

The Detroit Area buildOn program, formerly known as "Building with Books," began in 1992 with the establishment of its first chapter at Jackson Lumen Christi High School. This school was chosen for buildOn's first program because it is the alma mater of Jim Ziolkowski, the founder and now President & CEO of buildOn. The region has grown over the years to host 14 programs in high schools across the Detroit metro area, including three chapters in my congressional district, transforming the lives of over two hundred students a year. The students of buildOn make a positive difference in our community and in the lives of people around the world.

This year, buildOn's students in the Detroit Area have committed to over twenty thousand hours of community service and raised over \$42,000 to build schools in developing nations. In fact, since the inception of the program in the Detroit Area, buildOn students have volunteered over one hundred and sixteen thousand hours and raised over \$147,000 for charitable causes. buildOn students volunteer across the metro area for organizations including the Detroit Veterans Center, the Detroit Zoo, Gleaners Food Bank, Boys and Girls Clubs, the Baldwin Center, and a host of other deserving charities. In addition to local volunteerism, the members of buildOn embark on global trips to places such as Nicaragua, Mali, India, Haiti, Malawi and Senegal to participate in cultural exchanges and live with host families, while they work with the local community to build new schools. Since 2001, over one thousand students have traveled to developing countries to help build over sixty schools. This global perspective and volunteerism exemplifies the values of the buildOn program and its mission of, "Enhancing education and empowering youth in the U.S. to make a positive difference in their communities while helping people of developing countries increase their self-reliance through education."

Madam Speaker, in these challenging times, it is the work of dedicated volunteers like the students and staff of buildOn that brings hope to my local community and communities around the world. I look forward to the continued success of the Detroit Area buildOn chapter in all of its future endeavors, as well as many more years of inspiring support for our community and communities around the world.

HONORING PHYLLIS WEBER

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 2010

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Phyllis Weber upon her retirement as the Principal of El Portal School and Yosemite Park High School. After thirty-two years in education, Ms. Weber will be honored at a retirement party in El Portal, California on Thursday, June 10, 2010.

Ms. Weber received her Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology from the University of Dayton in Ohio and her Master of Arts degree in environmental and outdoor education from San Francisco State University. After three

years as an environmental investigator for the Environmental Protection Agency, she became an instructor for the Yosemite Institute starting in January 1976. The Yosemite Institute is one of the nation's leading environmental education organizations dedicated to bringing school age children to Yosemite where they have an opportunity to experience and learn about the majestic place. Ms. Weber became known as a dynamic naturalist and teacher who had an amazing ability to connect with her students, a trait that carried forward throughout her career. At the Yosemite Institute she also met Mr. Art Baggett, a fellow instructor, and now her husband of more than thirty years.

In 1978, Ms. Weber began teaching first, second and third grades at El Portal Elementary School. She has also taught courses for a wilderness program for the Saratoga/Los Gatos High School District, winter ecology for Antioch College, mountain ecology for the University of California at Santa Cruz, Yosemite Natural History for the College of Marin and various college courses for the Yosemite Institute.

As the principal of Yosemite National Park's El Portal School and Yosemite Park High School since 2000, Ms. Weber has gracefully inspired teachers, staff and students to perform at high levels, as confirmed annually by the high test scores at the El Portal School. She has an uncanny ability to see the potential in her students and to draw them out in a way that helps them fulfill their potential. She has also developed a very positive reputation for her community through her school's ability to communicate with, and educate, Spanish-speaking students while making them feel welcome and part of the community.

Ms. Weber's hallmark has been her enthusiasm to encourage new and innovative programs proposed by her teachers, students and parents and to actively seek creative ways to fund these programs. She has become a master at working within school district budgets and has diligently travelled with the district office to Mariposa, Sacramento and Washington, D.C. to support her budget, as well as working closely with parents and the local community on fundraising and support.

In addition to her professional endeavors, Ms. Weber has been very involved in public service and her family has been an integral part of the Yosemite community for several generations. As part of her public service, Ms. Weber was elected to the Board of Trustees for the Yosemite Natural History Association in November 1979 and she began her service on January 26, 1980. For the past thirty years she has served on the Board for the Yosemite Natural History Association, the Yosemite Association and now the Yosemite Conservancy, where she is currently the chair of the education and programs committee. In this role, Ms. Weber and her family share their deep passion for Yosemite and Mariposa County.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Principal Phyllis Weber upon her retirement from El Portal School and Yosemite Park High School. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Ms. Weber many years of continued success.

