

Register of Historic Places. Legend indicates that the founders of the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, home of the Indianapolis 500, met at the club to discuss construction of the famed track. It also served as host to discussions that eventually brought the NFL's Colts to Indianapolis.

The Columbia Club has hosted every Republican President since Benjamin Harrison while in office or as a candidate. Thousands of business leaders and politicians have been members of the Club as have famous Hoosiers like musician Hoagy Carmichael and Impressionist T.C. Steele. Each year the Club holds its annual Beefsteak Dinner, of which I had the honor to keynote on October 7, of this year.

Congratulations to the Columbia Club and all of its current and former members for the 125 years of excellence in our Indianapolis community.

HONORING MR. ALBERT A. CURTIS, JR.

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 12, 2014*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a man of noble character and determination, Mr. Albert A. Curtis, Jr. of Tallahatchie County. He is the son of Lucille and Albert Curtis, Sr.

As a child: Like his father, Albert A. Curtis, Sr., he was a shrewd manager of a few assets. But here is how he got started. This was during a time when racism was considered acceptable. Albert, Sr. saw no racism in money. And as a little boy Albert, Jr. learned that as he watched his father conduct business with Blacks, Whites and everyone else. Albert Sr. had several mantras his son would often hear him say like, "A lil negotiation don't hurt, but don't compromise your beliefs and dignity." or "A bicycle of your own is better than someone else's Cadillac . . . always work hard cause nobody is going to give you anything" and "Sometimes you got to lose to win."

Time to grow-up: Albert, Jr.'s mother, Lucille died suddenly when he was eight (8) years old. But because of his strong belief in family and deep love for his wife, Albert, Sr. felt that was all gone when she died. He was broken hearted and turned to alcohol to escape the reality of that inevitable change. Albert, Jr. saw his father lose his will to live and began losing the businesses he had worked so hard to build. Those businesses also provided the financial support for the family. The family began moving around from place to place until Mattie Curtis took the family in, which is Albert Jr.'s grandmother. The family began to hire out, young Albert, Jr. to work on other farms for money and to work odd jobs. Unfortunately, young Albert remembers how his father would take the money from him to buy alcohol instead of support the family. Rather than defy his father in any way, he simply quit school to increase his work hours, believing he could continue giving his father the "little" money and the extra money he would make by increasing his hours, he thought some money would go to the family. This was a life changing decision for a young boy—who didn't truly understand.

His schoolmates started seeing him around and they began to make fun of Albert, Jr. with words like "He done quit school and ain't gon' mount to nothin' . . . plus he smells like horses and mules." Well, Albert just kept on because his father's words and work ethics were deep inside of him, "Never give up and make people's ideas of you a lie!" As he grew older, people began to notice him never wavering, never quitting, steadfast, and focused, but they just didn't see anything—material that is.

Time to start a family: In 1964, Albert, Jr. met and married Alma "Emma" Jean Blackburn. She was his soul-mate and helpmate—heaven sent. She was strong in areas he was weak. He was hard working and could make money while she was strong minded and book smart (as they called it). Emma managed the books, opened up bank accounts, paid the bills . . . she took care of the family business. Soon the couple had acquired enough money and assets that they were able to purchase their own home and leave Grandma Curtis' home.

Albert, Jr. then with the support of this wife, set out to re-acquire all the land and holding his father had lost. He began buying land back from his family members (e.g., aunts and uncles and anyone who had his daddy's land). He was the only one who had the money to do this. Eventually Albert, Jr. was able to buy back all the property and land his father had owned but two (2) pieces of property.—Now, it's not known of anyone else accomplishing this, but Albert deserves being recognized and applauded.

But wait, this story is not over . . . Remember, Albert, Jr. was never wavering, never quitting, always steadfast and focused, and didn't understand because they just didn't see anything—material that is. Well, by now he managed to acquire a wife, home of his own, money in the bank, all his daddy's previously owned property (but 2 pieces) and now property of his own. Albert continued until he was able to acquire 52 residential properties, commercial properties, more acres of land, several types of businesses of his own (e.g., plumbing, and financing for other small business owners) and work a full-time job for the City of Public Works in the community he lived.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the legacy of Mr. Albert A. Curtis, Jr. of Tallahatchie County, from the Second Congressional District of Mississippi.

IN RECOGNITION OF BARBRA SIPERSTEIN

**HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 12, 2014*

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Barbra "Babs" Siperstein as she is honored with the Stonewall Legacy Award by The Pride Network at their New Jersey Leadership Awards Dinner. It is truly a fitting tribute to recognize Ms. Siperstein as we celebrate LGBT History Month as she has played such a vital role in the LGBT movement.

Born Barry Siperstein, Barbra Siperstein acknowledged her true identity when she was nearly 50 years old. In 2007, she legally changed her name and the following year

changed her Hebrew name to Baila Chaya in a ceremony at her synagogue, Congregation Beth Mordecai in Perth Amboy.

