

Congress must support measures to stop domestic violence before it begins through education, transitional housing assistance and counseling programs. We must also make it a priority to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act and ensure that this important legislation receives sufficient funding.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas for introducing this important resolution, and I urge my colleagues to join me in support of establishing October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

CONGRATULATING THE AGGELER  
FAMILY

**HON. SANDER M. LEVIN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 29, 2005*

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Aggeler Family, the proud recipients of the 2005 Donna Greco Issa Family of the Year Award from the March of Dimes.

Following in the tradition of those families who are past recipients of this distinguished award, the Aggeler Family has a strong and passionate enthusiasm for family and devotion to community.

Mr. and Mrs. Aggeler moved from Missouri to Michigan in 1944. Soon after, they founded a lumber company, John's Lumber, in Mount Clemens. The business has been in the family for over 58 years.

John Aggeler believed if you treat people well they would continue to come back. This ideology is the foundation for the company's commitment to its community, family, and employees. Currently, the family's third generation is working for the company and continues to reside in Macomb County.

The Aggeler children have continued his legacy of commitment and outstanding service. The thread of service to others runs through their family.

Michael Aggeler is one of many Aggeler children who continues to work for the family business and is extremely active in the community. For 31 years, Michael has been a member of St Mary's S.M.A.S.H. outing. He also served for 6 years as a board member of the Michigan Lumber and Building Materials Association and is a member of the Mount Clemens Lions Club.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me recognizing the Aggeler Family for their commitment to their family and employees, along with the extraordinary legacy of the service to their community. They are well deserving of the Donna Greco Issa Family of the Year Award.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF  
JESS A. BELL

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 29, 2005*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Jess A. Bell, dedicated family man, community activist, business leader, U.S. Veteran, and friend and mentor to many.

Mr. Bell grew up in Cleveland, attended Baldwin Wallace College and served our country as a paratrooper during WWII and the Korean War. In 1959, he became president of the Lakewood-based Bonne Bell Inc., a company his father had started thirty-two years earlier.

Mr. Bell's unwavering integrity, concern for others, boundless energy and expansive heart, reflected within every facet of his life—from his commitment to his family, to his concern for his employees, to his social activism on behalf of charitable causes. He blazed a trail of opportunity for all when he became one of the only business leaders in America to initiate a program to hire senior citizens, some of them in their nineties. Many companies have since followed in his path, realizing the significant contributions offered by older Americans.

Always focused on the health and well-being of his employees, Mr. Bell, a marathon runner himself, provided on-site exercise facilities and offered financial incentives for employees who took personal responsibility for their physical health. In 1970, he founded the American Heart Association's Cleveland Heart-A-Thon. He also led the effort to establish a tennis tournament between the United States and Australia that served to promote the development of girls' junior tennis programs.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and remembrance of Jess A. Bell. Please also join me as I offer my deep condolences to his wife of 51 years, Juliana; his children, Julie, Buddy, James and Joe; his 14 grandchildren; his sister Bonne, and his extended family and many friends. Though he will be greatly missed, the joyous legacy of his life, framed by kindness, energy and an unwavering focus on lifting the lives of others, will live on forever within the hearts of his family and friends, and within the spirit of our entire community.

A TRIBUTE TO ROBERT WASH

**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 29, 2005*

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Robert M. Wash of Fresno, California. He is survived by his two sons John and Thomas, and daughter Lynn.

Robert Wash was a respected member of our community and his memory will be forever cherished. He was born to Henry and Effie Wash on May 27, 1908 and grew up in Fresno County. His family instilled in him the qualities of character with which he touched so many lives.

Upon graduation from Caruthers High School, Mr. Wash attended the University of California, Berkeley; where he graduated with a degree in Economics. Ever the dedicated student he continued his education at Boalt Hall and passed the California State Bar Exam. He pursued his passion for law by becoming a prosecuting attorney in the District Attorney's office for several years. In 1950, he was appointed Fresno County's first County Counsel. He retired from the position in 1978, after serving as County Counsel for 28 years. In 2001, Robert Wash received the highly prestigious Bernie E. Witkins Lifetime Achieve-

ment award from the Fresno County Bar Association.

Mr. Wash was not only a dedicated employee he was also an active community participant. He was a member of the Fresno Rotary Club, Fowler Friday Evening Club, Garden of the Sun Corral of the Westerners International and the San Joaquin Civil War Roundtable.

Robert Wash had a passion for history that he expressed through his amazing writing. His vast knowledge of the area's history and his love of the subject was projected through his writings. Many of the historical markers in Fresno County are inscribed with his words. He was the President of the Fresno County Historical Society and played the role of Confederate President Jefferson Davis at the Civil War Reenactment ceremonies on several occasions.

Aside from being an accomplished writer and making incredible professional achievements, Robert Wash was a beloved family man. He is described as being a good man who took care of his family.

Robert Wash was his Family's hero and will continue to be appreciated by his community.

CONGRATULATIONS TO DEERLAKE  
MIDDLE SCHOOL IN TALLAHASSEE,  
FLORIDA

**HON. ALLEN BOYD**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 29, 2005*

Mr. BOYD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Deerlake Middle School, home of the Bucks, in Tallahassee, Florida for receiving the Blue Ribbon School award under the No Child Left Behind program. This award is certainly a testament to the quality of education this school provides and to the hard work the administrators, faculty and students have done to be one of only thirteen schools in the entire state to win this award.

Many identify No Child Left Behind with efforts to improve failing schools. However, schools like Deerlake that go above and beyond what is required by the law should not be forgotten. I am extremely proud of not just the students who worked so hard, but also the faculty and administrators whom spent so many hours helping the students become better citizens through education.

Deerlake Middle School is a model of excellence that will serve as an example to every Middle school throughout the United States. This school has proven that through hard work and dedication, academic success is not out of reach for any student.

Therefore, I ask every member to please, join with me in congratulating the children and teachers of Deerlake Middle School who have worked so hard to achieve their goal. I would also like to congratulate Principal Jackie Pons and Assistant Principals Gwendolyn Lynn Williams and Shane Syfrett for providing this level of excellence.

The future of this country depends on the success of our education system. As the Representative of Tallahassee Florida, I am honored and proud to be on the floor today speaking about such students and the parents who support them everyday.