

moved to Ann Arbor, Michigan, to be close to VA physicians. Mr. Smith began a new career, one that lasted five years until his disability rating was upgraded to 100% and he was ordered to cease working altogether.

In July of 1974, Mr. Smith joined the Disabled American Veterans as a like member. He began regularly attending DAV meetings in the fall of 1983. His regular attendance of Chapter Service Officer trainings prepared him for his future roles as Chapter Adjutant, Treasurer, and Service Officer. For three years, Mr. Smith served as Chapter Commander, and has held every statewide Vice-Commander positions, prior to his current position as State Commander. He has been honored as Chapter Service Officer of the Year on five separate occasions, and was recognized as Michigan Disabled Veteran of the Year in 1990.

Mr. Speaker, as we owe much to our nation's veterans, Commander David Smith has acknowledged the fact that his accomplishments would not have been possible without support from his wife Peggy, and his children, all of whom, are veterans as well. I ask my colleagues in the 106th Congress to join me in congratulating him for this dedication and perseverance.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE HEART
CENTER AT PARMA COMMUNITY
GENERAL HOSPITAL

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 1999

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the opening of the Heart Center at Parma Community General Hospital and the hospital's continued dedication to meeting the healthcare needs of the community.

Parma Community General Hospital, a not-for-profit, community-based hospital dedicated to bringing high quality health care services in a familiar, cost-effective setting, received numerous awards in 1998. According to a study by a national organization, Parma Hospital was rated first in quality of care in orthopedics of the 31 hospitals in its six-county region. In addition, Parma Hospital ranked in the top five in overall performance based on all services offered.

The nursing staff, a critical element in Parma Hospital's excellence, also received accolades for their commitment to quality. Mary Ann Hassing, R.N., in the Small Wonders Maternity Unit, was named Health Care Worker of the Year by the Ohio Association for Hospitals and Health Systems. In addition, Karen Krauth, R.N., certified Diabetes Educator and Renee Knapp, R.N. who works in the Emergency Department, were chosen by the Plain Dealer readers as the Best of the Best.

Last year, Parma also became the first hospital in the area to sign the pledge created by the National Healthcare Workers Safety Program and convert to needle safety blood drawing products and IV angiocatheters. Parma also provided care for a record number of patients in the Emergency Room in 1998.

My fellow colleagues, please join me in honoring the accomplishments of Parma Commu-

nity General Hospital and the Sunday, March 28, 1999 opening of the Heart Center at Parma Community General Hospital.

CESAR CHAVEZ

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 1999

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the organizing work of Cesar Chavez and to memorialize his lifelong struggle for justice, respect, and decent living conditions for America's farm workers.

Cesar Chavez was born on March 31, 1927, on a small farm in Arizona. When he died in 1993, at the age of 66, Cesar was President of the United Farm Workers of America. For most of his life, Cesar toiled on farms—both picking fruit and organizing workers—and dedicated himself to improving the plight of migrant workers.

Cesar grew up living as a migrant farm worker in the Southwest, and migrated with his family in their struggles to earn a living. His experiences taught him the importance of collective action and the importance of organizing to address America's economic and social inequity.

Cesar Chavez and his family were living in the East San Jose barrio of Sal Si Puedes, roughly translated this means Get Out If You Can, in 1952. That year, Cesar met Fred Ross Sr., an organizer for the Community Service Organization (C.S.O.), one of the first civic action groups in the Mexican-American communities of California and Arizona. Fred Ross became his mentor, and together they built 32 chapters of the C.S.O., organizing thousands of Mexican Americans to become active leaders of their communities. Cesar taught these leaders how to organize and win battles to end discrimination in education, housing, employment and health care. He led successful citizenship, voter registration, and get out the vote campaigns in both urban and rural communities throughout California. Because of his efforts, more than 500,000 new voters were added to America's rolls in the 1950's and early 1960's.

Due to his determination and hard work, he rose from his humble origins to become the national director of CSO. He departed in 1962 to found the National Farm Workers Association. Against great odds, Cesar led a successful five year strike and boycott that rallied millions of supporters to the farm workers movement. He forged an international support coalition of unions, religious groups, students, minorities and fair minded consumers.

From the beginning, he adhered to the principles of non-violence practiced by Gandhi and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. In 1968, Cesar fasted for 25 days to reaffirm the UFW's commitment to non-violence. The late Senator Robert F. Kennedy called Cesar "one of the heroic figures of our time" and joined him in Delano when he ended his fast.

Cesar's work has had a lasting impact on our nation. Seventeen million Americans honored the grape boycott, and thousands joined his non-violent struggle for justice in more ac-

tive ways, through picket lines, civil disobedience, going to jail, and working as five dollar per week plus room and board volunteers, the same compensation that Cesar earned. My San Francisco District Director, Fred Ross Jr., son of Cesar's mentor, was one of these young people inspired by Cesar to join the cause and help migrant workers win the respect, dignity, and decent living conditions that they deserved.

On August 8, 1994, Cesar posthumously received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest honor in the United States. Recently, the U.S. Department of Labor honored him by inducting him into its Hall of Fame.

I support House Joint Resolution 22, To Commemorate the Birthday of Cesar E. Chavez, which would declare March 31 a Federal holiday in his honor. Cesar dedicated his life to improving the living conditions of America's workers. I urge my colleagues to recognize his life's work.

TRIBUTE TO HAMILTON HIGH
SCHOOL CHOIR

HON. HAROLD E. FORD, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 1999

Mr. FORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to thirty extraordinarily gifted young men and women from Tennessee's Ninth Congressional District who are in Washington this week to display their talents before the nation.

Under the leadership of Mr. Reginald Gaston, the Hamilton High School Choir has become one of the best concert and gospel choirs in the State of Tennessee. Dedicated to the pursuit of excellence, the Hamilton Choir has earned national recognition for their superior ratings in the recent Mid-America Choral Festival in Orlando, Florida.

It gives me great honor, Mr. Speaker, to present the names of these thirty fine young representatives Tennessee's Ninth District: Marlon Mitchell, Mario Albright, Jason Mitchell, Jacinth Ragland, Jattir Ragland, Phillip Britteum, Jonathan Anderson, Burl Toler, Jared Bledsoe, Tre' Canady, Royry Walker, Rickeya Townes, Felecia Wiggins, Sally Ousley, Yamina Tunstall, Sekida Norwood, Tawanda Dean, Sukeeya Haley, April Johnson, Christian Kirk, Sharonda, Walker, Ranata Adams, Thais Polk, Jovannii Ayers, LaDaris Spearman, Paige Brown, Yolanda Bolton, Ashley Wheeler, Monique Joiner, Tinisha Daniels, and Ms. Adrienne Strong. The hard work of these young people defies the inaccurate notion of an "uncommitted generation." The young people of this nation possess an overwhelming level of dedication and aptitude, and the students of the Hamilton High School Choir serve as a testimony to that.

We must continue to encourage the young people of this nation. We must continue to remind them of their potential. Moreover, we must congratulate them when they reach their goals and fulfill their potential. In that spirit, it gives me great pleasure to present this inspirational group of young men and women to official Washington, to my colleagues and to the hundreds of Americans who will be touring the