they do, especially as we celebrate National Peace Corps Week. I hope that each of the Members and all Americans can join to look back on the Peace Corps's honorable 46-year legacy of service at home and abroad as we also look forward to the continued success of this invaluable and effective American organization.

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HONORING THE LIFE OF  
MURLIDHAR DEVIDAS AMTE

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**HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 26, 2008*

Mr. ANDREWS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Mr. Murlidhar Devidas Amte, affectionately known as Baba Amte. Over 60 years ago, Mr. Amte moved his wife and infant children to barren, desert land with the goal of creating a community for the most downtrodden people in India, leprosy patients. Today, Anandwan is a self-sustaining community of over 2,500 leprosy patients, orphans, and other social outcasts built on the belief that "work builds, and charity destroys." This community builds their own homes, grows their own food, and practices recycling techniques beyond those of most communities in the world. Anandwan has a college to teach self-sustaining, organic farming techniques, and also schools for the deaf and blind children of the greater community.

As a successful lawyer during the independence movement in India, Mr. Amte was a staunch believer in Gandhian philosophy and chose to change his entire life to help uplift people that did not have the same luck at birth that he was bestowed.

Beyond Anandwan, Mr. Amte worked with his two sons to build other communities for tribal people still living in the jungle without health care. He furthered his reach when he chose to become an activist for not only people, but the environment. With a degenerative spinal disease that eventually made him bedridden, he traveled to a site for a proposed dam, the Narmada Dam Project, which would destroy the land and force thousands of people from their homes. He camped out in a van on the site in protest of not only that dam but all dam projects in India.

Mr. Amte has received numerous humanitarian and environmental awards in his lifetime including The United Nations Human Rights Prize (1988), The Templeton Prize (1990), The Gandhi Peace Prize (1999), Dr. Ambedkar International Award for Social Change (1999), and countless others.

Baba Amte left this world on February 8, 2008, but his spirit will always live on through the thousands of lives he helped. I want to thank Baba Amte for all he has done for the people of Anandwan and the world.

IN RECOGNITION OF DAVID M.  
NAGEL ACHIEVEMENT OF EAGLE  
SCOUT RANK

**HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 26, 2008*

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate David Nagel, who has successfully completed the requirements for the rank of Eagle Scout. The Boy Scouts of America program recognizes the Eagle Scout as the highest attainable rank; less than four percent of Scouts achieve the rank of Eagle.

The process of becoming an Eagle Scout involves earning numerous merit badges and demonstrating spirit, service, and leadership. Scouts must plan, organize, lead, and manage an extensive service project. David took the initiative to develop a plan for landscaping improvements at the Kiwanis Building in his hometown of Fountain Hills, Arizona. David led the project to remove a large amount of sand from a volleyball court in order to turn the area into a park. He enthusiastically installed a sprinkler system and laid sod in order to beautify the Kiwanis Building. Through his work, David has showed his strong commitment to his community and to the Boy Scouts of America, and has developed strong leadership and management skills that will serve him well in the future.

David should be proud of his accomplishments. Again, I congratulate him on his achievement of Eagle Scout and say thank you for a job well done.

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CELEBRATING THE 90TH BIRTH-  
DAY OF GOVERNOR OTIS R.  
BOWEN, M.D. OF BREMEN, INDI-  
ANA

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**HON. JOE DONNELLY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 26, 2008*

Mr. DONNELLY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my congratulations to Governor Otis R. Bowen, M.D., former Governor of Indiana, on the occasion of his 90th birthday. Having served two consecutive terms as Governor of Indiana, Dr. Bowen's life has been marked with great achievements in his work on both a national and local level.

Governor Bowen was born on February 26th, 1918 near Rochester, Indiana to Vernie Bowen and Pearl Wright. After graduating from Indiana University, he went on to earn his medical degree from Indiana University Medical School in 1942. During World War II, he served in the army medical corps and was with the first wave of allied troops in the invasion of Okinawa in 1945. After discharge, Bowen returned to Indiana where he served as county coroner before his election to the House of Representatives in 1956. He became minority leader in 1965 and served as Speaker of the House through 4 legislative sessions.

In 1972, Dr. Bowen was elected Governor of Indiana. That year, a constitutional amendment was ratified allowing governors to serve consecutive, 4-year terms, and in 1976 he became the first governor to succeed himself.

