# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

## IN HONOR OF CUYAHOGA COUNTY TREASURER JIM ROKAKIS

### HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2005*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Cuyahoga County Treasurer Mr. Jim Rokakis, as he is recognized by the Cuyahoga County Democratic Party for his service to our community.

A life-long Clevelander, Mr. Rokakis continues to focus on the well-being of Clevelanders, and beyond. After graduating from the Cleveland-Marshall School of Law, Mr. Rokakis set out to promote positive change within our community. In 1978, he was elected to serve as the Ward 15 representative to the Cleveland City Council. For nearly twenty years, he served the residents of the Old Brooklyn neighborhood with integrity and dedication. For the last seven years of his tenure as Councilperson, Mr. Rokakis served as the Chair of the Finance Committee.

In March of 1997, Mr. Rokakis was elected to the office of Treasurer of Cuyahoga County. In this capacity, Mr. Rokakis has consistently demonstrated a vision and focus on improving the tax collection process. His complete renovation of the system has resulted in greater efficiency regarding the County's tax collection and disbursement processes. Under his leadership, the office of the Treasurer has been awarded with many honors, especially regarding his inner-city housing initiatives.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honor and recognition of Mr. Jim Rokakis. His dedicated service, focused on the well-being of the residents of Cleveland and Cuyahoga County, has served to strengthen our entire community.

## A TRIBUTE TO ANTONIO BONILLA

### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2005*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Antonio Bonilla who is being honored at the Brooklyn Caribe Lions Club dinner dance as "Businessman of The Year."

Antonio is a successful businessman who was born in Isabela, Puerto Rico. He came to New York in 1953 and has worked in various jobs, including carpentry, cooking, and marketing.

One of his first employers was Emerson Radio Corporation, where he worked for over 10 years. Then in the 1960's his wife, Leonor, exposed him to Mexico's culture, including its people, food, and music. By 1971, his dream to open a Mexican restaurant had become a reality. Together with his family, they found and renovated the space on the corner of Second Ave and 26th Street in Manhattan and named it Mexico Lindo Restaurant.

Today the restaurant has become a popular nightspot for the entertainment and political communities. Antonio is a distinguished businessman whose cooperation with many religious and political organizations has established him as a philanthropist. He is very proud of the fact that he has always held a job, and that all his accomplishments have been the product of hard work.

Antonio and Leonor have three daughters Adriana, Claudia and Lara. Together as a family, they have strived to stay one step ahead of the competition. This award should serve to inspire and encourage him in continuing the important work he has already begun.

Mr. Speaker, Antonio Bonilla has been a leader in his community and has been a wonderful example of how dedication and perseverance can lead to success. As such, he is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today and the award of Businessman of the Year. Thus, I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable person.

## HONORING THE 2005 GLADNEY CUP GOLF TOURNAMENT AT THE CONGRESSIONAL COUNTRY CLUB IN BETHESDA, MD

### HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2005*

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding event that is conducted for the benefit of one of the best organizations in my district, the Gladney Center for Adoption.

On Monday, May 2, 2005, the Gladney Cup Golf Tournament will occur at the Congressional Country Club in Bethesda, MD, to benefit the Gladney Center for Adoption. The Gladney Adoption Center was founded more than 100 years ago in Fort Worth, TX, to find "loving homes for orphaned children" and today is one of this Nation's leading adoption services, which specializes in international and domestic adoptions. The center has placed more than 26,000 children in loving homes and has assisted more than 36,000 women experiencing crisis pregnancies. The Gladney Cup Golf Tournament is a premier event which raises much needed funds for the center's international and domestic adoption programs. The first Gladney Cup Golf Tournament was held at the famed Colonial Country Club, which is located in my district. The caliber of the inaugural tournament attracted more than 200 players and raised more than $1 million for the Gladney Center. The 2005 Gladney Cup Golf Tournament is the third event and the reputation of the tournament, coupled with the beautiful and prestigious greens of the Congressional Country Club, again is attracting players and corporations from around the country who not only derive satisfaction from playing on a challenging golf course, but also who are committed to helping the Gladney Adoption Center.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the Gladney Cup Golf Tournament, the organizations and individuals who are participating in the event so that more children may have happy homes in which to live and so that women who are experiencing a crisis pregnancy have a loving and supportive place to which to turn to for help.

