

The museum's honored location in Washington, DC, near our national shrines, reflects the awesome lessons of the Holocaust. It is a grim though necessary reminder that democracy entails eternal vigilance and those revisionists who attempt to rewrite history, claiming that the painful past is a malicious Jewish invention, will have to face life's hard facts.

The fitting memorial, at a substantial cost of \$170 million, is an investment in all that we hold dear. It ought to ever arouse humanity's collective conscience, as I agonizingly contemplate the overdue need to put an end to the horrors in the former Yugoslavia.

I emerged from the trying four-hour visit with a sense of catharsis, cleansed to meet the world with a sharper awareness, to turn my tears into a well of hope for the future of all.

TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL ALLEN

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 10, 2003

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Michael Allen, a dedicated public servant and valued friend. Michael is an Education Specialist for the National Park Service's Fort Sumter Group in Charleston, South Carolina, and was recently named a recipient of the William C. Everhart Award for 2003.

The William C. Everhart Award is given for sustained achievements in interpretations that have illuminated, created insights to, and fostered appreciation of cultural and natural heritage. The award will be presented to Michael on October 2, 2003 at Clemson University.

The Fort Sumter Group consists of Fort Sumter National Monument, Fort Moultrie and Charles Pinckney National Historic Site and Michael has served as their Education Specialist for three years. He was nominated for the award, in large measure, because of work in developing the educational curriculum and programs for the sites, and his leading role in the National Park Service's Gullah-Geechee Special Resource Study. The Gullah-Geechee project is one in which I take particular pride and am very proud of the role I played in securing its authorization. The final report on this unique cultural treasure is expected to be presented to the Congress in December of this year.

Michael is also a great resource and advocate in interpreting the whole and complete story of the American Civil War in the Southeast Region of the National Park Service.

Michael grew up in Kingstree, South Carolina, and is a 1982 graduate of South Carolina State University with a degree in History Education. He began his public career with the National Park Service in 1980, and has been married for 15 years to the former LaTanya Prather of James Island, South Carolina. Michael and LaTanya currently live in Mount Pleasant, South Carolina and are the parents of three children; Brandon, Shaelyn, and Isaiah.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Michael for the recognition given him for his tireless and exemplary public service, and ask that you and my colleagues join me in this tribute to his tireless and selfless service.

CONGRATULATING THE LA MIRANDA JUNIOR BASEBALL LEAGUE

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 10, 2003

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, on August 16, 2003, the La Mirada Junior League baseball team won in its first appearance in the Junior League World Series by defeating Santiago, Panama 8–7 for the title of 2003 Junior League World Champions.

La Mirada, located 18 miles southeast of Los Angeles, is the fourth Junior League baseball team from California to win the World Championship.

The La Mirada team, also the California state champions, started the four-team Western Regional Tournament with a 5–3 loss to Scottsdale, Arizona, but came back with four straight victories to win the title.

La Mirada eliminated Aiea, Hawaii, which won the Junior League World Series in 2000 and 2001, then beat hosting Union City, California and won two straight games over Arizona to arrive at the Junior League World Series with a 17–2 overall record.

Founded in 1981, the Junior League World Series is the older brother of the Little League World Series. The Junior League World Series is a spectacular weeklong international tournament for the best teams of 13- and 14-year-old baseball players from around the world and is played every year in beautiful Heritage Park in Taylor, Michigan.

It has blossomed to include teams from around the globe: from Europe, Latin America, the Asia-Pacific region, Canada, and the United States. To date, participating teams have come from 27 different states in the U.S., four Canadian provinces, Mexico, Puerto Rico, Belgium, Saudi Arabia, the Czech Republic, Germany, Guam, Poland, Venezuela, Saipan and, for the first time in 2003, Russia.

La Mirada's all-star roster included: Chris Amezquita, Jordyn Baldwin, Jason Dovel, Frankie Fichera, George Gonzalez, Jacob Johnson, Stephen Kaupang, Michael Le Blanc, Brandon Pesante, Kevin Platzter, A.J. Rodriguez and Taylor Seimens with coaches Larry Kaupang and Gary Bouchard, and Manager Jim Gordon.

La Mirada braved rain delays and lack of electricity caused by the Nation's largest power outage during the week-long tournament to win against regional champions Mansfield, Massachusetts (East); Urbandale, Iowa (Central); Bridgewater, Virginia (South); and Sugar Land, Texas (Southwest) to become the United States champion.

The final game of the international tournament between La Mirada and Panama may have been the most dramatic with the lead changing hands five times.

