

And if it should be that this Congress is allowed to convene on yet another day to come, may that be the day when we finally hear the cries of innocent unborn children. May that be the day when we find the humanity, the courage, and the will to embrace together our human and our constitutional duty to protect these, the least of our tiny, little American brothers and sisters from this murderous scourge upon our Nation called abortion on demand.

It is August 1, 2008, 12,975 days since Roe versus Wade first stained the foundation of this Nation with the blood of its own children; this in the land of the free and the home of the brave.

HONORING BOB O'CONNELL

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2008

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, today, I would like to recognize the legacy contributions of a great father, grandfather, athlete, teacher, and coach Mr. Bob O'Connell of Toledo, Ohio. Recently, Bob was acknowledged by a wonderful story published in the Toledo Blade tracing his many accomplishments. Our entire community applauds him for his life's achievements, and thanks him.

Bob has taught and mentored thousands and thousands of young athletes across our community in his chosen sport of tennis. For 21 years, he coached students at Rogers and Ottawa Hills High Schools during the regular school year and summer. Truly, he has been a teacher's teacher and a coaches' coach and has been recognized in the Ohio High School Tennis Coaches Hall of Fame. Bob also taught history and worked to develop his students as well-rounded persons who are both academically and physically fit. I can personally attest to his skill and patience having been one of his many students so many years ago. Bob taught not just the skills of tennis and endurance, but also what it meant to be a good sport. He held his racket with distinction, kept focus, and airily breezed across the court with an ease that demonstrated this indeed was his sport.

Bob raised another generation of O'Connell's who follow in his footsteps, his son Kevin, Sr., was the No. 1 singles player for 3 years at St. Francis and earned a scholarship to college as a result. Now his children, Kevin Jr. achieved rank as an All-City League first team player all 4 years as a high school and Kelly O'Connell was the No. 1 singles player at St. Ursula for 3 years.

It is hard to place an adequate value on a man who has played such a significant father-figure role not just to his family but to our community, using his teaching and coaching abilities to rear the next generation. I feel personally honored to have been coached by Bob O'Connell and recognize his extraordinary accomplishments as an American who gave so much of himself, so quietly and effectively, to the next generation. He is the kind of man that deserves admiration for he exemplifies what it means to be a man for others. May he and his family enjoy many years together and may he and they know how truly our community expresses its gratitude to him. Onward.

RECOGNIZING EVONIK DEGUSSA INDUSTRIES IN MOBILE, ALABAMA ON 35 YEARS OF SERVICE IN ALABAMA

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2008

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor Evonik Degussa Industries located in Mobile, Alabama, on 35 years of business and service to our community.

Founded as Degussa, the 160 acre site in Mobile was established 35 years ago. Last year, the German chemical company was purchased by Evonik Industries AG and is now operating as Evonik Degussa Industries. With 44,000 employees in over 100 countries around the world, Evonik Industries is the global market leader in specialty chemicals and presently maintains several locations in the United States, Canada and Mexico.

The Mobile plant manufactures a range of products from hydrogen peroxide to a binding agent used in more than 250 products ranging from ketchup to paint. The \$1.2 billion complex is the company's largest facility outside of Europe with approximately 700 employees. The Mobile plant has announced several new projects just in the last year. In October, Evonik Degussa announced it is adding a new biodiesel project, which will add production of a specialty chemical used to make alternative fuels. Once fully operational, the new plant will have the annual capacity to produce 60,000 metric tons of alkoxydes, a catalyst for biodiesel production.

Evonik Degussa is also adding a \$10 million expansion which will allow for the production of ROHACELL, which is high-tech foam used in a wide-range of products including airplane wings and skis. Earlier this year, Evonik Degussa announced it is considering a \$65 million expansion to make a chemical for chicken feed.

Evonik Degussa not only creates essentials for everyday use, but the employees and the management team strive to make a positive impact on the citizens of Mobile County through heavy community involvement. The company supports numerous local causes through its "Essential to the Community" donation program and gives more than \$100,000 each year to the arts, schools, and charitable organizations. In 2006, the Mobile plant donated \$115,000 to community activities. These contributions included \$55,000 to Mobile civic organizations, \$40,000 to educational activities, \$10,500 to the arts, and \$1,700 to environmental groups.

