

Parker, Mark Raynor and Russell Mills, for the success and growth these young men accomplished this season.

Additionally deserving credit is Principal Marilyn Foley, Athletic Director Rusty Lee, Nikki Kennedy (Trainer), and Jeremy Godwin (Statistician).

They may have waited 27 years, but winning with a perfect record was worth the wait. Again, on behalf of the Sixth District of North Carolina, we congratulate the Page High School football program, along with the faculty, staff, students and supportive community for their championship season.

#### RECOGNIZING THE ROTARY CLUB OF COLUMBUS

##### HON. STEVE STIVERS

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 1, 2012*

Mr. STIVERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Rotary Club of Columbus for its centennial year of providing exceptional, "Service Above Self," and for truly living up to its motto throughout these past 100 years.

The Rotary Club of Columbus was chartered on March 5, 1912, as the 38th club in Rotary International. Ever since that time, Columbus Rotary has contributed a great amount to the Columbus area. In 1919, the Rotary helped to organize the Ohio Society for Crippled Children, now known as Easter Seals. The Rotary established Camp Enterprise in 1967 to teach the Free Enterprise system to teenagers, and the program went on to become a model for Clubs across the country. In 2003, the Rotary was especially instrumental in establishing the Rafiki Orphanage in Nairobi, Kenya. Columbus Rotary projects continue today and include important programs and initiatives like Adopt-A-School, Homeless Family Foundation, and annual scholarships to local students.

Without the hard work and selfless contributions of Columbus Rotary and its members our great city would not have the vibrancy and sense of community that it does today. I offer my congratulations to Columbus Rotary on its 100 years, and I look forward to many more years to come.

#### RECOGNIZING THE 100 YEAR ANNI- VERSARY OF THE GIRL SCOUTS OF AMERICA

##### HON. KATHLEEN C. HOCHUL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 1, 2012*

Ms. HOCHUL. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the one hundred year anniversary of the Girl Scouts of America. Founded in 1912 by Juliette Gordon Low, this organization has cultivated courage, confidence, and character in young women and girls across the Nation. It is the largest organization for girls in the world and includes 3.2 million scouts today. Through volunteering, community service, adventures, and, of course, cookie sales, these young women have become the emerging leaders of our world today.

Girl Scouts participate in a wide variety of services and projects, from science and tech-

nology based activities to programs focused on financial literacy and understanding. Campaigns launched by the Girl Scouts in the past have included action against bullying and awareness of eating disorders. The highest achieving scouts even get the opportunity to apply for a Capitol Hill internship.

The organization is undeniably an American institution committed to developing women leaders, and thus the hundred year mark comes with much celebration. In honor of this century of service, 2012 has been designated "The Year of the Girl," and the projects we will see are ambitious, eclectic, and simply inspiring. As a Nation, let us recognize the astounding efforts of the organization and continue to support the Girl Scouts of America.

#### IN MEMORY OF ALEX BLEVINS

##### HON. GEOFF DAVIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 1, 2012*

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and memory of Alex Blevins, a devoted father and husband, and the Executive Director of the Kentucky Court Appointed Special Advocate or CASA organization.

Alex leaves behind his wife Alice and their two beautiful children, Harper and Charlie. Their father was a man who spent years working as a determined advocate for children in need, particularly those who were abused and neglected. On behalf of my wife Pat and myself, I want to extend our deepest sympathies to the Blevins family.

Alex dedicated much of his professional career to Kentucky CASA's mission of providing leadership and support for local CASA organizations that recruit and train volunteers to serve abused and neglected children as court appointed special advocates. Through statewide advocacy of the CASA mission and the provision of training, support and resources, Kentucky CASA partners with National CASA, local programs and others to serve as a powerful voice in a child's life.

Alex had an unbridled compassion for abused and neglected children. He worked diligently on their behalf as part of Kentucky CASA for nearly eight years. He assisted local chapters and worked to increase the number of counties in the Commonwealth with CASA volunteers to ensure more children benefit from this important service.

Alex graduated from Centre College in 2003. He served on the Kentucky Court of Justice's Improvement Project Advisory Board and National CASA's Inclusion and Diversity Committee, as well as Public Policy Co-Chairman for Kentucky's Blue Ribbon Panel on Adoption and Safety.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring and remembering my friend, Alex Blevins. Kentucky is a better place because of Alex and his outstanding contributions to the Commonwealth. His leadership and compassionate advocacy on behalf of children will be sorely missed.

