

fundraise to pay their way and do not receive financial support from the United States Olympic Committee. This presents a twofold challenge for the Deaflympics athletes: fundraising on top of training for the Games. People like you who support the mission of USADSF and its athletes are the ones who make it possible for the athletes to accomplish their lifelong dream. Each Deaflympian must fundraise \$2,350 (not including international travel and training camp expenses) to cover all costs at the 2013 Summer Deaflympics. Over 180 United States deaf and hard of hearing athletes and coaches are training for Sofia to represent the U.S. in 11 sports. Among them will be Jon Mowl of Alexandria, Virginia who will be competing in team handball.

An accomplished athlete, Jon scored over 1,300 in his four year career on the Gallaudet University basketball team and was on the team that went to the 2007 World Deaf Basketball Championships. This earned him a spot on the U.S. Deaflympics gold medal winning basketball team at the 2009 Deaflympics in Taiwan.

Mowl graduated from Gallaudet with a Bachelor of Science in mathematics and went on to become an adjunct mathematics professor at Gallaudet for a semester before getting a job at the Department of Health and Human Services. He was hired into the Workforce Recruitment Program and later transitioned to DLA Finance Energy. Mowl's primary responsibilities are budget formulation and execution of the \$425 million sustainment, restoration and modernization program at DLA Finance Energy.

Since the 1935 London Summer Deaflympics, the United States of America Deaf Sports Federation has been sending elite deaf and hard of hearing Americans to compete in the Deaflympics. USA Deaf Sports Federation (USADSF) is the only national athletic association in the United States that coordinates the participation of American deaf and hard of hearing individuals in international sport competitions. USADSF is affiliated with the International Committee of Sports for the Deaf (ICSD) and the International Olympic Committee (IOC). They support teams in 17 sports and represent over 100,000 deaf and hard of hearing athletes in the United States and have sent 2,031 Deaflympians to the Summer and Winter Deaflympics since 1935. The Deaflympics were the first international games for athletes with disabilities and, different from many other games, because athletes cannot be guided by sounds (i.e. a starter's gun), they must rely on other methods of competition and refereeing.

Mr. Speaker, Jon Mowl and his 179 teammates deserve this body's support. Their success is an example of preserving talent through resilience and dedication in the face of hardship.

HONORING OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL CHURCH AS THEY CELEBRATE THEIR 75TH ANNUAL FEAST

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 16, 2013

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to rise today to join the many families, pa-

rishioners, and community leaders as Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church celebrates its 75th Annual Feast—a celebration which raises funds to support the Our Lady of Mount Carmel School and its students.

Over the last 75 years, the congregants of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church have to commemorate “the devotion that the Blessed Virgin Mary has to those who are committed to her.” The four-day feast features food, fun, and fellowship. After Sunday Mass at noon, there is a procession of the Our Lady of Mount Carmel statute and a float featuring a young girl chosen to portray the feast's icon. The procession travels through an arch located behind the church, which was permanently installed and then two smaller temporary arches which have been erected for the occasion.

Dozens of parishioners volunteer their time, working arduously for weeks preparing for this annual event. Two hundred pounds of ground beef, two hundred forty pounds of sausage, five hundred pounds of onions, over two thousand pounds of veal hearts and more than four thousand pounds of dough—the food preparation is a massive undertaking which utilizes the two permanent kitchens in the church hall as well as an industrial stove that is temporarily installed. Sausage and peppers, soffritto and fried dough are among the feast favorites.

Perhaps what is most special about the Feast is that it is a means to preserve, celebrate, and pass on the culture and traditions of this Italian-American community. People across the country struggle to create a sense of community—a sense of belonging. Over the course of its 75 year history, the Our Lady of Mount Carmel Feast has served as a way for the families of Waterbury to do just that.

It is events like the Our Lady of Mount Carmel Feast, those forged in the bonds of family and community, which allow generation after generation to understand and celebrate their shared heritage. They enrich our communities as well as renew our commitment to faith and family. I am honored to stand today to extend my warmest congratulations to the Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish and its many families as they celebrate the 75th anniversary of their Feast. The annual tradition is a community treasure and I wish them all the best for many more successful years to come.

HONORING MARTINE THOMAS OF ROCHESTER, NY ON HER SELECTION TO THE NATIONAL YOUTH ORCHESTRA OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 16, 2013

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of a talented young musician from the 25th District of New York. Martine Thomas of Rochester was selected on March 4th to participate in the first National Youth Orchestra of the United States of America.

Ms. Thomas, a student at the Joseph C. Wilson Magnet High School, plays viola. She is also a member of the Rochester Philharmonic Youth Orchestra. In addition to her orchestral commitments Ms. Thomas is a

member of the Garth Fagan Student Dance Company and enjoys hiking, swimming, and biking. Ms. Thomas hopes to pursue a career in viola performance.

She will join a group of 120 of the finest young musicians in this country aged 16–19, each of whom was selected from over 1,200 applicants from all 50 states. Organized by the famed Carnegie Hall in New York City, it is truly a significant accomplishment. As part of their experience, in July the group will travel to New York for two weeks of rehearsals at SUNY-Purchase, and then embark on an international tour that includes a debut performance at the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC, as well as performances in Moscow, St. Petersburg, and London. The last concert in London will be broadcast as part of the BBC Proms.

While there are many terrific local and regional youth orchestras (such as the Rochester Philharmonic Youth Orchestra) in this country and several successful national youth orchestras in other countries, the National Youth Orchestra of the United States of America is a unique and unparalleled opportunity for young, high school-aged musicians in the United States to be recognized as the pinnacle of our music training system. The success of Venezuela's El Sistema has generated increased international interest in the value of youth orchestras, and in my role as the Chair of the Congressional Arts Caucus, I am thrilled that Carnegie Hall has spearheaded this initiative to showcase America's finest young musicians and reinvigorate interest in youth musicianship at home and abroad.

I am proud of Ms. Thomas, and proud of the entire group of musicians selected to represent their hometowns and the United States as cultural ambassadors during their time with the National Youth Orchestra. I encourage all of my colleagues—many, many of whom also have constituents who were chosen—to join me in wishing these extraordinary young and talented individuals the best of luck on their tour. Many congratulations to Ms. Thomas and to Carnegie Hall in this endeavor.

HONORING DERREK COLLEY

HON. STEPHEN LEE FINCHER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 16, 2013

Mr. FINCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Paris Police Patrolman Derrek Colley for his bravery in the line of duty. Because of Officer Colley's courage in the face of danger, the city of Paris, Tennessee narrowly avoided a tragedy.

On January 24, 2013, Officer Colley responded to a call at Pine Ridge Apartments, a local apartment complex. After hearing calls for help, he located a man standing in the doorway of Apartment 710. The man was engulfed in smoke, and he was unable to move himself to safety. Additionally, there were several oxygen tanks in the apartment, and the man feared a catastrophic explosion as the flames slowly spread toward them.

In spite of the chaos and confusion, Officer Colley remained calm and professional. Disregarding his own safety, Officer Colley rescued the immobilized man and pulled him to safety. Then, he called for additional backup