

man from Falmouth, Kentucky, who has shown a tremendous appreciation for the service of many veterans in Kentucky through his involvement with volunteer activities honoring the Men and Women who served in our Armed Forces.

Edward, or "Eddie"—as his friends call him, is an honorary member of American Legion Post 109 and despite his young age of 15, is actively involved with organizing annual Veterans Day events in Pendleton County.

Eddie often volunteers his time at the Legion Post—performing a variety of services and speaks to children at area schools about his work with veterans.

Being a Member of the American Legion, I thoroughly appreciate Eddie's hard work and commend him on volunteering his time in support of veterans everywhere.

#### TRIBUTE TO JOHN ZUTAVERN OF ABILENE, KANSAS

#### HON. JERRY MORAN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 26, 2005*

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize John Zutavern of Abilene, Kansas and congratulate him for receiving the 2005 Excellence in Local Government award from the League of Kansas Municipalities. I commend him for his excellence in leadership and passion for helping citizens of Abilene and the State of Kansas.

John's love for his community and his home-State is visible to everyone around him. He has been a diligent ambassador for Abilene and promotes the virtues of the city wherever he goes. He always welcomes guests with a warm greeting and hearty handshake. People like John are the ones who give small towns their good name.

John is involved in many community and civic groups, and his influence extends to all areas of the community. John has served the citizens of Abilene as a member of the City Commission since 1991, serving as Mayor on two different occasions. He is responsive to citizens and is known for being unafraid to take on new challenges. Forward thinking and innovativeness are also characteristics that John possesses, both of which help him in his leadership roles.

John's influence also extends to a statewide level. He was appointed Chairman of the Governor's Advisory Committee for Children and Families where he served from 1996 to 2000. He currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Kansas Health Institute. John has also served the League of Kansas Municipalities and is considered "the go-to guy" on the Governing Body. He has served with the League since 1994, taking on the responsibility of Vice President, President, and Chair of the Executive Director search committee.

I am pleased that John's hard work and dedication has not gone unnoticed by the people of Kansas. Tonight, I extend my congratulations to John for being the 2005 Excellence in Local Government Award recipient, an honor he well deserves. Thank you for your dedication to serving the people of Abilene and the people of Kansas.

#### TRIBUTE TO MS. AMALIA V. BETANZOS

#### HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 26, 2005*

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to pay tribute to a woman of great integrity and character. Ms. Amalia V. Betanzos has decided to retire from the Wildcat Service Corporation after 27 years of dedicated leadership. Tonight, she will be honored for her service in the city of New York.

Born and raised in the South Bronx, Amalia is a graduate of New York University and has extensive experience in the public and private not-for-profit sectors. She has served in a variety of positions in the administrations of several New York Mayors. As Commissioner of the Youth Services Agency she helped to shape the destinies of more than half a million New York youth and gained a reputation for being an outstanding administrator with an untiring capacity to meet new challenges. As Executive Secretary to Mayor John Lindsay she was in charge of programs for the poor and the physically and mentally handicapped. As Commissioner of Relocation and Management services in the Housing and Development Administration, Amalia was directly in charge of coordinating relocation services to families in conjunction with the City's Urban Renewal programs and emergency housing.

Amalia's extensive experience in city government provided her with the breadth of knowledge necessary to lead an organization such as Wildcat Service Corporation. Founded in 1972, Wildcat's mission is to bring the chronically unemployed, for example, ex-offenders, public assistance recipients, former alcohol and substance abusers, high school dropouts, youth involved with the criminal justice system and persons with limited English language proficiency, into the regular labor force, thus breaking their cycle of poverty, addiction and crime. Under Amalia's strong leadership Wildcat changed the lives of countless New Yorkers, providing them and their families with a new lease on life.

Mr. Speaker, it is rare to find individuals who are willing to dedicate their entire lives to uplifting others. Amalia V. Betanzos is indeed one of these special people. She has literally improved the lives of thousands of individuals. Her efforts to empower society's most vulnerable citizens will not only change their destinies but also the destinies of generations to come. Surely that is the mark of a great career.

For her unyielding service and untiring spirit, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to a dear friend, Ms. Amalia V. Betanzos.

#### IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF ALVA "TED" BONDA

#### HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 26, 2005*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Alva "Ted" Bonda, beloved husband, father, grandfather, great-

grandfather, brother, WWII Veteran, and dear friend and mentor to many, including me. Mr. Bonda's life was framed by tenacity, integrity and heart, and although he will be greatly missed, he deeply touched the lives of everyone he knew.

Mr. Bonda will forever be remembered as a true renaissance man who possessed a high intellect, love for education and keen business savvy. He was born and raised in Cleveland and graduated from Glenville High School. He worked as a shoe store clerk and parking lot attendant before serving in the U.S. Army during WWII. Following the war, Mr. Bonda teamed up with childhood friend, Senator Howard Metzenbaum, to form their joint venture, APCOA Inc., which evolved into the world's largest parking lot company.

Though an extremely successful businessman, Mr. Bonda's unwavering dedication remained focused on his family and the Cleveland community. Together, Mr. Bonda and the late Marie C. Bonda raised their three children, Penny, Joel and Tom. Mr. Bonda's faith in the City of Cleveland and love for its people was just as steadfast. When it was largely feared that the Cleveland Indians could be whisked away to another town, Mr. Bonda stepped up to the plate and convinced more than 50 Cleveland business owners to purchase the team. As the Team President, he consistently dismissed out-of-towners looking to buy the team because they would not promise to keep the club in Cleveland. Most significantly, Mr. Bonda contributed to sports history and civil rights history by hiring Frank Robinson as the first African American Manager in the Major Leagues.

After retiring from business, Mr. Bonda renewed his commitment as a proponent of education. As a member of the Cleveland School Board during the 1980s, Mr. Bonda led the successful effort in persuading voters to support the first operating levy in many years. In 1984, he was appointed by then Governor Richard Celeste to the Ohio Board of Regents, where he served as Chairman from 1998 to 1991. Mr. Bonda was also a trustee with Brandeis University in Waltham, Mass. In 1995, Cleveland State University's College of Urban Affairs awarded Mr. Bonda an honorary Doctorate degree.

A staunch and active Democrat, Mr. Bonda's wisdom and advice was consistently sought after by political hopefuls. His leadership infused significant energy and results into the momentum of numerous local and national campaigns, including those of President Jimmy Carter, presidential candidate George McGovern, Senator Howard Metzenbaum, Ohio Governor Richard Celeste, and my own congressional campaigns.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and remembrance of Alva "Ted" Bonda. I offer my deepest condolences to his daughter Penny, sons Joel and Tom, daughter-in-law, Jodi; his grandchildren; great grandchildren; extended family and many friends.

Mr. Bonda left this world with a legacy that will forever shine hope and light upon his family, friends and upon our entire Cleveland community. His joy for life, caring heart and concern for the people of Cleveland defined his life and resounds every spring with the first at bat; and will live on in the hearts of all he who knew and loved well, today, and for all time.