

Richard Hung; David Jacobs; Sravanthi Kadali; Sibel Kayaalp\*; Amber Khan; Nolan Killingsworth; Lauren Kraut; Tyler LeCocq; Kenny Lee; Amanda Lu\*; Mark Macmanus\*; Ryan Martinez; Alexandra Meyers; Ashley Newton\*; Cody Painter; Kioumars Abboss Rezaie; Corbin Ringley\*; Evan Rosenfield\*; Natalie Shanklin; Rena Sheng\*; Bryan Sims; Cameron Sprock; Eann Tuan; Jonathan Unger; Tyler Unger; Eric Womboldt; Joshua Womboldt\*; and Caitlyn Woolum.

TRIBUTE TO ARTHUR GIDDON

**HON. JOE COURTNEY**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 27, 2009*

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Arthur Giddon of Bloomfield, Connecticut. Over the past century, Art has cultivated a distinguished law career, serving as a notable trial lawyer as well as a chief public defender. He has a wonderful and devoted wife, Harriet, to whom he has been married to for over 60 years. Together they have raised a beautiful family. On April, 26, 2009, Art will celebrate his 100th birthday with friends and family in Connecticut.

In 1922, at the age of 13, Art joined the Boston Braves as a batboy. He fetched pop bottles, ran errands for players, polished equipment, and conversed with baseball legends. First baseman, Walter Holke, often walked him home after games and taught him how to make kites, a skill that he would pass on to grandchildren. His chance meeting with baseball's commissioner, Kenesaw Mountain Landis, and a suggestion to become a lawyer would portend a legal profession matched by few. Decades later after Mr. Landis' suggestion, he would study at Harvard Law and become a notable lawyer in Connecticut. In 1985, he retired as the chief public defender of the Harford Judicial District, after decades of public service.

This past week, Art's unique experience as a batboy has gained national media attention. On Saturday, Art will join the Boston Red Sox, the team he passionately cheers for, as an honorary batboy in recognition of his experience as a young boy decades ago. He will make his debut in a jersey crafted by his daughter, adorned with "No. 100, Big Pappy".

Few individuals experience as much and contribute as much as over the course of their lifetime as Arthur has. Madame Speaker, I can personally attest to this. As a young law student, I worked in Art's office for two years as a legal intern and learned a lifelong lesson in the law, as well as a balanced passion for justice. He has lived an extraordinary life, filled with personal and professional vigor and I ask my colleagues to join with me and my constituents in celebrating his 100th birthday.

A TRIBUTE TO MINA H. PHINNEY

**HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD**

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 27, 2009*

Mr. MICHAUD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and to celebrate the 100th

birthday of a native daughter of the State of Maine. Her unwavering dedication as an educator in Dennysville and other local communities will be cherished for years to come.

Mina Phinney graduated from Dennysville High School and went on to continue her education at Colby College in Waterville, ME. Returning to Dennysville High School in 1931, Mina taught English and French until 1938 and then returned to resume teaching from 1952 until the school closed in 1961. Her career as a dedicated educator continued through the 1960s and 1970s at Washington Academy in East Machias. In 2000, she received the school's Distinguished Educator Award from the Washington Academy Board of Trustees.

During her earlier years, Mina served as an organist at the Dennysville-Edmunds Congregational Church. She is an avid Boston Red Sox fan and has always maintained a keen interest in local, state and national happenings and always keeps up with current events. Mina has been a lifelong member of the Daughters of the American Revolution. She contributed to the war effort as an Air Craft Spotter during World War II.

Madam Speaker, please join me in celebrating the 100th birthday of Mina H. Phinney.

RECOGNIZING 50TH ANNIVERSARY  
OF DIABLO THEATRE COMPANY

**HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 27, 2009*

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 50th anniversary of the Diablo Theatre Company, founded in 1959 as the Diablo Light Opera Company. For five decades, Diablo Theatre Company has brought San Francisco Bay Area audiences "the music and magic of Broadway."

The company grew from modest beginnings. It was founded in 1959 as the Diablo Light Opera Company, a name that endured until May of this year. The founders were two Walnut Creek couples who were inspired by singing with the 120-member Glee Club and Treble Clef at UC Berkeley. Their last show on campus was, prophetically, "Of Thee I Sing." The Diablo Light Opera Company's first offering was Gilbert and Sullivan's "The Pirates of Penzance," staged in the multipurpose room of Walnut Creek's Las Lomas High School.

