

men of peace. These included Koffi Adjoi, Alvaro Costa, Baendegar Dessande, Amadou Moctar Gueye, Jason Hunter, Andrew McCurrah, and Ibikunle Williams.

Maitre Beye's relatives, friends and colleagues will commemorate the life and times of this great man and to honor the others who died that day by hosting a memorial service at the New York Headquarters of the United Nations—the institution he loved and in whose service he ultimately gave his life—on June 26, 2008. The program for Maitre Beye will not be a sad memorial, but a joyous celebration of the life of this great man of wisdom and humor, and a tribute to the peace he and his colleagues sought to bring to the world. We wish them our best in this honorable endeavor.

#### TRIBUTE TO HIGHLAND BULLDOGS

##### HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 17, 2008*

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to an outstanding group of young men from Highland, Illinois, who last week completed an amazing baseball season by winning the state championship.

The Highland Bulldogs defeated Crystal Lake Central in the semifinals, then knocked off Rock Falls 6–2 on Saturday, June 7, to clinch the Class 3A state title at Silver Cross Field in Joliet. It was the first baseball state title for Highland.

My congratulations go to Head Coach Joel Hawkins, Assistant Coaches Sam Weber, Jason Wiegand and Caleb Houchins, Trainer Jamie Wagner, and the members of the 2008 state champion Highland Bulldogs team: Gary Kharibian, Travis Becherer, Brandon Koisher, Randy Knebel, Chris Sudhoff, Luke Potthast, Ben Fieker, Sean Gagen, Gabe Fuehne, Corey Gall, Wes DeGroot, Josh Ammann, Andrew Kimmle, Jake Odorizzi, Justin Huelsmann, Dan Gifford, Brent Kuper and Luke Haberer.

These young men represented themselves, their families and their community in a first-class fashion, and I wish them all the best in their future endeavors, both on and off the field.

#### HONORING THE ROTARY CLUB OF MONROE FOR 90 YEARS OF SERVICE

##### HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 17, 2008*

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the Rotary Club of Monroe, which for 90 years has faithfully carried on the mission of Rotary International to "Serve Above Self."

First established in 1918, Monroe, LA's Rotary Club bears the distinction as one of our Nation's oldest Rotary clubs, founded only 13 years after the original club—the Rotary Club of Chicago—was established. To date, Rotary International includes approximately 31,000 clubs in more than 165 countries.

With a membership of approximately 240 men and women from a host of vocations, the Rotary Club of Monroe takes an active role in the community through many local civic and charitable organizations including the American Cancer Society, American Red Cross, Salvation Army, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, YMCA, Monroe Youth Baseball, the Food Bank of Northeast Louisiana, Camp Quality, and the Salvation Army Christmas Party which provides gifts to needy children.

The Rotary Club of Monroe also actively assists local high schools by sponsoring Interact Clubs at four Monroe schools and also sponsoring two high school students to attend Camp RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards). The Rotary Club of Monroe also assists attendees of Boys' and Girls' State and funds an endowed scholarship at the University of Louisiana at Monroe.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Rotary Club of Monroe, which will celebrate its 90th anniversary on June 26, 2008, for the countless ways the club has worked since 1918 to enrich the surrounding community and through each individual member's commitment to putting "Service Above Self."

#### JUNIOR GROUP PERFORMANCE TEAM FROM MOSHEIM MIDDLE SCHOOL FOR THEIR FIRST-PLACE PERFORMANCE IN TENNESSEE HISTORY DAY.

##### HON. DAVID DAVIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 17, 2008*

Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Junior Group Performance Team from Mosheim Middle School for their first-place performance in the Tennessee History Day competition. They will now move on to the national competition next week.

The Mosheim Middle School team, composed of students Brianna Morrow, Melissa Kinser and Brittany Loveall, took first place with their performance on the Salem Witch Trials.

To understand and present these topics in an articulate way is a noteworthy and outstanding accomplishment. The students have represented Mosheim Middle School and East Tennessee in an exceptional way.

With their first-place performance, the team will travel to the University of Maryland and compete against other students from across the country at the 2007–2008 National History Day competition.

It is a pleasure to see that these students are taking the initiative to represent their schools in the most upstanding way. Their dedication to knowledge, excellence and hard work is honorable and I congratulate them on their successes.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring Brianna Morrow, Melissa Kinser and Brittany Loveall and in wishing them the best of luck at next week's National History Day competition.

#### TRIBUTE TO GENE AND CAROLE VUKELIC ON THEIR 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

##### HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 17, 2008*

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. and Mrs. Gene and Carole Vukelic on their 50th wedding anniversary.

Gene and Carole have raised seven children, and their five sons, Paul, Jeff, Tim, Peter, and Matthew, all work for Try-It Distributing, the company Gene's father started in 1928 and a recipient of the Canisius College Center for Entrepreneurship Family Business of the Year.

