

wish him continued success and prosperity, and thank him for the difference he has made in our community.

QUEEN ESTHER CHAPTER NO. 1,  
ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR,  
PRINCE HALL AFFILIATION  
CELEBRATES 125 YEARS

### HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 20, 1999*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate and celebrate the Queen Esther Chapter No. 1, Order of the Eastern Star, Prince Hall Affiliation, of the District of Columbia, on the occasion of its 125th birthday.

The Queen Esther Chapter No. 1, Order of the Eastern Star, Prince Hall Affiliation, is a female organization that is part of Free Masonry, and was the first Eastern Star Chapter for women of color. It is a nonprofit organization dedicated to community involvement and improvement, the provision of scholarships for our youth, support of our public schools, and service to the indigent. The chapter was organized in the home of its founder, Sister Georgiana Thomas, on December 1, 1874 by Brother Thornton A. Jackson, Pythagoras Lodge No. 9, F. and A.M., who received the Degree of Adoptive Rite of the Eastern Star from Brother C.B. Case, a deputy and agent of Robert McCoy, 33°, the Supreme Patron of the Rite of Adoption of the World. The chapter's first Worthy Matron was Sister Martha Welch and the first Worthy Patron was Brother Thornton A. Jackson.

In 1875, Pythagoras Lodge No. 9, F. and M. presented the chapter with its first badges, known as Rosettes, emblems of power, honor, and ability. W.P. Thornton A. Jackson wished the chapter success and prosperity, and admonished the members to wear the badges with dignity, keeping ever before them the memory of the five heroines, Adah, Ruth, Esther, Martha, and Electa. Queen Esther Chapter was under the complete directives of Pythagoras Lodge No. 9 from 1874 until 1892, when the Georgiana Thomas Grand Chapter was organized.

The history of Queen Esther Chapter is rich in tradition and honors. The first among them being Sister Georgiana Thomas, P.M., after whom the Georgiana Thomas Grand Chapter was named, Sister Marie I. Smith for whom the Marie I. Smith Court of Cyrenes was named, and Phyllis S. Byrd, P.M. who became P.G.W.M., P.I.G.M., and after whom the Phyllis S. Bird Youth Fraternity was named.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the Members of this body to join me in wishing the Queen Esther Chapter No. 1, Order of the Eastern Star, Prince Hall Affiliation, a future that is as glorious as its past.

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN MEMORY OF FR. ALCUIN  
MIKULANIS

### HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 20, 1999*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Father Alcuin Mikulanis, Associate Pastor of St. Stanislaus Church in Slavic Village.

Father Alcuin, as he was known to the many parishioners he served, had ministered in the Cleveland area since 1984. During these years, he was well known in the Polish community not only as a compassionate and dedicated Pastor, but also as an accomplished singer. In fact, he was frequently called to sing introductory prayers and benedictions at meetings and gatherings.

Fr. Alcuin was a man of many talents, and he shared them graciously with his parishioners in the several states where he served. For example, from 1958 to 1962, in addition to being Vocations Director of his Franciscan Province, he was Director of a Polish radio program entitled "Christ the King Hour." Recordings of Polish folk songs and Christmas carols from this program is still in high demand after 40 years. While serving as Chaplain at St. Joseph Hospital in Meridian, MS from 1963–1966, he was involved in the civil rights activities of the time.

In Ohio, he served as Chaplain of the Sisters of St. Joseph of the Third Order of St. Francis at Marymount Convent. Later, as Associate Pastor of the historic St. Stanislaus Church, he was able to focus directly on the Polish ministry of his new parish. Fr. Alcuin witnessed the completion of one of his dreams last year with the restoration of St. Stanislaus Church on its 125th anniversary as a parish.

My fellow colleagues, please join me in honoring the memory of Fr. Alcuin.

HONORING THE OAKLAND HIGH  
SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM

### HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 20, 1999*

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the accomplishments of a dedicated group of young men who worked together in the true spirit of sportsmanship to achieve a long-awaited goal.

The group is the Oakland High School football team of Murfreesboro, TN. The goal the team achieved is winning the State 5–A football championship this past season.

These men of Oakland High trained vigorously and played tirelessly. They deserve recognition for a job well done.

I congratulate each team member, head coach Marty Euerard, assistant coaches Donnie Webb, Lebron Ferguson, Mike Cantrell, Mark Burke, Joey Freeman, Chuck Swafford, Todd Williamson, managers Alicia Garcia, Laura Austin, Katie Wright, Amanda McDougal, Matt Bingham, trainer Mike Gross, video technician Brian Josey, the team doctors

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and school Principal Ken Nolan. I know they won't soon forget this milestone.

