

Fort Worth has been able to maintain the Nation's third largest cultural district to supplement the incorporation of modernization and community outreach. Partners are impressed with efforts to transform many of Fort Worth's older, central city commercial districts into vibrant urban communities. The City Council has worked with private developers, business groups and neighborhood associations to create 13 urban communities, all with unique qualities specific to the areas they serve. These urban communities help promote the inner city as an appealing alternative to the basic and usually overcrowded parks and subdivisions common to suburbs. Inner-city villages also serve as methods for public and private ventures to support and renew economic activity to downtown Fort Worth. Buildings are able to be connected with neighborhoods effectively without depriving citizens of the quality of life they were seeking in the suburbs.

In 2001, Fort Worth established the goal of being the most livable city in Texas. As the only Texas city recognized by Partners at the America's Most Livable Awards Program on April 20th, 2004, that goal has been achieved. I commend the city on setting its goals and standards high. It is my hope that we can continue to keep the bar high and continue to strive for excellence.

RECOGNITION OF THE CITY OF
LONG BRANCH'S CENTENNIAL
CELEBRATION

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2004

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I have the opportunity to recognize the city of Long Branch in honor of their centennial celebration of incorporation. In 1903, Long Branch was formally incorporated as a city, but its rich history predates this initial incorporation, and dates as far back as 1498, when Long Branch was first explored by John Cabot.

The land, which makes up current day Long Branch, was claimed by Henry Hudson in 1664, and then purchased from the Native American Leni Lenape tribe in 1668 by European settlers seeking religious freedom. The newcomers named the settlement "Long Branch" after the long branch of the Shrewsbury River that is located at the northern end of the city.

Much like their Native American neighbors, the first settlers created a self-sustaining community that relied on hunting, gathering, and fishing to survive. Those hardy people (as well as the town they resided in) existed in relative isolation until the 19th century, which is when Long Branch entered its "Golden Age." During that period, commerce in the American northeast grew, and the Long Branch area began to expand rapidly. Due to the town's proximity to the coast, and the natural beauty of the region, leaders in finance, theatre, politics, and the military flocked to Long Branch by the hundreds to enjoy the area's treasures. Individuals from New York, Philadelphia, and Washington D.C. made Long Branch the premier vacation destination. At the height of its Golden Age, Long Branch became the most

glamorous summer resort location of the Northeast. Among the notable visitors were General Winfield Scott, actor "Buffalo" Bill Cody, and writers such as Bret Harte and Robert Louis Stevenson.

Most importantly, Long Branch became the nation's summer capital. Several United States Presidents summered in Long Branch. Among them were Chester A. Arthur, Rutherford B. Hayes, Benjamin Harrison, William McKinley, Woodrow Wilson and Ulysses S. Grant, who visited the area every summer during his Presidency and many summers thereafter. President James A. Garfield, after he was mortally wounded by an assassin's bullet, left Washington D.C. for Long Branch to recuperate from his wounds. Unfortunately he died shortly thereafter, in the Elberon section of the city.

Long Branch began experiencing major changes in the early 1920's, after gambling was outlawed and other cities began competing for tourism. It became a city of permanent residents with a business and manufacturing center. Long Branch continues to be a city of changes. The beachfront that had lured (and still lures) many tourists is being redeveloped. More small businesses are coming into town and expanding operations. Many of the homes of the Golden Age of Long Branch are being restored as a tribute to the beauty and history of the region. The city is more conscious of its historic sites, but also of the various ethnic groups, religious and cultural organizations that have created the melting pot that is today's Long Branch.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask my fellow colleagues to acknowledge the City of Long Branch for its one-hundredth anniversary of incorporation, and join me in wishing the city many more years of rich history and prosperity.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2004

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, April 20 I was in my District in New Jersey attending services associated with the funeral of Lieutenant John Wroblewski (United States Marines) of Jefferson Township.

As a result, I was not in attendance in the House for several recorded votes.

On rollcall No. 118, designating the Richard Wilson Post Office, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall No. 119, designating the John J. Pershing Post Office, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall No. 120, designating the Dosan Ahn Chang Ho Post Office, I would have voted "aye."

HONORING THREE GENERATIONS
OF MITCHELL BRONZE MEDALS

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2004

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, the United States Army reserves the Bronze Star for sol-

diers who distinguish themselves through heroic or meritorious achievement or service. The Army has awarded this, its fourth highest honor for military personnel, to three generations of the Mitchell Family. I rise today to honor their service to this nation.

First Sergeant David Mitchell and his son Sergeant Brian Mitchell recently returned from active duty in Iraq. For their achievements and dedication to our nation's military, they have both been awarded the Bronze Star. They are the second and third generations of this family respectively to earn this medal, following in the steps of David's father R.L. Mitchell. David is a native of Calhoun City and Brian lives in Forest, in the heart of my district.

The Mitchells are part of the thirty-two members of the Mississippi National Guard recently decorated with the Bronze Star for their service in Operation Iraqi Freedom; all but one from the 223rd Combat Engineer Battalion based in West Point, Mississippi. The other, Raymond resident Lt. Col. Ellis Riser is of the 168th Engineer Group in Vicksburg.

While in Iraq under the constant threat of attack from Iraqi militants and foreign terrorists, the Mitchells conducted engineering projects, secured the operations of our military's computer operations and even helped Iraqi schools.

David Mitchell received the award on his birthday and said, "As a father, it makes me real proud to serve my country and have my son by my side." In addition to Brian, another of David's sons also serves in the Army. I am proud, as a Congressman, that we have patriotic and dedicated men in Mississippi serving our nation and that they instill these characteristics as part of a family tradition.

Brian Mitchell told his hometown newspaper, the Scott County Times, "I joined in part because of the G.I. Bill and the education benefits but there was also a family tradition. I also wanted to serve my country." Brian said family is important to him and his unit became a second family to him. His family back at home, his wife Stacy and his children Dusty, Katie, and Alex all missed him, and their grandfather David. Just as they are, I'm glad Brian and David are home after fulfilling their missions.

These men, and many men with them, are heroes and I'm proud not only they are recognized for their achievements as American military men, but also that they have shown the tradition of Mississippi values to their fellow servicemen, and across the world to the people of Iraq. Honor is earned; not given. Mr. Speaker, the Mitchells have earned this honor.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN CONRAD
KAPTUR

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2004

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, it is a great privilege today to offer respectful words for history to pay tribute to John Conrad Kaptur on behalf of the entire Kaptur family—his wife Rita; children Stephen, Christopher, Renee, James/Christine, Kenneth, Regina/Jeff; sisters Virginia, Lillian, Christine; and the grandchildren Nicole, Michael, Cassandra, Ashley, Brittany, Jacob, and Lucas. Let us honor his beautiful life. Surely, he is loved.