

past 14 years Sister has traveled over the border into New Jersey, where she serves the New Community Corporation in Newark as Human Resources director. Her outstanding service in this capacity earned the attention of our colleague from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE), who sponsored Sister's participation in our opening ceremonies today.

Mr. Speaker, I would like all of our colleagues to be aware that on October 20th of this year, Sister Catherine Moran will be the recipient of the 2000 Founders Award from St. Thomas Aquinas College in my Congressional District, in Sparkill, NY. This highly prestigious award is presented annually to the individual who has exemplified the motto of St. Thomas Aquinas College: "Enlighten the Mind through Truth."

I plan to be on hand at the Aquinas Medal banquet this year as this truly remarkable woman is recognized for her compassion and for her service to humanity.

Mr. Speaker, it is notable that our opening prayer today was delivered by a truly unique individual who made history by being here with us.

#### TRIBUTE TO RAJ SOIN

### HON. DAVID L. HOBSON

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 12, 2000*

Mr. HOBSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding Ohioan and an individual who has helped to show that the American Dream can become a reality.

Raj Soin came to this country from India in 1969 to attend graduate school. The airline which brought him to this country lost his luggage and Mr. Soin began his American odyssey with \$3 and only the clothes he was wearing. Through hard work and determination, he received his degree and began a career with Williams International in Michigan.

By 1984, Mr. Soin had created Modern Technologies Corporation and established it in Dayton to be near Wright-Patterson Air Force Base and its extensive military research facilities. As his businesses grew, he never forgot the importance of family. His wife and sons have publicly praised his ability to balance his professional and family commitments.

Mr. Soin is currently president and CEO of MTC International, a parent company for a number of high-tech and manufacturing businesses involving engineering, consulting work for the military, computer applications and services, plastic materials and land development. Mr. Soin is living proof that America is still a land of opportunity.

Mr. Soin's belief that the best investment is an investment in good people has given him a vision of excellence and helped him provide crucial leadership to Wright State University. Mr. Soin is committed to Wright State's development as a premier institution of higher learning and he has consistently demonstrated his ability to help this dream take form.

While building his own successful business ventures, Raj Soin has served on Wright State University's Board of Trustees since 1993 as well as its Business College Board of Advi-

sors. He also serves on the boards of the Victoria Theatre, the Dayton Foundation, and the Ohio Business Roundtable. Additionally, he founded the Asian Indian American Business Group in 1987 and the Ohio India Project which raises funds for charitable work.

As a result of his steadfast support, Wright State University publicly recognized Mr. Soin on September 11, 2000 by naming the school's College of Business and Administration in his honor.

As Ohio's Seventh District Representative to the Congress of the United States, I take this opportunity to join with Wright State University and our entire local community to honor the efforts and the achievements of Raj Soin. His many contributions to the Miami Valley are greatly appreciated by all.

#### A DAY AT THE RANCH

### HON. SONNY CALLAHAN

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 12, 2000*

Mr. CALLAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding accomplishments of A Day at the Ranch Youth Foundation. Founded in Mobile, Alabama, by Peggy Thrash and Gabriel Peck, Jr., A Day at the Ranch is currently headquartered in St. Elmo, Alabama, on a ten-acre horse ranch.

A Day at the Ranch provides a very unique opportunity for today's youth, especially disadvantaged young people. Away from the hustle and bustle of the city, A Day at the Ranch affords young men and women an opportunity to participate firsthand in the environment of a working horse ranch.

In addition to the many chores associated with running a ranch, the program also contains an educational component designed to broaden the young persons' awareness and knowledge of contributions made by African-American men and women in conjunction with horses.

Staffed by volunteers from across the state of Alabama, the ranch also gives students the opportunity to participate in events such as West Fest, as well as an annual trip to Houston, Texas.

West Fest was held in 1998 for Mobile County schools, and more than 5200 students attended the day's events. West Fest was highlighted by cultural activities such as the Bill Picket Rodeo, the largest African-American rodeo in the country, and a cultural exchange spotlighting Alabama's Native American Tribes and Civil War reenactments.

In 1999, A Day at the Ranch Youth Foundation selected 40 disadvantaged young people from across the state, as well as 40 youth in foster care. They traveled to Houston for the weekend and attended the Houston Livestock and Rodeo Show. This trip is now an annual event funded by supporters of A Day at the Ranch Youth Foundation.

Although the program is primarily designed for today's youth, A Day at the Ranch also hosts adult groups. Since 1996, more than 25,000 young people and adults alike have spent A Day at the Ranch. With the overwhelming social problems our young people

face today, it is clear this program is informative and beneficial for the young people of Alabama.

