

Lemuel's passion for achieving his goals and helping others.

Mr. Speaker, I ask our colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Lemuel McWilliams as the 2012 Valedictorian at Ruleville Central High School Class.

IN RECOGNITION OF CLEVELAND
PRIDE FESTIVAL

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Cleveland Pride Festival, just one of countless celebrations taking place throughout the country during LGBT Pride Month. June marks the 43rd anniversary of the Stonewall Riots, an event which is largely regarded as the catalyst for the modern day LGBT movement for equality.

There is a long history of systematic discrimination against the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered and questioning community in every state in the union. Discrimination against someone based on any part of their identity means that anyone who is expressing themselves can be discriminated against. It means we are creating a system in which everyone has to be the same, and everyone has to express themselves the same way. Boring and wrong!

Fortunately, over the last several years, we are beginning to see responses to the growing demand for protection against discrimination in all forms, including workplace protections to prevent discrimination based on actual or perceived gender identity and sexual orientation.

As a strong proponent of LGBT rights, I have supported legislative initiatives that work toward codifying equality for members of the LGBT community. I strongly support legislation such as the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA), the Student Non-Discrimination Act, the Respect for Marriage Act and the Social Security Equality Act, initiatives that simply provide members of the LGBT community with the same privileges, protections and benefits as everyone else. As one of over 100 members to sign onto an amicus brief challenging the constitutionality of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) in court, I applaud the recent decision by a federal appeals court to rule DOMA unconstitutional.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me as people throughout the City of Cleveland and the country celebrate LGBT Pride Month. Let us work to ensure that all people are treated equally regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION
SAFETY AND INNOVATION ACT

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2012

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in support of H.R. 5651, the Food and Drug Administration Safety and Innovation Act, to reauthorize the Prescription Drug User Fee Act and the Medical Device User Fee Act.

These critically important laws have improved patient access to important therapies and expedited the FDA's approval times while upholding the most rigorous standards for patient safety.

The Prescription Drug User Fee Act, PDUFA, was enacted in 1992 when drug review times were lagging and FDA simply couldn't keep up with the flood of new drug applications. Through user fees paid by applicants, the FDA gained resources it needed to hire and support more staff. The program has been successful at reducing review-time backlogs, and expediting safe and effective therapies to patients.

Along with faster drug approvals, Congress also recognized the need to study drugs in children. As the original author of the Best Pharmaceuticals for Children Act, BPCA, and the Pediatric Research Equity Act, PREA, I'm proud of how successful these programs have been in treating children, resulting in new dosing information, new indications of use, new safety information, and new data on effectiveness. Before BPCA and PREA, the vast majority of drugs, more than 80 percent, used in children were used off-label, without data for their safety and efficacy. Today, that number has been reduced to 50 percent.

We know that children are not just small adults. They have unique medical needs and drugs react differently in their bodies. That's why in this year's reauthorization, it was important for us to look at areas in need of improvement. The bipartisan legislation gives FDA the tools it needs to ensure companies are thinking about pediatric populations as early as possible in the drug development process, and that they're able to enforce timelines that are routinely missed. The language encourages further study into untested age groups, like neonates, and clarifies any confusion over what some see as "loopholes" to allow companies to access the market exclusivity incentive without completing additional studies.

The legislation also ensures that companies routinely submit their pediatric plans earlier in the process by establishing a clear timeline and expectations.

I thank my House colleagues, Representatives MIKE ROGERS and EDWARD MARKEY who have worked very hard with me to improve these programs. I applaud the bipartisan and bicameral efforts of the House and Senate staffers who were able to combine the bills from both chambers to produce strong consensus language that has broad support from Members and stakeholders.

I have confidence that the bill we vote on today will improve BPCA and PREA to benefit children for generations to come, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

IN HONOR OF GREATER
CLEVELAND COMMUNITY SHARES

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the members of the Greater Cleveland Community Shares for their years of service and dedication to social justice.

Community Shares of Cleveland is a workplace giving federation with a focus on social

justice. It generates the operating funds for nonprofit organizations that work for positive community change such as providing education, promoting health care, and protecting women and children.

