

This year, while celebrating its 25th anniversary, the Center has grown to become the largest LGBT multi-service organization on the East Coast and the second-largest LGBT community center in the world. More than 6,000 people and 300 groups meet there every week. As a mark of his achievements, Mr. Burns was inducted into OMB Watch's Public Interest Hall of Fame at their 25th Anniversary celebration in September 2008.

Before joining The LGBT Center in December of 1986, Mr. Burns acted as President of the Board of Directors and as Managing Editor of the Gay Community News in Massachusetts.

Mr. Burns has served on the Board of Directors of the Non-Profit Coordinating Committee since 1987. In addition, he is an active member and past Co-Chair of CenterLink, an association of LGBT Community Centers which he co-founded in 1994. Today, CenterLink is the national voice for nearly 150 LGBT community centers across the country as a result of his dedication.

Mr. Burns also serves on the Citizen's Advisory Committee of New York City's Human Resources Administration and is the founder of the New York State LGBT Health and Human Services Network. And Mr. Burns is a member of the Steering Committee of the National LGBT Executive Directors Leadership Institute, a member of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force's National Policy Roundtable.

Today I rise to recognize and congratulate Richard D. Burns for 22 years of outstanding and dedicated service to the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender population of New York, and for his groundbreaking work as Executive Director of The LGBT Center.

#### RECOGNIZING BRIGADIER GENERAL MARK ZIRKELBACH

#### HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 3, 2009*

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Deputy Adjutant General of the Iowa Army National Guard, Brigadier General Mark Zirkelbach, and to express gratitude for his many years of extraordinary service and leadership. General Zirkelbach is retiring after almost four decades of service with the National Guard. He enlisted in the Iowa Army National Guard in 1970, and has served as the Deputy Adjutant General of the Iowa Army Guard since August 2001. As Deputy Adjutant General, he's helped lead the Iowa Guard through the transformation from a strategic reserve to an operational force, and has overseen the deployment of thousands of Iowa National Guard members to combat zones like Iraq and Afghanistan. General Zirkelbach has been a strong advocate for Iowa National Guard members, and has no doubt made an incredible difference in the lives of many Iowa Guard members and their families during this challenging time. He's also served as an incredible resource for me and my staff. It's been my privilege to work with General Zirkelbach on issues of importance to the Iowa National Guard, including ensuring that soldiers who served in Iraq received the education benefits they deserved, and working

to ensure that they receive the respite leave benefits that they are owed from the Pentagon. I thank General Zirkelbach for his invaluable service to the National Guard, the state of Iowa, and the United States, and wish him the best of luck in retirement.

#### ACTION IN COMMUNITY THROUGH SERVICE

#### HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 3, 2009*

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Action in Community Through Service (ACTS) as an exceptional community organization, setting a high standard of service for individuals and organizations in Prince William County.

Established on November 1, 1969, ACTS is guided by the mission to alleviate hunger, homelessness, and domestic violence, and help people achieve self-support in the Prince William area. A small group of dedicated volunteers and clergymen founded ACTS in response to the need for coordinated community action. ACTS now serves over 45,000 people a year. The organization's growth is a testament to the effectiveness of its programs and ability of its staff and volunteers.

ACTS opened the area's first food bank and first dedicated homeless shelter. In 2008, two new facilities opened to accommodate the success of ACTS programs. The Eastern Prince William Safe House provides refuge for victims of domestic violence, and the new Family Services Center offers job counseling and life skills classes to women, children and families struggling with the hardships of homelessness. These facilities will help to restore hope and opportunity to those whom otherwise would endure pain and isolation.

ACTS continually receives top marks for program efficiency and delivers results that genuinely change lives. Citizens hoping to improve their community and the lives of their neighbors have a capable partner in ACTS.

Madam Speaker, I ask my esteemed colleagues to join me in expressing our gratitude for this organization's accomplishments and their steadfast commitment to charity.

#### HONORING JOHN REAP, THE 2008 METROCREST CHAMBER OF COMMERCE "CITIZEN OF THE YEAR"

#### HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 3, 2009*

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to John Reap, the 2008 Metrocrest Chamber of Commerce "Citizen of the Year." John's dedication and contributions to the Metrocrest community, which consists of Addison, Carrollton and Farmers Branch, have been both dynamic and exceptional. The Metrocrest Chamber of Commerce presents the award on January 30, 2009, and I would like to extend my sincere congratulations to John for the deserved award and his many years of selfless service.

John is the current President and Chief Executive Officer of Town North Bank, N.A., in

Dallas. He also serves on the Board of Directors for the Bank. John has been at Town North Bank for twenty-eight years, the last fourteen serving in his current position.

