

hard work and sportsmanship he has demonstrated during the 2007–2008 basketball season.

#### HONORING NICK STAMOS

#### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 10, 2008*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Nick James Stamos of Independence, Missouri. Nick is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1138, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Nick has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Nick has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

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

#### A TRIBUTE TO LYDIE H. MASSE

#### HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 10, 2008*

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to honor Lydie H. Masse, recently awarded the 2008 Congressional Volunteer Recognition Award by the 2nd Congressional District of Maryland's Veterans Advisory Council.

Lydie Masse works as a hospice night nurse at the Baltimore VA Rehabilitation Extended Care Center (BRECC). While many of the night duty personnel leave once their shift is over, Lydie always stays to escort patients to breakfast, where she plays the piano as breakfast is served and encourages singing among the patients. Fellow workers and volunteers admire how her music enhances the quality of life among the patients. Her gentle, friendly manner endears her to the patients, and whenever she plays music, encouraging them to join in, a sense of good will pervades the room and brightens the day of many of her patients.

An injury caused Lydie to work with a brace on her leg for several weeks, but despite her long recovery she continued her work, never hurried or impatient with the veterans and always in a positive mood. After her arduous night duty is completed every morning, she stays as long as she is needed to help the patients start with their day, tending to any need her patients may have. She volunteers much of her free time to the patients she works with every night, doing her best to better their lives.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join with me today to honor Lydie Masse. She is a remarkable volunteer for Maryland's veterans. Through her ongoing efforts, she has brightened the lives of the veterans she works with, making their stay at the BRECC as pleasant

as possible. Lydie has gone above and beyond the call of duty to aid those who have sacrificed to serve our great Nation.

#### HONORING OWEN HALL FOR HIS YEARS OF SERVICE TO MERCER COUNTY AND OHIO

#### HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 10, 2008*

Mr. BOEHNER. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Mr. Owen Hall, a leading citizen of Mercer County, and to express my appreciation for his dedication and commitment to public service. For 18 years, Mr. Hall has contributed his time and talents in leading the Mercer County Republican Party, and for this, I offer him my utmost congratulations and thanks.

However, Owen's love of public service is not confined to the political world. Owen is a man committed to his community, serving on many boards and commissions. He is the Past President of the Ohio Association of Realtors, Past President of the National Realtors Land Institute, member of the Ohio Auctioneers Hall of Fame, Director of the Lake Development Corporation, Past President of the Ohio Churches of God Youth Advance, lifetime member of the Church of God, and Past President of the church council.

Owen's record—as a committed community man, a church leader, and as a good neighbor helping those in need—will leave an enduring legacy in Mercer County. His leadership will be missed, but the footprint he has left will inspire many to emulate his good works.

Owen, I offer my congratulations and gratitude for your long and successful career in public service. I wish you well in your future retirement, and I hope you continue to achieve happiness and success wherever your life journey may lead you.

#### COVENTRY LIONS CLUB 50TH ANNIVERSARY

#### HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 10, 2008*

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to and congratulate the Coventry Lions Club for its 50th anniversary this year. The Coventry Lions Club held its first meeting on April 15, 1958 and was chartered by the International Lions Club to serve the area that is now known as the Owen J. Roberts School District, which includes seven townships in its community of service. Of the charter members, only two are known by the Club to still be living in the area—Dr. Robert Barr and Mr. Stauffer Kutz—who have agreed to be a part of the Club's celebration.

Over the years, the Coventry Lions Club has boasted a membership that includes business and community leaders willing to work under the International Lions slogan of "We Serve." That history has continued into the present time with a membership that seeks to serve the local community, as well as participate in international programs that serve the less fortunate of the world. There are numer-

ous examples of the great work they do in our community and abroad, including: providing eye examinations and glasses for children whose families are unable to meet the necessary financial requirements; delivering food boxes to needy families at Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter; providing financial assistance to families who have experienced hardship due to injury and natural disasters; cleaning up and maintaining stretches of local roads; giving financial scholarships to deserving high school graduates; and participation in many other projects within its Lions District, the Delaware Valley and the Tri-State area.

