

Michigan and its trademark patriotic summer festival that is currently under way. While the name of the festival has changed throughout the years, this year's inaugural "Sturgis Dam Days" will surely foster lasting memories for the multitude of generations that look forward to the annual festival.

The 6-day festival brings the entire community together to celebrate the city's rich history and pay special tribute to the Sturgis Dam, which will celebrate its 100th anniversary in 2011.

The hydroelectric dam transmits electricity 18 miles to the Sturgis Municipal Power Plant, giving Sturgis the moniker of the "Electric City." While the dam generates power for the town, ask most folks about it and they will highlight the postcard-perfect views of the dam: the flowing St. Joseph River and the surrounding scenes at the adjacent Covered Bridge Park.

This year's Sturgis Dam Days festival includes a variety of events throughout the week for all to enjoy. The Sturgis Chamber of Commerce kicked off the festival by welcoming the community for dinner and the St. Joseph Sheriff's Department transformed into the Pony Express in period clothing to give the official proclamation to commence the celebration. Events throughout the week include an art fair; the American Legion Hog Roast; "Experience Sturgis," a history walk through the city; a family picnic in Franks Park; a vintage Sturgis Biscuits baseball game; the Relay for Life at Sturgis High School; a parade down US-12; and the culminating event, the Sturgis Dam Rodeo.

The festival has been a beacon of economic activity and growth through the years, and continues to draw countless families to the region each year.

I congratulate the city of Sturgis and all of its residents for sharing such a wonderful community event. Through the years the annual festival has become woven into the fabric of the lives of so many folks throughout southwest Michigan. Sturgis has such a rich heritage and offers so much to the region's families. I look forward to the festival's continued success with many more Sturgis Dam Day celebrations for years to come.

HONORING CHARLOTTE "CHUCKIE"
HOLSTEIN

HON. DANIEL B. MAFFEI

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 2010

Mr. MAFFEI. Madam Speaker, I stand today to congratulate Charlotte "Chuckie" Holstein on being honored as the First Annual F.O.C.U.S. Greater Syracuse Wisdom Keeper Award recipient. She has been an active member of the Central New York community, and for that I am very thankful.

Chuckie is the founder of many organizations serving the people of Central New York, including F.O.C.U.S. Greater Syracuse, Leadership Greater Syracuse, Youth Leadership Greater Syracuse, the Syracuse/Onondaga County Citizens Academy, the Syracuse Commission for Women, Meals on Wheels, and the City/County Office of the Aging.

She has served the Central New York area as the Chair of Loretto, a Member of the Central New York District Board for Key Bank, a trustee of Cazenovia College and the Manlius Pebble Hill School, Chair of Advisory boards for the School of Social Work and College For Human Development of Syracuse University and a Member of the College at Brockport Foundation.

Chuckie has also served her state, her nation, her faith and the world in a number of initiatives dealing with social justice, world peace and women's issues.

In closing, I'd like to express my appreciation for all of the hard work she has done. Please join me in congratulating Charlotte "Chuckie" Holstein on being honored with the First Annual F.O.C.U.S. Greater Syracuse Wisdom Keeper Award.

INDIAN AMERICAN CULTURAL
CENTER BHARATIYA TEMPLE
GRAND OPENING

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 2010

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with great honor and pleasure that I stand before you today to recognize the Indian American Cultural Center of Northwest Indiana as they celebrate the grand opening of the Bharatiya Temple of Northwest Indiana. They will be commemorating the event with the religious and historic tradition of Maha Kumbhabhishekam. This event will take place over three days, from Friday, June 18, 2010 to Sunday, June 20, 2010, at the Bharatiya Temple of Northwest Indiana in Merrillville.

The Indian American Cultural Center of Northwest Indiana opened on March 9, 2002, and operates as "a place to preserve, nourish, and advance the Indian culture, heritage, religious values, and social values." In order to continue to advance the teachings and culture of the Indian American people and the Hindu religion, the members of the Indian American Cultural Center decided to expand the existing building and to give the community a legacy in the form of the truly glorious Bharatiya Temple of worship. The Indian American community will be celebrating Maha Kumbhabhishekam, which is a Hindu tradition performed when a new Temple is built and installed with new deities (Gods or Goddesses). Many religious rituals of the Hindu religion will be performed during the celebration which will sanctify the beloved Bharatiya Temple of Northwest Indiana. It is a Hindu belief that taking part and witnessing a Maha Kumbhabhishekam is a lifetime blessing.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you and my distinguished colleagues join me in honoring the Indian American Cultural Society of Northwest Indiana and its congregation as they celebrate the opening of the Bharatiya Temple of Northwest Indiana and observe the religious and historic tradition of Maha Kumbhabhishekam. Through their words and teachings, this honorable organization shares with us the rich culture and tradition of the Indian American people as well as the traditions of the Hindu religion.

