

San Francisco bay. The Central and Northern California Ocean Observing System assisted in the spill tracking as well as using HF Radar systems to provide real-time information on ocean currents to the response teams. They also provided information to and continue to collaborate with the NOAA Office of Response and Restoration, NOAA HAZMAT, NOAA Sanctuaries, and the Oil Spill Prevention and Response program.

These systems are at the forefront of the science of understanding harmful algal blooms, which affect human health and can cause fish kills. Ocean observing systems aid in the study of waterborne diseases and can provide vital information for navigation of ships and small boats. They also have national security implications. This set of Coordinated Regional Ocean Observing Systems will improve coastal monitoring and assist the Coast Guard in their mission to secure our waters and to provide search and rescue for those endangered at sea.

These Ocean Observing Systems are the foundation we need to apply ecosystem-based management of our oceans. This type of management and even this very system of National Integrated Ocean and Coastal Observing Systems is recommended by the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy, which we in Congress created. The Joint Ocean Commission Initiative, created to continue to advise Congress on the Ocean Commission's suggestions, lists this as one of their chief priorities.

I cannot emphasize enough the need to show our ocean stewardship now, so we can turn the tide on the dire consequences facing our oceans and Great Lakes. The oceans and the Great Lakes belong to all the people of the United States and it is our duty to ensure that we provide the coordination and the funding necessary to protect these precious resources. This is why I support H.R. 2342 which will realign and coordinate the existing Ocean Observing Systems.

Madam Speaker, the effects of climate change on the ocean are just beginning to be understood, while the ocean's impact on the growing coastal population increases daily. We need the Ocean Observing Systems in order to understand and respond to the challenges we are facing. I strongly support H.R. 2342 and urge my colleagues to pass this bill.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO LEE TILLMAN

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2008

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of my friend, Lee Tillman, who passed away on December 15, 2007.

Lee Tillman moved to Boulder City, NV, at the age of 18, in 1931, and worked as a ball mill operator for the Hoover Dam during its construction. Mr. Tillman also worked as a truck driver and an electrician during the construction of the Hoover Dam. He and his late wife, Norma, settled in Boulder City in 1939, where they raised their family and subsequently retired. He was the last known local Hoover Dam construction worker to reside in the area at the time of his death. He was 94 years old.

Lee's friends and family considered him to be a man of integrity, who enjoyed recounting stories about his life and his many experiences that he encountered as a resident of southern Nevada. He was revered as a walking historian because of his ability to recount significant facts and details about the construction of Hoover Dam. He told his accounts as a dam worker for countless documentaries. He enjoyed sharing those experiences with his friends and family alike. I also had the distinct pleasure of serving on the Boulder City Council with Lee's son, Tim, and I greatly appreciated the wealth of knowledge that Lee willingly shared.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor the life and legacy of my friend Lee Tillman for his integral work on the Hoover Dam, and his years of community service throughout the Boulder City and the southern Nevada community. Mr. Tillman was a historical force throughout the community and he will be profoundly missed.

VICTIM'S RIGHTS AWARDS, LAURIE DISHMAN UNSUNG HERO AWARD RECIPIENT

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2008

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, I am honored to announce that my constituent, Laurie Dishman has been selected by the Victim's Rights Caucus to receive the Unsung Hero Award.

Laurie is a remarkable young woman, who found the strength and courage to fight on behalf of others after she was a victim of a violent crime on a cruise ship. Laurie shared her story with me in a letter two years ago.

As a passenger on board a ship operated by Royal Caribbean, Laurie was raped by a crew member. The story of her ordeal on the ship was shocking and the response by the cruise industry was even more appalling.

Laurie was brave enough to report the incident to the crew authorities, even though they treated her poorly and with little sensitivity. She also reported the crime to the FBI. Unfortunately, the U.S. Attorney's office declined the case or prosecution just four days later.

I have since learned that there have been no convictions for rape cases on cruise lines in four decades. This statistic takes on a new meaning through the lens of Laurie's experience.

Laurie has devoted herself to a public awareness campaign to ensure that the cruise industry is held accountable for their lax security onboard cruise ships.

She has done television shows including The Montel Williams Show, the Morning Show, Inside Edition, and numerous others. She also has done radio interviews for the BBC and other international news organizations to send out her message. As the focus of numerous expose pieces about safety concerns on cruise ships, Laurie was profiled for stories in the Los Angeles Times and the San Francisco Chronicle.

