

They are shaping today's youth and tomorrow's future. As their representative in Congress, I am proud to congratulate Smyser School's alumni, students, teachers, and staff on its achievements over the last 75 years, and I wish them the best of luck and continued growth in the future.

SUPPORTING JEWISH AMERICAN
HERITAGE MONTH

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 19, 2008

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I support Jewish American Heritage Month during the month of May as an important opportunity to recognize Jewish contributions to American history and culture. Ever since the first Jews arrived in colonial America in 1654, Jewish Americans have strengthened and influenced all aspects of American society. Through education, science, popular culture, literature, government and military service, Jewish men and women have greatly contributed to American society. Jewish Americans and their contributions are celebrated and recognized throughout Jewish American Heritage Month.

Jewish American Heritage Month gives the people of our Nation the opportunity to thank and recognize those Jewish Americans who have contributed to the advancement of our country, while it also presents us with the wonderful opportunity to foster religious tolerance. In my home state of Texas, from the discovery and development of oil fields to the opening of cattle ranches, Jewish people have had an immense impact. Even in the most improbable of environments, Texas Jews built prosperous communities. They established businesses, hospitals, synagogues, cemeteries and religious schools. Today Jewish Americans are seen as a fundamental community in the "melting pot" of Texas.

Jewish Americans were also among those who worked to establish the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) in 1909. The Jewish community contributed greatly to the NAACP's founding and continued financing. Many Jewish Americans, such as NAACP co-founder Henry Moskowitz, put forth a lifetime of work in promoting inter-ethnic, inter-racial and inter-religious understanding between Jewish and African-Americans. The civil rights activism of many Jewish Americans in partnership with African-American civil rights leaders served to make the American Dream a reality for so many Americans.

Jewish American Heritage Month is important to fostering and achieving the key human right of religious tolerance. Jewish American Heritage Month gives us all the opportunity to honor the accomplishments of Jewish Americans and to realize that our Nation is a wonderful combination of cultures. I join all Americans in celebrating Jewish American Heritage Month and the many ways Jewish Americans have contributed to the greatness of the United States of America.

TRIBUTE TO GLORIA MCJILTON

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 19, 2008

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to honor Gloria McJilton, recipient of the 2008 Dundalk Optimist Club Citizen of the Year Award, the community's highest honor.

Gloria grew up in Dundalk, and has been active in the community ever since high school. Her husband, Richard McJilton, was honored with the same award in 1984 by the original Dundalk Chamber of Commerce. Gloria and Richard work together at a Nationwide Insurance office in Dundalk, and support each other in their various community endeavors.

Playing an integral role in a web of community organizations has let Gloria touch the lives of many in her community. She is currently the president of the Women's Club of Dundalk, which she feels is the most rewarding community work she does. Her work through the Women's Club has a direct impact on the community, through awarding scholarships and supporting local organizations.

In addition to her local community activities, Gloria has been involved in county and state activities as well. Baltimore County Councilman John Olszewski, Sr., appointed Gloria to serve on the Baltimore County Landmarks Preservation Commission. She was chosen by Governors Parris Glendening and Robert Ehrlich to serve on the Maryland Judicial Nominating Commission, on which she sat for 12 years.

Gloria is a founding member and treasurer of the Greater Dundalk Alliance. She also served as elected chairperson on the Baltimore County Commission of Arts and Sciences, and has been a member of the Dundalk Concert Association for 32 years.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join with me today to honor Gloria McJilton on being named the 2008 Dundalk Optimist Club Citizen of the Year. Her legacy as an active resident of Dundalk will be forever remembered through the impact her work has had on her community. It is with great pride that I congratulate Gloria McJilton on her exemplary service to the Dundalk community.

HONORING THE CHARITABLE
SERVICE OF LILIAM MACHADO
AND HER WORK WITH THE
AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 19, 2008

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor one of south Florida's great citizens, Liliam Machado. Liliam was born in Matanzas, Cuba, and came to this country at age 18, while fleeing Fidel Castro's communist regime. Since then, she, as well as her husband Gus Machado, have become tremendous civic leaders and examples for all south Floridians. Liliam has shown extraordinary dedication to her work with the American Cancer Society during her two decades of involvement with the organization. She has been on

the executive board of the Society's Miami-Dade unit for the past 6 years and is currently its President.

