

## TRIBUTE TO LINDA CROTCHETT

**HON. JOHN SHIMKUS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 7, 2006*

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Linda Crotchett for her many years of service to the citizens of Jersey County, IL as County Clerk. Linda will retire this year after 44 years of service as the Jersey County Clerk.

For the past 44 years, Linda has greeted the citizens of Jersey County with a smile as they entered her office to conduct business. She has always lived up to her motto, "Happy to meet you, eager to serve you." Her friendly and courteous service will be missed. It is with gratitude that I thank her for her service and congratulate her on retirement. I wish Linda all the best in the years to come.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE  
HENRY J. HYDE**HON. FRANK R. WOLF**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 7, 2006*

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with our colleagues to pay tribute to the distinguished gentleman from Illinois, Mr. HYDE, as he prepares to retire from the U.S. House of Representatives.

I cannot imagine this, the people's House, without HENRY HYDE being here. He is the conscience of this House. His eloquence, his honesty, his integrity, his passion, his dedication have filled this chamber on so many occasions when issues of the highest and most significant importance to this country were being debated.

I say to HENRY, your words have stirred this House time and time again. Colleagues always have looked to you for wise counsel. It was almost automatic that during a vote, I would always look up to see how you were voting.

I am so grateful that my years of being a member of the House have allowed me the privilege of serving with and being a colleague of Mr. HYDE.

The people of the Sixth Congressional District of Illinois, the people of the United States, and indeed freedom-loving people around the world can say to HENRY HYDE, "Well done, good and faithful servant."

May God bless you, HENRY.

HONORING THE GREATER CHICAGO  
FOOD DEPOSITORY**HON. RAHM EMANUEL**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 7, 2006*

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the Greater Chicago Food Depository for its enduring commitment to providing food for hundreds of thousands of

hungry people in Cook County. In addition to addressing immediate needs, the Greater Chicago Food Depository strives to end hunger throughout the region by empowering people to break the cycle of poverty.

The Greater Chicago Food Depository, founded in 1979, is one of the largest not for-profit food distribution systems in the nation, distributing donated and purchased food through a network of 600 pantries, soup kitchens and shelters to more than 91,000 adults and children every week. Last year, the Food Depository distributed more than 40 million pounds of non-perishable food and fresh produce, dairy products, meat, poultry and fish—the equivalent of more than 84,300 meals per day.

In addition to its food distribution programs, the Greater Chicago Food Depository runs Chicago's Community Kitchens, a chef-training program designed to empower unemployed and underemployed Chicago residents. Featured on November 28th in a front-page article in the Wall Street Journal, this free twelve-week program teaches participants the basics of food preparation and employment skills, enabling them to develop a successful career in the food service industry. Students create nearly 2,000 meals a day for delivery to the Kid's Cafes, an after-school program also run by the Food Depository that provides children with a daily hot meal, a safe haven, tutoring, and other educational programs.

Chicago's Community Kitchens is an innovative program that empowers graduates looking for "a new lease on life", and inspires them to give back to the community themselves. Many of the students in Chicago's Community Kitchens are soup kitchen regulars or homeless shelter residents and, after graduating and securing a full-time job, have returned to volunteer at a soup kitchen themselves.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the Greater Chicago Food Depository for its tireless, efforts to provide food for hungry people, to provide people with the tools necessary to break the cycles of poverty, and to end hunger in our community. I wish its staff, volunteers, and supporters every future success in their continuing work toward meeting the needs of Chicago's hungry men, women and children.

## TRIBUTE TO GILBERT LESSENCO

**HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 7, 2006*

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the distinguished career of Mr. Gilbert Lessenco and to congratulate him on his retirement. Mr. Lessenco has dedicated his half century of legal practice to not only his clients, but his community and his country.

Mr. Lessenco's superior performance as a lawyer was recognized early in his career when he received the "Outstanding Young Lawyer of the Year" from the District of Columbia Bar in 1965. Mr. Lessenco has been in private practice for 50 years, but prior to that he served in the United States Air Force as chief, legal officer at Hanscom Air Force Base

in Lexington, MA. He continues to serve his community to this day as a member of the faculty at Johns Hopkins University School of Professional Studies in Business and Education, teaching marketing and business law. His commitment to his students was honored publicly when he received the "Above and Beyond" faculty award from the Department of Marketing. Mr. Lessenco earned his J.D. from Harvard Law School in 1953 and his B.S. from the Johns Hopkins University in 1950.

