

Simpson also communicates his strong belief in helping people via the media, and writes a weekly column for the *Carib News*. Periodically he is heard on Family Radio and has been the subject of three books: "What God did for Me," "Sam Simpson, Architect of Hope," and his most recent "To Dream the Impossible Dream."

He serves in many capacities in the Baptist denomination. Among his leadership roles has been president—Baptist Convention of New York for two terms, and moderator—Metropolitan New York Baptist Association. Other areas of service were: president and board chairman of Protestant Council of Churches of New York, president, Bronx division of Council of Churches, chairman of the board and president, Bronx Shepherds Restoration, and board member, Northeastern Bible College. Reverend Dr. Simpson is a true man of God and a firm believer in serving the total person. He has worked tirelessly for his community both within and outside the Bronx seeking to improve the temporal and spiritual aspects of his congregation and his community.

We are a stronger, better community for his work.

HONORING MITCHELL IGNERI AND  
STEPHEN CLARKE OF SS. CYRIL  
AND METHODIUS SCHOOL IN  
DEER PARK, NY

### HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 15, 2007*

Mr. ISRAEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mitchell Igneri and Stephen Clarke of SS. Cyril and Methodius School in Deer Park, NY.

Mitchell Igneri and Stephen Clarke are the second prize winners in C-SPAN's "StudentCam" contest. "StudentCam" is a video documentary contest which invites middle and high school students to produce a video exploring a current political topic using C-SPAN programming. Igneri and Clarke won for their video "War in Iraq: The Current Controversy."

The war in Iraq is a tough issue for young Americans to grapple with today, and I would like to acknowledge these students for their excellence and creativity in exploring the political realm which surrounds our current situation in Iraq. I am proud to have been interviewed for this award-winning production.

I congratulate these two students on their achievement and thank them for their contribution to our understanding of the war in Iraq.

COMMENDING RILEY B. KING,  
ALSO KNOWN AS BB KING, FOR  
HIS RENOWNED ACHIEVEMENTS  
AND LASTING INFLUENCE ON  
THE MUSIC INDUSTRY

### HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 15, 2007*

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Riley B. King's, also known as BB King, accomplished career and influential musical legacy.

Riley B. King has been acknowledged as the "King of the Blues" worldwide. BB King and Charles Evers founded the Medgar Evers Homecoming in Mississippi to memorialize the principles and ideals for which civil rights leader Medgar Evers died. He was appointed Mississippi's World Ambassador of the Blues in 2003, and was named United States Ambassador of Music to the World during the World's Fair in Lisbon, Portugal. Mr. King has received honorary degrees from many universities including Tougaloo College, Yale University, Berklee College of Music, Rhodes College of Memphis, Mississippi Valley State University, and in May of 2007, Brown University.

BB King's accomplishments include multiple Grammy awards, a Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award, the Songwriters' Hall of Fame Lifetime Achievement Award, and a Presidential Medal of the Arts, a National Heritage Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts, Kennedy Center Honors, the B'nai B'rith Humanitarian Award, and a 2006 Presidential Medal of Freedom.

He, along with the BB King Blues Band, has performed over 10,000 concerts in 90 countries, including frequent appearances at the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival and numerous other Louisiana venues, including the Paragon Casino in Avoyelles Parish.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the accomplishments of Riley B. King. I acknowledge his invaluable talent and significant contribution to not only the State of Louisiana, but our Nation as well.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE VIL-  
LAGE OF FOREST PARK, ILLI-  
NOIS ON ITS 100TH YEAR ANNI-  
VERSARY.

### HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 15, 2007*

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, 100 years ago the village of Harlem changed its name to Forest Park and since that time has functioned as a municipal government in the state of Illinois located in the western portion of Cook county. The village of Forest Park has had a very interesting origin and development. For thousands of years the Potawatomi Indians and their ancestors lived in the area. They buried their dead along the east bank of the Des Plaines River in the area that is now home of the Forest Home Cemetery. Des Plaines Avenue is known to have been an Indian trail. It lies on top of an ancient sandbar that was on the western edge of Lake Chicago, now Lake Michigan. After Illinois entered the Union, most of the land west of Chicago was set aside for veterans of the war of 1812. By 1835, the area was known as Oak Ridge because of the many oak trees. In 1839, a French and Indian trader, Leon Bourassa, received a land grant from President Martin Van Buren of 160 acres along the Des Plaines River north of what is now Roosevelt Road. By this time the Indians had been banished to west of the Mississippi River, but one Indian maiden remained to tend to the grave of her ancestors. According to legend, she married Leon and they settled here on land which is now part of Forest Home Cemetery. The deed for the government land Bourassa purchased

was personally signed by President Martin Van Buren and is now kept in the Forest Park Library.

The railroad came in 1856, bringing workers who established the first community settlement. A German immigrant, Ferdinand Husse, purchased land in 1851, mostly from Mr. Bourassa, and built a home styled after the manors of New Orleans that he had seen. When he buried 3 members of his family near the homestead, they became the first white settlers to be interred here. When the Chicago and Galena Union Railroad (now the Northwestern), established a division where Des Plaines Avenue now approaches the track in 1856, it marked the beginning of public transportation in the area. Soon after the railroad arrived, a nearby landowner, John Henry Quick, gave part of the area a new name, after his hometown in New York City (Harlem). In the aftermath of the Chicago fire in 1871, many refugees came to this area to build their homes, and their community continued to grow and develop.

The Altenheim German Old People's Home opened in 1885 and boasts the original victorian building still in use. The building has been popular with Hollywood and it has been used as a location for three movies. In 1973, 20th century film "Harry and Fonte". Art Carney, the film star, won an Oscar for his performance and in 1988, scenes were shot there with Gene Hackman in the package. Finally, in 1995, the building was again used for exterior shots for the movie "The Babe", starring John Goodman. In the Waldheim Cemetery now merged with Forest Home, are buried Albert Parsons, Adolph Spies, Adolph Fisher and George Engel. These 4 men were executed on November 11, 1887 for their alleged part in the Haymaker Riot. Waldheim, the only Cemetery that would accept the bodies, hosted over 15,000 persons who attended the funeral. Governor John Peter Altgeld later exonerated the men and pardoned 3 others sentenced to life imprisonment. These 7 soon became martyrs in the eyes of the labor movement. Ceremonies are now held at the gravesite each year honoring the fallen labor heroes.

A sausage factory started in 1890 by Karl Lau became the area's first industry, the metropolitan westside "EI" began electrified rapid transit service in 1895 and because it ran through Garfield Park, it became known as the Garfield Line.

In 1897, the installation of electric lighting for "whomever desired this service", was available to those living or doing business on Madison Street, and the telephone came in 1898. In 1898, Nicholas Shank built the very tall multistory building known as the Castle (at Harlem and Madison) which still stands. It was said to be the tallest building between Chicago and St. Louis. By 1904, Henry J. Mohr had served 3 terms as president of Harlem. After the village changed its name to Forest Park in 1907, he served 4 more terms from 1909 through 1912. The office of president was then changed to mayor in 1916 and of course, Mohr was elected to yet another 4 years. This time it became an extended period of 6 years because the election was not held at the proper time. Thus Henry J. Mohr was the last president and the first mayor of Forest Park, serving a record 13 years as head of local government. Of course Forest Park has continued to grow and develop into a city of great