Founded in 1984, Community Shares is Cleveland's only such fund, and is the second largest in the country. Its philosophy is based on the power of participation and the individual's ability to shape change. Community Shares keeps its administrative costs low so that each contribution is responsive directly to the community's needs. It is governed by a Board of Directors which consists of representatives from member organizations and Community Directors. Greater Cleveland Community Shares is a member of Community Shares USA.

Greater Cleveland Community Shares has 41 area member organizations and more than 160 area employers include Community Shares in their annual workplace charitable campaigns.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Greater Cleveland Community Shares.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF
JUDGE PAUL A. RASMUSSEN

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2012

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the dedicated public service and esteemed legal career of Judge Paul A. Rasmussen upon his retirement from Florida's First Judicial Circuit Court in Escambia County. Judge Rasmussen spent his career serving the people of Northwest Florida, and I am proud to recognize his dedication and service.

Judge Rasmussen first came to Florida in 1968 with the United States Navy to attend Aviation Officer Candidate School at Naval Air Station Pensacola. After graduating and completing his training at Naval Air Station Glynnco, in Georgia, he went on to serve four years on active duty with the Navy, completing successful tours of duty in Guam and Vietnam. After Judge Rasmussen was honorably discharged from the Navy, he returned to Florida where he attended the University of Florida College of Law.

Following his graduation from law school, Judge Rasmussen began his public service as a State's Attorney in Pensacola. He later entered private practice with then future Judge John T. Parnham, now retired from the bench in the First Judicial Circuit. Judge Rasmussen also served as legal counsel to the city of Gulf Breeze and the Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services. In 1990, Judge Rasmussen was elected to Florida's First Judicial Circuit Court where he has served the people of Northwest Florida for the past 22 years. In 1998, he was recognized by the Children's Home Society of Florida as Child Advocate of the Year.

Judge Rasmussen's service to Northwest Florida does not stop at the bench. He is also actively involved throughout the community, most notably as a Sunday School Teacher at First Baptist Church of Pensacola and as a committeeman for Boy Scout Troop 10 in Pensacola.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am honored to recognize Judge Paul A. Rasmussen for his many years of service to the people of Northwest Florida and his dedication to his family and community. Throughout his career, Judge Rasmussen has served with honor and distinction, and his unwavering commitment to the fair administration of the law and to public service is a shining example of our legal system working at its finest. My wife Vicki and I wish him, his wife, Jean, their children and grandchildren all the best.

IN HONOR JOANNA TRZECIAK

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Joanna Trzeciak of Cleveland, Ohio, who placed among the final four contestants in the International category of Canada's Annual Griffin Poetry Prize Contest.

The Griffin Poetry Prize Contest accepts poetry that is either written or translated from other languages. The contestants are in either the Canadian or International category of the competition. Ms. Trzeciak competed with her translation of a book of poems by the Polish poet Tadeusz Rozewicz. Rozewicz was born in Ramonsko, Poland in 1921 and published his first collection of poems when he was 26. Rozewicz was Trzeciak's father's favorite poet.

Ms. Trzeciak is a native of Poland and currently lives in Cleveland Heights. She is a professor in the Implied Linguistics, Institute for Department of Modern and Classical Language Studies at Kent State University.

Trzeciak's scholarly research has been awarded Fulbright and Woodrow Wilson Fellowships. Her translations have appeared in The New Yorker, The Times Literary Supplement, Harper's Magazine, and The Atlantic Monthly, among others. Placing among the top four final contestants, Ms. Trzeciak won \$10,000 and gained exposure for Rozewicz.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Joanna Trzeciak and congratulating her on her accomplishments in the field of poetry and in Canada's Annual Griffin Poetry Prize Contest.

AZERBAIJAN

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2012

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to draw my colleagues' attention to the tiny nation of Azerbaijan, which is a giant in world affairs.

Situated between Iran and Russia, Azerbaijan stands as a friend of the United States and that friendship frequently concerns nearby nations.

Part of what makes Azerbaijan a remarkable ally for the United States is that some 20 million Iranians are of Azeri descent, a large part of northern Iran is frequently referred to as "southern Azerbaijan" as a reminder that the territory was—for centuries—part of Azerbaijan.

The development of Azeri oil and gas in the Caspian Sea, along with the major Azeri export pipelines that pump energy to Western markets, makes the region all the more strategic as a U.S. ally.