A devoted Western New Yorker, Gene was raised in Lackawanna, New York and attended Canisius High School and LeMoyne College in Syracuse. The son of a Croatian immigrant, Gene learned the value of hard work and tenacity in the face of adversity from his father, Stephen. Stephen only went to school until the sixth grade and worked wherever he could, including at the Bethlehem Steel plant in Lackawanna. According to Gene, however, Stephen Vukelic was "an entrepreneur at heart". When he was 28 years old, Stephen opened the Try-It Bottling Works company in a small building with one truck, and started bottling soft drinks in Lackawanna. Today, Try-It Distributing Co., Inc. is a hugely successful beverage firm.

Gene has carried on his father's spirit of entrepreneurship and is now Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Try-It Distributing Company. His five sons work with him to develop the business their great grandfather started 80 years ago.

Madam Speaker, it is a great honor for me to recognize Gene and Carole Vukelic for their tenacity, passion, and dedication to the Western New York community. I would like to offer my sincere congratulations in celebration of their 50 golden years together, and extend my best wishes to the Vukelics and their family on their 50th wedding anniversary.

#### IN HONOR OF THE MINNESOTA ASSISTANCE COUNCIL FOR VETERANS

##### HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 17, 2008*

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, since its founding in 1992 with the financial assistance of a local VFW post, the Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans, MAC–V, has been serving Minnesota's veterans with pride and honor. Back then, it started by providing 4 homeless veterans with shelter and support. Today, it serves hundreds all across the state.

Too often, our brave heroes return from service to find the life they had left behind has left them behind in their absence. MAC–V helps our veterans pick up the pieces of their shattered lives in so many ways. In addition to providing shelter to veterans who return from service and find themselves in need of this basic need, MAC–V also helps veterans struggling with alcohol and drug addiction, provides important job training skills, and more.

Their annual Stand Down event, at which returning veterans have an opportunity to meet with veterans organizations that provide the full range of services, has become one of the most anticipated events in the veterans community.

MAC-V not only provides for the physical and mental needs of our veterans, but also forms a welcoming circle of support, friendship and camaraderie that these brave men and women need most of all. Partnering with local companies, organizations, and an army of volunteers, MAC-V has become an important part of the Minnesota veterans community and I thank them for their service to those who have served us so well.

A TRIBUTE TO MS. ELLEN GALE  
CATES

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 17, 2008*

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Ms. Ellen Gale Cates, an exemplary citizen.

Ms. Cates is the Assistant Program Director for the Wellness Center under the umbrella of the Bedford Stuyvesant Family Health Center, Inc. (BSFHC) in Brooklyn, New York. She has been a part of the Bedford Stuyvesant Family since 1994. The Wellness Center provides those who enter its doors with the tools, support and encouragement to better manage their health and wellness. The primary focus of the Wellness Center Team is to those who are diagnosed with HIV/AIDS.

Ms. Cates is also the coordinator of the Faith Based Initiatives Project for the Bedford Stuyvesant Wellness Center. This project provides assistance in coordinating informative programs on HIV/AIDS prevention, education, counseling and testing for emerging churches and communities of faith. This project focuses on the responsibility of the communities of faith and community based organizations collaborating on affecting changes. Several ministries have been reached and have started their own programs through this initiative. Ms. Cates and the Wellness Center have been able to continue this on-going project through their affiliation and support from the NYC National Black Leadership Commission on AIDS, INC.

Ms. Cates was appointed by Mayor Bloomberg as a member of the NYC Health and Human Service HIV/AIDS Council Committee, serving her 2-year term faithfully. Ms. Cates has served on several advisory boards, the longest being the South Brooklyn Legal Services Inc. She is an Active member of both the NYC DOHMH Office of Minority Health Borough of Brooklyn Ecumenical Advisory Group Faith Based HIV Task Force and the Faith-based High Blood Pressure Task-force.

Ms. Cates is a newly appointed member of Women of Faith Advocating Change (WFAC), chaired by Reverend Dr. Cheryl Anthony. WFAC is comprised of female clergy leaders, community service providers and elected officials representing Brooklyn neighborhoods. The mission is to address the disparities that adversely impact African American women and girls and find viable faith solutions through education, information and advocacy.

Ms. Cates has been a passionate yet a "quiet storm" in the fight against health disparities with a particular focus on HIV/AIDS in the urban community. Ms. Cates has determined that advocacy and leadership will be her path of alliance in this fight against HIV/AIDS in honor of those deserted hero's family members and friends who gave up their battle.

Prior to her coming into the non-profit sector, Ms. Cates worked as a telecommunications manager with Verizon for over 20 years. While transitioning from the corporate sector she worked with the NYC DOHMH as a Community Associate AIDS Hotline Counselor for more than 10 years. Ms. Cates holds a Bachelors Degree in Christian Education; and an Associates Degree from Pace University and an Associates Degree in Medical Assistance from the College of Staten Island. Ms. Cates serves at the St. Stephens United Church of God, as an Associate minister, under Bishop M.D. Williams, Overseer, in Brooklyn, New York.

