

a flight on a commercial airline. She would need to fly on a plane equipped for patients. Once more, Americans were there to donate their services. Rod Crane, the CEO of MedFlight of Ohio offered to transport Aurica on an air ambulance. Normally, this would cost \$80,000. But Rod agreed to pay for the flight and for a doctor to travel with Aurica.

The next step was the actual surgery and recovery. Once Aurica got to Dallas, she got the treatment she needed. But the road wasn't easy. She underwent surgery at TBI. Dr. Barton Sachs led a team of physicians during the initial delicate spinal surgery and aftercare. This team included William Struthers, M.D., Anesthesiologist, Ted Wen, M.D., Radiologist, Nayan Patel, M.D., Physiatrist, John Josephs, M.D., General Surgeon, Stephen Rubin, D.O., Anesthesiologist, Son Do, M.D., Gastroenterologist, Mike Gross, M.D., Urologist, James Montgomery, M.D., Anesthesiologist, Andrew R. Block, Ph.D., Psychologist, Michael Blackmon, M.D., Intensive Care Specialist, and Mark McQuaid, M.D., General Vascular Surgeon. This was followed by a second surgery under the care of Dr. Alan Jones at Parkland Hospital in Dallas. After that, she spent three weeks recovering at the highly-acclaimed Zale Lipshy Center located on the UT Southwestern campus. All donated.

Finally, Aurica's journey took her to four months of recovery in outpatient physical therapy. Since she needed a place to stay, we contacted David Tesmer, Vice President for Government and Community Affairs at Texas Health Resources. He offered the services of Presbyterian Village North in Dallas, one of the best assisted-living facilities in the state. At Presbyterian Village, both the President, Ron Bergstrom, and the lead nurse, Becky Williams, made every effort to give Aurica every comfort. When Aurica arrived, she was given a fully furnished room. And today, thanks to the love of so many, Aurica is on the way to a full recovery.

What a journey this has been. This is the story of a very special woman and the very special people who have helped with her recovery. From time to time we hear critics complain about what is wrong with America. This story shows us what is right with America. We are still a nation that is great because our people are good. And not just the ones I named. There are still others.

Like The Kula Group for donating more than \$30,000 in time and expenses; the Texas Back Institute's Physical Therapy division, which donated all of the outpatient physical therapy; Doug Hawthorne, CEO of Texas Health Resources; Jim Boswell and Leslie Baker from Presbyterian Hospital of Plano; the nursing and physical therapy staff at the Zale Lipshy Center; Linda Caram of SBC Communications; The Daniel Dawn Smalley Foundation; AmeriSuites in Plano; Father Dimitru and Gladiola Paun; and everyone else at Presbyterian Hospital of Plano, Parkland Hospital, and Presbyterian Village North.

Thanks for making an effort to make a difference. You have shown the nation and the world that America's generosity knows no boundaries, no barriers, no limits. We will always speak for the voiceless, stand with the helpless, and fight for the powerless.

IN HONOR OF CLIFF LEE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Mr. Cliff Lee, dedicated family man, community activist and Major League baseball player with the Cleveland Indians, whose grace and spirit on the ball field equals his grace and energy off the field.

Mr. Lee's deep sense of helping others is framed by sincerity and humbleness, and has not gone unnoticed by others. In honor of his exceptional service to the people of the Cleveland community, Mr. Lee has been selected as the recipient of the prestigious 2005 John Hancock Roberto Clemente Man of the Year Award.

Mr. Lee continues to dedicate his personal time and talents in vital service on behalf of those families and individuals in need of assistance, with a personal focus on the children of our community. From his regular visits to the children at Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital and the Ronald McDonald House, to his dedication and focus on behalf of Cleveland's Providence House, Mr. Lee is an exceptional role model to the young and old alike, here in Cleveland and across this Nation, and his life personifies all that is good in humanity, reflecting compassion, giving and heart.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in tribute and recognition of Mr. Cliff Lee as he is honored as the recipient of Major League Baseball's 2005 John Hancock Roberto Clemente Man of the Year Award. Mr. Lee's continued concern for others and vibrant spirit of volunteerism, with a special focus on the children of our community, serves to raise their spirits above the struggle and into the light of promise, strength, hope and possibility—thereby uplifting our entire community.

SUPPORTING GOLD STAR
MOTHERS DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 21, 2005

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.J. Res. 61. In 1936, Congress designated the last Sunday in September as Gold Star Mothers Day. This resolution, of which I am a cosponsor, expresses the support of this House for the goals and ideals of Gold Star Mothers Day.

The American Gold Star Mothers are a group of mothers who have lost sons and daughters who served in the armed services. The group also assists veterans and their dependents in submitting claims to the Veterans Affairs Department.

The Gold Star Mothers are a true representation of the many levels of service and sacrifice that exists in the defense of our country. Like many members across the country, the Gold Star Mothers in my district of El Paso, Texas, remind us of the never-ending bond between families. They remind us of the sac-

rifice that families of veterans make as they endure the fears and concerns of having loved ones overseas, and the loss of loved ones who never return.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues and this House to swiftly pass the resolution before us.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT
OF JACOB LEE

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2005

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of Jacob R. Lee, Jr. from the Air Force.

Chief Master Sergeant Jacob R. Lee, Jr. enlisted in the Air Force in Albany, NY, coming on active duty in September of 1978. During his 27-year meteorological career, Chief Lee had 13 assignments, including four overseas.

Chief Lee worked in many different jobs in the weather career field, beginning as an observer at a six person unit. He went on to serve as the noncommissioned officer in charge of six different weather stations around the world.

His career culminated with Chief Lee's selection to the very pinnacle of the weather career field as the chief of enlisted matters at the Pentagon. As Chief, Jacob will finish his long and distinguished service to our Nation.

In recognition of his outstanding performance, Chief Lee has been awarded the Meritorious Service Medal on four occasions and has been the recipient of four Air Force Commendation Medals as well.

Chief Lee is married to his wife Kathy, a math teacher, and has three children; Amanda, Benjamin and Casey.

Mr. Speaker, I know that his colleagues and his family wish Chief Lee well as he begins his retirement.

HONORING JUDGE MABEL M.
JASPER

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of The Honorable Judge Mabel M. Jasper, for her exceptional accomplishments within our educational and legal system, and for serving as an inspiration and role model in Cleveland, Ohio, and far beyond.

Her unwavering integrity and strong work ethic were childhood gifts instilled by family. At age 10, Judge Jasper's family moved from Alabama to Cleveland, where she excelled academically and graduated from Glenville High School early at the age of sixteen. By age nineteen, Judge Jasper had earned a Bachelor's degree in education from Kent State University. She was hired as a substitute teacher at John Burroughs Elementary School and was soon promoted to full-time teacher. Throughout her twenty-year teaching career, Judge Jasper imbued a sense of wonder, confidence and inspiration within her young students. Ready to embark on a new journey, she enrolled in the Cleveland-Marshall College