

## HONORING BONI FINE

**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 25, 2011*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I stand before you today to commend Boni Fine for her service to the community. Boni will be recognized for her outstanding commitment to the residents of the First Congressional District by the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) of Northwest Indiana, at its annual Circle of Friends Event, held on October 19, 2011.

Throughout her accomplished career, Boni has held several prestigious positions, allowing her to demonstrate the skills and business acumen developed as she earned her Master of Business Administration degree from Pepperdine University. Her professional experience includes Director of Personnel for the Daily Telegraph in London; President and Publisher of the Post-Tribune in Merrillville, Indiana; and Vice President of Strategic Development/Advertising for the Sun-Times News Group in Chicago, Illinois. Moreover, her bachelor degree in social work from Syracuse University and her work as a child welfare caseworker established the foundation upon which Boni built her tireless enthusiasm for improving the quality of life for our area's youth.

Boni's resume highlights many of the organizations in which she participates and children in Northwest Indiana are most fortunate to have benefitted from her championing their cause. Not only has she previously chaired the Juvenile Diabetes Association's Walk to Cure, she was a founding member of the Children's Literacy Academy at Indiana University Northwest. Further, she has served on the Executive Board of the Boys and Girls Club of Northwest Indiana. Most recently, Boni served as the Interim Executive Director for the YWCA of Northwest Indiana, and it is for her work with this organization that she is being honored.

The YWCA of Northwest Indiana traces its roots to a branch office that had been located at 30 East 6th Avenue in Gary. Founded in 1921 with a strong commitment to serve, the organization has become a well-established institution serving the community for ninety years. Currently, the YWCA of Northwest Indiana is governed by an all-female Board of Directors committed to offering programs to young women that foster their talents and serving as professional role models whom these young women may emulate. Under Boni's leadership, this local YWCA has provided programs such as the Yes We Can, a youth program to promote academic achievement among at-risk children. Additionally, the YWCA of Northwest Indiana offers a mentoring program for teen girls in Gary in which students are paired with professional women in order to empower them and set them upon a path of success. Although this is only a brief overview of the extraordinary efforts undertaken by all individuals involved in the day-to-day operations of the YWCA of Northwest Indiana, it is important to note that they illustrate Boni's genuine devotion to its vision: to transform lives by mobilizing our diverse community to provide vibrant opportunities and experiences that strive to diminish racial and gender disparities in health, education, and wealth at

tainment, while preparing future generations to sustain these endeavors.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring Boni Fine for her exceptional community service. I know that Boni will continue to touch the lives of numerous people, and for her selfless, lifelong service, she is to be commended.

## HONORING JEFF DAVIS H.S. ON ITS 85TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. GENE GREEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 25, 2011*

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jeff Davis High School in Houston, Texas, for their 85 years of excellence and dedication to improving the education of young adults.

As a Jeff Davis High School graduate I am proud to say that since 1925, Jeff Davis has established a legacy of success in academics as well as in extracurricular programs by providing students with opportunities to ensure that they are equipped with the tools that are necessary to excel. Due to the hard work of the school's faculty and staff, Jefferson Davis has been able to significantly decrease its dropout rate and increase its programs to prepare students for college. In 2009 Jefferson Davis increased its number of students enrolled in dual credit courses in Houston area colleges by 450 percent. Since 1993 the school has sent approximately 100 juniors to participate in the Cornell Summer Program, where students are able to spend a summer at Cornell University to earn college credit while still in high school.

In just the last school year, Jeff Davis was recognized for the dedication to decreasing dropout rates and increasing the number of college-bound students. Jeff Davis has been nominated as a candidate to be featured on the U.S. Department of Education "Doing What Works" website based on its success with dropout prevention. One hundred fifty-two students were able to successfully earn college credit through dual enrollment at the University of Houston Downtown and Houston Community College and over 50 individuals were awarded in numerous UIL competitions in areas such as math, writing, and accounting. In 2009–2010, the graduation rate increased to 80 percent and there was an amazing 250 percent increase in student advanced placement passing scores. In 2008–2009, the school became TEA recognized for the first time in Davis history and received the Gold Performance Acknowledgement for comparable improvement in mathematics. In recognition of this outstanding work, Jeff Davis was recognized as one of the top ten most improved high schools in Harris County and its surrounding counties by Children At Risk.

In 1993, Project GRAD & Gear Up programs were founded by former Tenneco CEO James Ketelsen at Jeff Davis. This program provides scholarships to students as an incentive to complete high school and continue their education after graduation. Last year the program awarded 2.8 million dollars in scholarships to over 700 graduating seniors in HISD.

Jefferson Davis offers a wide range of extra-curricular activities, ensuring that students be-

come well rounded and are given a wide range of opportunities to prepare them for our ever-changing society. In 2010, Davis received international recognition in Robotics, as well as significant regional awards in dance, ROTC and Culinary Arts.