His tenure in office was marked by a major tax restructuring program reducing reliance on property taxes, major improvements to state park facilities, development of a statewide emergency medical services system, and adoption of a medical malpractice law that would later serve as a national model.

In 1985, Dr. Bowen received the nomination for Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services from President Ronald Reagan. After a quick confirmation by the Senate, Dr. Bowen served in the cabinet until President Reagan left office in January 1989.

Now retired, Dr. Bowen resides in Bremen, Indiana. He has been awarded over twenty-five honorary degrees during his life, including one from the University of Notre Dame and another from Baylor University.

So, today I rise to pay tribute to Dr. Bowen for the great achievements he has gained not only for himself, but for the people of Indiana. His service to this nation is admirable and his legacy serves as a great example of a life well-lived.

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CELEBRATING THE AFRICAN-  
AMERICAN CONTRIBUTION TO  
BLACK HISTORY

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**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 26, 2008*

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Black History Month and to enter into the record an editorial from New York CaribNews for the week ending February 19, 2008, "Celebrating the African-American Contribution to Black History—the NAACP—Then and Now."

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), originally called the National Negro Committee was founded on February 12, 1909 by Ida Wells-Barnett, W.E.B. DuBois, Henry Moscowitz, Mary White Ovington, Oswald Garrison Villiard, William English Walling. The 6 founders, who comprised a multi-racial group of Americans, renewed the struggle for civil and political liberty. We now know the organization as the NAACP.

In the early years, the NAACP concentrated on using the courts to overturn the Jim Crow laws that permitted racial discrimination. The NAACP in 1913 organized opposition to President Woodrow Wilson's introduction of racial segregation into the federal government policy. The NAACP devoted a significant amount of energy after World War I and in the 1920s and 1930s to publicize the lynching of blacks throughout the United States and sought federal legislation against those states which refused to prosecute.

Today, the NAACP continues its mission to ensure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights of all persons and to eliminate racial hatred and racial discrimination.

(From the CaribNews, Feb. 19, 2008)

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CELEBRATING THE AFRICAN-AMERICAN CON-  
TRIBUTION TO BLACK HISTORY—NAACP—  
THEN AND NOW

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The NAACP was founded as the National Negro Committee on February 12, 1909, by a multi-racial group of political activists including W.E.B. DuBois, Ida B. Wells, Henry Moscowitz, Mary White Ovington, Oswald

Garrison Villiard, and William English Walling. DuBois edited the association's magazine, *The Crisis*, which reached more than 30,000 people. One often overlooked aspect of the NAACP's history is that the Jewish community contributed hugely to the NAACP's founding and continued financing.

In 1914, Professor Emeritus Joel Spingarn of Columbia University became Chairman of the NAACP and recruited for its board such Jewish leaders as Jacob Schiff, Jacob Billikopf, and Rabbi Stephen Wise.

In the climactic civil rights drives of the 1950s and 1960s, Jewish participation was all but overwhelming.

The NAACP's headquarters are in Baltimore, Maryland and it has regional offices in California, New York, Michigan, Missouri, Georgia, Texas, and Maryland. Each regional office is responsible for coordinating conferences in the states included in that region. Local, youth, and college chapters organize activities for individual members. The NAACP is governed nationally by a 64-member board of directors led by a chairman. The board elects one person as the president and chief executive officer for the organization.

Departments within the NAACP govern areas of action. Local chapters are supported by the Branch and Field Services department and the Youth and College department. The Legal Department focuses on court cases of broad application to minorities, such as systematic discrimination in employment, government, or education. The Washington, D.C. bureau is responsible for lobbying the U.S. Government. The Education Department works to improve public education at the local, state and federal levels. The goal of the Health Division is to advance health care for minorities through public policy and education.

As of 2004 the NAACP had approximately 500,000 members.

#### HONORING LOIS AUKLAND

#### HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 26, 2008*

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lois Aukland of the Royal Neighbors of America Chapter in Humboldt, Iowa, for receiving the National Fraternal Congress of America's, NFCA, Most Valuable Participant, MVP, Award.

The MVP award highlights Lois' service to her community and relief organizations around Iowa. Lois is the local secretary and treasurer and has held the office of recorder for 13 years. She has been the strongest recruiter for the chapter by increasing the active members from 5 to 20.

