

only TV in the house. This was very important to Mommy and Daddy. We didn't have TVs in our bedrooms and our parents didn't hide away in theirs watching TV.

There were lots of great moments that probably weren't so great for Daddy, such as: us kids learning to drive or taking apart cars in the garage. Through it all, Daddy was always a dedicated father with our best interests in his sights. He genuinely wanted each of us to succeed and to be our best.

Daddy lived his life the proudest man in the world. He always bragged about Mommy and us four children; he treasured the fact that we remained close through our adult lives. As we got older, each of us children chose a career path and moved out on our own. We stayed in touch and enjoyed many family gatherings where we grew up in Williamsville, NY, in New Jersey and for the past 17 years, in Chesapeake, Virginia. At times, we (the kids) would stay up all night talking and having fun. About the only thing that has changed over the years is that now we sometimes stay up as late as ten p.m.

Thanksgiving has always been a very special time for all of us to unite, and this past year was no different. It meant the world to Daddy to be home and with his family. With his health declining before our eyes over Thanksgiving weekend, he remained that proud and wonderful man: the Daddy that we all loved. We are all very proud to have given him this gift, and are convinced this time together has made his journey from this earth more peaceful.

Daddy's other loves: classical music and photography. Born of two concert musicians, he studied piano at the age of three, violin at five, and once arriving in the United States, composition at one of the finest music conservatories in New York. He performed under the batons of some of the greatest conductors in the world. While Daddy's ears are probably still ringing from the blasting rock and roll sounds from our teenage bedrooms, classical music of some fashion has touched all of our lives over the years. Daddy peacefully passed with classical music playing in his room.

A self-taught accomplished photographer, his one-person shows over the years were awe-inspiring and his natural creativity will never be duplicated. Those that share his passion for photography will never forget the lessons learned from him over many years. Thankfully, he was also the kindest critic.

In closing: Daddy didn't talk a lot about being a Holocaust survivor while we were growing up. We would get "sound bites." For example, when we would ask him to drive us somewhere close, he would respond with: "I walked 500 miles to the Swiss border when I was your age." We had no idea it was really true.

Over the years, we started to understand a little more about his survival, but he was never willing to document it. Thankfully, when he retired, he took the time, and now his story has been published in several books including a wonderful autobiography. His story is also presented in several Holocaust documentaries and with the Shoah Foundation.

Daddy was well known throughout the Tidewater community as he regularly spoke about his Holocaust years at schools, military installations, and many other organizations. His story will live on for those that will never have the opportunity to meet the great man, Daddy.

## HONORING THE RECIPIENTS OF THE KENNEBEC VALLEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AWARDS

### HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 17, 2012*

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding recipients of the 2012 Annual Kennebec Valley Chamber of Commerce Awards. The Kennebec Valley Chamber serves the people of Maine's Capital Region with distinction, working every day to strengthen and develop economic and community opportunity throughout the Kennebec Valley and the entire State.

Every year, the Kennebec Valley Chamber of Commerce honors some of the outstanding businesses individuals that are doing their part to make Maine a better place to work and live. These Mainers are to be commended for their outstanding service and commitment to growing the economy in the Capital Region.

This year's award recipients include the Pine State Trading Co., Business of the Year; John V. Finnegan, Business Person of the Year; and William H. Perry, Lifetime Achievement Award. Recipients of the President's Award include Keltie McCatherin Collins, Kennebec Dance Centre; John Reny, Renys Department Store; and Steve Barrows, Steve's Appliance Service and Sales. Community Service Awards recipients include Judy Lloyd, Johnson Hall Performing Arts Center; and, Carolyn Neighoff, currently a service learning mentor in Augusta. Tobias Parkhurst of Oakes & Parkhurst Glass earned the Young Professional Award.

These individuals and the business they represent are some of the best that Maine has to offer, and are stellar examples of the quality of people and businesses that serve as the economic and cultural engine of the Capital Area. They are to be commended for their meritorious service to their community.

Mr. Speaker, please join me again in congratulating the recipients of the 2012 Kennebec Valley Chamber of Commerce Awards on their outstanding achievements.

## RECOGNIZING MR. WARREN SMALL FOR HIS SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE COMMUNITY

### HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 17, 2012*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable veteran, Mr. Warren Small, Jr. Mr. Small has shown what can be done through hard work and lofty goals.

Mr. Small, a resident of Rolling Fork, Mississippi, was born on July 17, 1934, to Warren and Betty Small in Winona, Mississippi. He graduated from Kilmichael High School in 1953. After high school, he enlisted in the United States Army in 1955 where he served until 1958. He returned to the Army for one additional year in 1961. After serving in the Army twice, he attended Mississippi Valley State University where he earned a Bachelor's degree in 1962.