HONORING STURGIS, MICHIGAN

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 2010

Mr. UPTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to the city of Sturgis, Michigan and its trademark patriotic summer festival that is currently under way. While the name of the festival has changed throughout the years, this year's inaugural "Sturgis Dam Days" will surely foster lasting memories for the multitude of generations that look forward to the annual festival.

The 6-day festival brings the entire community together to celebrate the city's rich history and pay special tribute to the Sturgis Dam, which will celebrate its 100th anniversary in 2011.

The hydroelectric dam transmits electricity 18 miles to the Sturgis Municipal Power Plant, giving Sturgis the moniker of the "Electric City." While the dam generates power for the town, ask most folks about it and they will highlight the postcard-perfect views of the dam: the flowing St. Joseph River and the surrounding scenes at the adjacent Covered Bridge Park.

This year's Sturgis Dam Days festival includes a variety of events throughout the week for all to enjoy. The Sturgis Chamber of Commerce kicked off the festival by welcoming the community for dinner and the St. Joseph Sheriff's Department transformed into the Pony Express in period clothing to give the official proclamation to commence the celebration. Events throughout the week include an art fair; the American Legion Hog Roast; "Experience Sturgis," a history walk through the city; a family picnic in Franks Park; a vintage Sturgis Biscuits baseball game; the Relay for Life at Sturgis High School; a parade down US-12; and the culminating event, the Sturgis Dam Rodeo.

The festival has been a beacon of economic activity and growth through the years, and continues to draw countless families to the region each year.

I congratulate the city of Sturgis and all of its residents for sharing such a wonderful community event. Through the years the annual festival has become woven into the fabric of the lives of so many folks throughout southwest Michigan. Sturgis has such a rich heritage and offers so much to the region's families. I look forward to the festival's continued success with many more Sturgis Dam Day celebrations for years to come.

HONORING CHARLOTTE "CHUCKIE"
HOLSTEIN

HON. DANIEL B. MAFFEI

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 2010

Mr. MAFFEI. Madam Speaker, I stand today to congratulate Charlotte "Chuckie" Holstein on being honored as the First Annual F.O.C.U.S. Greater Syracuse Wisdom Keeper Award recipient. She has been an active

member of the Central New York community, and for that I am very thankful.

Chuckie is the founder of many organizations serving the people of Central New York, including F.O.C.U.S. Greater Syracuse, Leadership Greater Syracuse, Youth Leadership Greater Syracuse, the Syracuse/Onondaga County Citizens Academy, the Syracuse Commission for Women, Meals on Wheels, and the City/County Office of the Aging.

She has served the Central New York area as the Chair of Loretto, a Member of the Central New York District Board for Key Bank, a trustee of Cazenovia College and the Manlius Pebble Hill School, Chair of Advisory boards for the School of Social Work and College For Human Development of Syracuse University and a Member of the College at Brockport Foundation.

Chuckie has also served her state, her nation, her faith and the world in a number of initiatives dealing with social justice, world peace and women's issues.

In closing, I'd like to express my appreciation for all of the hard work she has done. Please join me in congratulating Charlotte "Chuckie" Holstein on being honored with the First Annual F.O.C.U.S. Greater Syracuse Wisdom Keeper Award.

INDIAN AMERICAN CULTURAL
CENTER BHARATIYA TEMPLE
GRAND OPENING

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 2010

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with great honor and pleasure that I stand before you today to recognize the Indian American Cultural Center of Northwest Indiana as they celebrate the grand opening of the Bharatiya Temple of Northwest Indiana. They will be commemorating the event with the religious and historic tradition of Maha Kumbhabhishekam. This event will take place over three days, from Friday, June 18, 2010 to Sunday, June 20, 2010, at the Bharatiya Temple of Northwest Indiana in Merrillville.

The Indian American Cultural Center of Northwest Indiana opened on March 9, 2002, and operates as "a place to preserve, nourish, and advance the Indian culture, heritage, religious values, and social values." In order to continue to advance the teachings and culture of the Indian American people and the Hindu religion, the members of the Indian American Cultural Center decided to expand the existing building and to give the community a legacy in the form of the truly glorious Bharatiya Temple of worship. The Indian American community will be celebrating Maha Kumbhabhishekam, which is a Hindu tradition performed when a new Temple is built and installed with new deities (Gods or Goddesses). Many religious rituals of the Hindu religion will be performed during the celebration which will sanctify the beloved Bharatiya Temple of Northwest Indiana. It is a Hindu belief that taking part and witnessing a Maha Kumbhabhishekam is a lifetime blessing.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you and my distinguished colleagues join me in honoring the

Indian American Cultural Society of Northwest Indiana and its congregation as they celebrate the opening of the Bharatiya Temple of Northwest Indiana and observe the religious and historic tradition of Maha Kumbhabhishekam. Through their words and teachings, this honorable organization shares with us the rich culture and tradition of the Indian American people as well as the traditions of the Hindu religion.

