

has been active in all aspects of the community life of Mount Vernon for all of his adult life, serving as Commissioner of the Water Department since 1977 and in innumerable positions in the volunteer and political sectors. There are few aspects of life in Mount Vernon that he has not touched and made better.

While his life was community involvement, his passion was politics. From 1969 to 1996, he was Chairman of the Mount Vernon Democratic City Committee. He is Chairman of the Black Democrats of Westchester County and a member of the Council of Black Elected Democrats of New York State. He is also a New York State Committeeperson for the 84th Assembly District. More personally, and to my joy, he serves as my Special Assistant.

He has also served as President of the Lions Club of Mount Vernon and President of the Mount Vernon YMCA. He is a Life Member of the 369 Veteran's Association, and a Life Member of the Mount Vernon NAACP. He is Chairman of the Board of Mount Vernon Neighborhood Health Center and a member of the National Association of Health Care Providers.

And under his leadership the Board of Water Supply has continued a longstanding tradition of excellence.

He is a veteran of WWII. He is married to the former Eula (Daisy) Gadson and is the proud father of five children (David Jr., Renee, Garey, Michael, and Karen). He has five grandchildren: Rachel, Shaarod, Nardara, Jerel and David Christopher) and one great-grandchild, Amira.

David is retiring and I wish him all the very best that retirement has to offer. This is Mount Vernon's loss for he has contributed to his community for longer and better than we are ever likely to see again. On a personal note I am happy to say that he will still be advising me, which means he will still be helping me to help the people of Mount Vernon.

A TRIBUTE TO HOLY FAMILY CHURCH

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 26, 2010

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the centennial anniversary of Holy Family Church of South Pasadena, California.

In 1906, land was purchased for the construction of a Catholic church and Bishop Thomas J. Conaty assigned Reverend Richard J. Cotter, D.D. the task of establishing a new parish in South Pasadena located at El Centro Street and Fremont Avenue. On May 10, 1910, seventy-five families gathered with Father Cotter for worship in a small cottage at the El Centro/Fremont location and called themselves Holy Family Parish.

By the following August, a temporary "bungalow church" was built to house the growing congregation until funds could be raised for a more permanent building. On November 24, 1923, the property at Fremont Avenue and Rollin Street, where the church stands today, was acquired for construction of a new church. Designed by architect Emmett G. Martin, this beautiful house of worship, recognized as one of the finest examples of Spanish Renaissance Baroque architecture in Southern Cali-

fornia, held its first Masses on Easter Sunday in 1928, with the formal dedication by Bishop Cantwell following two weeks later.

Over the decades, many additions and acquisitions were made. The parish elementary school opened in 1937, and properties were acquired for a parish office, parish hall and buildings for religious education. Two mahogany side altars, a magnificent mural and stained glass windows were added in the 1950s and 1960s. In 1977, the Oak St. House was acquired for the religious education program, and in 1984, the Ramona St. House was purchased, followed by the acquisition of two adjacent residential properties. By 1994, more space was needed, and the Vision Project to build a new ministerial campus was created. The challenge was to tear down, remodel or relocate everything but the church. The groundbreaking ceremonies took place in June 1997, and the completion of the Vision Project was in 2000.

Over the course of one hundred years, the leadership of Holy Family Church has included the Right Reverend Michael J. Galvin from 1922–1923, Reverend James B. Morris from 1926–1954, the Right Reverend Leo Joseph Murphy from 1954–1971, Reverend Monsignor Thomas McGovern from 1968–1984 and Reverend Monsignor Clement J. Connolly from 1984 to the present.

Since its inception, Holy Family Church has provided spiritual guidance and tangible support to the greater South Pasadena community. Some of the church's many programs include the Giving Bank, which provides direct relief to people in the Los Angeles area facing hunger, Detention Ministry, which reaches out to incarcerated youth at Juvenile Hall, Infant Care Outreach Program, which serves low-income women and families in need, Pastoral Care: Ministry to the Elderly and Sick and sponsorship of Boy Scout Troop 333. Church parishioners are involved with Dolores Mission in East Los Angeles, serving on their school advisory board and tutoring in the after-school program.

I consider it a great privilege to recognize Holy Family Church upon its one-hundredth anniversary, and I ask all Members to join me in congratulating the congregation for their one hundred years of service to the community.

