

Dean Epperson is the longest-serving dean of social work in the country. Having served in this position since 1972, he has also served as a dean at Pitt longer than anyone else in the school's history. Under his leadership, the University of Pittsburgh's School of Social Work has tripled in size and become one of the Nation's foremost graduate schools for social work.

Dean Epperson is a University of Pittsburgh alumnus as well. He earned a bachelor's degree, two master's degrees, and a Ph.D in political science and public policy at Pitt. He has studied in Hong Kong and Turkey as well.

In addition to his academic career, Dr. Epperson worked for the YMCA both in Pittsburgh and Hong Kong. He currently serves on the National Board of Directors and International Committee of the YMCA of the USA, as well as the board of directors of the Metropolitan YMCA of Pittsburgh. He was also the former executive director of Community Action Pittsburgh, Incorporated.

Dean Epperson has also found the time to be very active in community affairs. He has served on the State planning board, the Judicial Reform Commission for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the Pennsylvania Humanities Council, and the State Compensation Commission. He has served as chairman of the board of the Urban League of Pittsburgh, the Negro Educational Emergency Drive, and the Riverfront Working Group for the City of Pittsburgh. He has served on the board of directors of the Salvation Army, ACTION-Housing, the American Red Cross, Magee-Womens Hospital, the Pittsburgh Council for International Visitors, and the PNC Urban Advisory Board. And he has served as a trustee of the National Urban League and the National Center for Social Policy and Practice. He has served as deacon and trustee at the Macedonia Baptist Church as well.

Currently, Dean Epperson is the vice chairman of the Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh, and he serves on the Allegheny County Department of Human Services Oversight Committee, the William J. Copeland Fund Advisory Committee of the Pittsburgh Foundation, the Lemington Home Advisory Board of the Pittsburgh Foundation. He is also a Trustee of the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary and its Metro-Urban Ministry Advisory Board.

Finally, Dean Epperson has also been active in a number of professional organizations, and he has received many, many awards recognizing his many important contributions and accomplishments.

David E. Epperson is a remarkably talented man who has a tremendous impact at the University of Pittsburgh, and southwestern Pennsylvania, in the course of his long and productive professional career. I am certain that Dean Epperson will continue to be active in community affairs after his retirement as well. A dinner honoring Dean Epperson on the occasion of his retirement will be held in Pittsburgh tomorrow. On behalf of the people of Pennsylvania's 14th Congressional District, I want to wish him well at this milestone in his life.

A TRIBUTE TO BRETT KAUBLE,
MICHAEL KRUSE, MICAH KUBIC

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2001

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor three students from my district: Brett Kauble of Kansas City, Michael Kruse of Platte City, and Micah Kubic of Kansas City, for winning the Congressional Award Gold Medal. In obtaining this award they have spent the last two years completing 400 hours of community service, 200 hours of both personal development and physical fitness activities, and a four-night expedition or exploration.

The Congressional Award challenges our Nation's young people to realize their full potential through goal setting in the areas of public service, personal development, physical fitness, and exploration. These three students are an outstanding example of the promise and bright future of this Nation. The lessons they have learned striving toward this award will serve them well in future pursuits. This award is a testament not only to the talent, commitment, and discipline of these students, but also to their families, communities, and schools, who supported these students along the way. For their hard work and dedication, I congratulate them. I applaud their accomplishment today, and I encourage them to always pursue future goals with the same vigor.

HONORING LEONARD ABESS

HON. PETER DEUTSCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2001

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Leonard Abess, a successful banker whose philanthropy during his 97 years of life contributed greatly to the enrichment of the Miami community. It brings me great sadness to report that Leonard passed away on June 3, 2001. Today, I wish to celebrate his life's achievements and mourn the passing of a great man.

Leonard Abess was born in Providence, RI to Romanian Jews. He moved to Washington, DC in 1917, to live with an older sister after the death of his mother. He then enrolled in college at New York University where he took accounting classes at night while working full time during the day.

Leonard moved to Miami in 1925 to open an accounting firm inside First National Bank, where he was an independent auditor. Twenty-one years later he co-founded City National Bank, which is now the largest nationally chartered bank based in Florida. He went from making \$25 a week as a young accountant to making millions.

All those who knew Leonard would tell you he never let his riches stop him from caring about people. Leonard Abess despised bigotry and worked so that others could benefit from his philanthropy. He treated everyone with love and dignity.

In 1949, when local hospitals refused to hire Jewish doctors, Leonard and a group of Jew-

ish residents pooled their resources to form Mount Sinai Medical Center in Miami Beach. The hospital, of which Leonard was a founding member and a former chairman of the board of trustees, now has a \$300-million-plus operating budget.

Leonard's public service won him countless accolades. He was the recipient of the Anti-Defamation League's Man of Achievement Award and was also named their chairman emeritus. Leonard was the Humanitarian Award winner from the National Conference of Christians and Jews. He and his wife, Bertha, who died in 1997, were recognized as Philanthropists of the Year by the National Society of Fund Raising Executives.

Leonard Abess was survived by his daughter Linda Ellis and son Leonard Abess, Jr.; eight grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. Mr. Speaker, along with his family, the community of Miami will be at a great loss for his wonderful spirit and generous philanthropic contributions.

IN HONOR OF HIRAM HOUSE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2001

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize Hiram House, which will receive a historical marker for the important role it has served in the lives of Ohio youth for over a century.

Hiram House was founded in 1896 as Ohio's first "Settlement House" to address the needs of Cleveland's immigrants and others in poverty. It was one of the first of its kind in the entire Nation. For the next 105 years, this organization effectively pursued its mission of providing a quality outdoor experience for youth that promotes character, self-confidence, and leadership.

Today, Hiram House offers a variety of Summer Camps, School Camps, Educational and Adventure Programs, and year-round Group Retreats for children—especially those from the inner city and disadvantaged homes. Following the theme of American History and the Pioneer Spirit, the camp features covered wagons, tepees, log cabins, and a frontier fort to provide children with a glimpse of life on the early frontier.

The Hiram House continues to make a profoundly positive difference in the lives of more than 7,000 children a year. It is my hope that it continues its service to the community for another century and beyond.

My distinguished colleagues, I ask you to join me in honoring Hiram House and the countless individuals who have provided admirable service to the Cleveland area for over a century.