

Mrs. Seaward will be celebrating this historic moment with her daughter, Bunny Gilbert, who shares the same birthday and will be turning 80. I wish Leota the happiest of birthdays, surrounded by all her friends and loved ones.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Leota Denico Seaward on her new status as a Centenarian.

HONORING BISHOP-ELECT
REVEREND URUNDI B. KNOX

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Bishop-Elect Reverend Urundi B. Knox. Bishop-Elect will be ordained and consecrated as a Bishop at a service to be held on Friday, October 1 at Ebenezer Ministries in Burton, Michigan.

Bishop-Elect Knox graduated from Flint Central High School in 1981. He earned an Associate's Degree from Mott Community College, and a Bachelor of Applied Science from the University of Michigan. He received a Master of Arts from Eastern Michigan University and completed his doctoral studies at Wayne State University in 1996.

During this time he was teaching at Mott Community College and Detroit College of Business. In September, 1993 he became a full-time professor at Mott Community College. Bishop-Elect Knox served as assistant pastor at Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church until the retirement of Pastor Clarence Knox in September 1994. Bishop-Elect Knox succeeded his father and became the pastor. In a testament to his leadership, the congregation has grown to over 1000 members and a new sanctuary was erected two years later.

Bishop-Elect Knox saw the need for spiritual and temporal guidance in the community and he embarked upon the "Take Back the City Crusade" providing worship services and feeding the hungry in downtown Flint. Drawing inspiration from 1 Samuel 7:12 "Then Samuel took a stone, and set it between Mizpeh and Shen, and called the name of it Eben-ezer saying, Hitherto hath the Lord helped us" Bishop-Elect Knox decided to change the name of the church to Ebenezer Ministries reflect the mission of reaching out to those in need. Because of his work in the community, Bishop-Elect Knox has been recognized numerous times as one of the unsung gems in the Flint area.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to ask the House of Representatives to rise with me and applaud the work of Bishop-Elect Urundi Knox. He has inspired his congregation with a zeal for spreading the Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ and I congratulate him as he is consecrated a Bishop. I pray that he will continue his work with love, enthusiasm, and determination for many, many years to come.

HONORING TOWNSHIP OF
DENVERVILLE'S ANNUAL SRI LANKA
DAY

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Township of Denville's Annual Sri Lanka Day, which celebrated its 35th annual festival this summer.

Beginning in 1975 with around 300 families in attendance, Denville's Sri Lanka Day has grown into one of the largest events of its kind, attracting close to 2,000 families. Sri Lankans come from beyond the tri-state area, with some coming from as far away as Canada to attend the event.

The Sri Lanka Day festival started as a vision of Jay Liyanage, a Sri Lanka native who resides in Denville, and would not be possible without the outstanding support of the Denville Rotary Club and the Sri Lanka Association of New York.

The festival is a beautiful display of Sri Lankan culture. In addition to offerings of cultural foods, music and clothing, the event features many sporting events. The highlights this year were the cricket matches between the Sri Lanka Association of New York and the Sri Lanka Association of Washington, D.C., as well as a match between an all-Sri Lankan team and an all-Denville team. For the second consecutive year the Sri Lanka Medical Association of North America generously ran a free medical clinic. Organizers credit the cricket matches, health clinic and the ending of the long civil war that occurred over the past 25 years in Sri Lanka for the large increase in attendance over the past few years.

The festival theme of "togetherness" is always exhibited at Sri Lanka Day where people from all walks of life come together to celebrate the Sri Lankan culture.

Madam Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Township of Denville's annual Sri Lanka Day for hosting their 35th Celebration.

HONORING CHRISTOPHER LEE ST.
CLAIR

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Christopher Lee St. Clair. Chris is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 175, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Chris has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Chris has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Chris has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Christopher Lee St. Clair for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING JUDGE JOHN SCOTT AS
AN ANGEL IN ADOPTION

HON. JOHN BOOZMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize Judge John Scott for his outstanding advocacy of adoption. He is a selfless crusader for children who need a loving home, helping the dream of a family become a reality. Since becoming 19th West Judicial District Circuit Judge in 2001, Judge Scott has heard 578 adoption cases and says successful adoption cases are some of the most rewarding and enjoyable work that he does because the result is a stable and loving environment.

Judge Scott is truly an advocate for adoption, creating a warm and comfortable environment for the adoptive parents, their attorneys and most importantly, the children. Judge Scott has positively influenced many lives through the adoption process and he has helped loving parents bring home deserving children. He is to be commended for his many years of service and passion to placing children in loving homes.

Because of his efforts, I nominated Judge Scott as an Angel for The Angels in Adoption™ program. This program honors outstanding individuals who are dedicated to helping children find permanent, safe and loving homes. Judge Scott is well deserving of this honor and I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing his service, dedication and efforts to making adoption possible.

HONORING ANN MANRY
RYNEARSON

HON. RUSS CARNAHAN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Mr. CARNAHAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Ann Manry Rynearson, recently retired Sr. Vice President for Culture and Community at the International Institute.

Ann has spent the bulk of her career building bridges across the increasingly diverse cultures of St. Louis. Most notably, Ann cofounded both the International Folkfest, which was held annually from 1992 to 2004, and the Festival of Nations, which is now in its 11th year.

Ann has focused on the arts in building those cross-cultural bridges. Even though she spent three years directing the Festival of Nations, she is actually best known as the Arts Director of both International Folkfest and Festival of Nations.

Her goal has always been to present the very best art forms of each culture. She has

worked to seek out or develop artists and performers who represent their own cultural heritages. Over the years, Ann has spent countless hours attending arts events around our region. By doing so, she was able to identify new and emerging ethnic talent to invite to the Institute's festivals.

