

As a winner of the LeGrand Smith Scholarship, Catherine is being honored for demonstrating the same generosity of spirit, intelligence, responsible citizenship, and capacity for human service that distinguished the late LeGrand Smith of Somerset, Michigan.

Catherine is an exceptional student at Addison High School. Aside from being one of the highest in her class academically, Catherine possesses an outstanding record of achievement. She has been very active in the National Honor Society, Choir, Drama, Yearbook, and her church, serving as youth group president and church secretary. She has also devoted a great deal of her time volunteering to help others.

On behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to join her many admirers in offering our highest praise and congratulations to Catherine Santee for her selection as winner of the 2005 LeGrand Smith Scholarship. This honor not only recognizes her efforts, but also is a testament to her parents, teachers, and other individuals whose personal interest, steadfast support, and active participation contributed to her success. To this remarkable young woman, we extend our most heartfelt good wishes for all her future endeavors.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF  
TOM BRAZAITIS

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2005*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Mr. Tom Brazaitis, dedicated husband, father, author, and friend, whose brilliant legacy as a journalist and humanitarian has served to elevate the lives of all who knew him well, including my own.

For more than thirty-two years, Mr. Brazaitis' poignant commentary and piercing assessment of our nation's political and social scene graced the pages of Ohio's largest newspaper, the Cleveland Plain Dealer. His compassion, deep intellect and consistent ability to glean the heart of a story and have it ready under deadline amazed his colleagues. He was known for his quick wit, compassionate heart, progressive mindset and his seemingly effortless ability to stay calm and cool amidst the fiery pressure of the busy newsroom. Mr. Brazaitis' compelling editorials consistently garnered strong responses from his readers, both pro and con. Yet his integrity was unwavering and he never compromised his personal convictions or viewpoints, regardless of popular opinion. Mr. Brazaitis was highly trusted, respected and admired by his colleagues and those of us in the political arena. Whether interviewing a small town council member or having dinner with a powerful publisher, Mr. Brazaitis treated everyone with the same respect, dignity and kindness. He built strong bonds with the public, strengthened by integrity and trust, and gave Greater Clevelanders an insightful and balanced perspective into the local and national political scene.

Mr. Brazaitis' courage and grace was reflected throughout his battle with cancer, a battle that he openly shared with his readers. From his initial diagnosis, through every standard and experimental treatment, Mr. Brazaitis' straightforward descriptions of his cancer ex-

perience deeply connected with his readers, offering us a sense of peace, clarity and even humor throughout his heroic struggle.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and remembrance of Mr. Tom Brazaitis, whose life and legacy served to bring critical issues into the rational light of day, and whose deep sense of humanity served to elevate our own humanity. I offer my deepest condolences to his wife, Eleanor; his daughter, Sarah; son, Mark; stepsons, Edward, Woodbury and Robert; and his five grandchildren. Tom Brazaitis lived his life with energy and joy, and the memories of his affable nature and kind heart will forever light the hearts of all who knew and loved him well.

A TRIBUTE TO EARL L. WILLIAMS

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2005*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Earl L. Williams who is being honored at the Brooklyn Caribe Lions Club dinner dance as "Civic Humanitarian of the Year."

Earl, who was born in Panama City, Republic of Panama, has been a community activist and civic leader for more than 40 years. Currently, he is the New York State Democratic Committeeman (District Leader) for the 40th Assembly District; Chairman of Community Planning Board #5, in East New York, Director of Spring Creek Towers Community Center, and a Certified Meeting Planner.

Earl graduated from San Mateo College in California with a BA degree, specializing in public affairs. A graduate of the National Housing Center Institute in Washington DC, he also attended NYU Real Estate Institute. He is a member of the Starrett City Spring Creek Lions Club, Brooklyn Borough President's Board, East Brooklyn Empire Zone, Black Meeting Planners of America, and East New York Hispanic Coalition. He has also chaired many Lions' activities within the district, region, New York State, and internationally. Earl has received many citations and awards from Lions Clubs International including a Presidential Medal; three Presidential Leadership Medals; nine International Extension awards; a Melvin Jones Fellow; Leadership Citations from New York City Mayors Ed Koch and David Dinkins, and Community Service Awards from New York City Council, New York State Senate and Assembly.

Earl Williams and his wife Ruth, who have been married for more than 40 years, are the parents of two children, Jacqueline Denise, an attorney, and Mark (deceased) and the grandparents of Marrisca. Earl is a communicant of St. Lawrence Roman Catholic Church and serves in the ministry of hospitality.