She was also brave enough to testify at a Transportation and Infrastructure, Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Subcommittee hearing on Crimes on Cruise Ships. At the

hearing she spoke of her experience and also ways to improve prevention methods, including: peep holes and security latches on state-room doors; instituting sensitivity training for crew members; and ensuring more CCTV cameras in hallways.

After the hearing, I introduced the Protect Americans from Crimes on Cruise Ships Resolution on September 17, 2007, with Reps. CHRISTOPHER SHAYS and CAROLYN MALONEY. The resolution now has over thirty cosponsors.

The Transportation and Infrastructure Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Subcommittee held a follow-up hearing on September 19, 2007. We heard from other victims who were raped or assaulted on cruise ships. Laurie attended the full-day hearing and provided support for the women who testified and their families. Since then she has continued to attend meetings with the cruise industry, provide interviews and insight to our office on the progress, or lack thereof, of the cruise industry safety standards.

On April 8, 2008 Laurie testified in front of the California State Senate regarding a bill to require Ocean Rangers on cruise ships. "These Ocean Rangers will help to make sure that there are trained personnel who can respond to a reported crime, and that there is an advocate for a crime victim who is not employed by the cruise lines."

I am also working on introducing it bicameral, comprehensive cruise safety reform bill that is informed by two years of research and two Congressional hearings, but at its heart, addresses the concerns brought to our office two years ago by Ms. Dishman.

Laurie embodies the spirit of an unsung hero. She does all of this without acclaim, but because she feels compelled. Laurie has helped lead a campaign of awareness about safety concerns on cruise ships. We all know that crimes can only be prevented when we are aware of the chance for them to occur.

Laurie has taken leadership and shown strong determination throughout this terrible personal experience. I have been very proud to be by her side in this effort, to ensure safety on cruise ships by informing the public of their risks.

Because of her visibility and strength, other victims have been able to tell their stories. As a result, we have been able to garner public awareness and support for our efforts towards oversight and better public policy.

I applaud Laurie for her heroic work during these last two years. I nominated her for the Victim's Rights Caucus Unsung Hero Award. It is an honor to recognize her today for her important contributions to ensuring the safety of the over 10 million women and families across the country that cruise each year.

A TRIBUTE TO CANTOR AVIVA ROSENBLUM

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2008

Mr. WAXMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary contributions of Cantor Aviva Rosenbloom of Temple Israel of Hollywood. Cantor Aviva will be retiring this spring after 32 remarkable years of service to the Temple community. She will be honored at

"Erev Aviva"—Night of Aviva for her dedication and inspiration during her lengthy and truly iconic career. The community-wide celebration will be an opportunity for us to thank Cantor Aviva and express appreciation for the contributions she has made to Temple Israel and the Los Angeles Jewish community at large.

Cantor Aviva is only the second full-time Cantor to have served Temple Israel in its 82-year history. In fact, she was the first full-time Cantor to serve in the Los Angeles area. Throughout her tenure, she has become part of the fabric of the Temple community.

She has a lively, warm and colorful presence. Her vibrant spirit and love for tradition is infectious; her voice has inspired many congregants over the years. Cantor Aviva has touched Temple Israel at its core as she led hundreds of children through their Bar and Bat Mitzvah ceremonies and taught countless adults to chant and sing Jewish prayers.

She is known for continually updating and expanding Temple Israel's musical liturgy with jazz services and songs in Hebrew, Yiddish and Ladino. Cantor Aviva has premiered new works by contemporary Jewish composers in concert settings, and is comfortable with a whole host of musical genres, including classical, opera and folk.

Our community owes Cantor Aviva a debt of gratitude for her tremendous record of accomplishments at Temple Israel of Hollywood. I ask my colleagues to join me in extending thanks for her outstanding and inspired contributions these past 32 years. Please also join me in wishing her all the best in her capacity as Cantor Emeritus and in all future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF FOR THE LOVE OF THE LAKE

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2008

Mr. PETE SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize For the Love of the Lake, a local community land and water conservation organization that is very dear to my heart.

White Rock Lake Park resulted from the need for a larger water supply for the growing population in Dallas during the late 1890s. Since it became a city park on December 13, 1929, White Rock Lake Park has always held a special place in the hearts of all Dallasites. Historically, it was known as the "people's playground" and is now referred to as the "Jewel of Dallas."

