

chapter in their lives. It is my hope that God gives them many joyous years together with each other and with their five children and nine grandchildren.

God bless you and keep you, Charlie Martin.

TRIBUTE TO THE SAN ANTONIO
CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN
RED CROSS

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2008

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Madam Speaker, today I am greatly honored to recognize the San Antonio Area Chapter of the American Red Cross. As you launch your 2008 Heroes for the American Red Cross Campaign, I wish to commend the many important contributions made to our communities by this admirable organization over the years.

Every day, they serve over 2.4 million people living in the 23 counties across South Central Texas with invaluable support for natural disaster and preventative services. Since the chapter's founding in 1916, your volunteers have been at the forefront when emergencies and disasters have impacted our communities. Across the nation, the American Red Cross's noble work has come to represent hope and relief for people when unpredictable and difficult problems arise.

The San Antonio Area Chapter of the Red Cross has provided disaster relief services to 491 families, or more than 1,600 people. As many in my community can recall, the Red Cross helped over 1,100 people, supplied shelter for over 800 persons, and provided much needed financial help to many families in Eagle Pass who were devastated by the 2007 tornado. 465 of their volunteers worked selflessly in response to this disaster, and I am truly grateful for their service.

In addition to responding to emergencies such as these, they help members of the community prepare themselves for these types of disasters. In teaching 21,405 people in our region how to save lives with first aid and offering CPR courses, they empower the entire area. Moreover, they help our members of the armed services and their families by operating a 24-hour emergency call center. They also serve as a valuable connection to other social service agencies as is evident by the 5,300 referrals made last year which enabled people to get more help when they needed it most.

As one of the largest chapters in the country with roughly 1,500 volunteers and 55 paid staff members, their dedication and devotion to the Red Cross' humanitarian mission has left an indelible mark in South Central Texas. I am very proud and deeply honored to represent this district knowing such people are working unselfishly to make our cities and towns stronger and safer. I would like to thank them for all they have given to the region, and I wish them continued success in their mission.

HONORING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF GUNDLACH BUNDSCHU WINERY OF SONOMA COUNTY, CA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2008

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Gundlach Bundschu Winery in Sonoma County, California on the 150th anniversary of its founding.

In the 150 years since the winery was established on March 12, 1858, California's wine industry has become the fourth largest wine producing region in the world and Gundlach Bundschu has played an integral part in that growth. It is the oldest family owned winery in the state and the sixth generation of the founding family continues to live, farm and pioneer the production of fine wines on the same vineyard land that was originally purchased by their great-grandfather's grandfather.

Each generation has weathered unique challenges that defined them and the California wine industry and has met those challenges with ingenuity and resolve. Company offices and wine vaults were destroyed in the 1906 San Francisco earthquake, severely curtailing what had been a thriving business. The family was able to continue with limited production until the passage of prohibition in 1919, which forced the winery to close. After the repeal of prohibition, Gundlach Bundschu wine grapes were once again in demand, but the family winery wasn't restored until 1973. Today, the modern winery is dedicated to sustainable farming at its best.

The family has always been an integral part of the community and a leader in civic affairs. They were instrumental in initiating the first Vintage Festival in Sonoma, a celebration of the annual grape harvest that has been held continuously for 110 years. Now, in celebration of its Sesquicentennial, Gundlach Bundschu has commissioned a theatrical presentation that will tour nine cities throughout the United States in the spring and fall of 2008.

Madam Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we acknowledge Gundlach Bundschu on the 150th anniversary of its founding. As California's oldest family owned winery, Gundlach Bundschu is truly a testament to the enduring quality and character of California wine, and to its place among the nation's finest wineries.

HONORING DAVID L. HYMAN OF
PHILADELPHIA

HON. CHAKA FATTAH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2008

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to salute today a great and valued citizen of Philadelphia who is receiving one of our city's truly prestigious awards for members of the legal community.

David L. Hyman, Esquire earns his living as Managing Partner and partner for Business Development at Kleinbard, Bell & Brecker LLP, one of Philadelphia's outstanding law firms, where he leads the government relations practice. But that barely begins to describe the depth and breadth of his commitment to the city he loves.

David is a soft-spoken man with a ready and infectious smile who travels the fast lane of Philadelphia governance, religious, philanthropic and civic life, skilled at winning confidence and making things happen.

