

space for nursing students. The Adlers' gift will help fulfill a critical need, felt both on campus and across the Nation, for an increase in facilities, resources, and educators to train our future nurses. The Nursing Programs at Ramapo College have clinical partnerships with Englewood Hospital and Medical Center, as well as The Valley Hospital. These unique partnerships allow students to experience some of the best nursing departments in the country. Ramapo College is one of the few institutions that offers a masters of science in nursing, which prepares nurses to serve as educators in their field.

Mike and Elaine are longtime supporters of Ramapo College. Amongst their many contributions, the Adlers have established an endowed scholarship program to ensure that financially disadvantaged students are not excluded from receiving a quality college education. Elaine serves on the Ramapo College Foundation Board of Governors, which exists to provide resources that will make a difference in the college's quest for educational excellence. In 1999, Mike and Elaine received honorary degrees and were recognized at Ramapo College's Distinguished Citizens Dinner. The Adlers are a true embodiment of the American dream. In 1949, they founded Myron Manufacturing in the basement of their home, and it has since grown into a large international corporation, based out of Maywood, New Jersey, within my congressional district.

Madam Speaker, today I would like to express my profound thanks to my dear friends Elaine and Mike Adler for their generous contribution to Ramapo College's nursing programs and for their lifelong commitment to serving their community.

CONGRATULATING MR. EDWARD L. BLACKSHEARE, SR. FOR HIS COUNTLESS CONTRIBUTIONS TO EDUCATION AND THE SANFORD COMMUNITY

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 29, 2010

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my dear friend, Mr. Edward L. Blacksheare, Sr., on being honored by the Crooms Academy Alumni Association, Inc. at its first-ever "Legacy of Hope and Love Banquet." This ceremony will honor Mr. Blacksheare's distinguished career as an educator and his countless contributions to the Sanford community. Mr. Blacksheare has always welcomed the challenge to serve the underserved, and it is this devotion that has earned him recognition from the Crooms Academy Alumni Association.

Mr. Blacksheare carries himself with integrity, respect, and dedication in everything he does for his profession and community. A look into his background shows just how successful he has been on both of these fronts. As a Sanford, Florida native, Mr. Blacksheare attended Crooms Academy, graduating in 1943. After college, Mr. Blacksheare came back to Sanford and began his career as an educator at Oviedo High School. In 1948, he returned home to Crooms Academy as a teacher, which marked the beginning of a long and illustrious career. Mr. Blacksheare was ap-

pointed assistant principal in 1960 and was elevated to principal in 1964. After serving as principal for 21 years, Mr. Blacksheare took a position with the Seminole County School Board before retiring in 1992 with 43 years of service in education.

In addition, Mr. Blacksheare is also a proud Kappa man. He was a great role model for me and others in our community, serving Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity in many leadership roles. In fact, I became a Kappa at Fisk University because of Mr. Blacksheare. When he found out that I had pledged Kappa at Fisk University, he was so excited. Years later, when I was nominated for Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity's highest award, the Laurel Wreath, he wrote one of the first letters to the Laurel Wreath Committee on my behalf. Brother Blacksheare truly knows the meaning of PHI NU PI.

Mr. Blacksheare is a man of great faith and excellent character. He is a man known for his many good works and his love for his students, family, and friends. As a Crooms Academy alumnus, I am grateful for the many years of guidance and leadership Mr. Blacksheare devoted to my alma mater. He has always displayed selfless compassion and a desire to help those around him. A student in the Class of 1976 described Mr. Blacksheare as, "a man of great strength and patience . . . a principal who is interested in today's youth, concerned with our welfare and our school." I can think of no one else more deserving of this tremendous honor, which will be bestowed upon him at the "Legacy of Hope and Love Banquet."

Madam Speaker, it is truly a privilege and an honor for me to recognize Mr. Edward Blacksheare, Sr., for his dedication to education, Crooms Academy, its students, and the Sanford community as a whole.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN BOOZMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 29, 2010

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 577, I was not present and am not recorded due to a family illness. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

CONGRATULATING THE 2010 PENN HIGH SCHOOL SPELL BOWL TEAM

HON. JOE DONNELLY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 29, 2010

Mr. DONNELLY of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Penn High School Spell Bowl team of Mishawaka, Indiana for winning at the Division I Indiana Academic Spell Bowl held at Purdue University on November 13, 2010. Penn won with a perfect score, and has now won or tied for first place in the Class I Division with perfect scores since 1999.

