

During her long tenure as an educator in Hillsborough County, Mrs. Bryant truly made it her responsibility to care for the children in her classroom. She was known for giving blankets to families that could not afford them and food to children that came to school on an empty stomach. She would even keep soap and deodorant in her office for the students who could not bathe because the water was turned off at their home. She would not let any obstacle stand in the way of educating children. She also served as a dedicated mentor to many teachers under her guidance. Mary Bryant was the educator and leader that we all want in the classrooms teaching our children.

Though she was very humble, Mary Bryant received numerous awards, honors and leadership positions as an educator. In 1986, Mrs. Bryant became the first African-American woman to be appointed an area director for Hillsborough's Area II schools. In 1992, she became the first African-American woman to serve as the assistant superintendent for support services. Also, in 1993, she received the Ida S. Baker minority educator award. Hillsborough County named Bryant Elementary School in her honor.

Even after she retired in 1997, Mary continued to show her love, support and passion for Hillsborough County schools. She volunteered at school events, attended school board meetings, and served as a liaison for new principals. It is clear that her hard work and efforts have influenced countless children and teachers in Hillsborough County. It is for this reason that we would like to honor and recognize the remarkable career and life of Mary Bryant.

I stand with the Tampa Bay community and Hillsborough County Schools as we mourn the loss of a dear friend and colleague. We are proud to recognize Mary Bryant for her outstanding career and her many significant contributions to the Hillsborough County School System. Her determination and hard work have made her an inspirational leader within our community.

#### A TRIBUTE TO THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS PASADENA AREA

#### HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 8, 2011*

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor The League of Women Voters Pasadena Area, LWVPA, upon its 75th anniversary.

The Pasadena League was established in late February, 1936, when 50 women—charter members—met in the Pasadena home of Mrs. James Grant Macpherson. Shortly afterwards, on March 31, 1936, about 100 women held a public meeting in Pasadena to launch this local League of Women Voters chapter. Working out of an office in the Women's City Club, the fledgling Pasadena League followed the national League's goals of political education, legislation and getting out the vote, while also focusing on children's issues, city government, and eradication of gender and racial discrimination in housing, education and government.

In the first few years, the new League studied government and child welfare issues, and was instrumental in working on a "street-trader law" that protected youth who sold newspapers on city streets. The 1940s saw the

League leading guided tours of Pasadena City Hall, the appointment of two women to the city's Planning Commission, and assisting on a school bond issue. In the 1950s, the League urged the formation of a redevelopment agency to address blighted residential areas of Pasadena and published a pamphlet, *The Perfect City*, about planning, zoning and urban renewal, and citizen participation.

In the 1960s and 1970s, the League worked on local issues such as school and municipal bonds, and was instrumental in the formation of the Pasadena Human Relations Commission and the Commission on the Status of Women. The League promoted minority representation in local government, backed a 1968 measure to change the election system of the Pasadena City Council, advocated for the integration of Pasadena's public schools and sued the Pasadena Board of Education for violations of the Brown Act over that issue. By 1976, with the expansion of the League to include La C nada Flintridge and Sierra Madre, and the later incorporation of the Alhambra and South Pasadena Leagues, the LWVPA was the second largest league in California and a prominent political force.

The 1980s and 1990s saw the LWVPA produce public affairs programs on cable television, advocate for greater citizen input regarding power deregulation, support local library tax assessments and participate in the study and adoption of Instant Runoff Voting, and SmartVoter.org. From 2000 to 2011, some of the LWVPA's achievements include supporting Prop 11 which established a Citizen's Redistricting Commission, providing objective information on ballot measures and conducting candidate forums, and monitoring affordable housing in local communities.

It is my honor to ask all Members of Congress to join me in congratulating the League of Women Voters Pasadena Area upon 75 years of service to the community.

#### HONORING JOSHUA JAMES THIEME

#### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 8, 2011*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Joshua James Thieme. Joshua is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 120, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Joshua has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Joshua has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Joshua has earned the Arrow of Light and the rank of Firebuilder in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say. Joshua has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Joshua restored an 19th century cemetery by clearing trees and brush and rebuilding 24 toppled headstones on the cemetery grounds.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Joshua James Thieme for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

#### RECOGNIZING THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF SOUTHERN NEVADA

#### HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 8, 2011*

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, today I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the 70th anniversary of Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada.

