

RECOGNIZING MAYOR ANNE HINES FARISH FOR HER SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE CITY OF MONROEVILLE AND THE STATE OF ALABAMA

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2008

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise today to honor Mayor Anne Hines Farish for her extraordinary contributions to both the city of Monroeville and the state of Alabama. Mayor Farish is the epitome of a "Steel Magnolia," a real southern lady, strong and persevering and someone who is truly an institution among the residents of Monroeville.

A native of Monroeville, Anne grew up the oldest of four daughters of the late Dr. Jack and Mrs. Irma Hines.

She graduated from Monroe County High School in the same class as Nelle Harper Lee, another beloved fixture of Monroeville and Pulitzer Prize winning author of "To Kill A Mockingbird." Upon graduation from high school, she attended Auburn University. Anne's father, Dr. Hines, a local veterinarian, also served as mayor of Monroeville. Her late husband, Dick, served as Monroeville's postmaster for many years.

During her tenure as mayor, Monroeville has built an industrial park, added to its parks and recreation, and built a new City Hall and police station. Situated deep in the piney woods of Alabama's First Congressional District, Monroeville is a hidden treasure, and there is no better salesperson for this wonderful city than Mayor Farish.

Prior to serving as mayor, Anne served on the Monroeville City Council for two four-year terms. Anne is also a real estate agent, who began the successful brokerage firm, The Farish Agency, which is now managed by her daughter-in-law, Christie.

Madam Speaker, Anne Hines Farish has dedicated her entire life to making Monroeville, Alabama, a better place to live and work, all the while being a devoted wife and mother. I ask my colleagues to join with me in thanking Mayor Farish for her many years of devotion to her hometown and the people she has faithfully served.

I know Anne's colleagues, her family, and her many friends join with me in praising her accomplishments and extending thanks for her many efforts over the years on behalf of Monroeville and the First Congressional District.

COMMEMORATING THE TWIN OAKS ESTATE

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2008

Mr. TANCREDO. Madam Speaker, this year will mark the 120 year anniversary of the Twin Oaks estate in Washington, D.C. Built in 1888 by Mr. Gardiner Greene Hubbard, founder of the National Geographic Society, this 18-acre property was sold to the Republic of China in 1947 after having been rented to the government of Taiwan for the previous 10 years.

From 1937 through 1978, the Twin Oaks estate was the official residence of nine ROC ambassadors, who used it to host all types of functions in the interests of their government. Many agreements were discussed with the United States at this estate. However, during the winter of 1978, President Carter decided to switch diplomatic recognition from the Republic of China to the People's Republic of China.

During this critical period, ROC senior diplomat Mr. H.Y. Yang stayed at Twin Oaks and negotiated with the administration and Congress to hammer out a foundation for the future of U.S.-Taiwan relations.

Minister Yang's efforts gave birth to the enactment of the Taiwan Relations Act on April 10, 1979. The Act became the legal basis governing all types of relations between Taiwan and the U.S. It has enabled Taiwan to develop and prosper during the last 29 years. It also enabled the ROC government to retain the ownership of the Twin Oaks estate, which has continued to be a place for social gatherings and functions benefiting many in our nation's capital.

Madam Speaker, the Twin Oaks estate on Woodley Road is not only a historic building in downtown Washington; it is also a symbol of the long standing friendship between the people of the United States and the people of Taiwan.

HONORING THE WEBSTER THOMAS HIGH SCHOOL HOCKEY TEAM

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2008

Mr. WALSH of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today in tribute to the Webster Thomas High School boys varsity ice hockey team, 2008 Division II New York State Public School Ice Hockey Champions. The Webster Thomas Titans defeated the Thousand Islands' Vikings by a score of 5 to 2, earning Webster Thomas' first State ice hockey championship title.

On behalf of the people of New York's 25th Congressional District, I congratulate these young men on their outstanding athletic achievement and praise Head Coach David Evans, and Assistant Coaches Allan Mutrie and Sean O'Neill on their team's success. I look forward to another exciting year when the Titans take the ice to defend their title in 2009.