In 1968, Mr. Small obtained a Masters in Mathematics from Colorado College in Colorado Springs, Colorado. From 1960 to 1993, Mr. Small taught mathematics at different levels throughout the Sharkey County, Mississippi, School System. In 1973, Mr. Small joined the Army National Guard and served until 1994 when he retired.

In 1961, he married the late Joyce Love Small and to that union they had two children, Warren III and Toyce Michelle. He joined Mount Lula Missionary Baptist Church upon his move to Rolling Fork, Mississippi, in the early 1960s. There, he actively serves on the deacon board. Since 1993, he has held the Veteran Service Officer position for the counties of Sharkey and Issaquena. He is also employed with the Issaquena County Correctional Facility in Mayersville, Mississippi, as a Life Skills and Pre-Release Counselor.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing an honorable veteran, Mr. Warren Small, Jr., for his dedication and service to our great country as well as his contributions to the Sharkey County, Mississippi, community.

## CELEBRATING BABY LOU'S RETIREMENT

### HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 17, 2012*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and sincere respect that I congratulate my good friend Mr. Loreto "Baby Lou" Gonzalez on his retirement from ArcelorMittal, formerly the Inland Steel Company. Mr. Gonzalez, a member of United Steelworkers Local 1010 for many years, has dedicated his life to the interests of his fellow tradesmen and the entire community in Northwest Indiana. For his lifetime of service, Baby Lou was honored at a retirement celebration at Club Ki-Yowga in East Chicago, Indiana, on January 7, 2012.

Baby Lou is the youngest of seven children born to Loreto and Carlota Gonzalez. Following his graduation in 1965 from East Chicago Washington High School, Baby Lou began working at Inland Steel in the slab yard. After years of service, he eventually moved to the 80" hot strip where he became a crane operator. Mr. Gonzalez has been one of the most active members of Steelworkers Local 1010, where he was a grievance steward for 30 years.

Baby Lou's dedication to his community has always been a focal point of his life's work. He has helped Local 1010 annually with its food and coat drive to assist families in need. Recognizing the importance of civic involvement, he has also assisted in voter registration and community outreach programs to help improve the lives of all residents of Northwest Indiana. Baby Lou Gonzalez has served as a board member for the Catherine House and the Northwest Indiana Catholic Youth Organization. Additionally, he has spent countless hours coaching and developing baseball players in the East Chicago Little League and Senior League, worked tirelessly as a precinct committeeman, and is currently a member of the Human Rights Committee for East Chicago.

While my friend has been a dedicated worker for the last 47 years, and a steadfast contributor to his community, he has been an even more dedicated husband to Irene, father to Louie, Irene, and Kurt, and grandfather to three wonderful grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, Loreto Gonzalez has given his time and efforts selflessly to the steelworkers with whom he has worked and to the people of Northwest Indiana for his entire life. He has been a true role model to his peers and a true friend to Northwest Indiana. I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in commending Baby Lou for his outstanding contributions to Northwest Indiana and in wishing him well upon his retirement.

SHANNON MOODY

### HON. FRANK C. GUINTA

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 17, 2012*

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I congratulate Shannon Moody as she is recognized with the STAR Award by the Learn To Read Program for reading her 700th book to her daughter. The Student Achievement in Reading Award is given to one student per year who has shown exceptional dedication, commitment and persistence in reaching their literacy goal. Shannon worked towards this goal with the help of her volunteer tutor and utilized the vast resources available at the Manchester Public Library.

Shannon recognizes and appreciates the quality time she and her daughter share when they read together. As a parent, I know the importance of spending time with your children and she has set a fine example to her daughter on working hard towards a goal that is important to you. I'm sure Shannon's efforts have instilled a great love of reading into her daughter and she can be very proud of her achievements in the Learn To Read Program.

I congratulate Shannon and wish her all the best for continued success in the future.

RECOGNIZING MR. THEODORE MCCURTIS FOR HIS HONORABLE SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY

### HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 17, 2012*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable disabled veteran, Mr. Theodore McCurtis, who was born September 19, 1934, in Hinds County, Edwards, Mississippi. He was the fourth of eight children born to the late Herman and Mae Bell Lloyd McCurtis. Mr. McCurtis' early years of education began at Edwards Elementary School and continued on to Southern Christian Institute High School in Edwards, Mississippi. From there, he volunteered to go to the United States Air Force while in the 12th grade.

Mr. McCurtis entered the United States Air Force on October 22, 1952, where he served in the Korean War. He received basic training at Parks Air Force Base in Pleasanton, California.

