

RACHEL OLSSON

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 4, 2009

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Rachel Olsson who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Rachel Olsson is an 8th grader at Faith Christian Academy and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Rachel Olsson is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Rachel Olsson for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication she has shown in her academic career to her future accomplishments.

A TRIBUTE TO JUSTICE SANDRA DAY O'CONNOR

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 4, 2009

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, on the occasion of her recognition as a "Person of the Century" by the Rotary Club of Los Angeles in celebration of their Centennial year.

In a year where we witnessed the first African-American assume the Office of the President of the United States, it is especially appropriate to honor a woman who shattered the marble ceiling of the United States Supreme Court some 28 years ago and served as an important role model for so many in this Nation.

Born in El Paso, Texas in 1930, Sandra Day O'Connor spent several of her early years growing up on her family's ranch in Arizona. Later, in 1950, she graduated from Stanford University with a bachelor's degree in economics, followed by a juris doctorate in 1952. In 1952, she married John Jay O'Connor, III, and they have three sons. After working for a time in both California and Germany, Sandra Day O'Connor again took up residence in the state of Arizona.

In Arizona, O'Connor held positions in both law and politics, working as an Assistant Attorney General and serving in the State Senate, appointed by the Governor to fill a vacancy. After twice winning reelection to the State Senate, she ran for the position of Judge in the Maricopa County Superior Court of Arizona in 1974. While a judge she gained a reputation for being firm but just, and she would later be appointed to the Arizona Court of Appeals.

In 1981, Sandra Day O'Connor made history after being nominated by President Ronald Reagan for the position of Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court. She received unanimous Senate approval, becoming

the first woman to serve on the Supreme Court.

During her tenure on the Court, Justice O'Connor gained a reputation for approaching each case with an open mind and for seeking out practical solutions to complex legal issues. Her pragmatic and centrist approach had an important moderating influence on the Court, and her independent philosophy had an important impact on a number of seminal cases. In 2006, Justice O'Connor retired after serving over 24 years on the Court.

Justice O'Connor and I have a shared belief in the need for an independent judiciary and a shared desire to improve relations between our branches of government. As founder and Co-Chair of the Congressional Caucus on the Judicial Branch, I had the distinct pleasure of hosting Justice O'Connor in the U.S. Capitol, just before her retirement, for an event designed to jointly promote these common goals.

I consider it an honor to recognize Justice Sandra Day O'Connor and ask my colleagues to join me in commending her on the occasion of her recognition as a Rotary Club of Los Angeles "Person of the Century."

IN HONOR OF BRIGADIER GENERAL BRUCE THOMPSON

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 4, 2009

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize Bruce Thompson for his recent promotion to the rank of Brigadier General. Through years of relentless hard work and determination, General Thompson ascended to Brigadier General, a rank that only a few will obtain in their lifetime. I am proud that this man serves the state of Delaware, as well as the United States of America.

A native of Westchester, Pennsylvania, General Thompson's military career began when he received his commission through the Air National Guard Academy of Military Science in 1980. He quickly earned his pilot wings a year later, and became an Instructor and Standardization/Evaluation Pilot for the C-130 Aircraft with 32 combat sorties and 197 combat support sorties. He served as the 166th Airlift Wing Commander and is a veteran of Operations Desert Shield, Desert Storm, Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. General Thompson is a command pilot with over 4,500 hours in the C-130A, C-130H2, T-37 and T-38. During his service thus far, General Thompson has earned numerous awards and decorations, including the Legion of Merit and the National Defense Service Medal. I fully expect that he will continue to earn awards and citations under his new rank.

I commend Bruce Thompson upon receiving this great honor and for his years of extraordinary service and countless contributions to the Delaware Air National Guard. General Thompson is an exemplary citizen, and on behalf of all Delawareans I would like to thank him and his family for the many sacrifices they have made during the past twenty-nine years. His promotion to the rank of Brigadier General is an appropriate milestone in a truly remarkable career.

DAMION MILES

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 4, 2009

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Damion Miles who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Damion Miles is an 8th grader at Arvada Middle School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Damion Miles is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Damion Miles for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication he has shown in his academic career to his future accomplishments.

IN HONOR OF KENDAL GUNLICKS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 4, 2009

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Kendal Gunlicks, upon the occasion of his retirement as Director of Music at Independence High School. Mr. Gunlicks leaves behind a legacy of kindness, sincere concern for every student and dedication to fostering an atmosphere where creativity and teamwork flourished.

Over the course of a career spanning 35 years, he led his students through band camp, half-time shows, parades, Madrigal Dinners, musical theater productions, outdoor community concerts and memorable trips to Florida. But for Mr. Gunlicks, teaching was far more than a job. It was an avocation. He consistently went above and beyond the call of duty, working to establish successful mentoring relationships with all students. Through the powerful medium of music, he inspired his students, encouraged their participation and strengthened their self-confidence. His students trusted, respected and admired him, and he was always willing to help with a problem or provide fatherly guidance and advice.

Mr. Gunlicks' belief in musical opportunities for all is evidenced throughout his tenure at Independence High School. As Director of the Vocal Program, Mr. Gunlicks made room in his programs for all interested students. Students who wanted to participate but who weren't confident enough in their talents as singers were encouraged to join the chorus, without having to audition. Under his leadership, the marching band grew steadily over the years, from 26 members in 1974 to more than 100 band members today.

Madam Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor of Mr. Kendal Gunlicks, whose passion for music and unwavering dedication to his students has served as a source of inspiration, joy, and camaraderie