

hours a day, 6 days a week. Last year, she became postmaster. Bonnie's families picked their mail up at the post office in front of her house in an old-fashioned way. Instead of using the modern-day post office boxes, the mail was sorted into old-fashioned sacks Bonnie handmade herself and then hung onto pegs. Families would then pick up their mail while the traditions of past generations stayed intact.

For the 30 years prior to her appointment as postmaster, Bonnie's mother-in-law held the position. Her daughter also continues the family tradition for she was named postmaster for 2004 in Alamo, NV. Bonnie also has served the National Association of Postmasters of the U.S., NAPUS, as state president, on its state council, and representing Nevada in Washington, DC.

On December 1, 2006, Bonnie retired from her position as postmaster and, with her, lay to rest the traditions of Hiko's community. What she will miss the most is the customer interaction and personalized service. Now that she is retired, she plans on nurturing her garden and traveling with her husband of 49 years. Bonnie also plans on spending more time with her 4 children, 18 grandchildren, and 8 great-grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I recognize the gracious efforts of Mrs. Bonnie Schofield. Her diligence and dedication are to be admired. I wish her luck with all her future endeavors.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO ERSILIA  
CRUZ

**HON. JOHN T. SALAZAR**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 5, 2006*

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a woman who made a difference to so many people in the community of Pueblo, CO.

Ersilia Cruz left her community a better place.

Ersilia Cruz, who was a driving force for Hyde Park and "remodeling the West Side," as she put it, died of a stroke Friday. She was 75.

She helped bring the Cesar Chavez Academy and, most recently, the Dolores Huerta Preparatory High School to Hyde Park. She was director for many programs at the Hyde Park Community Center, was active at church and, her family said, had strong interests in the community and children.

Her son Steve said that Ersilia decided to stay alive long past when she was supposed to because "she wanted to talk to everyone before she left. She wasn't going until everyone in the family talked to her, and the whole week was like that. She was all family. That's what she stood for, and it was a neat experience for our family."

The recipient of several local, State and national awards, Cruz's most distinguished was probably the Dorothy Richardson Award in 2003, for which she was flown to Washington.

That same year she also had a street in Hyde Park named after her, called Cruz Court.

In the 1970s, Cruz operated G&E Grocery Store and later worked for Kwik Way and PDQ convenience stores, from which she retired while a manager.

Cruz is survived by her husband of 59 years, George. The two met and wed in Mora, NM.

Mrs. Cruz also is survived by 20 grandchildren, 22 great-grandchildren and a great-great-granddaughter.

The entire community of Pueblo, CO, will miss Ersilia Cruz.

TRIBUTE TO FRED J. SHALTZ

**HON. DALE E. KILDEE**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 5, 2006*

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to an outstanding public servant and a close friend, Fred J. Shaltz. Fred recently retired as a Genesee County Michigan Commissioner after serving seven consecutive terms in office.

Fred's career in public service started long before he was elected to office. After attending the University of Michigan, Fred passed the State of Michigan examination and was licensed as a land surveyor in 1963. Two years later he founded Delta Land Surveying and Engineering, Inc. and Delta Aerial Photography. At the same time his career in community service began.

He has served as either a current or former board member of the following organizations: Flint Jaycees, Hemophilia Foundation of Michigan, Rubicon-Odyssey House, Eastern Michigan Mortgage Banker's Association, Builder's Association of Metropolitan Flint, Fenton City Local Development Finance Authority, Fenton Chamber of Commerce, Mott College Foundation Board, Valley School Trustee, and served as the vice president of the Flint Area Chamber of Commerce.

During his tenure as a Genesee County Commissioner, Fred carried out his duties by serving in the following capacities: member of the Genesee County Metropolitan Planning Commission, as chair of the Public Works Committee, member of the Lobdell Lake Board, chair of the Courthouse Square Committee, member of the 911 Consortium, the Valley Area Agency of Aging, the Genesee County Mental Health Board, Genesee County Recycling Coalition, chair of the Finance Committee, a member of the Leadership Committee, member of the Genesee County Mass Transit Authority, Greater Health Coalition, Genesee County Retirement Board, New Paths, County Park and Recreation, Chair of the Community Economic Development Committee, the Genesee County Board of Review, and the Flint City Planning Commission. Fred also served as the vice chair of the board of commissioners from 1995–1996 and 2000–2004. He was the chairman of the board during 1997 and 1998.

