

children of Washington, DC's Ward 8, improving the quality of their daily lives and nurturing their desire and ability to succeed. For over 20 years, Karin has demonstrated an inspirational commitment to the health and happiness of hundreds of children served by Horton's Kids.

I have known Karin for over 20 years. We both had the honor of serving on the staff of the late Congressman Joe Moakley. Karin founded Horton's Kids in 1989 while working as Congressman Moakley's press secretary. When she stopped at a Capitol Hill gas station late on a Sunday night and several children offered to pump her gas for spare change, the idea for Horton's Kids began to take shape. Karin initially enlisted friends and Congressional co-workers to take a small number of the children on field trips in their personal cars over the weekends. The program next expanded to tutoring sessions on Tuesday nights to encourage academic achievement.

Today, hundreds of children from Anacostia regularly participate in Horton's Kids mentoring and tutoring programs. They also receive dental and eye care, enjoy birthday and holiday celebrations, participate in community service projects, and attend a six-week summer camp dedicated to improving literacy and to preventing the "summer slide." Most importantly, these children benefit from the attention, love, and dedication of over 500 volunteer mentors who help enrich their lives, expand educational opportunities, and offer as much personal attention as possible.

Horton's Kids can help so many kids because of the financial generosity of individuals, corporations, civic groups and foundations. But their greatest resources are the enthusiastic and dedicated volunteers—many of whom work full time on Capitol Hill—and their talented, dedicated staff. Monday and Tuesday night tutoring in Rayburn House Office Building draws Hill staff and professionals from throughout the Washington area. On Wednesdays, a partnership with the U.S. Department of Education brings Horton's Kids to their facilities for a third night of tutoring with Department staff. And in 2008, Horton's Kids added a Wednesday evening academic enrichment program for older students, providing additional mentoring from committed professionals.

Karin Walser has earned numerous well-deserved honors and awards in recent years, including the WJLA-ABC 7 Working Women Award, the Bryn Mawr School Young Alumni Award, and a briefing with former President Bush followed by a Presidential mention as a "social entrepreneur" in a national speech on mentoring. She was chosen as WETA's Hometown Hero for April 2005 and was featured on NBC Nightly News' "Making a Difference." Karin and the inspirational story behind Horton's Kids were also featured in Allison Silberburg's 2009 book, *Visionaries in Our Midst*.

Karin Walser's continued commitment to the children and families of Washington, DC's Ward 8 has transformed hundreds of lives. The children of Horton's Kids are overcoming obstacles and succeeding: graduating high school, finding internships, and applying to colleges. Their growth is a testament to the dedicated efforts of Karin Walser.

Marquitta Jones became a Horton's Kid as a young girl, attending tutoring programs and Sunday field trips. Now enrolled in college, Marquitta credits Karin Walser for her suc-

cess. "Karin cared about me and my education when not many did," Marquitta says. "She's made a difference in our neighborhood where the kids need someone to believe in them."

As Marquitta says, "one person can make a difference to children, and Karin has gone above and beyond."

Madam Speaker, Karin Walser is an inspiration to us all. I know that all of my colleagues in the House join me in paying tribute to this remarkable woman.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE JUDGE  
WILLIAM O. (BILL) ISENHOUR, JR.

**HON. DENNIS MOORE**

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 6, 2010*

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my good friend, the late Judge Bill Isenhour, of Mission, Kansas, who died on April 10.

Bill Isenhour was born in Kansas City, Kansas, where he graduated in 1960 from Wyandotte High School. Bill attended Kansas City University, UMKC, where he was student body president, editor of the newspaper, member of the varsity debate team, including being the undefeated regional champions and participation in the National Debate Tournament in West Point in 1964. He graduated with a BA in speech in 1964. He married Karen Kay Peterson on June 26, 1965. While Karen taught school, he attended law school at UMKC, where he was the recipient of the Dean's Merit Scholarship and graduated in the top of his class in 1968 with a J.D. Bill served as law clerk to Chief Judge Arthur J. Stanley, Jr., U.S. District Court for the District of Kansas, from 1968–1969.

Bill resigned his clerkship to begin private law practice in Johnson County and practiced law with the firm Soden, Eisenbrandt, Isenhour & Gates—which eventually became Soden, Isenhour & Cox—until 1994. In the early 70s, he served as Municipal Judge in Merriam and Mission, Kansas. In 1994, he was appointed by Governor Joan Finney as District Court Judge in the 10th Judicial District in the State of Kansas, Johnson County. Judge Isenhour served as a civil court judge until 2005, when he became one of the first members of the Johnson County Family Court. He was a member of the Johnson County Bar Association, Kansas Bar Association, the Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association, the Kansas Trial Lawyers Association, Phi Delta Phi legal fraternity, the American Judges Association, the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts, and was a member of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges. He presented at numerous legal education programs, primarily in the area of family law. In 2008, he received the President's Award from the Heartland Mediators' Association for the work in his court encouraging mediation. Bill retired from the bench in the fall of 2008.

