

TRIBUTE TO KATHERINE AND
ELIZABETH GANT

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2008

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Katherine and Elizabeth Gant, residents of Kansas' Third Congressional District, who are retiring after 46 years as music educators in Leawood, Kansas.

In anticipation of a celebration honoring the Gant sisters that will take place on August 10, the Sun newspapers of Johnson County recently published an article detailing their accomplishments and plans for the future, which I am including with this CONGRESSIONAL RECORD statement. Having spent a lifetime composing children's music and teaching music to children, they will now focus on composing and promoting their own compositions.

Madam Speaker, I know that all House members join with us in paying tribute to Katherine and Elizabeth Gant, who are beloved by several generations of Johnson Countians for their dedicated and selfless work to bring music into the lives of our children.

GANT SISTERS STOP TEACHING TO FOCUS ON
RECORDING

(By Kelli Bamforth)

After 46 years as music educators to countless children across the metro area, Elizabeth and Katherine Gant are hanging up their hats after the sale of their Leawood music school, 3658 W. 95th St.

But do not expect the sisters to retire. In many ways, their work is just beginning.

Elizabeth and Katherine will now focus on composing and promoting their original children's music beyond Kansas City.

"Schools and churches use our music but we knew we had to start aggressively marketing our music to get it out of Kansas City," Elizabeth said. "We want to get it all over America, but knew we couldn't teach and market simultaneously."

The sisters sold their school two months ago to Cindy See, a pianist with two daughters who are former students of the Gants.

"With the See family, (the school) will continue to be a family affair," Elizabeth said. "They just finished their summer session and will start back up in the fall."

A celebration honoring the Gant sisters will be held from 2 to 5 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 10, at Hallbrook Country Club, 11150 Overbrook Road.

Leawood Mayor Peggy Dunn will present a proclamation declaring "Gant Sisters Day" in the city and a children's choir will perform with school alumni.

"It all fell into place," Katherine said. "I thought (declaring Gant Sisters Day) was so sweet. Politicians and big important people get things named after them all the time, but for two sister educators. . . they keep telling us there are other things planned, but it's a surprise."

The sisters began what they call a "lifelong love affair with music" when their mother inspired them as children.

"She taught us to sing with harmony," Elizabeth said. "She was a working mother but we never felt neglected."

Elizabeth and Katherine attended the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music, where they majored in opera and education. When Kath-

erine graduated a year ahead of Elizabeth, Archie Jones, dean of the Conservatory of Music at the University of Missouri-Kansas City, asked Katherine to create a new and different children's music education program.

Elizabeth and Katherine began writing their own children's music and lyrics when they could not find anything suitable for children age 3 to 6 in their program.

"We started writing music to fit the needs of our classes," Elizabeth said. "We saw the need and we always loved children. We like to think we have our finger on the pulse of today's children, the dreams they dream. Our mom always told us the most important people in the world are children."

"We decided to write music for the child in all of us."

The program eventually moved to the Avila University campus for 10 years before being relocated to Leawood's Ranch Mart shopping center.

The sisters have recorded CDs and cassette tapes of their music, and eventually began writing children's books, adaptations of classic fairy tales such as "Pinocchio" and "Little Red Riding Hood."

"We write our own original music for each character," Elizabeth said.

One recording that already has reached audiences across the country is "America, I Love You!" Katherine and Elizabeth re-recorded the children's national anthem after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

"That Sunday after 9/11, Katherine and I were at home watching television and Itzhak Perlman, a very talented violinist, was performing in New York near the site," Elizabeth said. "After he was done, he didn't know the camera was still on him, and he just started weeping. And it touched us. . . we knew we had to do something for the children."

Eleven years prior to Sept. 11, the sisters wrote and released the patriotic song, but re-recorded the tune with more than 400 children on the Pembroke Hill School campus. All proceeds from the recording go to two charities in New York for children whose parents lost their lives.

The video and CD have been distributed to all five branches of the military and every public television station in America.

But the music school remained their passion, the sisters said.

Business mostly came from word of mouth, Elizabeth said, and the sisters routinely taught children and grandchildren of former students.

"We've had a beautiful response to our music from children and parents alike," Elizabeth said. "When you put music and children together, beautiful things can happen. We've always had the feeling in our hearts that children and music should come together to bring about peace in the world."

