

Leamon King tied the world record for the 100-yard dash at the West Coast Relays in Fresno, California. Merle Red Post 124 First Vice Commander Joe Viray and former educators Wayne and Wava Billingsley witnessed this spectacular event. They stated Leamon King's historic race was an awesome sight to see. It appeared as though Leamon King had wings so his feet as he majestically flew across the finish line and into the world record history book.

The Delano Record dated May 15, 1956 stated the following: "KING'S 9.3 DASH BRINGS ANOTHER RECORD TO CITY. Delano became the home of two world champions Saturday when Leamon King, local resident and former Delano High School track star, ran the 100 yard dash in 9.3 at the Fresno Relays to tie the world record. King's victory brought another world record to Delano, making it the home of one of the fastest sprinters and the residence of Lon Spurrier, holder of the world record for the 880. There is no other city in the United States the size of Delano, which can boast two world champions."

Both Leamon King and Lon Spurrier were selected to participate in the 1956 Olympics in Melbourne, Australia. Delano became the only city of its size in the United States to have two representatives make the 1956 Olympic team. Because of the fame the City of Delano had received due to the athletic accomplishments of these two track stars, Leamon King and Lon Spurrier were the Grand Marshalls of the Eleventh Annual Harvest Holidays Parade on October 6, 1956.

During the October 1956 United States Olympic camp practice meet at Ontario, California, Leamon King set his second world record when he tied the 10.1 time for the world record for 100 meters set by Ira Murchison and Willie Williams in Germany the previous summer. Following this splendid achievement, Leamon traveled to Australia to represent the City of Delano and the United States. Dr. Clifford Loader, Mayor of Delano, also traveled to Australia to give support to the two Delano Olympic participants.

Delano High School Educator Gary Girard, who was serving as a staff writer for the Delano Record, stated in his article dated November 23, 1956, "KING'S EFFORTS PULLED U.S. TO VICTORY IN 400-METER RELAY AT OLYMPIC GAMES. Dr. Clifford Loader, Mayor of Delano, believes that it was the running of ex-Delano High star Leamon King that pulled the United States to victory in the 400-meter relay at the Olympic Games in Australia. The U.S. had stiff competition from Russia. Loader said that after the relay, Thane Baker, another member of the U.S. relay team ran over to hug King, realizing that it was his leg on the relay team that had won the race. King received a gold medal for his effort on the winning U.S. 400-meter relay quartet."

Following the Olympic Games, the foursome set a New World record. In a meet with the British Empire, the U.S. team of King, Andy Stanfield, Thane Baker and Bobby Morrow set a new world mark of 1:23.8 for the 880 yard relay. The old mark was 1:24.

According to Leamon King, when he first arrived in Melbourne, he ran on grass and set a grass record. It appeared as though every time he ran, he would break a record.

Bakersfield Californian Staff Writer Kevin Eubanks stated "King's omission from the 100 meter team certainly didn't affect his moment in the spot light. The news that the world's fastest man was not competing in the 100 meter race was received as something of a shock by the rest of the sporting world." For his outstanding attributes as an athlete, Leamon King served as Grand Marshall for the Delano Cinco de Mayo Parade, was inducted into the University of California, Berkeley Hall of fame, and the Bob Elias Hall of Fame in Bakersfield, California.

During the past twenty-nine years, Leamon King served as an educator in the Delano area. Mr. King taught for two years in Richgrove prior to transferring to the Delano Union School District where he served as educator for the past twenty-seven years. Mr. King taught the sixth grade at both Terrace Elementary School and Almond Tree Middle School. During his tenure as an educator for the Delano Union School District, Mr. Leamon King proved to be an extraordinary educator and was highly respected. This educator served as an excellent example for his peers, as well as our youth.

On his sixty-fifth birthday this year, during Black History Month, the Delano Union School District named in Leamon's honor the athletic facilities at Almond Tree Middle School, which include the school gym and outside athletic facilities, including a track and basketball courts.

Leamon King will be missed by family, friends, colleagues, and the community. I offer my condolences to Leamon's family. And we say to Leamon, "goodbye, we miss you, we know God will bless and watch over you."

#### HONORING MICHIGAN ELKS ANNUAL STATE CONVENTION

**HON. DALE E. KILDEE**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 5, 2001*

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the Michigan State Association of the Improved Benevolent Protective Order of Elks of the World. On June 12-17, Elks from all over Michigan will gather in my hometown of Flint for their 75th Annual State Convention.

Attorney Benjamin Franklin Howard in Cincinnati, Ohio founded the Improved Benevolent Protective Order of Elks of the World in 1898. Its purpose remains to promote and enhance the welfare of its members and the communities they come from through the spirit of benevolence and inculcation in all its members. The order of Elkdom is best known for a century of give over \$2.5 million in scholarships to youth of all races and cultures throughout the United States.

Over the years, the Michigan State Association have graciously made donations to Children's Hospital of Michigan, the United Negro College Fund, and many other charities. They have also given over \$30,000 to other hospitals, as well as the Michigan Kidney Foundation.

Children have always been a focal point of the Elks, as the Michigan State Association has shown through their dedication to scho-

lastic achievement. The Elks regularly contribute to literacy programs, oratorical contests, and other programs designed to presenting our young people with a public forum, and a chance to shine.

I would like to recognize the leaders of the Michigan State Association: Mr. Alfred Bell, State President, and Mrs. Julia M. Ford, Michigan State President of the Daughters of Elks. It is through their leadership that the Elks serve as such a tremendous group of people.

Mr. Speaker, as a member of several civic organizations, I know very well that groups such as the Elks work diligently to improve the quality of life for all those they come into contact with. I am honored that the Michigan State Association have chosen Flint as the site of their 75th Annual Convention. I ask my colleagues in the 107th Congress to join me in congratulating the Elks and wish them continued success.

#### REINTRODUCTION OF THE MEDICARE WELLNESS ACT OF 2001

**HON. SANDER M. LEVIN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 5, 2001*

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join with my colleague, Mark Foley, in reintroducing The Medicare Wellness Act, which would modernize Medicare by adding common-sense health promotion and early detection services to Medicare's basic benefit package and removing financial disincentives to use current preventative care services.

I'm pleased that we were able to enact a few of the provisions in last year's Medicare Wellness Act as part of the Beneficiary Improvement and Protection Act, and I hope this will be the year that Congress finishes the job by creating a permanent, fact-based process for adding preventative care services to Medicare as science proves that they are effective.

It doesn't make any sense that, for example, Medicare will pay to treat someone who has a heart attack but won't pay to prevent the heart attack by screening for high blood pressure and elevated cholesterol. The Medicare Wellness Act would rationalize the program by adding basic preventative services to Medicare's benefit package. It would also create an incentive for beneficiaries to use the services by eliminating cost-sharing and deductibles for preventative care services, just as most private insurance plans have done.

The bill would add cholesterol screening, high blood pressure testing, hearing and vision testing, and expanded osteoporosis screening to Medicare's list of covered services. It would also add coverage of health promotion services like medical nutrition therapy for people with heart disease and smoking cessation help. It would allow us to test a depression screening benefit to see if by detecting and treating clinical depression at early stages we could head off debilitating physical illnesses and reduce the elderly suicide rate, which is higher than that of any other age group. The Wellness Act would eliminate the cost-sharing on existing prevention services to encourage more people to use them. Most importantly, it