

of progress and success for the community he has served for more than three decades.

Half a century ago, Thomas began his career as an advertising media trainee. Fifty years later, he has directed campaigns for some of America's greatest corporate luminaries, founded his own innovative franchise, and supervised operations for three nationally successful magazines.

Despite his national success, Thomas has never faltered in his commitment to his local community. During his years as the Mayor of Port Washington North, Thomas has overseen the construction of hundreds of housing developments built for the elderly as well as the enactment of important safety ordinances in the housing and public health sectors. He has watched an entire generation grow into a thriving community under his tenure. Thomas steps down from his municipal office after thirty-four years as the longest-serving mayor in New York State.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize such an accomplished individual and commend Mayor Thomas J. Pellegrino for his years of dedicated service to his community. On behalf of his wife, his five children, his fifteen grandchildren, and the Village of Port Washington North, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to please join me in honoring Mayor Thomas J. Pellegrino and wishing him many years of success as he celebrates his well deserved retirement.

#### HONORING THE STUDENTS OF HALF HOLLOW HILLS HIGH SCHOOL EAST

#### HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 7, 2005*

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the students from Half Hollow Hills High School in Dix Hills, New York for their hard work in the "We the People: the Citizen and the Constitution" national finals.

The students, Jason Albert, Matt Bernstein, Bryan Cowan, Jennifer Crupi, Arielle Davidsohn, Danielle Gold, Chelsea Gordon, Brittnay Hershkowitz, Joelle Lichtman, Priya Murthy, Lindsay Nussbaum, Liz Oren, Josh Parker, Sylvia Qu, Beth Reisfeld, Dan Roberts, Jill Rubino, Alida Salins, Aaron Schwartz, Ben Seleznow, Jen Signet, Soyoong Sung, Jessica Wasserman, Matt Young, and Jen Zhao, led by their teacher Scott Edwards, demonstrated a remarkable understanding of the fundamental ideals and values of American constitutional government.

It is truly an honor to call these outstanding young Americans my constituents. Their success in the competition is also a testament to the excellent teachers at Half Hollow Hills East High School and elsewhere on Long Island.

I offer my congratulations on their hard-won honorable mention and commend these students on their dedication to the study of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE 2005 NATIONAL PUERTO RICAN DAY PARADE

#### HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 7, 2005*

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to pay tribute to the 47th annual Puerto Rican Day Parade, which will be held on June 12, 2005 in New York City. This parade, which celebrates the heritage of the Puerto Rican people, is one of the largest outdoor events in the United States.

The first New York Puerto Rican Day parade, held on Sunday, April 12, 1958 in "El Barrio" in Manhattan was a wonderful event presented in the heart of the city's Puerto Rican community. In 1995, the overwhelming success of the parade prompted organizers to increase its size, and transform it into a national affair now known as the National Puerto Rican Day Parade. This magnificent New York institution now includes participation from delegates representing thirty one states, including Alaska and Hawaii and attracts over 3 million parade goers every year.

The great success that this parade has enjoyed over the years is a result of the tireless work of many individuals from all walks of life—who are dedicated to preserving and celebrating Puerto Rican heritage and culture. Leading this effort is the National Puerto Rican Day Parade, Inc., a non-profit organization founded in 1995 with the mission of increasing the self awareness and pride of the Puerto Rican people in order to promote economic development, education, cultural recognition, and advancement.

The Parade up New York's Fifth Avenue, while certainly the most visible aspect of the celebration of the Puerto Rican people, is not the only event associated with the National Puerto Rican Day Parade, Inc.'s activities. More than 10,000 people each year attend a variety of award ceremonies, banquets and cultural events which not only help to highlight but also strengthen the special relationship shared by Puerto Ricans and the City of New York. Over the years, the two have developed a symbiotic relationship—Puerto Ricans sharing a vibrant and beautiful culture and helping to turn New York into a bilingual city and the City of New York helping Puerto Ricans to flourish economically, politically and culturally. The annual parade captures the spirit of this special relationship and celebrates its success.

Mr. Speaker, as a Puerto Rican, a New Yorker, and a Member of Congress, it is an honor to participate in this national event every year in which thousands of individuals march along Fifth Avenue in celebration. The National Puerto Rican Day Parade is a communal cultural treasure, national in scope and impact, and one that unites all New Yorkers. I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the Puerto Rican people and to all who have worked to ensure that the upcoming parade is a success.

#### STEM CELL THERAPEUTIC AND RESEARCH ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

#### HON. JIM RAMSTAD

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 24, 2005*

Mr. RAMSTAD. Mr. Speaker, I recently joined with nearly all members of this body in voting for H.R. 2520, the Stem Cell Therapeutic and Research Act.

This important piece of public health legislation will help increase awareness of the possibility of using cord blood to improve access to blood-forming stem cell transplants and research.

I also want to take a moment to bring attention to another aspect of this bill, the reauthorization of the National Bone Marrow Registry.

Since its inception in 1986, the Registry has enjoyed strong bipartisan support and has been committed to helping people who need a lifesaving marrow or blood cell transplant.

The National Marrow Donor Program (NMDP) has successfully operated the National Bone Marrow Registry through a competitive contract renewed every 5 years.

The NMDP maintains the largest listing of volunteer donors and cord blood units in the world, supports patients and their doctors throughout the transplant process and matches patients with the best marrow donor or cord blood unit.

This past November, the NMDP celebrated an important milestone when it facilitated its 20,000th transplant.

The NMDP has worked diligently to increase the diversity of the National Bone Marrow Registry so that all Americans have access to lifesaving blood-forming stem cell transplants by increasing donations from racial and ethnic minorities and incorporating umbilical cord blood units as a new source of cells.

The NMDP also provides transplant centers with the logistical support patients need from the moment a physician initiates a search.

The NMDP provides expert advice on searching the National Registry, coordinates the testing of cord blood units and adult donors, ensures that the correct cells are obtained and delivered as directed by the physician, and assists patients with insurance, travel and other needs that arise as part of the transplant process.

These programs help doctors focus on caring for their patients and helps patients and their families focus on what is important—getting well.

I salute the NMDP for all it does to help patients, and I am pleased Congress was able to pass H.R. 2520.

#### SECURELY PROTECT YOURSELF AGAINST CYBER TRESPASS ACT

SPEECH OF

#### HON. JOE BARTON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 25, 2005*

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, in crafting this legislation, the members of the Committee on Energy and Commerce have endeavored to understand and take into account benign and reasonable functions involved with network management, as well as