

RECOGNIZING THE SECOND ANNUAL CESAR CHAVEZ CITIZENS MARCH

**HON. DALE E. KILDEE**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 12, 2008*

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the second annual Cesar Chavez Citizens March in my hometown of Flint, Michigan. The March will be held on March 29th to coincide with the 81st birthday of Cesar Chavez.

The Hispanic Latino Collaborative of Genesee County is sponsoring the Citizens March. The March will start on the campus of the University of Michigan-Flint, proceed down Chavez Drive, and conclude back on campus with a luncheon and reception. A fundraiser to help the United Farm Workers will be held in conjunction with the March.

Flint Michigan was the first community in the Nation to pay tribute to Cesar Chavez by naming a street in his honor 21 years ago. Cesar Chavez was an indefatigable fighter for the rights of migrant workers. He founded the National Farm Workers Association and the United Farm Workers. His 5-year nonviolent boycott against California grape growers attracted international attention and led to the signing of the first union contract with the United Farm Workers. In 1994, one year after his death, Cesar Chavez was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating the Hispanic Latino Collaborative of Genesee County for bringing to the forefront the life and work of Cesar Chavez, and keeping his memory alive for future generations. Cesar Chavez changed the world for the better and his life is an inspiration to all persons seeking justice, parity, and enhanced working conditions for everyone.

RECOGNIZING THE CENTRAL FLORIDA BALLET

**HON. TOM FEENEY**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 12, 2008*

Mr. FEENEY. Madam Speaker, the Central Florida Ballet's "Children Series," has created a performance in tribute to all who suffered in the 9/11 tragedy. This moving performance of "9/11—An American Moment" not only pays tribute to the men and women who tragically lost their lives that fateful September day, but also stirs our patriotism.

Performed by children, the performance captures the poignancy of tested and proven American courage, resolve and pride in response to the World Trade Center attack.

Central Florida Ballet is the only company in the Nation to have choreographed a ballet based on this fateful day in American history. They chose to approach this complex subject motivated by two strong reasons: first to educate; and second to pay tribute to the thousands of victims.

The performance is emotionally stirring. Some scenes contain live recordings of the events that unfolded that fateful morning. The

end, however, is both patriotic and uplifting. Our national anthem is played and the audience rises and sings in unison with the performers.

I could not be prouder of our Orange County students and professionals for their dedication and respect in putting together this production. Together we honor part of our heritage as an American people.

RECOGNIZING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

SPEECH OF

**HON. RALPH REGULA**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 4, 2008*

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, the Everglades National Park plays a major role in preserving an important ecosystem in the State of Florida. The Everglades act as a natural filter that helps provide fresh water to major cities in Florida. In a time when water is becoming an increasingly valuable resource, protecting this area for its natural filtering benefits is vital. While I was chairman of the House Appropriations subcommittee responsible for funding the programs that will restore the Everglades, I made sure that this task received the support that it needed. I again stand today in support of the Everglades and the Everglades National Park, an area that plays a vital role that is key to restoration of this ecosystem.

HONORING DR. MYRAH BROWN GREEN

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 12, 2008*

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of Dr. Myrah Brown Green, who is currently an Adjunct/Assistant Professor of Art History at Medgar Evers College in Brooklyn, New York. She is an Art Historian, Fiber/Surface Designer and a Professional Quilt Artist and has been the Program Director of the Crown Heights Youth Collective in Brooklyn for the past thirty years.

Her quilts are in a number of private collections including the homes of personal collectors and academic institutions. "At the Cross" has been acquired by the Smithsonian's Anacostia Museum in Washington, DC. Myrah's quilt exhibitions include one woman shows at the Cacciloa and Back Room Galleries in New York. Other shows include the national traveling exhibit, Textural Rhythm: Constructing the Jazz Tradition, Threads of Faith, at the American Bible Society, Open House at the Brooklyn Museum of Art, Parallel Threads at the New England Quilt Museum, Six Continents of Quilts through the American Craft Museum at the Payne Webster Gallery in New York.

In addition to her remarkable career in quilts, Myrah teaches both art and history along with quilting techniques within a variety of art programs and academic institutions. Her tenure as a docent at the Brooklyn Museum of

Art from 1999–2006 afforded her the opportunity to perform tours in galleries of Africa, Native America, 18th and 19th Century period rooms and American and European paintings. Her quilts appear in a number of quilt publications including Fiber Art Magazine, Spirit of the Cloth: Contemporary African American Quilts, Threads of Faith and Textural Rhythms: Constructing the Jazz Tradition. She is also the author of African Rhythms, a chapter included in the book, Rodale's Successful Quilting Library: Choosing Quilting Designs. Currently, Dr. Green has written a book entitled, "Pieces of a World: Foundation Pieced Symbols From Around the Globe" that is due to appear on book shelves later this year.

