

STACEY ELLIOTT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 12, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Stacey Elliott of Liberty, Missouri. Stacey is a very special young woman who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Girl Scouts of America, and earning the most prestigious award of Girl Scout Gold Award.

Stacey has been very active with her troop, participating in many scout activities. In order to receive the prestigious Gold Award, Stacey has completed all seven requirements that promote community service, personal and spiritual growth, positive values and leadership skills.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Stacey Elliott for her accomplishments with the Girl Scouts of America and for her efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Girl Scouts Gold Award.

TRIBUTE TO THE WURZER FAMILY

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 12, 2008

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Duane, Joann, Kelli, Staci, Amy, Brooke and Andy Wurzer of Chickasaw County, Iowa for being named the 2007 Outstanding 4–11 Family.

Duane has been involved with the local 4–11 club by coaching softball, conducting service projects and helping with livestock projects. Joann has been a leader of the Lawler Lassies and Lads club for 16 years. All five of their children started in 4–11 as Little Clovers in the second grade. They have all held various leadership positions, earned awards for their efforts in a variety of areas, volunteered in numerous service projects and have had many projects selected at the Iowa State Fair.

4–H's mission is to "empower youth to reach their full potential, working and learning in partnership with caring adults." Duane and Joann have been compassionate adults who continue to strive to empower more children to reach their goals each day. As parents and mentors they have touched the lives of many children who have then gone on to inspire others, to continue the cycle for generations to come.

I know that my colleagues in the United States Congress join me in commending the Wurzer family's leadership and donation of time and talent for the benefit of Chickasaw County's youth. I consider it an honor to represent Duane, Joann, Kelli, Staci, Amy, Brooke, and Andy Wurzer in Congress and I wish them the best in their future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 12, 2008

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, due to family obligations in Arizona that required my attention, I missed the following votes and had I been present, I would have voted against rollcall vote No. 111, the Motion to Adjourn; rollcall vote No. 112, the Motion to Adjourn; rollcall vote No. 113, the Motion to Adjourn; and rollcall vote No. 114, the Motion to Adjourn.

I would have voted in favor of rollcall vote No. 115, H. Res. 924; rollcall vote No. 116, the Motion to Table the Appeal of the Ruling of the Chair; rollcall vote No. 117, the Vote to Override the President's Veto of H.R. 2082; rollcall vote No. 118, H. Res. 948; and rollcall vote No. 119, H. Res. 493.

I would have voted against rollcall vote No. 120, the Motion To Adjourn.

I would have voted in favor of rollcall vote No. 121, on Ordering the Previous Question; rollcall vote No. 122, H. Res. 1031; and rollcall vote No. 123, the Motion to Adjourn.

IN COMMEMORATION OF WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 12, 2008

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I wish to commemorate the month of March 2008 as Women's History Month in honor of the female trailblazers and unsung heroes in American history.

Historically, women have contributed significantly to the greatness of our Nation. American women from diverse origins have transformed and revolutionized politics, law, business, social service, civil rights, education, music, athletics, science and technology, as well as the military. Together, their dedication, perseverance and courage has generated a wave of opportunities for entire generations of women. The contributions of notable women such as Susan B. Anthony, Clara Barton, Harriet Tubman, Dorothy Height, Coretta Scott King, Sally Ride and many others have sparked an unstoppable momentum for women's rights and others.

In government, trailblazers such as Hattie Wyatt Caraway, the first woman elected to the U.S. Senate (1932), and Jeannette Rankin, the first woman in Congress (1917), paved the way for 16 female Senators and 70 female Representatives to be elected to the 110th Congress, which is the highest number ever in congressional history. More importantly, the House of Representatives elected Nancy Pelosi, the first woman to serve as the third most powerful official in America. In the legal sector, women such as Arabella Mansfield Babb, the first woman admitted to the bar (1869), and Belva Ann Lockwood, the first woman to practice law before the U.S. Supreme Court (1879), have opened doors for

women to enter the professional workforce as legal experts. Similarly, Lucy Brewer, the first woman marine (1812), inspired her predecessors to defend their Nation with pride and valor.

