

ensure state legislatures a strong, cohesive voice in the federal system.

The ideals of strong and effective leadership are the cornerstones upon which the NCSL Leadership Institute was founded. Leadership is an essential ingredient of any legislature. Moving beyond conflict and partisanship to meet the real needs of people is the fundamental test of legislative leadership.

The NCSL Leadership Institute seminars foster lively discussions and provocative case studies, where promising leaders can explore their common values and the future of the legislature in a bi-partisan setting.

Numerous State Legislators have attended the Leadership Institute in its 10 years of operation. The future of our government depends on the quality and creativity of the men and women who lead it and is imperative that we endorse programs that instill leadership qualities. On behalf of past, present and future Legislators, I extend my continued support and appreciation of the NCSL Leadership Institute.

HONORING THE MULTI-TALENTED SUGAR RAY ROBINSON

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 6, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and honor the esteemed boxer Sugar Ray Robinson for his positive impact on the athletic world as one of the greatest boxers of all time, and to honor his service as a role model with an extraordinary positive influence on his community. Sugar Ray Robinson was a prime example of an American role model, a man from an era where blacks were seen and treated as second class citizens and he focused on his talent in order to achieve greatness, the story of a true hero. At a time when African American youth did not have African American icons to idolize; Sugar Ray more than filled this void, by being an enormous boxing influence to a variety of African American children, some of whom became Muhammad Ali, and Sugar Ray Leonard whom even took Robinson's nickname. He gave these kids something to believe in and something to be proud of.

The phrase "pound for pound the best" was coined in honor of Sugar Ray's boxing success, and has been used to reference successful boxers ever since. Walker "Sugar Ray" Smith was born in Detroit, Michigan in 1921. He began boxing as an amateur in New York City, where he quickly advanced to the professional circuit in 1940. New York has always been a tough city and to make it there as Sugar Ray Robinson did, you have to be among the best of the best. From 1946 to 1951 he became the world welterweight champion and the world middleweight title holder. Sugar Ray's athletic ability clearly outmatched his opponents, fight after fight. A fierce competitor, Sugar Ray's final record was an utterly amazing 174 wins, 109 of them being knockouts, and only 19 losses and 6 draws; this being a remarkable testament to Sugar Ray's amazing athletic accomplishments within the boxing circuit.

Sugar Ray Robinson was a Renaissance man; he did not restrict himself to solely box-

ing and athletics. He used his fame as keys to experiment in the musical world and also acting. Nevertheless his fame is attributed to his remarkable achievements in his boxing. He was one of the first athletic stars to cross over into different mediums of public spotlight. Sugar was known for his huge entourages and public displays of success, truly a man who enjoyed the life he lived. He showed generations of young African Americans that raw physical talent was not enough. Skill, ability and education were also important.

In 1989 Sugar Ray Robinson died a month before his birthday, leaving behind a plethora of fans, along with countless influences and friends. Sugar Ray Robinson represented hope and optimism for the African American community during an era of blatant and systematic racial oppression. He aided in racial relations in athletics while giving African Americans a sense of pride as an example of African American perseverance and strength over the negative barriers. Sugar Ray broke these barriers, charging forward for his people to be seen, to be respected and to be loved. It was a fight to show that African American people were not inferior and should be granted equal opportunity.

The African American hero, the American idol, Sugar Ray Robinson showed the American people a black man that was a powerful warrior, and clearly the best of his time in and out of the ring. I have reintroduced legislation in the 109th Congress to recognize the stellar career of Sugar Ray Robinson. It is an honor which Sugar Ray Robinson very well deserves and I truly hope my colleagues will join me in this effort.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NURSING HOME EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 6, 2005

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Nursing Home Emergency Assistance Act. This act makes private, for-profit nursing homes eligible for the same federal aid as is currently available to public nursing homes. Under current federal law, only public nursing homes may receive federal disaster assistance. However, hurricanes, tornadoes, and earthquakes do not distinguish between private and public, or for-profit and not-for-profit, nursing homes.

As I have recently seen in my district, all nursing homes face unique challenges coping with natural disasters and their aftermaths. It is not fair to the taxpayers who work in, reside in, or have entrusted the care of their loved ones to, a private nursing home that private nursing homes are denied the same federal aid available to their public counterparts. Mr. Speaker, the Nursing Home Emergency Assistance Act ensures all residents of nursing homes can benefit from federal disaster aid. I encourage my colleagues to support this legislation.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE STOCK- YARD REDEVELOPMENT ORGANI- ZATION

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 6, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Stockyard Redevelopment Organization (SRO), which has done much to oversee the redevelopment of Cleveland's Stockyard neighborhood in Ohio's 10th Congressional District. Once the center of Cleveland's stockyard industry, this neighborhood, like many such neighborhoods in Cleveland and around the country in the decades following World War II, became blighted as companies fled to the suburbs, sunbelt, or overseas while residents followed the new free-ways out of town.

In March 2000, when SRO's newly appointed director Alex Brazynetz visited my office for the first time, he brought big dreams, significant problems, and a small request. His dream was the revitalization of this long-neglected inner city neighborhood. The problem was that the privately owned and crumbling West 67th Place was not eligible for highway funding or local road maintenance, while the owner was unable to provide the maintenance. The request was for a creative way to get this street fixed to retain the last remaining businesses and to attract new business to this blighted neighborhood. The key to overcoming the obstacle and realizing the dream was a federal Economic Development Administration (EDA) grant to fix West 6th Place.

In conjunction with the SRO, the Westside Industrial Retention and Expansion Network (WIRE-Net) and the EDA, the City of Cleveland agreed to purchase West 67th Place for a nominal fee, making the street eligible for a federal grant. The \$1.2 million grant was the key to completing a \$1.8 million infrastructure investment. This investment then leveraged \$24.7 million in additional and proposed investment in the immediate area, along with realizing 362 additional jobs.

Building on the success of the West 67th Place project, the SRO is currently undertaking a Land Use Study of the West 65th Street, Denison Avenue & Ridge Road corridors in collaboration with WIRE-Net and with support from Councilmen Matthew Zone (Ward 17) and Kevin Kelley (Ward 16) and the nearby City of Brooklyn, Ohio.

Mr. Speaker and distinguished colleagues, the success in Cleveland's Stockyard neighborhood proves that small federal investments in our nation's cities can be stretched and leveraged to go a long way to help rebuild our cities. More of these opportunities must be made available. We must continue to rebuild the commercial, industrial, and residential bases of our nation's cities like Cleveland and neighborhoods like the Stockyard, with the help of federal investments like what we've seen successfully done in conjunction with the federal Economic Development Administration, the City of Cleveland, and the Stockyard Redevelopment Organization.