What initially began as an interest in keeping White Rock Lake Park clean and beautiful quickly evolved into a conservation organization with hundreds of dedicated and energetic volunteers. Since its founding in 1995, For the Love of the Lake has helped enhance the lake and park with various hands-on activities such as picking up litter and recyclables with their Second Saturday Shoreline Spruce-Up events and Adopt-A-Shoreline groups. Now led by President Steve Tompkins, For the Love of the Lake is reconstructing of a hike and bike trail, building a new bridge reminiscent of one built by the Civilian Conservation Corps, and expanding the Celebration Tree Grove. On April

11, 2008, Good Fulton & Farrell Architects will receive the Volunteer Group of the Year Award as the group leader of an Adopt-A-Shoreline group. In the past year, they have demonstrated their outstanding commitment in community service and financial contributions. Their first month with For the Love of the Lake was January 2007 and despite the bitter cold weather, they showed with a positive attitude and a giving heart. It is individuals like these that keep our communities strong and White Rock Lake Park beautiful. I am proud to be one of the many volunteers associated with this group.

Madam Speaker, I ask my esteemed colleagues to join me in recognizing For the Love of the Lake for their contributions to White Rock Lake Park and the City of Dallas and in congratulating Good Fulton & Farrell on being named the Volunteer Group of the Year.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF LAKOTA SCHOOL DISTRICT IN WEST CHESTER AND LIBERTY TOWNSHIP, OHIO

HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2008

Mr. BOEHNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize my hometown school system, the Lakota School District in West Chester and Liberty Township, Ohio, on its 50th Anniversary.

From the humble beginnings as the Liberty-Union School District in 1957 with an enrollment of just 1,700 students it would have been hard to predict the extraordinary growth and success of the district. Today the Lakota School District covers nearly 70 square miles, two townships, eight postal zones and nearly 100,000 people. It is home to two high schools, a freshman school, four junior schools, ten elementary schools, four early childhood schools and more than 18,000 students.

Even with the growth from a small rural district into the seventh largest district in Ohio the success of Lakota schools has not been impeded. The Lakota School District is the largest district in Ohio to receive an "Excellent" rating for six consecutive years. In 2006–2007 the district met 29 of 30 state indicators, graduated more than 96 percent of its students and saw 90 percent of high school student's matriculate to college all while per pupil spending stayed well below the state average.

But facts and figures only tell part of the story. It is fitting that this fine school district bears the word "Lakota," a Native American word meaning unity and togetherness. Throughout the years the achievements of Lakota schools have been driven by the dedication and commitment of the entire Lakota community. Together, through a unified vision, the administrators, teachers, parents, students and citizens have made the Lakota School District a pillar of education and a foundation for community growth. Each and every person who has attended, taught, worked or simply lived in the district has played a role in its success.

I'm proud to represent the Lakota School District in our nation's Capitol. I'm proud my children attended Lakota schools, and I'm

proud of what has been achieved and what I know will be achieved. I congratulate the Lakota School District on a spectacular fifty years and I know another extraordinary fifty are still to come.

TRIBUTE TO MATTHEW DANIELS, SENIOR AT FAYETTE COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL IN FAYETTEVILLE, GEORGIA

HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2008

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a young man from Fayetteville in Georgia's 3rd Congressional District who has excelled in the classroom and on the playing field.

For more than 17 years, the National Alliance of African American Athletes has honored young men who exemplify the best in sports and education.

This year, the top honor, called the Franklin D. Watkins Award, will go to a constituent of mine, Matthew Daniels, a senior at Fayette County High School.

Considered one of the best defensive backs in the country, Matthew has maintained a perfect 4.0 grade-point average. He is a member of the Beta Club, the National Honor Society, the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and other worthy community groups.

"This remarkable young man is unquestionably a premier scholar-athlete in a time when very few kids in the country can barely stay academically eligible," said a spokesperson for the National Association of African American Athletes. "Matthew lends inspiration to a younger generation that it is possible to achieve perfection in sports and in the classroom."

Matthew will represent Fayette County High proudly next year as an alumnus when he enrolls at Duke University on a full athletic scholarship.

"Among all my achievements and honors in high school, this award is the most memorable I must say," Matthew said after receiving the award earlier this year at the InterContinental Hotel in Century City, Calif. "This is the only award that acknowledges me for both my academic and athletic achievements."

Winners of the award are highly encouraged to use their time and talent to give back to the less fortunate in their communities.

"On the field, I want to work to become a freshman All-American next season," Daniels told a reporter. "Off the field, I want to leave a path so others know it can be done."

On behalf of everyone in Georgia's 3rd Congressional District, I want to congratulate Matthew Daniels on this prestigious award. We're proud that he's part of our community.

5TH ANNUAL MAYORAL SALUTE TO VETERANS

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2008

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the Annual Mayoral