Lois has also been involved in many volunteer organizations and activities which include: the Domestic/Sexual Assault Outreach Center planning committee, vice president of the Dakota City Worth While Club, the Girl Scouts representative for JOIN HANDS DAY, and a member of a team for the local Relay for Life fundraiser. Lois has received various awards including the Rookie of the Year by Humboldt Ox Bow Chapter of Izaak Walton League of America and was the inspiration behind her local chapter receiving the Camp Recognition Award each year since its inception.

Lois earned this award for her dedication to supporting women and serving communities, which is what Royal Neighbors of America is

all about. Lois has been a tremendous example for her community, and I commend her ongoing commitment to helping others.

I know that my colleagues in the United States Congress join me in commending Lois Aukland for her leadership and service to Humboldt, Iowa. I consider it an honor to represent Lois in Congress and I wish her the very best in her future endeavors.

#### HONORING WOMEN'S CLUB OF SARASOTA'S 95TH ANNIVERSARY

#### HON. VERN BUCHANAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 26, 2008*

Mr. BUCHANAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Women's Club of Sarasota, which is celebrating its 95th anniversary this year.

Since 1913, the members of the Women's Club of Sarasota have been a persuasive voice for political causes, provided educational opportunities for area children, and facilitated several community improvement projects.

Founded by 63 women, the Club's motto of "Not Self, but Service" has been evident in its many accomplishments over the years. Their first clubhouse served as the public library for 30 years, providing the community with a place for social and cultural activities. Concerned about the well-being of area children, they helped pass the compulsory school attendance law, introduced medical-dental inspections and inoculations in public schools, organized a local PTA, and helped found the Helen Payne Nursery School.

During World War I, the group supported the war effort by organizing a local chapter of the American Red Cross. They also increased access to health care by helping to establish Sarasota Memorial Hospital—a community owned hospital. They helped with the city census, and were strong proponents of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution giving women the right to vote.

Today, the Sarasota Women's Club continues the same spirit of service with annual educational scholarships, special donations to several charitable organizations.

On their anniversary, I congratulate them for their achievements and have every confidence they will continue to play an important role in the improvement of our community and the lives of others.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. KENNY C. HULSHOF

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 26, 2008*

Mr. HULSHOF. Madam Speaker, on February 25, 2008, I was unavoidably detained and missed votes. Listed below are the votes I missed and how I would have voted had I been here.

H. Res. 978, Rollcall No. 69: Expressing support for the designation of the week of March 3–7 as "School Social Work Week" to promote awareness of the vital role of social workers in schools, and in the community as a whole. Had I been here, I would have voted "yes."

H. Res. 930, Rollcall No. 70: Supporting the goals and ideals of "Career and Technical Education Month." Had I been here, I would have voted "yes."

H. Res. 944, Rollcall No. 71: Honoring the service and accomplishments of Lieutenant General Russel L. Honoré, United States Army, for his 37 years of service on behalf of the United States. Had I been here, I would have voted "yes."

#### HONORING MARISSA JUNIOR & SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL FOR RE- CEIVING A BRONZE MEDAL AS ONE OF U.S. NEWS & WORLD RE- PORT'S "AMERICA'S BEST HIGH SCHOOLS"

#### HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 26, 2008*

Mr. COSTELLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Marissa Junior & Senior High School, in Marissa, Illinois, for receiving a bronze medal as one of "America's Best High Schools" as determined by U.S. News & World Report.

Our future will be determined, to a great extent, by the success of our Nation's high schools in preparing our next generation of leaders, innovators and problem-solvers. Our students must be able to compete for the highly skilled jobs that are driving economic growth. For these reasons, our schools must continually challenge themselves in pursuit of educational excellence. This designation from U.S. News & World Report clearly shows that Marissa Junior & Senior High School is doing a good job in this regard.

U.S. News & World Report looked at over 18,000 high schools from across the country and ranked them according to specific, objective criteria. In order to be considered for the top rankings, a school must perform above other schools in its State. This includes evaluation of reading and math testing with consideration for percentage of disadvantaged students. Additional evaluations looked at the performance of the least advantaged students as well as those top-performing, college bound students.

Of the over 18,000 schools evaluated through this process, less than 1,600 (about 9 percent) were awarded gold, silver or bronze medals. Marissa Junior & Senior High School being named to this elite group is a testament to the careful planning and support by the board and administration, the dedication, preparation and instructional excellence of the faculty and staff and the hard work and high level of achievement on the part of the students.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the board members of Marissa School District #40 as well as the administration, faculty, staff and students of Marissa Junior & Senior High School for their recognition as one of the best high schools in the United States.