

working as the only secretary for the Mountain Elementary School, where she goes to work even during snow delays, and being a dedicated wife and mother. Melissa is "a credit to her community and to her family."

Sallie Van Curen—Sallie is the co-founder and executive director of Parents Reaching Out to Help, Inc. She has inspired others through her dedication, drive and commitment to all the families she serves.

Mary Ann Weems—With a life long dedication to the arts, the creation of the Weems Galleries and Framing and the nationally recognized Weems Artfest, Mary Ann is a role model for women in the arts. She has achieved excellence in visual arts while championing health care programs for children, and helping to set the standard for art galleries and businesswomen in NM.

Dr. Ann Wehr—As President of Molina Healthcare of New Mexico, Dr. Wehr has used her talents to ensure that over 71,000 low-income individuals and their families receive quality healthcare. She works with physicians to develop innovative programs to reach the under served.

Linda Walsh—Working for the Small Business Programs Office at Kirtland AFB, Linda is a champion for the minority business community. She has been instrumental in outreach from Kirtland to bring small business together with federal agencies.

Beverly White—Beverly's work for the people of New Mexico through the Office of the Medical Investigator lasted for more than 30 years. One of her greatest accomplishments was writing the initial grant for the NM Sudden Infant Death Syndrome Information and Counseling Project. It has served as a national model, and helped thousands of families.

Bobbie Williams—As a member of a number of community and business organizations, and an engineer at Sandia National Laboratories, Bobbie has served as a mentor, professional development advisor and friend to aspiring young people and colleagues. Bobbie is also one of only seven women inducted into the Girl Scouts Hall of Fame for Women in Technology.

Dr. Joyce Wilson—Dr. Wilson has worked in social work for over 35 years, founding the first External Employee Assistance Program which has saved hundreds of people from losing their jobs while also improving their lives. She volunteered with many community Boards and Committees to share her personal and professional skills.

Fay Yao—Ms Yao has been the librarian at Rio Grande High School for over 15 years, where she has shown constant support and dedication to the students and staff. She is a supporter of the Science department, providing updates and expansion of the science reference material. She has served as a mentor to a number of students while always improving the school's library to benefit all.

IN RECOGNITION OF AL STERN

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 31, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Al Stern, a person who has dedicated his life to free speech and culti-

vating the seeds of Middle East peace and understanding in the Cleveland community. On March 27, 2008, Americans for Peace Now is honoring Al Stern for his lifelong commitment to peace in the Middle East and his dedication to "Tikkun Olam," the healing of the world.

After graduating from Indiana University with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, Al Stern founded Stern and Company, a manufacturers' representative firm in 1962. During his 3 decades with the company, Mr. Stern became actively involved in the Middle East peace issues starting in 1974. He helped found the Cleveland chapter and serves as a national board member of Americans for Peace Now, the solidarity organization aligned with the Shalom Achshav movement in Israel. Shalom Achshav, founded in 1978 by Israeli citizens, was formed out of the conviction that Israel's democratic character and future security were intertwined with achieving a just and peaceful solution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

For over twenty years, Mr. Stern has engaged and educated the Cleveland community about the costs of the current conflict and the opportunities for peaceful solutions. Through organizing and discussion, he has led people to challenge their assumptions about how to humanize the opposition. In his many visits to the region, most recently in 2005, he has gotten to know the people and the leaders in Israel, Egypt, Lebanon, Syria, the West Bank, and Gaza. He has led by example, through his own commitment to educating himself, reaching out to concerned members of the community and traveling to the region.

Since his retirement in 1993, Al Stern became a full time volunteer with the American Civil Liberties Union of Ohio as its Legislative Coordinator. Since coming to Congress, I have been privileged to hear frequently from Al Stern on the many free speech and civil liberties issues about which I have had to make decisions. He has also worked closely with me in helping to build bridges across the gaps which divide people both in the Middle East and in Greater Cleveland.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognizing Al Stern, who has been a leader in Cleveland, a peace-maker, and an inspiration for engaged, global citizenship.

HONORING ANDREW WESLEY SAWYER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 31, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Andrew Wesley Sawyer of Blue Springs, Missouri. Andrew 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 1175, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Andrew has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Andrew 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 Andrew Wesley Sawyer for

his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HIGHLIGHTING BASEBALL'S EFFORT TO REACH OUT TO MINORITY COMMUNITIES

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 31, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to highlight Major League Baseball's ongoing effort to reach out to minority communities and introduce a press release describing said effort. The league will host the first Urban Invitational Baseball Tournament, fielding two historically black colleges in recognition of its need to revitalize baseball in the African American community. Baseball should be committed not only to boasting diversity in its rosters, but to enjoy that same minority representation in its coaches, in its management, and in its viewership.

