

Michigan and its trademark patriotic summer festival that is currently under way. While the name of the festival has changed throughout the years, this year's inaugural "Sturgis Dam Days" will surely foster lasting memories for the multitude of generations that look forward to the annual festival.

The 6-day festival brings the entire community together to celebrate the city's rich history and pay special tribute to the Sturgis Dam, which will celebrate its 100th anniversary in 2011.

The hydroelectric dam transmits electricity 18 miles to the Sturgis Municipal Power Plant, giving Sturgis the moniker of the "Electric City." While the dam generates power for the town, ask most folks about it and they will highlight the postcard-perfect views of the dam: the flowing St. Joseph River and the surrounding scenes at the adjacent Covered Bridge Park.

This year's Sturgis Dam Days festival includes a variety of events throughout the week for all to enjoy. The Sturgis Chamber of Commerce kicked off the festival by welcoming the community for dinner and the St. Joseph Sheriff's Department transformed into the Pony Express in period clothing to give the official proclamation to commence the celebration. Events throughout the week include an art fair; the American Legion Hog Roast; "Experience Sturgis," a history walk through the city; a family picnic in Franks Park; a vintage Sturgis Biscuits baseball game; the Relay for Life at Sturgis High School; a parade down US-12; and the culminating event, the Sturgis Dam Rodeo.

The festival has been a beacon of economic activity and growth through the years, and continues to draw countless families to the region each year.

I congratulate the city of Sturgis and all of its residents for sharing such a wonderful community event. Through the years the annual festival has become woven into the fabric of the lives of so many folks throughout southwest Michigan. Sturgis has such a rich heritage and offers so much to the region's families. I look forward to the festival's continued success with many more Sturgis Dam Day celebrations for years to come.

HONORING CHARLOTTE "CHUCKIE"
HOLSTEIN

HON. DANIEL B. MAFFEI

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 2010

Mr. MAFFEI. Madam Speaker, I stand today to congratulate Charlotte "Chuckie" Holstein on being honored as the First Annual F.O.C.U.S. Greater Syracuse Wisdom Keeper Award recipient. She has been an active member of the Central New York community, and for that I am very thankful.

Chuckie is the founder of many organizations serving the people of Central New York, including F.O.C.U.S. Greater Syracuse, Leadership Greater Syracuse, Youth Leadership Greater Syracuse, the Syracuse/Onondaga County Citizens Academy, the Syracuse Commission for Women, Meals on Wheels, and the City/County Office of the Aging.

She has served the Central New York area as the Chair of Loretto, a Member of the Central New York District Board for Key Bank, a trustee of Cazenovia College and the Manlius Pebble Hill School, Chair of Advisory boards for the School of Social Work and College For Human Development of Syracuse University and a Member of the College at Brockport Foundation.

Chuckie has also served her state, her nation, her faith and the world in a number of initiatives dealing with social justice, world peace and women's issues.

In closing, I'd like to express my appreciation for all of the hard work she has done. Please join me in congratulating Charlotte "Chuckie" Holstein on being honored with the First Annual F.O.C.U.S. Greater Syracuse Wisdom Keeper Award.

INDIAN AMERICAN CULTURAL
CENTER BHARATIYA TEMPLE
GRAND OPENING

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 2010

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with great honor and pleasure that I stand before you today to recognize the Indian American Cultural Center of Northwest Indiana as they celebrate the grand opening of the Bharatiya Temple of Northwest Indiana. They will be commemorating the event with the religious and historic tradition of Maha Kumbhabhishekam. This event will take place over three days, from Friday, June 18, 2010 to Sunday, June 20, 2010, at the Bharatiya Temple of Northwest Indiana in Merrillville.

The Indian American Cultural Center of Northwest Indiana opened on March 9, 2002, and operates as "a place to preserve, nourish, and advance the Indian culture, heritage, religious values, and social values." In order to continue to advance the teachings and culture of the Indian American people and the Hindu religion, the members of the Indian American Cultural Center decided to expand the existing building and to give the community a legacy in the form of the truly glorious Bharatiya Temple of worship. The Indian American community will be celebrating Maha Kumbhabhishekam, which is a Hindu tradition performed when a new Temple is built and installed with new deities (Gods or Goddesses). Many religious rituals of the Hindu religion will be performed during the celebration which will sanctify the beloved Bharatiya Temple of Northwest Indiana. It is a Hindu belief that taking part and witnessing a Maha Kumbhabhishekam is a lifetime blessing.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you and my distinguished colleagues join me in honoring the Indian American Cultural Society of Northwest Indiana and its congregation as they celebrate the opening of the Bharatiya Temple of Northwest Indiana and observe the religious and historic tradition of Maha Kumbhabhishekam. Through their words and teachings, this honorable organization shares with us the rich culture and tradition of the Indian American people as well as the traditions of the Hindu religion.

IN RECOGNITION ANNIE & AVERY
GRANT

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 2010

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 50th anniversary of the marriage of Annie and Avery Grant, both exemplary and active members of their community. A simple glance at their dedication to civil service in Monmouth County, New Jersey uncovers a long history of local works and an extraordinary drive to improve the state in all aspects of public life. On the day of their golden anniversary, Annie and Avery Grant are indisputably worthy of this body's recognition.

Annie Grant was born Annie Williams in New York City on October 27, 1935, and has been recognized as a New Jersey State Notary Public for her many years of tireless service in professional and public life. In 1991, Mrs. Grant was appointed Commissioner on the Monmouth County Board of Taxation, a position she held for 17 years until she retired in 2008. She was the first African-American to hold this position in Monmouth County. Mrs. Grant's accomplishments extend far beyond this office, however, as she has also led a long life of involvement in local politics. In addition to being the 1989 Democratic candidate for Monmouth County Clerk, Mrs. Grant has been the Long Branch Democratic Club's treasurer for 30 years, and was named Woman of the Year in Politics in 1992. Her intelligence and breadth of knowledge is what led me to invite her to speak about Social Security reform at the Democratic Congressional Roundtable in 2005.

Avery Grant was born on July 9, 1933 in Memphis, Tennessee, and has led a prolific life of public works. A Vietnam Veteran, Mr. Grant is a retired Lieutenant Colonel in the U.S. Army Signal Corps, as well as a Professional Engineer, formerly with East Orange and the New York Transit Authority. Additionally, he is tirelessly active in the community of Long Branch, from serving on the Board of Education for over 12 years running to co-founding and editing the Community Newspaper, a bi-weekly, Monmouth County African-American newspaper. He has also been involved in over eight Monmouth County organizations, including but not limited to the Red Cross, Habitat for Humanity, the NAACP, and EXODUS, a halfway house focusing on substance abuse. His avid dedication to the city of Long Branch and Monmouth County landed him a spot on The City News' list of "100 Most Influential in New Jersey."

These remarkable individuals married on June 12, 1960. They have two children, Adrienne and Avery Jr., and seven grandchildren. Their ability to maintain a beautiful, loving family in concert with their incredible efforts in their community is an inspiration to us all. They are valued members of their communities and a credit to the state of New Jersey.