

artists such as Erykah Badu are a product of the Academy.

The 'cultural icon' of the Dallas/Fort Worth area, TBAAL presents and produces exciting cultural arts programs annually in dance, theatre, music, literary, fine, and visual arts. Local and emerging artists participate in TBAAL programs, and noted artists and celebrities have participated such as: Oleta Adams, Debbie Allen, Maya Angelou, Roy Ayers, Akin Babatunde, Obba Babatundé, Erykah Badu, Romare Bearden, The Barrett Sisters, Angela Bofill, Avery Brooks, Cab Calloway, Bill Cosby, Ruby Dee, Ossie Davis*, Mari Evans, Antonio Fargas, Kim Fields, Lou Gossett, William Greaves, Alex Haley, Irma P. Hall, Tramaine Hawkins, Jennifer Holliday, Linda Hopkins, Kim Jordan, Ella Joyce, Eartha Kitt, Dr. C. Eric Lincoln, Les McCann, Barbara McNair, Garrett Morris, Roger Mosley, Tyler Perry, Florence Quivar, Phylicia Rashad, Dan Rather, Esther Rolle, Sonia Sanchez, Karen Clark-Sheard, KiKi Shephard, Carole Simpson, Mavis Staples, Glenn Turman, Cicely Tyson, Albertina Walker, Margaret Walker*, Dionne Warwick, Lillias White, Hal Williams, Nancy Wilson, Vickie Winans, the late James Cleveland and many more.

TBAAL is the only African-American multi-disciplined cultural arts organization in the country housed inside a major convention center, which increases the awareness of African American cultural history.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I like to recognize the Dallas Youth Council of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). The purpose of the Youth Council is to inform youth of the problems affecting Black people and other minority groups as well as work towards those measures to advance the economic, educational, social, and political status of African Americans and other minority groups and to stimulate an appreciation of the African American contribution to civilization. I commend Boshia Jagers, President, Tayana White, 1st Vice President, Crystal Armstrong, 2nd Vice President; Danielle Whyte, Secretary; Nucleous Johnson, Treasurer and Linda Darden-Lydia, Youth Advisor for their hard work in my district towards betterment of younger generation.

Let me just say in closing, that Black History Month should be a time for reflection and appreciation; a time to reflect on the accomplishments of African-Americans throughout this country and throughout our history, accomplishments that often were made in the face of racism, of poverty, and unequal opportunity. It should be a time to increase our awareness and understanding of African-American history and culture, and a time to reaffirm our understanding of our rich cultural diversity, our commitment to social equality, and our support of racial justice.

COMMENDING JOSEPH CRISOSTOMO UPON HIS BEING NAMED GUAM'S SMALL BUSINESS PERSON OF THE YEAR FOR 2006

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of Mr. Joseph

Crisostomo of Guam and to commend him on being honored as the 2006 Small Business Person of the Year. Each year the U.S. Small Business Administration Guam Branch Office solicits nominations from our community for this award. This year Mr. Crisostomo has earned this distinction and his nomination will go forward for national recognition as well.

Mr. Crisostomo, who family, friends, employees, and customers know as "Joey," is widely recognized and well respected within our island community as a formidable and successful business leader. His has an impressive record of experience in the sales and automotive industries and he has built a reputation of hard work and strong leadership.

The son of Jose R. and Rosario Sanchez Crisostomo, Joey grew up in a military family and developed an interest in cars and motorcycles at an early stage in life. He graduated from John F. Kennedy High School in 1977, and began working at a local company on the island stocking auto parts and assembling motorcycles. After spending several years in Idaho and Hawaii in the industry, he returned to his home island of Guam in 1992 to work in car sales and to serve as the sales manager for two local companies. In 1999, the local Chrysler dealership folded but Joey was instrumental in securing the parts and service agreement with Chrysler International to ensure the Chrysler name remained on Guam.

Despite weak economic conditions, Joey successfully took risk and opened Cars Plus, LLC. Joey demonstrated his ability to start up a new business from the bottom. Today, Cars Plus has grown from a service and parts company to a full line car dealership. Joey has guided the company over consecutive years of record growth, and the business has expanded in employees, size, and sales.

Joey is not only a strong and successful business leader on our island. He has contributed to our community in many ways with corporate sponsorships, board memberships, and his personal time. He is an active member of the Guam Chamber of Commerce and the Guam Visitor's Bureau Sports Tourism Committee. In particular, he has devoted his time to youth programs and youth organizations. Among the many organizations that have benefited from his contributions are Guam's Youth Life Program, the Guam Juvenile Drug Court Program, Operation Outreach USA, the Guam Football Association, the Global Young Leaders Conference, the Guam Girls Fast Pitch Softball League, the Boy Scouts of America, the Make-a-Wish Foundation, the American Red Cross, and the American Cancer Society.

As an avid racer, Joey has also promoted Guam internationally having competed in many races. Today we take this occasion to recognize Joey's achievements and his contributions to our community. I join his wife, Joyce, his daughters, Lenora and Jennifer, and his son, Joey, in honoring his accomplishments and in commending him as the Small Business Person of the Year for 2006. Our community wishes him the best of success as he pursues future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, had I been present for the votes on Wednesday, February 15, 2006, I would have voted as follows:

Rollcall Vote 10: I would have voted in favor of H.R. 4745, making supplemental appropriations for FY 2006 for the Small Business Administration's disaster loan program.

Rollcall Vote 11: I would have voted in favor of S. Con. Res. 79, expressing the sense of Congress that no United States assistance should be provided directly to the Palestinian Authority if any representative political party holding a majority of parliamentary seats within the Palestinian Authority maintains a position calling for the destruction of Israel.

Had I been present for the votes on Thursday, February 16, 2006, I would have voted as follows:

Rollcall Vote 12: I would have voted in favor of H. Con. Res. 341, condemning the Government of Iran for violating its international nuclear nonproliferation obligations and expressing support for efforts to report Iran to the United Nations Security Council.

Rollcall Vote 13: I would have voted against the ruling of the Chair tabling the privileged resolution by Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi on the budget reconciliation spending cuts legislation.

TRIBUTE TO ERIN LAVERY, WINNER OF THE PRUDENTIAL SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY AWARDS

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Erin Lavery, of Huntington, WV for being named a top honoree in the 2006 Prudential Spirit of Community Award. I would like to congratulate and honor this innovative young woman who has shown exemplary volunteer service in her community.

Ms. Lavery is being recognized for organizing a monthlong nutrition and physical fitness education program that included the use of pedometers by all 1,600 students and faculty at Huntington High School. As an athlete and lifelong volunteer, Erin wanted to help classmates and staff members develop a commitment to healthy eating habits and physical activity. Motivated by the high rate of obesity that is prevalent in West Virginia, she states that she wanted to take a proactive stand to do something about the problem.

Erin had heard about a small pilot program using pedometers at a nearby school, and thought that idea could be of a comprehensive health education program for her entire school. She developed handouts and a video to introduce her program, and then recruited student volunteers to help her distribute pedometers donated by the county health department to all students and teachers, along with sheets for them to record the number of steps taken each week. To encourage participation, Erin publicized the program through