

Helen was an involved member of the Greater Cleveland community. She was a parishioner of St. Columbkille Catholic Church and an active member of her ladies mission circle. She was involved with the Seven Hills Golden Agers, St. Columbkille Golden Agers, Justo Lane Club and was a longtime volunteer as an election day poll worker.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in remembrance of Mrs. Helen W. Soggs. I offer my condolences to her sons, Loree and Jim, her eight grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

HONORING DAKOTA MEYER

HON. ED WHITFIELD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2011

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, the small community of Columbia in south central Kentucky is not unlike many of the rural areas of America that have given of their best young men and women to guarantee our freedom. As of today, however, Columbia has the distinction of being the birthplace of Dakota Meyer, only the third living recipient and the first Marine to be awarded the Medal of Honor for actions in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Today, President Barack Obama will award Dakota Meyer the Medal of Honor for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty. He will receive the Medal of Honor for his courageous actions while serving as a member of Marine Embedded Training Team 2-8, Regional Corps Advisory Command 3-7, in Kunar Province, Afghanistan, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. He and his family will join the President at the White House to commemorate his example of selfless service.

The Medal of Honor is awarded to members of the Armed Forces who distinguish themselves with meritorious conduct involving great personal bravery or self-sacrifice so conspicuous as to clearly distinguish the individual above his or her comrades, and the action must have involved risk of life. There must be incontestable proof of the performance of the meritorious conduct, and each recommendation for the award must be considered on the standard of extraordinary merit.

On September 8, 2009 an Afghan battalion was set to go to a village in the Ganjgal Valley. According to the plan, Meyer was to stay with the vehicles near the mouth of the valley and the Afghan soldiers and their U.S. advisers would walk into the village from there. But as the lead of the column approached the village more than 50 insurgents fired from positions on mountains surrounding the valley and from within the village. The troops were trapped.

Back at the vehicles, Meyer heard the firing. When requests for airstrikes and permission to drive into the valley were repeatedly denied, Meyer set himself in the turret of a Humvee and rode straight into the firefight, taking fire from all directions. He went in not once, but five times, trying to rescue his comrades and taking to foot in an effort to locate his team. During about six hours of chaotic fighting, he took out eight Taliban militants and provided cover for Afghan and U.S. servicemen to escape the ambush, according to a Marine

Corps account of the events. Meyer saved the lives of 13 U.S. troops and 23 Afghan soldiers.

I join Dakota Meyer's hometown of Columbia, Kentucky in pride as they celebrate this rare distinction for their native son. Meyer joins the ranks of a small company, who in the face of adversity rise to the occasion and do what needs to be done regardless of the consequences. His heroic actions reflect the values taught and practiced in small communities throughout the heart of America.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. VERN BUCHANAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2011

Mr. BUCHANAN. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 706 I was inadvertently recorded as voting "nay."

Please let the permanent record reflect that I support H.J. Res. 77 and my vote should be recorded as "aye."

I support H.J. Res. 77 because Congress should not increase the debt limit until additional substantial cuts are made to the Federal budget.

IN HONOR OF MR. JAY WILLIAMS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mr. Jay Williams, who has recently been appointed as the Department of Labor's Executive Director of the Office of Recovery for Auto Communities and Workers by President Obama.

Mr. Williams was born and raised in Youngstown, Ohio. He attended Youngstown State University and studied finance. After graduating, he began working with banks around the Youngstown area. He continued working in the banking industry as an examiner for the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland.

Upon leaving the financial industry, Mr. Williams became the director of Youngstown's Community Development Agency. He served as the leader of Youngstown 2010. This ongoing initiative plans for a Youngstown that is "smaller, greener, cleaner, makes efficient use of its available resources, and capitalizes on its many cultural amenities and business advantages."

In 2005, Mr. Williams was elected as the Mayor of Youngstown. He was the first African American elected as Youngstown's mayor and was also the first independent candidate elected since 1922. Mr. Williams was re-elected in 2009. On July 6, 2011, President Obama announced Mr. Williams as the Executive Director of the Office of Recovery for Auto Communities and Workers; he began on August 8, 2011.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Mr. Jay Williams as he begins his tenure as the Executive Director of the Office of Recovery for Auto Communities and Workers. I extend my congratulations and well wishes as he embarks on this new endeavor.

