

Fund, more than \$70,000 has been contributed to various causes. The Association also sponsors numerous youth sports teams and offers free use of their hall for, among many things, school bingos, sports affairs, and community fundraisers. It is not an exaggeration to say that the Association and the Auxiliary have not only realized the vision of the founding members, but have far exceeded them.

For their many invaluable contributions, I am proud to stand today to pay tribute to the membership—past and present—of the West Haven Italian-American Civic Association and Auxiliary as they mark their golden anniversary. I have no doubt that they and future generations of members will continue to make a difference in the lives of others leaving an indelible mark on our community. My very best wishes for another 50 years of success!

IN HONOR OF THE POLISH LEGION
OF AMERICAN VETERANS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Polish Legion of American Veterans (PLAV) on the occasion of their 39th Biennial National Convention and in recognition of their dedication to veterans' issues and to the community. I am proud to be an honorary member of the Polish Legion of American Veterans and of the leadership of the National Commander, Ernest Stetz.

PLAV, founded in 1920, is comprised of American veterans of Polish descent who actively engage in the community through education, charitable and civic activities. In addition to civic engagement, founding PLAV members worked for an independent Poland, in congruence with President Woodrow Wilson's "Fourteen Points." President Ronald Reagan signed an Act of Congress, P.L. 98-372, on July 23, 1984, granting the Polish Legion of America a Federal Charter. There are over five posts in my congressional district which host events and volunteer within the community, with dozens more around the country.

The members of PLAV work collectively to ensure that all those who served our country are provided with benefits and work with Congress to support legislation necessary to ensuring that veterans receive these benefits. This year's National Convention features Robert Kupiecki, Ambassador and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Poland.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor of the Polish Legion of American Veterans and in recognition of their outstanding community service and dedication to our Nation's veterans. Their involvement in the community is invaluable; may their work in the community serve as an example for us all.

CONGRATULATING U.S. OLYMPIANS JENNIFER KAIDO AND BEEZIE MADDEN UPON THEIR PARTICIPATION IN THE 2008 OLYMPIC GAMES IN BEIJING, CHINA

HON. JOHN M. McHUGH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2008

Mr. MCHUGH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Jennifer Kaido and Beezie Madden upon their accomplishments as participants in the 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing, China. These athletes embody the true spirit of the Olympic games and I am proud to represent them.

Jennifer Kaido grew up in West Leyden, New York and is a 1999 graduate of Adirondack High School. In Beijing, Jennifer competed as a rower in the Women's Quadruple Sculls and her crew finished ranked fifth in the world. Beezie Madden, a resident of Cazenovia, New York competing with her horse, Authentic, brought home two medals as a member of the U.S. Equestrian Team.

Jennifer Kaido began her Olympic participation on August 10, 2008, when her Quadruple Sculls' crew finished third in their initial heat. In the repechage, they finished in second place, which qualified them for the finals. In the finals, the American crew valiantly rowed their way to an impressive fifth place finish.

At one time Jennifer's journey to Beijing seemed unlikely. It is my understanding that Jennifer had never rowed prior to trying out for the crew team her senior year at Cornell. She is proof positive that through hard work and determination anything is truly possible. Her rapid ascension in her sport to the level of Olympian is simply amazing. Moreover, it has been widely accounted that Jennifer competed in China with a level-headed attitude along with a deep love for her family and community.

Beezie Madden returns home from Beijing as one of the world's greatest equestrian jumpers. She followed up on her gold medal performance in the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens by again earning gold in the Team jumping competition. Astride her horse, Authentic, she also won a bronze medal in the individual jumping competition. In addition to these accomplishments, Beezie has earned many accolades throughout her career, including being named the U.S. Equestrian Federation Equestrian of the Year in consecutive years; she also has been named the American Grand Prix Association Rider of the Year and the U.S. Olympic Committee's Equestrian of the Year.

Madam Speaker, I am pleased to have the opportunity to extend my sincere congratulations to Jennifer and Beezie upon their accomplishments. They represented our Nation and the residents of central and northern New York extraordinarily well and I wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE FIFTEENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PENSACOLA, FLORIDA CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL COALITION OF 100 BLACK WOMEN

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2008

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, it is an honor for me to rise today to recognize the 15th anniversary of the Pensacola Chapter of the National Coalition of 100 Black Women. The NCBW of Pensacola is involved intimately in a wide variety of social, religious, economic, and political facets of northwest Florida, and I am proud to recognize its 15 years of service to the Pensacola community.

The National Coalition of 100 Black Women is a service and advocacy organization that supports women of color who want to work towards solutions on issues of concern to African-American women and youth. Started in 1971 by a small group of dedicated women from New York, the National Coalition of 100 Black Women quickly grew to over 900 members and organized as a broad national service group in 1981.

The National Coalition installed the Pensacola Chapter on October 1, 1993 with 38 local women as its founding members. The chapter's mission is to empower African-American women and youth through programs that meet their diverse needs. These programs are targeted to support black women at key stages in life and include important activities such as youth mentorship and community service.

Recent examples of the Pensacola Chapter role in the community include its Annual Hat Show and Luncheon to raise money for college scholarships targeted to African-American high school seniors. This event features a fashion show of fancy and unique hats and attracts over 500 people each year. Over the past six years, the Hat Show has raised over \$50,000 for scholarships and has helped close to 100 students launch their college careers. Another key NCBW activity is its Adopt-A-School and Mentoring Program. Each coalition member is paired with a student from a particular school and provides advice and guidance to that student throughout the year.

For 15 years, the Pensacola Chapter of the National Coalition of 100 Black Women has provided vital service to the people of northwest Florida. Their devotion to empowering African-American women is a true testament to the ability of our citizens to work together in order to better our lives and our country.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to recognize the Pensacola Chapter of the National Coalition of 100 Black Women for its 15 years of dedicated service to its community.