La Mirada won the championship game with exceptional pitching, an explosive offense and an excellent defense. La Mirada took the lead in the 6th inning with a three-run homer and fended off a final inning, two-run rally.

According to everyone involved, the trip to the Junior League World Series will be remembered by the players, coaches and their family members not only for the games played, but also for their shared memories of their time together.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 10, 2003

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, on July 14, 2003, I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall vote No. 357, the Ackerman-LaTourette amendment to the Agriculture Appropriations bill which would require that the USDA expend no funds to approve meat from downed animals—animals that are too sick to walk or stand—for food. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea.”

TRIBUTE TO MRS. NORA G. CLEMONS McCOWAN

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 10, 2003

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring recognition to a close and dear friend of mine, Mrs. Nora G. Clemons McCowan.

Mrs. McCowan was actually born in Terrell, Tennessee on September 17, 1913. She moved to Cleveland in 1946 upon wedding Wilmer R. McCowan, affectionately known as Winnie. Their marriage endured for 52 years. For several years, the couple won the Cleveland Press Beautiful Block Contest for their infamously marvelous yard. Wilmer McCowan passed away in January of 1999. Mrs. McCowan had one daughter, Dexter Louise Mosley. I sailed with her grandson on many occasions.

I know Mrs. McCowan to be a devout member of East Mt. Zion Baptist Church. She has held this membership for over 70 years. She sings in the Sanctuary Choir, leads Group 22 and is president of the Group Leaders Council. She is also involved in the Missionary Society and the Sunday school.

In the community, Mrs. McCowan sports active membership with the Passadena Street Club and serves as Precinct Captain during election season.

I have known Mrs. McCowan my entire life. She is a clear role model for all people in Ohio's 11th Congressional District.

TRIBUTE TO OLEY AND GRACE KOHLMAN

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 10, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor and a privilege to stand before this body of Congress and this nation today to pay tribute to two remarkable citizens from my district. Oley and Grace Kohlman of North Park, Colorado have spent numerous years in service to this nation and to their community. I would like to take this time to recognize their many achievements and accomplishments.

Both Grace and Oley have dedicated much of their time to local, regional and national cattleman's associations, and various other

groups affiliated with western life. Grace was president of the North Park Pioneer Association; she is an Honorary Life Member of the North Park CattleWomen and the Colorado CattleWomen; she was also a member of the Rebekah Lodge in Walden. In his days as a soldier, Oley was part of the famous 10th Mountain Division, later becoming a member of the 10th Mountain Division Association. He was also a member of the Colorado Water Congress.

In addition to the Kohlman's contributions to regional groups affiliated with the cattle industry, they were also honored this year in recognition of fifty years as members of the Colorado Cattlemen's Association. Oley has served as chairman of the Marketing Committee and chairman of the Endowment Trust Fund, and perhaps most impressively, he also served as president of the Board of Directors for two years. Both Oley and Grace are also members of numerous national cattlemen's associations.

As members of the Junior Colorado Cattlemen's Association, they created the Oley and Grace Kohlman JCCA Scholarship, which provides tuition assistance to JCCA college students majoring or minoring in an agriculture related field of study.

Mr. Speaker, it is for their years of passionate dedication to their trade that I recognize Oley and Grace Kohlman before this body of Congress today. I am honored to pay tribute to this tremendous Colorado couple and the wonderful contributions they have made towards the betterment of their community.

H.R. 2861—VA/HUD
APPROPRIATIONS BILL

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 10, 2003

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, today I voted in favor of the Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Act of 2004, with serious reservations about its funding levels for veterans' facilities across the country.

Veterans deserve more than this bill, which gives the VA \$2.1 billion less than the House budget resolution requested. It is unconscionable that we're not fully funding the VA. I want to see this legislation receive full funding during conference committee, before it is sent to the President. At a time when we are asking more Americans to sacrifice for our Nation, we should not cut funds for medical care facilities veterans may need upon their return home.

I hope that the conference committee can resolve differences between the House and Senate appropriations bills and will negotiate for better funding of veterans' medical care. A number of veterans' organizations have voiced their disappointment in the bill's low level of funding, including the American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, and Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

Earlier today, I offered an amendment to the bill that mirrored my recently-introduced bipartisan CARES legislation. This bill, H.R. 2808, would require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to give Congress 60 days to review any action proposed closure of VA facilities or beds. The legislation comes after the VA sug-

gested that the Dwight D. Eisenhower VA Medical Center in Leavenworth may be considered for possible downsizing of beds and services.