Joseph Amico, Brett Bannon, Matthew Casilio, James Chandler, John DiRose, Joseph DiRose, Mischa Dombovy-Johnson, Daniel Fetes, Kevin Glenwright, Mark Goodman, Alan Grabowski, Mason Hill, Michael Iulianello, Mikhail Jerzak, Zachary Lamb, Christopher Malec, Patrick Moore, Sean Moore, Matthew Prinzing, Justin Scharfe, Robert Sciarra, Tyler Smedley, Matthew Solimano, Mark Vaccarelli, Michael Winderl.

HONORING RAY LACKEY

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2008

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Ray Lackey, a re-

markable soldier and public servant from my congressional district. Ray is retiring this month as Postmaster to Bowling Green, KY, ending a 38 year career in federal service.

A native of Middletown, OH, Ray first came to Bowling Green in 1979 following nine years of active duty in the U.S. Army. Beginning as a letter carrier, Ray quickly advanced through numerous managerial positions with the U.S. Postal Service prior to being named Bowling Green Postmaster in 2003.

During his tenure, Ray has overseen various infrastructure improvements at the facility. Colleagues and customers alike have long been impressed with his leadership abilities and rigid commitment to maintaining an efficient and consistent postal operation.

Throughout his career at the U.S. Postal Service, Ray remained active in the U.S. Army Reserve, serving in various noncommissioned officer leadership positions, culminating in a three year tour at the Pentagon as Command Sergeant Major. Ray was at the Pentagon during the September 11, 2001 terrorist attack and spent the ensuing hours assisting survivors. He has received numerous awards and commendations for the valor he demonstrated under pressure and at great personal risk that day.

It is my great privilege to recognize Ray Lackey today on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives for his service to our country, support of our soldiers, and lifelong example of leadership and service. His unique achievements make him an outstanding American worthy of our honor and respect.

On behalf of the countless men and women who have benefited from his years of dutiful service to our country and community, I would like to express my profound appreciation to Ray and wish him a very happy and healthy retirement.

HONORING THE NORRISTOWN GARDEN CLUB ON ITS 95TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2008

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the upcoming 95th anniversary of the Norristown Garden Club in Norristown, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania.

The Norristown Garden Club was founded on April 13, 1913 by seven women who met at the home of Miss Bertha Slingluff Harry and established the Club to promote their common interest in the culture of flowers by exchanging ideas, seeds, plants and bulbs. At this first meeting, the group chose officers and laid the groundwork for what has been 95 years of fellowship and service to the beautification of Southeastern Pennsylvania.

Throughout the 20th Century and today, the members of the Norristown Garden Club have dedicated endless energies and hours to volunteer activities in the area. Examples of this include 32 years of consecutive service to the Montgomery Geriatric Center and Rehabilitation—an achievement they reached in 1986. The organization has also donated thousands of dollars in flowers to places such as the Valley Forge Historical Society Museum and Ronald McDonald House. It is clear that the members not only gather around a common love

for botanicals, but seek to share this joy with fellow citizens and surrounding communities.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in honoring the history and service of the Norristown Garden Club as they celebrate their 95th anniversary.

KEVIN CALKINS

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2008

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Kevin Calkins who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award. Kevin Calkins is a senior at Arvada High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Kevin Calkins 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 Kevin Calkins for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication he has shown in his high school career to his college career and future accomplishments.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING LAYLA MILLER FOR WINNING THE GIRLS' DIVISION IV STATE BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2008

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

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

Whereas, Layla Miller 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 Layla Miller 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.

A TRIBUTE TO WENDY CRAMER

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2008

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to honor Wendy Cramer, recently awarded the 2008 Congressional Volunteer Recognition Award by the 2nd Con-

gressional District of Maryland's Veterans Advisory Council.

Wendy Cramer is a dedicated employee with the Department of Veteran's Affairs (VA) Supplies, Processing and Distribution (SPD) program. In her physically demanding role in the program, Wendy is responsible for the retrieval of supplies from the Baltimore VA Medical Center and the distribution of the supplies to various centers. When she has an idea for a way to improve a service, she devotes her free time to making the improvements a reality.

