

an all-time one-day record of 40,617 attendees for the 2012 Toyota Blue Grass Stakes. During his tenure, Keeneland's auction company's top sales figures included \$11.7 million for Meydan City at the 2006 September Yearling Sale and has amassed more than \$7 billion in total gross sales since 2000. He also led many efforts to update Keeneland with several construction projects, including the completion of a new outdoor walking ring; an enclosure of the first floor of the clubhouse; the renovation of the historic Keeneland Sales Pavilion, the construction of the Keeneland Library and the restoration of Keene Place. For his many contributions to the industry, Nicholson was honored with the Lifetime Service Award from the Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Association, as well as The Jockey Club Gold Medal. In 2004, he was honored by election as a member into the Jockey Club.

Nicholson is a highly active member of his community and has served on the board of the Board of Trustees of UK Healthcare, Urban League, Commerce Lexington Inc., KET Commonwealth Fund, Transylvania University, Shakertown and Central Bank. Nicholson is a husband and father of two, as well as a graduate of Wake Forest University and the University of Kentucky College of Law.

Nicholson has served as a remarkable guide for Keeneland as the racetrack president. Through his leadership, wisdom, and outstanding vision, Nicholson has solidified Keeneland's status as an industry leader and treasured Kentucky tradition. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring a true leader and visionary and wish him well in his new endeavors, Mr. Nick Nicholson.

IN HONOR OF ISRAEL'S
INDEPENDENCE

HON. RUSS CARNAHAN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the state of Israel, one of our country's great allies, on the 64th anniversary of its independence.

On May 14, 1948, the people of Israel proclaimed the establishment of the sovereign and independent State of Israel.

Shortly after, President Harry Truman signed the order recognizing this new Jewish State of Israel.

Ever since, the United States and Israel have had an unshakeable relationship, bound together by common interests and shared values.

As the great symbol of democracy in the Middle East, the people of Israel continue to prosper despite the on-going challenges they face.

The Israeli people remain committed to achieving a lasting, long-term peace with their neighbors.

We must continue to support Israel, and to ensure that the peace process moves forward.

Today, I honor our ally and its commitment to democracy and freedom and offer congratulations to the State of Israel on the 64th anniversary of her independence.

RECOGNIZING THE FIRST PRES-
BYTERIAN CHURCH OF BUFFALO

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the First Presbyterian Church of Buffalo, known commonly as "First Church," a staple in my Western New York community, is celebrating its bicentennial this year.

First Church of Buffalo is the home of Buffalo's oldest congregation. Founded on February 2, 1812 by missionaries and veterans of the Revolutionary War, the church was the first religious body formed in what was the western frontier of New York State.

Often referred to as the "Mother of All Churches," First Presbyterian Church has served as a place of worship for the diverse communities of downtown Buffalo and Niagara County.

The current church located at One Symphony Circle since 1889, stands today as one of Buffalo's greatest architectural treasures. The building was designed by E.B. Green after land was donated by Mrs. Truman Avery in 1889. It is characterized by its varying historical influences with its overall Roman exterior, Byzantine interior design and Anglican chapel.

For more than two-hundred years, First Presbyterian Church has been a beacon on the West Side of Buffalo and has earned its rightful place in our city's storied history. President Theodore Roosevelt worshipped here when he visited Buffalo, the Visiting Nurses Association started as a mission project here, the Welcome Hall Mission was born at this church, and many outreach programs have found their footing through the churches indelible commitment to Buffalo's community.

Mr. Speaker, on Sunday May 20, Western New Yorkers will gather in Symphony Circle to commemorate First Church's bicentennial, joining together with prayer and with fellowship in celebration of this momentous achievement. Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me and all Western New Yorkers in wishing the leaders, congregants and friends of First Church the very best as they embark upon their second 200 years of service to the people of Buffalo and Western New York.

IN HONOR OF DR. HANIMIREDDY
LAKIREDDY

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my friend, Dr. Hanimireddy Lakireddy on the event of his 70th Birthday.