Elizabeth and Katherine, both widowers, live together. Katherine said the past 46 years have been "a dream world of a perfect job."

"It's our passion," Katherine said.

"This wasn't just a whim or a passing fancy," Elizabeth said. "Music is like food, an ongoing necessity the world will always need. We're not trying to launch a rocket from a canoe but from the flagship of everything we've built for 46 years."

RECOGNIZING THE CEDAR STREET
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJ-
ECT OF DENTON, TEXAS

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2008

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Cedar Street Capital Improvement Project in Denton, Texas. August 20, 2007 marked the beginning of this needed project.

The project was funded by Community Development Block Grants, or CDBGs, which were allocated to the City of Denton by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. These important Federal funds have been well utilized to benefit the people of the 26th District of Texas.

For more than 20 years, the City of Denton has set aside CDBG funds to repair and replace public facilities and services in older neighborhoods. The projects are designed to enhance both pedestrian and vehicle access to neighborhoods and downtown and to support basic services such as water and sewer.

The Cedar Street project replaced all water and sewer lines, many of which were over 50 years old. The project also widened sidewalks, making them ADA accessible for the first time in history. Roadside trees, benches, bike racks, and pedestrian amenities were also added. The estimated cost for the project is \$1.2 million, of which \$800,000 came from Community Development Block Grants. This project will help enhance mobility and aesthetics as well as upgrade utility lines on the west side of the Downtown Square.

Madam Speaker, it is an honor to rise today and recognize the outstanding improvements being made on Cedar Street, and I thank the Department of Housing and Urban Development for allocating the funds to make it possible. It is my privilege to represent the members of the Community Development Advisory Committee and everyone involved in these worthwhile projects in the 26th District of Texas.

PRINCIPLES FOR A NATIONAL
STRATEGY

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, I rise tonight to speak about how the United States can best advance its national interests by adopting a new strategy. In my prior speeches, I have asserted that we currently lack an effective strategy and that the next President should engage in a focused effort, in concert with Congress and the American people, to identify and adopt a new strategy early in his Administration. I have noted that we live in a time when the U.S. is the world's preeminent power, but also in a time when transnational events are increasingly significant and in which several large nations, and some entire regions of the world, are returning to prominence. All of this stresses the international system.

I have asserted that the U.S. should continue to accept the challenge of world leadership, serving as the world's indispensable nation, just as we have for the free world since the end of the Second World War; that we should fulfill this role not to seek or to maintain power for power's sake, but by earning the mantle of leadership. We should advance our national interests not at the expense of others, but wherever possible in cooperation with them, as part of an international system that offers fairness and opportunity to all nations.

So, I advise the next President, whoever it may be, to embark upon a process modeled on President Eisenhower's Project Solarium in order to develop a new strategy for America. In Project Solarium, President Eisenhower selected three of our Nation's top strategic thinkers to gather teams to study, propose, and report back to him on a national security policy. Should our future President follow this model, I recommend that he judge those new proposals against a simple set of principles:

1. The first priority of the Federal Government is the protection of the U.S. homeland and its citizens.

2. The foundation for continued U.S. leadership is the strength of our economy and our commitment to our values and principles.

3. Do not let an outside power dominate Europe or the Western Pacific, and in addition maintain freedom of the seas.

4. U.S. world leadership should be earned by virtue of the esteem other nations hold for us, engendered by our productivity and moral leadership, and not through a self-justifying hegemony which views the peaceful rise of other nations as an inherent threat.

5. Insulate the Western Hemisphere from hostile outside powers with a collaborative approach.

6. Transnational events that can undermine States and challenge or dislocate large numbers of people—the AIDS pandemic, terrorism, and global climate change to give a few examples—should be addressed by international coalitions coordinating globally, using the full range of national power.

7. Our military strength serves as both a source of deterrence for would-be aggressors, and reassurance for our friends and allies, but military action is a last resort. When it is used—whether multilateral or unilateral—strict adherence to the essential strategic tenets propounded by Sun Tzu and Clausewitz is mandatory.

