

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Taylor Hall for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO CLAUDE G. PERKINS

**HON. JON C. PORTER**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 2, 2008*

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Claude G. Perkins for his long and distinguished career in teaching, program development, and educational leadership, and commend him on having a school named after him within the Clark County School District in his honor.

Claude is a graduate of Mississippi Valley State University, where he received his bachelor of arts in political science. He also earned a master's degree in teaching economics from the Krannert School of Management at Purdue University and his Ph.D. in instructional supervision from the Ohio University in Athens, Ohio. In 1978, Claude was appointed to be the superintendent of the Clark County School District, where he served as the first African-American superintendent for 12 years.

During his time as superintendent, there was an increase in students' performance results with standardized testing; an increase in the percentage of women hired as administrators and department heads, and expansion of various vocational programs within the school district.

After his time spent as superintendent, Claude became a tenured professor at Clarion University of Pennsylvania and the founding director of the Center for Educational Leadership at Clarion University. Following his time at Clarion, Dr. Perkins came to Albany State University as a professor and dean of the College of Education in 1997. Three years later he was promoted to associate vice president for academic affairs, and dean of the Graduate School. During his time spent as the dean of the Graduate School, graduate enrollment reached its highest level, new graduate faculty criteria were implemented, and most graduate programs were nationally accredited. Faculty scholarships and research interest were supported, more on-line classes were developed, and the post-tenure review process became well established at the university. He also established five international partnership agreements to promote expanded international opportunity for students and faculty members.

Claude has been the recipient of many awards, including the Medal of Merit Award from the Ohio University in 1982, the City of Richmond, Virginia Resolution in Recognition of Educational Leadership in 1997, the James Herbert White Preeminence Award for Education and Academics in 2002, and the Nevada State Senate Resolution of Educational Achievement in 2005. He presently serves as a professor of educational leadership, chair of the College Education Committee on graduate education and is the team leader for the African Educational Research Network, USA.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor the accomplishments of Claude G. Perkins as an

experienced educator. I would also like to congratulate him on having an elementary school named in his honor by the Clark County School District.

HONORING BYRON JANIS: MUSICIAN, DIPLOMAT, AND INSPIRATION

**HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 2, 2008*

Mr. DOYLE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Byron Janis, internationally recognized as one of the world's greatest pianists. The story of his life is one of immense talent, dedication and perseverance which has captivated audiences and inspired others across America and around the world.

Byron Janis was born in McKeesport, Pennsylvania, in 1928. At the age of 15, Mr. Janis made his orchestral debut, and by age 20, had made his Carnegie Hall debut in front of a sold-out audience. Later, Mr. Janis was selected to be the first American performer to participate in a cultural exchange between the United States and the Soviet Union in 1960. On November 2, 1960, the New York Times wrote, "If music could replace international politics, Byron Janis could consider himself an ambassador". So successful was Mr. Janis' performance that the Soviet government invited him back just two years later for a six-week tour of the country. Since that time, Mr. Janis has performed for American Presidents and received acclaim around the world. Mr. Janis has been honored both in America and abroad with such distinctions as the Distinguished Pennsylvania Artists Award, the Gold Medal from the French Society for the Encouragement of Progress, and the Harriet Cohen International Music Award. He has also appeared on the Tonight Show with Johnny Carson, Good Morning America, 20/20 with Barbara Walters, and CNN.

Perhaps Mr. Janis' greatest contribution to America lies not in his graceful work at the piano, but rather the tremendous perseverance and unbreakable spirit he has shown in the face of significant adversity. In 1973, he was diagnosed with arthritis in both his hands and wrists, an affliction which seriously threatened his ability to continue practicing the craft he loved. Reflecting his will and determination to rise above the obstacle which was placed in his path, Mr. Janis once said, "I have arthritis—it doesn't have me." For 12 years, Mr. Janis continued performing, often in great pain, while keeping his condition a closely held secret.

While announcing his affliction at the White House in 1985, Mr. Janis also declared he was assuming the role of Ambassador for the Arts for the Arthritis foundation. Through his music, he has raised a significant amount of money for the Foundation's work and research. More importantly, however, his story of determination is one which serves as an inspiration and makes Mr. Janis a role model for Americans with disabilities. In spite of his condition, to this day, Mr. Janis is still performing before admiring audiences. Mr. Janis is living proof that the American spirit can and will prevail in the face of challenges large and small.

