

HONORING ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS PARISH SCHOOL FOR BEING NAMED A BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL

**HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 13, 2012*

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate St. John of the Cross Parish School, an exemplary Catholic school in Western Springs, Illinois, for receiving the prestigious 2012 U.S. Department of Education National Blue Ribbon School Award. As a member of this parish, I am especially happy to see the hard work of the students, teachers, administrators, and parents recognized, and I want to congratulate Principal Kathleen Gorman, as well as our pastor, Rev. David P. Dowdle.

In 1982, the Department of Education established the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program to recognize public and private schools boasting high or significantly improved achievement. The program's goal is to identify attributes of thriving American schools in order to replicate their success in other schools. St. John of the Cross is one of only 50 private schools across the Nation to be named as a National Blue Ribbon School this year. This is a great achievement for everyone at the school and all members of the parish.

The mission of St. John of the Cross Parish School is to provide a safe and dynamic Catholic environment where faith is nourished and knowledge grows. The school offers challenging educational experiences that foster success, promote unity, and respect the individuality of each student. Since 1961, the school has prided itself on multi-generational Catholic traditions and achievement. St. John of the Cross has maintained a strong Catholic identity and strong academic standards throughout its history. In 2011, the school proudly celebrated its 50th anniversary.

St. John of the Cross Parish School offers programs from preschool through eighth grade and attracts students from Western Springs and surrounding communities, currently enrolling 630 students. Since its founding, the school has been supported by the St. John of the Cross Parish and has grown to become one of the largest Catholic schools in Chicago's Archdiocese. St. John of the Cross Parish School offers impressive science, technology, and art facilities as well as a wide range of student activities. All students are involved in the religious activities of the parish and participate in a variety of service projects. Today, the school benefits from the hard work and dedication of its principal, Kathleen Gorman, as well as its assistant principals, Zita Wheeling and Tom Clausing. This award recognizes the time and hard work of the teachers and students, as well as the critical support and involvement of the students' parents and the entire parish community. I am delighted that the excellent work and success of St. John of the Cross Parish School has been acknowledged on a national stage.

Please join me in celebrating the accomplishments of St. John of the Cross Parish School and all the National Blue Ribbon award winners. Their pursuit of academic excellence is inspiring, and I hope that their success can

serve as a model for schools across the Nation.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 225TH BIRTHDAY OF ROBESON COUNTY, NC

**HON. LARRY KISSELL**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 13, 2012*

Mr. KISSELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Robeson County, NC, and the celebration of its 225th Birthday. Incorporated in 1787 from Bladen County, Robeson, North Carolina's largest county, is home to roughly 134,000 residents. Named after Colonel Thomas Robeson of the Revolutionary War, it boasts a rich American history. Col. Robeson served as one of the leaders at the Battle of Elizabethtown, an important battle won by the American patriots.

Robeson County is also home to the Lumbee American Indian tribe, and according to the U.S. Census, has the ninth largest population of American Indians in the United States, making up 38% of the population. Robeson County is truly a diverse county. Robeson is also home to the University of North Carolina at Pembroke, a historically Native American college.

Today, I ask all Members of Congress to join me in honoring Robeson County and its citizens, as irreplaceable assets to North Carolina, the state which I am proud to represent.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CLEVELAND MUNICIPAL COURT

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 13, 2012*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Cleveland Municipal Court which is celebrating its 100th anniversary this Saturday evening, September 15, 2012, with a Centennial Gala.

The Cleveland Municipal Court was established by an act of the Ohio General Assembly in 1911. The Court, originally located on the northwest corner of Public Square, opened its doors at 9:30 a.m. on January 2, 1912. Court was gavelled to order that morning by Chief Bailiff Charles Selzer following opening remarks by Cleveland Municipal Court Chief Justice William H. McGannon and Judges David B. Cull and George P. Baer. The other judges on the original municipal court bench were William B. Beebe, Samuel E. Kramer, Manuel V. Levine, and Fielder Sanders. Peter J. Henry was the original Clerk of the Court who served in that position for 35 years.

The Cleveland Municipal Court is the second oldest municipal court in the nation. Unlike the Justices of the Peace it replaced, the judges were required to be legally trained and were elected by the people rather than appointed by politicians. Also groundbreaking for its time, the Cleveland Municipal Court paid its

judges and staff salaries which did not depend on the fines they levied on those they found guilty.

