outstanding achievement and an unparalleled honor in the choral music community.

Madam Speaker, it is my great pleasure to honor VocalEssence, and to celebrate the 40 years it has enriched the culture of the Twin Cities.

IN RECOGNITION OF FRANK W. BUCKLES

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2008

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Frank W. Buckles. Mr. Buckles, at the age of 107, is the last known remaining veteran of World War I.

Having joined the Army at the age of 16, Mr. Buckles fought bravely for his Nation in World War I. During the Second World War, as a civilian he was imprisoned by the Japanese and spent 39 months in captivity.

The freedoms we enjoy today and the prosperity our nation has enjoyed throughout its history are due in large part to the sacrifice and courage of men and women like Mr. Buckles. As the son of a World War II veteran and a former member of the National Guard and Reserve myself, I know firsthand and am grateful for the tremendous legacy of patriotism shared by our military. I am the proud to be the father of four sons who serve in our nation's military, including two sons who served in Iraq.

In honor of his sacrifice and dedication to his country, Frank Buckles was recognized by President George W. Bush earlier this year during a ceremony honoring World War I veterans. On September 24th, the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Southern Jurisdiction honored Mr. Buckles by bestowing upon him the Scottish Rite honor and rank of Knight Commander of the Court of Honour. As a fellow mason, I am proud of the tradition of brotherhood and dedication to freedom that masons embody.

I congratulate and thank Frank Buckles for his service to our Nation.

TRIBUTE TO THE TEXAS AIR NATIONAL GUARD 147TH RECONNAISSANCE WING

HON. NICK LAMPSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2008

Mr. LAMPSON. Madam Speaker, I am privileged to recognize the men and women of the Texas Air National Guard 147th Reconnaissance Wing of Houston, Texas for their outstanding service to the community in helping 5,943 constituents in the aftermath of Hurricane Ike.

Forty-two members of the Texas Air National Guard 147th Reconnaissance Wing were tasked with providing support for the congressional mobile office in a variety of ways; including traffic control, translation assistance, security, technical support, parking and bus operations. Commander Col. McNeely and Vice Commander Col. Horn provided excellent leadership in the recovery efforts along with Lt. Col. Cooper, Lt. Col. Allinson, and Lt. Col. Garner.

In addition to supporting the operation and function of the congressional mobile office, these service members immediately transitioned into supporting units for the FEMA Disaster Recovery Center at Ellington Field where they have continued to serve thousands of individuals.

It is my distinct honor to recognize the remarkable efforts of the Texas Air National Guard 147th Reconnaissance Wing for their outstanding service to their community and country. Southeast Texas is grateful for the efforts and leadership provided by the commanders, senior enlisted leaders, and guard members, and I am proud of their noble service to the victims of Hurricane Ike.

The following members of the 147th Reconnaissance Wing joined in the recovery efforts: SMSgt Glenn Boutte, SMSgt Richard Williamson, MSgt Mali Cornitius, MSgt Howard Williams, MSgt Rodolfo Robles, MSgt Patrick Hurley, TSgt Andres Cabrera, TSgt Leanne Bates, TSgt Terry Matheson, TSgt Joel Agtang, TSgt Burdette Deyo, TSgt Lex Paxton, TSgt Hugo Torres, TSgt Nathan Kelley, TSgt Sonya Bond, SSgt Klaus Riel, SSgt Nakeia Mitchell, SSgt Stacie Sandoval, SSgt Kevin White, SSgt Lindsey-Lumpkin, SSgt Erin Calhoun, SSgt Kevin Dupree, SSgt Marshall Nettles, SSgt Vanessa Chase, SSgt Carlton Newkirk, SSgt Efren Almario, SrA Carlos Suazo, SrA Jana Phillips, SrA Tameka McCray, SrA James Kyaw, SrA Juan Rosales, SrA Winnett Knox, SrA Clifton Smith, SrA Jessica Mosley, SrA Justin Gaskill, SrA Francisco Mendez, A1C David Hartmann, A1C Isaac Saldivar, A1C Bronson Woods, A1C Shuan Guthrie and A1C Michael Tran.

CONGRATULATING LOVING CHOICES PREGNANCY CENTERS OF NORTHWEST ARKANSAS

HON. JOHN BOOZMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2008

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam Speaker, I would like to congratulate Loving Choices Pregnancy Centers of Northwest Arkansas. The centers provide critical services for women who are faced with life changing decisions.

Employees in the Rogers and Fayetteville centers have a difficult task counseling and educating one thousand women annually on the choices they have. Their job is made easier with the help of 30 volunteers who collectively spend more than one thousand hours serving the needs of women in a reproductive health crisis. Offering a listening ear, helping expectant mothers prepare for their baby and using their sewing skills are just a handful of services volunteers provide.

In recognition of their efforts, Loving Choices Pregnancy Centers of Northwest Arkansas received the 'President's Volunteer Services Award.' This honor is given to Americans who demonstrate their commitment to volunteerism and inspire others to do follow their example.

I am thankful Northwest Arkansas residents are so willing to help their neighbors in need and share their time and resources to benefit the greater good of the community. Volunteers are a critical component of ensuring the continued success of Loving Choices Pregnancy Centers of Northwest Arkansas.

TRIBUTE TO RAYL ROBBINS

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2008

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Rayl Robbins of Huxley, Iowa for his service at the Wesley Community Hospice.

Rayl is the hospice chaplain at Wesley Community Hospice, where he is able to incorporate his love for music at work. A self-taught musician, he sometimes plays on his guitar and sings hymns to some of the clients. He hopes to help others find peace in the midst of the chaos in their lives. Rayl's commitment to his job and his clients has earned him admiration, trust and friendship from the staff and from those residing in the hospice. Great service goes a long way, and I am honored to see fellow Iowans like Rayl providing service second to none.

I know that my colleagues in the United States Congress join me in commending Rayl Robbins for his service at Wesley Community Hospice. I consider it an honor to represent him Congress, and I wish him the best.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. URSULA VILLERE

HON. STEVE SCALISE

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2008

Mr. SCALISE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mrs. Ursula Villere who will be 90 years old on November 30, 2008. She was born and raised in New Orleans, Louisiana, and has lived in Metairie, Louisiana, since 1955. Mrs. Villere had seven children: five boys and two girls. Six out of the seven still live in Louisiana and one daughter moved to Texas after Hurricane Katrina. She also has 14 grandchildren: 12 boys and two girls; and six great-grandchildren: two boys and four girls. Mrs. Villere graduated from Dominican High School and Dominican College with a B.S. in education. Mrs. Villere taught school both in New Orleans and Jefferson Parish. She retired from Jefferson Parish School System in 1980. She is still an active member of KKI Sorority, Lakeshore Golden Age Club at Lakeshore playground, and is a parishioner of St. Angela Merci Church.

IN HONOR OF REPRESENTATIVE JOSEPH E. MIRO AND JOANNE MIRO

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2008

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize Delaware State Representative Joseph E. Miro and his wife, Joanne. On October 17, the