

Philadelphia. Mr. Hill's three-year-old daughter Kim Hill and her childhood battle with leukemia inspired the model for the first Ronald McDonald House. Facing the rigors of multiple hospital visits, the Hill family sought to find a comfortable and supportive place of refuge for other parents facing similar situations. Through the support of Eagles owners, managers, teammates and various fundraising endeavors, the first Ronald McDonald House was opened in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The Ronald McDonald House provided the amenities of home while offering families a comfortable and supportive environment with easy access to area hospitals. The Philadelphia Ronald McDonald House would later act as the model for what would become an international network of temporary housing for families of ill children. By 1985, more than 88 Ronald McDonald Houses were established worldwide. The popular and unique fundraising strategies, including the "Pop Tab Collection Recycling Program", were raised millions for participating Houses and furthered the success of the organization. In 1984, Ronald McDonald House Charities (RMHC) was established in memory of McDonald's founder Ray Kroc. Since its inception, RMHC and its network of Chapters have awarded more than \$16 million in grants to more than 1,300 U.S. Children's organizations.

As a result of their commendable efforts, for two consecutive years, *Worth* magazine named RMHC one of "America's 100 Best charities of 2002".

The Ronald McDonald House of Long Branch and New Brunswick, New Jersey was established in 1987 and services community members throughout the State. Through the support of area businesses, organizations, civic groups, schools and individuals, as well as various fundraising and special events, the two Houses have served more than 4,000 families.

Mr. Speaker, once again, please join me in thanking the Ronald McDonald House of Long Branch and New Brunswick for their 25 years of service. The Ronald McDonald House continues to provide outstanding services to the Middlesex, Monmouth and NJ community.

HONORING MS. LOURDES UBIETA

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Lourdes Ubieta, a Venezuelan-born journalist and freedom fighter.

Ms. Ubieta speaks three languages and has profound experience in journalism, with a specific interest in human rights. In her current position, she serves as a co-host on a daily talk radio program broadcasted on Actualidad 1020AM. The two-hour long program focuses on domestic and international issues, which informs and educates thousands of Spanish speakers in our community.

Ms. Ubieta's leadership was instrumental in the organization of Venezuela's 2012 Presidential primary elections in Doral, Florida. With her assistance, twenty voting stations were set up at a strip plaza in order to accommodate the expected turnout. In all, more than 8,000 Venezuelan's exercised the right to vote in

their homeland's primary. Ms. Ubieta's commitment to democracy and the Venezuelan community in South Florida is clearly evident and extraordinary.

The numerous awards Ms. Ubieta has received are further proof of her hard work and dedication. In the past three years, she has been recognized by the Venezuelan American Chamber of Commerce, Broward Community Center, and has received the Venezuelan Business Club Award, among many others.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize a dear friend, Ms. Lourdes Ubieta for her outstanding professional career and leadership in our community. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this accomplished individual and wish her continued success.

THE CITY OF MOUND TURNS 100

HON. ERIK PAULSEN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, this year marks the centennial of the city of Mound, Minnesota. And although this picturesque community was officially incorporated in 1912, its roots run all the way back to before the Civil War when the town was known as Mound City.

In the early days, Mound was a bustling business district on the shores of Cooks Bay, frequented by the street car boats which travelled Lake Minnetonka at the turn of the 19th century. In 1900, the railroad came to town, requiring the business district to move to where we see it today.

From a city which derives its name from Indian burial mounds, this vibrant community has not only flourished over its 100 years as a home to close to 10,000 Minnesotans—and this year being named Minnesota's Best Place to Raise Your Kids 2012 by Bloomberg Businessweek—but has also been home to many of Minnesota's innovative small businesses.

I'd like to congratulate Mayor Hanus, and all of my neighbors who call Mound home—Happy 100th!

SALLIE MAE LOAN SERVICING
CENTER IN HANOVER TOWNSHIP

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Sallie Mae Loan Servicing Center in Hanover Township, which will celebrate its 25th anniversary today, April 25, 2012.

The Student Loan Marketing Association, commonly known as Sallie Mae, was originally created in 1972 as a government sponsored enterprise. In 1997, Sallie Mae began privatizing its operations. At the end of 2004, Congress terminated Sallie Mae's federal charter, officially ending its ties to the government. Today, Sallie Mae is the nation's number one financial services company specializing in education and offering a wide range of products and services from college savings programs to education loans.

Currently, Sallie Mae employs an estimated 8,000 individuals nationwide and is one of the largest employers in Northeastern Pennsylvania. In addition to providing jobs, Sallie Mae sponsors The Sallie Mae Fund, a charitable organization with a mission to increase access to higher education for America's students. In honor of the Hanover Township facility's 25th anniversary, The Sallie Mae Fund announced a \$150,000 donation to the Osterhout Free Library in Wilkes-Barre to support the library's early literacy outreach program. The Fund also supports employee volunteerism and community service. I am proud to say that Sallie Mae employees have raised more than \$2.5 million for Pennsylvania charities.