#### HONORING MR. OFIELD DUKES

##### HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 1, 2012*

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with Chairman EMANUEL CLEAVER II and my colleagues in the Congressional Black Caucus, CBC, to honor the extraordinary life of Mr. Ofield Dukes. A trailblazing public relations titan known far beyond the communications world, Ofield Dukes will be remembered as a civil rights champion, an inspiring educator, a skilled mentor, and a trusted advisor to the world's most prominent leaders. With his passing on December 7, 2011, we look to Mr. Ofield Dukes' political legacy and the outstanding quality of his life's work.

Born in Rutledge, Alabama, Mr. Dukes graduated with a degree in journalism from Wayne State University after having been a journalist while serving in the United States Army during the Korean War. He soon made a name for himself as an award-winning writer for the Michigan Chronicle and, in 1964, Mr. Dukes was hired as Deputy Director of Information for President Lyndon Johnson's Committee on Equal Employment Opportunity. Within two years, he had become communications adviser to Vice President Hubert Humphrey. In 1969, Dukes founded Ofield Dukes and Associates (ODA), one of the most enduring and successful public relations firms in the country, specializing in minority, African-American, African, and political affairs. ODA elevated the profiles of artists, business people, students, Civil Rights heroes, Members of Congress and Presidents, alike.

During an era still marred by the scourge of racism and segregation, Mr. Dukes utilized brilliant public relations strategies to galvanize support for the Civil Rights movement and to get out the vote in the African-American community after the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Moreover, without his tireless work, the CBC would not be "the conscience of the Congress" it is today. He was the organizer of the first CBC dinner, and a CBC Foundation Board member for 14 years. His vast political experience and guidance helped expand the CBC from its original 13 Members of Congress in 1971 to 43 Members today.

Mr. Dukes also orchestrated the 1981 national march on Washington, D.C. to make the birth date of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. a national holiday.

Furthermore, Mr. Dukes brought the wealth of his experience to the classroom, spending over twenty years as a professor at Howard University and nearly a decade at American University. It was there that he instilled young minds with the powerful public relations tools necessary to create new generations of social justice. Renowned for his professionalism, teaching prowess and strong sense of loyalty, Ofield Dukes encouraged hundreds of African-American students to enter the field of public relations. He was a gatekeeper for African-American reporters needing access to the White House for every Democratic administration since the 1960s, a founding member of the Black Public Relations Society of Washington, D.C., and the first African American to receive the Public Relations Society of America's Gold Anvil, the industry's highest honor.

For over four decades, Ofield Dukes' career and influence spanned CBC milestones ranging from their boycott of President Nixon's State of the Union address to demand White House recognition in 1971 to his articles celebrating the CBC's 40th anniversary in 2011, under the historic leadership of President Barack Obama. He was a friend to the CBC every step of the way, and the Congressional Black Caucus could not have asked for better guidance and company.

Therefore, the Congressional Black Caucus salutes and honors the life of this outstanding man, while mourning the loss of an incredible partner in the pursuit of justice and equality. The great Ofield Dukes and his masterful contributions to the success of progressive and talented leaders throughout the world have helped to change the course of history. His legacy and light will forever live on, and he will be deeply missed.

THE 37TH ANNUAL COMMUNITY  
LABOR AWARDS RECEPTION

**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 1, 2012*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to congratulate some of the most devoted and proficient workers in Northwest Indiana. The Northwest Indiana Federation of Labor, American Federation of Labor—Congress of Industrial Organizations, recognized several individuals for their dedication during the 37th Annual Community Labor Awards Reception, which was held at Wicker Memorial Park in Highland, Indiana, on January 31, 2012. These individuals, in addition to the other Northwest Indiana Federation of Labor members who have served Northwest Indiana so diligently for such a long period of time, are the epitome of the ideal American worker: loyal, dedicated, and hardworking.

At this year's event, several individuals and organizations received special recognition. Ray Kasmak, Business Manager, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 697, was this year's recipient of the President's Award. Mr. Kasmak was honored for his many years of service and his exceptional contributions to the well-being of workers throughout Northwest Indiana.

The Democratic Members of the Indiana House and Senate received the Service to Labor Award for their tireless efforts to assist organized labor with improving the quality of life for workers in Northwest Indiana.

Randy Palmateer, Business Manager, Northwestern Indiana Building and Construction Trades Council, was presented with this year's Union Label Award for his unselfish devotion to the Labor Movement through social, civic, educational, and political endeavors.

United Steelworkers Local 6787 accepted the Community Services Award for its members' exemplary service to the community and the enhancement of the quality of life for people in Northwest Indiana, as demonstrated by their countless hours of volunteerism and charity work.