IN RECOGNITION ANNIE & AVERY
GRANT

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 2010

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 50th anniversary of the marriage of Annie and Avery Grant, both exemplary and active members of their community. A simple glance at their dedication to civil service in Monmouth County, New Jersey uncovers a long history of local works and an extraordinary drive to improve the state in all aspects of public life. On the day of their golden anniversary, Annie and Avery Grant are indisputably worthy of this body's recognition.

Annie Grant was born Annie Williams in New York City on October 27, 1935, and has been recognized as a New Jersey State Notary Public for her many years of tireless service in professional and public life. In 1991, Mrs. Grant was appointed Commissioner on the Monmouth County Board of Taxation, a position she held for 17 years until she retired in 2008. She was the first African-American to hold this position in Monmouth County. Mrs. Grant's accomplishments extend far beyond this office, however, as she has also led a long life of involvement in local politics. In addition to being the 1989 Democratic candidate for Monmouth County Clerk, Mrs. Grant has been the Long Branch Democratic Club's treasurer for 30 years, and was named Woman of the Year in Politics in 1992. Her intelligence and breadth of knowledge is what led me to invite her to speak about Social Security reform at the Democratic Congressional Roundtable in 2005.

Avery Grant was born on July 9, 1933 in Memphis, Tennessee, and has led a prolific life of public works. A Vietnam Veteran, Mr. Grant is a retired Lieutenant Colonel in the U.S. Army Signal Corps, as well as a Professional Engineer, formerly with East Orange and the New York Transit Authority. Additionally, he is tirelessly active in the community of Long Branch, from serving on the Board of Education for over 12 years running to co-founding and editing the Community Newspaper, a bi-weekly, Monmouth County African-American newspaper. He has also been involved in over eight Monmouth County organizations, including but not limited to the Red Cross, Habitat for Humanity, the NAACP, and EXODUS, a halfway house focusing on substance abuse. His avid dedication to the city of Long Branch and Monmouth County landed him a spot on The City News' list of "100 Most Influential in New Jersey."

These remarkable individuals married on June 12, 1960. They have two children,

Adrienne and Avery Jr., and seven grandchildren. Their ability to maintain a beautiful, loving family in concert with their incredible efforts in their community is an inspiration to us all. They are valued members of their communities and a credit to the state of New Jersey.

ANNIVERSARY OF IRAN'S
PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 2010

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, June 12th will mark the one-year anniversary of the fraudulent presidential elections in Iran. In the wake of street protests that followed, human rights in Iran have gravely deteriorated.

On this day, we must remember the dozens of courageous individuals murdered by this brutal regime and the hundreds of others detained without legal recourse. We must remember Neda Agha Soltan, the innocent young woman slain by the Basij militia.

The post-election crackdown fully exposed the Iranian regime's continuing oppression of political dissidents as well as religious and ethnic minorities.

In the spring of 2008, seven leaders of the Baha'i community were arrested and detained in Tehran's notorious Evin prison on charges of "spreading corruption on earth," among other outrageous falsehoods. They have been incarcerated for 20 months before a show trial can even commence. Moreover, according to the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, as many as 45 members of the Baha'i community are currently imprisoned in Iran solely on the basis of their religious identity.

The fourth court appearance of the Baha'i leaders is scheduled for June 12 to coincide with the one-year anniversary of the stolen election.

The cynicism of the Iranian regime knows no bounds.

It is time that the United States and the international community hold Iran accountable for denying the fundamental freedoms to its people.

Yesterday, in commenting on the passed UN Security Council resolution on the Iranian nuclear program, the President stated that "whether it is threatening the nuclear non-proliferation regime, or the human rights of its own citizens, or the stability of its own neighbors by supporting terrorism, the Iranian government continues to demonstrate that its own unjust actions are a threat to justice everywhere."

I agree with the President. His words should now be followed with action. We must raise the stakes for the Iranian leadership to cease its human rights abuses and abide by the rules of the international community.

This Administration needs to prioritize human rights as a focal point of its Iran policy. American diplomats should continually raise the issue of human rights in Iran. We must urge our international allies to use their bilateral relationships and diplomatic missions in Tehran to call for the release of Iranian dissidents, religious minorities, and other prisoners of conscience.