Ann's contributions to the ethnic arts and to cultural preservation have extended beyond the Institute's annual and truly spectacular festivals. She has organized mini-festivals around town, art exhibits, and built an extensive database of artists to share with other organizations seeking talent for their programs. She is beloved by so many in our ethnic communities who have been her colleagues, partners, and even her students when she taught English classes at the Institute in her early career.

Therefore, it is with great pleasure today that I formally recognize Ann's achievements in front of an audience that is benefiting from her dedication to the mission of sharing the very best of our community's ethnic arts. Ann has established relationships with ethnic artists and their communities that will ensure the festival's continued success and that will continue to build and reinforce bridges of cross-cultural understanding in our community for many years to come.

IN RECOGNITION OF 2010 NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON SCHOOLS FROM THE 12TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

HON. MARK S. CRITZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Mr. CRITZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize both Conemaugh Township Area Intermediate School and Wylandville Elementary School for being selected as two of this year's 2010 National Blue Ribbon Schools. This announcement was made by U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan on September 9, 2010.

The U.S. Department of Education selected 304 schools nationwide to receive this year's honor, including 14 schools in Pennsylvania. I'm proud to announce that two of these schools were from the district that I represent.

Conemaugh Township Area Intermediate School is located in Johnstown, Pennsylvania, and is the home of over 350 elementary students. Wylandville Elementary School, a member of the Canon-McMillan School District, serves a population of approximately 200 students in North Strabane Township, near Eighty Four, Pennsylvania.

Beginning in 1982, the Blue Ribbon Schools Program has honored public and private schools that are models of both excellence and equity. The Award is granted to schools that are either high performing, or have improved student achievement to high levels, particularly among disadvantaged children.

These two schools are outstanding examples of how hard work and commitment can pay off in achieving these criteria. Both of these schools recognize the importance of achievement, and the need to ensure that students have the resources to learn and to suc-

ceed. I appreciate the efforts of Conemaugh Township Area Intermediate School and Wylandville Elementary School in teaching our children to recognize their full potential, and equally important, providing them with the tools they need to achieve success in life.

Madam Speaker, I conclude my remarks by congratulating these schools on their exceptional dedication and passion for helping our students succeed. I wish them well as they continue to inspire our young scholars.

HONORING THE VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS HARLANDALE MEMORIAL POST 4815

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of 15 years of dedicated community service by the Veterans of Foreign Wars Harlandale Memorial Post 4815 and Post Commander Edward C. Torres. This San Antonio-based non-profit organization has and continues to serve its dedicated senior citizen community.

VFW organizations have a respected reputation for not only serving their fellow community veterans but also the community as a whole. Annually, on average, the VFW and its supporters contribute more than 13 million hours of volunteerism within their respective communities. With a history dating back to over 110 years ago, the Veterans of Foreign Wars organization and their auxiliaries live up to its mission "to honor the dead by helping the living."

The Harlandale Memorial VFW Post 4815 and Ladies Auxiliary continues to follow this noble tradition. For the past 15 years, this post hosts the areas senior citizens every third Friday of the month. They offer these respected members of their community the opportunity to engage and interact with others while at the same time providing a safe and entertaining place to gather. They prepare and serve both a continental breakfast and hot, full course lunch to those in attendance and provide free entertainment in the way of bingo games with prize-giveaways. They also host seminars regarding community and safety information which are not likely as readily available elsewhere to these residents. The particular groups in attendance are generally from two area nursing homes so this provides one of the few occasions they have to leave their residences. This one, special day allows a luxury these people may not know otherwise. It is fun, entertainment, and a chance to socialize outside of their daily set.

Under the leadership of Commander Edward C. Torres, the Harlandale Memorial VFW Post 4815 and Ladies Auxiliary are an integral part of their community. They provide a precious service to oft time overlooked citizens which help to not only enrich and strengthen community bonds but to enrich and strengthen lives.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to recognize Commander Edward C. Torres and the

Harlandale Memorial Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 4815 for their hard work and excellence in service to their community.

HONORING THE WALL THAT HEALS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I recognize the legacy of the Vietnam War veterans from the state of Missouri through The Wall That Heals which will be displayed in the City of Blue Springs from September 30th to October 3rd.

The Wall That Heals is a mobile, half-scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial located here in Washington, D.C. and has been seen by millions of people in more than 300 cities and towns throughout the U.S. The exhibit was first inaugurated on Veterans Day, 1996 by the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund and offers the opportunity for those who lost their lives in the Vietnam War to be honored by family and friends in their respective communities.

I would like to thank Mayor Carson Ross, the Blue Spring City Council, local business leaders, and all the volunteers who dedicated great effort to bringing this distinct honor to Missouri. The traveling exhibition will allow veterans, families and friends in our community to honor our local heroes who served and made the ultimate sacrifice.

Madam Speaker, the dedication and service these men and women gave in the name of freedom in Vietnam is humbling, and it is an honor to represent them in Congress. I ask my colleagues to join me in saying thank you to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial fund for commissioning this monument and to encourage more cities and towns to sponsor this exhibit honoring our veterans.

CONGRATULATING THE DESERT BOTANICAL GARDEN

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Desert Botanical Garden on being awarded accreditation by the American Association of Museums, which is the highest recognition of a museum's commitment to public service, professional standards, and excellence in education.

A small group of passionate, local citizens started the Desert Botanical Garden in the 1930s when they saw the need to conserve their unique desert environment. The Garden, which is now located on 145 acres in Phoenix, has emerged as an Arizona treasure. The Garden boasts more than 50,000 plants, 1,100 volunteers, and 640,529 attendees every year.

Since the Garden's beginning, it has been steadfast in its commitment to advance excellence in education, research, exhibition and