

Church, he received a particularly fitting tribute. On that day, a group of his former Eagle Scouts gathered to present Mr. Butler with a statue of a scoutmaster as a simple expression of thanks for the important role he had played in each of their lives. Among the Eagle Scouts gathered that day were his own two sons, as well as several fatherless boys who considered him very much like a father.

Charley Butler has also been widely recognized by the broader community. He received the "Civic Achievement Award" for 2007 from the alumni association of Kettering University (formerly GMI Engineering and Management Institute) of Flint, Michigan. In 2003, he received the Brundidge Business Association "Humanitarian Award." Active for many years in the Brundidge Rotary Club, he has been recognized frequently by that organization. He is a three time recipient of the group's "Service above Self Award," a 2001 recipient of the "Rotary Special Service Award," and in 1986, the recipient of Rotary's highest recognition, the "Paul Harris Fellow Award." More recently, the Brundidge Rotary Club presented Mr. Butler a "Lifetime of Service Award" for his outstanding service from 1975 to 2007.

Madam Speaker, Charley Butler truly personifies the motto "service above self." His sacrifices of time, effort and energy have truly made his community a better place. His legacy is well-established and will be long-lasting. I am proud to add my name to the list of those recognizing him, and I offer him best wishes on his eightieth birthday.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2007

Mr. CARTER. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 549, I was unavoidably detained and unable to be present to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2007

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 284, passage of H.R. 1429, Head Start for School Readiness Act, I was unavoidably detained and unable to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

CONGRATULATING BARBARA
WHITNEY CARR ON HER RETIRE-
MENT

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2007

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Barbara Whitney Carr, the president and CEO of the Chicago Botanic Garden for over a decade.

Barbara Carr presides over one of America's preeminent public gardens located in

Glencoe, Illinois. For over a century, the Chicago Botanic Garden has been a sanctuary for over 2.2 million plants, including over 8,000 unique species. The 23 unique gardens spread over 385 acres include horticultural displays, natural habitats, and lakes that attract more than 750,000 visitors annually. By embracing its mission to promote the enjoyment, understanding, and conservation of plants and the natural world, the Garden has become one of the finest botanic displays in the country and one of the 10th District's most stunning features.

Barbara led a 10-year master plan for the garden and launched a capital campaign that saw 15,000 donors contribute a total of \$148 million. This drive led to construction and renovation of eight new gardens and the restoration of nearly 6 miles of shoreline. She also oversaw completion of the Botanic Garden Center, Children's Learning Center and the renovation of the 100,000-square foot Regenstein Center.

Thanks to Barbara's leadership, the garden is now partnered with some of the leading academic institutions in Illinois. She created an academic affairs program that now offers a master of science in plant biology and conservation, a master of landscape architecture and a bachelor's degree in horticulture. Barbara spearheaded the effort to develop a partnership with the Royal Botanic Gardens in Kew, England, to preserve endangered prairie plant species and has launched a major science initiative including collaboration with leading organizations.

Madam Speaker, Barbara Whitney Carr is a remarkable woman whose dedication helped to make the Chicago Botanic Garden one of the finest institutions in the country and an essential place of tourism, education, and beauty within the 10th District. I wish her all the best in her retirement and thank her for her years of service.

RECOGNIZING THE OFFICIAL DEDI-
CATION OF THE BETTY J.
PULLUM FAMILY YMCA IN
NAVARRE

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2007

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is an honor for me to rise today to recognize the dedication of the Betty J. Pullum Family YMCA in Navarre, Florida.

This celebrated facility is named in remembrance of a tireless leader who devoted herself to improving her community and who saw the good in everyone. Ms. Betty J. Pullum was known to her family as "Big Deal." It was her vision and desire to give back to the Navarre community that has made it the close-knit community that it is today. Because of her generosity, it is only fitting that the Navarre YMCA is named in honor of her.

On August 19, 2006, the newly constructed Betty J. Pullum Family YMCA building opened to serve the community of Navarre, Florida. The state-of-the art facility was conceived by Bart Pullum, President of the Navarre Beach Area Chamber of Commerce. As a Navarre native he believed that the youth of Navarre

needed a YMCA of their own where they could come together to have fun in a safe environment.