Mr. McCurtis served at Castle Air Force Base in Merced, California, and was attached to a Strategic Air Command. He was later sent to England where he served in the Military Police and embarked on missions to set up radar around the world. After dutiful service, he became disabled and lost the use of both his hands.

Mr. McCurtis is a member of Friendship Missionary Baptist Church in Edwards, Mississippi, where he serves as a dedicated Trustee. His membership at Friendship Missionary Baptist Church began during childhood under the leadership of his grandfather, Sam Butler, who was the second minister of Friendship Missionary Baptist Church.

Mr. McCurtis is happily married to his wife of 45 years, Mrs. Christine E. McCurtis. They have four children: Theodore, Jr., Martin Lloyd, Andrea Denise, and Sharon Denise McCurtis.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Theodore McCurtis for his honorable service to our country.

RECOGNIZING CHESTER STANLEY LOBODZINSKI

### HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 17, 2012*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to stand before you and my colleagues today to recognize Chester Stanley Lobodzinski. Chester has dedicated his life to serving the community of Northwest Indiana. His outstanding dedication put forth toward public service has allowed him the opportunity to enrich the lives of countless individuals.

For his tremendous passion to serve those in need and to encourage others to do the same, Chester is a true leader and an inspiration. He has accomplished so much throughout his life and I am grateful for his numerous contributions to the community of Northwest Indiana. Chester, a retired steelworker, founded the American Steelworkers National Day, a day that honors steelworkers who have been committed to improving the quality of life for people in Northwest Indiana. Chester is also the founder of the local chapter of the Youngstown Sheet and Tube Old-Timers, an organization that brings people together through public service. Another project that Chester has organized and developed is the Hammond Tech Appreciation Society, which recognizes and honors the faculty and alumni of Hammond Tech High School. In addition to these wonderful organizations, Chester is also a member of American Legion Post 261 in Cedar Lake, Indiana, and has given much of his time to the Crown Point Little League and the Chester Stanley Lobodzinski Hope Foundation for cancer patients, among others. Chester's unwavering perseverance and his enthusiastic outlook when it comes to community service is to be admired, and he is worthy of our highest praise.

Chester's dedication to public service and the community of Northwest Indiana is exceeded only by his devotion to his amazing family. Chester and his lovely wife, Lurene, have been happily married for almost fifty years. They raised four beloved children: Cathy, Stan, Tim, and the late Anita, and have

two adoring grandchildren. Mr. Speaker, Chester Lobodzinski has always given his time and efforts generously and compassionately. I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring him for his exceptional charitable work. Chester continues to touch the lives of countless people, and for his unselfish, lifelong commitment, he is to be commended.

HONORING CHARLES T. "CHUCK" KENNEDY

### HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 17, 2012*

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to honor Mr. Charles T. "Chuck" Kennedy on the occasion of his retirement with the National Security Agency, NSA, after 31 years of distinguished service.

As Chief of the Office of Contracting at NSA, Mr. Kennedy has been responsible for about 36,000 contracting actions per year. His expertise has been used in joint NSA initiatives with other countries and foreign contractors. Mr. Kennedy is also a member of NSA's Power, Space, and Cooling Triage Team. This cross-functional team, made up of leaders throughout the NSA Washington Enterprise, ensures that high-priority mission requirements receive the necessary power and cooling to function.

Mr. Kennedy is also a member of the Office of the Director of National Intelligence Procurement Executive Council. This interagency team examines procurement challenges, helps streamline processes and establishes contracts.

Mr. Kennedy spent his entire career in the contracting field, graduating from his internship in 1983. Over the years, Mr. Kennedy progressed through various management levels that included Chief of the Signals Intelligence Directorate/Research & Development Contracting Office, Chief of the Information Technology Enterprise Contracting Office, Chief of the Mission Support Contracting Office and Chief of the Cost and Economic Analysis Contracting Office.

Mr. Kennedy is a recipient of the Meritorious Civilian Service Award. This is NSA's second highest honorary award, given only to extraordinary individual achievements of major significance to NSA, the Department of Defense, or the United States Government.

Mr. Kennedy holds two Masters of Science Degrees, a Bachelors of Science Degree and is a graduate of the NSA Senior Cryptologic Course. His certifications include Defense Acquisition Workforce Improvement Act Certified Level 4—Acquisition Corps and NSA Logistician. He holds an unlimited Contracting Officer warrant.

Mr. Kennedy and his wife Patti have been married for 34 years. They have three sons and three grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join with me today to honor Mr. Kennedy. His long and dedicated service to the United States government is an inspiration to all of us. It is with great pride that I congratulate Mr. Kennedy on his retirement and wish him the best of luck in the future.