Myrah's Ph.D. in Interdisciplinary Studies with a focus in Art History is themed: The Presence of African Symbols in Modern Art. She created a lecture entitled, The Presence of World Symbols in Quilt Making, which was presented at the Storytellers in Cloth Conference, Connecticut, the Museum of the American Folk Art, Pratt Institute, New York and the Cheik Anta Diop Conference in Pennsylvania. Dr. Myrah Brown Green is a member of the Quilter's Guild of Brooklyn, the American Quilt Study Group, the Studio Art Quilt Association, Chairperson of Women of Color Quilters Network, Inc. Finally, she is the Director and Co-Founder of "Tell Mama Now" a mentoring program for girls interested in Art and Art History.

Madame Speaker, it is important for us to recognize the successful endeavors of Dr. Myrah Brown Green and her talented gifts as an inspirational quilter. I am pleased to congratulate her today.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO CLAUDINE WILLIAMS

**HON. JON C. PORTER**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 12, 2008*

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my longtime friend Claudine Williams, Chairman of Community Affairs at Harrah's Las Vegas and congratulate her for being honored by the American Heart Association for her contributions and support of promoting heart health for women.

Ms. Claudine Williams has been an exemplary citizen and businesswoman since she and her husband Shelby moved to Nevada in 1964. Claudine serves on countless boards of directors in Las Vegas and the State of Nevada including the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce and Nevada State Commission on Tourism. For her service and generosity to the community, Claudine was inducted into the Nevada Business Hall of Fame at the University of Nevada Las Vegas in 2004.

In addition to her many professional successes, Claudine has earned numerous accolades from her peers and other notable organizations. Among those many awards and honors, Claudine has been named Humanitarian of the Year by the Muscular Dystrophy Association (1998), Educator of the Year by the Nevada Hospitality Foundation (2002), and Woman of the Year by the Nevada Dance Theater (1996). Claudine has also established endowment scholarships for education at the William F. Harrah School of Hotel Administration at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

She was honored by the university in 1990 with the dedication of the Claudine Williams Residence Hall.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to recognize my good friend Claudine. Her hard work and efforts on behalf of the community should be emulated. I applaud Claudine Williams on her success and I wish her the best in her future endeavors.

**PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION AND  
CLIMATE CHANGE**

**HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 12, 2008*

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize that Americans took 10.3 billion trips on public transportation in 2007, and recognize the significant impact public transit use can have on improving the environment. This growth in transit usage represents a 2.1 percent increase over 2006, and is the highest level of transit ridership our country has experienced in the past 50 years. In the last decade alone, public transportation use has been more than double the growth rate of the population and up substantially over the growth rate for vehicle miles traveled on our Nation's highways for that same period. The American public has proven that riding transit—especially at such record levels—helps relieve congestion in our crowded cities, addresses climate change and energy independence, and improves the daily lives of our citizens.

Public Transportation and its relationship to the environment is further explored in a new study from the Transportation Research Board and the Division on Earth and Life Studies of the National Research Council entitled "Potential Impacts of Climate Change on U.S. Transportation" (Special Report 290). This report highlights the consequences of climate change for the infrastructure and operations of U.S. transportation. Specifically, the report provides an overview of the scientific consensus on those current and future climate changes of particular relevance to U.S. transportation; identifies potential impacts on all transportation modes; examines adaptation options; and offers recommendations for both research and actions that can be taken to prepare for climate change.

The report also summarizes important strategies for reducing transportation-related emissions of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>)—the primary greenhouse gas that contributes to climate change. Currently, public transportation plays a vital role in reducing emissions because it produces less carbon monoxide, fewer volatile organic compounds, and nearly half as much carbon dioxide and nitrogen oxides for every passenger mile traveled as compared to traveling with private vehicles. Using public transportation helps the Nation save 1.4 billion gallons of gasoline every year, the equivalent of 108 million cars filling up, about 300,000 tanks of gas each day. If Americans rode transit at the rate of 10 percent of daily travel, the U.S. would reduce its dependence on oil imported from the Persian Gulf by more than 40 percent.