I have known David for more than two decades, since our days of pickup basketball at the Bright Hope Baptist Church in North Philadelphia. We have spent our declining jump-shot years on many of the same critical issues and causes, improving the lives and life chances for our young and underserved citizens.

David settled in Philadelphia to launch a legal career after graduating cum laude from the University of Pennsylvania in 1975 and from the University of California, Davis, School of Law in 1980. He served as Law Clerk for United States District Court Judge Peter B. Scuderi.

David is former Co-President and current advisory board member of Operation Understanding, a unique Philadelphia program that brings together African American and Jewish teenagers and trains them for cooperative leadership roles. He has been a bridge builder and passionate advocate for these two communities. —

More recently, David L. Hyman served for eight years as Chairman of the Philadelphia Facilities Management Corporation, which oversees the Philadelphia Gas Works. He continues as Vice Chairman of the Greater Philadelphia Tourism Marketing Corporation, which spreads the good word about our city, and serves on the board of the Building Industry Association of Philadelphia among numerous other private, public and nonprofit appointments. He has also been a champion for development, community improvement and empowerment in Mount Airy and across Northwest Philadelphia, along with his wife Farah Jimenez, the executive director of Mount Airy USA.

David L. Hyman has served the American Jewish Committee and its Philadelphia/Southern New Jersey chapter as President and Board Chairman. Now the organization he has led so ably and selflessly is returning the favor.

On Wednesday March 12, 2008, at the Rittenhouse Hotel, David L. Hyman, Esquire will receive the 2008 Judge Learned Hand Award of the AJC.

The significance of this award can be judged by the man for whom it is named. Judge Learned Hand, according to the AJC citation, served as senior judge of the United States Circuit Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit from 1924 to 1951. Widely admired as a dean of American jurists, Judge Hand was renowned for his extensive range of decisions which he rendered in more than two thousand cases.

David L. Hyman fittingly receives an award presented each year to a member of the Philadelphia legal community whose social conscience and devotion to philanthropy mirrors the century-old values of the American Jewish Committee. He is the 28th recipient of Philadelphia's Learned Hand Award. —The American Jewish Committee proudly proclaimed that, for more than 100 years, it has "worked to safeguard minorities, fight terrorism, anti-Semitism, hatred and bigotry, pursue social justice, advance human dignity,

support Israel's right to exist in peace and security, defend religious freedom and provide humanitarian relief to those in need."

By choosing David L. Hyman for this recognition, the American Jewish Committee brings honor to the award itself and to the legal profession of Philadelphia. I extend my own best wishes to this richly deserving super citizen in our midst, and I say: Mazel Tov, Counselor.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JEFF FORTENBERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2008

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, March 4, 2008, I was inadvertently detained and thus I missed rollcall votes Nos. 88, 89, and 90. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on all three votes.

IN HONOR OF ANDY WILLNER

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2008

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Andy Willner's lasting contributions and dedication while serving as NY/NJ Baykeeper Executive Director. Mr. Willner's commitment to safeguarding the Hudson-Raritan Estuary helped eliminate pollution and restored efficiency in the estuary's streams and shores for almost twenty years.

In March Mr. Willner will retire after eighteen years of service as Baykeeper. On March 7, 2008, at the Liberty House Restaurant in Liberty State Park, the Baykeeper's Founders Fete will honor Mr. Willner for all he has done in keeping New Jersey and New York waterways safe.

Mr. Willner began his distinguished career as a sailing vessel captain, city planner and boat builder. He has always concerned himself with environmental issues and has thus participated in numerous conferences concerning shore protection and keeping our harbors safe.

Later, he served as member on the Dredge Materials Management Work Group and the Hackensack Meadowlands Special Area Management Plan among the various environmental organizations he was a part of. Mr. Willner has received many renowned awards for his work including the "Hero of the Harbor" Award as well as the Stewardship Recognition Award from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

Mr. Willner began his work with the NY/NJ Baykeeper in 1989 and has served as Executive Director for eighteen years. His work with the Baykeeper included bringing attention to coastal issues, protecting our shores, and eliminating pollution in our waters. With the momentous efforts of Andy Willner, the Hudson-Raritan Estuary has been kept safe and protected for nearly twenty years.

Madam Speaker, I sincerely hope that my colleagues will join me in celebrating the work of Andy Willner. His continual efforts to keep our waters protected will continue to benefit and inspire the people of New Jersey.