These women and many others are legends today. Therefore, it is essential that all Americans acknowledge and celebrate the contributions of women throughout our Nation's history. In addition, as America's arms stretch out across the seas, we must honor women in the international community that have challenged, changed and improved the condition of women and others in their native countries. That is why on March 8, 2008, America celebrated International Women's Day.

I urge my colleagues and all Americans to commemorate women for their contributions to the advancement of our great Nation.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 12, 2008

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to call to the attention of my colleagues the 50th anniversary of the European Parliament—the legislative body of the European Union. It is a great pleasure to celebrate this very special day in the history of the European Union. Seldom in so short a period as 50 years do we have the opportunity to witness the birth and evolution of such an important democratic institution.

In the 25 years that I have served as a Member of the United States Congress, the European Parliament has undergone a dramatic transformation. It began as an institution whose members were appointed by national parliaments, and it played a minor role in the policy-making process. Today, the European Parliament is a truly democratic legislature whose members are elected by the popular vote of the people in all member states of the European Union. Furthermore, it has a key role in approving the members of the European Commission and in adopting the EU budget. As the United States Congress, the European Parliament also has significant responsibility for conducting oversight of EU executive governmental institutions.

Madam Speaker, the first half of the 20th century was marked by two bloody World Wars that devastated the European continent and produced deep divisions between European countries. World War I produced sharp national differences among the Europeans, which continued to fester even after that war was concluded. At the end of World War II, Europe was divided by the "Iron Curtain," which ideologically, and politically separated the continent's peoples. During the era of the Cold War, the unification of the Western and Eastern Germany seemed like an impossible dream let alone the unification of Western and Eastern Europe. However, the last half-century has seen the remarkable growth of an ever closer union of people and states.

Indeed, the success of the European Union has produced significant changes in the make

up of Europe. The European Union began as an institution for economic cooperation among six Western European nations in 1951, but it has evolved into a political and economic union that now embraces 27 European nations, including 10 former communist states of Central and Eastern Europe. The European Union has brought peace, stability and prosperity to almost 500 million people.

In 1951, Madam Speaker, the Treaty of Paris, which created the European Coal and Steel Community provided a minor rule for a Parliamentary Assembly. This body evolved and was institutionalized as the European Parliamentary Assembly in the Treaty of Rome that was signed seven years later. The Assembly held its first meeting on March 19, 1951, under the leadership of its first president and one of Europe's great visionaries, Robert Schuman. At that time the parliament was only a consultative body composed of 142 members appointed by the national parliaments of the member states. The members conducted their business in four official languages.

In 1962, the body became the European Parliament, and in 1979, its members were chosen for the first time through direct elections. Over time, treaty revisions have expanded the powers of the European Parliament over legislation, the budget and executive oversight. The European Parliament now has 785 members who work in 23 official languages, and it represents the 492 million citizens of the 27 member states of the European Union.

Madam Speaker, I am delighted that the United States House of Representatives has a cooperative working relationship with the European Parliament. For the last three decades, delegations of our respective legislatures have met twice a year to discuss our common goals and have endeavored to bring the United States and the European Union ever closer together. Currently this exchange—the Trans-Atlantic Legislators Dialog, TLD—is led on the United States side by Chairwoman SHELLY BERKLEY of Nevada and Vice Chairmen CLIFF STEARNS of Florida and JIM COSTA of California. The European Parliament delegation is ably led by Jonathan Evans, a member of the European Parliament from the United Kingdom.

Over the last half-century, Madam Speaker, the United States has worked with our European allies to promote democracy, the rule of law, free market economies and human rights around the world. The 50th anniversary of the European Parliament provides an excellent occasion for all of us to reflect upon our friendship with our colleagues in the European Parliament and to celebrate with them this successful trans-Atlantic cooperation. The ratification of the Treaty of Lisbon and the parliamentary elections in June 2009 should further reinforce the European Parliament's critical role in the European Union decision-making process. I congratulate the European Parliament on its first half-century and look forward to continued collaboration in the future.