On the heels of the 60th anniversary of Jackie Robinson's historic breaking of the color barrier, the league has targeted urban youth and pledged its resources to bring them back to the sport. African Americans have played integral roles in the illustrious story of baseball, and it is a connection worth saving.

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL URBAN YOUTH ACADEMY TO HOST FIRST URBAN INVITATIONAL BASEBALL TOURNAMENT

Major League Baseball today announced that the Major League Baseball Urban Youth Academy will host its first Urban Invitational Baseball Tournament from February 29-March 2. Two Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), Bethune-Cookman University (Daytona Beach, FL) and Southern University (Baton Rouge, LA), will face off against collegiate baseball powerhouses UCLA and USC. The participation of HBCUs in the Urban Invitational is part of MLB's ongoing diversity and youth initiatives.

"The Urban Invitational Baseball Tournament is a part of our continued focus on reviving the majesty of baseball in the African American community," said Major League Baseball Executive Vice President of Operations Jimmie Lee Solomon. "This tournament, along with the other programs at the MLB Urban Youth Academy, the Civil Rights Game and many of our other efforts, is reflective of the League's commitment to diversity, inclusion and engagement of our nation's young people. Our goal is to make sure that every child who wants to play baseball has an opportunity to do so."

Tournament games will be played at the MLB Urban Youth Academy, USC's Dedeaux Field and UCLA's Jackie Robinson Stadium beginning Friday, February 29 and continuing through Sunday, March 2. Both games on Saturday, March 1, 2008, will be played at the MLB Urban Youth Academy and broadcast live on ESPN2. Fans attending on that day will also be entertained by a live performance of Southern University's, "Human Jukebox" and USC's Trojan Marching Band, as they bring their unique musical performances to Compton, California. Bethune-Cookman University and Southern University baseball teams will square off against each other at 1 p.m. (PST) on Sunday at the Academy.

"ESPN is proud to be associated with Major League Baseball's urban initiatives," said Len DeLuca, ESPN Senior Vice President, Programming and Acquisitions. "The

second Civil Rights Game and new Urban Invitational—40 years since the tragic death of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.—are on the heels of our observance last year of the 60th anniversary of Jackie Robinson breaking the color barrier. ESPN is honored to join with MLB to celebrate baseball's cultural history."

Tickets to the games being played at the MLB Urban Youth Academy will be available for purchase on game day for \$5. Proceeds from the ticket sale will benefit the Major League Baseball Urban Youth Academy, which is a not-for-profit 501 (c)(3) corporation.

"On behalf of our team, I would like to say how honored we are to have been invited to an event like this, especially in its first year," said Bethune-Cookman Coach Mervyl Melendez. "We hope that the Urban Invitational Baseball Tournament continues to grow and more people notice what Major League Baseball is doing for college baseball and Historically Black Colleges."

"Our program is very excited to represent UCLA in the tournament at the MLB Academy," said UCLA coach John Savage. "We are honored to be able to play in the inaugural event. Our players are looking forward to the exciting weekend of baseball."

Major League Baseball is committed to addressing the issue of African American participation in professional baseball. Through Reviving Baseball in the Inner Cities presented by KPMG and the establishment of the Major League Baseball Urban Youth Academy in Compton, California, MLB has pledged its resources to bringing urban youth back to America's pastime. The inaugural Civil Rights Game in 2007 also reinforced the League's dedication by paying tribute to legendary African-American players who broke barriers and made important contributions to American society.

HBCUs have long offered quality education and athletic programs and have a proud tradition of outstanding baseball players. Hall of Famer Lou Brock, former most valuable player Andre Dawson and current Milwaukee Brewers star Rickie Weeks, all rose from HBCUs. Twelve HCU players were selected in the MLB 2007 First-Year Player Draft. Through the annual Urban Invitational Baseball Tournament, MLB hopes to help these programs revitalize baseball in the African American community.

The MLB Urban Youth Baseball Academy encompasses more than 15 acres on the campus of El Camino College, Compton Center, the Academy is a state-of-the-art facility featuring four fields including a show field, batting cages and other training facilities. The Academy operates on a year-round basis, offering free baseball and softball instruction, as well as clinics to youth throughout Southern California.

IN HONOR OF MICHAEL J. HARE

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 31, 2008

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize Michael J. Hare, deputy director of the Riverfront Development Corporation of Delaware. Mike has been an important figure there since April 1996, but has decided to take a new direction and join the Bucchini Pollin Group. Mike will be working on the new soccer stadium in Chester, Pennsylvania.

Mike started working for the Delaware Economic Development office in 1989. After 6

years, he became a senior development specialist under Governor Thomas R. Carper. Throughout the past 12 years, Mike has been an integral part of the Riverfront Development Corporation. He assisted in the construction of the Amtrak Consolidated National Operations Center, the Chase Center on the Riverfront, Tubman-Garrett Riverfront Park, the Riverwalk, Christina Landing, and the Justison Landing. Mike also worked to bring AAA Mid-Atlantic's headquarters to the Wilmington riverfront.

