

The National Engineers Future City Competition is a competition sponsored by Engineers Week, a consortium of major U.S. corporations, professional, and technical societies. The consortium is dedicated to ensuring a diverse and well-educated engineering work force by increasing understanding of and interest in engineering and technology careers, as well as promoting precollege literacy in math and science.

The competition encourages 7th and 8th grade students to use problem solving skills, team-work, research and presentation skills, practical math and science applications, and computer skills to present their vision of a city of the future. St. Barnabas Catholic School, an elementary school stressing hands on learning, has participated in the National Engineers Week Future City Competition for the last 7 years. Previous St. Barnabas teams have won the Chicago regional competition 3 times, the national championship in 2001, and finished fifth in 2004. The team's current advisors include engineer mentor Timothy Cullina and teacher mentor Jeanne Conway.

As a member of the House Science Committee and one of only 11 Members of Congress with an engineering degree, I am especially proud to recognize these young engineers. Their interest in and commitment to math and science education is admirable and will help our country remain a global leader in science and engineering.

It is my honor to recognize these students and their mentors for these outstanding achievements. Additionally, I commend St. Barnabas Catholic School for promoting the sound leaning atmosphere necessary to foster academic success.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 50TH
ANNIVERSARY OF MERCI

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Merci on its 50th anniversary. Dedicated to serving the developmentally disabled members of our community, Merci has helped countless people make significant strides toward reaching their goals and achieving fulfilling lives.

Merci has its roots working with developmentally disabled children. In 1955, the Monterey Park Exchange Club determined that there was a need for a school dedicated to developmentally disabled children, and Merci was formed. Merci was incorporated as a non-profit in 1959, and the early years were devoted to working primarily with children. In 1967, Merci was authorized by the Regional Centers of California to serve all people diagnosed with developmental disabilities. As the educational landscape changed over time, it became one of Merci's central aims to prepare developmentally disabled children for enrollment in public school special education classes; to this end, Merci added a program geared especially toward preschoolers. Merci continued to grow and thrive, and the organization expanded to include a Work Activity Center for adolescents and young adults. After a series of laws regarding handicapped children and public education passed in the 1970s, Merci's

focus in 1976 shifted to working with its older clients. To this day Merci continues to provide unsurpassed service to its clients.

In keeping with its outstanding tradition of helping others, in the past few years Merci started two new programs that allow the organization to serve an even greater number of clients. As a part of one of the programs, Merci staff travel to the homes of clients with special medical needs and work with them on an individual basis. Merci has also opened its first group home, Ernie's Place, which offers 24-hour supervised care for its clients.

The Merci staff's commitment and dedication to serving the developmentally disabled members of our community is to be commended. Without Merci, many people would not be living the quality lives that they are living today.

I am proud to congratulate Merci on the occasion of its 50th anniversary. I ask all Members of Congress to join me in honoring Merci and the Merci staff for their dedication to making our community a better place in which to live.

HONORING HARRY LESTER

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a man that is a giant in the United Steelworkers of America, Harry Lester. Harry is retiring from the United Steelworkers on February 10 and will be honored at a dinner that evening. With his retirement working men and women are losing a remarkable advocate.

Harry's association with the labor movement began when as a child, he witnessed the tragic death of his father in a coal mining accident in West Virginia. Thus began a lifelong commitment to social justice. Relocating to Michigan, Harry went to work for McLouth Steel Corporation and became a member of the United Steelworkers in 1954.

Working with his local, Local 2659, Harry was elected shop steward that same year. He rose through the ranks of the union and was sworn in as the District 2 Director in 1981. He has been re-elected director ever since. Harry has earned the reputation of a tough and fair negotiator. He negotiated the workplace safety and health language that was later handed down in a Supreme Court decision as the standard for all workers. Twice he has worked to keep McLouth Steel Corporation in operation, first in 1982 and the second time in 1987. At that time his ingenuity saved the company by putting together an employee buyout. The employees owned 87 percent of the company and created, for that time, the largest Employee Stock Ownership Plan in this country.

Simultaneously, as he was working to save McLouth Steel Corporation, Harry was working with the negotiating team for National Steel Corporation. He helped craft the Cooperative Partnership Agreement that gave the company's employees a say in the decisionmaking process. His efforts on behalf of the membership advanced worker input and saved their employers millions of dollars. In 1993 he was appointed chair of the United Steelworkers of America National Steel Negotiating Committee.

Harry's commitment to social justice extends beyond the workplace. He is active with numerous organizations including the Metropolitan AFL-CIO, the Michigan State AFL-CIO, United Foundation, United Way of Michigan, National Kidney Foundation, Economic Alliance of Michigan, Blue Care Network, Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Parks Authority, Citizens Advisory Committee of the University of Michigan-Dearborn, Greater Detroit Area Health Council, Michigan Economic and Environmental Roundtable and is the founder of the Annual Downriver Community Prayer Breakfast. Harry serves on the Salvation Army Board of Directors and with his wife, Mary, is a bell ringer every Christmas.

As District 2 Director, Harry believed it is essential for local union leaders to be as skilled and as educated as their company counterparts. He developed training classes and encouraged lifelong learning. In this he led by example. Harry has taken every Labor Studies class offered by the University of Michigan, Wayne State University, and Michigan State University. In May 2005 he was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Humanities degree by Michigan State University and actively works with the school's Labor Education Program on curriculum development.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in expressing admiration for a man that has devoted his entire life to the betterment of those around him. Through his foresight every worker in this country has benefited. I, and other Members of this body, have long sought his guidance and I have welcomed his wisdom. I wish to thank Harry Lester for his service and wish him the best as he retires from the United Steelworkers of America.

IN HONOR OF THE CATHEDRAL
CHOIR SCHOOL OF DELAWARE

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to pay tribute to the Cathedral Choir School of Delaware, who on January 25, 2006, had the honor of singing for First Lady Laura Bush at the White House. The Cathedral Choir School of Delaware was honored as one of the 17 youth arts and humanities programs that will receive the 2005 Coming Up Taller Award from the First Lady. The Choir performed two songs, the National Anthem and a Zulu anthem.

This Award was created by the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities, and its recipients are chosen by members of the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the National Endowment for the Humanities. The Cathedral Choir School of Delaware was selected from a group of over 250 well-qualified nominees.

Led by Choirmaster and Artistic Director Dr. Darryl Roland, this wonderful ensemble boasts 53 area students whose ages range from as young as 7, to as old as 17. The main objective of the choral arts program is to help these young people, many of them disadvantaged, succeed in school and other extracurricular endeavors. While singing is the central activity, it is only one of the important skills that they take away from this program.