Mr. Speaker, for the last 25 years, Sallie Mae has proudly served the citizens of Hanover Township and all of Northeastern Pennsylvania. I commend Sallie Mae and all those employed at the Loan Servicing Center for their dedication to education, to the community, and to our country.

WORLD IMMUNIZATION WEEK:
PREVENTING PNEUMONIA AND
DIARRHEA WITH THE POWER OF
VACCINES

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, this week marks World Immunization Week, in which countries across the globe mobilize for a week of vaccination campaigns and public education about the value of immunization. I rise today to celebrate a major milestone in global health: the rollout of two new vaccines to protect infants from two of the biggest killers of children under the age of five—pneumonia and diarrhea—that is taking place today in Ghana.

Hundreds of Ghanaians have played a frontline role in making their country the first in Africa to simultaneously introduce both pneumococcal and rotavirus vaccines to their people. While the Government and the people of Ghana are to be congratulated for this unprecedented accomplishment, I also want to acknowledge the role U.S. taxpayers have played in making this moment possible.

The United States' commitment to the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI Alliance) has been instrumental in making these vaccines affordable and accessible for children in the world's poorest countries. Immunization is one of the most successful and cost-effective public health interventions. By supporting new vaccines, the GAVI Alliance is well within target to immunize more than 250 million children in the world's poorest countries by 2015, preventing more than 4 million premature deaths.

Seattle, which I represent, has made significant contributions toward the United States becoming a leader in global health innovation, including vaccination research. For example, earlier this year, promising preliminary results from the trial of a malaria vaccine known as RTS,S made headlines around the world when it showed that nearly fifty percent of children who received the vaccine were protected from malaria—a leading cause of death among children in developing countries. The Bill and

Melinda Gates Foundation and PATH, both based in Seattle, were at the forefront in developing this potentially life-saving vaccine.

I am proud to say that American research and technology in global health are at the forefront in making medicine accessible to the most remote corners of the world. But we cannot stop here.

U.S. bilateral support for maternal and child health provide critical infrastructure—including supply chains, trained health workers, and facilities—to deliver vaccines around the world, along with other essential and complementary interventions such as nutrition and clean water.

Immunization leads to significant economic benefits by protecting individuals not just against life-threatening illnesses but against long-term effects of that illness on their physical, emotional and cognitive development. With the introduction of these vaccines, mothers across Ghana will be able to provide their children hope for a brighter future.

On this day, while communities around the world are celebrating the power of lifesaving vaccines, we can be proud as Americans that our investments are making a durable impact on the prosperity and security of those who need it most.

IN HONOR OF THE SANTA CRUZ
WORLD SURFING RESERVE

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the dedication of the Santa Cruz World Surfing Reserve. Santa Cruz is one of just four surf zones located around the world that has qualified to be designated as a World Surfing Reserve by the Save the Waves Coalition. This designation is intended to focus attention on the need to protect our natural resources along the coast including surf breaks and the unique conditions that allow them to exist. The program serves as a model for preserving wave breaks and their surrounding areas by recognizing the positive environmental, cultural, economic, and community benefits of surfing areas.

The surf zone encompasses seven miles of coast and includes world-famous spots such as Steamer Lane, Pleasure Point, the Hook, and Shark's Cove. The zone extends from the high-tide line out to the first surfable break along the designated coastline. The four components that make Santa Cruz uniquely qualified for the creation of the World Surfing Reserve are: the high quality of the waves and surf zones in the area; its rich surf culture and history; local community support; and the incomparable environmental characteristics of its shores.

The World Surfing Reserve designation takes an additional step toward protecting our irreplaceable natural resources along the coast. Residents of Santa Cruz and the surrounding area have a history of strong community action to protect and preserve clean waters and the wealth of marine life that flourishes in the bay. Members of this community value the bountiful resources the coast provides and have worked tirelessly toward ensuring it stays a safe place to swim and surf for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize the Santa Cruz World Surfing Preserve as a step forward in the preservation of California's central coast. May the Preserve inspire future generations to share in celebrating, enjoying, and preserving our valued coastlines.

HONORING THE DR. HECTOR P.
GARCIA MIDDLE SCHOOL
SCIENCE BOWL TEAM

HON. FRANCISCO "QUICO" CANSECO

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Mr. CANSECO. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise today to honor and congratulate the Dr. Hector P. Garcia Middle School science bowl team from San Antonio, Texas. Led by their coach Shelley Beck, these fine young men and women have achieved a spot in the 2012 U.S. Department of Energy National Science Bowl competition on April 26–28, 2012 in Chevy Chase, Maryland, and at the National Building Museum in Washington, DC.