In 1941, Bishop Thomas K. Gorman acknowledged the need for a social service organization that would benefit Nevada. He assigned Father Thomas F. Collins as the first diocesan director of the Catholic Welfare Program.

Through boundless efforts and dedication, Father Collins organized programs for the homeless and needy, family programs, adoption services, and provided services to the United Service Organization, USO.

By 1945, the agency was incorporated under Nevada statutes and acquired a non-profit status under the name of Nevada Catholic Welfare Bureau.

In the 1960s, the agency expanded and began development of thrift stores, a child care center, and the St. Vincent Dining Facility.

During the 1970s and 1980s, as the population growth of Las Vegas doubled, more programs were needed and developed for senior citizens, refugee and immigration services, as well as a home for girls in crisis, an emergency shelter, a work program for homeless men, and an employment services center.

In 1995, the name was changed to Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada.

As the senior population of Southern Nevada continued to grow, Catholic Charities incorporated Respite Care and Supportive Services, Marian Residence for Senior Women, Crossroads Transitional Housing for Senior Men, and Telephone Reassurance. In addition, the Social Ministry program was established to provide assistance to outreach programs and the community through resources and program development.

In 1998, a 120 room apartment building for individual residents was finished and Catholic Charities was able to rebuild additional structures for Social Services, Migration Refugee and Immigration Services, Employment Services Program, Resident Work Program and Administration offices.

Since 2006, the Women, Infant and Children, WIC, Food, Homeless to Home, Senior Services Medical Nutrition Therapy, and Foster Grandparent Programs were created to better serve our community.

Catholic Charities strives toward assisting each individual who is seeking help to gain self-sufficiency and independence with dignity by providing diverse social service programs that are designed to assist infants to seniors through the entire community.

As the Representative for Nevada's First Congressional District, it gives me immense pride to recognize the 70th anniversary of Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada as they continue to be one of the largest private non-profit social service providers in the State of Nevada, offering the most comprehensive range of human services.

## HONORING KEANA PARQUET

**HON. ANDRÉ CARSON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 8, 2011*

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Keana Parquet, teacher at Crooked Creek Elementary School in Indianapolis, Indiana, and recipient of the 2010 Milken Educator Award. Through her creative thinking and tireless efforts, Ms. Parquet has proven herself to be one of the most distinguished teachers in the nation and truly deserves this honor.

Providing young people with a solid education is crucial to shaping the future of our country and the world. Each year, the Milken Family Foundation honors a select number of educators who have already achieved success and who have the potential to accomplish even more. Ms. Parquet has dedicated herself to serving youth in Indianapolis. By implementing effective instructional techniques and inspiring her students, Ms. Parquet has set an example for her fellow educators. As a result, her impact on the quality of education in Indianapolis transcends the walls of her classroom.

I encourage all of my colleagues to join me in praising Ms. Parquet for her hard work and dedication to educating youth in Indianapolis. I have no doubt that she will build on her success and inspire the next generation of Hoosiers.

## HONORING MARTIN D. FINK

**HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 8, 2011*

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the exemplary career of one of my constituents, Martin D. Fink, who recently retired after working for the United States Navy for 52 years. As a research and development engineer, Mr. Fink helped improve existing technologies and develop new capabilities that increased the safety, functionality, and efficiency of various Navy vessels. Mr. Fink's fine work earned him the Meritorious Civilian Service Award (1990) and the Superior Civilian Service Award (1994), the second highest civilian award that the Department of the Navy can bestow. Over the course of his career, Mr. Fink patented several inventions for use by the Navy, including a "Method for quantifying parameters for a ship roll simulation system" (2004), a "Vertical motion compensation for a crane's load" (2003), and an "Integrated and automated control of a crane's rider tagline system" (2000). Mr. Fink retired on December 31, 2010.

