

I am the child whose mother and father left them in an orphanage because they couldn't handle the responsibility;

I am the person peering over the edge of a building considering to jump off because life is too hard to live;

I am the soldier in Iraq who gets killed by a road-side bomb fighting for the United States of America;

I am the little kid in Africa with HIV fighting to live without food or water on their own.

I am the person holding out my hand to the homeless man on main street giving him my spare change;

I am the new family to the child in the orphanage who I have just adopted;

I am the arm that pulls the person peering over the edge backwards to the thing we call 'hope';

I am the person who jumps in front of bullets to save our troops in Iraq because every person in this world means something;

I am the cure for HIV and I have just gone into the little child in Africa along with food and water;

I am each and every one of you who cares about others."

PINECREST SINGERS RECEIVE  
NATIONAL RECOGNITION

**HON. HOWARD COBLE**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 22, 2008*

Mr. COBLE. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the citizens of the Sixth District of North Carolina, we wish to recognize some singers from Moore County in our district who won a national competition. Because of the quality of performance of the Pinecrest High School Chamber Ensemble and Sotto Voce last year in San Francisco, both choral groups were able to participate in this year's Heritage's "Festival of Gold" National Choral Competition at Orchestra Hall in Chicago.

They were competing against 21 other high schools from across the nation and both groups took first place in their respective divisions. The scoring was determined by three reputable judges in the world of choral music and based out of 100 possible points. Out of these Pinecrest's 30 member Sotto Voce received an average of 95.33 points, placing them in first place in the Women's Choir division.

Participating in the Sotto Voce division were Paige Baker, Keyvieta Baldwin, Braylin Bayless, Lauren Bonville, Casey Cooper, Ashlee Covington, Brittany Cullifer, Leah Dannelley, Kate Davis, Kelcie Frye, Caroline Gallagher, Erin Hennings, Ginni Holderfield, Lynn Hollyfield, Alease Jeffries, Auriel Jeffries, Haley Johnson, Ruth Jones, Dani Mayo, Gina Mendence, Kelly Nelson, Alexis Oxendine, Catherine Pittman, Michelle Porter, Rachel Stewart, Stephanie Vaughn, Lindsay von Gal, Chelsi Wright, Joanne Wu, Haley Yarborough, and Elise Zawatteri.

The Chamber Ensemble, with an average of 96.33, took first place as well in the Chamber Choir division. Singing in the Chamber Ensemble were Braylin Bayless, Kevin Bean, Jonathan Blue, Spencer Bowman, Lia Brazile, Matt Carriker, Rashad Covington, Tolisha Covington, Brittany Cullifer, Leah Dannelley,

Sarah Floyd, Adam Fogleman, Caroline Gallagher, Bradley Gibson, Matt Hazzard, Tyler Herbst, Alease Jeffries, Jordan Kennedy, Kelsey Leach, Kelcey Ledbetter, Le'Quita McKoy, Taylor Miles, Whitney Moore, Brenton O'Hara, Catherine Pittman, Michelle Porter, Aaron Shamberger, Ravon Sheppard, Amanda Smith, Rachel Stewart, Stephanie Vaughn, James Villone, and Josh Warthen. Pinecrest High Choral Director James Brown told The Sandhills Pulse, "This performance in Chicago solidifies just how talented and dedicated my students are in the Choral Program at Pinecrest . . . we graced each performance with intensity, passion and extreme professionalism."

In addition to the competition, a number of students were involved in an Honors Choir that was made up of selected members from all of the participating choirs. These students were responsible for learning four pieces on their own prior to arriving in Chicago and performed under the baton of Dr. Anton Armstrong, conductor of the St. Olaf Choir. The students participating in the Honors Choir from Pinecrest were Lauren Bonville, Matt Carriker, Ashlee Covinton, Kate Davis, Kelcie Frye, Caroline Gallagher, Bradley Gibson, Erin Hennings, Alease Jeffries, Auriel Jeffries, Ruth Jones, Brenton O' Hara, Alexis Oxendine, Rachel Stewart, Stephanie Vaughn and James Villone. Brown also told The Sandhills Pulse, "This year's tour will be one of my most memorable because of all aspects: my first group of graduation seniors who worked with me throughout their entire high school choral experience, fantastic chaperones and phenomenal accompanists."

Again, we are proud to report that the Sixth District is home to these outstanding young singers.

THE DAILY 45: CURTIS HOLDEN

**HON. BOBBY L. RUSH**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 22, 2008*

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, everyday, 45 people, on average, are fatally shot in the United States. Yesterday, in Oakland, California, two men were shot and killed in separate incidents. My heart goes out to the family of 35-year-old Curtis Holden. My heart also goes out to the other victim, whose name was not immediately released. There have been 55 homicides so far this year in the city of Oakland.