But it is their geographical location to Afghanistan that makes them absolutely an essential ally for the U.S. Azerbaijan provides a crucial transit route to supply our troops in Afghanistan. With the expected closing of Manas air base in 2014, this route will be even more essential to our troops. They are a Muslim nation that is our friend, and our ally in the world.

This Muslim nation is the example for a secular society of religious diversity. A majority Muslim nation with a significant population of Jews, Azerbaijan is an ally of Israel. Just this month, on the anniversary of Pope John Paul II's visit to Azerbaijan, the Vatican's Cardinal Fernando Filoni spoke at the Catholic Church of Baku, reminding us that "An atmosphere of exemplary tolerance exists in Azerbaijan."

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the importance of Azerbaijan—both to the United States and to the world.

IN HONOR OF THE 21ST ANNIVERSARY OF SLOVENIAN STATEHOOD

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of the 21st anniversary of Slovenian Statehood. I am also pleased to be joined by the Consul General of the Republic of Slovenia, Mr. Jure Zmauc and his wife, Mrs. Janja Zmauc, to celebrate Slovenian Statehood Day.

The twenty-fifth of June is Slovenian Statehood Day, an annual celebration of Slovenia's independence and the sovereignty it gained in 1991. It is a commemoration of the struggles and triumphs of the people of Slovenia. It also serves as an opportunity for residents of Northeast Ohio to celebrate the customs, traditions and contributions of Slovenian Americans to our community.

This year's celebration of Slovenian Statehood Day will be held at the Rotunda at Cleveland City hall and is sponsored by the City of Cleveland Mayor Frank Jackson and Councilmen Michael Polensek and Joe Cimperman. This year's celebration will feature a musical performance by composer and saxophonist, Professor Oto Vrhovnik.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of the 21st anniversary of Slovenian Statehood. Slovenia has grown in many facets over the years and should be recognized for its prosperity.

HONORING LEMUEL MCWILLIAMS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor, Lemuel McWilliams. Mr. McWilliams is the third of five children

born to Mrs. Eva McWilliams and the late Mr. Milton McWilliams of Ruleville, Mississippi. He was born in Clarksdale, Mississippi. Mr. McWilliams is a member of Merry Grove Missionary Baptist Church where he is a Sunday School Teacher, usher, and he is also active in other church auxiliaries.

From the time Lemuel entered school he always worked to excel. While at Ruleville Middle School he received numerous academic awards and graduated Salutatorian of his class. When Lemuel entered high school he continued to make education his priority, and has received numerous awards. He received the highest average in English III, Algebra II, Advance Placement History, and Creative Writing; and Lemuel was also awarded the Sunflower County Chamber of Commerce scholarship, and both the Principal's and the Superintendent's Scholar Awards.

As a member of the Leaders Envisioning a Future, he has also been involved in community service projects. Mr. McWilliams has been a mentor to fellow classmates by encouraging and helping them reach their educational goals. He wants to encourage younger students that they can accomplish any of their goals as long as they are committed to working hard to achieve it.

Mr. Williams received full scholarships to Jackson State University and Alcorn State University. In the fall he plans to attend Jackson State University where he will major in PreMed and Biology. After obtaining his degree, Lemuel wants to become a Pediatrician.

Mr. Lemuel McWilliams credits his parents for encouraging and supporting him to pursue his dreams of becoming a physician. His siblings Toni, Rahman, Ivan, and Ezra also encourage him to achieve his educational and career dreams, because they understand Lemuel's passion for achieving his goals and helping others.

Mr. Speaker, I ask our colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Lemuel McWilliams as the 2012 Valedictorian at Ruleville Central High School Class.

IN HONOR OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GUST GALLUCCI COMPANY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the 100th anniversary of the Gust Gallucci Company and its strong commitment to the Cleveland community.

The Gust Gallucci Company opened in 1912 when Gust Gallucci emigrated to Cleveland from Faeto, Italy. Mr. Gallucci longed for the authentic Italian food that he had been raised on and soon discovered that he was not the only one. Mr. Gallucci began selling his products from a large wooden cart which became so popular that he moved into his first store on the west side of Cleveland.

While the location of the store changed four times, Mr. Gallucci's friendly personality and great food kept Clevelanders coming back for more. The business has remained in the family, passed down from Mr. Gallucci to sons Frank and Ray after he passed away in 1952. Now the fourth generation has become involved and has worked to move the store into the 21st century.