Aside from her numerous work-related responsibilities that benefit our Nation's veterans, she also volunteers several hours a month for the veterans. She has volunteered her time toward such activities as National Salute, Veterans Day, and welcome home events. Every Christmas, she brings her family to VA hospitals to deliver gifts to wounded or ill veterans.

Members of the Veterans Advisory Council as well as patients and staff she interacts with every day praise her attitude and energy with the veterans. She is supportive and encouraging, and patients say her genuine enthusiasm is so infectious she can put everyone around her in a positive mood. The veterans Wendy interacts with can feel her honest empathy for them, and their appreciation for her work is obvious with the awarding of this honor.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join with me today to honor Wendy Cramer. She is a remarkable volunteer for Maryland's veterans. Through her ongoing efforts, she has helped hundreds of veterans receive the supplies they need and served as a positive influence in their lives. She has gone above and beyond the call of duty to aid those who have dedicated their lives to serve our great country.

CONGRATULATING THE INDIANA BOYS' BASKETBALL STATE CHAMPIONS OF TRITON HIGH SCHOOL

HON. JOE DONNELLY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2008

Mr. DONNELLY. Madam Speaker, today I rise today to extend congratulations to the Triton High School Boys' Basketball Team. The Trojans succeeded in clinching the IHSAA 1-A State Championship on March 22, 2008, at Conseco Fieldhouse in Indianapolis with a thrilling 50–42 victory over Indianapolis Lutheran.

The Trojans' tireless efforts in practice resulted in a season of firsts: the team won their first-ever Semi-State Championship, made their first trip to the State Championship game and won their first State Championship title. For the team's seven seniors, it was the perfect ending for their high school basketball careers.

The Triton team is led by seniors Jake Everett, winner of the Class 1–A Trester Mental Attitude Award; Troy McIntyre; A.J. Harrison; Reggie Davis; Blake Schori; Patrick Smith, and Bart Christian. Other members of the team include juniors Colton Keel, Cody Carpenter, Joel Meister, Zac Moriarty, and Dustin Krefit; sophomores Ben Montalbano and

Camron Garey and freshmen Griffyn Carpenter, Austin Davis, and Jordan Everett.

Also, I should acknowledge the wonderful support the team had. Head Coach Jason Groves and Assistant Coaches Tommy Mascari, Dave Carpenter, and Matt Landis guided the Trojans to victory. I would also like to thank Principal Michael Chobanov, Athletic Director Mason McIntyre, and, above all, the fans in the community, many of whom traveled to Indianapolis for the game and gathered to welcome the team home after their victory.

I offer my congratulations to the members of the boys' basketball team of Triton High School, the coaching staff, the school administration, and the surrounding community for their accomplishments this season on the road to the 1–A State Championship.

COMMENDING DON BUTTRESS

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2008

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to applaud Don Buttress of Little Elm, TX, for his commitment to bettering the environment. Don applied for a rebate through the Texas Emissions Reduction Program (TERP) to replace an early-model dump truck with one that is cleaner and more efficient. Don's efforts demonstrate the effect a single person's actions can have on the planet.

Buttress' rebate will keep 11.1793 tons of nitrogen oxides from polluting our skies throughout the next seven years. TERP is committed to replacing 4,500 older diesel engines with newer, less polluting models, and Don's participation moves them one engine closer to reaching that goal.

The Texas Emissions Reduction Program presents businesses with the opportunity to go green by trading in their vehicles for cleaner, more economical diesel engines. TERP provides rebates and grants to help replace aging diesel engines that consume more fuel and generate more pollution than newer models.

North Texas businesses have saved over \$3.3 million and reduced nearly 353 tons of pollution to date. The Texas Emissions Reduction Program serves as a national model for replacing and retrofitting older diesel engines.

Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to congratulate Joel Estrada of the 26th District of Texas. His efforts are something I encourage other small businesses to follow, and I gladly congratulate him for his contribution to the betterment of North Texas.

URGING THE ESTABLISHMENT AND OBSERVATION OF A LEGAL PUBLIC HOLIDAY IN HONOR OF CÉSAR E. CHÁVEZ

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I fully support Representative BACA's legislation to encourage the establishment of a national holiday in honor of César Chávez and wish to thank him for introducing this important bill.