An active community member, John has served with a variety of civic organizations including the American Heart Association, the Cotton Bowl Athletic Association, the Metrocrest Senior Adult Services, the Carrollton Farmers Branch Independent School District Educational Foundation, the University of Arkansas Alumni Association, and the North Texas Region Committee for the University of Arkansas Campaign for the 21st Century. John served for seventeen years in both local and state capacities for the American Heart Association in Texas, and was Chairman of the Board of the American Heart Association, Texas Affiliate, Inc., from 1992 until 1993.

John earned a banking graduate degree from the University of Virginia in 1977, a master's degree in Business Administration from Southern Methodist University in 1971, and an undergraduate degree from the University of Arkansas in 1970. He also served as a faculty member for several years at the Southwestern Graduate School of Banking at Southern Methodist University.

Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I join the Metrocrest Chamber of Commerce in applauding the merits and commitment John Reap has displayed to our community. John's tireless passion for community service has contributed greatly to the betterment of those around him, and I am extremely grateful for his service. On behalf of the 24th Congressional District of Texas, I salute John for his achievement as the 2008 Metrocrest Chamber of Commerce "Citizen of the Year" and wish him many years of continued success.

#### A TRIBUTE TO DR. E.B. TURNER

#### HON. MIKE MCINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 3, 2009*

Mr. MCINTYRE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a giant among giants, a friend of all citizens from all walks of life, and a man whose hand was always extended to those who wanted to reach for their dreams—Dr. E.B. Turner of Lumberton, Robeson County, NC.

Dr. Turner, who passed away October 5, 2008, was an inspirational leader, dedicated public servant, and renowned pastor for generations of Robesonians. Sixty years earlier in 1948, Dr. Turner, who had just finished divinity school at Shaw University, made the trip south down I-95 to Lumberton to become pastor at First Baptist Church in South Lumberton. Never planning to make Lumberton his home or become involved in public service, Turner was challenged by the opportunity to make a difference. And through wisdom, perseverance, and drive, he truly did. From housing to infrastructure to economic development to education, Dr. Turner made a lasting impact on the future and quality of life for hundreds of thousands of citizens.

In addition to his public contributions, Dr. Turner faithfully served the First Baptist Church for 57 years as Pastor. Through his love of God and his willingness to share the

good news with all, Dr. Turner not only changed lives, he changed hearts.

I knew Dr. Turner personally. He and my father, Dr. Douglas C. McIntyre, served on the City Council together in the 1970s. Later, Dr. Turner and I served together on the board of the newly chartered Lumberton Economic Advancement for Downtown, Inc, to help revitalize the downtown of our city. He and I were involved in many political activities together, and he appointed me to serve on the Robeson County Human Relations Commission. He encouraged me when I first ran for Congress to "do something that people can see and feel and touch." And, indeed I have kept those words in my mind and heart throughout the years as an inspiration when working on projects and programs to help folks back home in southeastern North Carolina.

Madam Speaker, a few weeks ago, our nation inaugurated our country's first African-American President, Barack Obama. President Obama, and the next generation of political leaders, stand on the shoulders of men like Dr. E.B. Turner who paved the way for their success.

May God's blessings continue to shine upon Dr. Turner, his wife Georgia, daughters Andrea and Rosalind, and all of his extended family.

IN HONOR OF RICHARD T.  
BORKOWSKI

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 3, 2009*

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker and Colleagues, I rise today in honor and recognition of United States Veteran Richard T. Borkowski as he receives the 2008 Veteran of the Year Award by the Joint Veterans' Commission of Cuyahoga County.

Mr. Borkowski began his service in the United States Army Infantry Division in 1950, the first year of the Korean War. Following the war, he married Evelyn, and together they raised two children—a daughter and son. He worked for nearly thirty years at the Standard Oil Company. Though his military tenure had ended years earlier, Mr. Borkowski never forgot the soldiers who served with him, and he always felt a kinship with the men and women who would serve after him.

For the past sixteen years, Mr. Borkowski has dedicated more than 5,000 volunteer hours at the Louis Stokes VA Medical Center. Mr. Borkowski helps disabled veterans get to religious services on Sundays, delivers snacks and treats to bed-bound veterans, and compassionately listens and talks to veterans about past military service and life experiences that form common bonds of friendship and understanding. Mr. Borkowski is a life member of the Parma Veterans Center, American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars and Korean War Veterans.

Madam Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor of Richard T. Borkowski, upon his selection as the 2008 Veteran of the Year by the Joint Veterans' Commission of Cuyahoga County. Mr. Borkowski's commitment to the welfare of the veterans of our community brings an element of hope, light and friendship to the lives of those he

serves—thereby strengthening the foundation of our entire community.