Spell Bowl team members included Maddy Anderson, Maaz Arif, Nitin Arora, Nisha Bhatt, Alex Cao, Christy Chang, Laura Harmon, Austin Heckaman, Leah Hershberger, Yifei Hu,

Jenny Huang, Richard Jung, Neena Kallookulangara, Marija Lapkus, James McGinness, Sheena Shah, Nithin Varadharajan, and Andy Wang. They are coached by Peter De Keever.

Mr. De Keever noted that their goal was not only winning, but doing so with a perfect score. He said, "They executed perfectly and all their hard work came to fruition." The team practices centered on repetition, and they wrote an estimated 30,000 words this season as part of the training. Again, I offer my congratulations to the members of the Penn High School Spell Bowl team for their accomplishments throughout the competition.

TRIBUTE TO WALTER J. BECKERT III

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 29, 2010

Ms. DeGETTE. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize the wonderful life and exceptional accomplishments of a remarkable man. This distinguished citizen possessed an impressive record of civic leadership and invaluable service. His achievements in making our city and state a better place merit our recognition and gratitude. It is to commend this eminent citizen that I rise to honor Walter "Uncle Walt" Beckert III.

Walt Beckert, "Uncle Walt" to all, devoted his time, skill and energy to making our state and our community a better place. Walt achieved a Masters in Bilingual Education, Curriculum Development and Administration from the University of Colorado. He served in the Peace Corps where he worked in Ecuador on bilingual education and curriculum development.

Walt was a labor leader and political activist who was in the vanguard of those dedicated to economic and social justice. As an AFL-CIO Colorado executive board member, former president of AFSCME Council 76, and Vice President of local 158; Walt was a union man through and through. Anyone who knew him was impressed by his unending spirit, drive and determination. Walt was an example of a true union leader in every sense of the term. Walt cared about all working people, not just those of his organization. His dedication and commitment to the labor movement was without question.

As a long time employee of the City and County of Denver as Director of Denver's Safe City Office, Walt worked to prevent violence by and against youth. His work allowed him to witness families that have fallen on hard times, whether by drugs, illness, or victimization. These experiences gave him a unique perspective in helping youth and were a motivating factor in his community service interests. These interests lead him to be appointed to the Governor's Commission on Community Service.

Walt was an invaluable member of any committee or endeavor. From labor union, to political party to the St. Patrick's Day Parade committee, he was always there with a smile and a hug and an attitude that made everyone want to work harder. He made every job look easy and fun, and with Uncle Walt it was.

Our thoughts and our prayers are with his loved ones. Please join me in celebrating the

life of Walt Beckert, a man who inspired everyone he met by his actions and deeds to make the world a better place for everyone.

RECOGNIZING CATHY GLASER FOR THIRTY SIX YEARS OF SERVICE TO SAN DIEGO COUNTY

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 29, 2010

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the honorable civil service of Cathy Glaser and commend her tremendous career of thirty six years with the San Diego County Registrar of Voters Office.

Joining the team at San Diego County in 1976 with the District Attorney's office, Family Support Division, Ms. Glaser began her historic tenure with the County that has made an impression on countless San Diegans.

Transferring to the Registrar of Voters Office as a Senior Clerk in 1977, Ms. Glaser was soon promoted to Candidate Filing. She filled an invaluable role by assisting candidates in all their filing aspects.

Starting with San Diego County at the age of 22, and now ending at the helm of Campaign Services, Ms. Glaser has worked for 8 Registrars of Voters. She has seen 9 election cycles of Presidents, Governors, U.S. Senators, State Senators, State Assembly, County Supervisors, Mayors, City Councilmembers, Community College Boards and School Boards to name a few. She has supervised the ballot preparation for all of the candidates for these offices as well as state, county and local propositions and measures.

Ms. Glaser has seen the transformation from the time of less than 5,000 Absentee Voters, voting on "paper"; and when results were delivered on election night. She has since been at the forefront of change with now more than 700,000 Vote by Mail Voters.

Under Ms. Glaser's guidance and expertise, San Diego County has won several awards for streamlining the election process. She also created the prominent "Candidate's Guide" which has become the "go to" guide for candidates, consultants, treasurers and campaign managers. Her work is often used as a model for other counties across the nation.

It is an honor to recognize her three and a half decades of dedicated, professional public service. I offer Ms. Glaser my congratulations on her achievements.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to please join me in paying tribute to Ms. Glaser's loyal service to the San Diego County Registrar of Voters on the occasion of her retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN BOOZMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 29, 2010

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 576, I was not present and am not recorded due to a family illness. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

HONORING THE CAREER OF
THOMAS MAX WILLSON

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 29, 2010

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the career and achievements of Thomas Max Willson of Traverse City, Michigan. Tom is retiring after nearly 30 years of diligent public service in the 86th Judicial District Court in Traverse City. Throughout his long career, Tom has performed his duties with the utmost dedication and professionalism while being a devoted husband and father. Tom is also a dear friend of mine.

