

diploma she enrolled in Alabama State University in the fall of 1968.

On December 20, 1970, she married Ed Harbison at the historic Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama where Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. served as a pastor from 1954 to 1960 and organized the Montgomery Bus Boycott in 1955.

In 1973, Mrs. Harbison and her husband moved to Columbus, Georgia, where she continued her college education and later graduated with a degree in early childhood education from Columbus State University. She would go on to also earn her master's degree in counseling from Troy University. In addition to her undergraduate and graduate degrees, Mrs. Harbison also earned leadership certifications from the Georgia School Counselors Association in Crisis Intervention, Cultural Diversity, Drug and Alcohol Intervention/Prevention, and Family Counseling.

Dr. Maya Angelou once said that: "I've learned that you shouldn't go through life with a catcher's mitt on both hands; you need to be able to throw something back." Cecilia used her life and educational skills to throw something back to her community. She served as an educator/counselor in the Muscogee County School System; public relations official in the Gwinnett County School System; and as job developer for the Georgia Department of Technical and Adult Education. She was involved in many organizations that were dedicated to helping people to reach their full potential.

Cecilia loved her family and she loved her God. She knew that these were two loves that would put you on the path to greatness. Her special relationship with God began as a young teen at Bethany Seventh Day Adventist Church in Montgomery and continued when she moved to Columbus and became affiliated with the Sheppard Drive Seventh Day Adventist Church. In her later years, she continued her relationship with God as a member of Kingdom Metropolitan Worship Center. She was a special woman who supported her husband and children in all of their endeavors.

Cecilia was a fighter. Throughout her illness, she never gave up and kept on fighting the good fight. The Apostle Paul as he neared the end of this life penned the following words: "For I am ready to be offered and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought the good fight, I have finished my course, and I have kept the faith: Henceforth, there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness." Cecilia fought the good fight, finished her course and always kept the faith. And by the grace of God she has now claimed her crown.

Mr. Speaker, my wife Vivian and I, along with the almost 700,000 people in the Second Congressional District of Georgia, would like to extend our deepest sympathies to her husband, State Senator Ed Harbison, Cecilia's children, and other family members during this difficult time. May they be consoled and comforted by their abiding faith and the Holy Spirit in the days, weeks and months ahead.

HONORING COMMISSIONER
REBECA SOSA

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 27, 2012

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, in recognition of Women's History month I rise today to honor Commissioner Rebeca Sosa, an admirable individual who has served South Florida with distinction.

Commissioner Sosa was first elected to the Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners in June 2001 to represent the residents of District 6. She has since been re-elected three times, most recently in 2010 without opposition. Prior to joining Miami-Dade County, Commissioner Sosa served as mayor of the City of West Miami for seven years. During her tenure, the city recovered from a 52 percent budget deficit, thus removing it from the State Governor's Emergency list. She was essential in securing more than \$5 million in grants for capital improvement projects for the city, as well as improving its drainage and parks system.

Commissioner Sosa currently serves as Chair of the Miami-Dade County Economic Development and Social Services Committee. As Chair, she is responsible for providing oversight and guidance to several departments and agencies responsible for the economic development and revitalization of the community, by creating an atmosphere that promotes public and private partnerships. She is also a member of the South Florida Regional Planning Council, whose mission is to identify the long-term challenges and opportunities facing Southeast Florida. She also assists the region's leaders in developing and implementing creative strategies that promote a more prosperous and equitable community, a healthier and cleaner environment, and a more vibrant economy.

She devotes her free time to civic activities, which include serving as the first Vice President of the Miami-Dade League of Cities, Chair of the West Miami Financial and Budget Committee, the West Miami Hurricane Preparedness Committee, among many others. Commissioner Sosa has been consistently recognized throughout her career and was recently awarded the "Government & Law" award during the 21st Annual "In the Company of Women" Award Ceremony. The award is a testament to her leadership, creativity, and vision in addressing community issues in Miami-Dade County.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to Commissioner Rebeca Sosa for her continued service to the South Florida community. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing a dear friend and remarkable individual. I wish her continued success in her future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF UNIVERSITY LABORATORY HIGH SCHOOL AT THE TOSHIBA/NATIONAL SCIENCE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION EXPLORAVISION PROGRAM

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 27, 2012

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate four exceptional 10th grade students from University Laboratory High School in Urbana, Illinois.

