

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF
ANTHONY BRANCATELLI

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Anthony Brancatelli, Ward 12 Cleveland Councilman, as he is presented with Villa Montessori's prestigious Guardian Angel Award.

This award is given to a person who has been instrumental in the success of the Villa Montessori Center School. Mr. Brancatelli was the former chief executive of Slavic Village development and played a vital role in finding a space for the school and spearheaded its expansion during its 10 years of existence.

Mr. Brancatelli has always been a pioneer for community development, public safety and education. During his 17 years at the Slavic Village Community Development Corp., Mr. Brancatelli partnered with longtime councilman, Ed Rybka, to reshape and renew the neighborhood. He organized several block clubs on safety and housing issues, with community anchors such as Cleveland Central Catholic High School and with Third Federal Savings and Loan on major investments in the ward. He also brought forward a case to the Cleveland Housing Court in which they sued the owner of 110 severely neglected houses in a racially diverse, working-class neighborhood, since then it has developed into a respectable living area. Mr. Brancatelli was also the executive director of the Broadway Housing area housing coalition, which had renovated over four hundred houses. Under his leadership it was the largest number of renovations done by any community development corporation in Cleveland.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in recognition of Anthony Brancatelli as he rightfully receives the Guardian Angel Award. Mr. Brancatelli's perseverance, dedication, and compassion to the Slavic Village have made him a patriarch and champion for all people in the city of Cleveland.

DENTON REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER HONORED AS TOP-RANKED PLACE TO WORK IN DFW

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2006

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Denton Regional Medical Center in my congressional district for being named "Top-Ranked Best Places to Work" in the Dallas Fort Worth Metroplex by the Dallas Business Journal.

Nearly 200 companies entered the competition that began in January of 2006. Denton Regional Medical Center, where I used to

work, received the distinction for businesses with over 500 employees.

Denton Regional Medical Center is renowned for maintaining a warm and inviting environment despite the fact that the full-service hospital has doubled its size in the last 5 years. The family atmosphere has been a hallmark of the institution for its beginnings.

The hospital promotes from within, offers scholarship loans and tuition reimbursement, ongoing education programs for employees and participates in community service projects such as Meals on Wheels and Habitat for Humanity, where about 200 employees contributed more than 1,700 volunteer hours to build a house last year.

Hospitals can be overwhelming places to work not only for the sheer number of hours that individuals give in time of service, but also the unusually high emotional stress associated with hospital positions. In 2005, Denton Regional Medical Center recorded 9,046 admissions and 42,131 emergency room visits. But hospital executives work diligently encouraging open dialogue by inviting managers and administrators to hold advisory group meetings. Hospital Chief Executive Bob Haley also conducts town hall meetings each quarter to which all employees are invited to attend and ask questions.

Today, I congratulate Denton Regional Medical Center for its service to the community and its commitment to providing a positive work environment for its dedicated medical and administrative staff. I am honored to have worked at Denton Regional Medical Center and to know represent its staff, my constituents, in Congress.

CONGRATULATING TEMPLE BETH ISRAEL FOR 100 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2006

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Temple Beth Israel in Hazleton, Pennsylvania, on the occasion of its 100th anniversary.

In 1895, the Jews living in Hazleton organized an orthodox congregation. But, even at that time there was a desire among some of the members to establish a congregation that favored reform practices.

In the fall, of 1906, a small group was able to engage the services of Rabbi Block who conducted High Holiday services which they believed were more in keeping with the modern American conditions of the time.

Late in September 1906, 23 men met to organize a reform congregation that would be called Beth Israel, or "House of Israel." Soon, Temple Beth Israel joined the Union of American Hebrew Congregations.

Over the years, the congregation has followed the path of the city of Hazleton with a

combination of good times and hard times. Throughout its history, Temple Beth Israel has contributed to the city's business and civic leaders, distinguished doctors and lawyers.

Temple Beth Israel has been a good neighbor and a helpful ally. The congregation has survived for 100 years and stands ready for the next 100 years.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Temple Beth Israel and all its members on the happy occasion of their 100th anniversary. Congregations like Temple Beth Israel form the solid foundations every community needs for moral guidance and human development. It is a proud day for Temple Beth Israel and we share in the congregation's exuberance.

