

history," Mary once said. "Twenty-five years ago, we never imagined the number of Americans who would be touched by our efforts."

A recognized expert and leader of the hospice movement, Mary helped pioneer the advocacy efforts for legislation that led to the introduction in Congress of the Medicare Hospice Benefit in 1982. This bill provided public health care insurance coverage for hospice services, allowing clients to receive compassionate care and hospices to sustain themselves financially. In 1986, the Medicare Hospice Benefit became permanent, eventually leading to private insurance coverage, as well.

To further ensure the sustainability of hospice care in Marin County, in 1997, Mary helped create—and became the president of—the Hospice of Marin Foundation. The foundation's mission is to provide philanthropic support to Hospice operations.

Both the foundation and the hospice programs continued to grow, and over the past few years expanded into San Francisco and Sonoma counties, as well. Consequently, Hospice of Marin no longer described the organization and 2 years ago, the name was changed to Hospice By the Bay.

"In recent years, we were invited into our neighboring communities to share our experience and resources with other hospice communities," Mary said of the change, adding that it evolved from a desire to be more inclusive of the bay area, rather than imply a geographic exclusivity.

And truly, there has not been a geographic exclusivity to the effects of Mary's work. The National Hospice Organization in 1995 named her "the individual who has done the most for hospice in the national and international level." Since then, she has been selected to help guide that organization as chair of its board of directors.

Madam Speaker, Mary Taverna's dedication to hospice services, her leadership of Hospice By the Bay and her continued work as chair of the board of the National Hospice Organization have left an indelible mark not only on the Sixth District and the San Francisco Bay area, but on areas throughout the United States. And that is why, Madam Speaker, I honor Mary Taverna on her retirement after more than 30 years of service to a cause forever in her debt.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF DI LAURO BAKERY OF SYRACUSE, NEW YORK

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2008

Mr. WALSH of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th anniversary of Di Lauro Bakery in Syracuse, New York.

Founded by John Di Lauro in 1908, Di Lauro Bakery has become an integral part of the Syracuse community. Although the times have changed since the bakery's opening, the recipe and baking procedure have not. The same oven installed by Di Lauro in the 1950s is used today, and customers go out of their way to buy bread from this fine bakery. By delivering consistency and quality, this Syracuse institution pleases its loyal customers, while attracting new ones. With its great baked

goods, Di Lauro Bakery is a place the community will be able to enjoy for many more years to come. Di Lauro's has become a long-time neighborhood fixture and a community anchor.

Di Lauro Bakery has always strived to provide the Syracuse community with the finest baked goods, and I am proud to recognize them here today. I congratulate current owners Paul and Valerie Wavercak, and their dedicated staff, both past and present, on reaching this milestone. On behalf of the people of the 25th District of New York, I thank them for 100 years of service that has been and will continue to be such a positive asset to the community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2008

Mr. BRALEY. Madam Speaker, on rollcall 147, H.R. 3352, I was not present. If I had been there, I would have voted "yes." On rollcall 148, H.R. 2675, I was not present. If I had been there, I would have voted "yes." On rollcall 149, H. Con. Res. 302, I was not present. If I had been there, I would have voted "yes."

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF RONALD "RED" PLATZ

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2008

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Ronald Platz, or "Red" as he is known best by friends and colleagues. Red retired from the UAW International Union on Monday, March 31, 2008 after more than 30 years of leadership and loyal service to the community. Over the course of a tenacious career, Red made a profound and lasting impact on Wisconsin state and local politics.

Red began working in the Engine Division of the Kohler Company in 1969. He soon transferred to the Enamel Shop 3 years later. In 1977, Red was elected to serve as Divisional Steward for UAW Local 833. Red served Local 833 for the next 24 years, holding the positions of Chief Steward, Vice President, and President. He also served as a full-time Benefit and Safety Representative from 1990 until 2001. In total, Red was instrumental in negotiating six labor agreements between the Kohler Company and Local 833. As a health and safety trainer for the UAW International Union, Red led workshops throughout the United States on issues such as workplace safety, hazardous chemical handling, and harassment.

