

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,

the Southwest General Health System and Foundation, and The Optimist Club.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognizing all of those who make the City of Middleburg Heights, Ohio, the wonderful place it is to live and work and a city known for its rich, community-driven history.

HONORING MICHAEL REESE KELLY

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 31, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Michael Reese Kelly of Blue Springs, Missouri. Michael 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 1692, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Michael has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Michael 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 Michael Reese Kelly for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

RECOGNIZING AND HONORING THE SERVICE OF CAPITOL POLICE OFFICER FRANK W. WILKES

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 31, 2008

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, today I want to recognize and thank one of my constituents, Frank W. Wilkes of Clinton, Maryland, for his outstanding service to the United States Congress, the Members who serve here, and the entire Capitol Hill community over the last two decades.

I also want to thank and acknowledge his family—his beautiful wife of 30 years, Paulette, and his sons, Trevor and his wife Delania, and Frank W. Wilkes III.

After 20 years of service with the Capitol Police, Officer Wilkes retired recently and will move into a new phase in his life.

For most of his last years of service, Officer Wilkes served as the officer on duty at the Senate Day Care Center, a position replete with responsibility and challenge. However, what his resume does not capture is the fact that the children there adore their friend, "Officer Frank."

In turn, Frank has been a wonderful presence at the day care center, watching and ensuring that the children go about their day safely and securely. It's my understanding that he plans to come back and read to them on a monthly basis as part of his "retirement" plans.

Let me say, too, that I have heard from more than one resident in the neighborhood that Officer Wilkes will be sorely missed; that he was quite popular with the surrounding

residents who trusted his judgment, respected his extraordinary common sense, and enjoyed his presence.

During his 20 years with the Capitol Police, Officer Wilkes served a key role in protecting Members of Congress, the President, Vice President, and visiting dignitaries.

In fact, Frank was awarded a Certificate of Commendation for apprehending and subduing a suspect who was attempting to physically assault then-Vice President Dan Quayle.

Prior to joining the Capitol Police force, Officer Wilkes served for 9 years in the United States Air Force. Among other things, he was an administrative executive support manager, and served as liaison between the Office of the Secretary of the Air Force, the White House, the State Department, and the CIA to ensure the proper exchange of critical, time-urgent information.

Madam Speaker, those of us who enjoy the protection of the Capitol Police force—Members of Congress, government officials, and the general public who visit the Capitol complex—take their presence and their professionalism for granted far too often.

The truth is, we owe our Capitol Police officers—people like Frank Wilkes—a real debt of gratitude for doing such an important, oftentimes complicated job with great dedication and commitment.

Thus, today, I again want to thank Frank for his two decades of service to the Capitol Police and our Nation, and to wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

PRAISING TONYA KINLOW FOR WORKING TO IMPROVE DC SCHOOLS AS OMBUDSMAN

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 31, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to note the work Tonya Kinlow has undertaken as the District's Ombudsman for Schools. That office provides a venue for parents, teachers, and students to voice their frustrations and dissatisfaction with the low-performing school system, and to have investigations launched in order to address those complaints. Kinlow has an impressive record—she, of course, once worked for my office—and she demonstrates a fierce commitment to service that should serve her well in her new post.

She served on the DC and State boards of education and was a board member of the education advocacy group, DC Voice. She was most recently the vice president of government relations for the DC Hospital Association. And as a part of the Rangel family, she executed her tasks superbly well and with an unmatched attention to detail. I am proud of her accomplishments and the many great things she is poised to do.

DAY OF SPANISH LANGUAGE JOURNALISM, IN HONOR OF JUSTO DE LARA

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 31, 2008

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I would like to express my sentiment that March 26, 2008, should be designated as "Spanish Language Journalism Day in honor of Justo de Lara."

Jose de Armas y Cardenas, who wrote under the pseudonym of Justo de Lara, was a distinguished journalist, poet, and author. As a result of his contributions, the Cuban department store chain El Encanto named their journalism award, the most prestigious award of its kind in Cuba, the Justo de Lara Prize for Spanish Journalistic Excellence. This award was given out from 1934 until Fidel Castro's communist takeover in 1959.

His fluency in Spanish, English, Italian, and French and his love for reading and literature fueled his own desire to write. At an early age, he was a prolific author and journalist. He worked during the Spanish-American War as a special envoy for the Sun in 1898, serving as an official translator between Cuban General Calixto Garcia and Lt. Colonel Theodore Roosevelt. Jose de Armas y Cardenas was also the only person of Spanish-speaking origin named by the Government of England in 1916 to be a member of the commission responsible for the tricentennial celebration of William Shakespeare.

Due to his legacy and example to countless generations, March 26, 2008, should be designated as "Spanish Language Journalism Day in honor of Justo de Lara," in recognition of the excellence in journalism that Jose de Armas y Cardenas achieved during his life and his love of literature, of the excellence in journalism that the award in his honor continued to recognize after his death, and of the hope for such continued excellence today and in the future.

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 31, 2008

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mayor Alan Autry upon being named the Armenian National Committee's "Man of the Year." Mayor Autry will be honored at a luncheon on Sunday, March 30, 2008, at the Armenian Community Center in Fresno, CA.

Alan Autry was born in Shreveport, LA. As a child, his family moved to the Central San Joaquin Valley and settled in the small farming community of Riverdale, CA. He attended Riverdale High School and received an athletic scholarship to the University of the Pacific in Stockton, CA, where he received a bachelor's degree in physical education. Upon graduating from UOP, Mayor Autry played in the National Football League for the Green Bay Packers. He spent 3 years in the NFL before retiring.

After leaving the NFL, Mayor Autry turned to a career in film and television. For 22 years