Through her own journey, Ms. Siperstein became a pioneer of transgender equality. She is a political activist and a staunch advocate for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) causes. In 2009 she became the first openly transgender member confirmed to the Democratic National Committee (DNC). Additionally, she was appointed to the New Jersey Civil Union Review Commission and served as Vice Chair of Garden State Equality. She has also been a member of the DNC's executive committee, deputy vice chair of the New Jersey Democratic State Committee and president of the New Jersey Stonewall Democrats.

Ms. Siperstein was married for 34 years to the late Carol Siperstein, who stayed by her side until she lost a sudden battle with cancer in 2001. Together, they had a daughter and two sons. In addition to her activism, Barbra is a United States Army Veteran and a small-business owner.

Mr. Speaker, I sincerely hope that my colleagues will join me in congratulating Barbra Siperstein on receiving the prestigious Stonewall Legacy Award and thanking her for her continuous efforts on behalf of the LGBT community.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF EDUARDO POSADA

**HON. ALAN GRAYSON**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 12, 2014*

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, to recognize Eduardo Posada. Born in Puerto Rico on February 8, 1929, his father was a Colombian native and his mother was Puerto Rican. He spent his early years in New York City until 1935, when his family moved back to Puerto Rico. Except for two brief stints back in New York, Ed stayed in Puerto Rico where he obtained his BA from the Polytechnic Institute of Puerto Rico (now Universidad Interamericana de Puerto Rico) in 1949.

Ed worked for two years in Puerto Rico as a secondary school teacher. He married Urania Feliciano and had a son, Luis. The family then moved to New York, where Ed joined the U.S. Air Force. While serving at Governor's Island, New York, Ed and his wife had a second son, Danny. In June, 1955 Ed was separated from the Air Force as a sergeant and assigned to the U.S. Air Force Reserves. In 1956, he was found unfit for active duty and discharged from the service due to disabilities.

Ed went to work as a secondary school teacher and completed his MA at Hunter College of the City University of New York in 1959. Ed eventually became Assistant Dean for Boys at Theodore Roosevelt High School.

The family next moved to Miami where Ed continued to teach until 1987, when he retired. While in Miami, he had the honor of being part of the newly formed United Teachers of Dade and served as vice president for the group. In 1987, Ed retired from teaching and moved to Orlando with his wife.

Ed has since been an active member of the American Legion, Korean War Veterans, and

the Disabled American Veterans (DAV). He has held leadership positions in all three organizations and, at present, he is a member of the executive board and legislative officer for the local chapter of the DAV. He also volunteers at the VA Medical Center and runs the Bingo event once a month at the VA nursing home in Lake Nona.

I am happy to recognize Eduardo Posada, during Hispanic Heritage Month, for his service to our country and the Central Florida community.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL  
DEBT

**HON. MIKE COFFMAN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 12, 2014*

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$17,937,617,036,693.09. We've added \$7,310,739,987,780.01 to our debt in 5 years. This is over \$7.3 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

BERGEN 350TH ANNIVERSARY  
GALA

**HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 12, 2014*

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to your attention the outstanding achievement of the 350th anniversary of New Jersey's statehood. Furthermore, I am proud to celebrate the historic tradition of Bergen County and its many important contributions to the history of New Jersey as part of the Bergen 350 Gala. As one of the first four original counties of New Jersey, I have the honor of being its Representative in the U.S. Congress.

Founded by Dutch settlers in the 17th century, the area of Bergen County was settled as part of the New Netherlands, the 17th century North American colonial province of the Dutch Republic. In 1683, Bergen County received official recognition as an independent county by New Jersey's provincial assembly.

It is clear that Bergen County has played a crucial role in shaping the proud history of the Garden State.

In the Revolutionary War, Bergen County demonstrated its commitment to American independence. In fact, Fort Lee served as a key strategic asset to General Washington and his army.

In the Civil War, Company K of the 22nd Volunteer Infantry Regiment trained at the Civil War Drill Hall Theatre, which still stands in Leonia today. In World War I, Bergen County made use of innovative agricultural knowledge to support the war effort, canning fruits and vegetables and sending them to where they were needed.

After the nation fell into the Great Depression, Bergen County hosted numerous Work Projects Administration projects like the murals

that decorate the County Courthouse in Hackensack. At the onset of World War II, Bergen County once again demonstrated its commitment to the nation, with more than 26,000 of its residents enlisting to serve.

In the Civil Rights Era, Teaneck became one of the earliest towns to voluntarily integrate its public schools by busing, doing so in 1964.

I am truly honored to represent Bergen County as part of New Jersey's 9th Congressional District in the United States Congress. As such, I was proud to cosponsor H. Res. 624, to honor the 350th anniversary of the founding of New Jersey and recognize the valuable contributions of people of the Garden State.