These principles do not in and of themselves define our strategy, for they leave many questions unanswered. What kind of international institutions, coalitions and alliances are essential? What red lines should trigger a certain U.S. response, even if it must be a unilateral response? How do we define what constitutes a fair opportunity to advance for those nations which perceive their current share of the world's resources as inadequate? And what transnational events require a concerted international response? These are judgments for the next President; he should make them with input from a wide variety of sources. I ask all of my colleagues and all of those who have listened to these speeches to take part in a dialogue to help forge a new national consensus on a clear cut strategy that fulfills our principles and helps us answer these hard

questions, ultimately guiding us to policies that are wise and just.

CONGRATULATING MRS. AUTINE BUCHANAN ON THE OCCASION OF HER 104TH BIRTHDAY

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2008

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise to honor Mrs. Autine Buchanan on the occasion of her 104th birthday.

Born in 1904, Mrs. Buchanan has witnessed much change in our Nation and world. The year she was born, the New York subway first opened and the teddy bear was first produced.

Mrs. Buchanan has lived through two world wars, and watched our nation develop into what it is today. She also witnessed the birth of many modern inventions—like the helicopter, penicillin, motion pictures, stainless steel, and even scotch tape. Through all this change, she has dedicated much of her life to feeding and caring for the needy.

Mrs. Buchanan has been a resident of Mobile and a member of the Fulton Road Baptist Church for 39 years. She is a proud mother, grandmother, and great grandmother. She is also a member of the LivingWell Health Center in Mobile.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mrs. Autine Buchanan on the occasion of her 104th birthday. She is a friend to many throughout south Alabama, and I know her friends and family join me in wishing her a happy birthday.

WHERE OH WHERE HAS CONGRESS GONE?

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2008

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, "Where oh where has Congress gone, Where o where can they be?"

With gas so high and this recess so long,

Where oh where can they be?"

Where oh where has Congress gone? Well Madam Speaker, they're not here, they've gotten out of Dodge. They have left the American people behind in a cloud of dust and high gasoline prices. Congress is on the run; it has not dealt with the energy crisis and not attempted to solve high gasoline prices. So it's sneaking out of town for five weeks-gone on vacation.

The American people won't be going on vacation, because they cannot afford gasoline to take a family trip. My 83 year old parents who are on fixed incomes cant even afford gasoline to go to church. So what is Congress' answer? Leave town in the darkness of the night?

The question Madam Speaker is why? Why don't they stick around and let us vote on taking care of America? For example, let's vote on offshore drilling—most Americans favor it.

We are the representatives of America. Let's vote, up or down, on offshore drilling. It's an environmental myth that we cannot drill safely offshore. We need to drill in ANWAR. Why didn't Congress stick around and vote on drilling in ANWAR?

The American taxpayer shells out 425 million dollars a day to Saudi Arabia for crude oil. We pay this ransom because Congress won't take care of America. The United States is the only major power in the world that does not use its own natural resources. This is nonsense and rather than deal with this crisis Congress has turned its back on the American people—dispersed to parts unknown throughout the fruited plain and fled town. This is shameful conduct. The President should use his constitutional power and call for a special session of this Congress to deal with energy. We should round up all those members of Congress that have fled the scene, bring them back and solve this energy crisis—specifically high gasoline prices.

"Where oh where has Congress gone,

Where o where can they be?"

With gas so high and this recess so long,

Where oh where can they be?"

And that's just the way it is.

HONORING JULIE EUBANK

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2008

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor Julie Eubank, a Smyrna, Tennessee native who has served the people of Middle Tennessee as a trusted member of my staff for the past six years. Julie has worked with me in a number of capacities. She started as an intern in my Murfreesboro District office and then moved to Washington as my scheduler. Julie ultimately became my Press Secretary, where she has served for the past four years.

A Press Secretary has a position of great trust with a Member of Congress. They are responsible for keeping the lines of communications open between citizens and their representatives. Julie has done an exceptional job keeping the people of the 6th District informed on the many issues being debated in Congress.

As a graduate of Smyrna High School and Middle Tennessee State University, Julie brings a special knowledge of the 6th District to her job that has been invaluable to me. She has treated every media outlet, regardless of size, with the same level of attention and care.

Julie has been a source of levity when deadlines were tight, and her opinions are valued by my staff and me. She is leaving us next Thursday to head to Montana for the fall, and I know she will bring the same humor, professionalism, and talent to the "Treasure State" that she has shared with the people of the "Volunteer State." Julie is a good friend and advisor and we will miss her in Washington, but wish her well as she pursues this new challenge.