

March 17, 2005

Mr. Ogden was rewarded for his service with an appointment as County Commissioner of Atascosa Precinct 3, a post which he still holds. He further contributes to the public good through his work as a volunteer deputy for the Atascosa County Sheriff.

Mr. Speaker, Freddie Ogden remains a tireless public servant, and I applaud his energy, competence, and dedication.

HONORING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ATHENS ROTARY CLUB

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to commemorate two significant anniversaries of Rotary International. On February 23, 2005, Rotary International celebrated its 100th anniversary. From its humble roots in Chicago, Illinois, Rotary International has grown into a worldwide organization of business and professional leaders whose mission is to provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and help build goodwill and peace in the world. Since 1943, Rotary International has distributed more than \$1.1 billion to combat polio, promote cultural exchanges, and encourage community service.

I also want to provide special recognition to an important member of this outstanding organization, the Rotary Club of Athens, Texas, on the occasion of their 75th anniversary on December 1, 2004. Throughout its seventy-five year history, the Athens Rotary Club has achieved great successes in carrying out the mission of Rotary International.

In past years, the Athens Rotary Club has raised money to combat Polio, provided scholarships to two seniors from each high school in Henderson County, and sponsored exchange students from around the world. In addition, the club is active with the Boy Scouts of America, the Henderson County 4H club, the YMCA, the local Food Pantry, and numerous other charitable and civic organizations in and around Athens, Texas.

Through these actions, the Rotary Club of Athens, Texas, has exemplified the values of service and charity that lie at the heart of American society. As the congressional representative of the members of this outstanding organization, it is my distinct pleasure to be able to honor them today on the floor of the United States House of Representatives.

IN RECOGNITION OF ELAINE GROTHMANN FOR HER 30 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE CONTRA COSTA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT AND HUMAN SERVICES

HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career accomplishments of Elaine

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

Grothmann for her 30 years of service to the Contra Costa County Department of Employment and Human Services.

Ms. Grothmann represents the highest standards of professionalism in her life work with the Department. She is respected and trusted by her colleagues for her sincerity, constancy, and the outstanding quality of her work. Her managers know that when Elaine takes on an assignment, the end product is going to be assured, timely, and a credit to the Department.

Over her career, Elaine's work has benefited a wide range of the Department's customers, including dependent children, refugees, foster children, and parents entering and reentering the job market after having received welfare. She has been an innovator and mainstay of programs for CalWORKs participants, creating and implementing services in child care, substance abuse, mental health, and learning disabilities that buoy employability. The training program she spearheaded for CalWORKs participants to become licensed child care providers and preschool teachers is an inspired, lasting design that continues to meet multiple, compatible needs of the participants.

Elaine's respect for those who are served by the Department shows in her work on their behalf and confers respect on the Department. Her creativity, expertise, dedication, and amiability—not to mention her affinity for good times and monthly trips to Disneyland—are going to be missed by everyone who has worked with Elaine and benefited from her good work.

I thank Elaine Grothmann for her career contributions to the Contra Costa County Department of Employment and Human Services, and I wish her a well-deserved retirement in the community she has done so much to improve.

SUPPORTING THE HOUSE DEMOCRACY ASSISTANCE COMMISSION RESOLUTION

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 135, the House Democracy Assistance Commission Resolution. This Resolution forms a commission within the House of Representatives to assist emerging democracies around the world. As the standard-bearer for a modern democratic nation, it is only fitting that Congress lend its expertise to all countries attempting to follow our example.

In the previous decade, Congress formed a task force to provide equipment and technical assistance to emerging democracies in Eastern and Central Europe. The results of that task force, known as the "Frost-Solomon Task Force," can be seen in the strengthening of the democratic institutions in these countries. The recent elections in Ukraine are a perfect example of how democracy is beginning to take hold in these nations. One of the hallmarks of a truly democratic nation is the

smooth transition of power from one political party to another. While democracy eventually prevailed in Ukraine, the political turmoil during its elections serves as a reminder of how new and fragile these democracies are. It is crucial that we, as a nation, continue to support all countries in their progress towards maintaining a stable democracy.