Today, the Cleveland Municipal Court is located in the Justice Center Complex in Downtown Cleveland and consists of 13 elected judges and 14 magistrates, along with bailiffs and other administrative and support staff. The court handles misdemeanor crimes, including traffic, domestic, nuisance and other offenses, as well as civil cases if the total damages are \$15,000 or less. Its housing court has jurisdiction over criminal cases involving violations of Cleveland's housing, building, fire, zoning, health, waste collection, sidewalk, agriculture and air pollution codes. The housing court also hears civil cases involving landlord/tenant disputes.

Prominent judges who have served on the Cleveland Municipal Court include the late Carl B. Stokes who drew national attention as the first African-American mayor of one of the ten biggest cities in the United States. Our late colleague Stephanie Tubbs Jones also served as a Cleveland Municipal Court judge prior to her election as Cuyahoga County Prosecutor and later as a Member of the U.S. House of Representatives. I am proud to have served as Clerk of Court from 1975 to 1977.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognizing the important work that the Cleveland Municipal Court does. The Cleveland Municipal Court is one of the great institutions of our democratic system in bringing impartial justice to the people of Cleveland for the last 100 years and well into the future.

RECOGNIZING THE HEROIC ACTS OF TRANSPORTATION SECURITY OFFICERS JODY WELLMAN, JAMES BOSTWICK, AND CHRISTOPHER HASTINGS

**HON. ADAM SMITH**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 13, 2012*

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the heroic acts of bravery undertaken by Jody Wellman, James Bostwick, and Christopher Hastings of Washington State, who saved the lives of two individuals.

On the morning of Saturday, August 11, 2012, Transportation Security Officers (TSOs) Jody Wellman, James Bostwick, and Christopher Hastings intervened at a time of crisis to save the lives of a man and a woman who suffered a car accident on Interstate-5 in Washington State.

After colliding with a concrete utility box and sign post in the median of the interstate, a vehicle caught fire with a 21-year-old soldier from Joint Base Lewis-McChord and a 29-year-old female passenger inside. These courageous TSOs pulled off the interstate to assist the two passengers out of the vehicle, which burst into flames shortly thereafter. There is no doubt that these two lives were saved because of the heroic efforts of these three brave officers.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Jody Wellman, James Bostwick, and Christopher Hastings, who exemplify the spirit of service and commitment to one's community.

HONORING ROBERT FRANK  
OHRENSCHALL

**HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 13, 2012*

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with both pride and sadness to honor my friend Robert Frank Ohrenschall, a Marin County businessman, entrepreneur, philanthropist, and community leader who passed away on August 28, 2012 in San Rafael, CA. Bob was known for his intelligence, wit, and compassionate heart combined with warmth that enabled him to connect with people.

Born on June 9, 1926, Bob grew up in Baltimore, Maryland, graduating from Boys' Latin School in 1944. After receiving a B.A. in American History from Yale University, he first moved to New York City to work for an ad agency, and then served as a U.S. Navy lieutenant during the Korean War. After his military service, Bob came to San Francisco, where he worked for an ad agency and met his future wife, Susan Page. He and Sue were married in 1955 and settled in Greenbrae to raise their four children. In 1960, Bob and his partner Huntley Soyster founded Soyster & Ohrenschall, a San Francisco-based design company which became the leading firm in the field.

After the company was acquired in the mid-1980s, Bob was able to devote more time to other interests. Travelling, reading, and family time were among his favorite pastimes. He and Sue visited close to 50 countries and enjoyed visiting their children and grandchildren on the West Coast and in Spain.

Bob's philanthropy demonstrated his commitment to a broad range of local, national, and international causes, from education to the environment to medical needs in developing countries. He devoted his talent, energy, and personal resources to numerous organizations, including the Eisenhower Institute, San Francisco State University College of Business, Romberg Tiburon Center for Environmental Studies, Tiburon-Belvedere Rotary Club, WiRED International and International Diplomacy Council. He also supported the Hoover Institution at Stanford University, Boys' Latin School and College of Marin.

From successful business executive to devoted family man, dedicated naval officer to compassionate philanthropist, Bob was a very gifted and caring individual who touched many lives. He connected with people across the political spectrum, referring to himself as my "embedded republican friend."

In addition to his wife, Bob is survived by his four children, Mark, Ross, Page, and Sally, and their families.

Mr. Speaker, Robert Frank Ohrenschall leaves a legacy that will inspire generations to come. I ask you to join me in honoring his life.