Mr. Speaker, Earl Williams has been a leader in his community and has taken on numerous roles and responsibilities to serve others. As such, he is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today and the award of Civic Humanitarian of the Year. Thus, I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable person.

IN MEMORY OF ARMY SPC.  
CLINTON GERTSON

**HON. KAY GRANGER**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2005*

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the courage of a young hero from my district. On February 19, 2005, the Department of Defense declared that Specialist Clinton Gertson (United States Army, 24th Infantry Division) was killed in the line of duty after being hit by a sniper in Mosul, Iraq. Gertson's unit was scanning a Mosul neighborhood when he was shot around 2 p.m. Gertson was deployed to Iraq last October along with 4,000 other soldiers in the Fort-Stryker Brigade. His unit had been assigned to be one of the leaders in the fight against insurgents in Mosul.

Gertson, or "Big Country," was described by fellow soldiers as well-respected, someone who would always come to the aid of a fellow soldier and who remained even-keeled, even in the face of extreme danger.

Gertson demonstrated these qualities when 60 insurgents attacked his unit on November 11. Despite being injured himself, Gertson helped other soldiers who were more seriously injured to safety. Gertson again demonstrated this same heroism when a suicide bomber blew himself up inside the Forward Operating Base Marez mess hall in December. After the explosion went off, Gertson rushed to the aid of his wounded Company Commander, taking him to a nearby field hospital. Gertson's courage and leadership were qualities his fellow soldiers drew strength from and admired.

Gertson told his father he hoped everyone knew the sacrifices that he and the other soldiers were making and asked his father to remind people that freedom is not free.

The American people know the sacrifices Gertson, like many other soldiers, made to his country and his memory will not be in vain. I am proud to honor Specialist Gertson's service to the state of Texas where he entered the service, and to the United States of America. He will not be forgotten.

KELLER HIGH SCHOOL WINS  
STATE ACADEMIC DECATHLON

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2005*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, It is my great honor to recognize the outstanding achievements of the Keller High School Academic Decathlon team from Keller, Texas located in the 26th Congressional District of Texas.

Keller High School won the state level Academic Decathlon competition out of a field of 40 teams. The Keller High School HS team brought home 22 team medals and 28 individual event medals from the large school division. In addition, Keller senior Xiaochu "Chu" Song earned the highest overall score at the competition.

Having won the Texas State Academic Decathlon, team members Alex Dang-Tran, Tyler Gibson, Van Hoang, Jeff Marthers, Spencer Scherer, Brandon Simmons, Chu Song, Jennifer Swegler and Joey Wilkinson will represent the State of Texas at the National Academic Decathlon in Chicago.

The team has been strongly competitive for the past 10 years, but this is the first time in its 20 years of existence that the Keller High School Academic Decathlon team has advanced to the national arena. These bright young students are coached by Vicki Whitaker and Kaye Blevins.

I wish them the best of luck at they compete April 14–16 at the national level. I am proud to represent such gifted students and dedicated teachers.

STATEMENT HONORING HEATHER MEYER, WINNER OF THE 2005 LEGRAND SMITH SCHOLARSHIP

**HON. JOHN J.H. "JOE" SCHWARZ**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2005*

Mr. SCHWARZ of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, let it be known, that it is with great respect for the outstanding record of excellence she has compiled in academics, leadership, and community service, that I am proud to salute Heather Meyer, winner of the 2005 LeGrand Smith Scholarship. This award is given to young adults who have demonstrated their true commitment to playing an important role in our Nation's future.

As a winner of the LeGrand Smith Scholarship, Catherine is being honored for demonstrating the same generosity of spirit, intelligence, responsible citizenship, and capacity for human service that distinguished the late LeGrand Smith of Somerset, Michigan.

Heather is an exceptional student at Addison High School. Aside from being one of the highest in her class academically, Catherine possesses an outstanding record of achievement. She has been very active in the National Honors Society, Girls State, FFA and 4-H, as well as other community and school activities. She has also devoted a great deal of her time volunteering to help others.

On behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to join her many admirers in offering our highest praise and congratulations to Heather Meyer for her selection as winner of the 2005 LeGrand Smith Scholarship. This honor not only recognizes her efforts, but also is a testament to her parents, teachers, and other individuals whose personal interest, steadfast support, and active participation contributed to her success. To this remarkable young woman, we extend our most heartfelt good wishes for all her future endeavors.

IN HONOR OF DR. ELIZABETH K. BALRAJ

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2005*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Cuyahoga County Coroner, Dr. Elizabeth K. Balraj, as she is recognized by the Cuyahoga County Democratic Party for her outstanding service to our community.

