

her knack for floral arrangements by making flower arrangements with tin cans and tissue paper in the shape of carnations which were sold for the cemetery. Minerva graduated from high school in 1948 in Hebbronville, Texas, and attended Texas A&I Kingsville. She worked her way through 2 years of college by teaching students at La Alejandrena Elementary School in Zapata County. Minerva was transferred to San Ygnacio, where she met her husband, Robert, and married in 1955. They moved to Laredo, and had three children: Carmen, Minita, and Robert Jr. Minerva taught and served as assistant principal at Ochoa Elementary for 17 years and became principal of Zachry Elementary School in 1981.

She started a flower shop, Carmin's, from the carport of her home in 1965, and the business grew so successful that Minerva retired from her teaching profession in 1986. One of her career highlights was being picked as the florist for the visitation of Pope John Paul II in San Antonio, Texas, in 1988 at the San Fernando Cathedral. Minerva has admirably served the community of Laredo, Texas, through her work as an educator to the youth of Laredo, and her contributions to the business community. For her dedication and hard work as a business entrepreneur, Minerva will be honored by the Junior Achievement League through her induction into the 2008 Business Hall of Fame.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to have had this time to recognize the dedication of Mrs. Minerva Ramirez, and I thank you for this time.

SUPPORTING THE MISSION AND GOALS OF WORKERS MEMORIAL DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. PHIL HARE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2008

Mr. HARE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 1154, supporting the mission and goals of Workers Memorial Day, and commend my colleague, Representative EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON for introducing this important resolution.

Just 2 days ago on April 28th we honored the 20th Annual Workers Memorial Day, when people all over the world gathered to remember the workers who have been killed or injured on the job.

April 28th also commemorated the creation of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). Since 1970, OSHA has been a driving force in improving workplace safety and health conditions across the country. However, the Bush administration has sought to stifle that progress by downsizing OSHA, favoring employer voluntary programs over real enforcement.

A weakened OSHA has real life-or-death consequences for American workers. One such worker is Cintas washroom employee Eleazar Torres-Gomez—father of four—who was killed on March 6, 2007 when he was dragged by a conveyor belt into an industrial dryer.

Mr. Torres-Gomez's fate is unfortunately too common—16 workers die every day in our country from work-related injuries. In 2005

alone, over 5,700 workers were killed at work, and the situation is only getting worse. The Bureau of Labor Statistics found that the number of workplace deaths jumped by more than two percent between 2005 and 2006.

Last year, Representative LYNN WOOLSEY and I, along with Senator TED KENNEDY introduced the "Protecting America's Workers Act," which amends OSHA to cover more workers, increases penalties and strengthens protections and accountability. The best way to honor Mr. Torres-Gomez and all the other workers who have been killed at their jobs is to quickly send this bill to the President's desk.

Again, I thank Representative EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON for introducing this resolution to honor our workers.

COMMENDING THE EFFORTS OF THE VILLAGE OF BETHALTO, ILLINOIS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2008

Mr. COSTELLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in commending the efforts of the Village of Bethalto for their service to the community and the environment by developing green spaces and parks around its community.

Recently, the Village of Bethalto christened the Culp Lake Park on the northwest portion of the community. This newly opened public space is an inspiration to other cities hoping to brighten their communities and provide their citizens with opportunities to enjoy the outdoors.

In the early 1960's, the Village of Bethalto developed a 17-acre lagoon site that, after years of disregard, became connected with the Alton Sewer Treatment Plant in 1972. While village officials sought to transform the lagoon for many years, it was not until Mayor Steve Bryant began the final push that ultimately led to the gorgeous green space there today.

In 1997, Mayor Bryant and village officials established a park plan that envisioned not just a green space, but a versatile area with recreational facilities, picnic pavilions, and beautiful landscaping. With urban sprawl on the rise, Mayor Bryant and village officials decided it was time to turn this blighted area of the village into a family friendly environment.

In order to keep costs at a minimum, village officials acquired grant funding from Madison County and the State of Illinois that led to the clean-up and filling in of the lagoon, the formation of a 4 acre fishing lake, and the ultimate creation of the park.

Not only was this effort championed by the Village Board, residents of the village took it upon themselves to contribute. The Bethalto Boys and Girls club, for example, donated and planted trees at the park.

Thanks to this type of effort, the Metro-East, located across the Mississippi River from St. Louis, Missouri, boasts the largest percentage of green spaces among the top 10 metropolitan areas in the State of Illinois.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending the efforts of Mayor Steve

Bryant and the village officials from Bethalto, Illinois for their dedication to environmental conservation.

