

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