

young lady who completed her studies in only three years. She was expected to graduate from Loyola in December.

Another promising life cut short. Another life ended by gun violence. Another family forced to ask why their loved one, who was not involved in guns, drugs or gangs, had to leave tragically and so soon.

Americans of conscience must come together to stop the senseless death of "The Daily 45."

When will Americans say "enough is enough, stop the killings!"

ON THE OCCASION OF THE DEDICATION OF TOLEDO BLESSED SACRAMENT NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER AND MIDDLE SCHOOL

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2008

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise today, pleased to recognize a milestone for Toledo Blessed Sacrament Catholic Parish. They celebrate the dedication of a neighborhood center and middle school.

Blessed Sacrament became the Mother Church of West Toledo, established December 31, 1924, by Father Otto C. Kappus, in the forested epicenter of western Toledo. Struggling middle-class families of the densely populated, majority Catholic residential area settled and thrived through the Great Depression and World War II. September 6, 1925, marked the laying of the cornerstone for the first church and school by Monsignor J. T. O'Connell. However, the church and school were completed in February 1926.

The Sisters of Blessed Sacrament who served the Parish in 1925 belonged to the Dominican Order. The sisters found residence originally in the school building. In 1925, there were 112 pupils enrolled, with Sister Mary Leonilla as principal and 3 assistant nuns. The 1952 enrollment was 778 pupils with 14 nuns, 2 lay teachers and Sister Helen Patrick as principal. For much of the parish's history, Dominican Sisters shepherded generations of the youth through the school. They remain much loved, greatly respected and well remembered. Their teacher successors have upheld the grand tradition.

Between 1938 and 1952, school registration increased to the point where the entire floor space, occupied as residence by the nuns, was converted to classrooms. Then, the Sisters resided at 4110 Bellevue Road until the spring of 1948, when they moved to the convent on Castlewood Drive in Toledo, OH.

Blessed Sacrament Parish experienced rapid growth in its early years. To help serve the growing congregation, a new church was constructed. It was completed in 1954 and is still in use today. The charter members chose a Southern California Spanish architectural theme that has been faithfully reflected in the new constructions. This style was remarkably suited to accommodate the liturgical reforms of the Vatican Council, but also made the addition of narthex, in the 1970s, possible. Finally, the 2008 opening of the new middle

school, neighborhood center and gymnasium facility marked the newest stage in Blessed Sacrament's development.

Today, Blessed Sacrament's parish community continues to be a hallmark of hospitality and ministry to its neighbors. The parish is lively with young families and a thriving school, currently enjoying an increase in enrollment. Thus, the parish recognized the necessity for a hub to carry on the progress and traditions of the Blessed Sacrament community. The establishment of a neighborhood center invites parish members and neighborhood residents to enter a partnership to ensure and enhance the neighborhood's vitality. In lieu of the new landmark, the neighborhood formed an organization named "The Greater Close Park Neighborhood Organization." Their mission is to maintain and improve the quality of life in the neighborhood. They strive to beautify the area with trees and flowers, develop programs for seniors and children, enhance lighting in the Block Watch Program for safety, and establish community projects like Spring Clean Up, Welcome Wagon and a neighborhood garage sale. These programs will create recreational and social opportunities for all ages. I stand here to applaud the efforts of Blessed Sacrament to bolster a strong tradition of community in this West Toledo neighborhood.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PAUL W. HODES

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2008

Mr. HODES. Madam Speaker, due to unavoidable circumstances, I missed one vote in a series of votes on Tuesday, May 6, 2008. I would have voted "yes" for the following vote: (1) Rollcall vote 248—To Table Motion To Reconsider.

TRIBUTE TO KENTWAN BALMER

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2008

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, on October 15, 1986, Christa and Charles Balmer, Sr., were blessed by the birth of their youngest child, Kentwan.

Kentwan grew up in Weldon, a very small town in my congressional district with a population of about 1,375 people. Kentwan attended O.R. Pope Elementary, Weldon Middle and Weldon High School. As a high school junior and senior, he earned All-Area and All-Conference honors. Kentwan was also an impressive bowler and dedicated a good deal of his time as a member of the North Carolina Shrine Bowl Team.

Kentwan earned a full scholarship to play football at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He saw limited action in nine games as right defensive end as a freshman, coming up with one assisted tackle. As a sophomore, he appeared in 11 games, and started in the final 3 games of the season.

As a junior, Kentwan appeared in 10 games, starting the final 8 games as left defensive tackle. The highlight of his season came against rival Duke when he blocked two extra point kicks in a one-point victory.