Max Li, Gloria Ha, Roberto Chapa, and Ananth Nandakishore have exemplified amazing success with their project "MIRROR" (Minimally-Invasive Robotic Orofacial Repair Technology). This is a prenatal technology that would utilize an in-womb robotic technology to repair diagnosed cleft lip or palate defects in the third trimester, effectively eliminating the scarring defect and consequently and future needs for operations or rehabilitation.

These young men and woman were selected as Regional Winning Finalists in the 20th annual Toshiba/National Science Teachers Association ExploraVision Program, the world's largest K-12 student science and technology competition. They were selected from a group of 4,807 entries, representing 14,602 students from the U.S. and Canada.

I want to also thank their teacher, David Stone, for his dedication to encourage the pursuit of excellence in every student at University Laboratory High School. These outstanding students represent the best of this nation's youth and I wish them continued success in their high school careers and beyond.

RECOGNIZING THOM HAUBERT

HON. STEVE STIVERS

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 27, 2012

Mr. STIVERS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Mr. Thom Haubert for his distinguished work and accomplishments as Battelle Memorial Institute's Inventor of the Year.

The American innovator has been a cornerstone of this country's culture and a key to our success. It is through these new ideas that our country has been able to prosper in the past, and how our country will work its way out of these challenging economic times. That is why I am happy to recognize Mr. Haubert for this great accomplishment. Thom joined Battelle, the world's largest independent research and development organization, in 1988, and has contributed to and led important research projects. Thom's significant impact on the world, its body of science and engineering, has resulted in numerous real world applications to help people. One of his recent and significant discoveries is in helping to detect and track cancer.

Thom is one of Battelle's "go-to" mechanical engineers for ideation aspects of many health and life sciences programs. Over the years, he has been able to quickly identify creative, inventive, practical, and unique solutions to difficult problems. As a result of the ingenuity of his thinking and tenacity of his work,

Thom has 20 issued patents, 21 patent applications pending, and is a Battelle Distinguished Inventor. Five of his patents are for an early screening cancer detection system where rare cancerous cells can be identified through simple blood tests. This simple blood test can also be used for tracking post cancer and remission. Thom's research in this area will hopefully lead to earlier cancer detection and eventually to tests for other diseases.

I extend my heartfelt congratulations to Thom Haubert for his work that has saved lives and made a difference to so many people. He stands as an example to young engineers across the country, and I am very pleased to thank him for all that he has done for Ohio and our country.

IN HONOR OF NEW JERSEY RESTAURANT ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT DEBORAH DOWDELL

HON. LEONARD LANCE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 27, 2012

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise with great sadness to honor long-time president of the New Jersey Restaurant Association Deborah Dowdell. Deborah Dowdell died March 2nd following a long and courageous battle with cancer.

Deborah's passing is a tremendous loss for New Jersey's small business community and most especially, her family, who loved her dearly.

For those who knew Deborah, she was a strong and influential leader and mentor in Trenton. Deborah Dowdell was an influential policy-maker, an expert on issues important to New Jersey's restaurant and hospitality community. But most important Deborah Dowdell was a great friend and loving daughter and wife.

My wife Heidi and I send our thoughts and prayers to Deborah's entire family during these very trying and difficult times.

RECOGNIZING GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. JESSE L. JACKSON, JR.

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 27, 2012

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Greek Independence Day, the celebration of Greek freedom from the Ottoman Empire in May of 1832. March 25 is recognized as the official celebration day of this monumental occasion.

From early Greek architecture, theatre and art, to the great philosophers, scientists, and mathematicians of their time, it is impossible to overlook the influence and the impact of Greek history, culture and tradition on the entire world.

Here in the United States, we hold a special place of honor for Greek history. Serving as one of the oldest examples of a successful democratic government, our Nation's Founding Fathers looked to ancient Athenian democracy to lay the foundation for the Constitution of the United States, without which our great Nation would not be what it is today.

With a strong Greek-American community in the Chicago area, the people of the 2nd Congressional district continue to celebrate the historic and cultural heritage of Greek Americans in Chicagoland and across the Nation, in addition to the new, unique, and ever changing ways they contribute to America.

I am honored to recognize and congratulate Greece on 191 years of independence and thank the Greek people for the substantial impact they have made not only in America, but throughout the global community.