The players are true champions. They are Alvin McDermott, Jeremy Harrison, Dejuan Hathaway, Kendrick Roper, Decarlos Carneal, Roland Ogletree, Trey Mosby, James Smith, Robbie Knight, Wardell Alsup, Desmond Rhodes, Matt King, Victor Stevenson, Mark Drew, Colby Wright, B.J. Malone, Mario Lyles, Derrick Savannah, Tee Thompason, Aaron Wells, Freddie King, Cory Hixson, Chad Pfalmer, Mason Jones, Jamie Malletta, Jeff Weaver, Chris Counts, Gabriel Batten, Essex Johnson, Jeff Atkins, Greg Spray, Justin Hutchins, Chris Parrot, Newt Ealy, Jeremy Spivey, Josh Peay, Mitch Welborne, Tommy Lawwell, Jeff Harvey, Dustin Griswold, Troy Broughton, Brett Trott, Zach Hollins, Jay Adkins, Dustin Jones, and Luke Ferguson.

HONORING ROBSTOWN HIGH  
SCHOOL BAND

### HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 20, 1999*

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to shine the light on a performance later this week on the west side of the Capitol. I would like to invite all of you and your staff to hear the Robstown High School Band from my hometown of Robstown, TX.

Many of you have heard me talk about my hometown. Robstown is the biggest little town in Texas. Robstown has given the community, the state and the nation much of which they can be proud. Some prominent politicians at the local, the state and the national level hail from this big little town.

Robstown has thrilled us with their state baseball titles. The Cottonpickers baseball team is consistently underrated by the opposition from the bigger, more affluent school districts.

This week, however, Robstown High School sends its band to entertain us on the lower west terrace of the U.S. Capitol on April 23 from 1:30 to 2:15. The 120 young people in the band will be in the area on an educational trip during which they will see the museums and monuments Washington has to offer.

I hope all my colleagues will join me in welcoming the Robstown High School band to the U.S. Capitol.

IN RECOGNITION OF RICHARD  
BEDARD

### HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 20, 1999*

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Richard Bedard, who is retiring this year after nearly 38 years of service to the Worcester Public Schools.

Dick Bedard began his career where it counts the most—in the classroom, as a math and physics teacher. From there he moved into administrative positions, including Audio-visual Director, Director of Instructional Media, and, most recently School Plant Manager.

As the man in charge of the physical plant of the Worcester Public Schools, Dick Bedard has done an extraordinary job of keeping our schools safe, clean and conducive to learning. He was in the lead as Worcester opened 5 new schools; 3 more are on the way.

Through all of this, Dick Bedard has approached his responsibilities with good humor, hard work and dedication. He is widely respected in the city of Worcester as a man who gets the job done. And although we will miss him and his expertise, it is only fair to finally share him with his wife Joan, their four children and their five grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I know this entire House joins me in congratulating Dick Bedard for a job very well done, and expressing our best wishes for a healthy, productive and very well-earned retirement.

A FRIENDLY WAGER

**HON. NICK SMITH**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 20, 1999*

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge two great college basketball teams that met in the Final Four of the NCAA tournament. In a meeting of the House Agriculture Committee last month, Rep. BOB ETHERIDGE of North Carolina and I entered into a friendly wager on whether Michigan State University or Duke University would win their semifinal match up.

The wager called for the loser to furnish each member of the Agriculture Committee with a wholesome food product from his state. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge that Michigan State University's great basketball team, the Big 10 champion, riding a record win streak, lost an exciting and close game to Duke University.

Mr. Speaker, to pay off this wager, I want to officially announce that I am furnishing each member of the Agriculture Committee with a bag of Michigan navy beans and I would like to note that Michigan is one of the top navy bean producers in the world. In addition, I'm furnishing each member with a box of Kellogg's new Smart Start cereal. Kellogg, which is based in Battle Creek, MI, is one of the world's top breakfast cereal producers.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the fine example of effort and determination of all the players in the NCAA tournament.

IN HONOR OF THE U.S CHAMPION MOORPARK HIGH SCHOOL DECATHLON TEAM

**HON. ELTON GALLEGLY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 20, 1999*

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Moorpark High School Academic Decathlon as the U.S. National Decathlon Champions.

This is the first time a team from Ventura County, California, has won this premiere

scholastic contest. In fact, it's the first time a team from Ventura County has competed in the nationals. Team members Arturo Barragan, Alexandria Dove, John Ellis, Valerie Lake, Nick Lange, Mitul Patel, Ari Shaw and Rebecca Wershba are now recognized as the best and the brightest in the country. They are the pride of their county and their country.