One example of an international project the Coventry Lions Club is working on is the Campaign Sight First II conducted by Lions Club International Foundation. This project is hoping to provide \$200,000,000 to attack preventable blindness throughout the world and contribute toward other humanitarian causes. The Coventry Lions Club has contributed financial resources to numerous noteworthy projects such as this over the years.

Madam Speaker, the Coventry Club has a long and wonderful history of helping its community, and all those throughout the world who may need help. I know my colleagues join me as I congratulate its members for their inspirational work and exceptional public service.

#### HONORING DR. HWA-WEI LEE

#### HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 10, 2008*

Mr. HONDA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the many contributions and achievements of Dr. Hwa-Wei Lee. After an esteemed 5 years as the chief of the Asian Division at the Library of Congress—a bookend to his dedicated 50 years in the library profession, Dr. Lee is retiring.

Before joining the Library of Congress in 2003, Dr. Lee had already achieved a distinguished career in the pursuit and preservation of knowledge. He first served at the Main Library of the University of Pittsburgh, where he also completed two master's degrees and a Ph.D. He then advanced his career working at many other libraries, including Duquesne University, Edinboro University of Pennsylvania, Asian Institute of Technology in Bangkok, Thailand, Colorado State University, and Ohio University. Dr. Lee was Dean of Libraries at Ohio University for 21 years. During that time, he was able to transform a relatively unassuming university library into a prestigious member of the Association of Research Libraries, and ranked among the top 70 academic research libraries in North America. Recognizing Dr. Lee's numerous and incredible accomplishments, Ohio University displayed its enormous appreciation of Dr. Lee by not only naming the first floor of its main library the Hwa-Wei Lee Center for International Collections, but also dedicating a new library annex after him.

During his short tenure at the Library of Congress, Dr. Lee focused his energy on completely rejuvenating and reorganizing the Asian Division. He introduced innovative programs designed to improve and expand the division's resources, collections, services, and outreach.

As chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, it has been my privilege to have collaborated with Dr. Lee and his dedicated staff at the Asian Division. Our shared pursuit to tell the complete Asian American and Pacific Islander, AAPI, story and dispel the cloak of invisibility and mischaracterization upon the community has given life to a new AAPI Collection at the Library of Congress. This is another milestone of Dr. Lee's storied career.

Dr. Lee and his lovely wife Mary will soon move to Florida to bask in the sunny rays of retirement. But I suspect that he will not slow down, and will continue his many pursuits. As anyone who has met Dr. Lee can attest, his boundless, enthusiastic spirit will not allow him to stay idle. In fact, he has already promised to visit the Library frequently and is eager to start his new role as board director of the Asian Division Friends Society.

Madam Speaker, I commend Dr. Hwa-Wei Lee for his dedication and many contributions to the librarian profession and am especially grateful for his nurturing leadership of the Asian Division and of the establishment of the AAPI Collection at the Library of Congress. I wish Dr. Lee and his family all the best for his retirement and their future endeavors.

EAST DAVIDSON GOLDEN EAGLES  
TAKE THE TITLE

**HON. HOWARD COBLE**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 10, 2008*

Mr. COBLE. Madam Speaker, the season for the East Davidson girls basketball team started with plenty of questions about having to replace veterans players with a host of new teammates. Head Coach Terry Allmon said to the Thomasville Times, "Two years ago, nobody expected us to do anything. Last year, the expectations were out of sight. This year, the same thing."

On March 25, 2008, the East Davidson Golden Eagles showed they had what it takes to win the North Carolina High School Athletic Association, NCHSAA, 2-A girls basketball championship. East Davidson won over Graham High School, 62-59. This is the first state championship for the East Davidson girls basketball team.

The championship win finally started to look possible at the start of the second half of the March 25 game against Graham, even though East Davidson was trailing, 30-27. The Golden Eagles used the third quarter to blow the game wide open, as they have done in the last three games.

This win comes at the end of a season for the Golden Eagles in which they finished 27-4. Coach Allmon also told the Thomasville Times, "This is a dream come true, these ladies here stepped up when they had to."