He brought the idea to his friend Henry Loper and they presented it to the directors of the Pensacola YMCA. It was there that the project grew. Bill and Jeannie Pullum donated the land for the project and the Bill and Martha Pullum Family Foundation donated a lead gift of half a million dollars. The rest of the fundraising was organized by groups and individuals in the community who loved the idea of having a family-oriented facility that promotes active and healthy lifestyles.

The Betty J. Pullum Family YMCA is the perfect place for a family to balance a healthy lifestyle with fun and games. All the exercise equipment is new and free fitness assessments and personalized exercise programs are offered. There are also gymnasiums for shooting hoops and a children's playroom that allows parents to exercise while children are supervised by the attentive staff. The YMCA also offers classes such as aerobic kickboxing and kids' cardio for children ages 3-6 to make a healthy and active lifestyle a lifelong habit. The biggest draw for children is the outdoor pool which features lanes for lap swimming, water slides and a wading section for small children featuring baby slides and fountains.

The Navarre YMCA has about 700 membership units, which represents about 1,600 individuals. Now that we are into the heat of summer, the Navarre YMCA is expecting its membership to grow. This facility will allow families to build healthy lifestyles together and have fun at the same time. It is a safe place for children to play and is an enormous benefit to the community of Navarre, Florida.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to recognize the dedication of the Betty J. Pullum Family YMCA in Navarre, Florida.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS
ACT, 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 26, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2643) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes:

Mr. REYES. Madam Chairman, I rise today in strong support of an amendment by my friend and colleague, Chairman DICKS, to increase funding for the Border Environment Infrastructure Fund, or BEIF, under the U.S.-Mexico Border Program by \$15 million.

I also want to thank Chairman DICKS for producing a good piece of legislation and for being so responsive to me and other concerned Members from border districts. His willingness to listen to and take into account new information regarding the program are true marking of a fine chairman. As my friend the chairman noted, BEIF has recently instituted measures to ensure that program funds are

disbursed more quickly. I am happy that his concerns regarding the balance of obligated but unspent funds have been resolved. It is an efficient program with strong fiduciary controls. I was pleased to work with Mr. DICKS on this amendment.

BEIF, which was created under the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), makes environmental infrastructure projects affordable for communities throughout the U.S.-Mexico border region by combining grant funds with loans or other forms of financing. It was created with the understanding that a healthy and economically strong border region is critical to a secure border and to the flow of commerce. Economic development rests on a foundation of strong infrastructure. In many poorer border communities, however, the capital does not often exist to build water and wastewater infrastructure. BEIF funds go toward increasing water and wastewater capacity—bringing services to people who have not previously had them, improving public health, supporting economic development in poor border communities, and ultimately strengthening our southern border.

Every million dollars in BEIF water and wastewater investment results in the following over 10 years: \$11.1 million in private sector investment, 221 new jobs, \$1.7 million in tax revenue, and \$52.2 million in goods produced by the private sector. Generally, BEIF and accompanying efforts have aided 185 projects that have benefitted over 7.5 million residents.

In my own district of El Paso, Texas, water and wastewater projects have received about \$65 million in funding under the U.S.-Mexico Border Program. That funding has gone toward innovative water planning for a growing city in the middle of the desert, toward technical assistance for smaller waterworks, and toward bringing water and wastewater infrastructure to unincorporated settlements, or colonias. This irreplaceable funding source for border communities must be maintained.

Let's bring water and wastewater to those who don't have it. Let's bring economic development to poor communities in the U.S.-Mexico border region. Let's invest in a strong and secure border. I urge my colleagues to join our chairman, Mr. DICKS, and me in supporting this critical amendment.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JOSEPH TORCASO

HON. PAUL RYAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2007

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, last week, Kenosha, Wisconsin, lost a long-time community leader—Joseph Torcaso, who has run Torcaso Shoe Repair shop on 52nd Street for over 60 years. A lifelong resident of Kenosha, he started learning the shoe repair business from his father in 1937, at the age of 9, and his shop is one of the touchstones of the Kenosha community. Joe passed away on Friday.