A TRIBUTE TO THE 2008 ELLIS ISLAND MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS

**HON. DAN BURTON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 17, 2008*

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the 2008 recipients of the coveted Ellis Island Medal of Honor. Presented annually by the National Ethnic Coalition of Organizations (NECO)—a group representing more than 250 organizations that span the spectrum of ethnic heritages, cultures and religions—the Ellis Island Medal of Honor pays tribute to our Nation's immigrant heritage, as well as individual achievement. The medals are awarded to U.S. citizens from various ethnic backgrounds who exemplify outstanding qualities in both their personal and professional lives, while continuing to preserve the richness of their particular heritage. Since NECO's founding in 1986, more than 1,700 American citizens have received Ellis Island Medals of Honor, including 6 American Presidents, several United States Senators, Congressmen, Nobel Laureates, outstanding athletes, artists, clergy, and military leaders.

As we all know, citizens of the United States can trace their ancestry to many nations. The richness and diversity of American life makes us unique among the Nations of the world and is in many ways the key to why America is the most innovative country in the world. The Ellis Island Medals of Honor not only celebrate select individuals but also the pluralism and democracy that enabled our ancestors to celebrate their cultural identities while still embracing the American way of life. This medal is not about money, but about people who really seized the opportunities this great country has to offer and who used those opportunities to not only better their own lives but make a difference in the lives of those around them. By honoring these outstanding individuals, we honor all who share their origins and we acknowledge the contributions they and other groups have made to America. I commend NECO and its Board of Directors headed by my good friend, Nasser J. Kazeminy, for honoring these truly outstanding individuals for

their tireless efforts to foster dialogue and build bridges between different ethnic groups, as well as promote unity and a sense of common purpose in our Nation. Madam Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in recognizing the good works of NECO, and congratulating all of the 2008 recipients of the Ellis Island Medals of Honor. I also ask unanimous consent that the names of this year's recipients be placed into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD following my statement.

LTC Madelfia A. Abb; Noubar B. Afeyan, PhD; Charles R. Ajalat, Esq.; Robert A. Altenkirch; Hon. Goli Ameri; Roger E. Ashley; Ahoud Avshalomov; Anthony P. Basile; Vasile Beluska; Daniel O. Bernstine; William Boesch; John William Butler, Jr.; LT Jack J. Cambria; Hon. Ben Nighthorse Campbell; Dr. Brian Carty, FSC; Dr. Samir Narayan Chaudhuri; Col. Dik Cheung, MD; Dr. Karlene ChinQuee; Annette Choolfaian; Abba A. Creasey, PhD; Hon. Joseph Crowley; Edward Deeb; Arthur A. Dugoni, DDS, MSD; Christopher Erikson; Richard Farkas; Peter B. Fodor, MD, FACS; Valentin Fuster, MD, PhD; Robert L. Ganley; Hon. George A. Grasso; Hon. Joseph R. Guccione; Noosheen A. Hashemi; Stephan S. Huh; Hon. Dora L. Irizarry; E. Neville Isdell; Chief Anthony J. Izzo; Dr. Stuart W. Jamieson; Trevor O. Jones; Patrick J. Kelly, MD, FACS; James W. Keyes; Laya Khadjavi; Darioush Khaledi; Parisa Khosravi; Daewon Khym; Peter J. Kight; Wilson Ko, MD; MG Anthony R. Kropp; Pamela H. Kwatra; William Landberg; Fred Horst Langhammer; Anthony J. Lariccia; Young Bin Lee, MD; BGen. Paul E. Lefebvre; Robert H. Lessin; Demetrios G. Logothetis; Col. Eugene V. Lombardo; F. Joseph Loughrey; Xindi Lu; Terry J. Lundgren; Franklin R. Manios; Matthew J. McCoy; General Duncan J. McNabb; Maria Mehranian; Leo Melamed; Lewis C. Merletti; Bernd (Ben) Messing; Benjamin Mevorach; Avid Modjtabei; Jacqueline Murekatete; Mary Najarian; Vartkes Najarian, MD, FACS; Jacques Nasser; Long V. Nguyen, PhD; Franco Nuschese; CAPT. Robert R. O'Brien, Jr.; Ronald J. Onesti; Maria Otero; Randy Y. Owen; Mehmet C. Oz, MD, FACS; Laurice Y. Parkins; Richard P. Parrillo; Mukesh (Mike) Patel; Bhupendra R. Patel, MD; Gloria Perez; Hon. August B. Pust, PhD; Robin D. Rapaport; Lt. Cdr. Tamsen A. Reese; Michael P. Ricatto; Daniel M. Rooney; Thomas P. Rosandich, PhD; Harut M. Sassounian; Dhiraj H. Shah, MD; Jerome Shaw; Hon. Paull H. Shin; Sampat S. Shivangi, MD; Gary A. Sinise; Theodore M. Solso; Dr. Theodore J. Strange; Hon. Evelyn Lundberg Stratton; Haldun Tashman; Gerald N. Tirozzi, PhD; Stephen J. Trachtenberg; Nadadur Vardhan; Victor S. Wahby, MD; Aldona Z. Wos, MD; Chun To (Tony) Yeung; Louis S. Zamperini.

COLONEL JOHN D. DROLET

**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 17, 2008*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with great sincerity that I take this opportunity to honor Colonel John D. Drolet. An Army Corps of Engineers officer since 1983, Colonel Drolet has spent the past two years as the District Commander for the United States Army Corps