

throughout high school and college. For the past 28 years, she has been a package car driver for United Parcel Service. She has received many citations for safe driving—quite a feat since she delivers packages to all of the businesses on Broadway and Race Streets in Jim Thorpe. As her customers (and their dogs) will attest, Peggy Sue is the face of UPS in Jim Thorpe, and her friendly and outgoing personality makes her an outstanding ambassador for her employer and profession in town.

She is a member of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Jim Thorpe. She is a charter member of the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Molly Maguire Division 1, Carbon County, and served as its president from 2008–2009. She has also held other volunteer positions in town and on the St. Patrick's Day Parade committee, including serving as an aide to 2003 Parade Grand Marshal John J. Mulligan.

Her "Fighting Irish spirit" has helped carry her through a courageous bout with cancer. Diagnosed in July 2012, she feels it has been the continuous prayers and support of friends and family that has been the best and most important medicine. Her illness has brought together a community in a positive way that no one could have imagined. She may have lost her voice, but she has never lost her radiant spirit.

Mr. Speaker, I send my highest congratulations to "Peggy Sue" O'Donnell on being named the Grand Marshal of this year's Carbon County St. Patrick's Day Parade, and my thoughts and prayers are with her on this day and always.

LAS VEGAS DANCE TROUPE TO PERFORM IN INAUGURAL PARADE

HON. DINA TITUS

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 4, 2013

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, Las Vegans take pride in the different cultural heritages and traditions that have enriched our community, and contributed to our distinct identity.

Today, I stand to recognize a Las Vegas dance group that truly embodies this spirit, Comparza Morelense.

Rooted in their Mexican heritage, Comparza Morelense is well known throughout Southern Nevada, performing traditional dances and songs at numerous festivals and fairs for the last two years.

This January, Comparza Morelense's hard work and dedication were rewarded with an invitation to perform in the President's Inaugural Parade.

As the only Nevadan group invited to participate in the Parade, this was truly a prestigious honor.

On Inauguration Day, I proudly cheered them on as they represented not only Las Vegas and Nevada, but their rich cultural heritage as well.

Wolf Blitzer, newsman from CNN, also commented that the group with the beautiful costumes from the state of Morelos was the most colorful entry in the parade.

I submit the Las Vegas Sun article, "Las Vegas dance troupe to perform in Inaugural Parade," written by Tovin Lapan on January 10, 2013.

LAS VEGAS DANCE TROUPE TO PERFORM IN INAUGURAL PARADE

(By Tovin Lapan)

In the past two years, the Las Vegas dance troupe Comparza Morelense has quadrupled in size and gone from dancing at birthday parties and first communions to winning multiple parade trophies and performing in November at the Latin Grammys.

Despite the rapid rise in the group's popularity, no one expected the invite that arrived Dec. 20. In fact, some members of the group demanded to see proof the White House had indeed requested they participate in the parade at the 57th presidential inauguration.

"I submitted an application because (the parade organizers) asked us to. I think someone from the campaign saw us last year," said Stephanie Padilla, one of the group's members. "I got the email saying we were invited, and the first thing I did was tell my mom. She called the other dancers, and they didn't believe her. So, we had to show the letter to everyone."

Comparza Morelense started with 11 members in December 2010. The group now counts 40 members, ranging in age from 9 months to 65 years old, among its ranks. About 25 dancers will make the trip to Washington, D.C., to participate in the Jan. 21 Inaugural Parade.

Jesus Padilla and Maria Garcia, Stephanie's parents and co-founders of the group, started the dance troupe with other family members to help keep alive a tradition from their home, the Mexican state of Morelos.

"We started the group because we would dance after family dinners and parties, but we wanted a more formal way to share the tradition and our culture," Garcia said in Spanish. "We never thought it would lead to performing for the president. I think it reflects the president's interest in all of the races and cultures in the country, and how he seeks participation from all corners."

The Presidential Inaugural Committee is attempting to choose representatives from each state for the parade, and Comparza Morelense is the only invitee from Nevada so far, a committee spokeswoman said. In making its choices, the committee considers the type of performance, reviews videos and weighs how each potential participant would represent U.S. history, diversity and commitment to service.

The elation of inclusion for Comparza Morelense, however, was soon followed by the reality of funding and logistics. * * * fundraiser, featuring food, games, a raffle and dance performance, from 4 p.m. to midnight Saturday at Elegante Banquet Hall, 3020 E. Bonanza Rd.

During a demonstration for media this week, the group's speakers cracked, popped and then conked out more than once. Garcia said Comparza Morelense typically would use a pickup truck and its own sound system during a parade, but for the Inaugural Parade the members would like to hire a DJ with professional equipment or, more traditionally, a live band.

No matter what, Comparza Morelense will make it all work, Garcia said, beaming with a wide smile at the thought of how far the group has come.

