

their Emergency Room as a Level II Trauma Center.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor the hard work and determination of the staff of Parkview Medical Center. The compassion illustrated by staff members will be reflected in the hearts of patients for years to come. I would especially like to recognize Chief Executive Officer C.W. Smith and former Chief of Staff Dr. Janice Elaine Kulik for their unrelenting dedication to the medical treatment of patients and coordination of all Parkview activities. Congratulations to Parkview Medical Center on your recent milestone and I wish all the best to the staff.

JIM CIRILLO, MANAGER OF THE RAYBURN BUILDING SPECIAL ORDERS DELI, WINS HOSPITALITY MANAGER OF THE YEAR AWARD

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 26, 2002

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, the House has an award winner amongst its workforce. Mr. Jim Cirillo, an employee of one of the House food service contractors Guest Services, Inc. (GSI), won the 2002 Capital Restaurant & Hospitality Award for "Hospitality Manager of the Year." Jim is manager of the Rayburn Building Special Orders Deli and Pazzos Pizza. This annual award given by the Restaurant Association of Metropolitan Washington and the Washington, DC Convention and Tourism Corporation was presented to Jim at the industry's annual Awards Gala on Sunday, June 23, 2002 in Washington D.C.

One of five nominees from facilities in the Washington D.C. Metropolitan area, Jim won top honors for his superior service and extraordinary management skills as the manager of two facilities in the U.S. House of Representatives. Guest Services' President/CEO, Gerry Gabrys commented, "Members of Congress and their guests and staff have gone out of their way to recognize Jim's attitude and superior service on many occasions."

In a survey of customer satisfaction last fall, the Rayburn Special Orders deli was found to have the highest satisfaction rating amongst GSI's eleven business locations within the House. Recently, Jim developed two innovative websites where Members of Congress and their staff can conveniently and effortlessly place their food orders.

On behalf of the House of Representatives, I'd like to recognize Jim for this outstanding and well-deserved award, and for Jim's service to the House and his customers. Thank you Jim and keep up the great work!

RECOGNIZING THE WORTHINGTON, OHIO POOCH PARADE

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 26, 2002

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the Pooch Parade held in Worthington, Ohio. The Pooch Parade is an annual event

dedicated to the strengthening and educating of the unique relationship between dogs and the people who love them. In addition, the Parade helps create awareness of the growing number of homeless pets, the groups who work to find homes for them to end pet overpopulation and the valuable work of the hundreds of dog rescue groups and their volunteers.

In 1989 Robert Haas had the idea of organizing a parade of dogs and their people in Worthington, Ohio. He envisioned an event that would draw thousands, provide a fun time for all, and be a great vehicle for increasing public awareness of homeless pets and pet overpopulation.

In 2000, that idea became the Pooch Parade. In April of that year, approximately 800 dogs and 5,000 people participated in the Parade. Rescue groups were there with dogs looking for a "forever home." There were vendors with an assortment of dog-related items. People and dogs had a great time and an annual event was born. In 2001, the Pooch Parade attracted approximately 2,500 dogs and 8,000 people as well as more rescue groups and vendors. The 2002 Pooch Parade was attended by over 3800 dogs, 9000 dog-lovers and 50 rescue groups making the Worthington Pooch Parade the largest official Pooch Parade in the country.

The theme for the 2002 Parade, held in April, was "America's Best Friend." Ohio search and rescue dogs that worked in New York after the 9/11 terrorist attacks were honored.

I congratulate all of those involved with the Pooch Parade for their dedication to the issues of homeless pets, pet overpopulation and rescue dogs, and wish the Parade many more years of success.

HONORING BILL LAIRD FOR HIS COMMITMENT TO YOUTH

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 26, 2002

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak today about a distinguished member of my district who is being honored by an organization that has had an immeasurable impact on America. Bill Laird, a retired employee of Willis Corroon, is Junior Achievement's National Middle School Volunteer of the Year.

He has volunteered for nine years and taught 25 JA classes in that time. Mr. Laird always goes above and beyond his classroom duties, using his work and life experiences as a way to educate young people about business, economics and the free-enterprise system.

The history of Junior Achievement is a true testament to the indelible human spirit and American ingenuity. Junior Achievement was founded in 1919 as a collection of small, after school business clubs for students in Springfield, Massachusetts.

Today, through the efforts of more than 100,000 volunteers in classrooms all over America, Junior Achievement reaches more than four million students in grades K-12 per year. JA International takes the free enterprise message of hope and opportunity even further to nearly two million students in 113 countries.

Junior Achievement has been an influential part of many of today's successful entrepreneurs and business leaders. Junior Achievement's success is truly the story of America—the fact that one idea can influence and benefit many lives.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to extend my heartfelt congratulations to Bill Laird of Franklin for his outstanding service to Junior Achievement and the students of Tennessee. I am proud to have him as a constituent and congratulate him on his distinguished accomplishment.

HONORING TAKIRA GASTON

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 26, 2002

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to Takira Gaston of Hartford, Connecticut. On July 4, 2001, Takira was playing at her family's Fourth of July cookout like any 7 years old would be on hot summer afternoon. However, this typical American scene was shattered in an instant by the sound of gunshots. Two drug dealers were exchanging gunfire when one of the bullets struck Takira in the face.

Takira survived and has faced numerous surgeries, with more to come. She has handled the pain and fear with courage that is rare in such a young person. Her brave fight was chronicled by Tina Brown of the Hartford Courant on the one-year anniversary of the shooting. This moving story describe Takira's perseverance and I wish to submit it for the RECORD.

No child should have to go through the ordeal that Takira has gone through. I ask my colleagues to join with me in honoring Takira's courage and continuing to work to rid our cities of the violence that plagues them.

[From the Hartford Courant, July 4, 2002]

THE COURAGE TO HEAL

(By Tina A. Brown)

NEW HAVEN.—After riding the toy cars and playing "Donkey Kong" on the computer, Takira Gaston flashes a bright smile that makes others in the pediatric surgery center forget the protruding scars on her face.

She's having a good day on this sunny Thursday despite being at Yale-New Haven Hospital for her second round of reconstructive surgery. She's thinking about splashing in her family's above-ground pool and jumping on the trampoline in her backyard, a safe place in a new neighborhood where gunfire is seldom heard.

After playing, Takira takes time to think of someone else. Someone like her, who was shot in the face.

Takira tells her adoptive mother, Delphine Gaston-Walters, that she wants to visit New Haven police Officer Robert Fumiatti, who's recovering at Yale-New Haven after being shot last month by a suspected drug dealer. They talk briefly with Fumiatti, whose head is stabilized by a metal halo. He calls Takira "courageous" and reaches out to shake her hand. But her good mood vanishes. She's scared. She refuses to shake his hand and backs out of his hospital room.

"They are not going to touch my face," she says, with anger in her eyes, as she returns to the surgery center. Deep down, she knows she has no choice, but that doesn't stop her from launching into an hour-long temper tantrum.