

of the Panhandle, provides 6 weeks of education for over 50 children with autism and provide instructional workshops for local special education teachers. Daily activities at the camp include arts and crafts, swimming, canoeing, and other therapeutic activities. The camp is intended to provide a normal summer vacation for those afflicted with autism.

The Point of Light Award recognizes a Florida resident who demonstrates exceptional service to the community. Recipients are announced each week and prior to their selection are reviewed by a panel of judges that are considered leaders in the areas of volunteerism and service. Volunteers play a vital role in the extension of education. Ms. Burns has exceeded the expected duties of a volunteer and her recognition as Santa Rosa County, Florida's Point of Light is evidence of her immense philanthropy. Ms. Burns' dedication and devotion to autistic children benefits the entire community and her outstanding accomplishments have distinguished her as one of the great people in Northwest Florida. Santa Rosa County is greatly indebted to her service and is honored to have her as one of their own.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to recognize Judy Newbill Burns on this outstanding achievement.

HONORING THE KOSHARE INDIAN DANCERS

HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2008

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Koshare Indian Dancers, who are celebrating 75 years of history and culture.

The Koshare Indian Dancers offered refuge, hope, and a spirit of camaraderie to boys during Depression-era America. In 1933, a group of young boys from southeastern Colorado decided to study the heritage of their area. They formed an archaeology and Indian club where they could study the history, culture and artifacts of the lower Arkansas Valley. Soon, with the help of their young Scout master, J.F. "Buck" Burshears, they were meeting with elders representing both the Plains Indians and many different Pueblos across New Mexico and Arizona. The elders embraced the youthful enthusiasm of these boys, teaching them dances, songs, and many different aspects of the ways of their ancestors. Buck dubbed the new club Koshares, the Hopi word for "clown" or "fun maker," and the Koshare Indian Dancers have been going strong ever since.

"The club grew beyond anything we ever thought it would be," said Dr. William Sisson. He and his friend Robert Inman held the first meeting of the Koshare Club. Soon it was an organization of hundreds of boys, who continued to pass on their knowledge from generation to generation. An important part of what they passed on was love for, and protection of, the land, living honestly and with integrity, and learning how to be a leader who embraces community service. That sense of service grew from a community focus to a nation-

wide focus, as hundreds of Koshares served in every war in which the United States has fought since World War II.

"Doing those dances was demanding and required hard work," said one of the original organizers, Jimmy Taylor. "The dances were important to learn, but it was more important what you took with you throughout your life from the experience. It gave young boys an outlet for their energy, gave them a sense of accomplishment, and it trained their minds to analyze and complete a project." Mr. Taylor went on to West Point and served his country during World War II with honors.

The loss of Koshares during World War II spurred their vast collection of art and artifacts. In memory of their fallen comrades, they originally bought three paintings. By continuing to gather pieces over the years, the Koshares amassed one of the most extensive collections of southwestern art and artifacts in the West.

Service remains a large part of the meaning of the organization. The Koshares continue to foster leadership skills and to provide an environment for young people to learn about the heritage of Southeastern Colorado. They also persist in sharing that heritage with others through their museum and performances. Boys, and now girls, benefit from the program, and the Arkansas Valley is richer because of the history and culture provided by the Koshare Indian Dancers. It is my distinct honor to recognize the Koshares and to wish them continued success.

COMPTROLLER RECOGNIZES THE SIGNIFICANCE OF RELATIONSHIP WITH THE CARIBBEAN DURING CARICOM CONFERENCE IN NEW YORK

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to bring your attention to remarks made by New York City Comptroller William C. Thompson, Jr. during the CARICOM Conference luncheon at the Brooklyn Marriott Hotel on Thursday the 19th of June.

Bill spoke first and foremost to the uniqueness of the New York Caribbean relationship. He mentioned, "While Caribbean Americans made up only 5 percent of the United States' foreign-born population in the 2000 Census, over one in five foreign-born residents of New York City came from the Caribbean. He also recognized the tremendous economic potential that the New York Caribbean population has; "Caribbean Americans are creating jobs and stimulating the economy with businesses across the city . . . [and] helping to insulate us from the cyclical highs and lows in our finance and real estate sectors."

Most importantly, Mr. Thompson spoke of the increasingly influential role that emerging markets are having on the world economy. "Since 2002, emerging markets have outperformed many developed markets" and "It is estimated that forty-five percent of the aggregate Gross Domestic Product in the world comes from emerging markets today." He

made it clear that he will be considering the Caribbean as, a place to invest funds under his control as New York City Comptroller.

The CARICOM Conference was crucial to address key issues of enterprise in the Caribbean but also to recognize the substantial economic influence of Caribbean nations as well as their enormous potential for growth.

TRIBUTE TO CASSIE KEITT WEEKS

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2008

Mr. CLYBURN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a wonderful constituent on the occasion of her 100th birthday. Mrs. Cassie Keitt Weeks of Fort Motte, South Carolina will become a centenarian on August 5, 2008. This is a remarkable milestone that few of us are ever able to achieve.

Cassie Keitt is the daughter of the late Hattie Young and Elijah "Bub" Keitt of Fort Motte. She was married to the late Jesse Weeks, Sr.

Mrs. Weeks can trace her ancestry to slaves on the Lang Syne Plantation and the Goshen Plantations in Fort Motte. Both Mrs. Weeks and her husband were employed by the Peterkin family at the Lang Syne Plantation until their retirement.

The church is a central part of Mrs. Weeks' life. Her great-grandfather is on the original deed as an organizer of Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church in Fort Motte. It was the first church organized by former slaves in the community, and Mrs. Weeks attends that church today. She is among the church's staunchest supporters and serves in a number of capacities. She is a Church Mother, a member of the Senior Choir and Sunday school class, and serves as a pastor's aide. She is an avid fundraiser, a homecoming and friends and family day captain, and a member of the building and kitchen committees. She also serves as the church historian. When asked about the secret to her longevity, Mrs. Weeks replies, "trusting in the Lord." She also adds, "I like it on this side. This is all I know, so I will stay as long as I can."

Among her other pleasures when she was able were making Lye soap and quilting bees. The Weeks home was always the gathering place for friends and family. Today she still enjoys sitting on the porch and entertaining visitors. She is also a very avid voter, and never misses the opportunity to cast her ballot.

Mrs. Weeks family provides her tremendous strength and joy. She is the mother of four children: daughters Rebecca Weeks Brown and Hattie Belle Weeks Scott and sons Jesse Weeks, Jr. (deceased) and Julius Weeks.

She is the grandmother of eight; great grandmother of eighteen; and the great, great grandmother of three. In addition she has a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and many, many friends.

Madam Speaker, I invite you and my colleagues to join me today in wishing a happy 100th birthday to Cassie Keitt Weeks. This strong matriarch remains independent and active, and serves as an example to us all. I wish her health, happiness and Godspeed on this momentous occasion!