"When we started, we only set out to share this dance and piece of our culture with the community," Garcia said. "Now we get to go perform for the president. It's amazing."

Pablo Soriano, a 12-year-old who joined the group just a few months ago and will travel to Washington, dances in a black velvet costume embroidered with images of the sun and Tigger, from Winnie the Pooh.

"I like everything about the dance," Pablo said. "I like the jumping. You get exercise."

You sweat. My mom and dad are from Morelos, and I feel like I'm carrying on the traditions. I also like how there are so many different cultures mixed together."

The dancers are called "Chinelos," and their origin dates to the Spanish conquest of Mexico. The indigenous people were persecuted and not allowed to openly practice their own religion. During Lent and Carnival, emboldened by the ability to wear masks in the festivities, some indigenous people wore costumes mocking the Europeans and danced through the streets. The Chinelos from Morelos, where in the colonial era there were large sugar plantations, are some of the first and most well known.

"The priests didn't let the indigenous people practice their customs, and they had no rights," Garcia said in Spanish. "When they had the chance (at Carnival preceding Lent), they put on costumes and made fun of them."

The costumes are elaborate and take between one and two months to make, Garcia said. The masks are typically light in color and feature a pointy upturned beard, a clear holdover from the dance's roots in imitating Europeans.

The costumes, made from velvet, are embroidered with elaborate designs that reflect the dancer's interests and often meld motifs from politics, religion and both European and Mexican culture. Some are images of indigenous Mexican mythology, many have depictions of the Virgin of Guadalupe, and others feature skulls, dragons, swords and even Disney characters.

The dance is called the "Brinco del Chinelo" (Jump of the Chinelo) and is left open to interpretation by the individual dancer. For the Inaugural Parade, however, Comparza Morelense is planning to do some extra choreography in an effort to present a more unified form for their moment in the national spotlight, Garcia said.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 4, 2013

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, on February 28, 2013, I was unable to vote because of medical reasons and missed rollcall vote No. 55, on passage of S. 47, the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

I strongly support reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), which was delayed for far too long. I am pleased that Congress was able to overcome the obstacles that blocked its final passage. VAWA's programs are a critical component of our Nation's effort to reduce violence and care for victims. Reauthorizing VAWA will help Alaska, and the rest of the country, combat the epidemic of abuse and rape that plagues our families and communities.

RECOGNIZING MINNETONKA GIRLS ALPINE SKI TEAM

HON. ERIK PAULSEN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 4, 2013

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, congratulations to the Minnetonka High School Girls Alpine Ski Team.

The Minnetonka Girls took first place in the Minnesota State High School Alpine Ski Meet earlier this month in Biwabik, Minnesota. This is the Minnetonka Girls' second state title in four years.

Head Coach Steve Lindemer won his fifth state championship with the school since becoming Head Coach of both the Minnetonka Boys and Girls Alpine teams in 1998.

Megan Greiner, Anna Ewald, Megan Gartner, and Marlee Gartner all finished in the top 20 to secure the top team performance.

All of these athletes and their coaches deserve praise for their dedication and determination.

It's an honor to be able to represent, and recognize, such all-star athletes. Congratulations.

HONORING HAROLD O. BOUCHARD

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 4, 2013

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Harold O. Bouchard of Hermon, Maine, who passed away on February 22, at the age of 77. Harold will be long remembered as an astute businessman who was well known for his philanthropy and community service.

From a single dump truck he purchased in 1958, Harold grew a business that today employs 175 people and stands at 100 trucks strong. He became an innovator and fierce advocate for the trucking industry. Harold worked tirelessly to develop safer and more efficient trucks. As an advocate, he sought to ensure lawmakers understood that heavier six axle trucks were safe and important for businesses to compete. Because of Harold's efforts, Maine's roads are safer and Maine's businesses are stronger.

Harold also maintained a strong presence in the community, helping to found the American Loggers Council and the Professional Logging Contractors of Maine. Harold was also involved with the Maine Forest Products Council, the Forest Resource Association, Maine Motor Transportation Association, the Maine Better Transportation Association, and the Associated General Contractors of Maine. The Northeast Loggers Association, of which he was also a member, named him Outstanding Logger of the Year in 1991.

Few people can claim to embody the spirit of charity and community engagement as completely as Harold. He was instrumental in helping to raise \$13 million to improve cancer treatment services at Eastern Maine Medical Center. In 2003, Harold received the Bangor Region Chamber of Commerce's Norbert X. Dowd Award for his contributions to his industry and for his community service.

I was fortunate to have Harold as a supporter and ally in my ongoing efforts to allow states to increase the weight of trucks allowed on their highways. The work he did on this cause was instrumental in helping to make this goal a reality in Maine today.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring the life of Mr. Harold O. Bouchard.