The establishment of a commission to lend assistance to these emerging democracies is an important and common-sense action Congress can take to support and foster the global spread of democracy. This commission will lend experience and expertise to nations around the world. It will further allow members and staff of parliaments of selected countries to visit the House of Representatives and its support agencies in order to gain first hand knowledge. This commission is a valuable and cost-effective diplomatic tool our nation can employ to assist in spreading the freedom of democracy around the world.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to support the formation of a commission to assist emerging democracies. I urge my colleagues' support for this important legislation.

RECOGNITION OF BATON ROUGE MAGNET HIGH SCHOOL AS A WINNER OF THE KENNEDY CENTER CREATIVE TICKET NATIONAL SCHOOL OF DISTINCTION AWARD

HON. WILLIAM J. JEFFERSON

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mr. JEFFERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a valued educational institution—Baton Rouge Magnet High School—a 2003–04 school year Winner of the Kennedy Center Alliance for Arts Education Network Creative Ticket National School of Distinction Award. This school is an institution that combines academic excellence with tradition, achieving excellence in the arts.

The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts has recognized five schools as recipients for the 2003–04 award. The Creative Ticket National School of Distinction Award recognizes schools that have done an outstanding job of making the arts an essential part of the education of their students.

In addition to their recognition of excellence in the Performing Arts by the Kennedy Center, Baton Rouge Magnet High School held its Blue Ribbon award ceremony on Thursday, October 23, 2003. The Blue Ribbon Schools Programs honors public and private K–12 schools which are academically superior in their states or that demonstrate dramatic gains in student achievement. BRMHS is one of only two public high schools, and five total schools in Louisiana, and one of 248 nationally recognized as Blue Ribbon schools. It is the second time Baton Rouge Magnet High has been recognized with the honor. It is an award colleges look favorably in when reviewing students' resumes.

Thank you, Baton Rouge Magnet High School for your many years of dedication to quality education, arts programs and your outstanding representation of Louisiana.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS
OF THE FARM LABOR ORGA-
NIZING COMMITTEE

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to honor the Farm Labor Organizing Committee (FLOC) and their historic achievements.

For more than 35 years, FLOC has represented the guest workers who labor in our fields and farms bringing food to our tables. They are striving to achieve the American dream, a good-paying job in a safe workplace and the ability to provide for their families. Something that everyone in America can understand.

Under the leadership of FLOC's president, Baldemar Velasquez, the organization has achieved historic gains—including the first labor agreement in U.S. history to cover guest workers. Other significant achievements include increasing workers wages, improving worker housing, and protection against harmful pesticides. FLOC's actions will provide a safer working environment for its members and a better product for the consumer.

Today, FLOC will open an office in Monterrey, Mexico, it's first outside the U.S. The office will help oversee the recruitment and transportation of guest workers. All of us have heard the nightmarish stories of coyotes smuggling workers across the border only to have the workers trapped in de-facto indentured servitude or perish in the unsafe crossing. FLOC has worked to bring workers to the U.S. legally, informing them of their rights as guest workers.

Without FLOC's assistance, so many workers would fall through the cracks. Today I celebrate FLOC's accomplishments and success. Their legacy is greater than the agreements signed. Their legacy is a workforce that is paid a living wage and laboring in a safe environment. Their legacy is hope.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS
OF ATASCOSA COUNTY COMMIS-
SIONER DAVID CABALLERO

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Atascosa County Commissioner David Caballero for undertaking a lifetime of distinguished public service.

Commissioner Caballero has followed in the footsteps of his father, who was once a long-serving Atascosa Constable, in seeking an elected position of leadership. After serving his first term, his tireless devotion to ensuring that Atascosa County continues to develop economically, creating more jobs for the constituents he serves, led him to pursue and win term of service as County Commissioner.

Most importantly, Commissioner Caballero has continued to hold the values of community, faith and family in the highest regard.

Nothing exemplifies this more than his committed participation with the Pleasanton Little League, St. Andrews Catholic Church of Pleasanton, Our Lady of Guadalupe Church of Leming, and the Verdi Community Center.

He has spearheaded and now hosts an Annual Easter Egg Hunt that serves as an excellent opportunity to draw the entire community of families together in his precinct. Commissioner Caballero most deserves recognition for choosing to be an agent for real change, focusing on making government smarter and serving his constituency while saving his County money.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to stand in recognition of the dedication of Atascosa County Commissioner David Caballero.

