

at the top of every suggested improvement here. Preservation is treated as if it were a disease one might catch by spending too much time in South Glastonbury, South Windsor or admiring a covered bridge. Bucket loaders are on speed dial at Town Hall.

And yet Mayberry Village, problems or no, survives—and, to those who attended Monday night's Mayberry School Literacy Night, thrives.

Perhaps that is because "The Village" is very much still a village of moms. Pauline and her husband Ray raised 8 children, moving three times in Mayberry, settling into what Mayberry residents still call "The New Village," on Chandler Street. Mayberry School, named after a well-known East Hartford family doctor, Dr. Franklin F. Mayberry, replaced the Little Red Schoolhouse first organized in the Community Building, now the Lois Nolan Larson Community Center.

It was moms such as Pauline Larson who kept the children occupied. Moms organized the PTA for the Little Red Schoolhouse located where St. Isaac Jogues is today. Mrs. Miles, Mrs. Jordan, Mrs. Larson; moms such as Mrs. Korngiebel and Mrs. Jamo and Mrs. Mazolli. They kept an eye on all the children, not just their own. They called one another when someone was playing not where they were supposed to be, or would be late for dinner. They exchanged clothing that was outgrown, chipped in to help a family in need, shared venison or fresh Maine potatoes just picked by local children returning back from the fields up north. The school and the church are central to Mayberry Village, not politics. More families pay attention to what is going on down Cannon Road than to happenings at Town Hall.

But Pauline Larson realized the political process was and is vital to the lifeblood of a community. She taught her children that it was important for them to get involved, to participate, to take part in the system their father, Raymond, fought for in the Navy, his ship torpedoed by a kamikaze attack 30 miles off the coast of Japan near the end of World War II. Call it divine intercession of a girl from Lawrence, Massachusetts versus the divine wind of the Japanese, but John became a history teacher, state senator and is now one of the country's top leaders as chairman of the House Democratic Caucus. This did not happen by magic but by dint of hard work and never forgetting where you are from; by staying humble and remembering to pray and to give thanks and credit where credit was due. All values instilled by a Mayberry Village mom, by all the neighborhood moms as well, an army of mothers reminding you to wipe your shoes and wash your hands and do your homework.

The Larson family lost Ray Larson 24 years ago. Pauline found herself with multiple sclerosis, and battled this debilitating illness for the last third of her life without complaint. She still stayed involved in her beloved Democratic party, in her town and in her growing family's lives. David Larson became her caregiver for which he earned the enduring appreciation of his family until she had to move from Chandler Street to the Riverside Health Care Center where she also received great and loving care, the congressman said, in a eulogy that was a tribute not just to one woman but to a place and time where an ordinary mom could make a difference, and an extraordinary difference in terms of raising a mayor and a congressman—not to mention the rest of the Larson clan, all contributing, hard-working citizens in our society.

A Jesuit missionary might have his name on the church—October 21 Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha, Jogues guide and the bronze statue on the eastern corner of the church on

Home Terrace will be canonized in Rome as the first American Indian saint in the Catholic Church by Pope Benedict XVI—but Mayberry Village's moms also deserve a place of honor. And it is no small coincidence that an Ave Maria was sung inside St. Isaacs so close to the day 356 years ago—October 18, 1646—when Jogues was martyred and when Kateri, who died in 1680 at age 24, "The Lilly of the Mohawks," will be canonized Sunday, an event of significance for native tribes in the U.S., Canada and Mexico.

Women have a significant role in keeping the faith of Mayberry Village together. Far too many haven't any other choice, somehow making ends meet. As our ongoing poor economy continues to plague us, places such as Mayberry feel it, but are accustomed to it. They know hard times are one check away. Indeed the Monday stop by the Foodshare truck, which typically sees a line of hundreds lining up for free food, was cancelled Monday, a hand-written sign under the gaze of Blessed Kateri's statue stated.

Being a true Mayberry Village mom, Lois "Pauline" Nolan Larson would likely have hated being a cause of such an inconvenience.

That is a Mayberry Village mom.

HONORING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARTS COUNCIL OF THE MORRIS AREA

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 25, 2013

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Arts Council of the Morris Area, located in Morristown, Morris County, New Jersey, which is celebrating its 40th Anniversary in 2013.

The Arts Council of the Morris Area is a private, non-profit organization founded in 1973. Their mission has been to "engage and build community through the arts." Taking great pride in the importance of the arts, the organization desired to showcase the work of artists to the area. Their lasting goal has been to inspire positive change in people through the realization and appreciation of different forms of artistry.

The Arts Council contains numerous services aimed at making the Morris County area a more vivacious and intellectual place to live through the various programs it puts forth and the support of local artists who donate their work to The Arts Council. The Council also serves as the central resource to help improve artistic learning experiences for children in school and providing general information to the public.

