

It is no small task to manage a farmer's co-operative in Kansas. Long days and an unpredictable harvest can make the job a thankless one. Agriculture is the backbone of the Kansas economy. And Ellsworth County is squarely settled in the heart of farm country, bordered on all sides by the vast fields and pastures that make my state the breadbasket of America.

While employed at the Ellsworth Co-operative, Mr. Dlabal also took time to serve his community by volunteering in several civic organizations. Throughout his career he was a part of the Ellsworth County Commission, Ellsworth School board, Ellsworth Library board, FFA Advisory board, and the Knights of Columbus. In his industry, he served on the boards of the Farmers Union Jobbing Association, the Co-operative Marketing Association, the Farmers Marketing Company and the Kansas Farmers Service Association.

Mr. Dlabal exemplifies what a community leader is all about. However, his most important role has been as husband to Lillian for 58 years and father to Joan, Deborah, Angie and Pam. Through his role as a father, grandfather, and great-grandfather, Mr. Dlabal provides an example by living his own life through a set of high personal standards. He would not settle for doing anything that bent any rules; anything other than honesty was completely unacceptable to him.

Madam Speaker, this man has made Kansas a better place to live through his devotion as a community leader and family man. Mr. Pete Dlabal not only served in our military, but served the agriculture industry and farmers of central Kansas. Although he has made an immeasurable impact through his professional and personal life, he remains a humble individual. Today we take a moment to simply say "thank you" and wish him well in a much-deserved retirement.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF VADNAIS HEIGHTS, MINNESOTA

**HON. BETTY McCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 23, 2007*

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor Vadnais Heights, Minnesota's 50th anniversary.

The history of Vadnais Heights began with many French Canadian families first settling the area. Families including the Bibeau, Garceau, Morrisette, and Vadnais families arrived in the 1840's. The city's namesake, Mr. Jean Vadnais, and his family made their home in 1846 on the southeast side of the lake that became known as Vadnais Lake. In 1858, the same year that Minnesota became a state, this area became part of White Bear Township.

On July 23, 1957, with a population of approximately 2,000, area residents voted to incorporate as the Village of Vadnais Heights. Within a month, on August 20th, residents elected the new village's first officials. In 1974, the village became the City of Vadnais Heights and adopted the Council-Manager form of government which it continues today.

Vadnais Heights is home to a treasured scenic and recreational area—Vadnais-Sucker

Lake Regional Park. This beautiful park features 1,200 acres of wetlands, woods, trails, and lakes. In addition, there are more than 100 acres of park land in Vadnais Heights.

Since its incorporation 50 years ago, the City has grown from a small, farming community to a lively suburban community with strong neighborhoods, prosperous businesses, and abundant open spaces.

Madam Speaker, in honor of the vibrant history of Vadnais Heights, Minnesota and the events celebrating it, I am pleased to submit this statement for the Congressional Record recognizing Vadnais Heights' 50th anniversary.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ENHANCED METHAMPHETAMINE TREATMENT GRANTS ASSISTANCE ACT

**HON. DARLENE HOOLEY**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 23, 2007*

Ms. HOOLEY. Madam Speaker, battling the meth epidemic is one of my top priorities here in Congress. Last year we passed the Combat Methamphetamine Epidemic Act and I was pleased that the legislation included several important international meth precursor controls that I drafted. We've made good progress with controlling the supply of meth precursors and other enforcement issues, but so far treatment issues have been largely neglected.

This is why I am introducing the Enhanced Methamphetamine Treatment Grants Assistance Act. My legislation will create three separate grant programs under SAMHSA, each one targeted at a particular treatment need.

The first grant program will award grants to community organizations to coordinate wrap-around services for meth addicts rejoining the community. I've heard over and over again just how important these wrap-around services are, like housing and transportation assistance, job training and ongoing mental health counseling. Meth treatment does not end when an addict leaves a treatment facility. They need comprehensive services that will help keep them off meth and rebuild their lives, which is why my bill will help communities build a network of these vital wrap-around services.

The second grant program is an expansion of the existing substance abuse treatment program for pregnant and postpartum women to include all parents. Priority will still be given to those pregnant and postpartum women, but we're also going to make sure that parents can get treatment too so that they can get clean and keep their children out of the foster care system.

Finally, the third grant program will target those addicts who actively seek treatment, only to find out that they will have to wait months before a bed will be available to them. My legislation directs grant money to treatment programs that are going to target the people who just can't get treatment, no matter how badly they want it, so they don't have to go through the criminal justice system to receive help.

