

him, I think, is definitely necessary. The Lincoln memorial was very fascinating.

In conclusion, my appreciation for my American heritage has increased after going to Washington, DC. The World War II, Vietnam War, and Lincoln memorial are very interesting.

DC ESSAY

(By Kayla Kirkland)

Seeing Washington, DC isn't just understanding and appreciating our heritage, it also makes you proud. My conclusion of this is thanks to being able to go inside the Capitol building, seeing the memorials of our heroes, and going through the Holocaust Museum.

Being able to go into the Capitol building is more than words. I did not fully understand how much our government is ran by the people until we were able to go in there. Meeting John Duncan was an honor. It was neat how he would take time out of his day to meet the people he represents. The input we have is real, it is seeing our future and past evolve together.

Next, walking through our heroes memorials was inspirational. I saw that people died fighting and making this country free. My personal favorite was the World War II Memorial. The stars in the water were in awe. Every star was for one hundred souls and human beings that defend our land to insure our future.

Third of all, two words . . . Holocaust Museum. People do not understand how good Americans have it. We could be in a government with a dictator whom murders millions of innocent people. We are not though. This is because our founding fathers did not want that, and some of them died to insure us "We Are America." We, our Country, has it more than better compared to other countries.

I give thanks of being able to go inside the capitol building, see the memorials of our heroes, and go through the Holocaust Museum. ". . . And so my fellow Americans, Ask what your country can do for you; Ask what you can do for your country."

DC ESSAY

(By Michaela Hearn)

My trip to Washington DC has increased my appreciation of my American heritage because of the monuments, the American History Museum, and Arlington National Cemetery.

First, the monuments made me appreciate living in America. They recognize all the people that served in the different wars and some of our past presidents. The two monuments that really touched me were the Vietnam Memorial and the Korean War Memorial. The Vietnam Memorial was very sad seeing all the names of the people who had died. I personally can't imagine losing one of my loved ones in a war. The Korean War Memorial showed the emotions of the men in that war. They did a great job making both of these memorials; I will never forget them.

Secondly, the American History Museum made me appreciate my American heritage. This museum showed all kinds of things that have happened in America. I loved seeing the section about the different wars, the section of all our presidents, and the first ladies dresses. The section of the wars showed some cool objects from the wars, my favorite was seeing all the original guns and swords. The President section had facts about all of our presidents, my favorite president is Ronald Reagan. The first ladies dresses were beautiful and I like how they have those their so the public can see them. I enjoyed the American History Museum; it made me appreciate my American heritage.

Thirdly, The Arlington National Cemetery made me thankful for all of the men and

women that gave their lives in the wars. There are so many people that are buried there that gave their lives for Americas freedoms. That makes me thankful for them to have enough courage to fight for what they believe in. We Americans are so blessed to live in the greatest country in the world. So, we need to remember the ones that gave their lives, and the ones that have served and are still serving. The Arlington National Cemetery made me thankful for all the ones that have and are still serving in the wars.

In Conclusion, my trip to Washington DC has increased my appreciation of my American heritage because of the monuments, the American History Museum, and Arlington National Cemetery. I am so blessed and proud to live in the United States of America.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF LOCAL 702 OF THE INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2011

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the 100th anniversary of Local 702 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW), headquartered in West Frankfort, Illinois.

In 1911, the labor movement in the United States was in a period of rapid growth. Our economy was beginning its shift from agriculture to manufacturing and more of the population was becoming concentrated in metropolitan areas. The Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire, in 1911, tragically exposed unsafe working conditions and provided fuel for the rise of organized labor. Also in 1911, a small group of electrical workers near Herrin, Illinois, petitioned the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers for a charter.

The founders of Local 702 wanted the pay and working conditions of those in the electrical trade to be commensurate with those of other skilled craftsmen and they knew the only way to accomplish this was to organize. They quickly began the task of working with area utility companies, and the first recorded bargaining contract was dated January 31, 1917, with the Central Illinois Public Service Company.

During the Great Depression, as our Nation struggled with record levels of unemployment, many members of Local 702 were out of work for prolonged periods. In a display of solidarity, the working members of Local 702 accepted an assessment on their wages that provided relief funding for their unemployed brothers. Loans from Local 702 provided a critical lifeline during the 1930's and some are still being retired today.

IBEW Local 702 considers itself to be a progressive, active local. From its founding as a bargaining unit for electrical workers, Local 702 has expanded to represent workers in many different fields, including manufacturing, instrument technicians, broadcast engineers, and nursing. While the primary focus of the local is the representation of its members, they are also vested in being a positive influence within their communities.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the leadership and members

of Local 702 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers as they celebrate their 100th Anniversary and to wish them continued success in the future.