These youngsters won by literally dedicating their lives to the challenge. For months, these teen-agers studied at school until 10 p.m., then hit a coffee shop or a student's home to study some more. They gave up weekends, vacations, part-time jobs and time with their families.

Their coaches, head coach Larry Jones and assistance coach Michelle Bergman, did the same. Larry Jones has said he will retire. Not everyone believes him. But, at a minimum, he and Michelle have earned some relaxation in the glow of a job well done. We wish both of them the best in whatever their futures bring.

Moorpark High School fielded two teams to complete in the Ventura County Academic Decathlon on February 6. Moorpark High's two teams bested all the rest, coming in first and second. The A Team then competed against the best in California on March 12, coming away with the state title, and opening the way for their national title this weekend.

Mr. Speaker, one of the team members, Ari Shaw, served as an intern in my office last year. He brought the knowledge gained inside the halls of Congress to the contest by giving a speech on his experiences here, a speech that won him several accolades. It should please my colleagues to know that our young people leave Capitol Hill with positive memories.

As we get ready to approve the Education Flexibility bill this week and consider other education measures this year, let us keep in mind the members of the Moorpark High School Academic Decathlon team and all the worthy competitors they faced from schools across our great nation. These are the real people behind our efforts to improve our schools. They are representative of those striving to get the best education they can, to be the best they can. It is incumbent upon us to keep them to reach their goals.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues will join me in applauding eight such real people who achieved a very prestigious goal—Arturo Barragan, Alexandra Dove, John Ellis, Valerie Lake, Nick Lange, Mitul Patel, Ari Shaw and Rebecca Wershba—the U.S. champion Moorpark High School Academic Decathlon Team.

“EXTRAORDINARILY EWING” OFFERS VALUABLE LESSON IN CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY

**HON. RUSH D. HOLT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 20, 1999*

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call the attention of my colleagues to a remarkable example of community service and civic responsibility that is occurring in my Congressional District in central New Jersey.

Two years ago, alarmed at low voter turnout, local parent Candace Mueller, of Ewing,

New Jersey, formed “Extraordinarily Ewing” a group of PTA members, parents, business people and taxpayers committed to getting the word out about the importance of participating in school board elections and being involved in local education issues.

This community-based effort to educate citizens about the importance and responsibility of voting, and in taking part in other matters relating to local elections, has been a remarkable success. Since the program was started, voting turnout has increased and residents have taken more interest in issues like the local school budget. The effect of this involvement has been contagious, leading to a more informed, more involved citizenry, regardless of their position on the issues.

At the urging of the citizens of “Extraordinarily Ewing,” today in Ewing has been designated “Take Your Child to Vote Day.” The campaign, which urges parents and guardians to take twenty minutes out of their busy schedules to go to the polls with their children to vote is an important lesson in civic responsibility. By seeing their parents voting, young people understand very clearly the importance of being involved in their community and its decisions.

The efforts of “Extraordinarily Ewing” have been recognized by Ewing Mayor Al Bridges, the Town Council and by County Executive, Robert Prunetti. “Extraordinarily Ewing's” efforts have also been spotlighted by the *Ewing Weekly Times* and *The Trenton Times*.

Mr. Speaker, at a time when voter participation and involvement is on the wane, the efforts of “Extraordinarily Ewing” are a refreshing reminder of the importance of being involved. The efforts of these parents and business people offer a valuable lesson in civic responsibility for all of us.

I hope that my colleagues will join me in recognizing this group and these efforts.

MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION BENEFIT FOR ALL SENIORS IS URGENTLY NEEDED; GOOD HEALTH CARE REQUIRES ACCESS TO PHARMACEUTICAL TREATMENT

**HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 20, 1999*

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, today, Representatives HENRY WAXMAN, JOHN DINGELL, myself and others are introducing the Access to Rx Medications in Medicare Act of 1999. Senators EDWARD KENNEDY (D-Mass.) and JAY ROCKEFELLER (D-W. Va.) are introducing the bill in the Senate. It provides a basic, affordable Part B benefit of \$1,700 per year that will cover 80% of pharmaceutical costs for all seniors and eligible disabled individuals with more than \$200 in annual drug costs. The bill also helps all Medicare beneficiaries by covering 100% of their costs above \$3,000 in annual out-of-pocket prescription drug expenditures.

The benefit is to be administered by private-sector entities such as pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs), insurers, or networks or wholesale and retail pharmacies, which would competitively bid for Medicare's business. Entities