HONORING COLLEEN DIPIRRO FOR HER DEDICATED SERVICE AS PRESIDENT AND CEO OF THE AMHERST, NEW YORK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. CHRISTOPHER JOHN LEE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 26, 2010

Mr. LEE of New York. Madam Speaker, I ask that this body join me in congratulating Colleen DiPirro of Williamsville, New York for her 28 years of dedicated service to the Amherst Chamber of Commerce.

When Colleen began her involvement with the Amherst Chamber of Commerce, she was the only staff member. Membership in the organization was at 180 and the Chamber's budget was \$24,000 per year.

Shortly after Colleen assumed leadership of the Chamber, it was named one of the ten largest in all of New York State.

Today, the Amherst Chamber of Commerce counts more than 2,300 local businesses as members and operates under a budget in excess of \$2 million. Colleen's outstanding leadership is directly responsible for this incredible growth over the last 28 years.

Colleen is an outstanding asset to the Western New York business community and I wish to extend my deepest appreciation for the outstanding work she has done over the last 28 years.

Madam Speaker, I ask that this body please join me in recognizing the many wonderful contributions Colleen has made to the Amherst community, and wish her much continued success in the months and years ahead.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. W. TODD AKIN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 26, 2010

Mr. AKIN. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 11 on motion to suspend the rules and pass, as amended—H.R. 3538—the Idaho Wilderness Resources Protection Act, had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

HONORING JOHN SHIELDS

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 26, 2010

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, for a Democracy to succeed, the people have to be an active part of the political process. John Shields, who is retiring as the Mayor of Nyack, joined the political process, albeit later in life than most people.

He was born in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania and grew up as something of an Army brat, traveling from place to place. After high school he tried summer stock. He moved to New York City in 1965 where he sold caviar and worked in a drug rehabilitation center. He went to City College of New York, graduating in 1972, and for the next 30 years taught in New York City schools.

He moved to Nyack in 1976 and in 1994 he ran for the Nyack Village Board and was elected Trustee. There followed two more terms as Trustee and four terms as Mayor and now he is retiring from elective office.

John is primarily an activist, and got into politics as an extension of his activism. In 2004 he sued New York State for the right for same sex couples to marry. He noted that as Mayor, he could legally marry heterosexual couples while the state denied him that equal right for himself. And while he may have lost the suit he has not quit the battle.

He still lives in Nyack, is still involved in the community, serving on the Board of Directors of Head Start of Rockland. He has not decided what to do next, but I wish him all the best that life has to offer in this next stage of his life.

HONORING THE SPIRIT OF THE
WHEELIN' TEAM 457**HON. CANDICE S. MILLER**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 26, 2010

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I would like to acknowledge the members of Wheelin' Team 457, based in North Branch, Michigan. Wheelin' Team 457 is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that was founded in 2003 by current President Ray K. Brown. The primary mission of the group is to assist the physically challenged with outdoor and indoor sports and other recreational activities. The team also engages in an extraordinary community relations campaign to educate the public on disability issues.

In addition to providing a wonderful service to the State of Michigan and the country, Wheelin' Team 457 has been very successful in competitive wheelchair sports. The team is undefeated and has posted a remarkable overall record of 13 wins and zero losses. I think it is fair to say that no matter the sport it is extremely difficult to maintain perfection over an extended time period.

This accomplishment, and the increased popularity of Wheelin' Team 457, has allowed members to expand beyond the sports world and assist people with other activities like fishing, hunting, billiards and archery just to name a few. I want to congratulate Wheelin' Team 457 on reaching this notable achievement and applaud you all for your hard work and dedication to be the best.

Furthermore, I want to commend team for the work they do to help citizens with physical challenges to get their lives "moving" once again. As human beings, we sometimes can fall victim to our own self-sorrow. But Wheelin' Team 457 has made it a priority to help those living with physical disabilities stay motivated. I know this is a constant and a tremendous challenge, but I believe the members of Wheelin' Team 457 are ready to face any obstacle head-on, fulfilling their mission each and every day!

I offer Wheelin' Team 457 my best wishes for 2010! As the Team states on its Web site, "When it comes to adapting, we have many ways to make the task of participation a reality. There is nothing more rewarding than to see someone take part in an activity that they thought was out of their ability."

I echo these words and I urge Wheelin' Team 457 to continue to roll on!

HONORING MAURICE GROSSMAN

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 26, 2010

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to rise today to honor Maurice Grossman, one of Tucson's true treasures, who passed away January 21st at the age of 82.

