

Annandale Florist, Inc. and Mr. Gary Sherfey for many years of providing complimentary flower arrangements displayed on the theater stage at the Symphony Orchestra concerts and for helping to promote concerts through displays at the florist shop.

Mr. Norman Johnston, a long-time volunteer and one of the founding members of the RMS, who served on the Board of Directors for many years. He continues to support the Symphony Orchestra by serving as the organization's graphic artist as well as providing significant financial support both personally and through the solicitation of paid advertising.

Dr. Bruce Mann, Dean of Liberal Arts at Northern Virginia Community College's Annandale campus, who serves as the college's liaison to the RMS. He oversees the music courses that involve college students and members of the Symphony Orchestra and coordinates the scheduling of concerts and rehearsals. In addition, he successfully solicits and obtains financial resources for concerts. Dr. Mann is presently serving his fourth year on RMS' Board of Directors.

The recipients of The Orchestra/Players Awards are:

Mr. Claiborne T. Richardson II: For the last 15 years "Clai" has generously contributed his time and talent to the Symphony Orchestra helping it to grow and thrive. As the orchestra's percussion and timpani section leader he leads and teaches his section, which is composed of many budding musicians, while encouraging and promoting the works of new young composers. Clai is a mainstay musician with the other RMS programs—the Annandale Brass, Reunion Music Society Jazz Orchestra, and the Chris Johnston Trio.

Ms. Jody Smalley: Jody has been playing the violin with the Symphony Orchestra since it was formed 15 years ago. As vice president of the Orchestra's Board of Directors, Jody arranges for guest musicians to rehearse and perform with the Orchestra. Her production of CD's of music to assist other musicians with their individual practices and the Power Point presentation she prepares to accompany the annual "Winter Wonderland" program helps to ensure the high quality of the performances.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the NOVA-Annandale Symphony Orchestra on their 15th Anniversary and paying tribute to the recipients of The Richardson-Watkins Founder's Awards and of the Orchestra/Player Awards.

TRIBUTE TO RODGER MCFARLANE,
PIONEER IN THE LGBT CIVIL
RIGHTS AND HIV/AIDS MOVEMENTS

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 2009

Ms. DeGETTE. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the extraordinary life and accomplishments of Rodger McFarlane. A pioneer and legend in the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) civil rights and HIV/AIDS movements, this remarkable man merits our recognition and our esteem for his unprecedented contributions to our nation and to the world.

Sadly, Rodger was taken from us far too young, at age 54. Larry Kramer, Rodger's

longtime partner and collaborator, has said that Rodger "did more for the gay world than any person has ever done." Rodger was at the forefront of responding to the AIDS epidemic as it began to ravage our country in the early 1980's. Before HIV even had a name, in 1981, Rodger set up the first HIV/AIDS hotline anywhere; in fact, he used his home phone. Rodger, one of the original volunteers at Gay Men's Health Crisis, the nation's first and largest provider of AIDS client services and public education programs, became its first paid executive director. Until his death, Rodger was the president emeritus of Bailey House, the nation's first and largest provider of supportive housing for homeless people with HIV. Rodger was also a founding member of ACT UP-NY, the pioneering protest group responsible for sweeping changes to public policy as well as drug treatment and delivery processes.

In 1989, Rodger became executive director of Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS, merging two small industry-based fundraising groups into one of America's most successful and influential AIDS fundraising and grant-making organizations. From 2004 to 2008, Rodger served as the executive director of the Denver-based Gill Foundation, one of the nation's largest funders of programs advocating for LGBT equality. Rodger was instrumental in the creation of the Gill Foundation's sister organization, Gill Action.

Rodger took three organizations in their infancy and grew each into a powerhouse to tackle the international tragedy of HIV/AIDS. At Gay Men's Health Crisis, Rodger increased fundraising from a few thousand dollars to the \$25 million agency it is today. During his tenure at Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS, he increased the organization's annual revenue from less than \$1 million to more than \$5 million, while also leveraging an additional \$40 million annually through strategic alliances with other funders and corporate partnerships. He transformed the Gill Foundation by sharpening its strategic purpose, focusing its philanthropy in the states, aligning its investment with political imperatives, and forging alliances that furthered both the LGBT movement and the progressive movement as a whole.

The breadth of Rodger's accomplishments is astounding. A proud U.S. Navy veteran, Rodger was a licensed nuclear engineer who conducted strategic missions in the North Atlantic and far Arctic regions aboard a fast attack submarine. A gifted athlete, he was a veteran of seven over-ice expeditions to the North Pole. He also competed internationally for many years as an elite tri-athlete.

Although Rodger never completed college, he was an accomplished and best-selling author and producer of works for the stage. Rodger co-wrote several books, including *The Complete Bedside Companion: No Nonsense Advice on Caring for the Seriously Ill* (Simon & Schuster, 1998), and most recently, Larry Kramer's *The Tragedy of Today's Gays* (Penguin, 2005). In 1993, he co-produced the Pulitzer Prize-nominated production of Larry Kramer's *The Destiny of Me*, the sequel to *The Normal Heart*.

Rodger's many achievements led to well-deserved awards; he was recognized with honors such as the New York City Distinguished Service Award, the Presidential Voluntary Action Award, the Eleanor Roosevelt Award, the Emery Award from the Hetrick Martin Institute, and Tony and Drama Desk honors. Most re-

cently, he received the Patient Advocacy Award from the American Psychiatric Association.

