

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

Child Tax Credit, CTC, to qualifying taxpayers within these jurisdictions.

The tax codes of Guam and the Virgin Islands mirror that of the Internal Revenue Code, IRC, and taxpayers in these jurisdictions file their annual returns with their respective local departments of revenue and taxation in lieu of filing with the Internal Revenue Service. The revenue and taxation departments of Guam and the Virgin Islands must incorporate all provisions of the IRC related to individual and business taxes for their respective taxpayers, including provisions authorizing tax credits such as the EIC and the CTC. Revenues are retained by local treasuries, which they may use to cover the costs of operating local government agencies and providing for public services.

The coordination of the EIC and CTC is problematic because it requires the treasuries of Guam and the Virgin Islands to pay "refundable" portions of these credits, or those amounts that exceed an individual taxpayer's total tax liability. While I support the EIC and CTC and believe that low-income taxpayers in my district should be able to receive this form of tax relief, requiring the treasuries of Guam and the Virgin Islands to cover all "refundable" portions of these credits constitutes an unfunded federal mandate. In theory, the amount of such credit that exceeds an individual taxpayer's total tax liability is meant to offset the impact of FICA taxes on low-income individuals. While residents of Guam and Virgin Islands pay their FICA taxes to the U.S. Treasury, the territorial treasuries are tasked with covering the cost of the "refundable" portion of this credit out of local revenues. Our cashstrapped treasuries are simply incapable of covering the amount of claimed credit, which constitutes between 6 to 8 percent of all tax revenues in Guam.

Congresswoman CHRISTENSEN and I have been working on a fair resolution to this matter over the past 2 years. We have worked with the Department of the Treasury and the chairmen and ranking members of the House Ways and Means and Senate Finance Committees. The legislation I am introducing today is similar to a bill I introduced last year, H.R. 2186, but with several revisions aimed at facilitating implementation. This legislation proposes a fair federal-territorial cost sharing arrangement which will allow low income citizens in the territories who pay FICA taxes to realize the same tax benefits as their counterparts in the 50 States and the District of Columbia without bankrupting the local treasuries of Guam and the Virgin Islands.

I look forward to working with House Ways and Means Committee Chairman THOMAS and Ranking Member RANGEL on this legislation.

IN HONOR OF THEODORE
REKLINSKI

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 recognition of Theodore "Ted" Reklinski, upon the occasion of his retirement after more than 30 years of dedicated service with the Social Security Administration, where he worked diligently on behalf of the citizens of our community.

Mr. Reklinski began working as a Claims Representative for the SSA in 1973. He quickly ascended through the ranks, and by 1980, he was promoted to the position of Operations Supervisor at the Painseville office. In 1987, he returned to the Cleveland office as Operations Supervisor, and moved to the west side office in 1994. Mr. Reklinski's expertise, diligence and keen understanding of the complexities of our Social Security system, enabled him to provide solutions for countless individuals, children and families in critical need of assistance.

Beyond his outstanding service to his constituents, Mr. Reklinski forged solid bonds with community leaders and agencies. He served as an invaluable contact for my Congressional Staff, and his work reflected diligence and heart, enabling my Congressional Staff to assist our constituents and their families when needed.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor, gratitude and recognition of Mr. Ted Reklinski, for his exceptional work and advocacy on behalf of the citizens of our Cleveland community. His integrity and expertise, and more importantly, his sincere concern for others has uplifted the lives of countless citizens throughout our District.

A TRIBUTE TO THE UNITED JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS OF WILLIAMSBURG

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 12, 2005

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a distinguished organization, the United Jewish Organizations of Williamsburg. It is an honor to represent The United Jewish Organizations of Williamsburg in the House of Representatives and it behooves us to pay tribute to such a selfless organization.

Mr. Speaker, The United Jewish Organizations of Williamsburg was founded in 1966 to help families in need in South Williamsburg. Over the course of its Thirty-Nine years of service to the Brooklyn community The United Jewish Organizations of Williamsburg has thrived marvelously where today it represents more than 50,000 community residents and 148 not-for-profits, religious, educational, charitable organizations and civic associations in the Jewish community of Williamsburg, Clinton Hill and Bedford-Stuyvesant.

Under the tutelage of their President, Rabbi David Niederman, The United Jewish Organizations of Williamsburg has established itself as a direct provider of social and housing services and is the address for urban planning, public health and community development services for the Jewish community of Greater Williamsburg.

The United Jewish Organizations of Williamsburg, has been a leader in providing low-income housing to the Williamsburg community. Their most recent project includes the development of a waterfront property at the site of the former Schaeffer Brewery, which has 149 housing units reserved for low-income people. Additionally, they are the central address for the New York State and New York City Departments of Health and the Center for Disease Control in researching and conducting

pilot projects on Cancer and Shigellosis in the culturally rich Hasidic Jewish community. They also have been instrumental in providing treatment to those suffering from the adverse effects of tobacco as well as being involved in collaborative efforts with other not-for-profits to providing for the overall betterment of the Williamsburg community.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that it is incumbent on this body to recognize the achievements of the United Jewish Organizations of Williamsburg. After the destruction and decimation of many Hasidic dynasties in Europe during the Holocaust, it is truly an inspiration to see the Hasidic sects of Satmar, Pupa, Vishnitz, Vien, Tzelem, Skver, Klausenberg and Spinka join together under the umbrella of The United Jewish Organizations of Williamsburg and call Brooklyn their home.

Mr. Speaker, may our country continue to benefit from the civic actions of The United Jewish Organizations of Williamsburg and community groups similar to them.

HONORING THE 2005 ALICE PAUL
EQUALITY AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 12, 2005

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the recipients of the 2005 Alice Paul Equality Award: Vivian Sanks King, Esquire; Jennifer S. Macleod, Ph.D.; Ruth B. Mandel, Ph.D.; and the Honorable Sylvia B. Pressler. These remarkable individuals have helped to build a more just reality for women in New Jersey and beyond.

For 20 years, the Alice Paul Institute has worked to empower women and girls to become leaders in their communities, careers, and daily lives. Born in Mt. Laurel, NJ, Alice Paul was a lifelong advocate for equal rights for women, and led the final campaign for women's right to vote. She authored and lobbied for the Equal Rights Amendment, a much needed piece of legislation that would guarantee the equality of rights under the law for all persons regardless of gender.

The recipients of the 2005 Alice Paul Equality Award have all demonstrated a strong commitment to advancing women's equality throughout their lives. Vivian Sanks King, Esquire, currently serving as Vice President of Legal Management and General Counsel of the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, is a community leader in the health law field, and is one of the first African-American attorneys appointed to head the legal department of a major academic medical center and university. Dr. Jennifer Macleod is an outspoken advocate for women's equality: she is a leader in the fight for the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment, and was a co-founder and first president of the first NOW chapter in New Jersey. Dr. Ruth Mandel, currently the Director of the Eagleton Institute of Politics at Rutgers University, teaches and writes about U.S. women's political leadership, and has received numerous distinctions for her extraordinary public service. The Honorable Sylvia Pressler, recently retired, served as the presiding judge for administration of the Appellate Division of the Superior Court of New Jersey. She was the first female appellate law clerk and the second woman ever to