Dr. Lakireddy is a well known and respected doctor in Merced, California. He is the owner and cardiologist at Merced Heart Associates. He is also a physician and surgeon with University Surgery Center. He became the first cardiologist in Merced in 1984. Dr. Lakireddy earned his medical degree from Oasmania Ganshi Kakatiya Medical College.

Dr. Lakireddy is a major supporter of the tenth University of California campus in

Merced. Along with his wife, Vijaya, he generously gave a one million dollar gift to name the Classroom Auditorium and enabled the campus to enhance the main lecture hall to provide a performance-based venue for campus events. A leader in the medical and East Indian community, Dr. Lakireddy has helped cultivate numerous gifts to the campus. He not only helps the campus through monetary donations, but he lends his support as a member of the Board of Trustees.

Dr. Lakireddy has a philanthropic goal to promote the virtue of education in the community. He sponsors a scholarship at Merced High School in honor of his parents. He donated one million dollars to Merced College to establish the Dr. Lakireddy School of Health Sciences which offers vocational certificates, vocational nursing, nurse assistant, emergency medical technology, registered nursing and sports medicine. He was awarded Philanthropist of the Year by the Merced community in 2006.

Dr. Lakireddy not only lends his support to the Merced community but he also continues to help those in Southern India. He has funded several schools, hospitals and a sports complex in two poverty stricken cities, Velvadam and Mylavaram. In addition, Dr. Lakireddy runs a pension program in Velvadam where he promised that "as long as I live, not a single person will go hungry."

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring my good friend, Dr. Hanimireddy Lakireddy for his civic engagement and support for the community.

CARLOS LOPEZ

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Carlos Lopez for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Carlos Lopez is a 9th grader at Jefferson Senior High and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Carlos Lopez is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Carlos Lopez for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all his future accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING THE CENTENARY OF
THE BAHÁ'Í HOUSE OF WORSHIP
IN WILMETTE, ILLINOIS

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, the Bahá'í House of Worship is a source of great

pride in my district—not just because of its beauty but more importantly because of its meaning as a place of faith, unity and peace. I rise today to commemorate the laying of its cornerstone one hundred years ago and to congratulate the Bahá'í community for a century of worship in this magnificent temple.

The Chicago area has played a pivotal role in the development of the Bahá'í community in America. The first public mention of the Bahá'í faith was in Chicago on September 23, 1893. It happened at the World's Parliament of Religions, which was connected with the Columbian Exposition commemorating the four hundredth anniversary of the discovery of America.

In 1907, the Local Assembly of the Bahá'í of Chicago was incorporated, making Chicago the first local Bahá'í community in the world to acquire legal status.

The Bahá'í House of Worship in Wilmette has been a focus of the Bahá'í world for over a century. It began with the vision of 11 local Bahá'ís in Chicago, who began work on it in 1903. Its cornerstone was laid in 1912. In 1953, following two World Wars, the Great Depression, and numerous financial and technical difficulties, the Bahá'í community completed construction of the temple. Fifty years after its vision was conceived, this House of Worship, which was the first Bahá'í Temple in the West and is known as “the Mother Temple of the West,” opened its doors to the peoples of the world. The temple in Wilmette, like the six Bahá'í temples throughout the world erected after it, is free and open to people of all backgrounds and is offered as a place for peaceful prayer, meditation, and reflection.

One hundred years ago, ‘Abdu’l-Bahá, the son of the founder of the Bahá'í Faith, arrived in America and he participated in the historic cornerstone laying ceremony. A prisoner of the Persian and Ottoman empires since childhood, ‘Abdu’l-Bahá left the Ottoman prison fortress of Akka at the age of 67 and set out on a historic journey to the West, which culminated in a 239-day journey through America. He traveled to several important cities across the country and met with people of diverse backgrounds, teaching the elimination of racial prejudice, the equality of women and men, the unity of religions, and the fundamental oneness of all humankind.