I am committed to expanding treatment resources so providers have the resources to reach more people and addicts can get the help they need. I urge my colleagues to join

me in this goal and to support the Enhanced Methamphetamine Treatment Grants Assistance Act.

TRIBUTE TO CRYSTLE STEWART, MISS TEXAS USA 2008

**HON. NICK LAMPSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 23, 2007*

Mr. LAMPSON. Madam Speaker, I come to the floor today to commemorate the accomplishment of one of my most remarkable constituents: Crystle Stewart. Formally Miss Fort Bend County, Crystle was recently crowned Miss Texas USA.

I am very proud that for the second year in a row a resident of the 22nd District has worn the Miss Texas USA crown. These successes prove true what I've known for quite some time—my district is home to the most intelligent, sophisticated and talented women in the country.

I commend Crystle not only because she brings a great deal of pride to Fort Bend, but because she truly is a role model for young women throughout Texas. Crystle bested 121 other contestants in this year's pageant, and is also only the second African-American woman to win Miss Texas USA, and the first in more than a decade.

Her triumph is a milestone, to be sure, but it is also a study in perseverance. Finishing as runner-up in both 2006 and 2007 and third runner up in 2005, Crystle never lost sight of her goal. Most importantly, Crystle is also a disciplined student. Throughout years of pageants and modeling, she has remained dedicated to her academic career, and is a hard-working student of consumer science and merchandising at the University of Houston.

I congratulate Crystle. She is a young woman with a very bright future ahead of her, and I know she will honor our great State at the Miss USA contest and beyond.

TRIBUTE TO POLICE OFFICER RUSSEL TIMOSHENKO

**HON. VITO FOSSELLA**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 23, 2007*

Mr. FOSSELLA. Madam Speaker, just over a week ago, the city of New York lost one of its brave heroes. Police officer Russel Timoshenko of Staten Island was murdered in cold blood by a career criminal during what should have been a routine traffic stop in Brooklyn. He was only 23.

Officer Timoshenko was also a constituent of mine, and his death reminds us how precious life is . . . and how it can be stolen from us in an instant.

Officer Timoshenko embodied the American dream. He was born and raised in the former Soviet republic Belarus. His parents, Tatyana and Leonid, brought him to this country as a young boy in 1993 to give him a better life. They didn't speak English and arrived with almost nothing—all for their son. Russel grew up in Staten Island and, ultimately, chose to give back to the city he loved so much. He

joined the New York City Police Department just over a year and a half ago.

Much has been said about this brave young man. His friends and family have told us what an amazing person he was and how much he meant to them. But it is the words of his mother that speak volumes about Officer Timoshenko. So tonight, I wish to enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD what Tatyana Timoshenko said about a proud American . . . a hero police officer . . . her beloved son.

Speaking of their decision to immigrate to the United States: "I felt my child would have better opportunities here and a safer life. We were looking for a better life for our son . . . We wouldn't move just for us. We didn't speak English. We came here with nothing but six bags—two each . . . Do I regret it? A little, but at the same time, would he be the same person he is today if we didn't leave? I don't know . . . I know he was happy here."

Of the kind of person that her son was during his short life: "He never walked the stairs, he just flew up, skipping a step . . . And this flying, his steps, I can't forget them, I still hear them. I still can't believe it . . . He was truly unique. I want him to be remembered as a jolly, funny, kind boy. He was a leader and a hero."

Remembering the day her son became a member of the New York City Police Department: "We ordered sushi. It was a real holiday for him . . . He was really proud. I wanted him to be happy in life. He went to the academy, and I didn't want him to, but it made him happy."

And finally on the passing of her son: "I'm happy that we had such a miraculous child. That he died, it struck me in the heart, but there is nothing we can do now."

For Russel Timoshenko, his life was lost much too early. I offer my condolences to the Timoshenko family. My words cannot possibly ease your suffering or bring light to these dark days, but I want you to know that we grieve with your family . . . say a prayer for healing . . . honor Russel and his service to New York . . . and thank you for raising a young man of immense character and integrity.

FISCAL YEAR 2008 INTERIOR AND ENVIRONMENT APPROPRIATIONS BILL

**HON. BETTY McCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 23, 2007*

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my strong support for H.R. 2643, the Fiscal Year 2008 Interior and Environment Appropriations bill. For the first time in years, the House is investing the resources needed to improve air and water quality, protect our pristine natural landscapes and historic structures, manage wildfires appropriately, and increase services for visitors to national parks, refuges and forests.