HONORING THE PELICAN CHAPTER OF ASSOCIATED BUILDERS AND CONTRACTORS

HON. BILL CASSIDY

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2011

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Pelican Chapter of Associated Builders and Contractors, located in the City of Baton Rouge in Louisiana's Sixth Congressional District. It gives me great pleasure to announce that the Pelican Chapter of Associated Builders and Contractors has voluntarily constructed two new restroom facilities for the Istrouma Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America to celebrate 100 Years of Scouting.

The facilities were constructed at the Avondale Scout Retreat in Clinton, La. to help improve the experiences of the 11,000 plus youths served by the Istrouma Area Council each year. Under the direction of leading contractor, The Lemoine Company, numerous volunteers from their company and other members of the ABC, the Pelican Chapter has dedicated countless hours and numerous resources to building these facilities, which were completed in October. Each facility encompasses over 1,550 sq. ft. and features modern appliances, providing a critical improvement to the comfort and convenience offered to campers.

The Istrouma Area Council is the largest Boy Scout Council in the state of Louisiana, serving a 13 Parish area and providing nearly \$2 million of free services to the community. By providing leadership training and advancement programs, the Istrouma Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America has helped build the future leaders of this nation for nearly a century, and continues to serve the state of Louisiana. I can only hope that these new facilities that were made possible by the generosity of the ABC Pelican Chapter will allow the Istrouma Area Council to continue their legacy of stewardship for another 100 successful years.

LINDA LOPEZ CONGRESSIONAL RECOGNITION

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2011

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the dedication and hard work of Ms. Linda Lopez of Merced, California. Not only is Ms. Lopez a treasured member of my staff, she is a tireless advocate and community leader in the 18th Congressional District.

Born in New Mexico, Linda moved to California's Central Valley in 1955 where she attended public school in Madera and then later college at Stanford University. She has been involved in civil rights and social justice work for over 40 years and is considered among the influential Latinos in the Central Valley.

Linda's civic participation includes serving on the City of Merced's Redevelopment Agency Gateway Projects Citizen's Advisory Committee, City of Merced's Planning Commission, several City of Merced Ad Hoc Committees including Open Space and Parks, South Merced Specific Plan, CP-42 Park Project, Wastewater Advisory Committee. She has also served on the San Joaquin Valley Partnership Telecommunications Committee and the California State Advisory Board for Transportation Planning and Environmental Justice.

Linda Lopez is also an alumnae of the Great Valley Center's IDEAL inaugural class, Hispanics Organized for Political Equality and Leadership Merced. Linda was named the 1998-99 Hispanic Woman of the Year by the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

Linda has held numerous positions in the community that include the Central Valley Opportunity Center, TV Guide Magazine, the National Park Service and worked with a variety of research companies. She is also a former employee of the Great Valley Center's Central Valley Digital Network working to introduce/enhance technology capacity in the Central Valley communities from Marysville to Bakersfield.

Linda has served as a Constituent Services Representative in my Merced District office since 2006 where she has worked hundreds of cases in her years of service. Linda prided herself on giving her time and energy to everyone that comes into my office seeking assistance. It was not unusual for Linda to work late nights and weekends to meet the needs of the constituents or schedule home visits for the elderly to assist them on matters for which they needed assistance. Linda's compassion is a hallmark for the work she does and it shows to not only the constituents but to the community at large. As a member of my staff, Linda has served as Field Representative where she would provide me updates and serves as my eyes and ears in the community.

Linda's passion for helping people and making a difference sets her apart from others. She offers to everyone she meets, kindness and compassion. Often times, Linda's relationship with other community members evolves into that of a mentorship, where Linda guides and mentors other aspiring community activists to find the passion and desire in themselves to serve the public.

In addition to her work as a public servant, Linda has her beautiful family for which she is so proud that include Ken, Emily and Jessica. Linda Lopez has made Merced, California a better place to live, work and raise our families. I am very proud to call her a member of Team Cardoza and more proud to call her a part of my family. Her compassion, leadership and dedication will serve our community and its children for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for the opportunity to recognize this fine individual for her work and tireless efforts.

HONORING MR. NICHOLAS
BOCCIERI

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2011

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to extend my deepest sympathies to our

former colleague, the Honorable John Bocchieri and his family. On Saturday, June 11th, Mr. Bocchieri's father, Nicholas Bocchieri passed away at the age of 72.

Born in Youngstown, Ohio, on July 9, 1938, "Nick" or better known to some as "Jim", was truly a leader in our community. After graduating from Youngstown Ursuline High School in 1956, he attended St. Mary's Seminary in Cincinnati for two years. After receiving a bachelor's degree from Youngstown State University, Nick went on to teach Latin, Spanish, Italian and English at Poland, Hubbard, and Lowellville High Schools in the Mahoning Valley for 30 years.