## NORTH RIDGE MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND WINNER OF JOHN PHILIP SOUSA FOUNDATION "SUDLER SILVER CUP"

### HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2005*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the North Ridge Middle School Band of North Richland Hills, located in the 26th Congressional District of Texas, on winning the 2004 "Sudler Silver Cup."

This award was given by the John Philip Sousa Foundation to only two middle school bands in Canada and the United States in order to promote better international understanding. The John Philip Sousa Foundation is a non-profit foundation dedicated to the promotion of international understanding through the medium of band music. Through the administration of band related projects, the foundation seeks to uphold the standards and ideals of that icon of the American spirit, John Philip Sousa.

The North Ridge Middle School Band won this prestigious honor for demonstrating excellence at the international level under the leadership of director Cynthia Lansford. Not only do bands competing for this award have to show superiority in their musical skills but they must also do so under the same director for a period of several years.

I am proud of this fine band from North Richland Hills Middle School, and I applaud the students, band director and parents who made this achievement possible. I am honored to represent you in Congress.

## HONORING CATHERINE SANTEE, WINNER OF THE 2005 LEGRAND SMITH SCHOLARSHIP

### HON. JOHN J.H. "JOE" SCHWARZ

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2005*

Mr. SCHWARZ of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, let it be known, that it is with great respect for the outstanding record of excellence she has compiled in academics, leadership, and community service, that I am proud to salute Catherine Roselyn Santee, winner of the 2005 LeGrand Smith Scholarship. This award is given to young adults who have demonstrated their true commitment to playing an important role in our Nation's future.

As a winner of the LeGrand Smith Scholarship, Catherine is being honored for demonstrating the same generosity of spirit, intelligence, responsible citizenship, and capacity for human service that distinguished the late LeGrand Smith of Somerset, Michigan.

Catherine is an exceptional student at Addison High School. Aside from being one of the highest in her class academically, Catherine possesses an outstanding record of achievement. She has been very active in the National Honor Society, Choir, Drama, Yearbook, and her church, serving as youth group president and church secretary. She has also devoted a great deal of her time volunteering to help others.

On behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to join her many admirers in offering our highest praise and congratulations to Catherine Santee for her selection as winner of the 2005 LeGrand Smith Scholarship. This honor not only recognizes her efforts, but also is a testament to her parents, teachers, and other individuals whose personal interest, steadfast support, and active participation contributed to her success. To this remarkable young woman, we extend our most heartfelt good wishes for all her future endeavors.

## IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF TOM BRAZAITIS

### HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2005*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Mr. Tom Brazaitis, dedicated husband, father, author, and friend, whose brilliant legacy as a journalist and humanitarian has served to elevate the lives of all who knew him well, including my own.

For more than thirty-two years, Mr. Brazaitis' poignant commentary and piercing assessment of our nation's political and social scene graced the pages of Ohio's largest newspaper, the Cleveland Plain Dealer. His compassion, deep intellect and consistent ability to glean the heart of a story and have it ready under deadline amazed his colleagues. He was known for his quick wit, compassionate heart, progressive mindset and his seemingly effortless ability to stay calm and cool amidst the fiery pressure of the busy newsroom. Mr. Brazaitis' compelling editorials consistently garnered strong responses from his readers, both pro and con. Yet his integrity was unwavering and he never compromised his personal convictions or viewpoints, regardless of popular opinion. Mr. Brazaitis was highly trusted, respected and admired by his colleagues and those of us in the political arena. Whether interviewing a small town council member or having dinner with a powerful publisher, Mr. Brazaitis treated everyone with the same respect, dignity and kindness. He built strong bonds with the public, strengthened by integrity and trust, and gave Greater Clevelanders an insightful and balanced perspective into the local and national political scene.

Mr. Brazaitis' courage and grace was reflected throughout his battle with cancer, a battle that he openly shared with his readers. From his initial diagnosis, through every standard and experimental treatment, Mr. Brazaitis' straightforward descriptions of his cancer experience deeply connected with his readers, offering us a sense of peace, clarity and even humor throughout his heroic struggle.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and remembrance of Mr. Tom Brazaitis, whose life and legacy served to bring critical issues into the rational light of day, and whose deep sense of humanity served to elevate our own humanity. I offer my deepest condolences to his wife, Eleanor; his daughter, Sarah; son, Mark; stepsons, Edward, Woodbury and Robert; and his five grandchildren. Tom Brazaitis lived his life with energy and joy, and the memories of his affable nature and kind heart will forever light the hearts of all who knew and loved him well.