2008 marks Mr. Janis' 80 birthday as well as the 60th anniversary of his first perform-

ance at Carnegie Hall. Each year, Congress honors individuals who have distinguished themselves with acts of courage and determination which capture the essence of the American spirit and serve as an inspiration to those around them. The life and accomplishments of Byron

Janis—as a musician, ambassador, and role model—embody the best in American culture and values. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mr. Janis on the occasion of these two noteworthy anniversaries.

TRIBUTE TO CHAIRMAN DANIEL O'CONNELL AND THE SENIOR CITIZENS LEAGUE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**HON. WALTER B. JONES**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 2, 2008*

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I am here to congratulate the Board of Trustees of The Senior Citizens League (TSLC) that works to educate the public about issues important to older Americans. The Senior Citizens League represents over 1 million members nationwide and over 2,500 in my congressional district.

Five retired enlisted association men work tirelessly as non-paid volunteers to help the plight of our most elderly and low income seniors: The Senior Citizens League Chairman Daniel O'Connell, Vice Chairman Nash Mines, Treasurer Marvin Stout, Secretary Thomas O'Connell, and PAC Treasurer Larry Hyland.

Chairman Daniel O'Connell spent a distinguished 29-year career in the U.S. Air Force including service as the Training NCO for the Queens College ROTC Program. Subsequently he served in protocol at the Air Force Space Command in Colorado Springs where he retired as Director of Protocol, an attribute that has come in handy when the chairman meets with dignitaries on Capitol Hill.

Vice Chairman Mines had a 23-year military career concluded by service as the Training NCO for Oklahoma State University's ROTC Program. Later, he worked as general services manager for a Colorado brokerage firm and for a Denver-based retirement investment company. His military experience as a senior master sergeant gave him the calm reasoned approach to problem-solving on the TSLC Board.

Treasurer Marvin Stout had a 26-year military career that concluded with medals for meritorious service. He has also worked as an owner of an income tax consultant firm bringing his expertise to use for the TSLC Board finances.

Secretary Thomas O'Connell served in the U.S. Army including service as Division Logistics NCO. And his experiences as a former high school teacher and librarian have facilitated his work as TSLC Secretary.

TSLC PAC Treasurer Larry Hyland retired from the U.S. Air Force as a senior master sergeant before launching a small business. He also re-entered the civil service overseas before returning to the states.

The organization's objectives are to encourage Congress to protect earned benefits of seniors (i.e., Social Security and Medicare), and to cosponsor bills that secure these promises to seniors and improve the quality of life for older Americans.

The TSCL Board of Trustee members visit Washington every quarter to personally meet with members of the U.S. House and Senate to consult with them about senior's issues including the Social Security Notch and cost-of-living adjustment, Medicare, drug importation, Alzheimer's research, and the Lock Box of Social Security Trust Funds.

The Senior Citizens League is a non-profit organization headquartered in Alexandria, Virginia, that strives to educate millions of seniors via direct mail, e-alerts, senior faxes, and publications including a monthly newsletter The Advisor. On a day-to-day basis, TSCL operations are run by Executive Director Shannon Benton, with legislative activities guided by TSCL Legislative Consultants David and Betty Funderburk and Legislative Director Jamie McMillen.

Under the recent leadership of Chairman Dan O'Connell and Vice Chairman Nash Mines, TSCL has made significant progress in representing its seniors. The TSCL legislative team (with the Board of Trustee members on a quarterly basis) has met with over two-thirds of the Members of Congress and their chief staff members during the past 3½ years.

In the 110th Congress, a new Notch Resolution was introduced in the Senate by Sen. NORM COLEMAN with Sen. RICHARD BURR as an original cosponsor. This was the first such Notch resolution in almost 5 years.

Notably more Members of the House have cosponsored Representative Ralph Hall's (Social Security) Notch Fairness Act, H.R. 368, than ever before, setting a new record. It is a tribute to the continuing dedication of all of the TSCL Board members and to the leadership of its Chairman Dan O'Connell. The fact that more than 117 Members of Congress have already in this session of Congress cosponsored H.R. 368 proves the legitimacy and premise of the organization's fight for Notch victims. It reflects the fact that Chairman O'Connell has been dedicated and persistent in his desire to see TSCL have legislative success on the issues important to seniors.

In addition to support for the Social Security Trust Funds Lock Box and opposition to Social Security funds going to those who worked in the U.S. as "illegals" (via the U.S.-Mexico Totalization Agreement), TSCL has pledged to help promote Alzheimer's research.