Through their perseverance and hard work the team won their regional elimination tournament to be selected as one of the 44 middle schools to compete at the national finals for prizes and rewards. I am proud to congratulate Rachel Moore, Irene Chu, Kathleen Ran, Minji Kim, and Sophie He for this outstanding achievement and wish them the best of luck in the competition.

THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF CHUCK
COLSON

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, in the passing of Chuck Colson, the earthly life of a consequential American has come to an end, and I marked that day with a sense of personal loss. Chuck Colson rose to the heights of political power and fell to the depths of disgrace, but in his fall, he found redemption in the gospel of Jesus Christ. Having been given a second chance, Chuck Colson devoted his life to carrying the Christian message of second chances to those in prison, and countless lives were changed by his compassion and example.

His voice of moral clarity was an inspiration to millions of Americans and made him an invaluable counselor to leaders in government and business. I will always count it a privilege to have been able to call him my dear friend and mentor. His dedication to moral integrity, serving his fellow man and his steadfast faith have always and will always be an inspiration to me and my family. Karen and I offer our deepest condolences to Patty, the whole Colson family and to all who mourn the loss of Chuck Colson. The below article written by Michael Gerson and published in the Washington Post on April 22, 2012, is a true testimony to the legacy left by his transformed life.

[From the Washington Post, April 22, 2012]

CHARLES COLSON FOUND FREEDOM IN PRISON

(By Michael Gerson)

Charles W. Colson—who spent seven months in prison for Watergate-era offenses

and became one of the most influential social reformers of the 20th century—was the most thoroughly converted person I've ever known.

Following Chuck's recent death, the news media—with short attention spans but long memories—have focused on the Watergate portion of his career. They preserve the image of a public figure at the moment when the public glare was harshest—a picture taken when the flash bulbs popped in 1974.

But I first met Chuck more than a decade after he left the gates of Alabama's Maxwell prison. I was a job-seeking college senior, in whom Chuck detected some well-hidden potential as a research assistant. In him, I found my greatest example of the transforming power of grace. I had read many of the Watergate books, in which Chuck appears as a character with few virtues apart from loyalty. I knew a different man. The surface was recognizable—the Marine's intensity, the lawyer's restless intellect. The essence, however, had changed. He was a patient and generous mentor. And he was consumed—utterly consumed—by his calling to serve prisoners, ex-prisoners and their families.

Many wondered at Chuck's sudden conversion to Christianity. He seemed to wonder at it himself. He spent each day that followed, for nearly 40 years, dazzled by his own implausible redemption. It is the reason he never hedged or hesitated in describing his relationship with Jesus Christ. Chuck was possessed, not by some cause, but by someone.

He stood in a long line of celebrated converts, beginning with the Apostle Paul on the Damascus road, and including figures such as John Newton, G.K. Chesterton and Malcolm Muggeridge. They were often received with skepticism, even contempt. Conversion is a form of confession—a public admission of sin, failure and weakness. It brings out the scoffers. This means little to the converted, who have experienced something more powerful than derision. In his poem, "The Convert," Chesterton concludes: "And all these things are less than dust to me/ Because my name is Lazarus and I live."

Prison often figures large in conversion stories. Pride is the enemy of grace, and prison is the enemy of pride. "How else but through a broken heart," wrote Oscar Wilde after leaving Reading Gaol, "may Lord Christ enter in?" It is the central paradox of Christianity that fulfillment starts in emptiness, that streams emerge in the desert, that freedom can be found in a prison cell. Chuck's swift journey from the White House to a penitentiary ended a life of accomplishment—only to begin a life of significance. The two are not always the same. The destruction of Chuck's career freed up his skills for a calling he would not have chosen, providing fulfillment beyond his ambitions. I often heard him quote Alexander Solzhenitsyn, and mean it: "Bless you, prison, for having been in my life."

Chuck was a powerful preacher, an influential cultural critic and a pioneer of the dialogue between evangelicals and Catholics. But he was always drawn back to the scene of his disgrace and his deliverance. The ministry he founded, Prison Fellowship, is the largest compassionate outreach to prisoners and their families in the world, with activities in more than 100 countries. It also plays a morally clarifying role. It is easier to serve the sympathetic. Prisoners call the bluff of our belief in human dignity. If everyone matters and counts, then criminals do as well. Chuck led a movement of volunteers attempting to love some of their least lovable neighbors. This inversion of social priorities—putting the last first—is the best evidence of a faith that is more than crutch,