

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.

During the Great Depression, César's family lost their own farm. As such, César and his family joined the migrant farming community. César was only 10 years old when he began to work in the fields and vineyards of the southwest. He learned first hand about the injustices and indignities experienced by migrant farm workers.

Founder of the National Farm Workers Association and its successor the United Farm Workers of America, César led the Nation's first triumphant farm workers union.

César E. Chávez was a champion of workers' rights. He showed incredible dedication to social justice through his efforts on behalf of farm workers to garner improved wages, medical coverage, pension benefits, safer working conditions, humane living conditions and an end to child labor in the fields.

His remarkable achievements were realized through non-violent protest, through fasts, strikes and boycotts. This makes his accomplishments all the more meaningful and sets an example that is to be held in the highest regard.

César was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize three times by the American Friends Service Committee. He received the distinguished Martin Luther King, Jr. Peace Prize and was posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Because César Chávez embodies so completely both the spirit and values of our Nation I believe it is only right to establish a national holiday in his honor. "Si se puede."

Again, I wish to thank Congressman BACA for introducing this important legislation and calling attention to one of our Nation's greatest heroes.

COMMEMORATING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ASSASSINATION OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the House Resolution commemorating the 40th anniversary of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. In mourning the loss of Dr. King, we must also simultaneously celebrate the life and legacy of this courageous civil rights leader.

For the better part of his life, Dr. King stood in protest to inequality. He provided a voice to people once silenced by bigotry and intolerance. He preached nonviolence as a means of securing the fundamental principles of equality and justice, endowed to all people in the United States Constitution. Through his actions and life, Dr. King aided in creating the world we live in today. I am deeply humbled and inspired by his resolve to achieve change in America. Dr. King's work as a civil rights activist and leader has been studied in depth. But, often overlooked is his stance against the war in Vietnam. In the wake of Jeremiah White's comments, I believe that it is important to understand that Dr. King was more than the icon we have created in our efforts to sanctify him. Yes, he lifts the dreamer and man who worked for racial reconciliation, but he was as

well a leader with a strong moral vision who was willing to call our great Nation to task when it failed to live up to the standards he saw created by our Declaration of Independence and Constitution.

Many parallels exist between Dr. King's opposition to the war in Vietnam and my opposition of the war in Iraq. Dr. King believed, as I believe, that the United States Government will never invest the necessary funds and energy required to improve the situation of the poor in America, as long as the country's resources are being diverted to a war. Similarly, Dr. King and I both agree that war disproportionately affects the poor, as more of them are sent to fight and die on foreign soil. As Dr. King once stated, "A time comes when silence is betrayal," and today that time has come for us in relation to Iraq.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was a man of steadfast conviction, determination, sheer grit, and uncompromising faith. That is why today, I stand here advocating the House Resolution commemorating the 40th anniversary of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., a man who has impacted the lives each and every American.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING COACH DAVID BORTER FOR COACHING THE HILAND HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS' BASKETBALL TEAM TO 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, Coach David Borter showed hard work and dedication to the sport of basketball; and

Whereas, David Borter was a leader and mentor for the Hiland High School Girls' Basketball Team; and

Whereas, Coach Borter has been a role model for sportsmanship on and off of the court; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That along with his friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Coach David Borter for leading the Hiland High School Girls' Basketball Team to winning the Girls' Division IV State Basketball Championship. We recognize the tremendous hard work and leadership he has demonstrated during the 2007–2008 Basketball season.

CONGRATULATING SARAH LONG DAMSON FOR BEING NAMED FIRST LADY OF MOBILE

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 Mrs. Sarah Long Damson on the occasion of her being named First Lady of Mobile for 2007. The Mobile chapters of Beta Sigma Phi, an international women's network with

over 165,000 members, recently bestowed this honor on Sarah.

A native of Mobile, Sarah is a tireless volunteer and has devoted her entire life to improving the lives of countless people who call Mobile and South Alabama home.

Sarah and her husband Tom are co-owners of Long's Human Resource Center, a multi-million dollar business passed on to them by Sarah's father. She serves as chairman of the board of the 60-year-old company with locations in Mobile, Fairhope and Foley.

However, Sarah's commitment to South Alabama goes far beyond the walls of her business. She has been active with the United Way for decades, and she is an emeritus board member of the organization. She is the first woman to lead the United Way of Southwest Alabama's annual fundraising campaign and head its board of trustees. She has also served as chairman of The Alexis de Tocqueville Society, a national movement within the United Way that recognizes individuals who donate \$10,000 to \$1 million annually.

In addition to her involvement with the United Way, Sarah serves on various boards at Dauphin Way United Methodist Church and was the first woman to serve on the local Regions Bank board. She is a past president of the Junior League of Mobile and is also on the Board of Trustees of Spring Hill College. Sarah is an active member of the Mobile Chamber of Commerce and has served on its board of directors as well.

A graduate of the University of Alabama, Sarah was the first woman to receive the prestigious Austin Cup, awarded to the most outstanding graduate of the University's Culverhouse College of Commerce and Business.

Madam Speaker, I would like to offer my personal congratulations to Mrs. Sarah Long Damson for being named the First Lady of Mobile for 2007; truly, no one is more deserving of this high honor. And in so doing, I would also like to recognize Sarah for her lifetime of outstanding professional and philanthropic accomplishments; she is truly a role model for our entire community.

Furthermore, I would ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating this respected and dedicated friend to many throughout South Alabama. I know Sarah's family; her husband, Tom; their two wonderful daughters, Mary Stewart Crane and Liz Freeman; her grandchildren and her many friends and other family join me in praising Sarah's accomplishments and extending thanks for her never-ending efforts to make South Alabama a better place to live and call home.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MR. ALBERT HAROUTOUNIAN

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2008

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Albert Haroutounian of Honey Brook, Pennsylvania, who died in Iraq on March 10, 2008.

Albert was a linguist working on contract in Iraq for the Trinity Technology Group. Albert was on a mission when his vehicle was hit by