

CONGRATULATING JAMIE DEAN
LUCAS

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2006

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay public tribute to Jamie Dean Lucas, a friend and constituent from my congressional district who will be representing Kentucky in the upcoming NBC reality series "The Biggest Loser." Jamie will compete against contestants, representing each of the 50 States, in a nationally broadcast weight loss and fitness challenge.

Jamie is an especially generous and talented member of my community. By taking on this important challenge, Jamie is giving himself and his family a new lease on the future. In fact, Jamie is already well on his way toward his ultimate weight loss goal. I have no doubt that he will soon again enjoy some of his favorite activities like tennis and horseback riding. I am also sure that his commitment to health will give him many more happy years to enjoy with his children and future grandchildren.

Weight loss is a very difficult endeavor. Jamie's steady spirit and unyielding determination represent the very best of what it means to be a Kentuckian. I am proud that Jamie will be representing my district before a national audience and prouder still to call him my friend.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Jamie Dean Lucas, before the entire U.S. House of Representatives, for all that he has accomplished in the past few months. His remarkable progress is a true inspiration to many of us in Kentucky and, very soon, for millions of television viewers across the Nation.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE PUBLIC
SERVICE OF THE NEW JERSEY
STATE LAW ENFORCEMENT
ASIAN-AMERICAN ADVISORY
COMMITTEE

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2006

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the tremendous public service of the New Jersey State Law Enforcement Asian-American Advisory Committee. With Americans of Asian heritage making up an increasingly large proportion of our population, both in New Jersey and across the Nation, it is important that law enforcement have a strong relationship with the Asian-American community.

There are an estimated 14 million U.S. residents with Asian heritage. That's 5 percent of the U.S. population. They are by no means of a monolithic culture—with backgrounds from Korea, Vietnam, Philippines, Taiwan, and elsewhere. Asian-Americans have lent this diversity to our national melting pot, enriching America with their contributions to music, food, design, literature, entertainment, and more.

Asian-Americans are our neighbors, our local business owners, our teachers, our elect-

ed officials, and also our police officers and first responders. The New Jersey State Law Enforcement Asian-American Advisory Committee helps to bridge the gap both for Asian-Americans in the law enforcement family and in the larger population. Its members engender a greater understanding of the special needs of the Asian-American community.

I am proud to work with them to make New Jersey's neighborhoods safer and bring New Jersey's communities closer, and I am proud to support their efforts to become a national organization.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PRO-
VIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF
H.R. 5970, ESTATE TAX AND EX-
TENSION OF TAX RELIEF ACT OF
2006 AND H.R. 4, PENSION PRO-
TECTION ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, tonight we should have had an opportunity to help lift 6.6 million Americans out of poverty by passing the first minimum wage increase in nearly a decade.

As it is, it's an absolute disgrace that the minimum wage has been stagnant at \$5.15 since 1997.

Republican inaction has led to the fact that the minimum wage is at its lowest level in 50 years. In fact, if the minimum wage had just kept up with inflation since 1968, it would have been \$8.88 in 2005. That is still, quite frankly, a pittance for what people need to live.

But this increase is in jeopardy by a cynical, political ploy on the part of the House Republican leadership.

Mr. Speaker, this sham minimum wage legislation contains "poison pills." Namely, the incorporation of the estate tax cut and further tax cut extensions into the minimum wage bill.

Even worse, under this sham Republican legislation 1.8 million workers will have to wait until June 2009 before the minimum wage reaches \$7.25.

Once again, the Republican majority is proving how much contempt they have for the working families of America.

Mr. Speaker, Congress should be voting on a clean minimum wage bill that will provide a meaningful increase to working Americans. Its only fair.

TRIBUTE ON THE 40TH ANNIVER-
SARY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF
MARYLAND, BALTIMORE COUNTY

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2006

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer congratulations to one of Maryland's premier institutions of higher learning—the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC)—as it celebrates its 40th anniversary.

Located on what was once a cow pasture, the university has risen to astonishing heights in a very short time. When UMBC first opened

in 1966, it had only 750 students and three buildings. Today, the university offers first-rate education and research opportunities to more than 11,000 students, while retaining the personal contact typically found at a small liberal arts college.