IN RECOGNITION ANNIE & AVERY
GRANT

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 2010

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 50th anniversary of the marriage of Annie and Avery Grant, both exemplary and active members of their community. A simple glance at their dedication to civil service in Monmouth County, New Jersey uncovers a long history of local works and an extraordinary drive to improve the state in all aspects of public life. On the day of their golden anniversary, Annie and Avery Grant are indisputably worthy of this body's recognition.

Annie Grant was born Annie Williams in New York City on October 27, 1935, and has been recognized as a New Jersey State Notary Public for her many years of tireless service in professional and public life. In 1991, Mrs. Grant was appointed Commissioner on the Monmouth County Board of Taxation, a position she held for 17 years until she retired in 2008. She was the first African-American to hold this position in Monmouth County. Mrs. Grant's accomplishments extend far beyond this office, however, as she has also led a long life of involvement in local politics. In addition to being the 1989 Democratic candidate for Monmouth County Clerk, Mrs. Grant has been the Long Branch Democratic Club's treasurer for 30 years, and was named Woman of the Year in Politics in 1992. Her intelligence and breadth of knowledge is what led me to invite her to speak about Social Security reform at the Democratic Congressional Roundtable in 2005.

Avery Grant was born on July 9, 1933 in Memphis, Tennessee, and has led a prolific life of public works. A Vietnam Veteran, Mr. Grant is a retired Lieutenant Colonel in the U.S. Army Signal Corps, as well as a Professional Engineer, formerly with East Orange and the New York Transit Authority. Additionally, he is tirelessly active in the community of Long Branch, from serving on the Board of Education for over 12 years running to co-founding and editing the Community Newspaper, a bi-weekly, Monmouth County African-American newspaper. He has also been involved in over eight Monmouth County organizations, including but not limited to the Red Cross, Habitat for Humanity, the NAACP, and EXODUS, a halfway house focusing on substance abuse. His avid dedication to the city of Long Branch and Monmouth County landed him a spot on The City News' list of "100 Most Influential in New Jersey."

These remarkable individuals married on June 12, 1960. They have two children, Adrienne and Avery Jr., and seven grandchildren. Their ability to maintain a beautiful, loving family in concert with their incredible efforts in their community is an inspiration to us all. They are valued members of their communities and a credit to the state of New Jersey.

ANNIVERSARY OF IRAN'S
PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS**HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 2010

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, June 12th will mark the one-year anniversary of the fraudulent presidential elections in Iran. In the wake of street protests that followed, human rights in Iran have gravely deteriorated.

On this day, we must remember the dozens of courageous individuals murdered by this brutal regime and the hundreds of others detained without legal recourse. We must remember Neda Agha Soltan, the innocent young woman slain by the Basij militia.

The post-election crackdown fully exposed the Iranian regime's continuing oppression of political dissidents as well as religious and ethnic minorities.

In the spring of 2008, seven leaders of the Baha'i community were arrested and detained in Tehran's notorious Evin prison on charges of "spreading corruption on earth," among other outrageous falsehoods. They have been incarcerated for 20 months before a show trial can even commence. Moreover, according to the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, as many as 45 members of the Baha'i community are currently imprisoned in Iran solely on the basis of their religious identity.

The fourth court appearance of the Baha'i leaders is scheduled for June 12 to coincide with the one-year anniversary of the stolen election.

The cynicism of the Iranian regime knows no bounds.

It is time that the United States and the international community hold Iran accountable for denying the fundamental freedoms to its people.

Yesterday, in commenting on the passed UN Security Council resolution on the Iranian nuclear program, the President stated that "whether it is threatening the nuclear non-proliferation regime, or the human rights of its own citizens, or the stability of its own neighbors by supporting terrorism, the Iranian government continues to demonstrate that its own unjust actions are a threat to justice everywhere."

I agree with the President. His words should now be followed with action. We must raise the stakes for the Iranian leadership to cease its human rights abuses and abide by the rules of the international community.

This Administration needs to prioritize human rights as a focal point of its Iran policy. American diplomats should continually raise the issue of human rights in Iran. We must urge our international allies to use their bilateral relationships and diplomatic missions in Tehran to call for the release of Iranian dissidents, religious minorities, and other prisoners of conscience.

Most importantly, the President should speak publicly and directly to the Iranian people that the United States will never abandon them in their struggle for freedom and fundamental human rights.