It is evident Evonik Degussa is passionate about serving the Mobile community, and this dedication deserves recognition. Evonik Degussa exemplifies the spirit of volunteerism and serves as an outstanding corporate citizen of Alabama. Furthermore, their dedication to improving the lives of their fellow citizens sets them apart from many other companies. Evonik Degussa remains a strong supporter of our community and is a wonderful corporate role model.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating both the employees and management team at Evonik Degussa Industries for 35 years of operations in the Mobile area. I know the employees, their friends, fam-

ilies, and members of the community join with me in praising Evonik Degussa Industries for their many accomplishments. I extend my thanks for their continued service to the Mobile, Alabama business community, the First Congressional District, and the state of Alabama.

60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL

HON. RICK LARSEN

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2008

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the nation of Israel and her people on the recent 60th Anniversary of the founding of the state of Israel. The United States stood with Israel in 1948 as it took the first steps forward as a new nation and we proudly stand with her today.

The United States and Israel are bound together by a shared history and shared values. We share thriving, plurastic democracies that allow for—and encourage—open political discourse and opposition. Both countries are governed by the rule of law and share fundamental freedoms such as the freedom of speech and religion. And our economies share an entrepreneurial spirit which gives those from all walks of life the opportunity to succeed.

The United States has no better ally and friend in the Middle East than Israel. Both peoples strive to live in peace and protect our communities from those who would do us harm. The United States stands with Israel against any threats to the security and existence of your country, and we stand with you as you strive to secure a peaceful and lasting relationship with your neighbors.

Madam Speaker, as we join with Israel to celebrate 60 years as an independent and free state, now is the time for the United States to reaffirm our support for our ally and friend. Thank you.

TRIBUTE TO AUGUSTINE OLIVENCIA

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2008

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the many personal and professional accomplishments of Augustine Olivencia. Mr. Olivencia, known by one and all as "Chito," is a true leader for all western New Yorkers.

Professionally, Chito has served for many years as Superintendent of Ellicott Creek Park in the town of Tonawanda, and his service in that role has been exemplary. But Chito has truly made his mark as a dedicated activist within his beloved Hispanic community. In fact, for public officials living throughout western New York, many conversations with Chito both begin and end with a playful but serious reminder that the Hispanic community remains a growing constituency in western New York, and that collectively the community remains a force with which to be reckoned.

Chito serves as Chairman of the Board at the Augustine "Pucho" Olivencia Community Center in Buffalo. Named for Chito's late father, the Olivencia Center works to provide the community with educational and recreational services and preserve the culture of this proud community. Every year, Chito chairs the Community Center's Annual Greased Pole Festival, a weekend of events. In addition, each January Chito hosts the annual Three Kings Day celebration to educate and entertain children from the throughout the community and beyond.

In addition, Chito serves as President of Nosotros, the largest Hispanic political organization in western New York, which owns the Fiesta Latina show that airs in the evenings on WHLD-AM. Chito has also volunteered his time to the renowned Sts. Columba-Brigid Roman Catholic Church by hosting masses for a year after a fire destroyed the Church in 2006.

Chito's desire to learn about other cultures is vast. In June 2004, Chito was the local Project Interchange Designee by the American Jewish Committee Buffalo-Niagara Chapter. In that capacity, Chito traveled to Israel as part of the cultural exchange program. During the trip, he met with civic and political leaders in Israel, briefing members of the local AJC chapter upon his return.

Lastly, I cannot end this speech without a few words about Chito's long career in Democratic politics. Chito has been a Democratic Committeeman in Erie County for longer than many current committee members have been alive, and his allegiance to the Democratic Party is legendary. From elections to the Buffalo School Board to Congress and the White House, Chito's commitment to the political process and to enhancing suffrage throughout the Hispanic community has been remarkable.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in honoring Chito Olivencia for all that he has done for the western New York community, and join me in celebrating his retirement from active service in Erie County government.