IN RECOGNITION OF RON CRITELLI

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 4, 2013

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ron Critelli as he is honored as the "Man of the Year" by the Amerigo Vespucci Society of Long Branch, NJ. Mr. Critelli is truly deserving of this recognition for his exceptional service to the Amerigo Vespucci Society and the entire community.

Born and raised in Long Branch, NJ, Mr. Critelli has a strong connection to the community. He excelled in soccer and was elected as team captain of the Long Branch High School Varsity team for three years, leading the team to the NJ State Finals in his senior year. Mr. Critelli was the first in his family to graduate college, earning a Bachelor's Degree in Business Management from the University of North Carolina at Pembroke. In college, Mr. Critelli maintained his sense of community, joining the soccer team, serving as a member and Treasurer of the Pi Lambda Upsilon fraternity and participating in various campus events.

Introduced to the Amerigo Vespucci Society by his now wife, Loredana's family, Mr. Critelli became a member and remains active in the Society. Previously serving as a Councilor on the Executive Board, Mr. Critelli is the current Recording Secretary for the Society. He often assists with various Society events, including the Wine Tasting Gala and the Family Picnic, for which he served as co-chair and chair respectively. Furthermore, Mr. Critelli co-chaired a fundraiser on behalf of Amerigo Vespucci Society members who were affected by Superstorm Sandy.

In addition to his community service, Mr. Critelli works as a Financial Advisor at Wells Fargo Advisors. He was recently honored by New Jersey Monthly Magazine as a 2013 New Jersey Select Wealth Managers.

Mr. Speaker, once again, please join me in congratulating Ron Critelli on his selection as "Man of the Year" by the Amerigo Vespucci Society for his continued dedication and service to the community.

COMMEMORATING EDWARD H. LOCKWOOD

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 4, 2013

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of Edward H. Lockwood, an American veteran from Long Island. Edward recently passed away and our community is mourning this profound loss.

Corporal Lockwood enlisted in the Army in 1942, and remained for the duration of World War II. He served in the 824th and 691st Tank Destroyer Units at Normandy, the Rhineland, Central Europe, and finally Ardennes, the Battle of the Bulge. Upon returning home to Glenwood Landing, Corporal Lockwood joined the American Legion Post 336 in Glen Head, New York, and worked for the Long Island Lighting Company until his retirement.

Mr. Lockwood joined the Glenwood Fire Company when he turned 18 and his only in-

terval in service was substituted by his time in the Army. He served as Chief twice before being named Chief Emeritus, joining a privileged few who have been Glenwood Fire Company Chief three times.

Corporal Lockwood leaves behind three daughters and will be sorely missed by the Glenwood Landing community of which he was a part of for almost 92 years.

Edward was a true American patriot. In the wake of his passing, we should all remember the sacrifice our veterans make to keep us safe here at home. I am forever grateful for Edward's contributions as a serviceman and leader in his community on Long Island. I offer my sincerest thoughts and prayers to his family.

IDAHO'S TERRITORIAL SESQUICENTENNIAL

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 4, 2013

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, on this day in 1863, 150 years ago, President Abraham Lincoln signed a congressional act creating the Idaho Territory. Twenty-seven years later, part of that territory would become the 43rd State, the State of Idaho.

The Idaho Territory was initially much larger than the borders of Idaho today; it included most of what would later become Montana and Wyoming. The territory, to be governed by William H. Wallace, an old friend of Lincoln's, was previously part of the Washington Territory.

Western Washington politicians moved to discard large tracts of land in eastern Washington Territory partly because the population in those areas was increasing rapidly and they wanted to assure Olympia would remain the capital of the region. That population increase was mostly gold miners seeking out their fortunes in the Clearwater region, now Idaho's panhandle. This goes to show you, Mr. Speaker, gerrymandering is not a new phenomenon; it is in fact one of the reasons the Idaho Territory was created in the first place.

However, the land mass for the Idaho Territory was so expansive that within a year Montana broke away, and four years later Wyoming did the same, leaving the Idaho Territory looking very much like the State does today.

In 1890, after 27 years as a territory, Idaho became the 43rd State. However, much of what distinguishes Idaho today came about during its territorial years, including the creation of its main highways, many of its public schools, its tax system, its tribal laws, its universities, its water laws, and indeed, its eventual Constitution, written in the summer of 1889 in Boise. Idaho's Constitution remains today almost exactly how it was written, and it still forms the basis for all Idaho laws to this day.

The citizens of Idaho have always demonstrated a unity and sense of pride in their traditions and history, and this rich history is what makes them who they are today. From the Canadian border to Yellowstone, from Craters of the Moon to Coeur d'Alene Lake, Idahoans celebrate today. It is my privilege today to commemorate Idaho's territorial sesquicentennial.