Mr. Speaker, I salute Peggy Thrash and Gabriel Peck, Jr., for coming up with the innovative program, A Day at the Ranch. Not only are they helping educate our young people on the importance of good equestrian practices, but they are also providing a valuable lesson on the importance of hard work and responsibility.

#### HONORING THE STANDARD REGISTER COMPANY IN MONROE, NC

### HON. ROBIN HAYES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 12, 2000*

Mr. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, today it is my privilege to recognize the Standard Register Company's facility in Monroe, NC, for successfully completing over 600,000 hours of operation with no lost time.

John Q. Sherman formed Standard Register Company in 1912 in Dayton, OH. Mr. Sherman and his company introduced Theodore Schirmer's paper-feeding invention, the autographic register, to the industrial world. Today, Standard Register is a member of the Business Forms Industry, and is a \$1.4 billion company with approximately 8,200 associates nationwide.

The plant in Monroe was formed on August 6, 1996, when Standard Register Company acquired Piedmont Printing. Since that date the employees at the Monroe facility have worked a total of 667,613 hours with no lost time, no work-related injuries. This great accomplishment is proof of the excellent work habits of all of the members of the Monroe plant.

I would like to extend special congratulations and commendations to a few of Standard Register's corporate officers and managers, Harry Seifert, Dave Fehrman, Rick Miller, Dan Buchholtz, Earl Ammons, and Terry E. Sizemore.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the employees at Standard Register for their superior achievements, and I would ask all of my colleagues to join me in paying special tribute to them.

#### TRIBUTE TO GIRL SCOUT GOLD AWARD RECIPIENTS

### HON. THOMAS W. EWING

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 12, 2000*

Mr. EWING. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to salute Laura David, Erin Wiggins, Jennifer Iversen, Christina Barnes, and Merideth Holmes. They are outstanding young women who were honored with the Girl Scout Gold Award by Green Meadows Council in Urbana, Illinois. Laura, Erin, Jennifer, Christina, and Merideth were honored on May 8, 2000 for earning the highest achievement that a young woman aged 14-17 or in grades 9-12 can

earn in Girl Scouting. The Girl Scout Gold Award symbolizes outstanding accomplishments and has five requirements, each of which helps girls develop skills in the areas of leadership, career exploration, self-discovery, and service. The fifth requirement is a Gold Award Project that requires a minimum of 50 hours of participation.

Girl Scouts of the U. S. A., an organization serving over 2.5 million girls, has awarded more than 20,000 Girl Scout Awards to Senior Girl Scouts since the inception of the program in 1980. To receive this award, a Girl Scout must earn four interest project patches, the Career Exploration Pin, the Senior Girl Scout Leadership Award, and the Senior Girl Scout Challenge, and also design and carry out a Girl Scout Award project. A plan for fulfilling these requirements is created by the Senior Girl Scout and is carried out through close cooperation between the girl, her troop leader, and an adult Girl Scout volunteer mentor.

Laura and Erin's Gold Award project was "Communities Helping Communities." They are members of Girl Scout Troop 299 in Champaign, Illinois. The idea for their project came when they participated in a school sponsored city clean-up project. They recognized the need to help elderly neighbors with yard work and beautification of their property. Together they organized and coordinated volunteer workers, obtained donations of plant materials and supplies and provided gardening services for eight elderly families and three churches. Upon completing this project, they evaluated the results. Laura felt that one of the benefits of this project was the families were able to provide input into the selection of flowers and how their flowerbeds were designed. Erin said she gained self-satisfaction from providing such a tangible improvement to homes. Benefits of the project were the experience of intergenerational and multi-racial neighbors working together.

Jennifer Iversen's Gold Award project involved obtaining computers for the residents of Manor Care Health Services. She is also a member of Girl Scout Troop 299 in Champaign, Illinois. Jennifer and a friend taught residents basic computer skills and how to access the Internet. These new skills provided residents the ability to use e-mail to correspond with family friends. Jennifer applied for and received a grant for continuation of this project next year with volunteer assistance from the social advocacy class at University Laboratory High School.

Christina Barnes's Gold Award project titled "Assistant Softball Coach" provided her the opportunity to share her talents and love of softball with young women aged 13-15. Christina is a member of Girl Scout Troop 400 in Philo, Illinois. She coached and taught this group fast pitch softball skills through the Park District. Her project also included developing a First Aid kit for the team and emphasizing nutrition in her instruction.

Merideth Holmes is an Independent Girl Scout from Monticello, Illinois, and her project, "Christian Cuddlies" involved working with members of a Junior Girl Scout troop to make teddy bears for children admitted to the emergency room of Ganta Memorial Hospital in Ganta, Liberia. Merideth enjoyed involving the Junior Girl Scouts in her project and being

able to make an emergency room more comforting and less threatening for children.

