

regardless of their financial well-being. It offers a six month in-house rehab program, a three-quarter house program and a work release program for its patients. At any given time, the Ed Keating Center is home to about 150 men and women.

The Center's driving principles are that a chance for sober living should be available to any man or women with a sincere determination to overcome their alcoholism or addiction, without regard for their ability to pay. The Center also survives solely on the donations and support of individuals and organizations who believe in communities helping themselves.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in the important work performed by the Ed Keating Center.

HONORING BERNHEIM ARBORETUM AND RESEARCH FOREST FOR BEING NAMED ONE OF "AMERICA'S PRETTIEST PARKS"

HON. BRETT GUTHRIE

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2012

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Bernheim Arboretum and Research Forest on being named one of "America's Prettiest Parks" by Yahoo! Travel.

I am fortunate to know firsthand how beautiful this forest is and I am proud that it is located in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

Bernheim's mission and vision statements, "connecting people with nature," and "Bernheim will be a nationally treasured leader in ecological stewardship that inspires the exploration of deep connections with nature," are profound and true.

Tom Block, a Bernheim Trustee and the great-grandson of founder Isaac Wolf Bernheim welcomed the distinction, calling it "another branch on Bernheim's growing tree of awards and honors."

Clermont, Kentucky and the surrounding community are fortunate to have this forest in their backyard. For those of you who have yet to visit Bernheim, I encourage you to do so. You will be overwhelmed by its beauty and peace.

RECOGNIZING AND CELEBRATING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF MR. ALEX M. PETROVIC

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2012

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I proudly rise today to acknowledge the achievements of former Eastern Jackson County Judge, Missouri State Representative, United States Marine Corps Veteran and Sugar Creek resident, Alex M. Petrovic.

Alex M. Petrovic was born in Kansas City, Missouri, on September 23, 1922, the son of Mildred and Michael Petrovic, and has dedicated his life to serving his country, state, and community. He attended school at Henry Clay School in Kansas City, Missouri, Independence Junior High and William Chrisman High School in the city of Independence, Missouri,

and Rockhurst College in Kansas City, Missouri.

The proud father of six, grandfather of twelve, and great-grandfather of two, Mr. Petrovic was married to the late Frances Diesko Petrovic for fifty-seven years before she passed away in 2001. He served as a Corporal in the United States Marine Corps from the year 1942 to 1945, working as a landfall technician, making maps for the 2nd Marine Air Wing, and receiving an honorable discharge following his service in the Pacific theatre, in Guadalcanal and Auckland, New Zealand, and Russell Island.

In addition to his military service, he also worked as a railroad clerk for the Union Pacific Railroad, machine operator, foreman, and sales manager for the Injection Molding Company, as a salesman for Busboom Brothers, as a laborer and engineer at the Standard Oil Plant, and a divisional manager at Waddell & Reed.

Alex M. Petrovic served as a Missouri State Legislator from the year 1962 until the year 1966, as a Democrat, representing the area bounded by the Missouri River up until 23rd Street, Blue Ridge, Kansas City, and 71 Highway. During his terms, he promoted the Little Blue Valley Flood Control program, fought to keep open the Central Missouri State University in the face of closure, and helped develop the Truman Sports Complex. Mr. Petrovic played an active and accomplished role in local Missouri politics, serving in the Independence Sertoma Club, to which he was elected President in the year 1964.

As a State Representative, Mr. Petrovic discovered piles of state records abandoned in the basement of the State Building, and in response, sponsored and passed legislation to create a system for managing Missouri's records, establishing the Missouri State Archives. After his terms in the Missouri Legislature, he was elected to serve as Eastern District Judge for Jackson County, the same seat which President Harry S. Truman occupied before his presidency, from the year 1966 up until the year 1970. As the "Old Judge," he oversaw seven bond issues in building the world's largest sports complex in the history of sports at the time, for the Kansas City Chiefs and the Royals.

On September 21, 2005, Secretary of State Robin Carnahan, the Archives, and fellow members of the Missouri Legislature created the Alex M. Petrovic Reading Room to maintain the historic records of our Great State of Missouri throughout the years. Today, the Missouri State Archives stores document collections dating from 1770 and is visited by 4,500 hundred people every year.

