

with new and exciting ideas to speak up and become participants in the issues that directly influence their livelihood.

Sharpton is trying to train today's inner city youth on how to become leaders just as he was trained so many years ago. Reverend Al Sharpton was best known as the "Wonder Boy" in his youth. He was also known as the one who began delivering sermons at the Washington Temple Church in Brooklyn as a first-grader. Later at age 10, Sharpton preached a sermon before 10,000 people at the World's Fair. During this time, Sharpton was a teenager and had attracted the attention of the late Representative Adam Clayton Powell becoming part of the Harlem congressman's entourage.

Sharpton held his annual National Action Network meeting in New York this past week and in attendance were many of his up-and-comers who will likely be running cities and other municipalities along with Congress before long. The list includes Yaphet El-Amin who became the first female Muslim to hold state office in Missouri when she was elected in 2002. There is also Alicia Reece, a member in Sharpton's organization who is considered a rising star, and then there is the Reverend Jarrett Maupin, a 17 year-old from Phoenix, Arizona who is now Sharpton's youth director. Maupin made an unsuccessful bid for the Phoenix City Council, yet he retains the spirit and desire to run for his school board this year.

I enter into the RECORD an article published in the New York Daily News on Friday April 7, 2006 entitled, "Reverend Al's new flock", for highlighting the importance of implementing forms of community mentoring. As members of the old guard grow older, the time is now for the youth in our nation to stand up as we hand them their futures. More people need to take the time to do the same and encourage the leaders of tomorrow to rightfully take their place in society.

REVEREND AL'S NEW FLOCK
(By Errol Louis)

Here in New York, the Rev. Al Sharpton tends to be seen as a perennial political outsider and gadfly—his detractors inevitably dismiss him as a publicity-seeking hustler—but that cynical, out-of-date view ignores the impressive political network Sharpton has diligently been building from coast to coast.

In a dozen or so black communities where elders tend to monopolize leadership of the churches, schools, civic groups, political clubs and other key institutions, Sharpton has been busy grooming young, ambitious candidates for office.

By playing the role of mentor, promoter and fund-raiser, Sharpton does what many shortsighted black politicians refuse to do: actively encourage youngsters to join the struggle against poverty, broken schools, corruption and other inner-city ills.

Sharpton's approach should be copied by pols in communities where new blood and new ideas are desperately needed.

A batch of hopefuls from Generation Al—many of whom were in New York City this week for the annual meeting of Sharpton's National Action Network—has been particularly active lately. The list includes Yaphet El-Amin, a 35-year-old from St. Louis who became the first female Muslim to hold state office in Missouri when voters elected her to the legislature in 2002. She is running for state Senate this year.

Alicia Reece, an officer in Sharpton's organization who served as vice mayor of Cin-

cinnati and lost a race for mayor last year, is considered a rising star. Brooklyn's own Kirsten Foy, one of Sharpton's staff members, is running for a district leadership in Crown Heights this fall.

And then there's the Rev. Jarrett Maupin, Sharpton's national youth director.

The 17-year-old from Phoenix, a college freshman who has been preaching since he was 10, is so much a Sharpton clone that he wears his hair in the same trademark conked-out style.

"I had my hair like this before I met Rev. Sharpton, but after I met him I decided to keep it," says Maupin. "It's a power look."

Maupin made an unsuccessful bid for the Phoenix City Council last year and plans to mount a run for school board this year.

Sharpton not only holds fund-raisers and stumps for his proteges, he freely connects them to political heavy-hitters. This morning, for instance, they will be meeting with Sen. John Kerry (D-Mass.), who is set to give a breakfast talk to Sharpton's group.

The reverend's interest in grooming young leaders dates to his own background as the Wonder Boy, a prodigy who began delivering sermons in Brooklyn's Washington Temple Church as a first-grader.

At age 10, Sharpton preached a sermon before 10,000 at the World's Fair. By the time he was a teenager, Sharpton had attracted the attention of the late Rep. Adam Clayton Powell, becoming part of the Harlem congressman's entourage. Whenever Powell came to town, he'd ask for "the kid."

Sharpton's decision to pass along the sort of mentoring he received stands in stark contrast to the way black politicians in New York and elsewhere cling to office for decades on end, passing their seats to relatives like heirlooms and doing everything in their power to drive newcomers away. But while the old guard gets older, Sharpton—who's mulling another run for President in 2008—is smartly playing the odds, collecting friends, fans and favors among a network of up-and-comers who will likely be running cities, states and Congress before long.

The reverend won't just have powerful friends. To the consternation of his enemies, he'll also get the last laugh.

IN HONOR OF THE THIRTY-FIRST
ANNIVERSARY OF THE OLD
BROOKLYN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of the Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation (OBCDC), whose leaders, staff and members have uplifted, restored and energized all aspects of Cleveland's Old Brooklyn and Brooklyn Centre neighborhoods for thirty-one years.

The OBCDC, a non-profit community organization, was formed in 1975 by a small group of concerned citizens and business owners who set out to protect their neighborhood from falling into decline. The initial vision and effort, one that spans 31 years, was a united one, bringing together civic, religious, government and neighborhood and private business leaders to the table to begin the work of uplifting a neighborhood.

Beyond historic preservation, neighborhood revitalization and housing and commercial redevelopment programs and projects, the

OBCDC has initiated numerous programs and services for residents and business owners, including the Old Brooklyn News. This award-winning monthly newspaper was established by the OBCDC in 1978 and still exists as a vital instrument of communication throughout the neighborhood. Another significant agency that sprung from the early work of the OBCDC includes Senior Citizen Resources, Inc. (SCR), a senior support organization that evolved from senior services provided by the OBCDC. The treasure of the neighborhood, the Benjamin Franklin Community Gardens, managed by the OBCDC, has attracted gardeners from all over the county for the past 26 growing seasons.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of the members, staff and leaders, past and present, of the Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation. Their collective dedication, vision, volunteerism and work on behalf of all residents has served to preserve the historic integrity of the neighborhood, promote new commercial growth and maintain a healthy living environment for residents, young and old, throughout Old Brooklyn and Brooklyn Centre, thereby strengthening the foundation of our entire Cleveland community.