She has helped organize many charitable events in our community for the American Cancer Society and her proudest achievement was to bring the Relay for Life to the city of Miami. In doing so, she helped create the first cancer relay specifically targeted at the Hispanic community. Her efforts helped raise awareness and aided in the successful prevention and early detection of cancer within the Hispanic community in south Florida.

Liliam's life has been one devoted to helping others and the passion she has brought to her work has enriched our community. I am proud to call her a friend and I am honored to share with you all her achievements.

HONORING CAPTAIN CURTIS
FITZGERALD

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 19, 2008

Mr. HENSARLING. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize to Captain Curtis Fitzgerald for his distinguished military service and service to Texas veterans.

In 1969, Captain Fitzgerald began what has become a life-long service to his nation. Just thirty days after completing flight school, Captain Fitzgerald went to Vietnam with the 189th Assault Helicopter Company to fly Huey Helicopters. Captain Fitzgerald fought in major battles such as the Battle of Hamburger Hill, where he flew multiple re-supply missions and was shot down for the first time, but certainly not the last time.

During the Siege of Ben Het, Captain Fitzgerald's aircraft received 103 bullet holes during another re-supply mission. Despite the damage, he managed to complete the mission without a single casualty. In the 1600 hours he flew during combat, Captain Fitzgerald was shot down a total of six times.

In addition to serving as a Flight Leader, Captain Fitzgerald served as the Air Mission Commander for the initial invasion of Cambodia. It was during the on-going Long-Range Reconnaissance Patrols into Cambodia and Laos that Captain Fitzgerald was shot down again, this time while helping to identify enemy positions. He managed to not only identify their position, but return the damaged aircraft back to safety.

Captain Fitzgerald went above and beyond his call to duty when he volunteered to extend his deployment for six more months to ensure the incoming units had adequate experience. Considering all this, it is no wonder Captain Fitzgerald received a Silver Star medal, three Distinguished Flying Cross medals, three Bronze Star medals, nineteen Air medals, and one Purple Heart for his tour in Vietnam.

After completing his degree at the University of Houston, Captain Fitzgerald returned to Palestine, but his dedication to the military did not end. He has continued to work closely with the Veterans Administration, various Veterans Service Organizations, and has worked extensively with Palestine-area Post Traumatic Stress Disorder support groups. Fellow men and women in uniform tout Captain Fitzgerald's dedication to ensuring that those returning from war receive assistance.

In addition to his service-related activities, Captain Fitzgerald started a real estate firm specializing in farm and ranch sales, served on the Parks and Recreation Board, the YMCA Board, and founded the Anderson County Soccer Association.

He is a husband to his wife of twenty-eight years, Karen, and a grandfather to two grandsons.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the Fifth District of Texas, I am humbled and privileged to recognize Captain Curtis Fitzgerald. As Calvin Coolidge once said, "The nation which forgets its defenders will itself be forgotten." I for one am committed to ensuring this nation never forgets.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 19, 2008

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, May 14, 2008. I was not present for the rollcall vote 320.

Had I been present for rollcall 320, the Motion to Instruct Conferees on H.R. 4040, the Consumer Product Safety Commission Reform Act, I would have voted "yea."

HONORING CARMELAU MONESTIME

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 19, 2008

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor Carmelau Monestime and the 30th anniversary of the founding of the first created Haitian radio program in Creole language. The radio program, Express Publicite, has been led for three decades by the founder Mr. Monestime, who is the first radio personality of Haitian descent in South Florida. Mr. Monestime can be considered a communicator by nature.

Born in Gonaives, Haiti Mr. Monestime, began his education at the Institut Brothers of the Christian Instruction. He continued his studies at the Lycee Fabres Geffrard College of the City. In 1957, he earned the position as head of the files section of the Department of Agriculture, in Haiti's natural resources and rural department. In 1964, he immigrated to New York and relocated to Miami, Florida in 1978.

Upon his arrival in Miami, Mr. Monestime immediately became dedicated to the Haitian-American community, and soon after opened Panoram Express Driving School, a Haitian driving school. In 1997, he joined co-founders Ferdinand Forte and Pierre Mendez to create Express Publicite.

Like the Haitian-American population throughout South Florida over the last three decades, Express Publicite has grown tremendously and popularized itself among listeners around the community. When first created, the Station had over 5,000 listeners—today, the Station has nearly 900,000 dedicated listeners throughout South Florida. Pertinent information such as current events and up-to-date news in both the United States and Haiti, which was

previously transferred by word of mouth or distributed through flyers at community events, is now easily accessible on the air waves. Mr. Monestime is very well-respected by those in the radio industry and also by the thousands of fans that listen to him on a daily basis.