Recognized by his peers, Fred has received the following awards: Young Democrat-of-the-Year Award, Knight of the Month K of C Council 695 Flint, the 1966 Speak-Up and Spoke Award Flint Jaycees, Michigan's Community Leader, Flint Beautification Commendation, Women's Council of Flint Board of Realtor's Award, Feat Foundation Award, American Congress on Surveying and Mapping Fellow, Michigan American Legion Appreciation Award, Outstanding Service Award Greater Flint Area Chamber of Commerce, Community

Mental Service Award, Flint City Council Appreciation, City of Fenton Community Service Award, Life-Member Award from Michigan Association of Realtors, Key to City of Flint, 2000 Dare Program, Burton Health Center Leadership Recognition, 1986 Associate of the Year from Home Builder's Association of Metropolitan Flint, Appreciation Award from Bureau of Business Practice, Patriotic Citizen Award from the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Dedicated Service Award from Genesee County Park and Recreation, Appreciation Award from the County Board of Health, Award from Valley Area Agency of Aging.

Between the years 1968 to 1992 Fred was appointed by different mayors to serve on 11 city boards. He was also appointed by three different Michigan Governors to the board of licensing for architects, land surveyors, and Michigan's Small Business Council. He was the second vice president of the Home Builder's Association in 1985, and repeatedly recognized by the National Engineering Society on Education, Qualifications and Examiners. Fred was a founding member of the Fenton Rotary Club and a founding member of the Fenton Township Service Club. His article on excellent business practices appeared in a 1988 issue of Inc. Magazine and he was a contributor to the magazine's book "301 Great Management Ideas" published in 1991. He contributed an article to a University of Michigan textbook on business, management, and leadership. In 2004 he was inducted into the Builder's Association of Metropolitan Flint Wall of Fame.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be able to congratulate my friend, Fred Shaltz, as he retires undefeated in office after 7 terms with the Genesee County Board of Commissioners and 43 years of public service. I wish him the best as he embarks on this new phase of his life.

TRIBUTE TO THE 2006 KENWOOD  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
ROBOTIACS TEAM

**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 5, 2006*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and enthusiasm that I take this time to recognize the 2006 Kenwood Elementary School Robotiacs. The team, which competes as part of the FIRST LEGO League (FLL), recently finished in first place for robot design and second place overall at the local competition held in Hammond, Indiana on November 11, 2006. With their success, the Robotiacs have advanced to the State competition, which will be held at Indiana University—Purdue University in Fort Wayne, IN on December 9, 2006.

The FLL is the result of an alliance between For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology, FIRST, and the LEGO Company. The purpose of the FLL is to allow students to be creative and, with the assistance of mentors, solve real-world engineering challenges, develop important life skills, and learn to make positive contributions to society.

Kenwood Elementary School has been no stranger to success in this competition. This is the 4th consecutive year they have won first place awards at the regional level, which includes awards for research and robot design,

as well as an overall championship. They advanced each of these years to compete at the State level, each time competing against more than 45 other teams. One of these State competitions resulted in the team being honored with the distinguished Judge's Award.

The 2006 Robotiacs team consists of: Lena Colon, R.J. Groszewski, and Antonio Rosa, all sixth grade students, and two new members, third grade student Christopher Tucker and fifth grade student Connor Westerfield. With this year's theme being centered on nanotechnology, the team was given the task of creating a way to use existing technologies or to create a new product utilizing nanostructures. The result of their research and innovation was a quite impressive roofing system, which produces hydrogen that is compressed, stored, and used in the future by a fuel cell found in a home, thus eliminating the need for dependence on natural gas, oil, and coal. This, which the team is quick to point out, is very different than a solar panel that uses the sun's energy to produce electricity.

The Robotiacs are coached by Mrs. Alicia Madeka, a third grade teacher at Kenwood Elementary School. Mrs. Madeka, who has coached the team for the past 4 years, is a shining example of what it means to be a teacher. She is dedicated to educating tomorrow's leaders, and she encourages these students to realize that through hard work and self-sacrifice, they can make a significant contribution to the future.

Mrs. Madeka and these amazing students are truly an inspiration to their school and the community. The Robotiacs' commitment to furthering their knowledge in math, science, and technology, and then using this knowledge in ways that can benefit society is truly remarkable. The tireless efforts of all involved in such endeavors are a source of pride for the community and the First Congressional District.

I would be remiss if I did not take a moment to offer a word of praise to all of the faculty, administrators, and supporters who play a special role in enriching these young lives with the desire to learn and succeed. Finally, special recognition is due for the parents and guardians of these gifted students. It is clear that these individuals have been raised in an environment where character and work ethic are instilled at an early age, and for that, they are to be commended.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I congratulate the Kenwood Robotiacs, Mrs. Alicia Madeka, and Principal Mary Beth Nickolaou on their success, and I wish them continued success as they go on to participate in the State competition this weekend. These gifted young students possess the work ethic and dedication that will make them successful leaders and contributing members of society throughout their lives. I hope that the rest of my colleagues will join with me in applauding the Kenwood Robotiacs for their commendable efforts.

