

CONGRATULATING THE PASCO COUNTY LIBRARIES FOR OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2008

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker. I rise to congratulate the Pasco County Library System for being awarded the 2008 Library of the Year by the Florida Library Association. I would also like to recognize the Pasco County Library Cooperative for being one of a select number of library systems across the country to receive the We the People "Created Equal" Bookshelf from the National Endowment of the Humanities.

As a former college teacher, I know that there is no greater gift you can give than the ability to read and learn. It is exciting to see that libraries in Pasco County will receive this selection of "Created Equals" themed classic books and that the Pasco County System has been named the best library in Florida. Recognition by your industry group is quite an accomplishment and something that every employee in the system should be proud to have earned this year.

With the grant of books from the National Endowment of the Humanities, Pasco County children and adults of all ages can now have their eyes opened to the limitless ideas and dreams that can be found through reading and lifelong learning. Studies have consistently shown that children exposed to reading at an early age will perform better in school and throughout life.

Madam Speaker. It is truly an honor to have such outstanding libraries and library administrators in my district. The Pasco County Library System and the Pasco County Library Cooperative are to be commended for their commitment to learning and reading, and congratulated for the honors they have received.

HONORING DR. JAMES THOMSON

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2008

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. James Thomson, a professor of anatomy in the University of Wisconsin's School of Medicine and Public Health, for the most recent accomplishments in his extraordinary scientific career.

Dr. Thomson is a world-renowned developmental biologist whose discoveries, in the words of Time Magazine, "have a potential that could be unlimited." Time recently named Dr. Thomson to its Top 100 list of the "World's Most Influential People." The honor is well deserved. A decade ago Dr. Thomson became the first person to isolate human embryonic stem cells and maintain them indefinitely in culture. As recognition for his discovery, he appeared on the cover of Time on August 20, 2001. Last year, in another breakthrough, Dr. Thomson developed a method for converting human skin cells to stem cells that appear to share similar properties to embryonic stem cells. At the same time, a professor at Japan's Kyoto University independently shared in the

breakthrough. Over the past decade, Dr. Thomson's work has opened new horizons in medicine and sparked new hopes for curing a vast spectrum of diseases.

Dr. Thomson's colleagues honored him last month by electing him a Fellow of the National Academy of Sciences—one of America's most prestigious associations—which was founded in 1863 and charged by Abraham Lincoln with advising the country on scientific and technological issues. In this capacity he will continue to serve not only the scientific community, but the country as well.

This year, Dr. Thomson accepted an additional appointment as Director of Regenerative Biology at the Morgridge Institute for Research, the nonprofit side of the new Wisconsin Institutes for Discovery. He is the first member of the Morgridge Institute's multidisciplinary scientific leadership team and will continue his pioneering research at the Institute. In addition, Dr. Thomson is an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology at the University of California, Santa Barbara.

Dr. Thomson's latest achievements are in a long line of accolades, which include his receipt of the 2003 Frank Annunzio Award from the Christopher Columbus Fellowship Foundation, an independent Federal agency that gives the award to individuals who have improved the world through ingenuity and innovation. In 2005, Dr. Thomson was instrumental in the selection of the WiCell Research Institute—a private, nonprofit supporting organization of the University of Wisconsin-Madison—as the first National Stem Cell Bank. I was proud to join him in celebrating the announcement of that selection. As noted by the managing director of the Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation (WARF), Dr. Carl Gulbrandsen, Dr. Thomson "is really the reason why UW-Madison is the center of the universe for stem cell research."

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Dr. James Thomson for his extraordinary achievements. With a long career ahead, I wish him years of continued success, and I invite the Congress to join me in applauding him for his enormous contributions to developmental biology, which will shape the world and alleviate human suffering in the years to come.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF THE VOLUNTEERS OF THE CRISISLINK HOTLINE

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2008

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of dedicated individuals who volunteer their time to support CrisisLink's efforts to save lives and prevent tragedies in the 8th Congressional District and throughout the National Capital Region. Their efforts to prevent suicide are worthy of recognition.

Since 1969, CrisisLink volunteers have provided invaluable, free, confidential crisis intervention services to anyone who calls their hotline. CrisisLink has played a major role in educating the community on how to recognize signs of depression and respond to the threats

of suicide. Last year, CrisisLink volunteers donated a total of 17,000 hours of their time, answered 30,000 calls, and saved the National Capital Region approximately 4 million dollars in ambulance, police, emergency room, and treatment costs for attempted suicides.

In addition to CrisisLink's regional hotline, volunteers also service the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, NSPL—1-800-273-TALK—and 1-800-SUICIDE. For NSPL, the help of Crisis Link volunteers is crucial. Answering calls to prevent tragedies are performed by volunteers and staff at CrisisLink as well as other independent crisis centers across the country.

It is a sad fact that 56 percent of all deaths in the U.S. are due to suicide. In comparison, homicides make up only 30 percent of all deaths. While distressing, these numbers would surely be higher if not for CrisisLink's volunteers who help individuals in a time of crisis, promote stabilization, and provide resources to empower people to help themselves. With 20 percent of suicides attributed to veterans and active duty military, crisis centers are working closely with the Department of Veteran's Affairs through the NSPL to answer calls from our service members in order to save lives and prevent tragedies.

I am very grateful to CrisisLink's current and former volunteers for all they do to serve the residents of Virginia's 8th District and our region. They are available 7 days a week, 365 days a year to help people when it is most desperately needed and there is nowhere else to turn. These volunteers give their time so that others may have the gift of time—time to survive a crisis, time to heal, time to live. I laud the efforts of these dedicated volunteers and thank CrisisLink for providing such a vital service to our community.

LAMAR MEN'S BASKETBALL
OUTSTANDING 2007-2008 SEASON

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2008

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, during the 1970's and 80s the Lamar University Cardinals dominated Southland Conference basketball, at one point putting together 80 straight home wins, which is still the 7th longest home winning streak in NCAA history.

Lamar men's basketball continued this winning tradition with an outstanding 2007-2008 season. Led by first team all-conference performers Kenny Dawkins and Lamar Sanders, and All-Conference Honorable mention Darren Hopkins, Lamar Men's Basketball team and their coach Steve Roccaforte posted a 19-11 record. Earning its 12th conference title and first since the 1982-83 season. Coach Roccaforte guided the Cardinals to the title in only his second year at the helm, which ties him with legendary Lamar coach Billy Tubbs as fastest to conference championship in school history.

The effort and resilience shown by the Lamar Men's Basketball team and staff has been nothing short of tremendous. In a season that did not start as planned, the Cardinals never gave in. Lamar started the season with a disappointing 1-5 record; however, the self-confident Cardinals turned their season around. Coach Roccaforte said the turning