

amendment, rap music, etc. and all the implications inherent in these core issues that now crowd the African-American community's agenda. Dr. Ingram exudes the preeminence of a noble gentleman, as well as the virtues of a lucid scholar as he is wont to expound during School Board meetings his unwavering positions on equal educational opportunities for minorities, the controversial incongruence of the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT), along with his unconditional passion for justice and equal rights for all.

Ever since I have known Dr. Ingram, he has always been at the forefront of ensuring equal participation in the shared duties and responsibilities on the part of Miami-Dade County's citizenry. At the same time, his forceful advocacy in adhering to the tenets of equal treatment under the law not only in the halls of academia= but also in every segment of our government agencies has become legendary. In fact, countless others have been touched by his genuine commitment, especially towards those who could least fend for themselves.

Dr. Ingram is the consummate public servant and community activist who abides by the dictum that those who have less in life through no fault of their own should be helped by the government—regardless of race or creed, gender or class. The numerous accolades with which he has been honored by various organizations and agencies at the local, state and national levels attest to an unequivocal testimony of the utmost respect he enjoys.

Blessed with a down-to-earth common sense and yet consecrated by his religious calling to serve the “. . . least of these,” he is also imbued with the rare wisdom of recognizing both the strengths and limitations of those empowered by the electorate to govern. This unique leadership is being tested to the hilt during School Board meetings as he draws attention to the basic purpose of our public schools—that of maximizing the learning potential of every student and that the success of any school is genuinely measured by how well it is reaching out even to those students who are being left behind.

Dr. Ingram thoroughly understands the accoutrements of power and leadership, and he is wisely exercising them alongside the mandate of his conviction and the call of his conscience as he engages all their energies toward advancing the good of the community he has learned to love and care for so deeply. He exudes the kind of genuine faith and anchors his hope in the God-given abilities of the students attending the Miami-Dade County Public Schools when he stated that “. . . I firmly and passionately believe that all our kids have what it takes to succeed. The challenge is for us to reach this generation by motivating them instead of frustrating them. Children often turned off school by simple things because they are sensitive beings that we do not always respond to.”

Dr. Robert Ingram truly exemplifies a unique and responsive leadership whose courageous vision and wisdom appeals to our noble character as a caring Nation. At the risk of being presumptuous, I honor him and I want to extend to him the utmost gratitude of the Miami-Dade County community that he and I are privileged to serve.

HONORING ROBERT G. HOWELL

HON. CAROLYN McCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 4, 2003

Mrs. McCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of Mr. Robert G. Howell, of Mineola, New York for his thirty-five years of distinguished service in the Nassau County Police Department. His retirement this year marks the end of an extraordinary career. As a Patrolman and then a Detective, Mr. Howell has worked diligently for the security and safety of our communities. He has put his life on the line everyday for the protection of others. The courage and bravery he has shown is to be commended.

A former United States Air Force officer, Mr. Howell is a proud American. Mr. Howell is also a lifelong athlete, played softball, basketball, and lacrosse everywhere from Pease Air Force Base in Portsmouth, New Hampshire to Nassau County, New York as a member of the Nassau County Police Department County team. A dedicated community member, Mr. Howell recognized the need for strong, positive role models. Since 1976, he has taught children the importance of teamwork, leadership, and perseverance as a soccer, baseball, and lacrosse coach. As a Detective, a Coach, and a loving father and husband, Mr. Howell's commitment to serving his community is unparalleled. This is not the first time Mr. Howell has been recognized for his efforts. A committed member of the Detectives Association Incorporated, where he served as President for seventeen years, he was named Law Enforcement Man of the Year in 1986. He also received acknowledgment for Excellent Police Duty twice, a Meritorious Award, and a Congressional Special Recognition Award. Now it's my turn to say thanks.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me to express our gratitude to my friend, Mr. Howell for his exemplary work and dedication to the safety and protection of his fellow Americans. His many accomplishments in his thirty-five years of service have helped make Nassau County a safe place for all.

H.R. 2971

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 4, 2003

Mr. SHAW Mr. Speaker, I would like to have it noted that Mr. CARDIN of Maryland should be considered as an original cosponsor of H.R. 2971, Social Security Number Privacy and Identity Theft Prevention Act of 2003. Mr. CARDIN's name was inadvertently omitted from the list of original cosponsors at the time the bill was introduced. Mr. CARDIN has long supported efforts to protect the privacy of Social Security numbers and prevent identity theft and I am pleased to have his support on this important legislation.

CONGRATULATING THE CITY OF PEABODY, MA, ON THE CELEBRATION OF THEIR 20TH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL

HON. JOHN F. TIERNEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 4, 2003

Mr. TIERNEY. Mr. Speaker, on September 14, the City of Peabody, Massachusetts, will celebrate its Twentieth Annual International Festival, and I will be among the more than 65,000 people who will stroll around Peabody Square enjoying the vibrant array of arts, entertainment and foods of the diverse ethnic groups that enliven civic life in Peabody today.

The International Festival was envisioned by former Mayor Peter Torigian, who initiated and continued the event as a way to celebrate the ethnic and cultural diversity of the city known historically for its important role in the leather tanning industry that was so much a part of the 19th and early 20th century economic history of our region. Under Mayor Torigian's hands-on leadership, the Festival grew exponentially over the years and has now been warmly embraced and fostered by current Mayor Michael Bonfanti, who serves as the International Festival's Honorary Chairman.

Throughout these two decades of growth and change in Peabody, there has been one very constant presence involved in the International Festival—City Councilor Judy Selesnick, who has served with great skill and enthusiasm as Chairwoman and number one volunteer for the International Festival since its beginning. This Twentieth Anniversary year will be Judy's last at the helm; she has decided to retire from the chairmanship, though few doubt that she will continue to cheer from the sidelines as each year's festivities unfold.

To Judy Selesnick, Mayor Bonfanti and Mayor Torigian, and to all of the citizens of Peabody who celebrate their diversity on this day and every day, my congratulations and best wishes for a most successful International Festival this year and my thanks to you all for your dedication to Peabody's rich heritage and hopeful future.

NOTING THE OPENING OF A CZECH REPUBLIC REGIONAL CONSUL'S OFFICE IN KANSAS CITY

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 4, 2003

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to bring to the House's attention the opening of a regional consul's office for the Czech Republic in the Kansas City metropolitan area. Events are being planned from September 24 to 26 to celebrate this opening, including a visit from the Czech Republic's ambassador to the United States, Martin Palouš, to Kansas City.

For centuries, thousands of Czechs and Slovaks have immigrated to Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska. These naturalized Americans and their descendants have formed a vibrant part of America's rich cultural tapestry. Now, after only a decade since becoming a free and autonomous nation, the Czech Republic's