

be home to the seat of the irrigation district, now known as the Bexar, Medina, Atascosa Water District (BMA). BMA owns and operates Medina Dam, Medina Lake and the entire canal system, furnishing water for 35,000 acres of land year-round for vegetable crops, grain and hay.

Though established by Dr. Pearson, Natalia was not incorporated as a city until March 2, 1968. In January of that year, a group of 50 citizens petitioned Medina County to incorporate as a municipality using a City Council form of government. A vote was held on the 2nd of March and by a tally of 116 to 50, Natalia, Texas was incorporated. Just a few weeks later the first elections for Mayor, Alderman and City Marshall were held. During the 40 years of the City of Natalia's existence, the goal of its elected officials has always been to offer a better quality of life for its citizens. Natalia continues to retain its small-town charm while also constantly preparing for the future.

There is perhaps no better way to celebrate Natalia's anniversary than with the Texas Bluebonnets. The flower blooms in early spring across fields and roadsides in central and south Texas. Aptly named for its vibrant color and shape, the Bluebonnet's petal is often said to resemble a woman's sunbonnet. Though especially prevalent in towns like Natalia, the Bluebonnet has come to symbolize the entire State of Texas and it was chosen as its state flower in 1901. The annual Bluebonnet Festival celebrates not only the anniversary of Natalia, but also the wild beauty that we have come to associate with the Bluebonnet and the untamed landscape of West Texas.

As they celebrate 40 years of city incorporation, I congratulate all current and past residents of Natalia, Texas for working to achieve the dream of Dr. Pearson of being the "Queen City of the Southwest."

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CHRISTINE SHEHAN

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 2, 2008*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Christine Shehan who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award. Christine Shehan is a senior at Arvada High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Christine Shehan is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Christine Shehan for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication she has shown in her high school career to her college career and future accomplishments.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF ROBERT E.  
DOGGETT

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 2, 2008*

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Robert E. Doggett, and to honor a life spent in service to his country, his community, and his family.

As a young man, Mr. Doggett served our country bravely during World War II, earning a Purple Heart of Honor for his service in the first African-American army combat unit in the South Pacific Theatre. After returning stateside from his service, he followed his parents to Cleveland to put down roots in Northeast Ohio in the late 1940's. An artist at heart and by trade, he first utilized his artistic talents by designing calendars for local businesses. He later began work with the City planning commission as a draftsman in 1951, work which would mark the beginning of a career-long commitment to the City of Cleveland and the residents of Northeast Ohio. During his twenty years at the City planning commission, he became the city's first African-American senior planner. His integrity and work ethic carried him up the ranks quickly when in 1972, Mayor Ralph Perk appointed Mr. Doggett as the Cleveland director of the federal community redevelopment Model Cities Initiative, a program dedicated to rebuild Cleveland's East Side. To top off his career of civic service, Robert is responsible for the architectural designs of more than thirty churches, office buildings and restaurants.

Recognized for his talents as a great abstract and landscape artist by his friends and family, he was also a known jazz aficionado and has met Jazz greats Duke Ellington and Lionel Hampton who both performed regularly in the Cleveland area. Mr. Doggett is survived by his loving wife of 53 years, Georgia; his children Lisa, Enid and Steven; and one granddaughter. He will be affectionately remembered by his family and friends for his compassion, humor, intelligence and artistic talents.

Madam speaker and colleagues, please join me in remembering Robert E. Doggett, and to honor his commitment to his country, community, and family. May his exemplary life serve as an example for us all to follow.

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TRIBUTE TO MR. RHUDEL A.  
GEORGE

**HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN**

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 2, 2008*

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Madam Speaker, I am proud to recognize a man from my district, the U.S. Virgin Islands, who is being celebrated as a "selfless humanitarian." Mr. Rhudel A. George is well known in our community as a tireless government worker, an advocate for the small businessman, a teacher and a political organizer. As a friend and supporter that I can always count on, Rhudel is

exemplary. We are all encouraged by his work as president of Concerned Virgin Islanders, an advocacy group that is determined to both preserve and invigorate the cultural touchstones that make the Virgin Islands special.

He grew up in the Down Street area of Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas and graduated in 1956 from the Charlotte Amalie High School (CAMS). He relocated to New York City where he joined the army in 1957 and served honorably for two years, leaving with a rank of Specialist 4th Class. Upon returning to the territory in 1959, he worked in both the private and public sector, while at the same time pursuing a Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Management at the University of the Virgin Islands in 1975. In 1975, he began to work for the V.I. Small Business Development Agency, first as a Field Investigator, and later as a Loan Officer. He was appointed Deputy Director of the Agency by Governor Alexander Farrelly and rose to the position of Director, where he served until his retirement in 1995. In addition, Rhudel George served as a part-time instructor of business management and accounting at the CAHS Adult Continuing Education Program from 1981 through 1990. He also taught Business Management at the University of the Virgin Islands in 1991. He also served as a panelist with the U.S. Small Business Administration, conducting small business seminars and workshops in the U.S. Virgin Islands, the British Virgin Islands, and St. Martin for over 10 years.

Mr. Rhudel George received several prestigious awards for his work, to include being named the Small Business Advocate of the Year from the U.S. Small Business Administration 1990/1991 and a Certificate of Commendation for Service beyond the call of duty after Hurricane Hugo in 1989. He also served his community on various boards and commissions, lending his financial and business management expertise as Chairman of the Finance Committee of the Virgin Islands Port Authority, the Public Employees Relations Board, the Board of Land Use Appeals, the V.I. Small Business Development Agency's Board, the U.S. Small Business Administration Advisory Council for Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Rhudel George is currently the President of Concerned Native Virgin Islanders, Inc., an organization that has awarded 15 scholarship awards to deserving high school graduates. Mr. Rhudel George is an extraordinary community minded individual who has lent his expertise when needed. He has been married for 43 years to Lucia Cid-George and has two daughters, Semele and Sionne.

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HONORING THE MEMORY OF THE  
HONORABLE WILLIAM DICKINSON

**HON. JO BONNER**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 2, 2008*

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to honor the memory of former Alabama Congressman William "Bill" Dickinson and his lifetime of dedication to the people of Alabama and the United