

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE TOWSON UNIVERSITY ANNUAL GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SCIENCES (TUgis) CONFERENCE

**HON. JOHN P. SARBANES**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 14, 2008*

Mr. SARBANES. Madam Speaker, on the occasion of its 21st annual TUgis Conference, I rise today to recognize Towson University for its excellence in geographic information sciences.

In 1984, Dr. John M. Morgan III, with tremendous vision, created a GIS lab at Towson University. He hosted the first statewide GIS conference in 1988. Since then, the Towson University Center for Geographic Information Sciences, CGIS, has grown to include approximately 35 full-time, degreed professionals dedicated to assisting government agencies, businesses, and non-profit organizations that use GIS to carry out their mission. As the program has grown in size, its reputation has also grown. CGIS has developed strong partnerships with several organizations throughout Maryland and has attracted first-rate students to Towson University who are interested in CGIS and its enormous potential.

The theme for TUgis 2008 is "Democratizing GIS: New Tools for Meeting the Public Demand for Geospatial Information." As a member of Congress, I have been interested in better understanding the needs of those I represent. One way I have been able to gain this understanding is through geospatial information about my district. One of our interns, Matthew Sadecki, who will be graduating from Towson University with a master's in GIS, has been able to construct maps of the district displaying a wide range of information. These maps help me to visualize statistical information related to the geographical layout of Maryland's Third Congressional District and better address the needs of those who live there.

Madam Speaker, I want to again thank Dr. Morgan and Towson University for all they have done to advance GIS to its current form and wish them great success with all they have yet to achieve.

IN TRIBUTE TO EARL MCPHAIL

**HON. ELTON GALLEGLY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 14, 2008*

Mr. GALLEGLY. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Ventura County, California, Agricultural Commissioner Earl McPhail, who has the distinction of being the longest serving Agricultural Commissioner in the history of the State of California.

Now, after 29 years of regulating Ventura County's agricultural industry, Earl has decided to retire. He leaves a large set of shoes to fill.

In 2006, the value of agricultural products produced by Ventura County's 2,300 farms and ranches was more than \$1.5 billion. That's an increase of more than \$282 million from the previous year. The county's top three crops in 2006 were strawberries, nursery stock, and lemons.

Earl and the 40 people who work for him enforce state and local regulations on pesticides, worker safety, and other agricultural issues, as well as inspecting flowers and produce for pests before they're shipped to other parts of the state and nation and internationally. It's a huge job with a tremendous economic impact for Ventura County, but Earl has always done it with a calmness that belies his tough resolve in protecting the industry and the industry's consumers.

Earl is a native Southern Californian who graduated with a degree in agricultural biology from the California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, and is a graduate of the California Agricultural Leadership Program. He serves as president of the California Agricultural Commissioners/Sealers Association and is a member of the Ventura County Farm Bureau. He is a past member of the Ventura County Environmental Review Report Committee, Agricultural and Rural Affairs Committee for National Association of Counties, the Ventura County Management Association Board of Directors, and the Santa Paula Future Farmers of America Advisory Committee.

He is equally active outside the agricultural arena. He is an elder for the Santa Paula First Christian Church and chairman of its Board of Directors. Earl serves as a coach for the Saint Bonaventure High School Baseball League, and is a past member of the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 304, Advisory Committee and the National Association of Republican County Officials.

In addition, Earl is past treasurer of the Santa Paula Little League, past president of the Santa Paula Rotary Club, past president of the Ventura County Fair, Board of Directors, and past chairman of the Ventura County 4H Sponsoring League.

Earl has earned his retirement and we thank him for three decades of professionalism and dedication to an industry and community that has grown tremendously during his tenure. I have no doubt he will continue to serve the community and be an elder statesman for the industry.

Madam Speaker, I know my colleagues will join me in wishing Earl and his wife, Willa, the best in the years ahead. Godspeed, my friend.

HONORING JOSHUA JAMES MURPHY

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 14, 2008*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Joshua James Murphy, 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 66, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

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

CONGRATULATIONS TO FRATERNAL ORDER OF EAGLES AERIE #1758

**HON. BILL SHUSTER**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 14, 2008*

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to extend congratulations to the members and leadership of the Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie #1758 in Waynesboro on the occasion of their 100th anniversary.

One-hundred years ago, citizens of Waynesboro organized Aerie #1758 with a simple objective, to "make human life more desirable by lessening its ills and promoting peace, prosperity, gladness, and hope." They have succeeded!

Over the last 100 years, the Eagles have been an integral part of the Waynesboro community—providing civic leadership, raising funds for children, the elderly, and medical research, and improving the borough in ways great and small. The Eagles have made Waynesboro an immeasurably better place to live, work, and raise families.

I would like to thank the Waynesboro Fraternal Order of Eagles for all they have done for Waynesboro, the state, and the country. Congratulations to the members and leadership of Aerie #1758 and to Eagles who have assembled from across the country to be in Waynesboro on this occasion. Best wishes to them for the next 100 years and beyond!

RECOGNIZING DR. JASON BIGGS FOR HIS ACHIEVEMENTS AND SERVICES TO OUR COMMUNITY

**HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO**

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 14, 2008*

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the dedication and commitment of Dr. Jason Biggs to our community of Guam. Dr. Biggs' scholarly achievements and his commitment to youth outreach and educational programs are appreciated by educators and students on Guam. Today he serves as an assistant professor in the University of Guam's Marine Laboratory and is the first Chamorro to hold a tenure-track position within the Marine Lab. He is the son of Joel G. Biggs and Anita R. Cruz.

Dr. Biggs is a graduate of George Washington High School and the University of Guam (UOG), both located in the village of Mangilao, Guam. He obtained his bachelor's and master's degrees in biology from UOG. This academic foundation prepared him to pursue an advanced degree at the University of Utah, and in 2005 he successfully earned his doctor of philosophy in pharmacology and toxicology. Dr. Biggs brings his knowledge and love of learning to our university and our schools. He is a superb role model to our young people.

Dr. Biggs works to promote science and scientific careers to youth through outreach programs. He has authored a textbook designed to introduce concepts in chemistry, biology, and biodiversity to elementary school students to encourage learning through interactive experiments.