

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

Mayor Autry played various roles on both the big and small screen. He has continued his entertainment career through the development of the Autry Entertainment Group. As CEO of the Autry Entertainment Group, Autry continues to work to bring Fresno to the forefront as a location for entertainment projects creating economic stimulus. In a desire to further improve and serve the city of Fresno, he decided to enter the realm of politics and enter the 2000 mayoral race.

On January 2, 2001, Mayor Autry was sworn into office to serve as the Mayor of Fresno. He was elected to serve a second term that began in January 2005. While in office, the Mayor has been active in various causes with his primary focus being crime prevention and education reform. He has also been active in the Armenian community of Fresno. Prior to being elected into office, he clearly stated his desire to revitalize downtown Fresno. By revitalizing this area of the city, Mayor Autry believes that "Armenia Town" would be able to thrive as it did when Armenian immigrants first arrived in Fresno. In 2005, Mayor Autry committed to building a monument in Fresno dedicated to the victims of the Armenian Genocide. Mayor Autry has also been a strong supporter of the Armenian Genocide Resolution.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Mayor Alan Autry upon being awarded with the 2008 Armenian National Committee's "Man of the Year" Award. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Mayor Autry many years of continued success.

HONORING KYLE ROBERT ELDER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 31, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Kyle Robert Elder of Platte City, Missouri. Kyle 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 1249, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

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

IN REMEMBRANCE OF SENATOR
HOWARD METZENBAUM

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 31, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Howard Metzenbaum, former U.S. Senator from Ohio. He was a close friend to me and a great asset to this

country. I valued greatly my relationship with him; I turned to him frequently for advice and inspiration. He was a consummate consumer advocate, labor rights advocate, accomplished legislator and an important figure in Ohio's political history.

Senator Metzenbaum's steadfast support for consumer rights and worker protections, as well as his commitment to protecting the working class in this country, still serves as a constant motivation for me in my service to my constituents.

During his years in the Senate, Mr. Metzenbaum introduced and passed several important pieces of legislation such as The Nutrition Information and Labeling Act of 1990 and the Cable Act of 1992, which re-regulated cable TV rates. Following his retirement from the Senate, Mr. Metzenbaum served as the Chairman for the Consumer Federation of America for ten years, a demonstration of his dedication to consumer interest.

Senator Metzenbaum will be remembered as a savvy businessman and staunch advocate for Ohio's working men and women. From parking lots to newspapers and airports his investments secured his legacy in Ohio as both an iron-willed businessman and politician. He was a fearless opponent of all things related to special interests—if a bill did not have the best interest of workers and consumers in mind, it would not budge in the Senate. He was one of the greatest senators to serve this country. Ohio was fortunate to be the beneficiaries of his service, and I was very fortunate to be the recipient of his wisdom and guidance. My thoughts and prayers go out to his family.

Madam Speaker and colleagues please join me in honoring the life of Howard Metzenbaum, a dedicated citizen and politician of Ohio, whose forceful legislative, economic and personal contributions to this country will live on long into the future.

80TH ANNIVERSARY OF OROVILLE
STATE THEATER

HON. JOHN T. DOOLITTLE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 31, 2008

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Madam Speaker, today I wish to join with the City of Oroville, California, in celebrating the 80th anniversary of the Oroville State Theater.

Dedicated on April 7, 1928, the Oroville State Theater has served as an integral part of downtown Oroville. Designed by Timothy L. Pflueger, one of the leading architects of the 1920s, the facility is now recognized in the National Historical Register.

The theater was originally designed for fine vaudeville acts and films. It was one of the last "Movie Palaces" built for both live and film entertainment. Although movies became the main staple, live performances, talent shows, war bond drives, and school graduations continued to take place within the theater.

The Oroville State Theater underwent significant remodeling at the direction of United Artists. Much of the theater's original 1928 architectural details, including the magnificent flag sign and marquee, were either removed or covered. In 1986, United Artists notified the city of its intent to close and sell the theater.

Rather than have a vacant building downtown, the city viewed the pending closure as an opportunity to fill a longstanding need for a community performance center.

Since 1986, the Oroville State Theater has undergone a significant renovation with the goal of returning the facility to its original 1928 operating condition. Subsequently, these renovations have brought back some of the building's most interesting visual features, including the facade along Myers Street. The extensive improvements have occurred because of strong support by volunteers, business and community organizations.

On April 5, 2008, we will all celebrate the theater's 80th anniversary with an event that will replicate much of the program from its original "Grand Opening," including a silent movie with live theater organ accompaniment. Without question, the community support of the Oroville State Theater continues to be the backbone of this longstanding community tradition. With the efforts put forth by so many, they have ensured that the curtain will not fall for their theater, but usher in a new era of theatrical performances.

COMMENDING GRENADA ON NAMING
ERIC GAIRY A NATIONAL
HERO IN ITS 34TH ANNIVERSARY
OF INDEPENDENCE

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 31, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Grenada on the commemoration of its political independence and to commend its selection of Eric Matthew Gairy, the country's first prime minister, as its first national hero. He led his country to independence from Britain in 1974 and served out his term amidst those politically charged and tense early years.

It is imperative for a nation seeking to move forward to cull its collective memory and pay homage to the men and women whose sacrifice and heroism in the past created the opportunities of the present. Grenada is applauded for its efforts to do just that, announcing along with Gairy 15 other awardees who have stood up for the island nation over the course of its 34 years. Congratulations, Grenada.

GRENADA: ERIC GAIRY NATIONAL HERO

ST. GEORGES'S GRENADA, CMC.—Former Prime Minister Sir Eric Matthew Gairy was named as the country's first National Hero and a number of outstanding nationals honoured as Grenadians celebrated 34 years of political independence from Britain.

Prime Minister Dr. Keith Mitchell announced that Gairy, who became this Caribbean country's first Prime Minister after leading the former British colony into independence on February 7, 1974, would be the nation's first hero under the recently passed National Honours Act.

The new piece of legislation provides for 15 people to be recognised annually for outstanding services to Grenada as part of the independence celebrations.

Among the first batch of awardees was deceased Grenadian-born regional broadcaster Leslie Seon and Leslie Pierre, editor of the weekly Grenadian Voice newspaper, who was made a Knight Commander for his contribution towards the development of the Scout Movement and Journalism in the island.