TRIBUTE TO MARIN YOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2006

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Marin Youth Symphony Orchestra (MSYO) on the occasion of its 50th anniversary. Over the past half century, the orchestra has provided the opportunity for over 3,000 talented young musicians to learn and perform classic symphonic orchestral music.

This was made possible by brilliant conductors such as founder Maestro Hugo Rinaldi who led the MSYO from its inception in the fall of 1954 until 1989 while the group enjoyed residence at Dominican College. Under his leadership the MSYO grew to become an integral part of the arts community in Marin County collaborating with the Marin Ballet, Marin Girl's Chorus, Marin Opera, Marin Theater Company, Marin Youth-In-Arts and numerous other organizations. He also toured the MSYO to Italy, Austria, and Australia, a unique experience for the young musicians.

Upon Hugo Rinaldi's retirement, Leslie Stewart led the group for seven seasons, adding scholarships and a chamber program. Dr. Anthony Adessa developed the orchestra further until 2001, when current conductor George Thomson took over the baton. Thompson moved MSYO to its current home with the College of Marin.

Under Maestro Thomson's leadership the orchestra has developed an extraordinary opportunity for soloists, and ensemble players to experiment with innovative repertoire. He continues to provide gifted young people with an opportunity to benefit from his professional coaching and intimate knowledge of classical literature, allowing for participation in performing rich and rewarding orchestral music.

The MSYO has provided valuable training for a number of students who have continued their musical careers into the uppermost heights of musical accomplishment. Alumni include Joe Alessi, Principal Trombone of the New York Philharmonic; Mark Isham,

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Grammy, ASCAP, and Tony award winning film score composer; Tara Flandreau, Chair of the College of Marin Music Department; Dan Smiley, Second Violin; San Francisco Symphony; and numerous performers of the Marin Symphony Orchestra as well as music teachers who have continued to instruct successive generations.

In the words of participant Lucy Williams (First Violin Section, 2004), "When I went to hear Jeremy Constant (Marin Symphony concertmaster) perform on his Stradivarius at Davies Symphony Hall I asked him what inspired him. He said that as a youth symphony musician he got to play Scheherazade, by Rimsky-Korsakov, and I realized that he was my age when he was playing it and we had just finished performing that same piece! I felt a rush of excitement, like I was walking a path of history and it might lead me onto that stage some day. I thought about George telling us about the "giant nerf rocks" in the shipwreck passage and it made me feel like the luckiest person there."

Mr. Speaker, the Marin Youth Symphony Orchestra will continue to develop musical talent and provide inspiration for young talented people in Marin County by making it possible for them to learn and share musical experiences of the highest possible level. The benefits of this cultural asset extend to the entire community, enriching our national musical heritage. I congratulate them on this 50th anniversary celebration.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2006

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5122) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2007 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 2007, and for other purposes:

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Chairman, I rise to express my support for the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007. Chairman DUNCAN HUNTER and the Ranking Member, Mr. SKELTON worked together in a bipartisan manner to produce a bill that places the highest importance on our war fighters. The brave men and women who wear the uniform of our armed services deserve nothing less than our support, and I am proud that this bill demonstrates our commitment to them.

This bipartisan bill provides our military with improved capabilities and resources to carry out the important missions that we have asked of them. By increasing the pay for all members of the armed forces, this important bill recognizes the sacrifice and dedication of the men and women who serve our country.

This bill also adds funds to better equip our soldiers both in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. By providing increased amounts for up-armored Humvees, improvised explosive device (IED) jammers and state-of-the-art body armor, the House bill recognizes the changing nature of current con-

flicts, and places a high value on the protection of our soldiers.

I am also pleased that bill includes language which works toward ensuring that there is no capability gap in aerial intelligence gathering or strike force as the Air Force moves toward more modern and unmanned air vehicles. It is important that we do not lose valuable military assets currently provided by the U-2 or F-117 before there is an operational alternative.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support the passage of this bill.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF IONE BIGGS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Ione Biggs, cherished wife, mother, grandmother, friend, and champion of peace and social justice whose remarkable life echoes a call for peace and civil rights within our community and around the world.