Judge Isenhour was a member of St. Michael and All Angel's Episcopal Church in Mission, where he served in numerous roles, including Sunday school teacher, usher, lector, stewardship chairman, delegate to diocesan convention, member of the vestry, Junior Warden and Senior Warden. He was involved in

helping start Breakfast at St. Paul's—a hot-breakfast program for families in KCK—which serves more than 200 persons each week at the church in which he grew up. Judge Isenhour also served on the boards of the Mission Chamber of Commerce, the Milhaven Homes Association, the Saint Michael's Day School and served as secretary of the Johnson County Bar Association.

Bill loved spending time with his family, his friends from church, traveling—particularly to his cabin in the mountains of Colorado, and spoiling his two grandchildren. He is survived by his wife of almost 45 years, Karen Isenhour; his son, Kirk Isenhour and partner Doug Anning of Kansas City, Missouri; his daughter, Stephanie Price and husband Warren of Overland Park; and two grandchildren, Dillon and Katie Price. He is also survived by his three sisters and brother, Diana Patterson (Jeff) of Merriam; Mary Isenhour (Bill Patton) of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania; Victoria Charlesworth (Jim) of Overland Park; and Phillip Isenhour (Ellen Zipf) of Elm Grove, Wisconsin; three aunts, Mary Clark of Kansas City, Kansas, Kathleen Noe of Alexandria, Virginia, and Dee Isenhour of Manteo, North Carolina, along with many loving nieces, nephews and cousins.

Madam Speaker, Bill Isenhour was my good friend and former law partner. I join with his extended family and many friends in mourning his passing and paying tribute to his decades of dedicated service to our community.

A TRIBUTE TO JERRY BLAVAT

**HON. ROBERT A. BRADY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 6, 2010*

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor rock-and-roll legend, Philadelphia institution, and my good friend, Jerry Blavat. For 50 years, Jerry has been entertaining audiences in Philadelphia and beyond with his love of music and dedication to good times.

Jerry burst onto the Philadelphia music scene as a dancer on the original Bandstand, where he soon became a crowd favorite. He transitioned into radio in 1960, hosting his own rock and roll show, which broadcasted in Pennsylvania, Delaware, and New Jersey. With the nickname "The Geator with the Heater", Jerry quickly established himself as a landmark on the Philadelphia airwaves. Today, Jerry continues to host radio shows in a variety of formats that can be heard around the world.

In addition to his prominence on Philadelphia radio, Jerry is a well-known cultural icon. Utilizing his prominence in the music scene, Jerry is able to draw attention to a variety of causes. A huge fan of Motown and doo-wop, Jerry continues to showcase the contributions Philadelphia area artists made to rock and roll. In recognition of his outstanding work and contributions to the music world, Jerry was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1998.

Jerry Blavat's long and impressive career showcases his pride in and commitment to his community. Madam Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in celebrating Jerry's 50 years of entertaining

others, and honor him for the great work he has done for the people of Philadelphia.

HONORING MR. RODNEY LEWIS

**HON. HENRY CUELLAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 6, 2010*

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplishments of Mr. Rodney Lewis, a recent inductee to the Laredo Business Hall of Fame. Mr. Lewis is currently President and Chief Executive Office of Lewis Energy Group, L.P.

Mr. Lewis has played an active and outstanding role in the oil and gas industry in the Webb County area. He has contributed his expertise and knowledge to the business community through his tireless efforts towards maintaining and operating his successful company.

Mr. Lewis was born in San Antonio in 1954. As a native Texan, he earned his bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from Texas A&M University in Laredo in 1976. Mr. Lewis began his professional career as he supervised field production in South Texas for R.L. Burns Corporation and Stampede Energy of Toronto, Canada. In 1982, he purchased his first well. A year later, Mr. Lewis founded Lewis Energy Group, which became a foremost market leader of South Texas in the exploration and production of gas and oil. Through his hands on experience of over twenty-five years, he has gained a reputation as a drilling, completion, and pipeline entrepreneur. With his savvy business skills and know-how in the industry, he sought to build the company upward, attain a stronghold on the market, and buy out the competition resulting in Lewis Energy Group to experience consistent growth over the years. Currently, the company holds approximately 325 employees with over 1,000 wells with a strong presence internationally, as well. Additionally, with the guidance and leadership of Mr. Lewis, the company has never been subject to any Environmental Protection Agency claims and attains an impressive track record of environmental responsibility.