SCHOOL VIOLENCE AND BULLYING

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2011

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like to discuss an important issue that affects too many young people across this country. As many students look forward to the new school year, there are too many who fear returning because their school environment is made unsafe by bullying. Bullying is not a rite of passage and no child should be afraid to go to school. An unsafe school environment, including one made unsafe by daily bullying and harassment, leads to increased absences and decreased graduation rates.

A majority of parents, students, and educators report that bullying and harassment are issues of major concern. To combat this problem, I have introduced the Safe Schools Improvement Act which would help schools and school districts develop and improve anti-bullying and anti-harassment initiatives. Fortunately, others are also beginning to address this issue and are seeking ways to address bullying and make schools safer.

One effort to combat bullying in our schools is the "be a STAR (Show Tolerance And Respect) program" being led by World Wrestling Entertainment, WWE, in collaboration with the Creative Coalition, the National Education Association's Health Information Network, NEA HIN, Stomp Out Bullying, the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, and the National School Climate Center amongst others. This program provides teachers across America with a comprehensive toolset to teach children an anti-bullying message. 'be a STAR' is providing an easily accessible teaching aid written by the NEA HIN and educator Dr. Fran Prolman that meets National Education Standards. This teaching aid is available at no cost to educators and is designed to promote positive and equitable social environments for students within and beyond the classroom setting. The alliance is also offering a "Start Your Own Be a STAR" Chapter toolkit encouraging students to spread the anti-bullying message in their schools and communities. The be a STAR Alliance has also been instrumental in encouraging students to seek out resources or proper intervention to help protect victims of bullying and other forms of intolerance through its 'be a STAR' pledge.

I had the opportunity to participate in anti-bullying events with WWE Superstars Rey Mysterio and Eve, Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, American Idol Winner Jordan Sparks, actor Tim Daly, Dancing with the Stars' Chelsie Hightower and many more. I joined them at the Algin Sutton Community Center to discuss with children the issue of bullying and to deliver a strong anti-bullying message of tolerance and respect. The reaction from the more than 500 children and families that participated was very positive. Through its participation and leadership in the alliance, WWE has demonstrated a real commitment to raise awareness about bullying, and is working in local communities around the country and overseas to combat bullying in our schools.

The anti-bullying movement has a new champion in the 'be a STAR' Alliance, co-

founded by WWE and The Creative Coalition and I want to commend them for the great work they are doing to promote equality for all people regardless of age, race, religion and sexual orientation.

**TWO MIGHTY OAK TREES:
SYMBOLS OF THIS GREAT STATE**

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2011

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, my grandfather, Theodore Otto Herman Hill, or "Thunderhead" as he was more appropriately known, was a hunter, a taxidermist and a Teddy Roosevelt conservationist. He was the frontiersman type. He could tell the type of tree by looking at the bark or observing the leaves. He predicted the weather by watching the actions of animals. He found and collected arrowheads on his land in central Texas. His love of nature was impressed on me as a child.

Being born near where Texas independence was declared, Washington-on-the-Brazos, he told me many stories of famous Texas trees. Two trees in particular stand out in my mind.

In Gonzales, Texas, stands the "Sam Houston Oak." This tree was made famous 175 years ago this month during the War for Texas Independence. Before towns were settled, unusual or gigantic trees were often used as landmarks for people to gather under to worship, to hear campaign speeches or to prepare for battle.

William Barrett Travis and 187 volunteers sacrificed their lives on the altar of freedom after 13 glorious days at the Alamo. Sam Houston and his boys regrouped with Seguin and his company of Tejanos at this mighty oak. This tree became a rendezvous place for the new Texas Volunteers to organize and to later fight dictator Santa Anna.

The "Sam Houston Oak" site is considered by most historians as the beginning of the "road to San Jacinto" taken by General Sam and his ragtag bunch of freedom fighters on April 21, 1836, in the final battle for independence along the marshy banks of the San Jacinto River. Today, a historical marker along St. Louis Street in Gonzales recognizes this historical tree.

Another tree my outdoorsman grandfather told me about was the "Treaty Oak." The Treaty Oak is an immortal symbol of Texas history that holds a special place in the hearts of all Texans. It is more than 500 years old. The Treaty Oak was a place of worship for the Comanches and Tonkawa Indians. The story goes that Stephen F. Austin signed the first boundary treaty with the Indians under the Treaty Oak, which is located in downtown Austin.

The Treaty Oak has endured multiple threats throughout its life. In 1920, the land that the Treaty Oak lives on was put up for sale, and the tree was almost cut down. There was a massive outcry to save the Treaty Oak. Texans felt a loyalty to this tree and so in 1947, the city of Austin purchased the land so that the Treaty Oak could remain untouched as a historic treasure for the state of Texas forever.