For his outstanding leadership skills and dedication to assist working Americans through trying times, Rich Trumka, President, American Federation of Labor—Congress of

Industrial Organizations, received the Leadership Award.

Roger Jachna, Jr., of International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 697, and William Beck, of Pipefitters Local 597, received the George Meany Award, an honor bestowed upon them by the Boy Scouts of America.

Mike Summers, former Business Manager of Ironworkers Local 395 and former President of the Northwestern Indiana Building and Construction Trades Council, was honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award. The exceptional service he has so generously provided to the community deserves our admiration and respect. His dedication and commitment are representative of the values we cherish in Northwest Indiana.

Northwest Indiana has a rich history of excellence in its craftsmanship and loyalty by its tradesmen. These individuals are all outstanding examples of these qualities. They have demonstrated their loyalty to both the union and the community through their hard work and self-sacrifice.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating these dedicated, honorable, and exemplary citizens, as well as all of the hardworking union men and women in America. They have shown commitment and courage toward their pursuits, and I am proud to represent them in Washington, DC.

RECOGNIZING CECIL NOBLES

**HON. JACK KINGSTON**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 1, 2012*

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and accomplishments of Cecil Nobles, the much celebrated Sheriff of Long County, GA, and a pillar of his community.

Cecil Nobles was born on February 21, 1935 in Long County, GA, to Raymond Elliott and Minnie Baxter Nobles. Raised in Long County, he was educated in Long County schools and graduated from Ludowici High School in 1953. After high school, Mr. Nobles earned a Bachelor's degree in Business and a Master's degree in Education from Georgia Southern University.

Soon after graduation, Cecil Nobles began teaching in the Long County school system from 1959 until 1969. During that time, he also served as an Assistant Principal and as the elected Coroner of Long County from 1962 through 1968. Mr. Nobles made a remarkable impact within the realm of education when he taught one of the first integrated classes in Southeastern Georgia.

Forever dedicated to Long County and public service, Cecil Nobles rose to become the longest serving Sheriff in the State of Georgia and the second longest serving Sheriff in the United States. During his eleven terms as Sheriff and two terms as Coroner, Mr. Nobles was always known for his tireless dedication to public service, his commitment to law enforcement, and his love of his family and friends throughout Long County and beyond.

Sheriff Nobles was part of a vanishing tradition in Georgia of long serving, old school sheriffs. In many ways he ran Long County. If you wanted something done with one phone

call, you dialed his number and his influence did not end at the county line. Using his extensive Rolodex, which may have not been a rolodex, but it certainly was not an email list, of elected officials, and agency heads, he always knew just who to call. He fought for everything as if it was the last chance between Long County's survival and its bankruptcy. He secured funding for countless projects and his legacy in South Georgia will be long lasting. Most importantly he never forgot a friend and frequently used two words that have become rare in politics: 'thank you.' In turn today we thank him for his service. I was proud to call him a friend.

WAR MEMORIAL PROTECTION ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. DARRELL E. ISSA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 24, 2012*

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of H.R. 290, the "War Memorial Protection Act," of which I am a proud cosponsor.

H.R. 290 will allow religious symbols to be included as part of a military memorial established or acquired by the U.S. government. This follows past legislation which led to the federal government's acquisition of Mount Soledad Veterans Memorial from the city of San Diego in 2006.

First erected in 1913, the cross on top of Mount Soledad has been a fixture of San Diego for nearly a century. In 1954 the Mount Soledad Veterans Memorial was rebuilt and dedicated as a lasting memorial to the dead of the two world wars and the Korean conflict. It is a symbol of the community's respect and honor for those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of their nation and liberty.

I am a proud defender of the Mount Soledad Veterans Memorial. Our Founding Fathers made sure the government did not impose one religion on all people. They also believed religion plays an important role in public life and individuals should be able to freely practice what they believe.

That is why it is so important to pass the War Memorial Protection Act. This bill does not favor one religion over another and it does not make any exclusions. This bill seeks to ensure that religious symbols can also be part of war memorials honoring our fallen heroes.

Mr. Speaker, again I urge passage of H.R. 290.

RECOGNIZING THE FOURTH GRADE  
CLASS AT WHITE OAKS ELEMENTARY  
SCHOOL IN BURKE, VIRGINIA

**HON. ERIC CANTOR**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 1, 2012*

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the fourth grade class at White Oaks Elementary School in Burke, Virginia for their foresight, charity, and patriotism. Recently, these students collected seventy-six dollars and donated it to the United States Treasury to go towards paying down our nation's skyrocketing debt.