I believe that Laura David, Erin Wiggins, Jennifer Iversen, Christina Barnes, and Merideth Holmes should receive public recognition for their significant service to their communities and country.

RECOGNIZING 5 OLYMPIC TEAM MEMBERS FROM THE 41ST DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

**HON. GARY G. MILLER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 12, 2000*

Mr. GARY MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to recognize five athletes from California's 41st District that will be representing the United States at the XXVII Olympic Summer Games in Sydney, Australia. Leah O'Brien-Amico from Diamond Bar and Shelia Douty from Chino will be competing on the U.S. Women's Softball Team; Heather Brown from Yorba Linda on the U.S. Women's Volleyball Team; Brian Dunseth from Upland on the U.S. Men's Soccer Team; and Young In Cheon from Diamond Bar will be competing in Taekwondo.

I commend these very special individuals for sacrificing, training and competing to make it to the top of their respective sports. Their hard work has led to their selection on the U.S. Olympic Team and with it the notoriety of being our country's finest athletes. It is a great honor to compete for the United States in the world's most prestigious athletic contest. Their communities and their nation are very proud of them. Our support and best wishes go with each one of them as they journey to Sydney, Australia to compete in this year's Olympic Summer Games.

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO THOMAS SUDDER FOR HIS DEDICATED SERVICE AND MYRIAD CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE FIELD OF JOURNALISM

**HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 12, 2000*

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to pay special tribute to an outstanding individual from the state of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, on August 31, 2000, Thomas Suddes, chief legislative reporter for the Cleveland Plain Dealer, retired after more than 25 years of service in the field of journalism.

Born in Youngstown, OH, Tom's educational journey began at St. Dominic Elementary and Cardinal Mooney High School. In 1976, Tom completed his bachelor of arts degree in journalism at the Ohio State University. Now, Tom will leave the Cleveland Plain Dealer after 18 years to pursue his doctorate degree in mass communications at Ohio University's E.W. Scripps School of Journalism.

While attending the Ohio State University, Tom worked as statehouse reporter, col-

umnist, editorial page editor, and editor-in-chief of the student-run Ohio State Lantern newspaper. After graduating from OSU, Tom wrote for the Chicago Sun-Times and the Des Moines Register and Tribune. He also served as editorial page editor with Foster's Daily Democrat of Dover, New Hampshire and assistant news editor with the Clarion-Ledger of Jackson, MS.

In 1982, Tom Suddes began working for the organization that would showcase his talents and allow his career to flourish, the Cleveland Plain Dealer. Tom has served in many positions with the Cleveland Plain Dealer over the last 18 years. From state desk reporter to Columbus bureau chief, from columnist to chief legislative reporter, Tom Suddes has brought honor, integrity, and fair reporting to each of his assignments.

Journalists like Tom Suddes are a credit to their profession. They diligently work to secure stories, which bring their readers the information they so desire. Yet, above all, they preserve the trust and respect of the leaders and public officials they cover.

Mr. Speaker, my wife, Karen, and I have known Tom Suddes for many years and have the highest regard for his character and abilities as a journalist. While Karen and I will sorely miss his insight into Ohio politics and his coverage of state and national events, we know that our friendship will continue to flourish. At this time, I would ask my colleagues of the 106th Congress to stand and join me in paying special tribute to Thomas Suddes. His professionalism and service are a credit to the field of journalism. We wish him the very best in all of his future endeavors.

VENEZUELA'S PRESIDENT CHAVEZ

**HON. DOUG BEREUTER**

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 12, 2000*

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, I submit for my colleagues the August 16, 2000, Norfolk Daily News editorial entitled "Chavez travels: Venezuela's new president provides incentive to emphasize energy search." As the editorial correctly notes, Venezuela's new president, Hugo Chavez, is not winning friends here in America. At the request of the Speaker, this Member accompanied him on President Clinton's one-day trip to Colombia to view first hand the efforts within that country and its neighbors to reduce or eliminate the coca and poppy production, which are the basis of cocaine and heroin.

It is clear that Mr. Chavez considers himself, with a significant degree of grandiosity and self-assuredness, as the emerging political power in the region. This appears to have dangerous implications, and such actions by President Chavez, as noted in the editorial to include known belligerents to our national security, must be closely watched and, if necessary, responded to immediately.

Venezuela is the United States' leading supplier of imported crude and refined petroleum products. The United States accounts for 53 percent of Venezuela's exports. Venezuela's activities and cooperation within the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)