I congratulate the past and present administration, faculty, staff, and students of Jefferson Davis High School for all of their hard work and dedication to excellence.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. STEVE KING**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 25, 2011*

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 801, I was not present to vote because I was participating in a public meeting with the Army Corps of Engineers regarding the historic flooding that we have experienced along the Missouri River this year.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

## RECOGNIZING DR. RUTH SIMMONS

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 25, 2011*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Ruth Simmons for her 11 years of extraordinary service as president of Brown University.

I am proud to say Dr. Simmons is a native of Texas. In 1995 she became president of Smith College, the largest women's college in the United States, where she launched a number of strategic initiatives to strengthen the college's academic programs and inaugurated the first engineering program at a U.S. women's college. Ruth J. Simmons was sworn in as the 18th president of Brown University on July 3, 2001. She has received numerous accolades throughout her career. In 2001, Time magazine named her America's best college president. In 2007, she was named one of U.S. News & World Report's top U.S. leaders and—for the second time.

As one of the Nation's premier scholars, Ruth Simmons has inspired and enlightened so many as an advocate for educational excellence. Throughout Ruth Simmons' tenure as the president of Brown University, she has shown an unwavering commitment to inspiring, educating, and ensuring that the future of young Americans is a bright one. It is educators such as Ruth Simmons that make an immense impact on our children; both teaching them the information to prosper and inspiring them to achieve. Brown University and our country have benefitted immensely from your service, and I hope you will continue to aspire to educate children who are in great need of strong leaders.

I wish to commend Dr. Ruth Simmons and thank her for her service to this great nation. As an academic leader, she has created positive pathways for the future of our students.

HONORING THE APPRENTICE GRADUATES OF THE SHEET METAL WORKERS LOCAL UNION 20

**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 25, 2011*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sincerity and respect that I offer congratulations to several of Northwest Indiana's most talented, dedicated, and hardworking individuals. On Friday, October 21, 2011, the Sheet Metal Workers Local Union 20 honored the apprentice graduates from the years 2005 to 2011 at the Sheet Metal Banquet, which was held at Ambassador Banquets in Hobart, Indiana.

At this year's banquet, the Sheet Metal Workers Local Union 20 recognized and honored Apprentice graduates from 2005 to 2011. The individuals who completed their apprentice training in 2005 are: Kevin L. Anderson, Michael G. Bowman, Jerry W. Bryan, Jr., Richard W. Call, Paul J. Chulpacek, Percy L. Davis, Jr., Jonathan T. Drake, Eric D. Heckman, Raymond E. Hoover, Matthew D. Hoppe, Michael J. Janickovic, Robert C. Joy, James M. Ligda, and Jeff M. Sako. The 2006 apprentice graduates are: Kenneth J. Bastasich, Jr., Lavert Combs, Greg W. Cwetna, Kevin P. Harder, Adam J. Jackson, Tim L. Krebs, Kevin S. Putschaven, and Kevin L. Watts. Apprentice graduates from 2007 are: Tom H. Feneck, Fred J. Hernandez, Timothy M. Holding, David M. Horbovetz, John R. Kane, Matthew J. Koehler, Joshua J. Neeley, James C. Rossi, Nicholas S. Scott, and William A. Smith. Individuals from the apprentice graduating class of 2008 are: Todd A. Goldie, Kreg R. Homoky, Kevin L. LaPorte, Brad N. Martin, Patrick M. Phegley, and Thomas M. Styborski, Jr. The 2009 apprenticeship graduates are: David H. Ballinger, Chuck B. Flick, Mitchell E. Gutyan, Jon P. Holding, Noah D. Hoppe, Vince J. Macielewicz, Jr., Kyle T. Melnyk, Jeffrey A. Pavey, Cary Allan Schnick, and Leonard J. Stringer. The apprentice graduates from 2010 are: John P. Cantu, Don E. Clinton III, Ronald D. Coleman, Douglas J. Edwards III, Eric F. Gann, Matt S. Koontz, Jeffrey A. Koss, Nathan A. Lovas, Christopher W. Marshall, Johnnie L. Parker, and Douglas J. Sills, and lastly, the individuals who completed their apprentice training in 2011 are: Matthew D. Bishop, Shane W. Crowley, Christopher W. Geruska, Brandon W. Gilbert, Jacob A. Goldie, Andy J. Kadziolka, Angel E. Mercado, Clifton E. Perry, Michael E. Polak, Michael J. Torres, Robert C. Wernersbach, Jr., and Adam J. Wotherspoon.