Mrs. Biggs began blazing trails early on. Every inroad she created was lined with grace, integrity, and courage. One of first women police officers hired in the city of Cleveland, Mrs. Biggs worked in the Juvenile Division where she guided and assisted women and children for more than 10 years. Disenchanted with the rampant sexism and racism that permeated the Police Division at that time, Mrs. Biggs transferred to the Cleveland Municipal Court in 1955, where she worked diligently until her retirement in 1986. Her husband of 53 years, the late Keith D. Biggs, their son, Keith, and daughter, Gladys, were central to her life. Beyond her commitment to family and work, Mrs. Biggs' unrelenting activism, focused on peace, minority rights, and women's rights, played a vital role in elevating the hearts and minds of the public and its leaders, at home and abroad. She marched in support of Cleveland Mayor Carl B. Stokes and marched in opposition of the Vietnam war. In 1995, Mrs. Biggs organized a local delegation to attend the International Women's Conference in Beijing. She was an active leader in Nine to Five, supported Cleveland Working Women, WomenSpace, League of Women Voters, the ACLU, SpeakOut for Affirmative Action and numerous other social justice organizations. Mrs. Biggs attended national and international peace conferences, including disarmament and human rights summits in Sweden, Kenya, and the former Soviet Union.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor, gratitude, and remembrance of Mrs. Ione Biggs, who lived life with great joy, energy, passion, and in tireless advocacy on behalf of others. A certain grace illuminated her life, and the endless measure of her kindness and her dignified defiance will exist forever within the hearts of those who knew her well, especially her family and friends. Mrs. Biggs' legacy of peace transcends borders and time, lending light and hope to those who still live without justice, and to those who continue her march—from the steps of Public Square in Cleveland, Ohio, to the steps of the City Square in Nairobi, Kenya, and her journey will be remembered always.

IN RECOGNITION OF MAYOR EULINE BROCK'S OUTSTANDING SERVICE AND DEDICATION TO THE CITY OF DENTON

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2006

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Denton Mayor Euline Brock. After 6 years of service as Mayor and more than 20 years of dedicated service to the city of Denton, Ms. Brock will retire on May 23, 2006.

Mayor Brock was elected mayor in 2000, was an at-large member of the Denton City Council from 1992–1998, serving as mayor pro tem from 1994–1998, and from 1998–2000 she served as chair of the 50-member Blue Ribbon Citizens' Committee that formulated and promoted the capital improvement bond program.

Under Mayor Euline Brock's guidance, the city of Denton has emerged as a major City in the Denton-Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex and the State of Texas through her involvement in regional policy-making efforts. Ms. Brock served as president of Metroplex Mayors where she promoted development of a regional transit system and organized the first-ever joint meeting of the Metroplex Mayors and Tarrant County Mayors Council. Her initiatives included the regional "Keep Local Government Local" group organized to lobby the Texas Legislature on issues important to north Texas cities, and her vision of Denton as the "Third City" in the region—not third in size, but third in importance, as she has established Denton as a regional center for medical services, retail, banking, employment, entertainment, sports and the arts.

Mayor Brock was instrumental in the formation of the Denton Tomorrow and Denton Tomorrow II community symposiums which created a set of strategies and actions to achieve sustained economic vitality in Denton. Thanks in large measure to her vision and leadership, the city of Denton has been successful in expanding its retail base to address the needs of a vibrant and growing city including: the construction of Sally Beauty Company's new Worldwide Support Center, the construction of United Copper, Flowers Foods, Fastenal Company, Denton Crossing, and the expansion of Peterbilt's regional headquarters.

Ms. Brock's tenure also ushered in unprecedented improvements to the infrastructure of the city of Denton with a new central fire station, a new library branch, renovations of historic buildings and construction of new roads and water treatment facilities.

Perhaps one of her greatest strengths is her ability to build consensus, as demonstrated by her creating an environment of cooperation and respect on the Denton City Council, her hosting of the first ever joint meeting between the Denton City Council and the Denton Independent School District Board to explore better ways to work cooperatively, and her inclusion of the Denton Chamber of Commerce Board on key business issues before the city.

Mayor Euline Brock has also worked closely with my office to ensure that we are aware of the accomplishments and needs of the largest city in my district, Denton. She has been and continues to be a catalyst for positive change,