

"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

Salute to Veterans which has been presented for the past five years by Phoenix Mayor Phil Gordon and the Phoenix Military Veterans Commission. The Salute this year on Tuesday, April 8, 2008, will focus on women veterans. This is appropriate given the rising numbers of women now serving in the armed forces and their wide-ranging and significant contributions to our nation's military efforts.

Women have served honorably in every war and conflict in American history. Many paid the ultimate price in defense of our nation. We all know the story of Army PFC Lori Piestewa, an Arizona native who became the first servicewoman to be killed in Operation Iraqi Freedom and the first Native American servicewoman to ever die in battle. In 2005, Sgt. Leigh Ann Hester of the Kentucky Army National Guard became the first woman to be awarded the Silver Star for close-quarters combat action for her role in turning back an ambush on her convoy in Iraq.

Madam Speaker, I want to focus special attention on seven veterans from Arizona who are being recognized today as living reminders of the honorable service that women in the armed forces have provided in overseas war zones from World War II to Operation Iraqi Freedom. Please join me in recognizing:

Bettie Lerdall, U.S. Marine Corps, World War II;

Grace Kokesch, U.S. Army, World War II;
Louise Glende, U.S. Navy, Korean War;
Carol Culbertson, U.S. Navy, Vietnam War;
Belinda Blase, U.S. Air Force, Operation Desert Storm;

First Lieutenant Kara C. Larson, Arizona Army National Guard, Operation Iraqi Freedom;

Sgt. Rachel L. Trotter, Arizona Army National Guard, Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Please join me in recognizing the service of these distinguished veterans on this special day.

THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CARROLLTON CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2008

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 50th anniversary of the Carrollton Church of the Nazarene in Carrollton, Texas. Since its inception, the church has stood in the community as a symbol of perseverance and inspiration. This historic anniversary of the Carrollton Church of the Nazarene marks a time of remembrance of a storied past and renewal for a bright future.

On April 6, 1958, a group of twelve founded the Valwood Church of the Nazarene in what would later evolve into the Carrollton Church of the Nazarene. At the time, all adults of the church became founding members. The first pastor was Rev. Monroe Burkhardt and the song leader was Mrs. Jo Ann Marchant. Charter members included Rev. and Mrs. R.A. Holloway, Glen and Mary; Rev. and Mrs. M.S. Burkhardt and Elson; Mr. and Mrs. Thurman Marchant; Mr. and Mrs. S.E. Marchant, Jr. and Mrs. Irene Cardwell.

The founding members initially congregated at a building commonly referred to as the

"rabbit hutch" on Harry Hines Boulevard. Over the coming years, the church relocated several times to worship at various locations including Carrollton City Hall, a store in downtown Carrollton, the Carrollton Community Center, individual homes, the basement of Valwood Parkway Baptist Church, local schools, a unit building on Dove Creek and Kelly Boulevard, and finally at Hebron Parkway. While the church has worshiped in many locations, its positive message has always remained the same.

Madam Speaker, please join me in applauding the Carrollton Church of the Nazarene as it celebrates 50 years of dedicated fellowship. Clergy and members of the past and present are to be commended for their service to the church and greater community. It is my hope the Carrollton Church of the Nazarene continues to stand as beacon of resolve, inspiration, and worship for many years to come.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO EDMUNDO ESCOBEDO, SR.

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2008

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my good friend, Edmundo "Eddie" Escobedo, Sr., who is being honored by the Clark County School District with the naming of the Edmundo "Eddie" Escobedo, Sr. Middle School.

Mr. Escobedo was born in Torreon, Coahuila, Mexico before coming to the United States. He enlisted and served in the United States Air Force, where upon completion of his military duties he settled in Las Vegas. In 1970, Mr. Escobedo began promoting live Mexican dances and popular musical groups. In 1972, he opened the only Spanish movie theater within the Las Vegas community, called the "El Rancho". He also served several terms as the president of the National Spanish Pictures Exhibitors Association. For more than 20 years, Mr. Escobedo published "El Mundo", a Spanish-language weekly newspaper serving Nevada's large and rapidly-growing Hispanic population. He currently serves as Chairman of the Board of KDOX 1280 AM, a Spanish-language local radio station.

He has served as founder, vice president, and president of the National Association of Hispanic Publications from 1997 to 2000. In 2002, Mr. Escobedo was named "Hispanic of the Year" by the Latin Chamber of Commerce and was included as number 23 of the list of "25 Most Influential Persons" in the city by "Las Vegas Life" magazine. In January 2003, he also became a member of the Board of Directors of Sunrise Hospital.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to Edmundo "Eddie" Escobedo, Sr. I would like to congratulate Eddie and his family, including his wife of over 43 years, Maria, his four children, and his nine grandchildren. I applaud Eddie on his leadership and congratulate him on this much deserved recognition of having a middle school named in his honor by the Clark County School District.

MR. JESSE J. MORANDO

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2008

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with great honor and gratitude that I stand before you today to recognize one of Northwest Indiana's most dedicated, distinguished, and honorable citizens, Mr. Jesse J. Morando, 2007–2008 State Commander for the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), Department of Indiana. A lifelong resident of Northwest Indiana, Jesse is one of the most passionate and involved citizens that I have ever known, especially when it comes to his service to our veterans. To honor Jesse for his constant efforts to better the quality of life for Indiana's veterans, a testimonial dinner will be held at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 802 Hall in Hammond, Indiana, on Sunday, April 13, 2008.

Jesse James Morando was born in East Chicago, Indiana, the fourth of ten children. After relocating to Whiting, Indiana, in 1958, Jesse attended Immaculate Conception for grade school. Jesse's involvement in community activities began at an early age, when he excelled as a member of the Boy Scouts of America, eventually reaching the rank of Eagle Scout. Recognized as one of Whiting's young leaders, Jesse was even appointed "Mayor for a Day." As a high school student at Whiting High School, Jesse excelled in athletics, participating on both the football and wrestling teams.

Following his graduation from Whiting High School, Jesse joined the United States Marine Corps and served a tour of duty in Vietnam. After receiving his honorable discharge from the Marine Corps in 1973, Jesse returned to Northwest Indiana and accepted a position at the Amoco, now BP, refinery in Whiting, where he has 27 years of service and has completed an apprentice program in pipe fitting and welding. Jesse's service, however, to veterans and to the Northwest Indiana community has remained a constant throughout his lifetime.

While he is well-known as the State Commander of the VFW, Jesse has also been involved in numerous other veterans' and service organizations in Northwest Indiana. Jesse is a life member of the American Legion Post 80 and the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2724 in Whiting, and also a member of the 40/8 Voiture 470 First District of Indiana, the AMVETS Post 64 in Whiting, the Indiana Freemasons, and the Mixtecas Motorcycle Group. Additionally, he is a life member of the VFW National Home.

Early on, Jesse learned that the best way to improve his community and to help people was to get involved. In many different roles, Jesse has remained true to one goal, to make a difference in society. From his service to veterans to his involvement in programs geared toward helping those in need, be it physically or financially, Jesse has always been a driving force in bettering the lives of many people. While it is impossible to list all of the ways in which Jesse has served his community, to name a few, Jesse has been a coach for the Challenger baseball team, where he assisted with obtaining funds to pay for the Field of Dreams in Hammond, Indiana. This outstanding program was aimed at affording physically challenged children the opportunity