In recent years, the guidance of President Freeman Hrabowski has led the university to new heights. UMBC's unique combination of undergraduate focus and graduate research reflects the dedication to balance that has led UMBC to become one of the top public universities in the nation.

The nationally recognized Meyerhoff Scholars Program, which Dr. Hrabowski co-founded, is among the most successful undergraduate diversity programs in the nation. UMBC has one of the highest rates of minority students pursuing advanced degrees in medicine and science of any school in the United States. UMBC also has been ranked first nationally in the total number of undergraduate chemistry degrees given to African-Americans.

In 40 years UMBC has become one of the nation's top independent public research universities. The numerous accomplishments of the university are all the more impressive because they have come so rapidly. In fact, UMBC is one of the youngest universities ever to be honored with a chapter of Phi Beta Kappa, and in recent years UMBC has led every university in the nation in undergraduates receiving Merck Undergraduate Science Research Scholarships.

Mr. Speaker, I call upon my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in honoring the achievements and success of UMBC, one of the bright stars in American higher education.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO NEVADA
STATE COLLEGE AND DR.
CONNIE CARPENTER

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the students, faculty and administrators of Nevada State College's School of Nursing in Henderson, Nevada, for their tremendous achievements with their accelerated nursing program. Their achievements are a reflection of their commitment to our community. Dr. Connie Carpenter, Dean of the School of Nursing, has been instrumental in Nevada State College's early success as Nevada's newest institution of public higher education. Her leadership, commitment, and vision serve as a testimonial to the success of the college's nursing program.

Nevada State College first welcomed students in August of 2002, it has been charged with the mission to meet the needs of students who are interested in bachelor's degrees in our state's much-needed fields such as nursing and education, as well as in other disciplines in the arts and sciences. Since that time, Nevada State College has committed resources, professors, and vision to ensure that their mission statement becomes a reality. For faculty and students, that dream has been achieved. On Saturday, August 26, 2006, twenty nine students graduated from the college's Accelerated Nursing Program, a success which reflects the college's commitment

to providing their students with the necessary resources to achieve their dreams. I would like to commend the following students on their graduation from Nevada State College's Accelerated Nursing Program: Nancy Andruk, Joyce Arce, Royal Bradley, Tatiana Brandon, Katherine Busby, Diandra Castenada, Perla Cisco, Themis De Guzman, Tobyn Derby-Talbot, Andi Del Gatto, Catherine Dullano, Crisandra Eastmond, Raul Ellazar, Desiree Espinoza, Diane Graham, Kathryn Havey, Lynda Hubeny, Marianne Jackson, Brigitte Lacombe, Jeanette Long, Eudora Mordi, Eleanor Mox, Milagros Navarro, Bette-Ann Pierce, Sayma Salman, Dawn Scott, Nicole Thomas, Chantal Whittenberg, Bethany Williams, and Samantha Zomar.

Dr. Carpenter brings a wealth of experience in nursing, nursing education, educational administration and in delivering quality online instructional programs to the Nursing program. She has been a leading advocate in expanding the nursing program at Nevada State College; she is a pioneer in developing distance learning programs. She is very dedicated to providing effective and accessible education. I have full faith that with Dr. Carpenter's leadership, Nevada State College will continue to exceed every possible expectation.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Dr. Connie Carpenter, Dean of the School of Nursing, and the students of the Accelerated Nursing Program. Nevada State is making a tremendous difference throughout Southern Nevada, and the Nursing Program is helping to provide skilled workers to the health services across the state. I applaud Nevada State College's efforts and wish them the best in their future endeavors.

CONGRATULATING MR. BRYCE
BENTON

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2006

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Bryce Benton, a graduate student in the masters program at the University of North Texas School of Library and Information Sciences, on receiving the Paul Evan Peters Award. This great honor is awarded jointly by the Association of Research Libraries, the Coalition for Networked Information and EDUCAUSE to individuals whose achievements in information science and librarianship move forward intellectual productivity and scholarship.

Mr. Benton's most recent work with DSpace open source systems on an institutional repository pilot project at the University of North Texas has won him many accolades from his professors and fellow peers.