Mr. Lessenco has also had an active civic and political career. He has been an active supporter of the Democratic Party since 1958. From 1970-74, Mr. Lessenco was a member of the Montgomery County Democratic Central Committee and has been engaged in Democratic Party politics ever since. He served as a commissioner of the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission from 1987-92 and as its chairman from 1989-90. He has also served as chairman of the International Visitors Service Council, 1962, trustee for the Meridian House Foundation, 1970-80, president of the Mental Health Association of Montgomery County, 1980-82, and president of the Jewish Social Service Agency of Greater Washington, 1984-86, and currently serves as the co-chairman for St. Luke's House Building Fund.

Mr. Lessenco is also a dedicated husband, father and treasured mentor.

Mr. Speaker, I extend my sincere congratulations to Gil Lessenco as he celebrates a distinguished career and lifetime of learning and serving our community. I ask my colleagues of the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the many accomplishments of this extraordinary man.

MOURNING THE DEATH OF MAJ  
JOSEPH "TRANE" MCLOUD**HON. AL GREEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 7, 2006*

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I wish to mourn the death of Major Joseph "Trane" McCloud, 39, who was planning to celebrate his 40th birthday next week, but instead tragically died on Sunday, December 3, when the CH-46 helicopter he was riding in crash-landed in a lake in the Anbar province of Iraq. Additionally, I urge my colleagues to mourn the deaths and honor the lives of all of our soldiers who have died defending our country.

Major McCloud was a career marine who had been in Iraq for 3 months as the operations officer with the 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment. Major McCloud was described by his family as "a Marine's Marine." He sacrificed the most active years of his life while in armed combat as a platoon and company commander defending the United States of America.

This was the second war in the Middle East that Major McCloud had served in. His service in the Persian Gulf war in 1991 was equally commendable. During the Persian Gulf war in 1991, McCloud served on the USS *Missouri*, as part of the final group of Marines to work aboard the ship before it was decommissioned.

Major McCloud's tremendous service to his country was not limited to the Armed Forces. He also worked at the Pentagon, completed a fellowship here in the U.S. House of Representatives, and served as an instructor at the Marine Corps Officer Candidate School in Quantico, VA. His dedication to teaching was just as strong as his dedication to the protection of this Nation. When Major McCloud worked for Representative JOE WILSON (R-S.C.), he assisted on military issues and took a special interest in a loan forgiveness program for inner-city teachers. This gentleman was the absolute prototype of the compassionate and dedicated soldier.

Shortly after President Bush declared the war on terrorism, McCloud was deployed to Zamboanga, in the Philippines, in charge of a small Marine unit during a time of intense violence and bombings.

McCloud was remembered yesterday as a good-natured man with a wonderful sense of humor who cherished his family above anything else.

A 1989 graduate of the University of Tennessee, Major McCloud leaves behind his wife Maggie and three children: Hayden, 7, Grace, 5, and Meghan, 2.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to mourn the death of a great soldier, husband, and father, MAJ Joseph "Trane" McCloud, and all the soldiers who have fallen while defending our Nation's freedom.

**IN RECOGNITION OF THE  
BIOGRAPH THEATER**

**HON. RAHM EMANUEL**  
OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 7, 2006*

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in proud recognition of The Biograph Theater, recently acquired by the Victory Gardens Theater, and located in the vibrant and multicultural neighborhood of Lincoln Park.

Since 1914 the Biograph Theater has been a symbol of art in a dense metropolitan area, and thanks to The Victory Garden Theater, it will remain in operation as the new main stage for theater company that has been in business since 1974.

After 90 years as a movie theater, under various owners, in July 2004, Chicago's Victory Gardens Theater announced it had purchased the Biograph for use as a live venue. The theater has been completely renovated by architect Daniel P. Coffey, who constructed a large state-of-the-art stage, with seating for 299 people.

The Biograph Theater will house a state-of-the-art stage guaranteeing the intimacy for which Victory Gardens' performances have become known, while providing greatly enhanced technical production capabilities. The new theater will have the very latest lighting and sound equipment as well as generous wing-space, dressing rooms, and a trap system under the stage, allowing for all kinds of theatrical magic.

In a city with such a rich history in the arts, The Biograph Theater is just one more example of thriving theater in the nation's Second City.

Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Congressional Arts Caucus I believe that it is important to support and recognize The Biograph Theater, Victory Gardens Theater and the Arts in Chicago. The Biograph Theater is an example of a new breath in an old Chicago landmark. I am proud of the storied history of The Biograph Theater and the work that the Victory Gardens Theater does and I wish them continued success in the coming years.