Mr. Petrovic will celebrate his ninetieth birthday on September 23, 2012, and has given a lifetime of service to his community, and should hereby be honored as such. Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and our colleagues in the House join me in honoring Mr. Petrovic for his lifetime of service and accomplishment.

DR. SAM MONROE

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2012

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, since its founding in 1909, Lamar State College—Port

Arthur has undergone many changes, growing from a petrochemical industry training ground to a flourishing two-year college, offering degrees in numerous highly valued skills. But for 38 years, there has been one constant on campus and that's the leadership of President Dr. Sam Monroe, now recognized as the longest-serving president of a Texas higher education institution.

While Dr. Monroe was not born in Port Arthur, he got there as fast as he could. He moved from College Station at an early age and has remained in the Southeast Texas area ever since, keeping him tuned in to the needs of the surrounding community. Dr. Monroe's career began at the former Port Arthur College, serving as Executive Vice President before being elected President in 1974. Wasting no time making significant changes, he proposed a merger with Lamar University in nearby Beaumont a year later, forming Lamar University—Port Arthur.

Dr. Monroe has overseen a great expansion during his tenure. In 1999, they were granted admission into the Texas State University System then renamed Lamar State College—Port Arthur. A \$5.9 million Performing Arts Center opened in 2004, and a 7,500 square foot Student Success Center was completed in 2011. Dr. Monroe was instrumental in founding and operating the Museum of the Gulf Coast, located in downtown Port Arthur, which tells the history of this special region. 2004 saw the Lamar State College—Port Arthur Seahawks begin play in Men's Basketball and Girl's Softball, helping to create an expanded athletic program and a full college experience.

Many honors and distinctions have been given to Dr. Monroe. The Port Arthur News named him its Citizen of the Year in 2004. He was the first male recipient of the Quota International of Southeast Texas Man of the Year Award in 2005, the first time in almost 60 years that the award was open to both males and females. Earlier this month, he was recognized by Governor Rick Perry as the education president with the longest service in Texas. And, his dedication to the community has expanded outside of campus as Dr. Monroe has volunteered his time on such varied organizations as the Port Arthur Public Library and the Port Arthur Housing Authority.

Thanks to Dr. Sam Monroe, Lamar State College—Port Arthur has transitioned from a small technical school to a sprawling, 40-acre campus home to over 3,000 students. I am proud to recognize his accomplishments. He has touched countless lives, and Southeast Texas is a better place for it.

And that's just the way it is.

HONORING VICTIMS OF BACTERIAL MENINGITIS

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2012

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember Ryan Milley, a young man from Conroe, Texas who was born on September 20, 1979. In 1998, 18-year old Ryan lost his life to meningococcal meningitis.

As a result of Ryan's death his family founded Meningitis Angels, a national nonprofit organization that educates the public, health

professionals, child care facilities, schools and universities on not only meningitis but other vaccine preventable diseases through personal stories, educational brochures, posters and videos.

Meningitis Angels is dedicated to the support of victims of bacterial meningitis and their families. While helping families cope with the loss or care of a family member they also offer some hands on support for those children affected with bacterial meningitis.

Sadly, Meningitis Angels continues to grow. Meningitis Angels currently represents over 600 families across the U.S. and abroad.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot do justice to these families without speaking about this terrible and preventable disease.

Bacterial meningitis is an infection of the meninges, the thin lining that surrounds the brain and spinal cord.

It is a deadly, debilitating disease that especially affects infants, children, teenagers, young adults, and those with compromised immune systems.

People who have bacterial meningitis may have longterm complications and disabilities like permanent brain damage and long-term physical problems such as heart, kidney, or intestinal problems or could require amputations of the arms, legs and facial features. Infants and teens are highest risk for this disease.

The most effective way to protect your child against bacterial meningitis is to complete the recommended vaccine schedule. In many states, these vaccines are required for children in school and daycare.

The families of Meningitis Angels can tell you that these requirements are not frivolous or busy work.

So on their behalf, I ask that American families get vaccinated to prevent more tragedies.

I have offered H. Res. 403 to honor Ryan Wayne Milley, his remarkable mom Frankie, and all Meningitis Angels across the United States. Today is an appropriate day to remember Ryan and to support efforts to end the disease that took his life.