Northwest Indiana has a rich history of excellence in its craftsmanship and loyalty among its tradesmen. These graduates are outstanding examples of each. They have mastered their trade and have demonstrated their loyalty to both the union and the community through their hard work and selfless dedication. Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating these dedicated and hardworking individuals. Along with the other men and women of Northwest Indiana's unions, these individuals have committed themselves to making a significant contribution to the growth and development of the economy of the First Congressional District, and I am very proud to represent them in Washington, D.C.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF FREEMASON ELMHURST LODGE 941, A.F. & A.M.

**HON. PETER J. ROSKAM**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 25, 2011*

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of Freemason Elmhurst Lodge 941, which has served the residents of Elmhurst, Illinois, since 1911.

The Freemasons are a fraternal organization that was established in the late 16th century, with its primary values being hope, faith, and charity. Noteworthy Masons include George Washington, Paul Revere, Benjamin Franklin, Harry Truman, Gerald Ford, and many other influential figures in politics, business, and entertainment.

In the years since its founding, many organizations have benefitted from the charity of the Elmhurst Lodge, including the Illinois Masonic Children's Home in La Grange, American Cancer Society, Salvation Army, Alzheimer's Foundation, ALS Foundation, Elmhurst Children's Assistance Foundation, and more.

Over the past century, Freemason Elmhurst Lodge 941 has established an important legacy of service in the Elmhurst community.

Mr. Speaker and Distinguished Colleagues, please join me in recognizing the Freemason Elmhurst Lodge 941, the Masons of this lodge, and the citizens of Elmhurst in wishing them happiness on this special occasion.

IN HONOR OF U.S. ARMY SPECIALIST RICARDO CERROS JR.

**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 25, 2011*

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of U.S. Army Specialist Ricardo Cerros Jr., 24, of Salinas, California, who died in a firefight on October 8, 2011 in Logar Province, Afghanistan. His last act of courage was to pull a fellow soldier to safety and shield him from enemy fire. He is a hero to the people of the United States and we express our gratitude for his service to our country. His selfless act is one that will never be forgotten.

Ricardo "Rick" Cerros Jr. was born November 2, 1986 in Fort Ord, California to Ricardo Cerros and Marguerite Quiroz. He spent some time in Indiana before returning to California's Central Coast when he was 8 years old. Rick attended Everett Alvarez High School in Salinas, California. There he followed his interest in service by joining the school's Navy Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps. His leadership and dedication led him to become the commanding officer of the program. Moreover, I was honored to nominate Rick to the United States Service Academies in 2004.

After high school, Rick attended the University of California, Irvine and was active with the school's Taekwondo club, becoming the first member to achieve a black belt rating. After graduating in 2010, Rick enlisted in the United States Army. He would go on and join our nation's finest as an Army Ranger assigned to Company B, 2nd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment.

October 8, 2011 was Rick's first combat mission. During that night raid, an enemy combatant rushed his platoon, wounding Sergeant Moore. Instinctively, Rick ran to the wounded platoon sergeant and pulled him to safety. Then he performed a heroic act by placing himself between the sergeant and the enemy. Sergeant Moore lives today because of Rick's sacrifice.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the entire House, I would like to extend the nation's deepest sympathies to Rick's mother Marguerite Quiroz, his father and stepmother Ricardo and Deborah Cerros, and his siblings Nicholas, Theresa and Marko Cerros. Specialist Ricardo Cerros Jr. served his nation honorably, and sacrificed his life to save a fellow comrade. He is an American hero.

RECOGNIZING FRISCO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 25, 2011*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the Frisco Economic Development Corporation. Since their establishment in 1991 the Frisco EDC has recruited over 200 companies to the Frisco area which has resulted in over 24,000 jobs and over \$2.8 billion in capital investments. This is creating an environment ripe for opportunity in the Frisco community and the surrounding areas.

The work done by the Frisco EDC has caused the city of Frisco to be one of the fastest growing areas in the nation. The population has grown over 210 percent since 2000. The Frisco EDC is not only helping to bring in quality new jobs of all levels to the community, but they are also raising the standard of living for the residents of Frisco. The Frisco EDC is doing this by cultivating entrepreneurship and creating an innovative atmosphere that makes Frisco an attractive place to live, work, play, and grow. I know that they will continue to bring diverse new businesses and responsible economic development to Frisco in the years to come.

This anniversary is a wonderful opportunity for us to celebrate the Frisco EDC and its members for all that they have done for the Frisco community and its surrounding areas. I am proud to recognize the Frisco EDC on their 20th anniversary, and I know the Frisco community appreciates their many years of service.

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS PREVENTION

**HON. ANN MARIE BUERKLE**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 25, 2011*

Ms. BUERKLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise on this occasion to speak about one of the most significant issues facing us today: domestic violence. Mr. Speaker, domestic violence is both unacceptable and intolerable.

As a legal domestic violence counselor, I have had the opportunity to offer pro bono