Described as "personable, enthusiastic, and as someone who possesses a 'volunteering spirit,'" and recognized by this award for his "civic responsibility, democratic values, and imagination," he will undoubtedly continue to advance the field of librarianship and information sciences.

Mr. Speaker, I extend my sincere congratulations to Mr. Bryce Benton on receiving the Paul Evans Peters Award and commend his dedication and desire to helping promote scholarship and intellectual productivity.

TRIBUTE TO NATIONAL YOUTH
COURT MONTH

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2006

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize September as National Youth Court Month. During September, more than 1,100 youth courts operating in district-level juvenile justice systems, schools, and community-based organizations in 49 states and the District of Columbia will celebrate the fifth annual National Youth Court Month.

Youth court—also known as teen court, peer court, and student court—is one of the fastest growing crime prevention and early intervention programs in the nation. Youth court volunteers, under the supervision of adult volunteers, act as judges, jurors, clerks, bailiffs, and counsel for youth charged with minor delinquent offenses and problem behavior. The overall goal is to help offending youth find an appropriate, constructive, and restorative disposition.

This year, the theme of National Youth Court Month is "Correcting Crooked Paths: Youth and Communities in Partnership for Justice." The theme addresses two very important aspects within the youth court realm: learning from mistakes and youth empowerment. Uniquely, youth and adults from a variety of entities in the community including justice agencies, nonprofit organizations, schools, and municipalities work side-by-side to address and solve local problems particularly related to juvenile crime and problem behavior.

I visited several teen courts last year and was impressed by the power this innovative program has to change misdirected and challenged teenagers into productive and adjusted adults. I would like to recognize their efforts and those of so many other courts by proclaiming September 2006 as National Youth Court Month. I urge Americans to celebrate the valuable contributions that youth courts and their volunteers, adult and youth, make to keep our nation's communities safe.

IN HONOR OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST. HELENA CATHOLIC CHURCH

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of the parish community of St. Helena Catholic Church, as members and leaders celebrate one hundred years of faith and hope throughout Cleveland's west side neighborhoods.

Throughout the past century, St. Helena Parish has served as a spiritual refuge for Americans of Romanian heritage, and was established as the first Romanian Catholic Church built on American soil.

The ministry of St Helena began in 1906, with a mission focused on supporting the spiritual and cultural needs of Romanian immigrant families who settled in Cleveland. Since that time, a number of pastors and parish-

ioners have served as critical guides in the journey of the faithful at St. Helena Church. Over the years, this close-knit parish community has evolved and grown, and its faithful members have survived numerous struggles and hardships. Generations of Romanian Americans have assimilated into American culture, with the support and guidance of the leaders and members of St. Helena Catholic Church.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of every past and current member and spiritual leader of St. Helena Catholic Church. In 1906, as today, St. Helena parish continues to provide a haven of faith, guidance, renewal and support for hundreds of families, along Cleveland's near Westside and far beyond.

TRIBUTE TO CATALYST
CONNECTION

HON. MELISSA A. HART

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2006

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Catalyst Connection, the proud recipient of the Economic Development Administration's 2006 Excellence in Economic Development Award in the category of Enhancing Regional Competitiveness.

Catalyst Connection is a non-profit organization dedicated to helping small- and medium-sized manufacturers improve their competitive performance. Clients of Catalyst Connection can receive assistance to address their operations in the fields of: Financial Programs, Information Technology, Lean Manufacturing, Market Development, Product Development, Quality Systems, Web Marketing and Workforce. Since Catalyst Connection's creation in 1988, they have served over 1,000 clients and have delivered \$43.7 million in value-added impact to their clients' operations in 2005 alone.

I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in honoring Catalyst Connection as recipient of the 2006 Excellence in Economic Development Award for all of its fine work with the region's businesses.

LABOR DAY

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2006

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, as we celebrated Labor Day this past weekend, the Census Bureau made the plight of working-class Americans more clear with its most recent report on income, poverty and health care in 2005. Unfortunately, the statistics confirmed what many Americans across the country have known for some time: the economic policies of the Administration benefit only a lucky few while most working Americans are struggling from paycheck to paycheck. The federal minimum wage has been stagnant since 1996, real household income has dropped more than \$1200 in the past five years, and the number of uninsured Americans has jumped by 1.3