Married to Rosemary Filisky on August 14, 1965, the couple was blessed with three sons including our former colleague John along with brothers Gregory and Nick. They helped provide a life filled with joy, laughter and love, and the fantastic gift of nine grandchildren.

Nick was ordained as a Deacon in the Catholic Church in January of 1998. As an active member of the parish, St. Anthony of Padua in Youngstown, Nick served as the Director of Youth Ministry and taught marriage preparation and confirmation formation classes.

Please join me in extending our most sincere and heartfelt sympathies to the Bocchieri family.

HONORING THE LIFE OF "MISS
PEACHES," ANNABEL GRINER
ALDERMAN

HON. JACK KINGSTON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2011

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the passing of Mrs. Annabel Griner Alderman, also known as "Miss Peaches." Mrs. Alderman was a beloved novelist, poet, talk radio show host, newspaper columnist and native of Nashville, Georgia.

Mrs. Alderman spent the majority of her life in Nashville where she became a political activist through writing and performing. She appeared as a political comic under the name "Miss Peaches," a self proclaimed nickname that would serve as the moniker for her alter ego as she performed concerts and monologues with her piano playing brother, Geunie Griner.

Known for her creativity, Miss Annabel lived a colorful life and ingratiated herself in her community. Even as a child, she was very creative and talented, and wrote the song "Willacoochee Callin' Moody Field" after a chance meeting at a phone booth. Miss Annabel and her mother stopped to make a phone call in Ray City when she was just a girl and while they were waiting on the person inside the phone booth, she overheard the lady speaking to someone at Moody Air Force Base. She went home and wrote the song that she would later perform with her brother. This would be only the beginning of the pair's singing career; they also recorded comedy and gospel material through RCA with Mrs. Alderman acting as lyricist and lead singer.

As much as she enjoyed performing, Miss Annabel also enjoyed writing and would go on to give herself another nickname, that of "wordsmith." During the 1930s and 1940s,

Ward Law Starling was one of the biggest newspaper publishers in the state of Georgia, with the Nashville Herald being part of his empire. However, after his untimely death, Miss Annabel swooped in to keep the paper running and once again paired up with her brother Geunie to successfully run the paper for a number of years.

Mrs. Alderman graduated from the Georgia Regional Police Academy in 1983 and became an investigator with her family's law firm in Nashville. However, she continued to write, publishing a book of poetry, "Lost Loves Don't Count" in 1996. Then in 1999 she wrote her first novel, "Family Man," which was nominated for several literary awards. During this time Ms. Alderman also penned a political column, "About Right Now" for the Valdosta Daily Times and was named Berrien County Republican Woman of the Year. Numerous poems, essays and short stories also followed and were published in Georgia magazines such as Valdosta Magazine, Flint River Review, Kennesaw State University's Golden Age of Poetry and Mercer University's Crossroads magazine.

The south has many colorful characters in its history but in Berrien County, there will only ever be one "Miss Peaches." I rise today to commemorate Mrs. Annabel Alderman as an enduring part of the history of South Georgia. May the Lord bless her family and her memory.

HONORING ARMY SPECIALIST
ROBERT L. VOAKES, JR.

HON. DAN BENISHEK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2011

Mr. BENISHEK. Mr. Speaker, Northern Michigan mourns the loss of Army Specialist Robert L. Voakes, Jr., 21, from L'Anse. Robert, who was posthumously promoted from private first class, was killed during an insurgent attack in Lagham Province, Afghanistan. Robert was just three months into a 15-month Operation Enduring Freedom deployment in Afghanistan.

Robert graduated in 2009 from Baraga High School and enlisted in the military that November. He went to basic training at Fort Leonard Wood in Missouri and was then stationed at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in Alaska. Robert was in the 164th Military Police Company, 793rd Military Police Battalion, 3rd Maneuver Enhancement Brigade.

Robert enjoyed sports, particularly basketball, and was a proud and active member of the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community. He is remembered as a quiet, thoughtful young man with an excellent sense of humor.

While Robert could have stayed in L'Anse, he chose instead to serve the cause of freedom and defend America's liberty in a distant country. Robert's deeds and daring will forever be illustrative of the selflessness and bravery that lives in Northern Michigan's young people. I can find no words that can express my gratitude for Robert's service or for the sympathy I feel for his many loved ones whose lives have been shattered by this loss.

To Robert's family, I can offer only the hope that you may be comforted by the kind providence of the Almighty, and the knowledge that