For these reasons and more, I support public transportation and pledge to continue the

strong Federal partnership with our local communities in providing the necessary resources to offer even more citizens the opportunity to choose transit for their daily commutes. Increased Federal support for public transportation will only further the national goals of addressing climate change, reducing our dependency on foreign oil, and renewing our commitment to environmental stewardship.

**PAYING TRIBUTE TO PENDER  
RHYNES**

**HON. JON C. PORTER-**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 12, 2008*

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Pender Rhynes, a retired Chief Master Sergeant for the United States Air Force.

Pender Rhynes was born on June 23, 1945 in Campbellton, Florida. After graduating high school in 1963, Pender joined the United States Air Force, where he served twenty-six and a half years before retiring. He served five different stateside tours and three overseas tours, including the Vietnam War. During the Vietnam War, Pender was a team leader and he was responsible for making major repairs on many F-105 Fighter-Bomber aircraft. He also worked with F-117A Stealth Fighters at Nellis Air Force Base in Nevada. When Pender retired from the United States Air Force, he had earned the Rank of Chief Master Sergeant, which is the highest attainable enlisted rank in the U.S. Air Force.

Since his retirement, Pender has worked for the State of Nevada Unemployment Insurance Claims Office in Las Vegas. He has worked there as a Career Enhancement Program Representative and has since been appointed manager. He has achieved some of the highest production ever, helping thousands of Nevadans receive the training they need to attain successful employment. Pender is married to Gloria Olds and they have two sons, Anthony and Phillip. Pender also is the proud grandfather of seven wonderful grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Pender Rhynes. I would like to thank him for his service to our country and our community. I wish him the very best in his current successes and his future endeavors.

**HONORING THE MADISON HIGH  
SCHOOL GIRLS GYMNASTICS TEAM**

**HON. STEPHANIE HERSETH SANDLIN**

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 12, 2008*

Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN. Madam Speaker, on February 15, 2008, the Madison High School girls gymnastics team from my State of South Dakota won its 14th consecutive state championship. This accomplishment sets a national record for consecutive gymnastics State titles.

The Bulldogs' streak began in 1995 with a narrow victory over Stanley County High School and has continued through this season's dominant victory over runner-up Britton-Hecla High School.

Madison's list of accomplishments goes deeper than just a national record. The Bull-

dogs' victory streak is the longest in South Dakota history—for any sport—and the team holds the State record for highest team score in their class. In addition, Madison gymnasts have won 47 individual State titles during the streak, setting State class records for the balance beam, floor exercise and vault. In addition, Madison's Kristen Osterberg set a record with 14 career State titles from 1996 to 2001.

Led by former coach Linda Collignon and current coach Maridee Dossett, Madison has set a standard by which teams from all across the country can be judged. With a focus on team success first, the Madison gymnastics program doesn't just produce champions, it also creates individuals better prepared to take on all the challenges life can present.

Madam Speaker, it is with enduring pride and respect that I rise today in recognition of the Madison gymnastics team on the occasion of their record-breaking achievement. Their achievement is not only measured in the dominating statistics of their string of victories over fourteen years, but also in how they work together as a team in their commitment to excellence. The Madison gymnastics team has proven itself worthy to be counted among the most dominant high school athletic dynasties in the Nation.

**PAYING TRIBUTE TO DR. JAMES E.  
HANSEN**

**HON. JON C. PORTER-**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 12, 2008*

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. James E. Hansen, the Director of the NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies, as this year's recipient of the Desert Research Institute's 21st Annual Nevada Medal. This award is Nevada's highest achievement in the area of scientific study and research.

The Nevada Medal was first given out in 1988 and has been bestowed annually upon a scientist whose work has great impact on the field of science and engineering. Dr. Hansen joins an esteemed list of recipients.

Dr. Hansen earned all of his degrees from the University of Iowa which includes a Bachelor of Arts in Physics and Mathematics, a Masters of Science in Astronomy, and a Ph.D. in Physics. In addition to his numerous publications, research and his work with NASA, Dr. Hansen is also a professor at Columbia University.

He has studied the effects of greenhouse gases throughout his career and has developed and applied various models to note the effects these gases have on climate change and other areas. Dr. Hansen has been a consistent speaker warning about the possible effects of greenhouse gas emissions and the possible benefits of decreasing these gases being emitted.

I wish to also congratulate the Desert Research Institute on another year of service and their continued success in the areas of quality of the air, the water, and the land that surrounds us. The effects of their tireless work and research are felt throughout Nevada and across the globe.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Mr. James E. Hansen for being selected as this