HONORING SAND CREEK
TELEPHONE COMPANY

HON. TIMOTHY WALBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2008

Mr. WALBERG. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Sand Creek Telephone Company of Adrian, Michigan on the celebration of its one hundredth anniversary. Despite its small start, this company has flourished and remains an independent telephone service provider faithfully serving the people of south central Michigan.

In 1908, the Sand Creek Telephone Company began doing business with one switchboard and operator in the back of the Tuttle family's grocery store. Started by local farmers and business owners, the telephone company was created to serve the rural areas south of the city of Adrian. The original stockholders needed telephone service to check the weather, market prices, train schedules, and to order or sell goods. Purchased in 1912, its first telephones were old-fashioned, rectangular, wall-mounted wooden box telephones with a side crank and a Bakelite receiver. These telephones were used up until 1957 when the company upgraded to an automatic dial system.

In 1912, the Sand Creek Telephone Company moved from the Tuttle grocery store to a house on a property called Lot Six, which provided a central location within the town. From here, the company continued to experience enormous growth. By 1928, 270 households were serviced by Sand Creek Telephone Company and its lines connected to areas as far away as Lyons, Ohio. The massive web of wires that draped above the town were evidence of the rapid expansion of the company during this time. As Sand Creek Telephone Company changed hands over the years, the Board of Directors continued to hire families to run the company. Many times the husband did the maintenance and business work while the wife ran the switchboard. Children of the operating family also helped out when needed.

With technological advances came changes for the Sand Creek Telephone Company. In 1957, the company upgraded its system to Automatic Dial Operation. Customers received a letter detailing how calling procedures would change. New equipment from Stromberg-Carlson was purchased to support the new direct dial technology. The old wooden telephones were collected and replaced with updated ones. Switchboard operators were no longer needed; however, business was still conducted at the Lot Six location until 1995.

The last twenty years brought more change for Sand Creek Telephone Company than throughout the previous eighty years. The company has prevailed in the struggle to keep up with ever-advancing technology. By 1990, it was able to provide cellular phone service to customers and in 1995 the company installed its first fiber-optic cable and was officially ready for the Internet age. By this time, the company had over nine hundred subscribers. In 1996, the company became Sand Creek Communications Company and expanded to its current location on the southeast corner of West Gorman Road and Sand Creek Highway.

Sand Creek Telephone Company, a valued communications provider, has long been a source of pride in the Adrian community. In the old days, customers often stopped in to

pay their bills in person and catch up on town news or gossip. One couple even decided to get married while they were sitting on the wooden plank in the front office. Although the company has changed with technological advances, it continues to be a part of the community that gave it a start, never forgetting its original purpose—connecting neighbor with neighbor.

Madam Speaker, today I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Sand Creek Telephone Company for its one hundred years of service to the rural areas of south central Michigan. From one hundred subscribers in the beginning to over eleven hundred today, Sand Creek Telephone Company remains a treasured small-town success. May others know of my high regard for its esteemed service, as well as my best wishes for the future.

HONORING A GENUINE HEROINE,
IRENA SENDLER, WHO RISKED
HER LIFE FOR THOUSANDS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today because every so often, an everyday person of not-so-everyday valor risks personal injury and livelihood—to little fanfare—for the good of humanity. Today, we provide that deserved fanfare to one of those unsung heroes, Irena Sender, a woman of such rock-steady courage that she fearlessly saved lives in the face of Nazi opposition. The protection of even one life is immeasurably valuable, but Ms. Sender rescued over 2,500 of them, mostly Jewish children languishing in Poland's Warsaw ghetto during the Holocaust. Ms. Sender died this past May at 98, but that giving spirit remains a shining exemplar of what humanity can accomplish, of what we all aspire to emulate.

Such selflessness is not easy. She was arrested, tortured, and sentenced to death by the Gestapo for her heroic acts, ferrying children from run-down ghettos that had left them vulnerable to disease, execution, and deportation to concentration camps. She escaped from prison and continued to do her good—and remarkably dangerous—works. These are the glowing stories that, buried in the overwhelmingly horrific and dark period in history that was the Holocaust, remind us that although there can be unspeakable evil, we are always capable of combating it with good.

Her death is a loss of a compassionate and awe-inspiring human being for this world, but her story is immortal. May it continue to warm our hearts and edify our lives.