## A TRIBUTE TO EARL L. WILLIAMS

### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2005*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Earl L. Williams who is being honored at the Brooklyn Caribe Lions Club dinner dance as "Civic Humanitarian of the Year."

Earl, who was born in Panama City, Republic of Panama, has been a community activist and civic leader for more than 40 years. Currently, he is the New York State Democratic Committeeman (District Leader) for the 40th Assembly District; Chairman of Community Planning Board #5, in East New York, Director of Spring Creek Towers Community Center, and a Certified Meeting Planner.

Earl graduated from San Mateo College in California with a BA degree, specializing in public affairs. A graduate of the National Housing Center Institute in Washington DC, he also attended NYU Real Estate Institute. He is a member of the Starrett City Spring Creek Lions Club, Brooklyn Borough President's Board, East Brooklyn Empire Zone, Black Meeting Planners of America, and East New York Hispanic Coalition. He has also chaired many Lions' activities within the district, region, New York State, and internationally. Earl has received many citations and awards from Lions Clubs International including a Presidential Medal; three Presidential Leadership Medals; nine International Extension awards; a Melvin Jones Fellow; Leadership Citations from New York City Mayors Ed Koch and David Dinkins, and Community Service Awards from New York City Council, New York State Senate and Assembly.

Earl Williams and his wife Ruth, who have been married for more than 40 years, are the parents of two children, Jacqueline Denise, an attorney, and Mark (deceased) and the grandparents of Marrissa. Earl is a communicant of St. Lawrence Roman Catholic Church and serves in the ministry of hospitality.

Mr. Speaker, Earl Williams has been a leader in his community and has taken on numerous roles and responsibilities to serve others. As such, he is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today and the award of Civic Humanitarian of the Year. Thus, I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable person.

## IN MEMORY OF ARMY SPC. CLINTON GERTSON

### HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2005*

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the courage of a young hero from my district. On February 19, 2005, the Department of Defense declared that Specialist Clinton Gertson (United States Army, 24th Infantry Division) was killed in the line of duty after being hit by a sniper in Mosul, Iraq. Gertson's unit was scanning a Mosul neighborhood when he was shot around 2 p.m. Gertson was deployed to Iraq last October along with 4,000 other soldiers in the Fort-Stryker Brigade. His unit had been assigned to be one of the leaders in the fight against insurgents in Mosul.

Gertson, or "Big Country," was described by fellow soldiers as well-respected, someone who would always come to the aid of a fellow soldier and who remained even-keeled, even in the face of extreme danger.

Gertson demonstrated these qualities when 60 insurgents attacked his unit on November 11. Despite being injured himself, Gertson helped other soldiers who were more seriously injured to safety. Gertson again demonstrated this same heroism when a suicide bomber blew himself up inside the Forward Operating Base Marez mess hall in December. After the explosion went off, Gertson rushed to the aid of his wounded Company Commander, taking him to a nearby field hospital. Gertson's courage and leadership were qualities his fellow soldiers drew strength from and admired.

Gertson told his father he hoped everyone knew the sacrifices that he and the other soldiers were making and asked his father to remind people that freedom is not free.

The American people know the sacrifices Gertson, like many other soldiers, made to his country and his memory will not be in vain. I am proud to honor Specialist Gertson's service to the state of Texas where he entered the service, and to the United States of America. He will not be forgotten.

## KELLER HIGH SCHOOL WINS STATE ACADEMIC DECATHLON

### HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2005*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, It is my great honor to recognize the outstanding achievements of the Keller High School Academic Decathlon team from Keller, Texas located in the 26th Congressional District of Texas.

Keller High School won the state level Academic Decathlon competition out of a field of 40 teams. The Keller High School HS team brought home 22 team medals and 28 individual event medals from the large school division. In addition, Keller senior Xiaochu "Chu" Song earned the highest overall score at the competition.

Having won the Texas State Academic Decathlon, team members Alex Dang-Tran, Tyler Gibson, Van Hoang, Jeff Marthers, Spencer Scherer, Brandon Simmons, Chu Song, Jennifer Swegler and Joey Wilkinson will represent the State of Texas at the National Academic Decathlon in Chicago.