RECOGNIZING THE HONORABLE
LAURA HILL UPON BEING
NAMED CITIZEN OF THE YEAR
BY THE SOUTHLAKE CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 12, 2008

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Honorable Laura Hill, a Southlake City Councilwoman, community and civic leader, as recipient of the Citizen of the Year Award presented by the Southlake Chamber of Commerce.

Laura Hill has been a tireless public servant with a strong sense of stewardship to the entire Southlake community. Ms. Hill's public service truly speaks for itself. She is not only a City Councilwoman, but the Founder and President of SPARKS (Students and Parents Against Risks to Kids in Southlake), Co-founder and Vice President of the Southlake Angel Society, a member of the Southlake Historical Society, and a graduate of Southlake's DPS Citizens Academy and Southlake's fire rehab team. Somehow, she finds additional time for involvement in numerous other community organizations, as well.

Of the many examples of Ms. Hill's selfless service, one story in particular stands out. Not long ago, a Southlake firefighter had a baby with significant medical problems. Due to the high medical costs, the firefighter's family was struggling to keep up. Upon hearing about the situation Laura immediately volunteered and created a fund raiser with her friends. The event raised approximately \$16,000 entirely for the family of the Southlake firefighter.

Whether it is creating fund raisers for those in need, preserving the city's history, solving zoning problems, caring for the children in the community, or volunteering for the city's emergency response team, Ms. Hill is always willing to go above and beyond to serve her community.

I proudly commend the Honorable Laura Hill for her tireless passion and commitment to the betterment of Southlake, Texas. Many community members are grateful for her service and I congratulate her for receiving this prestigious award.

TAMARA CASH

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 12, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Tamara Cash of Kansas City, Missouri. Tamara is a very special young woman who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Girl Scouts of America, and earning the most prestigious award of Girl Scout Gold Award.

Tamara has been very active with her troop, participating in many scout activities. In order to receive the prestigious Gold Award, Tamara has completed all seven requirements that

promote community service, personal and spiritual growth, positive values and leadership skills.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Tamara Cash for her accomplishments with the Girl Scouts of America and for her efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Girl Scouts Gold Award.

HONORING SHEILA JOSEPH

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 12, 2008

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sheila Joseph, a native New Yorker, daughter of Haitian immigrant parents and raised in public housing, Ms. Joseph conducted her undergraduate studies at the University of California at Berkeley where she double majored in psychology and legal studies, with a minor in education, earning her Bachelor of Arts degree in just three years. After graduating from Berkeley in 1994, Sheila began her legal studies at Georgetown University Law School in Washington, DC. While a student at Georgetown, she worked as a student attorney handling juvenile delinquency cases in the District of Columbia Superior Court.

Upon completing her legal studies in 1997, Ms. Joseph returned to her native New York and spent the next four years working as an attorney for indigent clients, first as a staff attorney with the Neighborhood Defender Service of Harlem, then as a law guardian with The Children's Law Center of New York. Based on her experiences as a law student and lawyer, she became increasingly frustrated by the limitations of the law as an instrument for empowering young people and communities. She determined that the best long term course was to be an educator and have a positive impact on children and impoverished communities.

In 2001, Sheila Joseph applied for, and was accepted into, the New York City Teaching Fellows Program and taught math and science at P.S. 40 in Queens while earning a Master of Science degree in Elementary and Early Childhood Education from Queens College. In September 2004, Ms. Joseph began a one-year residency with Building Excellent Schools, a prestigious and rigorous Boston-based program that trains and supports aspiring charter school founders. She founded the East New York Preparatory Charter School in August 2005.

East New York Prep, ENYP, opened its doors to 100 kindergarten and first grade students in September 2006 to ensure that boys and girls growing up in East New York would have the same opportunity for a good life as children in wealthier communities. ENYP's mission is to address the specific needs and challenges of children in East New York to ensure that students achieve or exceed grade-level mastery of academic content, knowledge and skills.

Madam Speaker, I am pleased to recognize Sheila Joseph and her impressive accomplishments in academia. Her passion and concern for inner-city children's educational needs is noteworthy indeed.