As we move forward, I would like to recognize the Bergen County Historical Society and the Bergen 350 Gala on October 15th, 2014 to commemorate the role of Bergen County in light of the state of New Jersey's 350th Anniversary.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me, our colleagues, and the state of New Jersey in recognizing the historic contributions of Bergen County in honor of the 350th anniversary of New Jersey's statehood.

CONGRATULATING COACH JOHN  
GILLEN

**HON. TIM RYAN**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 12, 2014*

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my former coach and dear friend, Mr. John Gillen, for his over 50 years of incredible work at my alma mater, John F. Kennedy High School. His titles were athletic director, coach, and teacher, but those were just labels. Coach Gillen was a role model for me and many other student athletes. He was fair, dedicated, and had a great sense of humor. But most importantly he was able to give us the tough love that was so often needed to instill discipline and resiliency. He would spend countless hours at our school and would ask for so little in return. His joy and fulfillment comes from shaping the minds and spirits of the young people at our school.

I will never forget watching daily as a high school student Mr. G quietly stepping into the school chapel. He took time to pray, meditate, and to thank God for all of his blessings. That stuck with me as I walked my own personal spiritual journey. I have him to thank for, through his modeling and leadership the encouragement to pursue my own personal journey. For that I will be forever grateful as it is the best gift he could have given to me. I treasure my experiences on and off the field with Coach Gillen. He represents the best of Kennedy High School and the best example of what it means to be a practicing Catholic. If those who know him could measure up to be half the person he is we would vastly improve our schools, our community, and our nation in countless ways.

I would like to also submit the following article that appeared in the Tribune Chronicle on August 9, 2014 in his honor.

STILL GOING STRONG GILLEN A LEGEND IN  
KENNEDY HISTORY

WARREN.—John Gillen likes to keep things simple and understated. Nothing displays

that more than the tiny office Gillen occupies as the Athletic Director at John F. Kennedy High School. Tucked in behind the ticket office next to the gymnasium that's named after him, the work space can best be described as a cubicle. With a desk, chair and some filing cabinets in place, there's no more than 50 square feet of walking space. To get a view of the outside world, Gillen has to step from the office and peek through the ticket office towards a set of doors. To some it might seem a bit claustrophobic, but to Gillen it's served with the comfort a tree house would to a young boy for decades.

John F. Kennedy athletic director John Gillen is shown in his office at the high school. Gillen has been AD since 1971 and was a part of the first staff when Kennedy opened its doors in 1964. "I never wanted to move," Gillen said as he took a break from work on a late July day. "They asked me if I wanted to move down close to the main offices. I like it here. It would probably make a great bomb shelter if we ever get attacked; or a hurricane or earthquake; this would be the place to come." Gillen moved to the office from a nearby work space that was even smaller. To the best of his recollection, he's been in the current office about 35 years, which was about seven years into what is now his 42nd year as athletic director.

It probably seems like only yesterday to Gillen, who is living proof that the love of work and an active mind can keep a person young at heart. Gillen doesn't show much of his 81 years other than the usual gray hair and perhaps slower walk that are inevitable with the aging process. His mind is sharp, which it has to be to deal with the demands of a job that can be thankless and rewarding at the same time. How he does it when most people his age have given in to retirement or infirmity is remarkable. The phone calls from parents upset about a child's lack of playing time. The constant demands of scheduling at a time when it's become impossible to find an area conference willing to extend JFK an invitation to the club. The secret for Gillen is to keep physically active and tap into the energy of those around him, including his wife Gloria, and an unwavering faith in God. It starts with a workout with light weights every morning. "Dealing with the kids," Gillen said. "They keep you young. They'll keep you on your toes, I'll tell you."

Another key to Gillen's longevity is his humility and the accommodating manner in which he's treated those he's worked with all these years. Ask any JFK coach that's had dealings with Gillen, and you won't find one that will say a bad word about him. "John is a very calm, easy-going guy," said Dennis Zolciak, who coached the Eagles' football team from 1977-90. "The thing is his heart is totally into the school. He wants what's best for the school." There are generally two types of athletic directors—ones that want control of everything, including calling a few plays, and ones that take a back seat and try to make life as easy as possible for the coaches. Gillen fits the latter category to the max, always being careful to meet the demands of every coach, even if he might not agree with all the requests. "He couldn't do enough for you, and then some," said Tony Napolet, the football coach from 1970-72 and 1991-2010.

Few people know Gillen better than Napolet, whom Gillen coached in football at St. Mary's Junior High School more than 60 years ago. The two are as much a part of the athletic fabric at JFK as any person ever associated with the school. "He's the best part of that place," Napolet said. "He's been there 50 years. Since before they opened. He loves it. That place is his life." Gillen was raised here and graduated from St. Mary's