

These three ladies are being honored for their career accomplishments and leadership that have made them role models for young women in their communities. The Girl Scouts Shawnee Council honors three women annually from the Eastern Panhandle.

The first honoree, Maria Lorensen, is being recognized for her role as editor-in-chief with the Martinsburg Journal. She has received various awards and honors in her 11 years with the Martinsburg Journal from the West Virginia Press Association. Maria is credited for balancing her career with her role as a wife, mother, and community leader.

Laura Smith of Morgan County is being honored for her many leadership roles in her community. She is currently the president of the Morgan County Board of Education. She has worked to promote the beauty of Morgan County through her work with Travel Berkeley Springs and as board member of George Washington Heritage Trail. She is also an active member of her church, St. Marks Episcopal Church.

The final recipient of the 2007 Women of Distinction award is Barbara Pichot. At a time when many women were not entering the field of business, Barbara was a trailblazer and eventually became a partner in the accounting firm Cox, Nichols and Hollida until her retirement. She now dedicates herself to volunteer endeavors including Rotary, United Way, and is responsible for the development of Hospice of the Panhandle.

It is an honor to represent these three outstanding women who serve as strong leaders and excellent role models for young women in their communities. Congratulations to Maria Lorensen, Laura Smith, and Barbara Pichot as the 2007 Women of Distinction.

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND WILLIAM  
H. WATSON

**HON. DONALD M. PAYNE**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 25, 2007*

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in memory of Reverend William H. Watson, who was a long-time social activist and resident of Newark, NJ. His passion for social justice led him to direct many social service organizations within my district and the northeast coast of the United States.

Born on September 23, 1934, in Memphis, Tennessee, Rev. Watson always exhibited a passion for helping others. After ordination in the Central Pennsylvania Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, Bill served a couple of churches in North-Central Pennsylvania and served as Campus Minister at Penn State University.

Rev. Watson served respectively as the Executive Director of Voice a church based organization supporting community organization in northeastern Pennsylvania and as Director of the Social Concerns Department of the Capitol Region Conferences of Churches in Hartford, Connecticut.

Later in life, Rev. Watson worked at Unified Vailsburg Service Organization (UVSO) in Newark, NJ—a neighborhood based human services and community development agency founded by local residents in 1972 to “create a stable and compassionate community” by

bringing together representatives of various local groups in an attempt to solve some of the neighborhood problem. Rev. Watson worked as a community organizer dealing with issues of crime, education, and housing.

Reverend Watson also served as a VISTA Volunteer with the Newark Tenants organization; a member of the Board of Directors of Inside-Out: Citizens United for Prison Reform, Inc.; member of the Northeast Inter-Help Council which deals with social justice issues and ecology, and a founding member secretary of the Board of Directors of the Family Partnership Committee, and Hartford Area Habitat for Humanity.

Madam Speaker, I invite my colleagues here in the United States House of Representatives to join me in honoring Reverend William H. Watson, whose spirit lives on through lives he touched and work he accomplished while on earth. I am proud to have had him in my Congressional district.

IN HONOR OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE COMPLETION OF THE MONTICELLO DAM

**HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 25, 2007*

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Madam Speaker, I rise with the support of my colleagues, Hon. GEORGE MILLER and Hon. MIKE THOMPSON to recognize the 50th anniversary of the completion of the Monticello Dam. This monumental accomplishment has been instrumental in providing the people of Solano County with a vast supply of high quality water.

Completed in October of 1957 as part of the Solano Project, the Monticello Dam rises 304 feet high spanning a gorge of 1,023 feet while storing 1.6 million acre feet of water. The Monticello Dam created Lake Berryessa and is one of the largest reservoirs in the State of California.

The Monticello Dam is owned by the United States Bureau of Reclamation but is operated and maintained locally by the Solano County Water Agency.

Through the management of the Monticello Dam, the Solano County Water Agency is able to provide 200,000 acre feet per year of high quality and dependable water. This supply amounts to about two-thirds of the total water use of Solano County. The Solano Project serves a growing population of about 350,000 people in the cities of Vacaville, Fairfield, Suisun City and Vallejo. Additionally the Solano Project serves about 80,000 acres of irrigated farmland by providing agricultural water to the Solano Irrigation District and the Maine Prairie Water District.

In addition to serving the water needs of our communities the Monticello Dam has additional local benefits. The Dam created Lake Berryessa, 23 miles long and 3 miles wide with 165 miles of shoreline that offers year-round recreational opportunities.

The river downstream of the Dam, known as Lower Putah Creek, provides a valuable fish and wildlife area on the border of Yolo and Solano Counties. Community groups such as the Lower Putah Creek Coordinating Committee are involved in creek restoration planning. This committee, made up of Yolo and

Solano representatives, oversees stream restoration projects that enhance the natural setting.

We wish to commend the Solano County Water Agency for 50 years of outstanding management of the Monticello Dam and recognize its essential contribution to the quality of life in the region.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF GOLD STAR MOTHERS DAY

SPEECH OF

**HON. GENE GREEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 24, 2007*

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of those American mothers who have lost children in the service of our country. As a cosponsor of H. Res. 605, I strongly support this resolution to recognize their great sacrifice and suffering.

The Gold Star Mothers Club was formed in the United States to provide support for mothers that lost sons or daughters in war. The name came from the custom of families of servicemen hanging a banner called a Service Flag in the window of their homes. The Service Flag had a star for each family member in the military. Living servicemen were represented by a blue star, and those who had lost their lives were represented by a gold star. Today, membership in the Gold Star Mothers is open to any American woman who has lost a son or daughter in service to the United States. On the last Sunday in September, Gold Star Mother's Day is observed in the U.S. in their honor.

American Gold Star Mothers is a nationwide organization first incorporated in the District of Columbia in 1929 after years of effort by the mother of a deceased airman fighting in World War I. In the years following, the organization has grown to include members and chapters across the country.

The responsibility of motherhood is vast and as our mothers raise their children, they do so with great hope. This hope does not involve losing a child to war but raising a son or daughter that strives to change the world for the better. This bill acknowledges that those mothers have succeeded in that goal and we, too, recognize the ultimate sacrifice their children have made. H. Res. 605 supports the Gold Star Mothers and ensures that their sacrifice and that of their children will not be forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, again, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 605 and urge my colleagues to join me in supporting its passage.

TRIBUTE TO MR. ALEX  
RODRIGUEZ

**HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 25, 2007*

Mr. SERRANO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Alex Rodriguez, who, on August 4, 2007, made history by becoming the youngest baseball player to hit 500