As a senior, he shifted to right defensive tackle. He earned second-team All-Atlantic Coast Conference honors and received the team's James Southerland Award. He ranked second on the team with 59 tackles, including 3.5 sacks.

In 42 games at the University of North Carolina, Kentwan started 23 times. He collected 93 tackles with 7 sacks. He also deflected three passes and blocked a pair of kicks.

On April 26, 2008, the San Francisco 49ers selected Kentwan with the 29th overall pick in the first round of the National Football League draft. He's expected to play either nose tackle or left defensive end. Kentwan is UNC's 17th first-round draft pick in school history.

Kentwan is known for his strength, athleticism, and versatility, and the 49ers expect him to anchor their defense for many years to come.

Madam Speaker, this is a great day for the town of Weldon—the place of Kentwan's roots and a very significant part of the First Congressional District of North Carolina. As friends, family and fans come together to celebrate at Clem's Grand Ballroom in Weldon on May 9, I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives and folks all across North Carolina to join me in wishing Kentwan many successful years with the San Francisco 49ers. We applaud Kentwan's commitment, determination and dedication in achieving such a major accomplishment.

MAY 10TH IS A SPECIAL DAY FOR THE PEOPLE OF AZERBAIJAN

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2008

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, on May 10, 2008 the people of Azerbaijan commemorate the 85th Jubilee of the birth of their late President Heydar Aliyev. A larger than life personality and a man of enormous political skill and stature, Heydar Aliyev worked tirelessly for more than 30 years—first as part of the Soviet Union, and later as President of a free and independent Azerbaijan—to build a strong, vibrant, healthy and prosperous nation.

When Azerbaijan regained its independence in 1991, the political and economic vacuum caused by the collapse of the Soviet Union, domestic tensions fueled by competing forces at home and the disastrous war in Nagorno-Karabakh—which resulted in the military occupation of 20 percent of Azerbaijan, and nearly one million refugees and internally displaced people—threatened to rip the country apart. Many Azerbaijanis were fearful that their first experience as the short-lived first Republic in the Muslim world (1918–1920), would be repeated; and that a free and independent Azerbaijan would be nothing but a footnote in history.

Heydar Aliyev, however, had a vision for Azerbaijan. He knew that Azerbaijan's future

would be assured if countries around the world had a stake in its independence and he knew that the key to attracting international investment in Azerbaijan's rich resources was stability. In 1993, when Heydar Aliyev became President of the Republic, first by appointment under the constitution, then through direct popular election he moved quickly to implement his vision. First, he negotiated a cease-fire in the war with Armenia—which was implemented in 1994—and next he pushed Parliament to begin enacting a series of laws to make the country friendlier to foreign investment and a member of the international market economy. President Aliyev opened up the country to investment from the United States, Western Europe, Russia, and Turkey and Azerbaijan soon became a pioneer in opening the Caspian Sea to international cooperation and oil and gas exploration. In fact, since the so-called "Contract of the Century" was signed in 1994, Azerbaijan has extensively developed its energy resources to help diversify western energy supplies. The Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan (BTC) oil pipeline, for example, which became fully operational in July 2006 and will soon provide one-third of the new oil flowing into the international market. In addition to the BTC pipeline, the Baku-Tbilisi-Erzurum gas pipeline is now functioning.

President Aliyev was also aggressive in asserting Azerbaijan's place on the international political stage. He became a great friend to the United States and one of the first international leaders to offer unconditional assistance to the U.S.-led fight against global terrorism after 9-11—and was also one of the few Muslim leaders to agree to send troops to Iraq and Afghanistan. The strong relations between our two nations are a monument to his determination and will not be forgotten.

Madam Speaker, despite foreign and domestic critics of President Aliyev's pro-western policies, most people acknowledge that President Heydar Aliyev represented security during those very dark early years of Azerbaijan's second independence; and most Azerbaijanis felt at the time that as long as Heydar Aliyev was at the helm, the ship of state would not sink. Today it's up to the youth of Azerbaijan to steer that ship and to carry on Heydar Aliyev's vision of a strong, vibrant, healthy and prosperous, and independent Azerbaijan. If they build upon the legacy President Aliyev left, I have no doubt they will succeed.

HONORING LOUIS M. THOMSON

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2008

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Louis M. Thomson, Jr. of Toledo, Ohio.