A few years later, the new company presented "Brigadoon," marking a major turning point for the arts in Walnut Creek. Ron Caya, Walnut Creek's first cultural services director, attended a performance. Since seats at the Las Lomas multipurpose room were not on an incline, his view was obstructed and he could not see the famous sword dance in the show. He subsequently complained to the Walnut Creek City Council, telling members that, "This group needs a real theater."

He got the council's attention and plans were made to buy an old walnut warehouse, which occupied what is now the site of the Leshner Center for the Arts. The warehouse was transformed into a makeshift theater, the

Walnut Creek Civic Arts Center which became affectionately known as the "Nut House." It opened in December 1965 with Diablo Light Opera Company's production of "The Sound of Music." The audience came in black tie and, because of no heating in the building, blankets.

Years and many performances later, "Nut House" was demolished. A new performing arts venue, the Leshner Center for the Arts, was constructed and opened 19 years ago. Diablo Light Opera Company has performed at the Leshner Center ever since in addition to other venues, including the recently restored El Campanil Theatre in Antioch in eastern Contra Costa County.

Beginning in June of 2009, Diablo Light Opera Company will assume its new name, Diablo Theatre Company while celebrating its colorful past and focusing on the future.

Today, the Diablo Light Opera Company is celebrated and honored for enriching the cultural atmosphere through their craft and commitment to providing theatrical productions to the Bay Area.

RECOGNIZING JUSTINA  
CASSAVELL

**HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 27, 2009*

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Justina Cassavell, daughter of Jeanne and Michael Doyle of Upper Black Eddy, Bucks County, Pennsylvania and someone who is helping to shape the next generation of Americans.

Justina's dedication as head coach of her girls cross country team has allowed her student athletes to excel both on and off the field. She was recently named the Express-Times Newspaper 2008 Cross Country Coach of the Year. This is the sixth time she has received this honor in eight seasons.

Justina was also inducted into the NJ Scholastic Coaches Association Hall of Fame on March 29th of this year. As head coach of the Voorhees High School girls cross country team since 1997, Justina has led her team to numerous victories, including its seventh straight Hunterdon-Warren NJ championship, third straight North 2 Group 3 sectional title, fifth NJ State Interscholastic Athletic Association Group 3 state title, and second Meet of Champions crown.

The recognition and appreciation that Ms. Cassavell has been shown is no small feat, considering she is a part-time coach. Present and past students alike have called her the "inspiration" in their lives, as she teaches them to believe in themselves and to strive to be great in all that they do.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join me in recognizing Justina Cassavell for her hard work and dedication to her student athletes—she sets an example for students and teachers everywhere and that is something we should be encouraging more and more.

IN HONOR OF CENTRACARE LABORATORY SERVICES OF ST. CLOUD, MINNESOTA

**HON. MICHELE BACHMANN**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 27, 2009*

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor CentraCare Laboratory Services in St. Cloud, Minnesota as the second runner up for the Medical Laboratory Observer's Medical Laboratory of the Year Award. Laboratories across the nation were judged on achievement in nine areas with the winners and two runners up, including CentraCare, being featured in the Medical Laboratory Observer, a peer-reviewed journal resource that has been used by laboratory professionals since 1969.

Today's medical care relies heavily on laboratory services that provide fast and high-quality answers to doctors. CentraCare has demonstrated excellence in many ways. They achieved standardization of the equipment in all their labs to eliminate confusion by physicians ordering tests from different labs. They also implemented new labeling guidelines to ensure patient safety and have reduced specimen collection errors to practically zero through an automated pneumatic collection system. These improvements were also acknowledged by the Quality Resources Patient Safety Committee of St. Cloud Hospital.

When it comes to healthcare and the medical community, CentraCare Laboratory Services has been a beacon for quality and patient safety. They are a great resource not only for their patients, but for other laboratories that can learn from their example.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate all of CentraCare's employees for their attention to efficiency and high standards of excellence that has resulted in this prestigious accomplishment.

TRIBUTE TO THE BATTLE OF LEXINGTON STATE HISTORIC SITE

**HON. IKE SKELTON**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 27, 2009*

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, let me take this moment to recognize the Battle of Lexington State Historic Site, as they celebrate their 50th anniversary. For 50 years this state park has captured and commemorated a pivotal battle of the Civil War in the city of Lexington, which I proudly represent.

On January 1, 1959, the site was donated to the State of Missouri to be designated as a state historic park. Received in a preserved and quality condition, the State Park has since provided visitors with information, reenactments, and guided tours to this historic site. In 1991, the visitor center was completed and opened for the public. In 2000, a monument was established which tells the Confederate's side of the story. Later this year, a second monument will be put up to tell the Union side of the story.