Mike was born and raised in Wilmington, Delaware. He attended Archmere Academy, where he currently serves on the board of directors. He graduated from the University of St. Joseph's, where he earned his bachelor's degree in public administration. Mike serves on the National Alumni Board for St. Joseph's and was honored with the Ignatius Award in 1995 for outstanding alumni involvement and service. Mike also attended the Fels Center of Government at the University of Pennsylvania.

Being a Delaware native, Mike has contributed many years of service to the State of Delaware. He currently sits on the board of directors for the Latin American Community Center, the Delaware Stadium Corporation, the Friends of the Woodlawn Library, the Riverfront Wilmington Improvement District, and the Rivers Edge Community Development Corporation. Not only has he been an active board member for numerous organizations, but Mike has also been a member of the Barbelin Society and the Hawk Hoop Club.

I acknowledge Mr. Michael J. Hare for his many years of service and numerous contributions to his community and the State of Delaware. I am confident that Mike will be successful and prosperous at his new job with the Bucchini Pollin Group. It is inspiring to see such an active and influential member of our community remain committed to the betterment of Delaware.

TRIBUTE TO PORTLAND STATE
UNIVERSITY MEN'S BASKETBALL
TEAM

HON. DAVID WU

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 31, 2008

Mr. WU. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Portland State University men's basketball team on achieving their first-ever birth to the NCAA Division I Championship Tournament. The Vikings capped off their historic season with a 67-51 win in the Big Sky Conference Championship game over Northern Arizona University at the Rose Garden in Portland. PSU finished their regular season with a 23-9 record, and were undefeated in the Big Sky Conference Tournament. On Sunday, the Vikings will learn who they will play in the first round of the "Big Dance."

The NCAA Tournament is one of the great institutions in all of collegiate sports. It brings together the best college teams from across our Nation to compete for basketball's greatest prize. Oregon is proud of every one of these outstanding young men and their coaches.

It is also fitting that we should take this opportunity to recognize the entire Portland State community. As Oregon's largest university,

PSU is a source of pride for our State. The Viking's athletic achievements reflect the spirit and work ethic of their university, and I am proud to honor their achievement today.

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize each member of the PSU men's basketball team individually, beginning with Head Coach Ken Bone, Assistant Head Coach Tyler Geving, Assistant Coaches Curtis Allen and Eric Harper, and Director of Basketball Operations Tyler Coston. Furthermore, I congratulate the 2007-2008 PSU Vikings: Kyle Coston, Brian Curtis, Jeremiah Dominguez, Justynn Hammond, Deonte Huff, Jaime Jones, Lucas Dupree, Tyrell Mara, J.R. Moore, Scott Morison, Andre Murray, Phil Nelson, Mickey Polis, Julius Thomas, Alex Tiefenthaler and Dominic Waters.

Madam Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in congratulating these outstanding young men. On behalf of the entire State of Oregon, congratulations and good luck. Go Vikings.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE CITY OF
MIDDLEBURG HEIGHTS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 31, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the city of Middleburg Heights, Ohio on the occasion of the twentieth Anniversary Salute to the City event at the award-winning Middleburg Heights community center. Evolving from the Inaugural Ball, the Salute to the City event has paid tribute to individuals, groups, and organizations that collectively work to make Middleburg Heights the pride of Ohio and its residents.

Since years before even the Salute to the City began, Middleburg Heights would not have been the incredible city that it is today without the leadership, service, and vision of Mayor Gary Starr. In his work as mayor since 1981 and councilman for several years prior, Gary has paved the way for present and future community and economic enhancements to the City of Middleburg Heights. I applaud his dedication and strong commitment of the people of Middleburg Heights.

I stand with the Salute to the City committee, including founding committee members Darlene Kobask and Lona Gruber, to honor Mayor Gary Starr, all members of the Middleburg Heights City Council—including Council President Alan C. Budney, Councilman at Large James F. Sheppard, Councilman at Large Tim Ali, Ward 1 Councilman David Bortolotto, and Ward 4 Councilman Raymond G. Guttman—and the employees of all city departments.

Together with the Salute to the City committee, I also honor the contributions of other groups and organizations serving residents of Middleburg Heights, including the American Association of Retired Persons, the Berea City School District, the Middleburg Heights Women's Club, the Friends of the Library, the Middleburg Heights Kiwanis Club, the Middleburg Heights Community Council, the Tri-City Senior Center, Southwest Adult Day Care, the Middleburg Heights Chamber of Commerce, the Middleburg Heights Historical Society, the Middleburg Heights Veterans Memorial Committee, the Rotary Club of Middleburg Heights,