Happy Independence Day.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF LOU POULOS

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 27, 2012

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the life and achievements of Mr. Lou Poulos, who recently passed away. As a husband and father, as a friend and businessman, as a community trade association and church leader, Lou was an extraordinary man who cared deeply for his country, state and city and the industry that he was instrumental in shaping for half a century.

The sixth of nine children to Greek immigrants, Lou contracted polio at the age of 2. Although he received treatment as a child, Lou never regained full use of his legs and walked with crutches or used a wheelchair for the remainder of his life. Lou's condition did not detract from his steadfast determination to live a life on his terms, not on the terms of the disease that damaged his legs. In 1929, his father and a partner started the wholesale Farmers Produce Company. Later at the end of Prohibition in 1933, the elder Poulos acquired one of the first wholesale liquor licenses in Arizona. Lou got his first taste of the business by helping his father in the Miami, Arizona office by taking orders for liquor over the phone.

Lou was widely recognized and respected in the liquor industry and the Arizona community as a whole from the time he was a young man. But he really came into his own when he developed a chain of drive-through liquor stores, which were launched from his father's business. Farmers Liquors was the first retail liquor chain in the state, with some 15 locations through the Valley of the Sun. Under Lou's management, Farmers Liquors prospered. While he was building his own business, he was mindful of the importance of all the tiers of the industry and the impact of political legislation and the people who made those decisions.

Early on, Lou became active in the Arizona Licensed Beverage Association (ALBA), founded in 1936 to protect liquor licenses against unfair legislation. He was largely responsible for putting teeth into ALBA and working to fulfill the mission of the organization. Serving on the Board of Directors and Executive Committee for decades, Lou was also the association's longest serving treasurer—45 years.

Lou Poulos was a very generous man, not only in financial terms, but also in lending his time, wisdom and expertise to individuals and worthy causes that sought his assistance. Lou

was not one to make his contributions known publicly. According to Georgia, his wife of 57 years, Lou was especially supportive of organizations that were involved in helping those afflicted with infantile paralysis (polio), the disease he contracted at age two. He was a lifetime contributor to his church in Phoenix, Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral and its affiliated organizations, and an active volunteer during the annual Greek Festival, which observed its 51st year in 2011. Lou also donated financially to associations dedicated to cancer and heart disease research, as well as the Wounded Warrior Project, among other veteran's organizations. In every respect, Lou Poulos was a good man and a good citizen who, without seeking fanfare or plaudits, quietly enriched the fabric of our great and unique nation.

In considering all of these achievements, I ask that you join me in recognizing Mr. Lou Poulos for his courageous overcoming of adversity, his many contributions to the progress and growth of Arizona and his prominent and positive influence on the state's liquor industry.

HONORING MRS. JUANITA ADELE FRANKLIN

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 27, 2012

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleague, the Hon. ED PASTOR, to honor the extraordinary life of my aunt, Mrs. Juanita Franklin. Those who knew her as wife, sister, aunt, great-aunt, great-great aunt, friend and neighbor affectionately called her "Auntie Nita" or "Sister." As a loving partner, a second mother to many generations of nieces and nephews, and as a dedicated community member, Mrs. Franklin was known for her strong personal values and her simple approach to life. With Juanita's passing on March 18, 2012, we are reminded of her life's journey over the last century, and the joyful legacy she inspired.

Mrs. Juanita Adele Franklin was born to Mr. William Calhoun Parish and Mrs. Willie Edith Parish, in El Paso, Texas on July 8, 1911. She was one of three daughters, and enjoyed growing up with her two sisters, Lois Murell and Mildred Massey. Raised in El Paso, where she attended Douglass Elementary and High School, Mrs. Franklin went on to Huston Tillotson College in Austin, Texas, where she received a bachelor's degree in Liberal Arts.

It was there that Mrs. Franklin met the love of her life, the late Albert Franklin. The couple exchanged vows in 1935 in San Antonio, Texas, and were married for over 50 years. Although she never had children of her own, Juanita adored her nieces and nephews and served as a generous mentor and confidant. Throughout her long life, she took great joy in watching her great and great-great nieces and nephews grow and thrive.

Over their five decades of marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Franklin resided in El Paso, TX, Portsmouth, VA, Los Angeles, Pacoima, and Oakland, CA, and Sun City, AZ. Upon the death of her husband, she went to live with her youngest sister, Mildred, and spent the last eight years of her life at The Right Choice Adult Care Home in Glendale, AZ. There she