**TRIBUTE TO THE INTERNATIONAL  
SYMPOSIUM ON DEMOCRACY  
CONGRESS TAIPEI, TAIWAN**

**HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 7, 2006*

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend the legislators from Pacific Rim countries who will assemble this weekend in Taiwan to explore the role of Congresses in democratic governments. Representatives from 20 Pacific Rim Countries are meeting under the auspices of the Democratic Pacific Union (DPU).

The DPU is a regional organization of Pacific nations that is promoting democracy and peace within that region, in addition to enhancing the multilateral relationships of the participating nations. I applaud the Taiwanese who took the initiative to establish the DPU and its sister organization, the Pacific Congress, I wish the DPU much success in continuing to strengthen the democracies and the vital regional alliances of its Member countries.

**TRIBUTE TO THE 2006 CRYSTAL  
FALLS FOREST PARK HIGH  
SCHOOL TROJANS**

**HON. BART STUPAK**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 7, 2006*

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 2006 Crystal Falls Forest Park High School Trojans. This high school football team has made the entire Upper Peninsula (U.P.) community proud by once again beating the odds and advancing to the Division 8 State Finals game at Ford Field in Detroit.

This was the third straight year that the Crystal Falls Forest Park Trojans advanced to the Division 8 state high school football championship game. These players, their coaches and the entire Crystal Falls Forest Park community should be commended for representing the U.P. at Michigan's state football championship.

In many ways, the Trojans' advancement to the state finals again this year was a classic Cinderella story. Some "inside" football experts had predicted that 2006 would be a rebuilding year for the Trojans, as this year's roster included only 2 seniors. However, what the Trojans lacked in size and experience, they made up for with dedication, heart and teamwork. These 34 young men brought an

unselfish attitude to the game that many college and professional players could learn from.

The team's moment of truth for this year's season came on October 13, when they played Bessemer High School. The short-handed Trojans suffered a 14-6 loss, dropping their record to 6-2 for the season and jeopardizing their chances at the playoffs. While many teams might allow a dispiriting loss such as this to derail their playoff ambitions, the Trojans came together as a team to overcome this challenge and rally in the face of adversity. The Trojans followed their setback in Bessemer with 5 straight wins, including 4 in the postseason.

Assistant Coach Dave Graff summed up the winning attitude of this year's Trojans when he said, "We might not be the best team, but we're good enough to get where we're going. They believe in themselves and anything is possible."

The community of Crystal Falls Forest Park and the U.P. truly united behind the Trojans, giving 110 percent of their support. Some of the supporters of the team traveled a long distance—in a short period—to cheer on their team. Crystal Falls Forest Park fans loaded up three buses at the high school at 10:00 p.m. Thanksgiving night and trekked more than 500 miles, arriving at Ford Field at 7:30 a.m. the Friday morning of the game. That gave the fans just a few hours to stretch before the 10 a.m. kickoff!

Mr. Speaker, each member of this team deserves to be recognized and I want to take a moment to share their names: Fred Hubbard; Jim Freeman; Dustin Basirico; Bob Reid; Zach Sawyer; Kyle Roberts; Justin James; Calix Sholander; John Grandahl; Levi Oleksy; Kyle LaVaque; Tony Grandahl; Andrew Bortolini; Matt Sundquist; Bryan LaChapelle; Erik Petersen; Josh Siler; Tim Wheeler; Ethan Uren; Justin Process; Jim Wheeler; Tony Renner; Marcus Smithson; Kevin Takala; Chris McCarthy; William Bortolini; Bill Fennick; Travis Hoenig; Bill Paige; Ed Zarn; Paige Armstrong; Pat Bredy; Ben Shuck; Jake Jacobson; Jeff Sartori; and Andrew Gussert.

I would be remiss if I did not also salute the Trojans' talented coaching staff. Head Coach Bill Santilli and Assistant Coaches Dave Graff, Gerard Valesano, Gene Giuliani, Jeff Chernach and Dan LaPoint should all be commended for helping lead the Crystal Falls Forest Park Trojans to a third state championship game. Managers L.J. Burns, Dan Ballo-Shuck and Lee Graff should also be recognized for their contributions, as should their trainer, Mark Nylund. Together, this talented coaching staff shepherded this year's young team to the state finals.

Mr. Speaker, the Crystal Falls Forest Park football team knew what the late, great Green Bay Packers coach, Vince Lombardi always said, "Winning isn't everything, but wanting to win is." The Trojan team wanted to win more than the so-called "inside" football experts predicted!

Mr. Speaker, I ask the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in congratulating the Crystal Falls Forest Park Trojans football team, their classmates, parents and the community on their exceptional season and in wishing the Trojans well when they retake the field for the 2007 season.