Through his many accomplishments and creation of Express Publicite, Mr. Monestime has paved the way for other Haitians in the radio industry by providing a voice for Haitian-Americans in radio. The Station was created as a center to share vital community information. All of these accomplishments have earned Mr. Monestime the title, "Dean of Haitian Radio."

Thus Madam Speaker, I am pleased to introduce today, along with the entire South Florida community, a resolution recognizing the rich history and accomplishments of this remarkable Station and its founder on the occasion of its 30 anniversary. I urge all the Members of this body to join us in congratulating Carmelau Monestime on Express Publicite's 30th anniversary.

HONORING THE SARASOTA SOUTH ELKS LODGE #2495

HON. VERN BUCHANAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 19, 2008

Mr. BUCHANAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Sarasota South Elks Lodge # 2495, which will be recognized at the Florida Elks' State Convention this month for their efforts to improve the quality of life of Sarasota area veterans.

The Elks is one of the leading charitable and service orders in the United States. Since 1917, they have pledged to never forget our nation's veterans.

For the past three years, the men and women of the Sarasota South Elks Lodge have put these words to action by giving generously of their energy and resources to improve the lives of ill, aging, and homeless veterans.

In the last three years, the Sarasota South Elks Lodge has donated \$41,590 in money, clothing and personal items, given 1,390 in voluntary man hours and driven over 4,100 miles in an effort to make a difference in the lives of our veterans.

They have provided food, clothing, and employment opportunities to homeless veterans, made monthly visits with veterans hospitalized at Bay Pines, and provided transportation and companionship to more than 10 veterans who are shut-ins without family in the area. They have adopted the families of two soldiers on active duty in Iraq and Afghanistan. They have been directly involved with 21 military funerals and five flag-raising ceremonies. Finally, they have sponsored annual barbeques during which they have fed and entertained hundreds of veterans.

On behalf of the people of Florida's 13th District, I thank the members of the Sarasota South Elks for their compassionate service to our veterans. I am honored to represent this caring and hardworking organization.

RECOGNIZING ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF DON KASSING, PRESIDENT OF SAN JOSE UNIVERSITY

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 19, 2008

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today along with Congressman MICHAEL HONDA to recognize the accomplishments of Don Kassing, President of San Jose State University. Mr. Kassing has served as the President of the University since 2004 and is retiring this year.

Don Kassing worked nearly three decades in higher education in Illinois, Kentucky, Colorado and California before coming to San Jose State University in 1993. Prior to his appointment as President, Mr. Kassing served San Jose State University as Vice President for the Division of Administration and Finance for eleven years and was responsible for six major administrative units on campus. As Chief Financial Officer, he held overall responsibility for all business and financial affairs of the campus.

Under Mr. Kassing's leadership, the University's department structure was revamped to improve enrollment services. For the most recent admissions cycle, the process for financial aid packaging was revitalized to provide information to students about their financial aid packages earlier, thus enabling them to make enrollment decisions earlier. In part because of these and related changes, the university had record enrollment for Fall 2007 of nearly 32,000 students. These efforts are linked to a reenergized focus on student success in class and involvement in campus life outside of class.

Typically, the University realized about \$11 million annually in private gifts; however, new fundraising efforts under Mr. Kassing's leadership resulted in the doubling of gifts to the University in 2005–06, and a rise to \$50 million in 2006–07, which is the single highest year of fundraising in San Jose State University's history.

Don Kassing has encouraged San Jose State University to engage in externally funded research and education-related activities that have significantly enhanced the University's academic quality while engaging faculty and students in the creation and application of new knowledge. As a result SJSU faculty successfully partner with government agencies, corporations, and private foundations to perform cutting-edge research, public service, and other specialized projects vital to this community of scholars. During Don Kassing's tenure as president, approximately \$212 million has been awarded to support the University's expanding research enterprise, placing San Jose State among the top 200 universities in the country for total R&D expenditures.

Don Kassing will be missed for his work at San Jose State University, for his leadership in the community and for his commitment to excellence. I join the community of students, faculty and staff of San Jose State University in honoring Don Kassing for his contributions and in wishing Don and his wife, Amy, their three children and eight grandchildren, the best as he enters retirement.