How do we explain these senseless killings to our children? We must replace the culture of violence with a culture of peace.

Americans of conscious must come together to stop the senseless death of "The Daily 45." When will Americans say "enough is enough, stop the killing!"

REAFFIRMING SUPPORT FOR THE  
GOVERNMENT OF LEBANON  
UNDER PRIME MINISTER FOUAD  
SINIORA

SPEECH OF

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 20, 2008*

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, although I support the legitimate Government of Lebanon, I could not support H. Res. 1194 because it contains language calling upon the United States "to immediately take all appropriate actions to support and strengthen" the current Government of Lebanon.

I believe this wording is unnecessarily broad and could be construed by some to implicitly endorse military action against any state or organization that this administration deems a threat to the Lebanese government. Because the resolution does not expressly exclude the use of force as one of the "appropriate actions" to be taken by the United States, I was not able to support it.

HONORING DUBUQUE SENIOR HIGH  
CHAMPION SWIMMER JORDON  
HUFF

**HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 22, 2008*

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding results achieved by Dubuque Senior High School swimmer Jordan Huff in the 2007-2008 season. This year Jordan won two individual State championship events. Jordan captured titles in the 200-yard freestyle and the 100-yard freestyle.

Madam Speaker, I am extremely proud of the accomplishments of Jordan and the Dubuque Senior High School Boys Swimming Team, both in and out of the pool. Perhaps Paul "Bear" Bryant—the late, great coach of the Alabama Crimson Tide football team—said it best: "Show class, have pride, and display character. If you do, winning takes care of itself." This year, Dubuque Senior High School proved just that.

HONORING DAVID COOK

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday May 22, 2008*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize David Roland Cook of Blue Springs, Missouri, for the great achievement of winning the 7th season of American Idol.

For the past 7 years, tens of thousands of Idol hopefuls from across the Nation auditioned for a shot at being the next American Idol. David started his journey by traveling from Blue Springs to the regional auditions in Omaha, Nebraska where he impressed the judges with his version of Bon Jovi's "Livin' on a Prayer." David's performance earned him a trip to Hollywood to compete on the show.

Throughout the season, David showed great strength and a commitment to his music by putting his own personality into each of the songs he performed, and quickly stood out among the contestants. With the support of his family, friends and all of Blue Springs, David never gave up and due to his hard work and passion for music he became the new American Idol.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in congratulating David Cook on being named the new American Idol. I am proud to represent such a hardworking and gifted individual in the Sixth Congressional District. I know that all of Blue Springs joins me in wishing him the very best in his future endeavors.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
MERRILLVILLE ALLIANCE OF  
TRANSYLVANIAN SAXONS

**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 22, 2008*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is my distinct honor to take this time to recognize the officers and members of the Merrillville, Indiana, branch of the Alliance of Transylvanian Saxons (ATS). On Saturday, May 31, 2008, the Merrillville Alliance of Transylvanian Saxons will host a celebration honoring its 100th Anniversary, while also celebrating the ATS National Constitutional Convention at the Radisson Hotel in Merrillville, Indiana.

The Saxons originated in Germany and traveled eastward to settle in eastern Hungary during the 12th and 13th century. Following the conclusion of World War I, the Hungarian boundaries were altered and the Saxons' home became Transylvania, one of the three major provinces of Rumania. In Rumania, the Transylvanian Saxons were oppressed as minorities by the totalitarian Rumanian government, causing many to migrate to the United States.

The ATS was founded as a fraternal organization in 1902, with a mission of providing a safe community for immigrant families of Transylvanian Saxons to share and enjoy their language and traditions. The Merrillville Alliance of Transylvanian Saxons was established in 1908 under its parent organization to offer the same community to the 3,000 plus Transylvanian Saxons who had immigrated to Northwest Indiana. The fraternal fellowship provides cultural activities such as singing, dancing, and family and youth exchange programs. The officers of the Merrillville ATS, who so selflessly give to their organization, share the goals of the national organization and allow for their longstanding traditions to remain a part of their lives.

This year's celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the Merrillville Alliance of Transylvanian Saxons will recognize the continuous efforts of the Merrillville Lodge's officers: President Jeffery Szostek, Vice President Daniel Schuffert, Recording Secretary Raymond S. Palyok, Treasurer Donald Bowman, Secretary Randall B. Floyd, and Trustees Walter Szostek, John Sumichrast and Jim Smith.

Madam Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commending the officers and members of the

Merrillville Alliance of Transylvanian Saxons for the efforts, activities, and leadership they have provided in maintaining their Transylvanian Saxon history and culture as part of Indiana's First Congressional District.