Congress needs to be involved in the process of determining the future of the VA health care system, especially if facilities are on the chopping block. Eliminating services in Leavenworth would be a disservice to the men and women who have served our country. In addition, redirecting those patients to the Kansas City VA Hospital, when there is already a six month wait for non-emergency care, would overwhelm a system that is already overwhelmed. After making a sacrifice for our country, our veterans should not be denied access to health benefits they have earned.

TRIBUTE TO RUTH MARIE
COLVILLE

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 10, 2003

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a solemn heart that I stand before this body of Congress and this nation today to pay tribute to the life and passing of Ruth Marie Colville, an outstanding citizen from my district. Ruth was an active member of the Del Norte, Colorado community and she will be remembered as a respected historian, educator, and mother. Ruth passed away recently at the age of 99, leaving a legacy of leadership for her community to follow. I stand to honor that leadership here today.

Ruth was born in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania but moved to Del Norte shortly after she graduated from college. Ruth had a fascination with the West, exhibited in her love of movies and Western entertainment. Ruth began her life in Del Norte as a history teacher, calling on her English and History degrees from Wellesley College. Ruth's passion, however, was researching and documenting the life, culture, and exploration of early life in the San Luis Valley.

Ruth's passion would lead her to write several books on the history of the area, and she soon became a respected member of the educational community. For her service, Adams State College opened the Ruth Marie Colville room in the Nielsen library. Del Norte honored her by opening the Ruth Marie Center for the Community.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to Ruth Marie Colville before this Congress and this nation. Her hard work, enthusiasm, and leadership in the community will be sorely missed. My thoughts and prayers go out to Ruth's family and friends as they mourn her loss.

HONORING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF J. C. EHRLICH CO., INC.

HON. TIM HOLDEN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 10, 2003

Mr. HOLDEN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have the opportunity to bring an authentic American success story to your attention.

The officers and coworkers of the J. C. Ehrlich Company are celebrating the 75th anniversary of the founding of their company in 1928. The company's founder, Julius C. Ehrlich emigrated to this country from Germany at the age of 17, eventually moving to Reading, Pennsylvania where he had a job as a manufacturer's representative selling insecticides and sprayers. In 1928, there were very few pest control companies in the country and none in Berks County. Mr. Ehrlich's sales were primarily to businesses who would apply the materials themselves.

One day he called one of his customers, a department store in Reading, who had not used the material he had sold them during his last sales visit. When he learned that the custodian had been unable to apply the material, Mr. Ehrlich, wanting to satisfy his customer and not wanting to lose a sale, offered to apply the material himself. At that moment Mr. Ehrlich, who was 56, founded the pest control service organization now known as the J. C. Ehrlich Company. Even today, as the company celebrates its 75th anniversary, the management and coworkers look back at that moment as inspiring their current success by using the same principles that Mr. Ehrlich employed at that department store—Initiative, Ingenuity and Exceeding Customer Expectations.

So while others were contemplating retirement, Julius C. Ehrlich was developing a new business. Even more impressive is the fact that the formative years of Mr. Ehrlich's business were during the early 1930's and the Great Depression.

By 1939, four of Mr. Ehrlich's nephews had immigrated to this country in order to avoid the conditions facing them as Jews in Nazi Germany. In the great traditions of many Americans, these four nephews, Arthur Hammel, Simon Hammel, Alex Ehrlich and Victor Hammel, worked tirelessly. (Unfortunately, Victor Hammel, for whom the company's current President is named, passed away in the early 1940's.) Their work ethic is underscored by the story of their arrival in late December 1937. Without knowing the English language, and without any knowledge of pest control, they started work just five days later. When questioned as to why they waited five whole days from the time they got off the ship to the time they started, Simon Hammel was quick to mention that they lost several days because of a weekend and New Year's Day. Otherwise, they would have started work more quickly. The hard work and determination of this second generation began the expansion of the J. C. Ehrlich Company beyond its Berks County roots. Its second district office was established in Pottsville. The third and fourth offices were in Lancaster and Allentown.

Today the third generation of Ehrlich family management includes three cousins, Victor Hammel, Robert Hammel and Richard Yashek.

The company's owners are quick to point out that it is the dedication of its coworkers that has made J. C. Ehrlich a premier company in its various businesses. In fact, the company states its core belief in its Vision Statement: "Above all else, we value long-lasting relationships with coworkers and customers." Among its current 1,100 coworkers are many who have reaffirmed that sentiment by working for J. C. Ehrlich for 15 years, 20 years, 25 years and more. Today, in addition