

as those nations move to further consolidate democracy, human rights, and the rule of law.

An impressive expert in the field of international law, Erika continues her advocacy in areas such as the plight of Roma and property restitution for victims of the Holocaust to the challenge of preserving human rights in a post-9/11 world.

Madam Speaker, as Chairman of the Helsinki Commission, I am pleased to recognize and commend Erika Schlager for her faithful, dedicated, and tireless service to me and my colleagues.

CONGRATULATING CARDINAL
FRANCIS GEORGE

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I. on his election as President of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

On November 13th, Cardinal George was elected by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops to the position of president during the bishops' November meeting in Baltimore. He is the first cardinal to be elected president or vice president of the conference since 1971. Cardinal George will serve in this position for the next three years.

As President of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, Cardinal George will act as spokesperson for the Roman Catholic Church in America and will represent the U.S. church in meetings at the Vatican. Additionally, Cardinal George will accompany Pope Benedict XVI during his first papal pilgrimage to the U.S.

Prior to his election as president of the conference, Cardinal George served as Vice President since 2004. Cardinal George also served on numerous USCCB committees including Liturgy, Doctrine, Pro-Life Activities, and the sub-committee on lay ministry. Since 1990, he has been Episcopal Moderator and member of the board of the National Catholic Office for Persons with Disabilities.

A Chicago native, Cardinal George has been an exemplary leader for Chicago's Catholic community. He currently serves as the Archbishop of Chicago, a position he was appointed to in 1997 by Pope John Paul II. In January 1998, Pope John Paul II announced Archbishop George's elevation to the Sacred College of Cardinals. Cardinal George has been an invaluable asset to Chicago's Catholic Community, and his tenure as Archbishop has been a successful one.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate Cardinal Francis George on his election as President of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, and I wish him the best of luck in his new role.

HONORING CAVERNA HOSPITAL

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Caverna Hospital in

Horse Cave, KY, on the occasion of its 40th Anniversary this year.

Caverna Hospital, has been serving Hart County since 1967. Beginning in the early 1960's, the citizens of Horse Cave and Cave City, KY raised the \$350,000 necessary to qualify for federal funding. The community broke ground in July of 1965. Caverna's first patient, Mrs. Lindberg Forbes of Hardyville, was admitted on June 5, 1967.

Caverna has made a number of facility improvements over its four decade history in order to better provide high quality health care to the region. Upgrades were made in 1989 to the patient rooms, CCU, the nursing station, and the cardiac monitoring system. Another major addition occurred in 1997 when a new Emergency Room, x-ray wing, laboratory, waiting area, and more patient rooms were added. Caverna has also made major equipment purchases including a CT scanner, mammography equipment; and ultrasound equipment.

It is my privilege to honor Caverna Hospital today, before the entire House of Representatives, and for its commitment to providing quality health care to the citizens of Kentucky.

HONORING JUSTIN C. SCHULTZ

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Justin C. Schultz of Kansas City, Missouri. Justin 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 247, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Justin has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Justin 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 Justin C. Schultz for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF
BEDFORD COUNTY,
TENNESSEE

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 200th anniversary of Bedford County, Tennessee, which I have the honor of representing in this esteemed body. The community in Middle Tennessee will commemorate its bicentennial on December 3.

The area of Bedford County was established by the Tennessee General Assembly by carving out a portion of Rutherford County to extend south to the state's boundary with the Mississippi Territory in present-day Alabama.

The county was named for Capt. Thomas Bedford, a soldier who served in the American Revolution.

Today, Bedford County may be best known as the Walking Horse Capital of the World. For nearly 70 years, thousands of people have gathered in Shelbyville, the county seat, during late August and early September for the Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration. During the first Celebration in 1939, more than 40,000 people attended the event.

In June of each year, nearby Bell Buckle hosts the annual RC and Moon Pie Festival. During the weekend of the festival, the tiny town of 400 residents receives about 15,000 visitors who are able to participate in a 10-mile run, watch parades, spit watermelon seeds and have a taste of the world's largest Moon Pie.

County Mayor Eugene Ray and the rest of the Bicentennial Committee will lead next month's celebration. They have done an outstanding job of organizing this event, and I commend their efforts.

The communities that make up Bedford County have great reason to take pride in their beautiful slice of Middle Tennessee. I wish them well and hope the next 200 years are as prosperous as the first 200 years.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE STATE
UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. HINCHEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the State University of New York's (SUNY) dual diploma program in conjunction with the Turkish Council of Higher Education (YOK). This unique and highly successful international higher education effort has partnered nine top-tier Turkish institutions with nine SUNY campuses. Two of which, SUNY New Paltz and SUNY Binghamton, are located in the district that I represent. This program and others like it are particularly important in the face of our country's current challenges in the Middle East and throughout the world.

The SUNY system, comprised of 64 campuses, provides first-class higher education for over 417,000 students and is the largest comprehensive university system in the nation. Tasked with increasing the number of international students on SUNY campuses, SUNY's Office of International Programs has initiated a broad series of programs to prepare students for an increasingly interconnected world. The dual diploma program with Turkish universities highlights SUNY's commitment and leadership in international education.

Evolving from initial talks held in 2000, the first cohort consisting of 33 Turkish students arrived on SUNY campuses in 2003. These students spend half their undergraduate education at a SUNY campus, half at a Turkish university, and receive a diploma from both. Through committed efforts and diligence, the program now boasts more than 1,500 students in 24 programs and has graduated 100 students. This year the Institute of International Education recognized the program with the Andrew Heiskell Award for Innovation in International Education Partnerships.