As a local rancher in Webb and La Salle counties of Texas, Mr. Lewis understands and supports local landowners and the community. He is dedicated to excellence and diligent work ethic, which is synonymous to his business and entrepreneurial endeavors. He is also actively involved in serving on the Board of Directors for the National Air and Space Museum. Currently living in San Antonio with his wife and their four children, Mr. Lewis is an avid aviator and war-bird collector in his spare time.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to have had this time to recognize Mr. Rodney Lewis, recent inductee to the Laredo Business Hall of Fame. He is greatly appreciated in the gas and oil industry and has shown dedication and exemplary work ethic to contribute to the business community.

HONORING SPC. JONATHAN M. FRENCH FOR SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY

**HON. BART STUPAK**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 6, 2010*

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Spc. Jonathan M. French of Chassell, who, despite significant injuries, prevailed in his service to our country. Spc. French is being honored on May 15 as Grand Marshal in the 5th Annual Armed Forces Day Parade of Thanks in Hancock, Michigan. As the community pays tribute to Jonathan, I ask that the U.S. House of Representatives join me in honoring his service.

As a high school student at Saginaw Arthur Hill High School in Saginaw, Michigan, Jonathan was an avid hockey player. He continued the sport while attending Michigan Technological University, in Houghton, Michigan, where he earned a bachelor's degree in geological engineering as well as a master's degree in civil engineering. He went on to play hockey with the Portage Lake Pioneers as part of the Great Lakes Hockey League, which won three national championships.

Then, in 2007 Jonathan made the decision to swap hockey skates for combat boots, enlisting in the Michigan National Guard 1431st Engineer Company (Sapper). Although he was eligible for the officer training program, he chose to retain his enlisted status in order to fight on the frontlines. Shortly after enlisting, Jonathan was deployed to Afghanistan with his unit.

While in Afghanistan Jonathan was severely injured when a rocket propelled grenade exploded. Despite extensive internal and external injuries, Jonathan "finished the fight" he was engaged in—a testament to his Yooper fortitude. He returned home, to face a new fight—a fight for his life—successfully undergoing a series of extensive surgeries.

Jonathan is now in vocational rehabilitation and is transitioning back into his position as a civil engineer and project manager with the Baraga Telephone Company. Throughout it all, his wife Margaret, whom he married on June 7, 2003, has been by his side when possible and with him in spirit when distance separated them.

Since his decision to enlist, Jonathan has shown grace, courage, humility and bravery. He has continued to serve in his community, volunteering as a Hunter Safety instructor and mentoring local youth. Serving as Grand Marshal in the Parade of Thanks is a fitting tribute for all that Jonathan has given to his country and his community.

Madam Speaker, the Parade of Thanks is a chance to honor the men and women who have answered the call to serve our nation with honor and with dignity. Without their courage and sacrifices, the United States could not be the great nation we are today. Therefore, Madam Speaker, I ask that you and the entire U.S. House of Representatives join me in thanking Spc. Jonathan M. French on his commitment and service and applaud him on being named Grand Marshal of the Armed Forces Day Parade of Thanks.

HONORING MR. GARY MUCHA

**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 6, 2010*

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Gary Mucha as he prepares to retire as Senior Vice President of Integration, Information Management and Performance Excellence for BAE Systems.

A native of Buffalo, NY, Mr. Mucha has over 40 years of distinguished experience in the Aerospace and Defense industry including 30 years of general management line operations experience and over 12 years of Corporate Executive Management responsibilities for BAE Systems. As a senior leader in the company during a period of significant growth, he successfully led the integration of over 20 corporate acquisitions. He has also had primary responsibility for a number of critical functional areas, to include Information Management; Information Assurance; Business Performance Measurement; Safety, Health and Environmental Policy Regulations; Business Continuity; Property and Real Estate; and Strategic Procurement.

As a recognized subject matter expert in his field, Mr. Mucha has made many speaking and lecturing appearances on behalf of BAE Systems at both private and public venues. Most recently, this included speeches at Georgetown University and the University of Tennessee as well as the keynote addresses at the Defense Manufacturing Conference and the Governor of Virginia Global Supply Conference.

In all that he has done, Mr. Mucha has demonstrated both a passion for business excellence and an effective translation of his values and views through his work and appearances in both academia and the public and private sectors during his diverse career. Indeed, his high standards and dedication to excellence exemplify the work ethic and commitment to country of his hometown and all of Western New York. As a result of his commitment to both the growth and development of future business leaders within the organization, Mr. Mucha often accepted mentoring roles within BAE Systems.

Madam Speaker, I am pleased to recognize the efforts and accomplishments of this outstanding industry leader. I congratulate and thank Gary Mucha for his many years of service to this nation and wish him a happy retirement.

COMMEMORATING THE 90TH BIRTHDAY OF SIR MICHAEL BERRY

**HON. JOHN D. DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 6, 2010*

Mr. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a wonderful public servant, an exceptional individual and a patriotic American on the occasion of his 90th birthday. Sir Michael Berry is a prominent lawyer in Dearborn, Michigan whose venture into politics began in 1948 with the first campaign of G. Mennen Williams, who was running for governor of the