RECOGNIZING ATTORNEY JOHN TUCKER

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2008

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, today I come to recognize the many achievements of the man known as "the wizard of trial law," John G. Tucker, who passed away at the age of 100 in January 2008. With his signature bow tie and flat top hair cut, Tucker was a fixture of the legal profession in Southeast Texas for over 75 years.

Tucker's father was an Army officer serving in Cuba as part of a peacekeeping force where officers were allowed to have their families live with them. His wife was 8 months pregnant when they found out that if born on Cuban soil, their son could never run for President of the United States. Knowing her son was destined for greatness, Tucker's mother set sail for New York City and eventually landed in Kansas City, Kansas, where John was born.

Though he never ascended to the highest office in the United States, Tucker was rather successful in all of his endeavors. He attended college in Pennsylvania and went on to graduate from Harvard Law School. John moved to Southeast Texas in the middle of the Great Depression of the 1930s, determined to take advantage of the boom created by the oil refineries. He joined the law firm created by William Orgain in 1933. The name was changed to Orgain, Bell, and Tucker in 1945 and continues to set the bar for legal excellence to this very day.

John Tucker tried over 90 cases in state and federal court and has argued cases before the Texas Supreme Court. He was deemed a Southeast Texas Legend by the Beaumont Foundation of America scholarship board in February 2007, becoming only the second person at the time to earn such honor.

On behalf of the Second Congressional District of Texas, I want to honor John G. Tucker for his lifetime of accomplishments. Through his diligent efforts and dedication he has made Southeast Texas a better place to live for generations to come.

HONORING MR. MICHAEL J. QUINN

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2008

Mr. ANDREWS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Michael J. Quinn, senior news writer for CBS News Philadelphia, who retired on April 24, 2008. Mr. Quinn began working in TV news in 1961 at Channel 10, a CBS affiliate. During his tenure with Channel 10, Mr. Quinn served as a news writer, newscast producer, reporter and news anchor. In 1984, Mr. Quinn began working at CBS 3 Eyewitness News, serving as a senior news writer and as a producer for the "Newsmakers" program.

Mr. Quinn has covered many major events over the past decades, including numerous presidential elections. In 1988, he was the associate producer for coverage of the presidential caucuses in Iowa. Mr. Quinn was the producer of the 2000 Republican National Convention CBS coverage in Philadelphia. Mr. Quinn also was the producer of the inauguration coverage of President George W. Bush in both 2001 and 2005.

Madam Speaker, Mr. Quinn spent his long career providing the people of Philadelphia with compelling news coverage. Mr. Quinn's hard work and dedication to his chosen field has touched the lives of millions of Americans. I commend Mr. Quinn for his commitment to broadcast journalism and wish him the best for his retirement.

FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE "CHRONICLE OF CURRENT EVENTS"

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2008

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, this week marks the 40th anniversary of the initial publication of the "Chronicle of Current Events," the "underground newspaper of record," if you will, of the Soviet human rights movement in the years before the collapse of the Soviet Union.

The "Chronicle" was a samizdat, or "self-published," journal created to break through the government's monopoly on the flow of information and report to its readers the truth about human rights in the "workers' paradise." Described recently by the Russian human rights organization "Memorial" as the "fullest and most precise compilation of historical information about dissident activity and political persecutions in the USSR between 1968 and 1982," it was distributed via underground channels to readers in the Soviet Union and to foreign journalists and diplomats. In short time, the "Chronicle" gained a reputation for veracity and straight-forward reporting, and when copies reached the West, the contents were broadcast back to the Soviet Union by international radio stations such as Radio Liberty, BBC, Deutschewelle and others.

Meanwhile, the KGB expended a huge amount of effort and time to expose and apprehend the editors, contributors, and distributors of these two dozen or so typewritten sheets of onionskin paper. Possession, and especially distribution, of the "Chronicle" could result in lengthy labor camp sentences and internal exile. As might be expected, the list of persons involved in producing the "Chronicle" is a "Who's Who" of former Soviet dissidents and political prisoners. Despite the hardships and dangers involved, these brave individuals managed to compile and distribute over 60 issues of the publication.

Besides supplying otherwise unavailable information on human rights issues, the "Chronicle" inspired the establishment of similar publications devoted to specific themes and geographic regions. These would include the fate of the Catholic Church in Lithuania, the abuse of psychiatry for political purposes, and the fate of national minorities, such as the Crimean Tatars, under the Soviet system.