In 1958, Mr. Fink began his work for the Navy while still in school through a cooperative education program at the David Taylor Model Basin-Naval Ship Research and Development Center in Bethesda, Maryland. Mr. Fink earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Aerospace Engineering from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in 1963 and a Master of Science degree in Engineering Administration from The George Washington University in 1972. During his 18 years

of service at Carderock, he worked on developing the performance and acquisition requirements and documentation for the groundbreaking JEFF(A) and JEFF(B) Amphibious Assault Landing Craft (AALC) air cushion vehicle test craft and was an integration engineer for the two design fabrication contracts. In 1976 Mr. Fink transferred to the Naval Coastal Systems Center (NCSC) in Panama City, Florida to continue his work on the AALC project and to help establish the AALC Experimental Trials Unit. Mr. Fink's work was critical to the development of the acquisition documentation for the current Landing Craft Air Cushion (LCAC), which evolved out of the AALC project and currently provides the Navy's rapid deployment capabilities for troops and equipment.

In 1981 Mr. Fink was selected to serve as manager of the Merchant Ship Naval Augmentation Program/Strategic Sealift Research and Development program at the Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA), then in Arlington, Virginia. While there, he improved the military utility of commercial ships in support of Naval fleet requirements by undertaking the acquisition, integration and installation of more modern Navy and commercial equipment on government-owned merchant ships. From 1992–2000, Mr. Fink worked in the Strategic Sealift Program Office in NAVSEA, where he oversaw, among other projects, the development and acquisition of new hardware to expand and improve naval sealift capacity. In 2000 Mr. Fink joined the Program Executive Office, Ships as the Acquisition Program Manager for the development of the Maritime Prepositioning Force. From 2007 until his retirement, Mr. Fink served as Principal Assistant Program Manager for Research and Development/Small Business Innovation Research and Future Platforms.

Martin Fink has made numerous substantial contributions to the Department of the Navy over his 52 years of diligent and innovative service. From aiding in the design, development, and testing of military vehicles such as the Landing Craft Air Cushion, the development of shipboard cargo handling and seabased operational logistics support systems, Mr. Fink has helped improve existing capabilities and provide the Navy with vital new tools to support our sailors and marines.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize the long and productive career of Martin D. Fink and the contributions he has made to our Navy and extend our gratitude and appreciation to him for his outstanding service to our country.

## HONORING JACOB MICHAEL HOPPE

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 8, 2011*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jacob Michael Hoppe. Jacob is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 351, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Jacob has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the

many years Jacob has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Jacob has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Jacob Michael Hoppe for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. MARTIN HEINRICH**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 8, 2011*

Mr. HEINRICH. Mr. Speaker, I unfortunately missed three votes on January 26, 2011, which included rollcall votes Nos. 23, 24 and 25.

If I had been present, I would have voted in favor of rollcall vote No. 23, Representative GARY PETERS' (MI-09) amendment to H.R. 359.

I would have also voted in favor of rollcall vote No. 24, the Motion to Recommit H.R. 359 offered by Representative TIM WALZ (MN-01).

Lastly, I would have voted against rollcall vote No. 25, the final passage of H.R. 359.

HAPPY 90TH TO THE DAUGHTERS  
OF MYRTLE**HON. BARNEY FRANK**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 8, 2011*

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be the Representative in this House of the Myrtle Baptist Church, an extraordinarily important congregation which has served predominately, but not exclusively, the African-American community in the City of Newton, Massachusetts since the 19th century. Myrtle Baptist has played an important role in the racial progress we have made from those post-slavery days to the present, and while that fight has not yet been won permanently, the leadership that Myrtle Baptist has provided in the City of Newton and the Greater Boston area has contributed significantly to the progress that has occurred.

Ninety years ago, under the pastorate of the Reverend Wade Ryan, the Church saw the establishment of the Daughters of Myrtle, which was formed with the mandate "to serve the Church and community spiritually and financially."

Mr. Speaker, they have done that extraordinarily well. From a group of committed churchwomen who were picked by the Reverend Ryan to help with the preparation of the service for Northern Baptist Convention Annual Meeting, DOM rapidly evolved into a vital part of a vital church.

Today, ninety years after its founding, DOM in their words continues "to sponsor events at the Church and have broadened our service to include helping those in need throughout our community via outreach efforts such as supporting local women's shelters, conducting annual pamper drives, and contributing to book