Throughout his travels, ‘Abdu’l-Bahá spoke of the great destiny of America. In a public talk in Cleveland, he stated, “This revered American nation presents evidences of greatness and worth. It is my hope that this just government will stand for peace so that warfare may be abolished throughout the world and the standards of national unity and reconciliation be upraised. This American nation is equipped and empowered to accomplish that which will adorn the pages of history, to become the envy of the world and be blest in the East and the West for the triumph of its democracy.”

One of the most significant events of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá's journey was the laying of the cornerstone of the Bahá'í House of Worship on the shores of Lake Michigan in Wilmette. For several decades, Bahá'ís around the world sent money to support the construction of the temple. One of the Bahá'ís who wanted to support the construction of the temple, was Nettie Tobin, a humble seamstress living in Chicago. Nettie had no cash money to contribute for the Temple but thought she might find a stone for its construction. Nettie went to

a construction site and asked for a stone from the foreman, who pointed out to her a pile of rejected stones from which she could choose. With the help of a neighbor she got the large limestone home and sometime later, through an even greater effort involving a baby carriage and a wagon, deposited it on the temple grounds in Wilmette.

‘Abdu’l-Bahá arrived in Chicago on April 29, 1912, and, while there, penned a special prayer for America. The next day he spoke to over one thousand people gathered in Chicago for the public session of the Bahá'í Temple Unity convention on the subject of building the Bahá'í Temple. The evening before the laying of the cornerstone of the House of Worship in Wilmette—‘Abdu’l-Bahá the son of the Founder of the Bahá'í Faith, explained that places of worship have a special unifying power:

In brief, the original purpose of temples and houses of worship is simply that of unity—places of meeting where various peoples, different races and souls of every capacity may come together in order that love and agreement should be manifest between them . . . that all religions, races and sects may come together within its universal shelter, that the proclamation of the oneness of mankind shall go forth from its open courts of holiness . . .

On May 1, a chilly, blustery and overcast day, a tent was erected on the temple grounds and hundreds gathered for the dedication of the temple. ‘Abdu’l-Bahá, standing at the center of the crowd, called for Nettie Tobin's stone. The ground was so hard that ‘Abdu’l-Bahá swung an ax to break through the rigid topsoil, and representatives of various races and countries came forward to share in the digging. After ‘Abdu’l-Bahá rolled the cornerstone into the ground he proclaimed, “The Temple is already built.”

On this hundredth anniversary of the laying of the cornerstone, I thank the Bahá'ís for their contribution to our district and I congratulate the Bahá'ís of Wilmette, Chicago, and, indeed, the world on this important centenary.

CASEY SOUTHWICK

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Casey Southwick for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Casey Southwick is a 7th grader at Drake Middle School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Casey Southwick is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Casey Southwick for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all his future accomplishments.

HONORING FLORA WALKER

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Flora Walker on receiving the Eleanor Roosevelt Award at the Michigan Democratic Party (MDP) Jefferson-Jackson Annual Women's Caucus Luncheon. She is a truly deserving recipient and I am pleased to see her contributions recognized with this prestigious award.

Not only has Ms. Walker blessed us with over forty years of service in Michigan, as well as continuing service with the UDW/AFSCME in Nevada, but she was also the first female president of the AFL-CIO in Michigan. Thanks to her efforts, the bar was set very high for those following in her footsteps. Her work has greatly enriched the common good and improved the lives of many families. I commend her and am grateful for her tireless work ethic and the important work she has accomplished.

The Eleanor Roosevelt Award hosted by the MDP honors members of the community who have furthered the ideals of the Democratic Party with their commitment to the party's cause. Each year one man and one woman are selected to receive this prestigious award, which recognizes their work as continuing the work of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt and his wife, Eleanor Roosevelt. It fills me with great pride to see my friend, Flora Walker, be the recipient in 2012.

Mr. Speaker, I would request that the House of Representatives join me in offering congratulations to Ms. Walker for her outstanding achievements. I commend the organizations and honorees for their important work in advancing the values of the Democratic Party and wish her the best of luck in all future endeavors.

CHEVELLE DASSOW

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Chevelle Dassow for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Chevelle Dassow is a 7th grader at Mandalay Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Chevelle Dassow is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Chevelle Dassow for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.