

"Well I don't know who put my name there but I have done my part," said Pierre, who was putting together this weekend's edition when the representative of the National Hero's Commission made the announcement to the thousands who were attending Independence Day celebrations at the National Stadium.

The other awardees announced by the Committee include former teachers Eleanor Pilgrim and Lorraine Ramdhanny who received the Spice Isle Award. This award is awarded to two people who have rendered valuable service to Grenada in any field of human endeavour or for other humane action.

Joel Mark and Veronica Alexis received the Camerhogne Award, which is awarded to two citizens who rendered meritorious service in the furtherance of national prestige or for gallantry. Mark was the first Grenadian Sailor to cross the Atlantic on a solo voyage while Alexis is a retired nurse.

The Medal of Honour was presented to Commissioner of Police Winston James; former Principal Ursula Antoine and well known mas player Evelyn Mark.

Honorary awards, which are presented to non Grenadians whose work has impacted on the development of Grenada, went to USA citizen Rev. Melville Schaper and Formula One racer Lewis Hamilton, whose parents are from Grenada.

Schaper is the founder of the St. John Christian Secondary School which was opened here 42 years ago in one of the most rural villages in the country.

Governor General Sir Daniel Williams was honoured with the first Companion of the Order of Grenada award.

In his address Prime Minister Mitchell indicated that the later in the year a number of streets and buildings will be named after some prominent Grenadians who have made significant contributions towards the island since gaining independence 34th years ago.

"This Government is of the view that after 34 years of independence, it was time to develop a system that recognized Grenadians from every background all of whom have done many different types of work in building our nation and shaping our society.

"There are those who have made genuine contributions to our industrial development as a whole and who have headed up major initiatives in the corporate sector or who have given outstanding service to the community. Our new system of national awards sought to recognise them all," the Prime Minister said.

On the eve of independence the main opposition National Democratic Congress (NDC) called on the Mitchell administration to commit to naming the country's international airport after former leftist prime minister Maurice Bishop.

"We believe that the time has come, as this whole nation is moving towards genuine reconciliation and an understanding of its history, that the airport be named after the leader who perhaps did the most for its coming into being," NDC Deputy political leader, George Prime said.

The Point Salines International Airport was constructed under Bishop's administration with Cuban aid.

HONORING LEONA SASSAMAN

HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 31, 2008

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Leona

Sassaman, longtime Tinicum Township resident. Ms. Sassaman is being recognized by the Tinicum Democrats on April 6th for her hard work and exceptional achievements in working to better her community.

Born in Uhlertown, PA in 1925, Leona Sassaman has a long history of service to her community. Beginning her community involvement, Ms. Sassaman worked for 25 years making parts for RCA. During this time, Ms. Sassaman was an active member of the International Glass, Plastic, Pottery, and Allied Workers Union, Local 173A. Ms. Sassaman served as chief shop steward, union treasurer, secretary and president, laboring to make the workplace safer for she and her colleagues.

Ms. Sassaman has also worked for years to improve the safety of her community through her involvement with the Delaware County firehouse. A member of the firehouse for over 50 years, Ms. Sassaman was involved in the firehouse's construction in 1958. Throughout the years, Mr. Sassaman has contributed to countless fundraising events and activities for the firehouse, such as bake sales, Friday night spaghetti dinners, and rummage sales.

Adding to her distinguished work, Ms. Sassaman is an active member of the political process within her community. A member of the Board of Elections for 30 years, Ms. Sassaman was elected and served as minority clerk to the board until 2006. Ms. Sassaman has been an active member of the Democratic Party for many years, while also serving as a reliable political resource for those in her community of any political party.

As her outstanding efforts show, Leona Sassaman has pledged her life to helping those in her community. Through her tireless work, Ms. Sassaman has clearly bettered the lives of those around her. Madam Speaker, I am proud to recognize Ms. Sassaman for her extraordinary accomplishments and extremely honored to serve as her Congressman.

RECOGNIZING JAMES HARRIS,
VETERAN OF THE YEAR FOR
THE CITY OF DIXON, CALI-
FORNIA

HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 31, 2008

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to James Harris, who received the Veteran of the Year award for the city of Dixon, California, on March 15, 2008.

James Harris, known as "Jim" by his friends, began his military career in 1961. Harris, now 72, served in the Air Force for 28 years, starting his illustrious career in the Air Force fire protection rescue unit. He retired from active duty in 1989, as a chief master sergeant, but to this day continues his service to those in uniform as an advocate for veterans affairs.

Harris is one of the original members for the Tuskegee Airmen, out of Travis Air Force Base. Additionally, he serves as the chairman of the committee that supports the new national cemetery in Dixon, CA.

In the wake of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, a large number of veterans are returning to a nation that is grateful for their service. However, it is men like Harris that ensure vet-

erans past and present receive needed care and are never forgotten.

Jim Harris' selfless service and dedication to duty makes him a valuable asset to active duty personnel serving overseas and also veterans of past wars. Jim once said "[i]n]o one really understands war until you've been in one. I feel it is my obligation to support them." He uses this as his motivation to continue serving past and present members of the military.

Veterans like Jim Harris were not asked to spend their time supporting the military. He does not do his job to win awards or to be recognized. He does it because of his past service in the military, for his family, and for all of the citizens in this great Nation. He feels obligated to continue to serve and we as a nation take his actions to heart—we will continue to honor those that serve in the military, now and forever.

I am also grateful of Mr. Harris' service as a member of my Veterans Advisory Board, where he provides great counsel on issues of import to all veterans.

Congratulations to Jim Harris on a job well done. We are grateful for your service in the past, present, and in the future. You are a true American hero.

IN HONOR OF ASKOUHY JALLYAN-
VASSILIAN

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 31, 2008

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Askouhy Jallyan-Vassilian and her dedication to her community and the Armenian people. Mrs. Jallyan-Vassilian was a survivor of the genocide inflicted upon the Armenian people. She was the embodiment of the enduring human spirit.

Mrs. Jallyan-Vassilian was born Askouhy Jallyan on February 12, 1914, in Orfa, Turkey. Her mother, Khanem, had married in 1913 and was 18 years old when she gave birth to her only daughter. Khanem was widowed in 1915 when her husband, Nazaret, was murdered. Mrs. Jallyan-Vassilian was able to flee the horrors of genocide when she escaped with her mother to neighboring Syria.

Later, Mrs. Jallyan-Vassilian married her husband Missak Vassilian at the age of 19. Together they raised three sons and a daughter. She was also the proud grandmother of 10 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren. Her son, Asbed Vassilian, is currently a professor of chemistry at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, and is the head of that school's Armenian studies program.

On October 10, 2007, Mrs. Jallyan-Vassilian attended a markup session of the House of Representatives Committee on Foreign Affairs as it worked on a resolution recognizing the deplorable deprivation of human rights that occurred during the Armenian genocide. She had waited 92 years for the United States Congress to recognize the genocide and suffering that her people had endured at the hands of hate and intolerance.

Mrs. Jallyan-Vassilian passed away on February 27, 2008. She will be remembered for her devotion to her Armenian heritage and her commitment to the cause of those Armenians who suffered wanton violence and cruelty.