

HONORING DELTA SIGMA THETA

**HON. BOB BARR**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 5, 2002*

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, In 1916, twenty-two women came together at Howard University in Washington, D.C. to establish an organization of motivated African-American women. These women believed not only in the ideals of high morality, but also the maintenance of scholastic achievement and philanthropy among women. As a result of this meeting, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority was established.

To date, Delta Sigma Theta has over 200,000 members worldwide, with branches of sisterhood reaching as far as West Germany and Korea. The women of Delta Sigma Theta have continued their founders' initial pledge to serve others, carrying out the tradition of acting as a public service organization rather than a social club. Realizing the issues reach across the globe, the members of Delta Sigma Theta have outlined five points to which they hold themselves and each other accountable. These goals include educational development, economic development, international awareness and involvement, physical and mental health, and—particularly poignant of all of us—political awareness and involvement.

I am pleased to say some years ago, Atlanta area alumnae of Delta Sigma Theta realized the need for a solid alumnae presence, so on February 22, 1986 the Marietta-Roswell Alumnae Chapter set its charter. It has grown to over 300 members. At the core of this alumnae group is support for their collegiate sisters, bringing to light the scholarship program. Funds for the prize monies are raised through its annual dinner dance, "An Affair of the Heart," and the debutante cotillion program.

My fellow members of the House, I am happy to report the Marietta-Roswell alumnae chapter of Delta Sigma Theta will be giving out more than \$25,000 in collegiate scholarships awards on February 16, 2002, saluting promising African American women leaders of tomorrow. I ask you to join me in applauding the past and present efforts and activities of Delta Sigma Theta. Their outstanding leadership and true community spirit of both alumnae and active members are to be commended and exemplified.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ASHLAND LIONS CLUB

**HON. ERIC CANTOR**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 5, 2002*

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 50th Anniversary of the Ashland Lions Club. The club began serving Hanover County, Virginia on February 26, 1952.

The Ashland Lions Club's 50 years of community service is a remarkable accomplishment. Many dedicated members have volunteered their time over the past 50 years to serve the citizens of Hanover County. The Lions Club's generosity is invaluable and

something for which we are all extremely grateful. I am honored that such an exceptional organization resides in the seventh district of Virginia.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating the Ashland Lions Club for its 50 years of service.

IN MEMORY OF LOWELL F. RUPP

**HON. MARCY KAPTUR**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 5, 2002*

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay homage to a man of my district, Lowell F. Rupp, who passed from this life on Monday, January 7, 2002 at the youthful age of 73. Mr. Rupp was a long time and much loved civic and business leader in Fulton County, Ohio.

Born a family farm still operational in Fulton County, Mr. Rupp eventually purchased the farm from his father. He produced corn, soybeans, and wheat, selling the seed as well. Even though I came to know him through politics, for me the picture of Mr. Rupp remains with the land, for he was a farmer in his very soul.

Entering German Township politics, he "sought elective office out of a love for people and a desire to make a difference in their lives." That, indeed, he did. After serving for ten years as a German Township Trustee, Mr. Rupp was elected a Fulton County Commissioner. He served in that position for sixteen years, retiring at the end of his final term in 1994. His tenure as commissioner brought a great deal to the residents of Fulton County: he most assuredly did make a difference in their lives, improving their livelihoods, bringing positive progress to the county and always moving forward. Under his stewardship, he helped establish the Fulton County Courthouse Plaza, a new county health department building and senior centers in four regions of the county. He helped to obtain expansion for water lines into the county and improvements to its fairgrounds.

Those who worked with Mr. Rupp in pursuit of projects benefiting the county—myself included—found him to be a most able and honorable man. One of his colleagues describes him as a "rock-ribbed Republican" who never let partisanship get in the way of doing the best job he could for the public good and noted, "He was a gentleman to work with. We were both opinionated and agreed to disagree." Mr. Rupp practiced a style of politics from which all could take a lesson, and though driven to achieve what he thought was right, still understood the art of compromise.

A man of great yet quiet faith who lived his beliefs, Mr. Rupp was a lifelong member of the Evangelical Mennonite Church. He was also a member of Gideons International and the Archbold Rotary.

Lowell Rupp and his wife Ardith celebrated nearly 53 years of marriage together. As deeply as he surely loved them, words can do little to assuage the grief felt now by Mrs. Rupp, their children Beverly, Pamela, Bruce, Larry, and Leslie, sister, brother, and grandchildren. May the tangible legacy he leaves behind in what his public service gave to his community help them as they find their way now. Lowell Rupp's memory, his talent, his en-

ergy, and his service are the gifts he has left to his family, and to us. While we are saddened at his passing, we are grateful for his life.