Tom was born in Detroit, Michigan on January 12, 1951 and grew up in Royal Oak, Michigan; graduating from Shrine High School in 1969. Following high school, Tom enrolled at Northwestern Michigan College in Traverse City where he and I became good friends. In 1973, Tom transferred to Ferris State University in Big Rapids, Michigan where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Criminal Justice.

After earning his college degree in 1975, Tom knew he wanted to serve the public and play an integral role in his community. Tom headed back to Traverse City where he served as a sheriff deputy for Grand Traverse County. After two years as a sheriff deputy, Tom continued his career in public service as a probation officer for the 86th District Judicial Court, serving the counties of Grand Traverse, Antrim and Leelanau.

Looking for a change in his professional life, Tom entered the private sector and became a sales supervisor with H. Cox & Sons Wholesale Distributor. Additionally, Tom was given the incredible opportunity to teach classes as an adjunct instructor at Northwestern Michigan College (NMC). To this day, Tom continues to enlighten students at NMC every semester with his experience and insightful teachings.

Tom's passion for public service never faded. He returned to the 86th District Judicial Court to work as a probation officer in 1987—the same position he will be retiring from on December 31 of this year. Tom married his college sweetheart Deborah in May of 1974. Tom and Debbie celebrated their 36th wedding anniversary this year. They have two daughters, Heather and Ashley, and a granddaughter, Ava Rose.

On a personal note, Tom has been a dear friend who is always ready to help out and go the extra mile. He and Debbie have frequently offered to host out of town visitors and show them the beauty of northern Michigan. Tom is known in Washington as an unofficial ambassador to northern Michigan.

Madam Speaker, Thomas Max Willson has devoted his career to serving and protecting the residents of his local community and the State of Michigan. I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in recognizing and honoring his lifetime of commitment and hard work.

HONORING HELEN MACLEOD
THOMSON

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 29, 2010

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Helen MacLeod Thomson for her 36 years of public service that began in 1974 when she was elected as a member of the Davis Joint Unified School District Board of Education and where she served 3 terms. She was elected to the Yolo County Board of Supervisors in 1986 and re-elected in 1990 and 1994. In 1996 she won the 8th district seat in the California State Assembly where she served three terms.

As a legislator Thomson chaired both the Health Committee and the Select Committee on Mental Health and served on numerous standing and select committees. She was on the leadership teams of four Speakers, including as Majority Floor Whip and Assistant Speaker Pro Tem. She led legislative efforts to reform the state-local government fiscal relationship and to end discrimination against those who suffer from serious mental illness.

Assemblywoman Thomson authored 81 bills signed into law by both Democratic and Republican governors. Most notably was AB 88, the mental health parity bill, which ended the historic discrimination in insurance benefits for those who suffer from mental illness and AB 1421, "Laura's Law," which established a court ordered program of Assisted Outpatient Treatment for those persons who are severely mentally ill. Thomson's legislation spanned a spectrum of subjects including local government finance, civil grand jury reform, highway safety, county social services delivery, water conservation, and the rights of the disabled.

In 2002, when her assembly term ended, Thomson again was elected to the Yolo County Board of Supervisors and was re-elected without opposition in June 2006. She will retire at the end of her term in December 2010. Supervisor Thomson has served on a variety of local and statewide boards. Of continuing importance to her is the Children's Health Initiative, which works to insure children 0–18, who are not covered by other health insurance programs, the Yolo Indigent Health Medical Services Program and the county's alcohol, drug and mental health programs. A registered nurse, she is a member of the National Advisory Committee for the newly established Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing at UC Davis.

A champion of Yolo County agriculture, Supervisor Thomson is a founder of the Yolo Land Trust and this year was awarded its 2010 Thomson-Rominger award for her decades of work in land conservation. A major goal of her county service was the adoption of the new County General Plan in December 2009. This 2030 General Plan continues Yolo County's historic preservation of agricultural lands, natural resources and open space, while creating opportunities for strategic economic development. It emphasizes policies that address issues of "smart growth" and climate change.

Madam Speaker, it is appropriate at this time to acknowledge and thank Helen M. Thomson for her 36 years of exemplary leadership and her lasting contributions that have