In 1966, following her studies to become a physician and surgeon, Dr. Balraj left her homeland of India to immigrate to the United States. She practiced medicine at Akron Gen-

eral Hospital and St. Luke's Hospital in Cleveland. Dr. Balraj began her work in the Cuyahoga County Coroner's Office as Deputy Coroner and Pathologist. In 1987, following the retirement of Coroner Dr. Samuel R. Gerber, she was appointed Coroner of Cuyahoga County. Dr. Balraj was elected Coroner in November of 1988, and has been re-elected ever since.

Dr. Balraj's unwavering focus and energy is reflected every day throughout this office. Beyond supervising a multi-million dollar budget and a workforce of 87, she often leads cross-agency teams in uncovering answers for law enforcement officials, and most significantly, for families who grieve the death of their loved one. Dr. Balraj's integrity, combined with her sense of calm and precision, has elevated the work and mission throughout the Coroner's Office. She broke the glass ceiling for women by successfully carving a path into an area of science and medicine where women were virtually non-existent before.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honor and recognition of Dr. Elizabeth K. Balraj. Her intellect, wisdom, leadership, quiet determination, and above all, her compassion and heart, all serve to offer answers to members of law enforcement, and most importantly, closure, solace and peace within the minds and hearts of families and individuals within Cuyahoga County.

A TRIBUTE TO CARLOS CASTILLO

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2005*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Carlos Castillo who is being honored at the Brooklyn Caribe Lions Club dinner dance as "Lion of the Year."

Carlos Castillo, an outstanding Lion member, was born in Myaguez, Puerto Rico. Upon graduating high school in 1959, he originally came to New York for just two weeks. However, those two weeks ended lasting a lifetime. He got into the supermarket business and continued that venture for 40 years.

Through his work, he has become a highly recognized and distinguished individual in his industry. In 1989, his efforts were recognized with the Businessman of the Year Award. Also, in 1991 he received the Outstanding Puerto Rican Professionals Award from the Office of the New York City Council President, the Honorable Andrew Stein.

In addition to his accomplishments as a businessman, he is also a noted humanitarian. Carlos joined the Brooklyn Caribe Lions Club in 1984 and has always had an eye on helping those in need. Throughout his tenure with the Lions, he has received the Lion of the Year Award, the 100% President Award, the Melvin Jones Award, and the prestigious Uplinger Award.

He is also a devoted father and an all around exceptional family man. He has been married to his wife Astrid, for 40 years, and together they have raised three successful children: Charles Jr., Sandra, and Nelson. He is the proud grandfather of Michael, Taylor, Ivan, and Carlos Luis.

Mr. Speaker, Carlos Castillo has been a leader in his community and has been a won-

derful example of how dedication and perseverance can lead to success. As such, he is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today and the award of Lion of the Year Award. Thus, I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable person.

IN MEMORY OF ARMY SGT. DANIEL TORRES

**HON. KAY GRANGER**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2005*

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the courage of a young hero from my district. On February 4, 2005, the Department of Defense declared that Sergeant Daniel Torres (United States Army, 3rd Infantry Division) was killed in the line of duty when a roadside bomb exploded near his vehicle 140 miles north of Baghdad. Torres enlisted in the army following 9–11 and was planning to save up for college. He wanted to study marketing and international business and also had dreams of becoming a police officer.

His friends describe Torres as spiritual, someone who encouraged his friends to stay strong when they were down, and who was a role model to his peers.

He was also devoted to his family. He played catch with his younger sister Christina to help her improve her softball skills, which she says played a part in her recently receiving an athletic scholarship to a community college in Louisiana. He also had just found out that he was about to become a father and was ecstatic at the prospect.

Torres had been deployed to Iraq at the beginning of the war and remained there for seven months before his unit was sent back home. Torres' unit was deployed again to Iraq this January for another tour. Torres' father said his son had a gut instinct that he might not return home this time and told his family at Christmas that if he didn't return home, he would die doing what he was called to do. He told his parents that he was fighting for the children or Iraq, so that they and other Iraqis his age could have a better life and a better future. He also told them to be strong and have faith in God.

It is qualities of incredible courage, strength and pride in serving his country that we see in young heroes like Daniel Torres that makes us appreciate the freedoms we have here at home. I am proud to honor Sergeant Torres' service to the state of Texas where he entered the service, and to the United States of America. He will not be forgotten.

INTRODUCTION OF THE INSULAR AREAS TAX CREDIT ACT

**HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO**

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2005*

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation that would resolve an issue of tax compliance between the United States Department of the Treasury and the governments of Guam and the United States Virgin Islands. This legislation addresses concerns regarding the coordination of the payment of the Earned Income Credit, EIC, and