Louis M. Thomson, Jr., blessed Toledo, OH with his many talents, always giving an enthusiastic word about his native city. Louis passed from this life April 18, 2008, but will always be remembered by his family and friends for his warm smile, quick wit and uncompromising passion to better his community. Louis served as a longtime labor arbitrator, fact-finder,

er, and mediator. Mr. Thomson, a Toledo native, graduated from Scott High School in 1945. Afterwards he served in the U.S. Army from 1945 to 1947, later graduating from the University of Toledo in 1950. Louis started his career with the city of Toledo in 1960 as director of public information and industrial relations, a position he held until 1968.

Following his position with the city of Toledo, he served as the director of the Toledo Labor-Management-Citizens Committee from 1968 until 1991. He worked as an independent arbitrator, fact-finder, and mediator. During his years on the job, he was known for working behind the scenes to improve the local labor climate. His family and colleagues remembered how he enjoyed helping to resolve labor disputes. His wife, Rose Thomson, recalled that the career called on him to be neutral and exercise good judgment. She said, "He liked listening to all the different things and trying to decide if people had been treated properly".

He retired from the job two weeks before his death and only because of his failing health. In addition to his work, Mr. Thomson was involved with a number of local community groups, including the University of Toledo Alumni Association, which he had served as president; the Scott Alumni Association; the City of Toledo Credit Union, of which he was also a past president; the Toledo Museum of Art; the Maumee Valley Historical Society; the Committee on Relations with Toledo, Spain, and numerous other organizations.

Louis simply desired to help people and do things for other, and in the meantime improve the city of Toledo as well. However, the organization closest to his heart was the Toledo Zoo, family members recalled. They estimated he had been involved with the Toledo Zoo for nearly 50 years because it was a landmark for the people of Toledo and surrounding areas. His love for the Toledo Zoo mimicked his love for the Toledo community. Louis always promoted the city of Toledo from an industrial, business and cultural perspective, never ceasing in the opinion that Toledo was a great place to live.

Toledo will miss one of its dearest sons. May his positive spirit and love of community be remembered in word and deed by all Toledo residents.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MOSES WEINSTEIN

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2008

Mr. CROWLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the passing of a man who I deeply admired and knew for many years; Mr. Moses Weinstein. Mr. Weinstein, or Moe as his friends called him, passed away at the age of 95. He was loved and respected, and served New York and our country honorably throughout his long life.

Mr. Weinstein was a true patriot. He was a World War II veteran, and served our country in Europe. After graduating from Brooklyn Law School and he began working his way up the

political ladder. In 1959, he started what would be an 11 year career in the New York State Assembly. During his tenure in the Assembly, he served as Chairman of the Queens Democratic Party; held the prestigious title of majority leader for the 1967 convention, where the New York State Constitution was redrafted; and was elected to the post of Majority Leader from 1965 through 1968 and Speaker of the Assembly in 1968. Much of his work as a legislator focused on the importance of promoting minorities and women to hold judicial positions.

After leaving the Assembly, Moe became a Justice of the Supreme Court of New York in 1970, and held the post for 14 years.

Moe was so accomplished. Yet, he always claimed that he was not anyone's boss, especially in his own home. He claimed that Muriel Marshall, his wife, was the true boss of the household.

I want to extend my deepest sympathies to Moe's family. Jonathan, Peter and Jeremy, your father was an extraordinary man and I feel blessed to have known him.

CONGRATULATING COASTAL BEND COLLEGE ON ITS 40TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. RUBÉN HINOJOSA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2008

Mr. HINOJOSA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Coastal Bend College, in Beeville, Texas on its 40th Anniversary. Bee County Junior College District was created by election on November 2, 1965. The election resulted from several years of work to establish a community college for Bee County. Support was shown by residents in an overwhelming five-to-one majority for the creation of the district. The desire for a community college was again demonstrated on December 7, 1965, when district citizens approved a tax to support BCC, and bond issues to build the college. Bee County College opened in September 1967 with 790 students, 24 full-time instructors and 11 part-time teachers. Its first class graduated in May of 1968.

In 1998 Bee County College changed its name to Coastal Bend College to reflect its expanding role in the region. Today, the Coastal Bend College service area includes Karnes, McMullen, Live Oak, Bee, Duval, Jim Wells and Brooks Counties, and parts of Atascosa and Kleberg Counties with campuses in Alice, Beeville, Kingsville and Pleasanton. Enrollment in academic, workforce education and continuing education classes during the spring of 2006 was 3,534. More than 100,000 students have passed through at least one of the four campuses over the past 40 years.

Coastal Bend College's current president, Dr. Thomas B. Baynum, came to the college in 2007. Under his leadership, the Texas Coordinating Board recently approved the opening of a full nursing program at Coastal Bend College. This new nursing program will help the school provide training that will not only offer graduates good paying jobs, but will also