TRIBUTE TO THE SHEA FAMILY

**HON. JOHN B. LARSON**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 5, 2002*

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to 2002 Winter Olympian Jim Shea, Jr., of West Hartford, Connecticut. Shea Jr. took second place at a World Cup race in December earning him one of the three spots on the U.S. Men's Skeleton Team in the Winter Olympic Games.

This recent victory and the gaining of a berth on the Olympic team are only the latest accomplishments in a distinguished athletic career. He won a gold medal at the National Championships in 1996. Shea was the top finisher for the U.S. in every race of the 1998–1999 season. He was first American to win a gold in the Skeleton World Cup in 1998 and the first American to win the Skeleton World Championships in 1999. He also won gold at the Inaugural Winter Goodwill Games in Lake Placid in 2000. Shea finished third in the overall World Cup standings for 2000–2001.

Perhaps even more captivating than Shea's athletic record is his family history. When Jim Shea Jr. qualified for the Olympic team, the Sheas became the first family in American history to send 3 generations to the Winter Olympics. The Nelson family accomplished the same feat with the Summer Olympics in the sport of cycling. Jim's father, Jim Shea Sr., competed in Nordic skiing in the 1964 Olympic Games. Jack Shea, Jim Jr.'s grandfather, won two gold medals in speed skating at the 1932 Olympic Games in Lake Placid. Jack was also selected to compete in the 1936 Winter Olympics, to be held in Germany, but refused to participate in protest to Hitler's persecution of the Jews. Jack symbolized true Olympic sportsmanship, and in Jim Jr.'s words, Jack "always felt it was not who won the gold; it was about bringing the world together in a peaceful setting."

Unfortunately, Jack Shea will not be able to see his grandson compete in the Games. Jack was killed in a drunk driving accident in his hometown of Lake Placid last week. I would like to honor the Shea family for their great spirit of participation and sportsmanship, and I wish Jim Jr. good luck in Salt Lake City.

IN HONOR OF JOHN "JACK"  
PHIPPS, SR.**HON. JOSEPH M. HOEFFEL**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 5, 2002*

Mr. HOEFFEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor John "Jack" Phipps Sr. who will be retiring from the Harmonville Fire Company No. 1 in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania after twenty-one years of service as Fire Chief.

Since 1960, Jack has served the Harmonville Fire Company with pride and distinction. In 1963, he was a member of the

SCUBA team which at the time had the most complete fire and rescue operations in the area. He was elected Financial Secretary in 1963 and held this position for nine years until 1971. Jack advanced to fire line officer when he was elected to be Battalion Chief in 1976 and 1977. He became Fire Chief in 1981. Jack has held the position of Fire Chief of the Harmonville Fire Company longer than any other person in the history of the fire company.

Jack has been involved in his community as a member of the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission, the Plymouth Township Relief Association, and numerous other civic activities. He has selflessly given his time and energy to projects such as the building of a substation in Plymouth Valley. In addition, Jack played a crucial role in obtaining a rescue helicopter for Montgomery County.

I am pleased and honored to recognize Jack Phipps on his great career of service. His dedication to his community has been truly outstanding.

TRIBUTE TO OFFICER PAUL  
LASZCZYNSKI

**HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 5, 2002*

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to call to your attention the life of an American hero, Officer Paul Laszczynski of the Port Authority Police Department. Officer Laszczynski of Paramus, New Jersey, was killed in the Line of Duty while heroically responding to the attack on the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001.

September 11, 2001 has emblazoned so many unforgettable images in our minds. Perhaps none is more vivid, however, than that of courageous men and women in uniform working so valiantly to save the lives of others. It is therefore only fitting that Officer Laszczynski be honored, in this, the permanent record of the greatest freely elected body on earth.

A sixteen-year veteran of the Port Authority Police Department and member of the Port Authority's Emergency Services Unit, Officer Laszczynski was no stranger to emergency response. Having repelled down elevator shafts, climbed the top cables of the George Washington Bridge, and rescued people from burning buildings throughout his distinguished career, Paul Laszczynski once again placed the lives of others ahead of his own on September 11th.

Trained in hazardous materials response, Officer Laszczynski was a member of the PAPD's Chemical Identification Response Team. Always one to take on additional tasks, Officer Laszczynski also served as the PATH Command's Fitness Coordinator, a Police Academy Pistol Range Instructor, and as a member of the Honor Guard.

During the bombing of the World Trade Center on February 26, 1993, Officer Laszczynski helped rescue a handicapped man by carrying him to safety from the 72nd floor. His efforts that day earned him two distinguished citations: The Meritorious Citation for Exemplary Police Actions and the Individual Valor Award.