Everyone knew and liked Joe, and his lively wit and sense of humor brightened countless people's lives. He was known as the "Mayor of 52nd Street" or, by some, as the "Oracle of 52nd Street" for his knack at forecasting political victors.

More than just an exceptionally skilled craftsman and a small business owner, Joe was a man of great character. He helped give Kenosha its strong sense of community, and the city will sorely miss this devoted family man and friend who lifted so many customers' spirits. Joe was also a great friend of mine, and I will miss him deeply.

My thoughts and prayers are with his wife, children, and grandchildren during this difficult time.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO ALAN P. MINTZ, M.D.

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Alan P. Mintz, M.D. who passed away on June 3, 2007.

Born in Chicago, Alan P. Mintz graduated from the University of Chicago and earned a doctor of medicine degree from the University of Illinois—School of Medicine. Prior to his postgraduate training in radiology, in which he later specialized, Dr. Mintz served as a physician in the U.S. Navy. Dr. Mintz was a highly respected professional in the field of radiology and served as a Diplomate of the American Board of Radiology, was board certified in radiology, nuclear medicine and radiation therapy, and was also appointed chairman of the Department of Radiology for several Chicago-area hospitals.

Motivated by his passion for health and wellness, Dr. Mintz pioneered a new medical specialty with his work in age management medicine. He has become famous within the field for his controversial promotion in the use of steroids and human growth hormone as an anti-aging therapy for patients. Dr. Mintz co-founded and served as CEO and President of Medicon, Inc., the world's largest radiology management company. His inventive thinking stimulated the creation of Cenegenics Medical Institute, the largest age management medicine organization in the world. Although headquartered in Las Vegas, Cenegenics Medical Institute has offices in South Carolina, Florida, Hong Kong, and South Korea with service reaching more than 12,000 patients.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor the life and memory of Alan P. Mintz, M.D. Dr. Mintz lived his life according to his favorite maxim by Henry David Thoreau, "Go confidently in the direction of your dreams . . . Live the life you have imagined." Dr. Mintz clearly fulfilled this statement and will be missed by the many lives he touched.

CONGRATULATIONS TO STEPHEN PAUL POLLINGER, PHD

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2007

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Speaker, teaching is among the most noble and demanding of professions; and excellence in the delivery of education helps not only individuals, but the entire community, become

more tolerant, knowledgeable, and strong. The effectiveness and efficiency of learning depends, in large measure, on those individuals who have dedicated their life to quality education, public service, and excellence. Recognizing one educator in particular, I would like to congratulate Dr. Stephen Paul Pollinger for his recent Law Teacher of the Year for Middle School Award, given to him by the American Bar Association. After receiving his doctorate in education from Fordham University in New York, he taught at several universities, most recently at Florida Atlantic University, while serving as the Middle School Administrator at Donna Klein Jewish Academy in Boca Raton, FL. Dr. Pollinger has also served as a staff developer for the Broward County School Board, curriculum designer in social science, principal at the elementary and middle school levels, and participated in creating Holocaust education that is now a part of the Florida curriculum.

After taking on the law program at Seminole Middle School in Plantation, FL, he involved the school in the Broward County Mock Trial program under the direction of Judge Robert Diaz. Seminole Middle School not only participated in the program, but they won the competition! It was the success of this program that led to Dr. Pollinger involving the students in the American Bar Association's mock trials competition. His participation and leadership in education led Dr. Pollinger to win the American Bar Association's Law Teacher of the Year for Middle Schools. He will travel to San Francisco in August to receive the award, while simultaneously representing Seminole Middle School, Broward County, the State of Florida, and of course my home district, Florida 20. With that said Madam Speaker, I am honored to recognize Dr. Stephen Paul Pollinger for his positive impact on the lives of others.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 26, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2643) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes:

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Chairman, I rise in strong opposition to the Lamborn Amendment, which would cut all funding in the underlying bill for the National Endowment for the Arts.

The NEA has been shortchanged for far too long, and it's time to ensure that it has the resources necessary to carry out its mission of supporting excellence in the arts, bringing the arts to all Americans, and providing leadership in arts education.

Since 1996, Congress has forced the NEA to meet the ever growing demands of our communities on a shoestring budget. Despite gross underfunding, the NEA has continued to promote arts and culture across the country.