HONORING THE LIFE OF SERGEANT  
JOSEPH FORD OF KNOX,  
INDIANA

**HON. JOE DONNELLY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 22, 2008*

Mr. DONNELLY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember Sergeant Joseph Ford, originally of Knox, Indiana. Sergeant Ford was a proud member of Bravo Troop First Battalion 152nd Cavalry 76th Infantry Brigade Combat Team of the Indiana Army National Guard. He died on May 10 when his vehicle rolled over during a training exercise near Al Asad, Iraq. While his death leaves us all mourning a life cut short, I also wish to celebrate the life of this tremendous young man.

For most of that life, Sergeant Ford was simply known as Joey. When Peggy Shidaker, his high school French teacher, learned of his death, she said "He enjoyed life and we enjoyed having him," and she noted how he had been a student who made her laugh. Maybe he made her laugh because he genuinely enjoyed school and learning and made frequent trips back to Knox High School to visit his old teachers after he graduated. This love of learning showed up throughout his life; one of the first things Lieutenant Josh Chastain noticed about Joey after he joined the National Guard was his interest in world and military history. Lieutenant Chastain noted, "He was a really intelligent kid. He knew a lot." This passion and interest in history, both ancient and modern, led Joey to varied interests: he loved to fence, and he aided a school production of *The Three Musketeers* by choreographing the fight sequences. It also led him to leave Knox following high school to attend the University of Southern Indiana and major in history.

But Joey's passion in history reflected a passion for his country. This passion—this patriotism—kindled in him the desire to serve his country. And Joey did not only want to serve, he wanted to serve in the infantry, joining a National Guard unit based in New Albany rather than one more conveniently located in Evansville, where he was in USI's ROTC program. He was so dedicated that when he looked at military service following high school, he realized he had to do a lot of work to meet the fitness requirements; he did not hesitate to put in that effort, and he ended up losing seventy pounds to fulfill his dream of serving.

He became a proud member of the Indiana Army National Guard. Peggy Shidaker remembered him once again returning to Knox High School following his enlistment, "He was so proud that he came back to tell me he was going into the National Guard, and we were really proud of him and happy for him. He found his passion in serving his country." The passion to serve his country did not stop at the water's edge: Lieutenant Chastain noted that Ford wanted to be the gunner on an armored vehicle rather than the driver and said

of Joey, "He exemplified what a dedicated soldier is." This dedication is honored in his posthumous promotion from Specialist to Sergeant and the awarding of a Bronze Star.

Great as his love of country was, he loved his family even more, in particular his parents, Dalarie and Sam, and his wife Karen. Married just last June, Joey had met the love of his life during his time at the University of Southern Indiana. His friend and fellow Guardsman, Keith Auspland, noted that his conversations with Joey during training and in Iraq generally ended not with concerns about the mission but rather with concern for his family. Auspland wrote in his tribute to Joey that "Joe was a new husband and loved his wife dearly." Having deployed to Iraq in March, Joey had his goal of returning to Indiana in June to celebrate his anniversary with his wife.

When his mother Dalarie was asked the one thing she would want her son remembered for she said, "He was just so kind to everybody. At the memorial service, it was amazing just to see all the unique people who loved Joey. He never wrote off anyone and was friends with everybody: all shapes, sizes, and walks of life. He was a gentle soul." Today I honor and remember this gentle soul, this man who loved his wife and family, and followed his love of his country to service in a foreign land. Yet at the same time, I acknowledge our grief. He will be missed. May God bless Joey, his family, his fellow soldiers, and his country as we celebrate his life, and share in this collective sorrow.

IN RECOGNITION OF SAN FRANCISCO'S  
MEMORIAL TO HARVEY  
MILK

**HON. JACKIE SPEIER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 22, 2008*

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, today marks the birthday of a civil rights icon and hero to millions of men and women, not just in San Francisco where he made his strongest impact, but all across the globe.

Seventy-eight years ago, Harvey Milk was born in New York. After college at Albany State College, he enlisted in the United States Navy, but was dishonorably discharged when authorities discovered that he was gay.

In 1970, Harvey landed in San Francisco, the city that would become his home and legacy. He opened a business there and began attending the Board of Supervisors meetings, using his bigger-than-life persona to introduce the public and San Francisco's elected officials to the plights of gays and lesbians. Today, there are many such voices, but Harvey Milk was a trailblazer.

When he appeared on the scene, even in San Francisco, arguably the most tolerant city in our Nation, it wasn't safe or accepted to be outspoken on issues facing lesbians and gays. Even politicians within the community were silent, both about their lives and the issues that affected them. But Harvey wasn't one to be quieted or closeted. He told anyone who would listen—and more importantly, forced those who wouldn't—about the injustices, inequities and outright discrimination suffered by gays and lesbians. His voice resonated for anyone labeled "different" or outside the mainstream.