Beyond his professional contributions, friends knew Rodger as a devoted caregiver who nursed countless friends and family members battling cancer and AIDS. He was the most compassionate and giving of friends, especially to those in physical or emotional distress. A hallmark of his personality, his humor made him stand out from the rest.

Please join me in paying tribute to the life of Rodger McFarlane, a constituent of mine, who was a tireless activist, a brilliant strategist, a remarkable leader, and a treasured friend. A man who achieved so much in such a short time, Rodger will be missed by many. Denver is better for the time he spent there. Our world is better for the time he spent here.

125TH ANNIVERSARY OF OAKWOOD
CEMETERY IN MT. VERNON, ILLINOIS

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 2009

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to note the 125th anniversary of Oakwood Cemetery in Mt. Vernon, Illinois.

Since Oakwood's formal recognition in 1883, concerned local citizens have worked tirelessly to ensure that those in the community who have left this life have a peaceful and dignified final resting place. This Memorial Day, the hard-working staff, which does so much to maintain Oakwood, will welcome area residents to the annual Memorial Day Weekend Drive-Thru. Local citizens can visit the resting places of such prominent citizens as the city's first mayor, James Pace, Civil War Generals C.W. Pavey and W.B. Anderson, and Illinois Governor L.L. Emmerson.

Over the decades, local residents have put great efforts in creating a beautiful and serene final resting place. According to its official history, the cemetery has over 9,000 markers spread along five miles of roads. The groundskeepers mow an average of 35 times per year, totaling 1,600 acres.

I want to salute the board members and staff members, past and present, of the Oakwood Cemetery in Mt. Vernon, Illinois, for the important work that they have done for 125 years.

THE MEDICAL RIGHTS ACT OF 2009,
H.R. 2516

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 2009

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to stand here today to introduce the Medical Rights Act of 2009 that will protect the doctor-patient relationship, the integrity of the medical profession and the right of Americans to choose the care they deem appropriate without federal delay or restriction.

The President outlined three principles for health care reform—lower costs, choice and access. I support these goals. To back them,

the President should endorse the Medical Rights Act. Our legislation is founded on this: Congress should make no law to block the decisions that American patients make with their doctor. If patients are our prime focus, their rights should be protected in law.

We can look to Great Britain and Canada to show us how government takeover of health care puts Congress, then the government in charge of your health care decisions, allowing them to decide what treatments you should or should not have. While over 60 percent of Americans are actually satisfied with their health care plan, only 55 percent of Canadian seniors are satisfied. The starkest difference in care appears when you are sickest. In Britain, government hospitals maintain nine intensive care unit beds per 100,000 people. In America, we have three times that number at 31 per 100,000. In sum, Britain has less than two doctors per 1,000 people, ranking it next to Mexico and Turkey.

If we do not enact the Medical Rights Act, patients will be at risk when government denies care, as they routinely do in Canada and Great Britain. Once denied government care, many Canadians find doctors in the U.S. If Congress orders the government to take over America's health care, where can we drive once care is denied by a new government health care system? To prevent this nightmare, Congress should pass the Medical Rights Act.

We need to promote patient-centered health care reform, where every American has access to the care they need, when they need it. It is not the role of the federal government to decide the type of care a patient should have but the role of doctors and medical professionals. I urge my colleagues to support the Medical Rights Act to stop the federal government from taking control over decisions made by you and your doctor.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE
PRINCETON PUBLIC LIBRARY

HON. DEBORAH L. HALVORSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 2009

Mrs. HALVORSON. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize the Princeton Public Library in Bureau County, Illinois. The Princeton Public Library was recently the host of "Between Fences," an exhibition from Museum on Main Street, a partnership of the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service and the Federation of State Humanities Councils. The Princeton Public Library is only one of two Illinois libraries that have been granted the opportunity to host this exhibit.

The exhibit embraces the use and existence of fences as an important facet of United States history. Fences are indicative of the owners lives, their property, and their relationship with their neighbors. For this reason, the Smithsonian Institution and State Humanities Councils chose to highlight fences as an integral part of the fabric of communities through history.

The mission of the Museum on Main Street project is to respond creatively to the challenge faced by rural museums to enhance their own cultural legacies. Princeton, a community of just under 8,000 residents, is thrilled to feature "Between Fences" and I am honored to represent them.

SUPPORTING NATIONAL CHILD
AWARENESS MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 18, 2009

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, today I rise in support of H. Res. 438, "Expressing support for designation of September as 'National Child Awareness Month.'" This bipartisan resolution sponsored by Rep. LORETTA SANCHEZ (D-CA-47) and cosponsored by me, would recognize the efforts of our community leaders as they participate in growing the hopes and dreams of our children; the future of our Nation.

September, a month characterized by the return to school, signifies the start of the new school year. All around the country, corporations and businesses gear-up to highlight our youth and support children's charities and youth serving organizations. Declaring September as National Child Awareness Month will provide an excellent collaborative platform for these charitable groups to bring national attention to issues of vital concern to our children such as education, health, social services, sports, arts, and character development.

H. Res. 438 would recognize these efforts as a positive investment for the future of our Nation. National Child Awareness Month is supported by many regional and national youth organizations among which are the Make-A-Wish Foundation and Big Brothers Big Sisters program.

Madam Speaker, I applaud my colleagues in recognizing the efforts those children's charities and youth serving organizations have put forth and also honor children for their widespread participation in these groups.