IN RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL HISPANIC-SERVING INSTITU- TIONS WEEK

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize National Hispanic-Serving Institutions Week during the week of September 16 through September 22, 2012. These institutions of higher learning play a unique role in bringing together families and communities to develop our nation's most valuable resource: our children. During this week, I rise to thank the Hispanic-serving institutions that are equipping our children with the skills necessary for a lifetime of success.

I would like to recognize four such institutions in the 37th Congressional District of California: California State University-Dominguez Hills, California State University-Long Beach, El Camino College-Compton Center, and Long Beach City College. These schools are preparing students to enter the workforce in science, education, and healthcare, among many other fields and career paths that will

contribute to our economic success today and in the future.

The majority of residents in my district are Hispanic, and Hispanics represent our country's largest minority group. Hispanics have already made invaluable contributions to America and I have no doubt Hispanics will continue to do so. The future prosperity of America hinges on tapping into the enormous potential of minority groups. Investing in technical education for minorities is not just a moral obligation but an American necessity.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the tremendous work of Hispanic-serving institutions, within my district as well as across the nation. I thank the countless staff members and educators who are strengthening our education system and creating new opportunities for a new generation of Hispanic leaders.

RECOGNIZING ED BERGH ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2012

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Ed Bergh on his retirement from Yelm High School after 38 years of teaching. The Washington State Legislature has also named Mr. Bergh the Washington Civic Educator of the Year.

Mr. Bergh studied political science at Western Washington University and soon after graduation, he became a Social Studies teacher. Today, Mr. Bergh teaches World Problems, History, and American Government.

In addition to his passion for educating young people, Mr. Bergh loves learning more about the subjects he teaches. He looks for ways to increase his knowledge and apply that learning to the classroom. Mr. Bergh does not simply lecture his students, he engages them in discussion and helps them think critically before reaching conclusions.

In addition to teaching, Mr. Bergh enjoys learning and writing about his hometown, Yelm, Washington. He created the Yelm History Project, a virtual database for the history of Yelm, the Web site of which he and his students regularly update.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I recognize the career of Ed Bergh. His dedication to teaching is an inspiration and has undoubtedly helped countless students who have gone on to accomplish great things.

ANGELS IN ADOPTION

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2012

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Monica and Ivory Garrett from Beaumont, Texas are truly Angels—Angels in Adoption. Forty-three foster children have been blessed with the Garretts' love and care over the years; Forty-three lives have been changed because of the Garretts.

Mrs. Garrett began her involvement in the foster care system in 1997 as lead staff at a

Buckner International group home for foster children. Through her work, she realized that this was God's calling for her, and a few years later, the Garretts were licensed as foster parents and began welcoming children into their own home. After caring for 25 children, the Garretts' felt that God was calling them to something even bigger.

The Garretts then opened a group home for children with therapeutic needs in 2009. They consider all of these children their own, providing a loving home and ensuring that they get the most out of life. Their children are all encouraged to explore their talents, participating in choir, sports, and various other activities. The Garretts are unsung heroes, a family with bountiful love, and truly Angels in Adoption.

I was honored to recently award the Garretts with their Angels in Adoption award. They are an incredible family that has dedicated their lives to help and change children's lives. And that's just the way it is.

A TRIBUTE TO COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR OTIS CUFFEE

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2012

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Command Sergeant Major Otis N. Cuffee. For 37 years, Sergeant Major Cuffee has served in the United States Armed Services and will soon celebrate his retirement after decades of service to our Nation.

Sergeant Major Cuffee dedicated 37 years in continuous active duty service to our country. During his tenure in the U.S. Armed Services he served in various leadership positions, from Squad Leader to Sergeant Major. As Sergeant Major, Cuffee extended his expertise to teaching the Basic Airborne Training Course and the NCO Academy Advanced Course. Most recently, he has had the position of a senior enlisted leader at the Defense Logistics Agency.

Sergeant Major Cuffee has received numerous personal awards including the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star and Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary and Service. His relentless dedication was honored with the Meritorious Service Award, Army Commendation Award, Army Achievement, Humanitarian Service Award and Korean Defense Service Medal. Additionally, Sergeant Cuffee has received numerous unit and condition awards.

Sergeant Cuffee's long and impressive career showcases his commitment not only to his local community but our Nation. Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in thanking Command Sergeant Major Cuffee for his dedication and congratulate him on the occasion of his retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2012

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, September 19, 2012 I had to