The Arts Council has directly assisted more than 4,000 students in understanding and appreciating art through its programs that utilize professional teaching artists. Additionally, the council has funded a program for Middle School students called "Telling Our Stories," with the goal in mind of improving oral and written communication skills. They hope that this program will improve students' self-esteem, conflict resolution abilities, and problem-solving characteristics. The council also awards two scholarships, for artistic excellence, annually to graduating Morris County high school seniors who have chosen to pursue an art concentration in college. These scholarships provide these students with the wonderful opportunities they need to succeed.

Over the past four decades since its beginnings, the Arts Council has grown each year in its recognition, size, and impact on the community. The council has continuously earned honors for the programs and services it provides. Amazingly, over the past 15 consecutive years, the Arts Council has received the "Citation of Excellence" award. This award is given to organizations that demonstrate themselves as a "Major Service Organization" towards members of their community and has been handed out annually by the New Jersey State Council of the Arts to The Arts Council for its, "solid history of service excellence, substantial activity and broad public service." Moreover, the Morris County Board of Chosen Freeholders, in their Arts and Humanities Month Proclamation, identified the Arts Council as, "a leader in developing, supporting and promoting artists, the arts and experiences that enhance and transform the lives of Morris County citizens." Undoubtedly respected amongst the entire community, it is easy to see why this council has gained such notice.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Arts Council of the Morris Area, in Morristown, NJ, as it celebrates its 40th Anniversary.

IN CELEBRATION OF MRS. LILLIE BELL CARSON MOORE'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 25, 2013

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my sincerest congratulations and Happy Birthday wishes to Mrs. Lillie Bell Carson Moore, who celebrated her 100th birthday on Wednesday, January 2, 2013. She will be honored with a birthday celebration on Sunday, January 27, 2013, at 11:30 a.m. at Shady Grove Baptist Church in Richland, Georgia.

Known as "Shug," Mrs. Moore was born in Brooklyn, Georgia on January 2, 1913. She is the fifth of 23 siblings.

At an early age, Mrs. Moore's family moved from Stewart County to the Seminole Community in Webster County, where her father purchased land for the family. No stranger to hard work, Mrs. Moore would toil in the fields of the farm from dawn until dusk. She also maintained a garden and canned and preserved food for her family.

Mrs. Moore joined Shady Grove Baptist Church as a young girl and was educated by night in the sanctuary of the church. They were not allowed to attend school during the day as there was always farm work to be done. Mrs. Moore loved to praise the Lord through song and she added her voice to the choir in 1973.

Mrs. Moore married John Moore and gave birth to five children: Charlie, Fannie Mae, Annie, Jessie and Leroy. She has seven grandchildren and eleven great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Moore was known as the first African-American woman in the area to drive a Model T car. Having lived under the administration of seventeen United States presidents, her greatest joy was to live long enough to see the first African-American president elected. She well remembers a time when she was not allowed

to vote and now thoroughly enjoys exercising that precious right. She is proud that her hands, which once picked cotton, aided in picking the first African-American president, not just once, but twice. She has always taught others to "treat people the way you want to be treated, no matter what color they are."

George Washington Carver once said, "How far you go in life depends on your being tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving and tolerant of the weak and strong because someday in your life you will have been all of these." Mrs. Moore has advanced far in life because she never forgot these lessons and always kept God first.

The race of life isn't given to the swift or to the strong, but to those who endure until the end. Mrs. Moore has run the race of life with grace and dignity and God has blessed her over her lifetime.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in paying tribute to an outstanding citizen and woman of faith, Mrs. Lillie Bell "Shug" Carson Moore, as she, her family and the congregation of Shady Grove Baptist Church prepare to celebrate her 100th birthday.

RECOGNIZING THE 23RD ANNUAL DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., YOUTH ORATORICAL COMPETITION

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 25, 2013

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 23rd Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Youth Oratorical Competition hosted by the Prince William Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and its Education Foundation.

The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. left an indelible mark on our nation in his pursuit of civil rights through civil dialogue. Despite the violence perpetrated against Dr. King and other leaders of the Civil Rights Movement, Dr. King responded with reverent oratory and nonviolent resistance to condemn the injustice of social inequality. His legacy is one of tolerance and steadfast commitment to principled and peaceful communication.

Contestants in the MLK Youth Oratorical Contest pay tribute to Dr. King's legacy with their ability to exercise the strength of the spoken word. This skill will serve them well as

they seize future leadership opportunities and forge the personal relationships necessary for effective community engagement and organizing.

I congratulate and applaud the following contestants of the 23rd Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Youth Oratorical Competition:

Middle School Contestants:

Norman Jones—Stonewall Middle School.

Hazma Mir—Mary G. Porter Traditional School.

Nathaniel Raffier—Herbert J. Saunders Middle School.

High School Contestants:

Jacob Gonzalez—Thomas Jefferson High School.

Abbas Idris—Osborn Park High School.

Cynthia Johnson—Stonewall Jackson High School.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in commending Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. for recognizing the benefit that Dr. King's teachings bring to the development of our youth. We lay the foundations of a more tolerant society when we nurture the ability to engage and communicate with one another in a way that respects our common humanity.