Red's unwavering political spirit led him to the Wisconsin State CAP-PAC Board where he remained active for more than 20 years and served 6 years as Chairperson. In August 2001, he was appointed to the UAW Region 4 International Staff as the CAP-PAC Coordinator for a six-state area that included Wisconsin, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, and Wyoming. Red has served on numerous executive boards including the Wisconsin AFL-CIO, Citizen Action of Wis-

consin, Competitive Wisconsin, Inc., the State of Wisconsin Unemployment Compensation Insurance Advisory Council, and the School for Workers Labor Faculty Advisory Board. Red will retire to country living in Wisconsin to spend time with his wife Mutzie, two children Rick and Judy, and 3 grandchildren Shawn, Samantha, and Collin. UAW Local 833 will honor Red this weekend to commemorate a career marked by commitment and dedication. The celebration will feature a friendly roast by those who have had the pleasure of knowing and working with Red.

For his hard work, leadership, and service to the State of Wisconsin, I join all of UAW Local 833 in saluting and thanking Red Platz. I wish Red health and happiness in retirement.

HONORING STANTON WILL RAGLAND

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Stanton Will Ragland of Liberty, Missouri. Stanton 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 1374, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

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

CONGRATULATING THE JEWISH HERALD-VOICE ON THEIR 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2008

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Jewish Herald-Voice on their 100th anniversary on April 20, 2008. The Jewish Herald-Voice is the longest continuously running Jewish newspaper in the Southwest and one of the oldest in the country. Founded in 1908 as The Jewish Herald by local printer Edgar Goldberg, the Jewish Herald-Voice has continued through the dedication of 3 owners. Through its pages, the Jewish Herald-Voice connects the community to important causes, large and small, calling its readers to action, and especially by connecting its readers to issues affecting Jewish communities around the world.

Over the past several decades, the Jewish Herald-Voice has been recognized for excellence in journalism and in design by the Texas Press, the Texas Gulf Coast Press, the Houston Press Club, and American Jewish Press associations. For its community service, the

Jewish Herald-Voice and its owners, Joe and Jeanne Samuels, have been honored by a plethora of Jewish organizations, both local and international.

One 100 years ago, Edgar Goldberg envisioned a newspaper that would reach everyone in Houston's diverse Jewish community, crossing denominations, transcending organizational boundaries and providing a platform for every Jewish citizen, regardless of affiliation. For 35 years, Joe and Jeanne Samuels, with their dedicated and talented writers and staff, have successfully continued the founder's dream and kept the promise of being "the voice" of the Jewish community of Greater Houston and the Texas Gulf Coast. Joe and Jeanne Samuels are great Americans, personal friends, and serve our community well.

Madam Speaker, I would like to congratulate the Jewish Herald-Voice for their 100-year tradition of service to the Jewish community and the city of Houston.

HONORING MARIO CANZONERI

HON. VITO FOSSELLA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2008

Mr. FOSSELLA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and accomplishments of Mario Canzoneri, who died on Saturday, January 19, 2008, following heart surgery. Mario and his wife Karen have been true and constant supporters of the community of 9/11 victims and their families. They have shared their therapy dogs—the Smile Retrievers—Jake, Jessie, Mattie, and Macie, with the entire community.

Immediately after the tragic attacks, Mario brought his therapy dogs to New York to help the families of the victims. Selflessly, and always at their own expense, Mario and Karen ministered to 9/11 families. They also traveled to Oklahoma City, to the TAPS program in Washington, to the campus of Virginia Tech, and to many other places where people were in pain from brutal losses.

Mario was extremely active in the community, attending every forum sponsored by Voices of September 11th and has accompanied the Pentagon families during their remembrance walks. I have heard many stories of young children cuddling up to the dogs and finding a way to deal with their grief on the anniversary of the attacks.