H.R. 2643 provides \$2.5 billion for our National Parks—\$223 million above 2007 levels and \$148 million above the President's request. This impressive commitment reverses years of chronic underfunding that has significantly weakened the system and represents a major step toward upgrading our parks in time

for the centennial anniversary of the National Park Service in 2016. The bill also renews America's support for the National Endowments for the Arts and the Humanities by including \$160 million for each program in Fiscal Year 2008. Significant increases over current funding levels will help arts and humanities programming across the country recover from a decade of deep cuts.

In addition, I am very pleased the bill includes funding for critically important U.S. Forest Service International Programs. The U.S. Forest Service International Programs promote sustainable forest management in countries around the world and return important technologies and innovations to the United States. H.R. 2643 includes \$8 million to support Forest Service efforts abroad—a much-needed \$1.1 million increase over the current level of funding.

The hard work of Forest Service professionals abroad is not a luxury; it is essential to the mission of the Forest Service. These International Programs support vital national priorities that matter to our constituents, including federal efforts to combat global climate change; strengthen the U.S. timber industry and fight illegal logging; protect North American migratory bird habitat; stop invasive species before they enter the U.S.; and improve America's global image by working in close partnership with Israel, Lebanon, Jordan, Indonesia, Mexico, Liberia and many other key U.S. partners.

America's forests are part of a global forest ecosystem. Protecting and sustaining a healthy forest system in the U.S. requires the Forest Service to work with scientists and land managers in countries around the world. Consider the fight against invasive species. One invasive species alone—the Asian Longhorn Beetle—threatens to inflict losses up to \$138 billion on the U.S. economy. By investing in efforts to identify and suppress invasive species abroad, we can save the hundreds of billions of dollars needed to deal with a widespread infestation in America. In addition to saving taxpayers money, Forest Service International programs leverage private funds from groups including Ducks Unlimited and the Nature Conservancy.

Madam Speaker, this bill represents the values and priorities of the American people, from honoring our obligations to Native American communities to making critical investments in drinking water infrastructure. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the Fiscal Year 2008 Interior and Environment Appropriations bill.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF PAUL M. WELLS, SR.

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 23, 2007*

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember Paul M. Wells, Sr. for a life dedicated to his family, country, faith, and fellow brothers and sisters. Paul passed away July 13, but the mark he left on the Cleveland community will endure.

Paul has always demonstrated a commitment to serving others. After completing his service to our country in the United States

Army, Paul returned to Cleveland and started his career in public service, working for the City of Cleveland in the Division of Streets. As his career progressed, Paul sought more opportunities to serve. He became a union steward in an effort to improve working conditions and protect his fellow brothers and sisters. Paul eventually was elected Local 1099 President in 1971, a post he held for over 25 years. Over the course of his career, Paul spearheaded numerous efforts that led to historic gains for union workers.

Paul's faith guided him throughout his life. Paul is reunited in faith with his high school sweetheart, Nita Ruth Murray, to whom he was married for over 50 years. He is survived by his four children Pauletta; Constance; Paul, Jr.; and Eric, as well as seven grandchildren.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in remembering Paul M. Wells, Sr., for a life spent in service to his community. Paul seized every opportunity to improve the lives of others. May we all follow his example.

COMMENDING MR. PINKY KRAVITZ ON 50 YEARS OF RADIO BROADCASTS AND HIS OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO HIS COMMUNITY

**HON. FRANK A. LoBIONDO**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 23, 2007*

Mr. LoBIONDO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Mr. Pinky Kravitz on his long and distinguished service to his community, and congratulate him on 50 years as an on-air radio talk show host in Atlantic City.

Starting his career on WLDB 1490AM and airing weekdays during the mid-afternoon, his first show was called "Pinky's Pool Party." Three years later, Pinky would move to his current home on WOND 1400AM, where for the last 47 years he has hosted his talk show at various times and locations across Atlantic County. For the past 28 years, he has broadcast live from Atlantic City's famed casinos including the Hilton, which is the current home of "Pinky's Corner."

A respected radio personality and dedicated community servant, Pinky has interviewed all of New Jersey's governors since 1974, all of the state's sitting U.S. Senators for the past 35 years, and myself on countless occasions—always with class and character. Without question, Pinky is an institution in southern New Jersey. On behalf of the House of Representatives and the residents of New Jersey, I would like to personally congratulate Mr. Pinky Kravitz who has entertained and informed his faithful listeners for five decades.

DEMOCRACY IN INDIA

**HON. DAN BURTON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 23, 2007*

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, as many of our colleagues in this House know, India prides itself on being the world's most populous democracy. Although relations between India and the United States have been rocky in the past, since 2004 Washington and New Delhi have been pursuing a