

Antonio was chosen as one of the 401 athletes for Team USA that will be competing in the Special Olympics World Summer Games in China. While in China, Antonio will compete in the 400 meter run, shot put and 4 × 400 meter run.

I also rise to honor the organization that makes Olympic dreams like Antonio's a reality. The Special Olympics currently serves over 2.5 million athletes with intellectual disabilities worldwide. Their volunteerism and commitment to helping people with disabilities is truly remarkable.

I am pleased to congratulate Antonio on his success. I wish him, and all of Team USA, the best as they represent their country.

HONORING THE SEAGO FAMILY
AND SEAGOVILLE, TEXAS

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 3, 2007

Mr. HENSARLING. Madam Speaker, I would like to honor the members of the Seago Family as they gather in Seagoville, Texas, for their annual family reunion.

The Seago family has had a long history in the United States. The family's presence in the United States was first recorded in 1740, when John Seago married Margaret Birmingham at St. Luke's Parish in Queen Anne's County, Maryland. From there the family moved to North Carolina and their descendants spread all over the country.

The city of Seagoville, Texas was founded in the 1870's by a descendant of John and Margaret Seago, Tillman Kimsey "T.K." Seago. He opened a general store in 1876, which attracted people to the area. A small community formed there and later that year it became known as Seago. In 1910, the United States Postal Service changed the name of the town to Seagoville.

Each year the Seago family hosts an annual family reunion, which they have done for over twenty years. This year the event is particularly important because the family will be gathering for the first time in the city that was named for one of the ancestors, Seagoville, Texas. Family members will travel from every corner of this great nation to attend. The festivities begin on Thursday, as members start arriving, and continue through Sunday, when they begin to make their journeys home. The reunion will coincide with SeagoFest, a festival held each year in Seagoville.

Madam Speaker, as the Representative of the City of Seagoville, it is my pleasure to recognize the Seago Family for over 250 years in America and the City of Seagoville for the many contributions it makes to the Fifth District, the State of Texas, and the United States of America.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 3, 2007

Ms. LEE. Madam Speaker, due to the passing of my father, on Tuesday, October 2, 2007

I missed rollcall votes nos. 927 through 931. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on H.R. 3087 and "yea" on H. Res. 635, H. Con. Res. 203, H.R. 2828, and H. Con. Res. 200.

ANGELS IN ADOPTION WINNERS

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 3, 2007

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dan and Luanne Hurst, the 2007 Angels in Adoption award winners from the 5th Congressional District of Florida.

Dan and Luanne decided to adopt their first child, Matthew, while they were working as college professors.

When Matthew's birth mother became pregnant again, she contacted the Hursts about their interest in adopting the second boy, so that the brothers could grow up in the same home.

Recognizing the importance of keeping the boys together as a family, the Hursts soon welcomed a second son, Jesse, into their lives.

As proud adoptive parents, the Hursts have also used their expertise in English education to help Matthew with the challenges of dyslexia.

Today Luanne home schools both children while working part time teaching evening college classes.

One of the most difficult challenges facing adoption agencies is to keep siblings together, yet people like Dan and Luanne show us that this is not an impossible task.

Please join me in recognizing the Hursts and all families that welcome adopted children into their homes, giving them the love and support they need to thrive.

CONGRATULATING BURTON AND
NELLIE SEARLES

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 3, 2007

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Burton and Nellie Searles for receiving the "Foster Parents of the Year" award.

This award is given to one family each year by the Texas Council of Child Welfare Board. On September 20, 2007, the Searles received the award at the 29th Annual Cheerleaders for Texas Children ceremony.

Mr. and Mrs. Searles have been fostering children for 18 years. The couple, who will be married 49 years in February of 2008, have fostered a total of 77 children in their home. In addition to three children of their own, they have also adopted a child.

Mr. and Mrs. Searles began taking care of basic children but then changed their foster care licenses to take care of special needs children. The Searles say that they love taking care of special needs children because of the challenge. The Searles also plan on continuing care for foster children for many years to come.

I extend my sincerest congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Searles for their award. I thank them for their devotion and dedication to helping foster children. I am very proud and honored to represent them in the 26th District of Texas.

HONORING ABNER W. DARBY OF
LYNN, MASSACHUSETTS

HON. JOHN F. TIERNEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 3, 2007

Mr. TIERNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Abner W. Darby of Lynn, Massachusetts. Abner Darby was born and raised in Austin, Texas, where he was a star athlete excelling in football and track and field. He went on to attend Prairie View University before he honorably served the country as a member of the United States Army.

Although Abner was a Master Mechanic; owned and operated two gas stations in Lynn; and served as a housing manager for the Lynn Housing Authority, Mr. Darby will best be remembered for the time he spent as Executive Director of the Community Minority Cultural Center (CMCC). The CMCC provided Mr. Darby with the vehicle through which he affected positive change in the community and where he did the work that was his passion.

Abner Darby dedicated his life to making the lives of those around him better. Having personally experienced the pains of segregation, Abner worked tirelessly to erase discrimination and open doors and create equal access and equal opportunity for all people regardless of race, creed or national origin. He did so locally, statewide and nationally. Through his work at the CMCC, Abner Darby served as a bridge between Lynn's increasingly diverse community and the city's traditional, established institutions. For many, the first steps on the ladder of opportunity were taken on Abner Darby's back.

Abner fought diligently to ensure that the benefits of economic development and employment opportunities were shared by all. He spearheaded efforts for the recruitment and training for Civil Service positions that led to the hiring of minority firefighters and police officers. Under his leadership, the CMCC offered job fairs, computer training, after school programs and ESL classes, and it also sponsored art exhibitions, cultural celebrations and workshops so the diverse communities could develop a better understanding and appreciation for one another. Without Abner's efforts, some would have remained culturally, economically and educationally deprived.

There was only one thing that Abner Darby could not do. When asked to do something, Abner could never say no. More importantly, when he promised something, he always delivered. Abner Darby is a loyal, hard working and well-respected man. He is gifted with an infectious laugh, contagious enthusiasm and a warm, embracing personality that moves others to follow him.

Tonight in Lynn, Abner Darby's family, friends, neighbors and colleagues will gather to salute and offer thanks to a man who has made an indelible mark on the city and helped its residents in countless ways. It is a most appropriate and deserving recognition for someone who has given so much of himself to his community.