Congratulations are in order for Coach Terry Allmon and his assistants Billy Freeman and Brian Eddinger on a great season. The men will be the first to tell you that most of the credit goes out to the players on the court. The players who contributed to the title run included seniors Megan Byerly and Dee Lanier, juniors Mandi Beck, Alyssa Cutshaw, Haley Everhart, Anna Freeman, Elizabeth Merritt, and Felicia Whitley, sophomores Candace

Fox, Haley Grimsley, and Stacy Hicks, and freshmen Taylor Alexander and Chelsea Turner. The team was ably assisted by the scorekeeper Chasz Brown and the videographer Tyler Gibson.

On behalf of the Sixth District, we would like to once again congratulate the East Davidson Golden Eagles on having a great season and winning the North Carolina 2-A girls basketball championship. We are all so proud of their accomplishment.

RECOGNIZING THE FIFTH ANNI-  
VERSARY OF THE DEPARTMENT  
OF THE HOMELAND SECURITY

SPEECH OF

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 9, 2008*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to declare my support for the employees of the Department of Homeland Security and to thank them for their important service to our country. I opposed the formation of the Department of Homeland Security in 2002. There was good reason to believe that a reorganization that would take at least 10 years and possibly more, would cause delay in implementation of real measures that could make the country safer.

I pointed out that the proposed reorganization of 22 different agencies into one large entity would not constitute efficient and effective government, nor would it help the thousands of Americans who die of violent crimes each year in this country.

When Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast on August 29, 2005, it soon became apparent that my concerns about establishing the Department of Homeland Security were valid. Katrina and the subsequent flooding took at least 1,835 lives and sent a powerful reminder to the people of the United States that the homeland is not secure. I certainly do not expect that the Department of Homeland Security, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) or any other government agency can prevent a natural disaster. But FEMA's own mandate was to coordinate disaster relief through preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation. The federal response should have been to make things happen and to make them happen quickly; to anticipate and respond to the needs of local and state officials.

Instead Hurricane Katrina will long be held in our Nation's collective conscience. We will remember the terrified and helpless faces of the victims that this disaster claimed, displaced and horrified. We will remember the faces of our fellow citizens pleading for help, for days as they endured horrible conditions at the convention center and Superdome. The unbearably inadequate response to these disasters exacerbates the shame, heartache and insecurity that has resulted. The images haunt us.

What was the response from the former FEMA Director Michael Brown in testimony before the House? He said, "[a]nd while my heart goes out to people on fixed incomes, it is primarily a state and local responsibility. And in my opinion, it's the responsibility of faith-based organizations, of churches and

charities and others to help those people." Michael Chertoff, Secretary of DHS said, "I remember on Tuesday morning picking up newspapers, and I saw headlines, 'New Orleans Dodged the Bullet.'" Is this the way we make the homeland safer? By attempting to fabricate leadership instead of demonstrating it?

Furthermore, in 2003 the Administration terminated the collective bargaining rights of TSA screeners just as TSA workers were ready to vote on joining the union of the American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE). DHS does not allow a unionized TSA workforce. Transportation security workers deserve collective bargaining rights. It is an insult to these dedicated men and women within DHS, including FEMA, the Army Corp of Engineers and Border Patrol that their rights to organize have been denied.

I unequivocally appreciate the dedicated service of DHS employees. Their hard work and commitment to public service is outstanding and valuable. However, I cannot celebrate the creation of DHS.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING  
RYAN QUEEN FOR WINNING THE  
BOYS' DIVISION I STATE BAS-  
KETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

**HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 10, 2008*

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

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

Whereas, Ryan Queen always displayed 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 Ryan Queen on winning the Boys' Division I State Basketball Championship. We recognize the tremendous hard work and sportsmanship he has demonstrated during the 2007-2008 basketball season.

HONORING TRENTON LERETTE

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 10, 2008*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Trenton Crane LeRette of Blue Springs, Missouri. Trenton is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1306, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Trenton has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Trenton has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Trenton Crane LeRette for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of