Back in 1989, a criminal by the name of Paul Cullen poisoned the great tree. In some

sinister deliberate effort to kill the great tree, Cullen poisoned it with enough pesticides to kill a hundred trees. And as most outlaws do, he bragged about his crime, resulting in his swift arrest and incarceration. He was charged with felony criminal mischief.

Of course, I promptly volunteered to try that case while I was still a judge in Houston. Although I didn't get to hear the case, a jury of 12 tree-loving Texans in Austin found him guilty and sentenced the culprit to nine years in prison for trying to kill the mighty oak. The nation was stunned that Texans would send a person to prison for so long for "just" trying to kill a tree. But this wasn't any old tree. This tree was a symbol of Texas.

Amazingly, the Treaty Oak survived the attack, and her survival has astonished cynics who predicted the tree would certainly die. While she may not stand as mighty as before, she continues now to be a new symbol of Texas perseverance, ruggedness and determination.

Two mighty oaks of Texas . . . symbols of no place but Texas.

And that's just the way it is.

**IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF
THE 2011 HISPANIC HERITAGE
MONTH**

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the 2011 Hispanic Heritage Month, as we celebrate the members of this community and their invaluable contributions to the Greater Cleveland Area and to our country.

In 1968, Hispanic Heritage Week began; the week was expanded to a month in 1988. Every year, Hispanic Heritage Month begins on September 15, a day that is celebrated in Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua as the anniversary of their independence. Mexico and Chile's independence days also fall within the month. This year's theme is "Many Backgrounds, Many Stories . . . One American Spirit."

Hispanic Heritage month celebrates and illuminates the significant contributions that Americans of Hispanic heritage have had on American culture. Hispanic Americans have contributed immeasurably toward efforts to elevate the human condition. Americans of Hispanic descent have served our country in numerous ways—as elected officials, teachers, musicians, physicians, veterans, community activists, and dedicated employees in virtually every sector of the economy. Their rich and diverse culture has touched the life of every American and has been an invaluable addition to Cleveland's diverse social fabric.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and celebration of Hispanic Heritage month of 2011, as we recognize the great contributions made by Hispanic Americans in my district and around the country.

**A TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF DR. C.J.
HUANG ON THE OCCASION OF
RECEIVING THE DEAN'S MEDAL
FROM THE STANFORD UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE**

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2011

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. C.J. Huang who was awarded the Dean's Medal on Saturday, September 10, 2011, by Dean Philip Pizzo of the Stanford University School of Medicine. Dr. Huang called the event the 'happiest day of his life' and he spoke eloquently about his philosophy and that of generations in his family of giving and the privilege of philanthropy. Dr. Huang was described in the event program as follows:

"Dr. Chang Jen Huang was born in 1916 in Liu Yang City, in Hunan Province, China. He received a Master's degree in engineering from University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, and is a special member of the Stanford Research Institute. Dr. Huang has established a number of graduate scholarship funds and fellowships at Stanford supporting surgical oncology, cardiovascular research, and the exchange of medical education and research between China and the United States.

Dr. Huang is a passionate supporter of Dr. Sam So, Lui Hac Minh Professor in the School of Medicine and Director of the Asian Liver Center at Stanford University. Dr. Huang is the honorary founder of the Asian Liver Center, established in 1996, to address the disproportionately high prevalence of Hepatitis B and liver cancer in the Asian and Pacific Islander populations) with the ultimate goal of eradicating Hepatitis B worldwide.

A dedicated philanthropist in many areas related to education and global health, Dr. Huang has most recently given a gift to establish the C.J. Huang Building at Stanford University. When constructed, this building will be the future home of the Asian Liver Center and other medical school programs."

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring a great philanthropist, one whose life's work has been to promote science and education. Dr. Huang's support of the Asian Liver Center will help eradicate this disease and his gifts to Stanford will ensure that future generations will enjoy a high quality of life because of his extraordinary vision and generosity.

**WE MUST CONTINUE TO STAND
WITH ISRAEL**

HON. JIM JORDAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2011

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, this past week-end's shocking attack on Israel's embassy in Cairo reminded us of the ongoing challenges faced by Israel as it continues to take risk after risk in the name of establishing lasting peace in the Middle East.

Thousands of rioters knocked down a recently installed protective barrier, ransacked the embassy, burned Israeli flags, and held six