PASS FREE TRADE AGREEMENTS

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2008

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, While I am pleased that the House has once again renewed Andean trade preferences, I think this bill highlights more than ever the need to pass pending free trade agreements that have languished for far too long without consideration. We must continue to open markets to encourage American companies to innovate and compete with their global counterparts. This grows our economy and creates jobs.

I am proud to represent a district in Washington State that integrates our nation's leading technology innovators with a vibrant and highly productive small business community. Opening new global markets gives them incentives to improve their products, produce more goods, and employ more American workers. I have seen these job-creating effects first-hand, with trade accounting for 1 out of every 3 jobs in my state.

In this time of economic uncertainty, Congress must act now to advance America's broader trade agenda. We cannot allow important agreements with Panama and Korea to remain on hold while Europe and China continue to knock down trade barriers and improve their competitiveness in the global economy. And surely recent provocative comments by the leader of Venezuela helps put into perspective the urgent need to use the power of trade in Colombia. I urge my colleagues in the Majority to stop the delays and pass these free trade agreements. Let's advance the trade measures needed to grow our economy, create jobs, and not only improve our relations with global partners, but also to foster global peace and freedom.

CONGRATULATING THE INDIANA GIRLS BASKETBALL STATE RUNNERS-UP OF WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL IN SOUTH BEND, INDIANA

HON. JOE DONNELLY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2008

Mr. DONNELLY. Madam Speaker, today I congratulate the South Bend Washington High School Lady Panthers, the 2008 State Runners-Up in the 4A girls basketball division.

In their quest towards this title, the Lady Panthers compiled a 23-2 record on the road to their third consecutive trip to Conseco Fieldhouse in Indianapolis. Unfortunately the team faced a disappointing loss there, but they can still be proud of their reign as South Bend's premier girls basketball team.

The South Bend Washington team consisted of 12 outstanding young women: Seniors Emily Phillips, Vanessa Wiley, Meagan Phillips and Shalana Murray; Juniors Skylar Diggins, Karis Phillips, Alandrea Pfeifer-Nailon, Takoia Larry and Rakeesha Lane; Sophomore Avante Newsome-Gunn; Freshmen Terran Scott and Alexis Macon.

Head Coach Marilyn Coddens was assisted by Don Coddens. Officials such as Mayor

Steve Luecke, School Superintendent Robert Zimmerman, Washington Principal George McCullough Jr., and Athletic Director Patrick Mackowiak lent support and encouragement throughout the season.

The city of South Bend and the surrounding area rallied behind the Lady Panthers. In what has become a winter tradition on the West Side of South Bend, thousands of fans gathered to send off the team and to travel south for the big game where they made the event at the Fieldhouse feel like a home game.

Again, I offer my congratulations to the members of the girls basketball team of South Bend Washington High School on their Semi-State title and their fearless, spirited play at the Championship game.

HONORING MAXINE HALPERN

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2008

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, Maxine Halpern has involved herself deeply in Jewish affairs internationally, nationally, and locally. She is a born and bred Bronxite who graduated from City University of New York.

Maxine is the daughter of two World War II veterans, the U.S. Army and the Royal Air Force. Traveling to England to visit family began at an early age and touring foreign lands became a lifelong interest, having traveled to over 40 countries on 5 continents as well as throughout much of the United States.

She is a supporter of over 50 philanthropies both secular and religious. Maxine has been awarded the Nahum Goldman Leadership Award, and is a member of the Simon Wiesenthal Center's international Leadership Council, among other equally prestigious organizations.

She is also active in local Jewish communal life as a member of the board of trustees, as vice president, and as president of the Riverdale Temple. She was appointed founding president of the Congregation Shaarei Shalom. For all of her outstanding contributions to community life, the Riverdale Jewish Community Council presents her with the Michael Schreck Community Builder Award.

RECOGNIZING MICHAEL K. (MICK-EY) ENGLETT FOR EXCELLENCE

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2008

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the U.S. Congress, it is an honor for me to rise today in recognition of Michael K. Englett and his induction into the Florida Community College Activities Association Women's Basketball Hall of Fame.

For the past 18 years, Okaloosa County and the surrounding community have benefited significantly from the service of Mr. Michael Englett, dean of student services and director of athletics for Okaloosa-Walton College. Mr. Englett's vision of a comprehensive athletic program transformed Okaloosa-Walton College and propelled the school beyond the