Paul Laszczynski's dedication to serving others and the community at large did not stop

with his service at the PAPD. He was a proud member of a motorcycle club made up of fellow officers that organizes charity rides for sick children and meets other community needs.

He has touched countless lives for the better, and we are all better for having him as part of our American family.

On Tuesday, September 11th that family was attacked in a way we had only seen in our very worst nightmares. The actions carried out on the people of this nation were unspeakable acts of war, targeting the very foundation of what makes us Americans. That day we all witnessed the very worst of mankind.

What the perpetrators of these acts did was not realize the unwavering commitment to liberty and humankind felt by Paul Laszczynski and his fellow heroes. The bravery and love he exhibited in the face of terror make him an example for us all.

We will honor Officer Paul Laszczynski by trying to live our lives as he lived his. We will honor Paul by loving his family as he did, and continuing his work to make our community a better place.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, Paul's family and friends, myself, and a truly grateful nation in honoring the life of a great American, Port Authority Police Officer Paul Laszczynski.

HONORING LYLE EVERINGHAM AS  
A GREAT LIVING CINCINNATIAN

**HON. ROB PORTMAN**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 5, 2002*

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a friend and constituent, Lyle Everingham, who will be honored by the Greater Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce on February 20 as a Great Living Cincinnati. The recipients of this prestigious award are selected on the basis of special achievement in the world of work, but the criteria also includes an awareness of the needs of others; civic service; leadership; and distinctive accomplishments.

Lyle Everingham's success is a classic American story of "working your way to the top." Fresh from a tour of duty with the U.S. Army in the South Pacific, twenty-one year old Lyle applied for a temporary position stocking shelves at a Kroger store in Adrian, Michigan. He thought it would be a nice summer job until school started that fall. Instead, he stayed on with the company, and decades later, oversaw the Kroger Company's entire operation—retiring as Chairman of the Board in 1991. Along the way, he assumed greater responsibility—as store manager, district manager, general district manager and manager of operations. He served as manager of merchandising in the company's Toledo Division, and it was there that he sharpened his administrative skills. Under Lyle's leadership, Kroger became one of the nation's largest food chains and retained its ownership, fending off a hostile takeover attempt by two out-of-town investors. He consistently championed innovative ideas to improve the customer's experience—such as incorporating bank branches right into the Kroger store.

Kroger is truly all in the family for the Everinghams. Lyle's brother, Bob, four sisters,

mother and wife Rlene have all worked for Kroger. Rlene and Lyle have three children and six grandchildren.

Lyle's volunteer activities are many. He led the first capital campaign for Hospice of Cincinnati and the second capital campaign for St. Rita's School for the Deaf. He served on the Smale Infrastructure Commission, the Buenger Education Commission, and was active in United Way. A past president of the Commercial Club and a past co-chair of the Cincinnati Business Committee, Lyle also served as a trustee of the University of Cincinnati and on the board of Bethesda, Inc.

All of us in the Cincinnati area salute Lyle Everingham as he is recognized as a Great Living Cincinnati.

HONORING THE AMERICAN HERITAGE  
ACADEMY, CHEROKEE  
COUNTY, GEORGIA

**HON. BOB BARR**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 5, 2002*

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, in 1999, a private school opened its doors to the north Georgia community in Cherokee County. Since its inception the American Heritage Academy has become an integral component of Georgia's education system, becoming a home to advanced and gifted students, motivating new goals, and challenging students to entertain a wide range of various ideas.

The school operates on a college prep format and combines a versatile range of racial, ethnic, and religious backgrounds; giving its students a diversified look at the world from the start. At the heart of the American Heritage curriculum lies a balanced combination of academic development, community service, and individual creativity. Each class holds a maximum of 15 students, ensuring personal attention and the opportunity for every student's voice to be heard. For now, the school operates on a preschool through middle school scale, but soon it will unveil its newest extension. Students will be able to begin their formative school years at American Heritage, and continue on through high school, right up until they graduate and depart for the next phase of their education.

American Heritage has become a flagship school to Cherokee County. Its presence has initiated a partnership between public and private schools that provides an important choice to parents. The school has grown not only in numbers, but also in reputation, in just a short while; it will no doubt continue to do so in the future.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. VIRGINIA  
STRICKLAND ROGERS

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 5, 2002*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to honor a native of Como, Mississippi who celebrates her centennial birthday today. In 1902, the year Mrs. Rogers was born, Theodore Roosevelt was our nation's twenty-sixth President. Throughout his