Mario proved that each of us holds the power to change the lives of many for the better. Although Mario's own life was cut short, his was a life lived to the fullest—a life that impacted others in a way few of us ever achieve. With purpose and resolve, Mario Canzoneri used his time on God's earth wisely and for the betterment of those around him.

In closing, Madam Speaker, I would like to extend my personal condolences to the Canzoneri family. Mario was a great man with a kind heart, and we are all in his debt.

IN HONOR OF JOHNSVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL'S RECOGNITION AS A MINNESOTA SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2008

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the teachers, parents, and students at Johnsville Elementary School in Blaine, Minnesota. Last week, before a crowd of proud neighbors, this school community was honored as a 2007–2008 Minnesota School of Excellence.

Minnesotans place a high value on education. It's engrained in our state psyche. And, this makes this already great honor still more phenomenal. Only 7 schools in the state achieved this level of excellence for this school year. And, since the program's inception more than 20 years ago, in 1986, only 125 schools have been recognized as Minnesota Schools of Excellence.

This high honor is a testament to the hard work of Johnsville's faculty, under the leadership of Principal Patrick Murray. It is also a testament to the commitment of the parents of Johnsville Elementary. Individually and through an active parent-teacher organization, these parents form a foundation of support for these teachers and students. Together they form a solid and interlocking network that excels in all areas of academics and community involvement.

The Johnsville Elementary community is a model for schools throughout Minnesota and, indeed, throughout the nation. I was proud to join them in celebrating this tremendous achievement last week, and I look forward to this school reaching still greater heights in years to come.

TRIBUTE TO SPECIALIST JOSE RUBIO

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2008

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Specialist Jose Rubio, of 464th Armored Battalion of the United States Army, who was killed in the line of duty by an IED roadside bomb in Baghdad.

Specialist Jose Rubio was born on March 19, 1983, in Reynosa, Mexico. He attended school in Mission, Texas, and graduated from South Texas College in 2005 with an associate's degree in Computer Science. He married his high school sweetheart, Jennifer, in May of 2006, and had a son, Nicolai, who is now 11 months old. He is survived by his mother, his six siblings in Reynosa, Matamoros, and Rio Bravo. Specialist Jose Rubio will be forever remembered for his service in protecting the freedoms and ideals of our country and I extend my condolences to his family, and to his wife, Jennifer.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to have had this time to recognize the service of Specialist Jose Rubio in the United States Army.

TRIBUTE TO NEWS TALK 970 WKHM-AM

HON. TIMOTHY WALBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2008

Mr. WALBERG. Madam Speaker, it is my special privilege to recognize News Talk 970 WKHM-AM on receiving the 2007 Michigan Association of Broadcasters Station of the Year award. It is with great admiration and pride that I congratulate WKHM of Jackson on behalf of all of those who have benefited from the station's commitment to south-central Michigan and dedication to outstanding achievement in broadcasting.

News Talk 970 WKHM proudly serves Jackson, Michigan, with faithful broadcasting of local, regional, and national news. Committed to exceptional community service, the station focuses specifically on the issues most important to the people of Jackson. Additionally, WKHM provides the most comprehensive weather coverage in the area and also broadcasts Detroit Red Wings and the University of Michigan Wolverines sporting events.

Each year the Michigan Association of Broadcasters sponsors a competition to recognize outstanding achievement in broadcasting by Michigan radio and television stations. The contest was established to promote the utmost quality of reporting, community service, and production creativity. The winners are recipients of the highest honor—peer recognition.

This year's award for Market 3 went to News Talk 970 WKHM-AM for its continued excellence in broadcasting. The station was the recipient of the same award in 2005. In addition to Station of the Year, WKHM won in nine other categories including Investigative News, Special Broadcast Personality, and Newscast.

Madam Speaker, today I honor News Talk 970 WKHM for its continued service to the Jackson community. May others know of my high regard for this radio station's diligent reporting and enthusiastic service, as well as my best wishes for WKHM in the future.

HONORING TREVOR ANDREW GAUERT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Trevor Andrew Gauert of Kansas City, Missouri. Stanton 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 1447, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

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