Maurice was beloved by many who knew him, not just for his art but for his dedication to human rights and the Democratic Party.

A retired art professor from the University of Arizona, Maurice Grossman spent his life as a ceramic artist, activist and a leader in the Les-

bian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender community.

Maurice served in the Navy during World War II, before attending Wayne State University in Detroit. After attending and teaching at other universities, he traveled to Japan as a Fulbright scholar, then finally to Tucson to teach.

The founder of the University of Arizona's ceramics program in 1955, Maurice received several prestigious awards during his career, including a National Endowment for the Arts grant in 1986 and the UA's Creative Teaching Award. Maurice's commitment to supporting other artists was unflagging and genuine. He would invariably turn up at openings and contribute his works to galleries, both big and small.

Always the activist, Maurice single-handedly took it upon himself to register people to vote. He felt that it was his duty to make sure that everyone, regardless of background, had a voice. When he retired in 1989, he became more involved in the effort to help fight discrimination against the LGBT community.

Maurice was quoted in a 2004 article as saying, "It's not just about equal rights for us. It's about equal rights for everyone. Do we want to take a step forward or a step back?"

Maurice never stepped back. He was an extraordinary man and a true individual. His role as an activist for equality and human rights will not soon be forgotten.

I was privileged to know Maurice personally. Always enthusiastic, I could count on not only his support but his passion. His dedication to the community was never-ending.

Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Maurice Grossman and thank him for being a role model for so many of us.

RECOGNIZING THE RELIEF EF-
FORTS OF DILLARD ELEMEN-
TARY SCHOOL FOR THE PEOPLE
OF HAITI**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 26, 2010

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the students and staff of Dillard Elementary School in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, for their dedication to helping the people of Haiti in the wake of the 7.0 earthquake of January 12, 2010. Not enough sorrow can be expressed for the people of Haiti and all those affected by this tragic event.

Every day, more information filters in from Port-au-Prince and surrounding areas that begins to shed light on the extent of the catastrophe in Haiti. This earthquake was a horror of epic proportions. It is estimated that over 200,000 Haitians, including hundreds of people from countries around the world, have died. In the aftermath of disaster, there have been numerous aftershocks reaching magnitudes of up to 6.1, and more unrest is expected. For years, Haitians have lived in misery beyond human understanding. Long after the final aftershock, the thousands of Haitians left homeless, injured, and starving will have to rebuild their country from the ground up. It is our moral duty as members of our global community to provide aid to Haiti in its time of great need.

This cry for help has been answered by the students and staff of Dillard Elementary School. They are committed to raising \$5,000 for the people of Haiti through community fundraisers and have already begun a coin drive with great enthusiasm. This is our nation at its finest hour. Seeing communities all across the nation rally around this noble cause is a reminder of the human compassion and dignity that we all share.

My office is proud to support Dillard Elementary School in its efforts, as are many of my constituents and businesses in Florida's 23rd district, including Paradise Bank, The Westside Gazette, and Palm Harbor Prep.

Madam Speaker, the students and staff of Dillard Elementary School are role models for us all. I hope that we will follow their example and dig deep to help the people of Haiti in one of its darkest hours.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE INAU-
GURAL GRADUATING CLASS OF
THE VERDUGO POWER ACADEMY**HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 26, 2010

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the first graduating class of the Verdugo Power Academy—a partnership between Glendale Community College, The Verdugo Workforce Investment Board and Glendale Water and Power.

The organizations have joined together to establish a new training program for people interested in working in the power industry. The program will address the projected shortage of utility workers in the power utility industry and the challenges in recruiting and retention, and will create a local source to produce qualified job candidates.

This project is funded through a Verdugo Workforce Investment Board grant from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act that has been awarded to Glendale Community College—a prime example of last year's stimulus bill producing a better trained workforce and new jobs.

The first class of students completed their challenging 16-week program and graduated on January 15, 2010. These new graduates now have the opportunity to pursue a well-paying career with a utility.

I offer my congratulations to the graduates and wish them well in their future endeavors. I also offer my thanks and congratulations to the faculty, staff and community leaders who developed the instructional curriculum and provided the facilities, materials, instructional support and technical expertise that made the program a tremendous success.

HONORING DR. BRUCE
BELLINGHAM**HON. JOE COURTNEY**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 26, 2010

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to mark the passing of a great educator and true champion for the arts in eastern Connecticut. Dr. Bruce Bellingham of Coventry,