

permanent homes to children without such a blessing. Multiple States, neighborhoods, and agencies across the United States hold events during this month to encourage families to give children the gift of family through adoption.

There are many types of adoption. In 2007, approximately 51,000 children were adopted from the U.S. foster care system and 20,000 children were adopted internationally. Tens of thousands of children also are adopted within the United States each year. I recognize the joy and love that each of these families offers its adoptive children. I know that Raschke family from Oak Park, IL, exemplifies the happiness and rewards of being an adoptive family. Joe and Cathleen Raschke welcomed Nicholas Dan Raschke to their family in August 2006. Nicholas was adopted from the Vinh Long Orphanage in Vinh Long, Vietnam. As a young Chicagoan, Nicholas loves the Cubs, cold weather, and good food.

We have done great work here in Congress to promote adoption. We recently passed Public Law 110-351, the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008. This new law is designed to help place children in permanent, caring families through reunification, adoption, and guardianship. In addition to reauthorizing the Adoption and Safe Families Act, the new law supports subsidized guardianship, a policy approach that provides Federal support to kinship caregivers who provide their young relatives permanent, loving homes. I am pleased that we are taking steps to improve the lives of America's youth that are filled with desperate need.

So, during the 2008 National Adoption Month, I tip my hat to those who have opened their families via adoption, providing the care and love needed to grow our youngest citizens into tomorrow's leaders.

TRIBUTE TO TAUBMAN MUSEUM
OF ART

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Mr. GOODLATTE. Madam Speaker, the Art Museum of Western Virginia has been transformed. Formerly located in Center in the Square in Roanoke, Virginia, the museum has undergone a multimillion dollar makeover under the guidance of renowned architect Randall Stout and has been reborn as the Taubman Museum of Art.

Created in 1951 as the Roanoke Fine Arts Center, and then fully accredited for the first time in 1977, it became the Roanoke Museum of Fine Arts in 1980. Following its relocation from South Roanoke to the downtown multicultural structure called Center in the Square, it became the Art Museum of Western Virginia in 1992, testament to the regional nature of its mission. But change beckoned the museum as it sat on the cusp of the 21st century, due both to outgrowing its space and an expansion in its collection.

A vision developed for the new Art Museum of Western Virginia. Museum officials and community supporters determined that instead of renovating an existing structure in downtown Roanoke for the new facility, a state-of-the-art structure was in order. That vision was

developed not only to help bring attention to the museum itself but to help speak to the region's steady movement toward becoming a player in our technology-driven economy.

Thanks to the city of Roanoke, an undeveloped site near one of the city's busiest intersections was donated to house the museum, and the city contributed \$4 million for the project. Once Randall Stout was hired to develop an image of the museum at that site, it became clear that his growing stature in architectural circles would result in the transformative structure that many had hoped for. The plan was to help put Roanoke on the map with a building that would attract visitors not only from around the Commonwealth of Virginia and the United States but from around the world. On September 10, I was honored to be a participant in breaking ground for the new museum.

After just over 3 years of construction, Roanoke's new art museum opened to the public on Saturday, November 8. And I was fortunate to again be present to help cut the ribbon on a building that is difficult to put into words. But once you see the Taubman Museum of Art, you learn to understand that Randall Stout captured the mountains, valleys, rivers, and seasons in rock, steel, and glass.

The new museum in Roanoke is named for Nick and Jenny Taubman, a family name well known to Roanokers. Nick is the former leader of Advance Auto Parts and presently serves as the United States Ambassador to Romania. His wife, Jenny, chaired the museum's capital campaign. And their pledge of \$15.25 million was the largest donation received toward the museum. The facility also benefits greatly from the Horace G. Fralin Charitable Trust, which has contributed financially and formatively. Under the leadership of Heywood Fralin, the Fralin Trust has contributed works by American artists that now make the Taubman Museum a home for some of the greatest our Nation has known—Winslow Homer, Norman Rockwell, and John Singer Sargent to name just a few.

Under the able direction of Georgeanne Bingham, the Taubman Museum is not only a structure housing works of art, it is becoming a true destination. The museum also houses Art Venture, geared toward bringing men, women and children together in a gallery that will permit hands-on opportunities to create their own art. A special new media gallery is courtesy of the great leaders and minds at Virginia Tech, a longtime supporter of the new museum and an integral part of the institution's plans for educational outreach in the arts. The museum even features Hokie Stone, once specific only to the buildings on Tech's campus in Blacksburg.

While breaking ground for the Taubman Museum, I said that it was a key to the new frontiers that must be crossed in the Roanoke Valley region of Virginia in order to keep it competitive in the 21st century. Now that the structure is complete, I remain convinced that the facility is the latest successful effort that is opening eyes to the vast array of possibilities that are within our reach in western Virginia. I agree with my friend Heywood Fralin that the museum is without a doubt, the most significant new structure in Virginia.

I extend congratulations to Georgeanne Bingham, Nick and Jenny Taubman, Heywood Fralin, Randall Stout, and countless others who toiled for the past 3 years to help the

Taubman Museum rise to the cusp of opening. The expectations were great, but I am sure that everyone who sets foot in the museum will be deeply impressed by what it has to offer to a broad range of art enthusiasts.

The collections inside will speak well. Visitors will get to see old favorites, develop an appreciation for new acquisitions, and experience art in a technologically advanced way. And the building itself—the structure as seen from the exterior and what envelops inside—carries with it special significance. It has automatically become a landmark—and in a setting in downtown Roanoke, it is good company. When given the opportunity to move from ground level and into the museum's interior and then move around it's exterior, one understands that it is surrounded by the landmarks that speak both to the region's past and point the way to its future—from the ancient Blue Ridge and Alleghany Mountains and valleys, to the star atop Mill Mountain, to the railroad tracks that first brought commerce to the region, to the historic buildings that served in previous centuries and have now been reborn for modern times. The Taubman Museum will join so many other efforts leading the way for the region, its citizens, and visitors through the frontiers yet to come.

I am delighted that the Taubman Museum has been erected in the Sixth District of Virginia. I encourage our Nation to embrace the structure and its contents and to come to Roanoke to enjoy this grand cultural attraction for many, many years to come.

HONORING JACKSON ROSS HOBBS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jackson Ross Hobbs of Lee's Summit, Missouri. Jackson is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1042, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Jackson has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Jackson has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Jackson Ross Hobbs for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

TRIBUTE TO MR. GARY L. CRAMER

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Mr. UPTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Gary L. Cramer of Kalamazoo, Michigan for his years of outstanding service to Kalamazoo Charter Township and the State of Michigan.

Gary began his work as a public official in 1980, when he was elected to serve as Kalamazoo Township trustee. Over the next 16