The Battle of Lexington State Historic Site teaches visitors how Missouri played an important strategic role in the Civil War. Not

quite in the south, yet a slave state nonetheless, Missourians were sharply divided over what side of the conflict their state should enter. In addition, its position along the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers was critical to controlling the West, and as a result, many battles erupted between Confederate sympathizers and Unionists.

Though Missouri eventually cast its lot with the Union, by September 1861, it could have gone either way. It was then that Union Colonel J.A. Mulligan found himself and his troops surrounded by General Sterling Price, leader of the Confederate Missouri State Guard. Price had just led his troops to victory at Wilson's creek the previous month, and was looking to expand on his success with the capture of Lexington, a small but strategic town located near the Missouri River. Capturing the town would allow Confederate recruits from Northern Missouri to cross over the river.

Though the battle of Lexington was one of the longest, most fiercely contested engagements in Missouri during the Civil War, the casualties were surprisingly light. The Union lost only 40 dead and 120 wounded; the State Guard lost only 25 dead and 72 wounded. In addition, Price's triumph was short-lived. Shortly after the defeat at Lexington, General John C. Fremont, the Union commander in Missouri, organized a large force with the purpose of driving out Price's State Guard. Faced with this threat, Price retreated back to Southwest Missouri, and the Missouri River was returned to Union control.

Madam Speaker, the Battle of Lexington State Historic Site has been an important landmark in this country. I know the members of the House will join me in recognizing the site on its 50 years of success and in expressing hope that it will continue to provide a quality experience to the thousands of visitors who come every year.

TRIBUTE TO NATALIE WEAVER

**HON. JOE COURTNEY**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 27, 2009*

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstandingly gifted student from my district, Natalie Weaver of Madison, Connecticut. On March 10, 2009, Natalie was named champion of Connecticut's fourth annual Poetry Out Loud competition held at the Carol Autorino Center in West Hartford, Connecticut. On April 28, she will represent Connecticut in the national finals held in Washington, DC.

Poetry Out Loud is a national program that encourages high school students to engage in the written and spoken word through memorization and performance of modern and classic poetry. As part of the program in Connecticut, the Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism (CCT) assisted participating teachers with professional development and placed teaching artists in participating schools. The CCT also established an all-day workshop for champions, first runner-ups, and their teachers. In Connecticut, the state competition was hosted by the CCT and the State Department of Education, in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and the Poetry Foundation.

This year, more than 3,800 students participated in the program in Connecticut, which began with competitions at the classroom level and progressed to school-wide competitions, and eventually the state finals. In the state finals, Natalie beat 15 other contestants to win the state champion title. State finalists recited poems selected from an anthology that included over 400 classic and modern works. On April 28, she will compete against other state finalists in the national competition, which will award over \$50,000 in the form of scholarships and school stipends.

Madam Speaker, poetry has long been an essential component of the human expression, serving as an accessible venue to explore and preserve universal themes such as love, beauty, nature, tragedy, and mortality. I commend the efforts of Poetry Out Loud program with engaging students in poetry and applaud Natalie on her big win. I ask my colleagues to join with me and my constituents in recognizing these contributions and cheering Natalie on in the national Poetry Out Loud competition.

COMMENDING RICHARDSON PARKS AND RECREATION FOR 50 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

**HON. SAM JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 27, 2009*

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, the Richardson area was first settled in the 1840s and 1850s as a pioneer community called Breckinridge. The town of Richardson was founded in 1873 next to the Houston & Texas Central Railway tracks, was named for the railroad contractor E. H. Richardson, and became a thriving community of farms, stores, cotton gins and churches. Richardson remained a sleepy farming community until the 1950s.

With the arrival of Collins Radio and Texas Instruments, Richardson became a popular location for college-educated professionals. Known as the "Electronic City" and later the "Telecom Corridor", Richardson continues to grow and prosper, with many diverse cultures, faiths and populations adding to its vibrant mix of high-tech business and educational opportunities.

In Richardson's rich history, citizens have enjoyed the finest offerings a community can have with exemplary schools, first class parks, excellent library, sophisticated transportation, all managed by a well run local government. Many people who lived in Richardson chose this community because of its quality of life.

In 2009, Richardson proudly celebrates 50 years of Parks and Recreation Services that has served its citizenry with the finest of trails, parks, festivals, recreation programs, senior citizen activities, and tourist attractions all wrapped in a well manicured city. During its 50 years the Richardson Parks and Recreation Department has provided families greater quality of life through first class programs that have become a tradition, and a source of pride within the community.

This is evidenced by greater real estate values and first class economic development proving that Richardson is not only a great host to a business and industry, but a great place to call home.