

church. He has increased the membership, established an Education Fund, and purchased two minivans, video equipment and computers. Part of his legacy includes the videotaping of worship services and outreach ministries to help the church reach the broader community. This church has served as a source of spiritual strength and service to others throughout its long history. It is a fixture in the Florence community and has been an integral part of countless lives over the years.

Madam Speaker, I commend Reverend Gamble and the congregation of New Ebenezer Baptist Church for their tremendous contributions to the faith community, and invite you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating New Ebenezer Baptist Church of Florence, South Carolina on its 100th anniversary.

HONORING MR. MERLON E.
WIGGIN, PH.D., M.E.

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 25, 2007

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor and recognize Dr. Merlon Wiggin, an accomplished and exemplary resident of the first district of New York.

Dr. Merlon Wiggin is a proud Long Island native and the founder of East End Lighthouses, Inc. a chapter of the American Lighthouse Foundation. The organization's mission is to encourage the historic preservation and restoration of lighthouses, lightship, and life-saving station artifacts throughout America. The East End branch, in particular, works to preserve and restore the offshore lighthouses of Southold Town.

Dr. Wiggin is an authority on boating and maritime safety. A graduate of the University of Maine, with a Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering, Merlon's expertise and passion for the sea is what led him to initiate the conversion of the former Greenport Railroad Station into a maritime museum. He has authored numerous historical articles and booklets on local lighthouses and is on the writing staff of Long Island Boating World and Peconic Bay Shopper magazines.

Among a long list of accomplishments, Dr. Wiggin has served as Director of engineering at Presque Isle Air Force Base and chief of engineering at Plum Island Animal Disease Research Center. He also worked with NASA on its "Moon Lab" during the Apollo space missions. Dr. Wiggin is currently the president of "Peconic Associates", a local maritime consulting firm, and "Isocon Ltd", an internationally recognized research laboratory and biological containment consulting firm.

In his free time, Merlon is an avid sailor and is known to race his 30 foot sloop, "Albion" on local waters. He and his wife Isabelle reside in East Marion, NY. On behalf of a grateful community, I thank Dr. Merlon Wiggin for his many enduring contributions to Long Island, New York, and this great Nation. I wish him and his family the absolute best for the years to come.

TRIBUTE TO MARC HUBER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 25, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Marc Huber of Kansas City, Missouri. Marc is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 180, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Marc has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Marc has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Marc Huber for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 25, 2007

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Speaker, on October 24, 2007, I was unavoidably detained for rollcall votes No. 998, a motion ordering the previous question on the Rule providing for consideration of H.R. 505, and 999, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 505) to express the policy of the United States regarding the United States relationship with Native Hawaiians and to provide a process for the recognition by the United States of the Native Hawaiian governing entity.

If present, I would have voted "aye" on both measures.

HONORING MARY McLOUGHLIN

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 25, 2007

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, a community is an aggregate of its residents, but its quality of life is determined by the dedication of those who devote themselves to the welfare of their community.

Mary McLoughlin is such a person, and her dedication is the occasion for special recognition by the Kingsbridge Heights Community Center at a dinner honoring her tonight.

She is a co-founder of that organization and is almost single-handedly responsible for acquiring a community center. In 1972 she heard that the police precinct was leaving its building and she began a campaign to get the building for use by the community.

Almost three years later, KHCC acquired the building and she, with Patricia Burns and

Janet Athanasidy, cleaned the floors; and took out the debris as part of the extensive renovation needed.

She envisioned a Center modeled after the great early New York settlement houses, providing educational, recreational and cultural activities for all community residents.

In 1975 the Kingsbridge Heights Community Center opened its doors with a Teen Program as well as a Head Start Program. Mary McLoughlin's continuing dedication is evident as today the center provides a multitude of programs to individuals of all ages including: early childhood educational, health and nutrition services, after school recreation and literacy, College Prep and financial aid, services to individuals with developmental disabilities, and civics classes, child sexual abuse treatment and prevention, parent and child advocacy, and case management services to prevent foster care placement, to cite a few.

She is a mother of eight, but has spread her caring over the community, improving the lives of thousands. The KHCC as the largest employer in the community continues to address the needs of the changing community.

She has been, and remains, a God-send to the Kingsbridge community. I sincerely thank her for all that she has done and continues to do for the people of this community. She is an inspiration to all.

CONGRATULATING THE TEXAS
BRAHMAS

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 25, 2007

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Texas Brahmas Hockey team on their first season in the city of North Richland Hills. The Texas Brahmas are returning to the ice this year to start their tenth season at the NYTEX Sports Centre in North Richland Hills on Saturday, October 27, 2007 against their Northeast Rival, the Bosier-Shreveport Mudbugs.

The NYTEX Sports Centre has been revamped and reopened in great anticipation for the upcoming hockey season. The new home to the Texas Brahmas sits in the beautiful city of North Richland Hills, Texas. Under the head coach Dan Wildfong, the Brahmas look to continue their winning tradition this season.

I offer my congratulations to Mayor Oscar Trevino, the North Richland Hills City Council, and their Economic Development Department for bringing yet another economic victory to their fine city. The atmosphere that accompanies the Brahmas will further show that North Richland Hills is the City of Choice to Live, Work and Play.

I am very proud to represent such a victorious team in my District. I wish the Texas Brahmas great luck in their upcoming season in North Richland Hills, and congratulate their winning spirit. Their persistence, teamwork, dedication, and commitment should serve as a source of entertainment through their competitive spirit that is now a part of North Richland Hills and 26th District.