IN HONOR OF OHIO STATE REPRESENTATIVE NICHOLAS J. CELEBREZZE

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 13, 2012*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of State Representative Nicholas J. Celebrezze of Ohio's 15th House District.

Representative Celebrezze graduated from the University of Akron in Ohio with a bachelor's degree with Honors from the Bliss Institute of American Politics. He later received his Juris Doctorate from the Cleveland Marshall College of Law. In 2004, he was admitted to practice law in Ohio. He currently owns and operates a local, family-owned law firm.

Before being elected to the Ohio General Assembly, Representative Celebrezze was a Parma City Councilman for six years, chairing the Planning Committee which created a regional approach that led to \$3.7 million of improvements towards solving the City's long history of standing sewer problems. While on the Parma City Council, his background as a former Cuyahoga County Adult Probation Officer and Assistant County Prosecutor motivated him to advocate for a strong sense of community safety and to become involved in a successful campaign to build two new local fire stations.

Now as a member of the Ohio House of Representatives, Representative Celebrezze sits on the Local Government and Transportation, Public Safety, and Homeland Security Committees. In addition to his legislative duties, Representative Celebrezze is also active in the community participating in Parma Jaycees, the Parma and Ohio Bar Associations, the North East Ohio City Council Association, the Justinian Forum, is the elected Chairman of the Partisan Ohio Sports Club, and was named the official color commentator for the local PACTV televised high school soccer games in 2011.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring the achievements of State Representative Nicholas J. Celebrezze.

**HONORING TOM LABONGE**

**HON. JANICE HAHN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 13, 2012*

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Los Angeles City Councilman Tom LaBonge, a distinguished public servant, who is receiving the 2012 Jack Webb Award for his commitment and support for the men and women of the Los Angeles Police Department. Tom's parents gave him a deep love for the City of Angels. His civic spirit was inspired as a teenager when he served on Mayor Tom Bradley's Youth Council. In 1976, upon earning his undergraduate degree from California State University Los Angeles, he joined the staff of Councilwoman Peggy Stevenson, 13th District, and later he moved to work for John Ferraro, Council President.

Over the course of 15 years as an aide to John Ferraro, Tom learned the value of public service. In spite of the demands of working for

the Council President, Tom still found time to coach LAPD's football team, the Centurions.

Later, as chief of field operations for Mayor Riordan, Tom oversaw a staff of deputies assigned to neighborhoods throughout every region of the 465-square-mile city and acted as the Mayor's special representative at community events.

In 2011, Tom won a special election to represent the people of the 4th City Council District. As his tenure in the Council winds down, Tom remains busy promoting the city he loves and working diligently to make Los Angeles a better place to live, work, and play.

Whether tackling issues that impact his constituents or coaching cops on the gridiron, Tom's life has been devoted to service and as such, he has earned this award. It is truly a privilege to be his friend.

**RECOGNIZING THE WORK OF  
REVEREND RALPH CARNEY**

**HON. ADAM SMITH**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 13, 2012*

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and work of Reverend Ralph Carney. Since 1999, Father Ralph Carney has served as the Catholic Chaplain at Madigan Medical Center in Washington State, conducting mass and ministering to both patients and staff. His passing is a great loss to the community at Joint Base Lewis-McChord.

Rev. Carney was born in 1923. During World War II, he was a sailor along the South American coast and during his career, would serve in the Navy, Air Force, and Army.

Following World War II, Father Carney became ordained as a Catholic priest. Rev. Carney went on to serve as a chaplain for the Air Force and Army. In 1964, Rev. Carney went to Vietnam to work with combat soldiers. Upon his retirement from the Army, he began working at Western State Hospital and after he was a priest at St. John Bosco Catholic Church in Lakewood, WA.

Rev. Carney began working at Madigan Army Medical Center in 1999 and continued his work there until his passing on August 26, 2012 at age 89. He was deeply passionate about serving those who serve our country. Never being one to slow down, Rev. Carney continued his work up until his last days.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I celebrate the life of Father Carney. His service to our country and the men and women who serve to defend it will not be forgotten.

**IN HONOR OF OHIO STATE  
REPRESENTATIVE MIKE FOLEY**

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 13, 2012*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor State Representative Mike Foley of Ohio's 14th House District.

Representative Foley was appointed to represent the 14th District in May of 2006 and won the formal election in November of that same year; he has now been serving for four terms.