INTRODUCING THE CHESAPEAKE
BAY PROGRAM REAUTHORIZA-
TION AND IMPROVEMENT ACT**HON. BOB GOODLATTE**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 2010

Mr. GOODLATTE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to join my colleague Rep. HOLDEN in introducing the Chesapeake Bay Program Reauthorization and Improvement Act.

The Chesapeake Bay, the largest estuary in the U.S., is an incredibly complex ecosystem that includes important habitats and is a cherished part of our American heritage. The Bay Watershed includes all types of land uses, from intensely urban areas, spread out suburban development and diverse agricultural practices. But unquestionably the Bay is in need and worthy of our attention and concern and I believe everyone has a role to play in restoring it.

I have long worked with my colleagues here in Congress to find ways to protect and restore the Bay. In fact, Mr. HOLDEN and I worked very hard with the other members of the Agriculture Committee to establish a mechanism and a funding source in the 2008 farm bill for addressing issues related to protecting the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. The farm bill provided unprecedented incentive-based funding to help farmers and ranchers improve management practices, which would directly result in improving water quality in the Bay. We must now continue in our efforts to restore and protect the Chesapeake Bay by reauthorizing the Chesapeake Bay Program.

There are other proposals to reauthorize the Bay Program. The goal of all involved is the same, the continued health and vitality of the Bay, but the map to that health and vitality is being strongly debated. Unfortunately, proposals like the Presidential Executive Order, and legislation that would codify this order, would force more mandates and overzealous regulations on all of those who live, work, and farm in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. This strategy will limit economic growth and unfairly overregulate our local economies. My colleagues and I recognized that we must form a proposal that does not pit the health of the bay against the strength and vitality of our local communities and that is why we rise today to introduce the Chesapeake Bay Program Reauthorization and Improvement Act.

Instead of overregulation and intrusion into the lives and livelihoods of those who choose to make the Bay Watershed their home, our legislation allows States and communities more flexibility in meeting water quality goals so that we can help restore and protect our natural resources. Our bill sets up new programs to give farmers, homebuilders, and localities new ways to meet their water quality goals. This includes preserving current intrastate nutrient trading programs that many Bay states already have in place, while also creating a voluntary interstate nutrient trading program. Additionally, this bill creates a voluntary assurance program for farmers. The program will deem farmers to be fully in compliance with their water quality requirements as long as they have undertaken appropriate conservation activities to comply with State and federal water quality standards.

Also, our bill makes sure that the agencies are using common sense when regulating

water quality goals for localities. Our legislation requires the regulators to take into account the availability, cost, effectiveness, and appropriateness of practices, techniques, or methods in meeting water quality goals. This will ensure that localities are not being mandated to achieve a reduction in nutrient levels by a prescribed date, when no technology exists to achieve that reduction within that timeline.

While our bill does a lot to improve water quality, we also call for more oversight over the Chesapeake Bay Program. For over 3 decades Congress has been working to preserve and protect the Chesapeake Bay. Despite the efforts of the federal, State, and local governments, the health of the Bay is still in peril. The participants in restoring the Bay include 10 federal agencies, six states and the District of Columbia, over one thousand localities and multiple nongovernmental organizations. This legislation would fully implement two cutting-edge management techniques, crosscut budgeting and adaptive management, to enhance coordination, flexibility and efficiency of restoration efforts. Neither technique is currently required or fully utilized in the Bay restoration efforts, where results have lagged far behind the billions of dollars spent. Further, this bill calls for a review of the EPA's Bay model. We often hear complaints from those who make good faith efforts to restore the Bay that their efforts are not being recognized by EPA's Bay model. EPA's model does not account for any voluntary measures being undertaken on farms to control nitrogen and phosphorous nor does it even account for some of the nitrogen and phosphorous reductions that are being achieved through government programs like USDA's Environmental Quality Incentives Program. Effectively, EPA is ignoring nutrient reductions that have already been achieved. Our legislation requires that an independent evaluator assess and make recommendations to alter EPA's Bay model, so that we can develop a model that will capture all of the nutrient reductions that are happening in the Bay.

Madam Speaker, the people who call the Bay Watershed home are the ones who are the most concerned about protecting and restoring the Chesapeake Bay. Unfortunately, too often these hardworking individuals are cast as villains and placed in a position where restoring the Bay is pitted against the economic livelihoods of their communities. We can restore the Bay while also maintaining the economic livelihood of these communities. The Chesapeake Bay Program Reauthorization and Improvement Act is the way we can do both. I look forward to working with my colleagues in the Congress, so that we can pass this important legislation and work to restore the Chesapeake Bay.

RECOGNIZING THE FIFTY-THIRD
NATIONAL PUERTO RICAN DAY
PARADE**HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 2010

Mr. SERRANO. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to pay tribute to the Fifty-Third National Puerto Rican Day