It is a pleasure for me to pay tribute to the leadership of the Senior Citizens League, in particular its Chairman Daniel O'Connell, whose vision and determination to help the most worthy and needy of our citizens, are commendable.

I also thank each of these board members for their military service to our country. May God richly bless them for their continued contributions to seniors, to their communities and to our great Nation.

**TRIBUTE TO MOINA SHAIQ, THE  
2008 WOMAN OF ACHIEVEMENT  
AWARD RECIPIENT**

**HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 2, 2008*

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Moína Shaiq, the 2008 Woman of Achievement award recipient designated by

California's Tenth Senate District. Moína is an exemplary community leader in the 13th Congressional District. She will receive her award on Saturday, April 5, 2008, from California State Senator Ellen Corbett.

Moína and her husband, Mohammed, have been residents of Fremont, CA, for the past 25 years and are the parents of four children. She has bachelor degrees in economics and psychology. Moína was a small business owner from 1991 to 1997. After the birth of her daughter, Samah, she chose to stay home and become more involved in community affairs. She has since been involved in a major way and has contributed tireless hours, making a positive difference in her community.

Numerous organizations continue to benefit from Moína's commitment, expertise and talents. She is a co-founder of the Muslim Support Network, established to improve the health and well-being of elders in the Muslim communities of Union City, Newark, and Fremont; serves as chair of the Fremont City Human Relations Commission; is a member of the Washington Hospital Foundation; and was a founder of the Muslim Spiritual Care Program for Kaiser Permanente.

Moína serves on the board of the Tri City Elder Coalition, coordinates the Community Ambassadors Program for Seniors and volunteers her service to the Palo Alto Medical Foundation's Citizens Advisory Committee, the Tri-City Interfaith Council, the Fremont Alliance for a Hate Free Community and the American Cancer Society.

I join the family, friends and admirers of Moína Shaiq who will gather on April 5 to commend her for her tireless volunteer efforts. The honor she will receive as the 2008 Woman of Achievement award is well deserved. She continues to set the standard for community service and is a model to follow.

**TRIBUTE TO 127 ROYAL AUSTRALIAN  
AIR FORCE VETERANS**

**HON. GARY G. MILLER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 2, 2008*

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize 127 Royal Australian Air Force veterans who on April 4 will be awarded the United States Air Force's Air Medal by the U.S. Embassy in Australia for their service during the Vietnam war.

These men bravely contributed to the tactical air mission of the United States Air Force in Southeast Asia between 1964 and 1972. Under dangerous conditions they displayed courage, dedication and resolve as they completed their missions.

I also wish to thank current and retired members of our military, including many who served alongside these Royal Australian Air Force veterans, for volunteering many hours to insure that they were properly recognized.

**ARTHUR CONKLIN**

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 2, 2008*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Arthur Conklin

who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Arthur Conklin is a student at Wheat Ridge Middle School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Arthur Conklin is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Arthur Conklin for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character to all his future accomplishments.

**A PROCLAMATION HONORING  
HILARY WEAVER FOR WINNING  
THE GIRLS' DIVISION IV STATE  
BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP**

**HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 2, 2008*

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Hilary Weaver showed hard work and dedication to the sport of basketball; and Whereas, Hilary Weaver was a supportive team player; and

Whereas, Hilary Weaver always displayed sportsmanship on and off of the court; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That along with her friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Hilary Weaver on winning the Girls' Division IV State Basketball Championship. We recognize the tremendous hard work and sportsmanship she has demonstrated during the 2007–2008 basketball season.

**HONORING THE AUGUSTA STATE  
UNIVERSITY BASKETBALL TEAM**

**HON. PAUL C. BROWN**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 2, 2008*

Mr. BROWN of Georgia. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor and pay tribute to an exceptional athletic team in my Congressional District of Georgia.

The men's basketball Jaguars achieved what no team had ever accomplished before them at Augusta State University. For the first time in school history, the basketball team advanced to the NCAA Division II Championship Game.

The basketball team played its most successful season with 27 wins in 2007–08. The players gave fans a dazzling performance on Thursday, March 27, as they beat Alaska-Anchorage 56–50 in the semifinals of the Elite Eight. They gave it their all on Saturday, March 29, as the Jaguars battled it out with Winona State University but came up just short of winning the National Championship.

The Tenth Ranked Jaguars have proven the team is among the best in the nation. Under