

Madam Speaker, I stand today to honor the lasting legacy of all former and current Peace Corps volunteers and the important work that they do, especially as we celebrate National Peace Corps Week. I hope that each of the Members and all Americans can join to look back on the Peace Corps's honorable 46-year legacy of service at home and abroad as we also look forward to the continued success of this invaluable and effective American organization.

HONORING THE LIFE OF
MURLIDHAR DEVIDAS AMTE

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2008

Mr. ANDREWS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Mr. Murlidhar Devidas Amte, affectionately known as Baba Amte. Over 60 years ago, Mr. Amte moved his wife and infant children to barren, desert land with the goal of creating a community for the most downtrodden people in India, leprosy patients. Today, Anandwan is a self-sustaining community of over 2,500 leprosy patients, orphans, and other social outcasts built on the belief that "work builds, and charity destroys." This community builds their own homes, grows their own food, and practices recycling techniques beyond those of most communities in the world. Anandwan has a college to teach self-sustaining, organic farming techniques, and also schools for the deaf and blind children of the greater community.

As a successful lawyer during the independence movement in India, Mr. Amte was a staunch believer in Gandhian philosophy and chose to change his entire life to help uplift people that did not have the same luck at birth that he was bestowed.

Beyond Anandwan, Mr. Amte worked with his two sons to build other communities for tribal people still living in the jungle without health care. He furthered his reach when he chose to become an activist for not only people, but the environment. With a degenerative spinal disease that eventually made him bedridden, he traveled to a site for a proposed dam, the Narmada Dam Project, which would destroy the land and force thousands of people from their homes. He camped out in a van on the site in protest of not only that dam but all dam projects in India.

Mr. Amte has received numerous humanitarian and environmental awards in his lifetime including The United Nations Human Rights Prize (1988), The Templeton Prize (1990), The Gandhi Peace Prize (1999), Dr. Ambedkar International Award for Social Change (1999), and countless others.

Baba Amte left this world on February 8, 2008, but his spirit will always live on through the thousands of lives he helped. I want to thank Baba Amte for all he has done for the people of Anandwan and the world.

IN RECOGNITION OF DAVID M.
NAGEL ACHIEVEMENT OF EAGLE
SCOUT RANK

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2008

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate David Nagel, who has successfully completed the requirements for the rank of Eagle Scout. The Boy Scouts of America program recognizes the Eagle Scout as the highest attainable rank; less than four percent of Scouts achieve the rank of Eagle.

The process of becoming an Eagle Scout involves earning numerous merit badges and demonstrating spirit, service, and leadership. Scouts must plan, organize, lead, and manage an extensive service project. David took the initiative to develop a plan for landscaping improvements at the Kiwanis Building in his hometown of Fountain Hills, Arizona. David led the project to remove a large amount of sand from a volleyball court in order to turn the area into a park. He enthusiastically installed a sprinkler system and laid sod in order to beautify the Kiwanis Building. Through his work, David has showed his strong commitment to his community and to the Boy Scouts of America, and has developed strong leadership and management skills that will serve him well in the future.

David should be proud of his accomplishments. Again, I congratulate him on his achievement of Eagle Scout and say thank you for a job well done.

CELEBRATING THE 90TH BIRTH-
DAY OF GOVERNOR OTIS R.
BOWEN, M.D. OF BREMEN, INDI-
ANA

HON. JOE DONNELLY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2008

Mr. DONNELLY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my congratulations to Governor Otis R. Bowen, M.D., former Governor of Indiana, on the occasion of his 90th birthday. Having served two consecutive terms as Governor of Indiana, Dr. Bowen's life has been marked with great achievements in his work on both a national and local level.

Governor Bowen was born on February 26th, 1918 near Rochester, Indiana to Vernie Bowen and Pearl Wright. After graduating from Indiana University, he went on to earn his medical degree from Indiana University Medical School in 1942. During World War II, he served in the army medical corps and was with the first wave of allied troops in the invasion of Okinawa in 1945. After discharge, Bowen returned to Indiana where he served as county coroner before his election to the House of Representatives in 1956. He became minority leader in 1965 and served as Speaker of the House through 4 legislative sessions.

In 1972, Dr. Bowen was elected Governor of Indiana. That year, a constitutional amendment was ratified allowing governors to serve consecutive, 4-year terms, and in 1976 he became the first governor to succeed himself.

His tenure in office was marked by a major tax restructuring program reducing reliance on property taxes, major improvements to state park facilities, development of a statewide emergency medical services system, and adoption of a medical malpractice law that would later serve as a national model.

In 1985, Dr. Bowen received the nomination for Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services from President Ronald Reagan. After a quick confirmation by the Senate, Dr. Bowen served in the cabinet until President Reagan left office in January 1989.

Now retired, Dr. Bowen resides in Bremen, Indiana. He has been awarded over twenty-five honorary degrees during his life, including one from the University of Notre Dame and another from Baylor University.

So, today I rise to pay tribute to Dr. Bowen for the great achievements he has gained not only for himself, but for the people of Indiana. His service to this nation is admirable and his legacy serves as a great example of a life well-lived.

CELEBRATING THE AFRICAN-
AMERICAN CONTRIBUTION TO
BLACK HISTORY

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Black History Month and to enter into the record an editorial from New York CaribNews for the week ending February 19, 2008, "Celebrating the African-American Contribution to Black History—the NAACP—Then and Now."

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), originally called the National Negro Committee was founded on February 12, 1909 by Ida Wells-Barnett, W.E.B. DuBois, Henry Moscowitz, Mary White Ovington, Oswald Garrison Villiard, William English Walling. The 6 founders, who comprised a multi-racial group of Americans, renewed the struggle for civil and political liberty. We now know the organization as the NAACP.

In the early years, the NAACP concentrated on using the courts to overturn the Jim Crow laws that permitted racial discrimination. The NAACP in 1913 organized opposition to President Woodrow Wilson's introduction of racial segregation into the federal government policy. The NAACP devoted a significant amount of energy after World War I and in the 1920s and 1930s to publicize the lynching of blacks throughout the United States and sought federal legislation against those states which refused to prosecute.

Today, the NAACP continues its mission to ensure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights of all persons and to eliminate racial hatred and racial discrimination.

(From the CaribNews, Feb. 19, 2008)

CELEBRATING THE AFRICAN-AMERICAN CONTRIBUTION TO BLACK HISTORY—NAACP—THEN AND NOW

The NAACP was founded as the National Negro Committee on February 12, 1909, by a multi-racial group of political activists including W.E.B. DuBois, Ida B. Wells, Henry Moscowitz, Mary White Ovington, Oswald