Madam Speaker, I would also mention that through the tireless efforts of Mr. Edward Kline, Professor Peter Reddaway, and exiled Soviet dissidents Valery Chalidze and Pavel Litvinov, an English version of the "Chronicle" became available in the West, allowing many non-specialists to become familiar with the deplorable human rights situation in the Soviet Union.

Eventually, with former KGB head Yuri Andropov in command in the Kremlin, the authorities managed to imprison, exile, or neutralize so many contributors to the "Chronicle" that it ceased publication in 1982. However, the folly of insulating the Soviet system from the free flow of information that was encircling the globe while trying to maintain a decent economy, let alone super-power status, was becoming by this time obvious to the more perceptive apparatchiks in the Kremlin's corridors of power. Three years later, Mr. Mikhail Gorbachev was selected to lead the Communist Party, and 6 years later the hammer and sickle banner of Soviet communism was replaced by the tri-color of the Russian Federation.

Today, Russia and the nations that comprised the Soviet Union are now independent and sovereign states. However, the free flow of information and media pluralism, though in immeasurably better condition than during the Soviet period, is still problematic. As Freedom House points out in its recently issued annual survey of press freedom throughout the world, Russia is among several nations of the former Soviet bloc that have suffered setbacks in the area of press freedom. There seems to be a rush by the government to characterize, with little serious justification, as "extremist" certain books and articles, opposition journalists and newspapers have been harassed, and new legislation recently introduced in the Duma would make it easier for the government to close down media outlets for allegedly publishing libel and slander.

Madam Speaker, let us hope that President-elect Medvedev recognizes that if Russia is to prosper in the global community, the free flow of information must be a vital component of the nation's commercial, social, and political infrastructure, and that if Russian citizens wish to view underground publications such as the "Chronicle of Current Events," they might better find them freely available in museums and libraries.

RECOGNIZING PRUDENTIAL SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY AWARDS WINNERS

HON. BILL SALI

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2008

Mr. SALI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize three admirable teens from Idaho. Danielle Manning, 15, of Meridian, and Taylor Leavitt, 14 of Melba were recently named the top two youth volunteers in Idaho for 2008 in the 13th annual Prudential Spirit of Community Awards.

The Prudential awards are the country's largest program that recognizes the power of youth volunteerism. Additionally, Katie Williams of Eagle was named a finalist in the program.

Danielle saw a need in her community to help teen mothers. She collected more than

700 packages of diapers and raised almost \$1,300 to stock Marian Pritchett High School in Boise, a public school for teen mothers, with diapers.

Taylor saw a need in his community too. The 8th grader worked on several volunteer projects such as rounding up Boy Scouts to mow the lawn, pick up garbage and clean out the garage of a grieving family. They also spent time with local senior citizens and helped folks moving into the community.

Katie worked with a group of high school girls to collect more than \$70,000, books and school uniforms for a school in the slums of Nairobi, Kenya. Katie will receive an engraved bronze medallion as a finalist.

These three students deserve our appreciation and gratitude. They represent the greatness that our youth have to offer, demonstrating the power each one of us has to contribute to our communities and help our neighbors. And I note they did so without the aid or intervention of a government agency or federal program.

Thank you Danielle, Taylor and Katie for your willingness to dedicate your time to worthy causes. Your work serves as an example for all of us.

A TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF ANNA M. SANDERS

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2008

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today along with my colleague from California, Congressman DENNIS CARDOZA to pay tribute to the life of Anna M. Sanders of Merced, California, who recently passed away at 88 years of age. Mrs. Sanders was an exceptional lady filled with passion, love and a voracious appetite for knowledge. She leaves behind a loving family including three sons, three grandsons, two granddaughters, and one great granddaughter.

A longtime Democrat, Anna spent nearly 40 years of her life as a teacher with the Atwater Elementary School District. As a zealous educator, she took great pride in the successes of her students. Over the years she was able to encourage and motivate countless young minds.

Anna spent her life in California's Central Valley, where she got both her bachelors and masters degrees. She also tenderly raised her three sons in the area, while maintaining a household which was often described as painstakingly organized.

Anna was the type of woman who took great care in everything she did. Her zest for life included an interest in greeting cards, crossword puzzles, and current politics. It is then to no one's surprise that one of her sons is a teacher, and the other two are actively involved in local and state politics.

A woman described as kindhearted and courageous, Anna worked to advance the causes of groups who were marginalized, oppressed and underserved by volunteering her time with many worthwhile organizations. Anna will be remembered for her formidable spirit and splendid character.

It goes without saying that Mrs. Anna Sanders was a positive influence in the area. Her