A BILL TO ENSURE ADEQUATE  
AIRLINE COMPETITION BETWEEN  
UNITED STATES AND EUROPE

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 3, 2009*

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Speaker, in the past year, our attention in aviation policy has been trained on the survival of the U.S. airline industry, battered by reduced demand, and volatile fuel prices. This emphasis has been entirely appropriate. But we must not lose sight of the longer term issue of ensuring that when the airlines return to financial viability there will be enough competition to offer consumers good service at reasonable prices.

I have become increasingly concerned with the decline of competition in international markets, particularly between the United States and Europe. These markets used to be served by independent carriers from most European countries, and by a number of U.S. carriers. Increasingly, the market has come under control of three alliances composed of one or more U.S. carriers and several European carriers.

The alliances began with "code sharing" in which one airline would sell tickets on the flights of another airline as though the flight was its flight. These arrangements have been defended as providing better and more convenient service for consumers.

In recent years, the airlines in alliances have worked to take the process to the next level, asking the Department of Transportation, DOT, and the Department of Justice, DOJ, to grant the members of the alliance antitrust immunity to jointly plan services and fares over international markets served by the alliance. When immunity is granted, there will not be competition between the immunized carriers in the markets involved.

Antitrust immunity has been granted for a number of alliance operations, and requests are pending for antitrust immunity for most other significant alliance operations. If these requests are granted, competition in the U.S. to Europe markets will be largely reduced to competition among three alliances.

I believe that the time has come to reassess the wisdom of allowing the continuation of the reduced level of competition, which results from antitrust immunity for alliances. I am introducing legislation to require a major study of whether the benefits to consumers of alliances with antitrust immunity outweigh the adverse effects of the resulting loss of competition. Following this study, DOT will be required to review its policies and make any needed changes. There may also be a need for further legislation.

After any new laws and policies are in place, all grants of antitrust immunity for alliances will be reviewed for conformity with those laws or policies. This review is now permitted under the terms on which immunity was granted. When DOT granted immunity for alliances, it wisely reserved the power to amend, modify, or revoke the immunity at any time. My legislation provides that no antitrust immunity for alliances may continue beyond three

years from date of enactment of the legislation, unless DOT affirmatively decides that the immunity should continue under any new laws and policies.

A more detailed consideration of U.S.-European aviation trade shows that this market is now dominated by three major alliances: Star (United/Lufthansa), SkyTeam (Delta-Northwest/Air France/KLM) and oneworld (American/British Airways). These alliances have strong market power. Combined, the Star, SkyTeam and oneworld alliances account for almost 80 percent of the total world airline capacity, 78 percent of world revenue passenger kilometers, and 73 percent of passengers carried. These three alliances control over 87 percent of the traffic between the United States and Europe.

The DOT has the primary responsibility to review proposed airline alliance agreements and antitrust immunity applications for international operations. The DOT typically grants immunity if the parties to the agreement would not otherwise go forward without it and it finds that the immunity is in the public interest. One other major factor that also drives DOT's analysis is whether an Open Skies agreement exists between the United States and the country of the foreign air carrier. The DOJ, though a party in the antitrust immunity process, does not have a primary role in reviewing alliance/antitrust applications. However, the DOJ does make recommendations, and supplies data and policy input to DOT on these issues.

In 2008, the DOT granted the SkyTeam alliance antitrust immunity to coordinate schedules and prices, and operate as though they were one carrier. Since the granting of the SkyTeam application, Continental Airlines has filed an application to join the already antitrust-immunized Star alliance, and American Airlines and British Airways filed an antitrust immunity application for the oneworld alliance.

Once antitrust immunity is granted, the airlines involved are removed as competitors in highly traveled international markets. As DOT noted in the SkyTeam decision:

Upon implementation, the 4-way JV [joint venture] will bring all transatlantic services offered by the venture participants under the control of the venture. Committee and working groups, composed of senior representatives from each airline will jointly plan and manage capacity, pricing and financial settlement. The 4-way JV attempts to align the economic incentives of the participants to create what is known in the airline industry as "metal neutrality." Instead of competing among themselves for a greater share of revenue by trying to carry passengers on their own metal (aircraft), the participants agree to pool revenues and costs so that they become indifferent as to which carrier operates the service.

In essence, the granting of antitrust immunity is a de facto merger of these airlines over the routes involved. Evidence also suggests that when immunity is granted to an alliance, there is a decline in competition from carriers not in the alliance. Case in point: in 1990, the New York JFK-Paris market had six competing airlines, today there are only three. Of the three remaining carriers in the market—Air France and Delta, which are part of the immunized SkyTeam alliance—have approximately 75 percent of the market share. Another major market, Chicago to Frankfurt, is dominated by Star members United and Lufthansa, which control an 85 percent share; the Amsterdam-