IN RECOGNITION OF MAYOR  
KATHY HICKS FOR HER SEVEN-  
TEEN YEARS OF SERVICE TO  
THE CITY OF WALNUT CREEK

### HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Tuesday, December 5, 2006*

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Mayor Kathy Hicks who is retiring after prominently serving the City of Walnut Creek for 17 years.

A resident of Walnut Creek since 1969, she has served on the City Council since November 1994, the City's Planning Commission and the Park, Recreation and Open Space Commission from 1990 to 1994, for which she served as chair. She also served as vice chair of the Walnut Creek Bicycle Advisory Committee, a member of the Boundary Oak Golf Course Advisory Committee, and the Creek Restoration Plan Task Force. She is past vice president of and current City Council liaison to Friends of the Creek, a non-profit organization supporting the creek restoration plan in downtown Walnut Creek.

Mrs. Hicks represents the City as board member for the Central Contra Costa Solid Waste Authority, for which she served as chair in 1995 and negotiated a historic reduction in garbage collection rates as part of a new, longterm contract. Additionally, she serves on City Council subcommittees focusing on the library, youth and schools, community outreach, and economic development. Mrs. Hicks is also the City liaison to the Transportation Commission and serves as vice chair of the League of California Cities Community Services Policy Committee.

Mrs. Hicks other community activities include membership in the Walnut Creek Open Space Foundation, the Friends of the Library, the Diablo Regional Arts Association, Ruth Bancroft Garden Conservancy, the Gardens at Heather Farm, the Walnut Creek Action for Beauty Council, the Lindsay Wildlife Museum, American Association of University Women, the National Women's Political Caucus and the League of Women Voters of Diablo Valley. Mrs. Hicks is also a 1994 graduate of the Walnut Creek Chamber of Commerce "Leadership Contra Costa."

For the 17 years Mrs. Hicks has served the city of Walnut Creek, her hard work and dedication has proved to be a great asset to the community. Today, I am proud to commend her for her service to the community, her dedication to duty and her commitment to the people of Walnut Creek.

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF  
DR. MARK H. COLLIER

### HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Tuesday, December 5, 2006*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Dr. Mark H. Collier, a distinguished leader and man of rich faith and vision whose unparalleled commitment to the Baldwin-Wallace College community, especially the learning, growth, and development of its student body, has touched the lives of all at B-W.

Dr. Collier, the seventh president of Baldwin-Wallace, has served in this capacity since 1999. Prior to assuming this role, he served as Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the College for 18 years. He guided the curriculum and instruction, enrollment, continuing education, and multicultural affairs with strength, passion, and vigor. Dr. Collier came to B-W in 1974 as chaplain and professor of religion, before serving as pastor of the North Olmsted United Methodist Church. His academic expertise and contributions are equally significant.

During his time leading Baldwin-Wallace, he led multiple planning efforts, including a campus-wide master plan, which have enhanced Baldwin-Wallace's ability to continue to achieve its mission in the future. He continued to shape the culture of Baldwin-Wallace to reflect values of diversity, expression, global interconnectedness, and spirituality. His numerous accomplishments are not only reflected in the success of the college and campus atmosphere, but perhaps most important, in the societal contributions of its students and graduates.

In addition to serving Baldwin-Wallace, Dr. Collier's considerable commitment to the Cleveland-area community and beyond is evident in his volunteer work with the United Way, Leadership Cleveland, the Greater Cleveland Roundtable, and groups.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of Dr. Mark H. Collier, as he leaves the post of President of Baldwin-Wallace College in Berea, Ohio, an academic institution which I know has benefited in tremendous ways through his time, effort, and leadership throughout the past 31 years.

RECOGNIZING MAYOR PAT KUHN

### HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Tuesday, December 5, 2006*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Pat Kuhn for her exceptional service on the Oakdale City Council from 1992 to 1994 and as Mayor of Oakdale from 1994 to 2006.

During her tenure as Mayor, Miss Kuhn set an example for surrounding communities with her emphasis on public safety, education, and anti-graffiti laws. In 1996, Mayor Kuhn was appointed by then Governor Pete Wilson to the California Commission of Teacher Credentialing, a position that required Senate Confirmation, and was responsible for accrediting state colleges and setting education criteria for the teaching professionals for the State of California.

Mayor Kuhn has been honored for her contributions by the State of California and her community through her designation as "Woman of the Year" by the California Assembly and by receiving the Rotary Paul Harris Fellow in 2005.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Mayor Pat Kuhn for her many years of commitment and dedication. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing her years of continued happiness and success.