A TRIBUTE TO FLORA DUNAIIANS,
29TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
WOMAN OF THE YEAR—2005

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month. Each year, we pay special tribute to the contributions and sacrifices made by our Nation's women during the month of March. It is an honor to pay homage to outstanding women who are making a difference in my Congressional District.

I would like to recognize an outstanding woman in my Congressional District, Ms. Flora Dunaians. For many years, Flora has brought an abounding spirit and energy to her service in the community. Those fortunate enough to meet and work with Flora instantly recognize her enthusiasm and passion for helping others, especially on behalf of the Armenian American community and the arts.

Born and raised in Pasadena, Flora Jane Calusdian married George Dunaians in 1958 and they had 2 daughters, Gigi and Suzie. In 1968 the Dunaians formed their own business, Western Medical Supply, Inc., where Flora is currently the Vice President and Secretary.

Flora is devoted to her church and community. For over 40 years, Flora has been active at St. Gregory the Illuminator Armenian Apostolic Church, serving as Trustee and member of the St. Gregory Auxiliary. On the occasion of the visit of His Holiness Vasken I, Catholicos of All Armenians to the United States in 1987, Flora and George donated to the new cathedral fund for the Diocese. In 1988 following the devastating earthquake in Armenia, the Dunaians arranged for donated emergency goods to be flown to Yerevan on Armand Hammer's private plane. She has been involved in many church-related projects throughout the Diocese, such as the Operation Karabakh Fund, Operation Winter Rescue and Operation Fuel, and continues to support various projects throughout the Diocese and the Holy See of Etchmiadzin.

Constantly finding ways to improve the social condition for children in Armenia, Flora co-founded Developmental Services for Armenia, a non-profit organization that helps schools, orphanages and short term projects. She also established and continues to support a dental clinic at the Nork Military Academy in Yerevan.

Flora and George are both founding members of the Consulate of the Republic of Armenia in Los Angeles. Flora is also a board member of the Armenian Assembly of America, the National Board of Team Armenia, and the Armenian Professional Society, where she and her husband have opened their home to raise funds for student scholarships for the last 25 years.

In addition to her extensive community service, Flora is a supporter of the Arpa Foundation for Film, Music and Art, the Pasadena Playhouse, and the New York Foundation for the Arts.

I ask all Members to join me today in honoring an outstanding woman of California's 29th Congressional District, Flora Dunaians. The entire community joins me in thanking Flora for her success and continued efforts toward making the 29th Congressional District a more enjoyable place in which to live and work.

RECOGNIZING THE 1000TH VICTORY
OF COACH RON POLK

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, on February 25, Coach Ron Polk achieved another impressive milestone at Mississippi State University. With the Bulldogs defeat of the Eastern Illinois Panthers in a 3-1 game, Coach Polk marked his 1000th win in 26 seasons at Mississippi State University.

Before a crowd of about 2,400 fans in the Polk-DeMent Stadium—which honors Coach Polk—the Bulldogs won their season opener and then celebrated this Mississippi State icon at a post game ceremony. Coach Polk, in his usual humble and humorous manner told reporters on scene, "It's just a number. All 1,000 wins means is that you haven't died yet and you've coached a long time. We have some really great players here but I haven't had time to reflect back on that success yet." Bulldog pitcher Alan Johnson said, "We didn't feel any added pressure. Coach Polk didn't mention it to us one time. However, we knew we were at 999, going for the big win. It feels good to win the first game but it also feels really good to be a part of Coach Polk's 1000th win."

Coach Polk is the all-time most winning coach in Southeastern Conference history and began the 2004 season as Number 12 among Division I's all-time coaching ranks. His record now stands at 1234-602-2 in 32 seasons as a collegiate head coach and 1000-490-2 in 26 seasons at Mississippi State. He has twice been honored as the National Coach of the Year (1973 and 1985) and was also honored by his peers as the recipient of the ABCA's Lefty Gomez Award. Coach Polk has earned his place in the American Baseball Coaches Hall of Fame (1995), the State of Mississippi and the Mississippi State University Sports Hall of Fame (1998), and the Georgia Southern University Hall of Fame (1990). He also rates as one of only three head coaches in the history of college baseball to guide three different schools to the NCAA College World Series.