

Eagle Scout in the Boy Scouts of America. Michael is a member of Boy Scout Troop 69. He will receive this award at an Eagle Scout Court of Honor at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, February 20, 2000 at the Hobart Scout Cabin, located in Hobart, Indiana.

Boy Scout Troop 69 was founded at St. Bridget Church in Hobart, Indiana. Since its founding in 1957, Boy Scout Troop 69 has become one of the most successful scout troops in Northwest Indiana. Since 1987, fifteen boys from this troop have achieved the prestigious rank of Eagle Scout. Only an elite group of Boy Scouts attain the Eagle Scout ranking, which is the highest of seven rankings in the Boy Scouts of America organization. In order to become an Eagle Scout, a Boy Scout must complete the following three tasks: earn 21 merit badges; complete a service project; and demonstrate strong leadership skills within the troop.

Scout Master Robert Bell must take credit for much of this success. He has been Scout Master of Troop 69 since 1987 and is directly responsible for the excellent program which has led to the development of such fine young men. Mr. Bell devotes significant time to scouting and has displayed qualities of personal understanding, dedication to youth and advocacy for their cause, which has made his troop and his entire community very proud. The following are the names of the Eagle Scouts who have come from Troop 69 since Bob Bell has been Scout Master: George E. Murchek, 1987; William Guinee, 1987; Robert W. Bell, 1988; David Strickley, 1988; Michael Murchek, 1989; Michael Stewart, 1990; Richard Duirda, 1991; Richard A. Sapper, III, 1992; Joel Detterline, 1993; Dennis King, 1995; Eric Stage, 1995; Chad Wolf, 1998; Jeremiah Jackson, 1999; Philip Sirota, 1999; and Michael DeBonis, 1999.

The most recent addition to this list, Michael DeBonis, began in scouting as a Tiger Cub in the first grade. He attended St. Bridget School in Hobart, and is currently attending Andean High School in Merrillville, Indiana, where he will graduate this June. Michael has served in several positions of responsibility in scouting and was twice Senior Patrol Leader of his troop. Michael also won the Arrow of Life and was inducted into the Order of the Arrow.

Michael attained the rank of Eagle Scout in conjunction with his academic and athletic achievements at Andean High School. He served as Captain of the Andean High School Quiz Bowl Team, which won the Indiana State Championship in 1998, and was runner-up in 1999. Michael has also been named an All-Star on Andean's various academic teams and has won numerous awards as a member of the Andean Academic Superbowl Teams in Social Studies, Science and Interdisciplinary. Additionally, he plays Defensive Tackle on the Varsity Football Team at Andean. Michael has achieved all of these accomplishments and yet has maintained an A average at Andean and is a National Merit Scholarship Semi-Finalist.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating Michael DeBonis for his commendable achievement. His parents, Tony and Shelia DeBonis, can be proud of their son because it takes a great deal of tenacity and devotion to achieve such an illustrious ranking. This young man has a promising future ahead of him, which will undoubtedly include improving the

quality of life in Indiana's First Congressional District.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH,
CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF
SERVICE

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2000

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to tell you about a small church that has celebrated 100 years of service to the community of Craig, Colorado.

The entire town of Craig was invited to help celebrate the 100th birthday of the First Congregational Church on January 2, 2000. It was a time to reflect on the past and plan for the future as Reverend Edwin Mendanhall delivered an inspirational message to the congregation. The church was founded by a group of 16 people in 1900. Within just a few months, the church had found a pastor and was chartered with 29 parishioners. Generous gifts from members of the church contributed to the purchase of a new bell in 1904 and it is still used today. A new facility was built and put to use in 1959.

The First Congregational Church is affiliated with the Rocky Mountain United Church of Christ Conference. As part of the centennial celebration the church will host the conference's annual meeting in June of 2000.

It is with this, Mr. Speaker, that I would like to offer this tribute in honor of the centennial celebration of the First Congregational Church and in recognition of its members.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2000

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, due to necessary medical treatment, I was not present for the following votes. If I had been present, I would have voted as follows:

FEBRUARY 8, 2000

Rollcall vote 8, on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to the Senate amendment to H.R. 1451, the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission Act, I would have voted "yea."

Rollcall vote 9, on the motion to suspend the rules and pass S. 632, the Poison Control Center Enhancement and Awareness Act, I would have voted "yea."

Rollcall vote 10, on agreeing to the Resolution H. Res. 418, expressing the Condolences of the House on the Death of the Honorable Carl B. Albert, I would have voted "yea."

TRIBUTE TO EVELYN CLARKE

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2000

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize the important community contributions of Evelyn Clarke.

Evelyn was born and educated in Charleston, South Carolina. She has been active in Brooklyn community affairs for a number of years. Not one to rest on her laurels, Evelyn continued to work in Central Brooklyn even after she retired from 35 years of service with the Marriott Essex House Hotel. She began volunteering at the Berean Missionary Baptist Church's Senior Center where she has been credited with initiating a number of new senior programs. Evelyn has also worked with the Auxiliary at Kings County Hospital Center. She served as its President for four years.

The proud mother of one daughter, Dotrice and two grandsons, Ian and Christopher, and several nieces and nephews, Evelyn Clarke has made her mark as an advocate for seniors and a key supporter for one of Brooklyn's largest medical centers. Please join me in honoring Evelyn Clarke as one of Brooklyn's most committed activists.

FEDERAL COURT ASSIGNMENT OF
CRIMINAL CASES

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2000

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member highly commends to his colleagues and submits for the RECORD this February 12, 2000, editorial from the Omaha World Herald regarding Federal court assignment of criminal cases concerning President Clinton's friends. Our colleague, Representative HOWARD COBLE (R-NC), recently discovered frequent use of a special rule allowing the chief judge to bypass the random assignment system for certain "protracted" cases; in this instance, fundraising cases involving friends of the President that have been assigned to judges appointed by the President. This situation certainly should be investigated. It's little wonder that increasingly Americans are wondering if one can get justice from the Justice Department.

JUDGING A JUDGE'S JUDGMENT

The Washington, D.C. panel of federal judges that oversees judicial conduct there has reopened what had looked like's closed controversy. The judges were right to do so. The situation involved the chief judge's prior practice—it might reasonably be characterized as a habit—of naming judges who were appointees of President Clinton to preside over criminal cases involving his friends.

That particular federal judicial district has a computer system to assign almost all criminal cases randomly. The idea of putting the system in place was to avoid both the appearance and the reality of favoritism. But there was a special rule, which was recently eliminated, allowing the chief judge to bypass the system for "protracted" cases.

Chief Judge Norma Holloway Johnson used the rule with what might politely be called enthusiasm. It was revealed in recent months that five Democratic campaign fundraising prosecutions and a tax-evasion case against Clinton confidant Webster Hubbell went to Clinton appointees. Now, appeals court Judge Stephen Williams has been ordered to look into the circumstances of these and other case assignments.

The decision to revive the inquiry was made after the revelation by Rep. Howard Coble, R-N.C., of additional non-random assignments in fund-raising cases, including one involving a former fund-raiser for Vice President Al Gore.