

Brotherhood of Railway and Steamship Clerks, Freight Handlers, Express and Station Employees. To further reflect the diversity of the union's membership, the delegates to the 1987 Convention voted to become TCU.

By joining the ranks of the Machinists, TCU will help strengthen the organization's membership and the overall labor movement. For more than a century, both TCU and IAMAW have stood for the welfare and prosperity of their members. Today, these unions continue to fight on behalf of their members who exemplify the values of hard work, faith, family, and community.

This unification not only brings together two unions, but also two dedicated presidents—Tom Buffenbarger and Bob Scardelletti. Tom Buffenbarger began his career as a journeyman tool and die maker at General Electric's jet engine plant in Evendale, Ohio. In 1997, he became the youngest IAMAW President in its history. Bob Scardelletti, a life-long railroader, started out as a yard clerk in Cleveland with the New York Central Railroad in 1967. In 1971, he took on his first union position and by 1991 was elected TCU president and has been re-elected four times.

TCU and IAMAW were fundamental in building the American middle-class, and have a vital role today in preserving the American dream for working families. Their combined strength will provide continued leadership throughout the labor movement, particularly in the transportation industry. It is my pleasure to honor this historic event and congratulate their members as they join forces under the new TCU/IAMAW.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 1, 2011*

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 860, 861, and 862. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on all three.

#### HONORING LIZ COVENTRY

### HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 1, 2011*

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, today I extend my deepest condolences and heartfelt sympathies to the family of Liz Coventry. Liz passed away on October 26, 2011, after waging a valiant battle against cancer. Throughout many years of my public service—from my Congressional campaign days to my early days as a U.S. Congressman, Liz was an unwaveringly loyal and exceptionally focused member of my team. Whether working on casework for constituents, tirelessly advocating on behalf of veterans, spearheading the annual Congressional Art Competition for my office, or organizing various special projects, Liz took on every endeavor with passion. I cannot imagine the early days of my office without her.

Yet far beyond being an employee, Liz was also a friend. And as anyone who knew Liz would undoubtedly agree, to be able to call

her "friend" is truly an honor. While Liz's daily presence will be acutely missed by those who knew and loved her, the memory of her friendship and her legacy will remain.

I deeply appreciate Liz for her friendship and support, and I honor her for her service to our state and our nation.

#### A TRIBUTE TO RAY A. HARRIS, RAMIE L. HARRIS, AND SHEY M. HARRIS

### HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 1, 2011*

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the lives of Ray A. Harris, Ramie L. Harris and Shey M. Harris, of Marion, Indiana who perished in a tragic plane crash on November 26, 2011. Ray was 46, Ramie was 21, and Shey was 20. I join the Marion community in expressing my deepest condolences to Ray's wife, Sherry, and his son, Blake, who are left to carry on in this world without them. In one tragic day, Sherry lost her husband and two daughters. Likewise, Blake lost his father and two sisters. Other survivors include Ray's parents and in-laws and numerous aunts and cousins. Chris Backus, a student at Indiana Wesleyan University also died in the crash.

As a businessman Ray was a pioneer of sorts in Marion. He moved his car dealership known as Ray Harris Chrysler Jeep from its established location to a new location at Ind. 18 and 1-69. He knew the risks associated with the move but he held a deep desire to make Marion a better place and because Ray was a visionary he knew the new location would grow into something good and benefit the community around it. Ray was a true community leader. He was a supporter of the Marion Giants; served 8 years as the President of the Marion Board of Works; was a member of the Meshingomesia Country Club, the Aero Club, Marion Pilots Club, and the Elks. Ray was a skilled hunter and fisherman. One of his favorite events was the annual Community School for the Arts, CSA, Go-Kart race.

As busy as Ray was in business and in the community, his family always came first. Ray was an attentive father and husband, rarely missing one of his children's events. Ramie was a 2009 graduate of Marion High School where she played soccer, basketball, and tennis. Ramie's soccer jersey number will be retired in her honor. Ramie also played in various PAL club sports and was the recipient of numerous scholarships. As a student at Marion High School, Ramie was active in Youth for Christ. She was also active in God's House Ministries' Children's Ministry Department. Ramie was a junior at Wheaton College, majoring in pre-med.

Shey was a graduate of Eastbrook High School after having attended Marion High School until her junior year. Shey loved to dance and was majoring in dance with a minor in business at Anderson University at the time of her death. Shey attended and later taught at the Community School of the Arts and taught gymnastics at Mid America. Like her father and sister, Shey's love for the Lord guided her in her daily life. She was involved in the liturgical dance program at her church and

the children's ministry department at College Wesleyan Church.

Ray, Ramie, and Shey will be forever remembered by all who knew them as a loving family who devoted their lives and talents to community and God. In their death their memory will live on through the CSA Ray Harris Family Memorial Endowment Fund that was established at the Community Foundation of Grant County as a way for the community to honor the family. The money from the endowment will go to the organization for the Shey Harris Dance Scholarship, which will be awarded to a student from CSA. The Harris family were key supporters of the organization. Shey distinguished herself as a dancer and choreographer by the choreographing the first commercial CSA did for the Gorman Center for Orthodontics and being the youngest person to teach at the organization at the age of 14. Ramie danced at the school and danced in the first show that CSA ever did. Shey's and Ramie's surviving brother Blake was the CSA's "Go Arts! Go Karts!" 2010 champion when he raced for his father's business. Ray's wife, Sherry, is also active in CSA events and is a former board member.

The Harris family attended God's House Ministries and by all accounts, their lives were guided by their love for the Lord. At times of deep sorrow and grief, I am comforted by Psalm 23.

#### PSALM 23—A PSALM OF DAVID

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.  
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:  
he leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

Today, I pray for all of God's love and healing to be bestowed upon the Harris family.

#### HONORING BALD ROCK BAPTIST CHURCH

### HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 1, 2011*

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following Proclamation:

Whereas, Bald Rock Baptist Church has been and continues to be a beacon of light to our county for the past one hundred fifty years; and

Whereas, Pastor Christopher Shipp and the members of the Bald Rock Baptist Church family today continues to uplift and inspire those in our county; and

Whereas, the Bald Rock Baptist Church family has been and continues to be a place where citizens are touched spiritually, mentally and physically through outreach ministries and community partnership to aid in building up our District; and

Whereas, this remarkable and tenacious Church of God has given hope to the hopeless, fed the needy and empowered our community for the past one hundred fifty (150)