THE FLOUR BLUFF NJROTC
CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate South Texas' Flour Bluff High School's Navy Junior ROTC on winning their 10th consecutive Navy National Championship. These cadets have earned the state championship for the past 12 years and this year's victory marks their extraordinary 10th straight win in the national competition.

This year they placed first in armed drill exhibition, academics, unit inspection, and overall drill. This is a group that sincerely enjoys the challenging intricacies of competition.

Flour Bluff's NJROTC's unparalleled record comes from their ability to inspire future participants with their pride and dedication to excellence. They function like a family—always helping and learning from one another. Through the team's support and collaboration, they carry away memorable victories and lifelong friendships.

These cadets' discipline and enthusiastic dedication enhance their natural talent. Such sacrifice and practice are indicative of our nation's military future, an opportunity many of these young people seek. They are indeed our best and brightest, and I am so proud of all of them.

In high school competitions, as in life, the path to success requires hard work and an eager spirit. Competitions teach today's youth about teamwork and common effort, the fundamental components of life and work.

Year after year, the Flour Bluff cadets continue to bring distinction to their school and bring hope for the future of America. Their skill, perseverance, and commitment to quality are an exemplary representation of what South Texas has to offer.

These are the cadets who earned Flour Bluff's 10th consecutive Navy National Championship: Adrian Altamirano, Sade Auzenne, Arielle Carchidi, Sara Carmony, Leslie Cox, Dirk de Haan, Valerie Dimalanta, Miranda Edson, Julisa Ellerbe, Tomas Falkenberg, Deon Farmer, Devin Galindo, Melinda Garibay, Pancho Gonzales, Tyler Grant, David Guillen, Caz Haas, Jonathan Hada, Gustavo Hernandez, Josef Horn, Matthew Horn, William Joyce, Cassandra Leal, Gilbert Lozano, Ellysa Luehrs, Conor Morrison, Steven Murawski, Ruby Neisser, Amielyn Nillo, Danielle Pletcher, Rudy Ponce, Roxanne Reeder, Daniel Samuelson, Raffaele Sheehan, Jaclyn Stewart, Tanis Thompson, Tempestt Thompson, Tyler Warren, Eric Webb, and Jeremiah Widder.

The coaches who led them to victory are CDR Armando R. Solis and assistants HMCS Lee Holloway and SKI David Pitts.

I ask the House of Representatives to join me today in recognizing these young champions who know first hand how to compete and win graciously. Mr. Speaker, these young students have inspired us to continually strive for success.

IN HONOR OF THE RELATIONSHIP
BETWEEN MONTEREY BAY AND
MINAMIBOSO OF THE BOSO PE-
NINSULA OF JAPAN

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, Ms. ESHOO and I rise today to honor the 109th Anniversary of the Abalone Connection, a treasured connection between two Pacific regions, the Monterey Bay and Minamiboso of the Boso Peninsula of Japan. Both regions are centrally located on the Pacific Coasts of their respective regions and share not only the beautiful scenery of the Pacific Rim, but also the abalone fishing culture and the business that developed because of the abundant marine life found in the sea along their coastlines.

In 1897, Gennosuke and Nakajiro Kodani of Minamiboso, and Alexander M. Allan of Monterey partnered to create the first successful deep-water abalone diving business in the East Pacific. Mr. Allan firmly defended his Japanese partners and employees through the tense period of anti-Japanese sentiment in California during the early part of the 20th century.

Their partnership brought a steady stream of highly skilled Minamiboso abalone divers back and forth across the Pacific, bringing Japanese technology and culture to the Monterey Bay Region and taking back American culture to Japan.

Furthering the connection between Monterey Bay and Japan, in the 1990s, historians on both sides of the Pacific began reconnecting the ties between the Monterey Bay Region and Minamiboso that were interrupted by World War II.

In recognition of these connections, on September 3, 2005, the citizens of the Boso Peninsula held a Symposium, titled "A Bridge Across the Pacific: The Spirit Connecting the Southern Boso Peninsula and Monterey Bay, California," which was dedicated to "giving a

peaceful world to our children". It exemplified the ongoing historic relationship of cooperation begun by the Gennosuke and Nakajiro Kodani and Alexander M. Allan.

Inspired by the Boso Peninsula Symposium, a group of Monterey Bay Region residents decided to hold a similar celebration in Monterey, California to celebrate the 109th anniversary of the connections between the Boso Peninsula and the Monterey Bay Region, as well as the contributions made by the citizens of each region to the history of the other.

Mr. Speaker, we're proud to honor the Abalone Connection as it celebrates its 109th anniversary. After more than a century, the Abalone Connection remains a source of pride for the Monterey Bay Region.

TRIBUTE TO STEVE LUKENS

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Steve Lukens, Assistant Principal at R.O. Hawkins Junior High School in Jackson, Missouri. Recently, Mr. Lukens announced his retirement after 31 years of distinguished service in Missouri's Public Schools.

Mr. Lukens was born on June 23, 1947, to Harry and Ella Lukens in St. Louis, Missouri. Upon graduation from high school he joined the U.S. Navy and served as an air traffic controller from 1967 until 1972. After his honorable discharge, Mr. Lukens pursued a degree in education from Southeast Missouri State University, which is also where he met his future wife, Ellen. Upon graduation from the Southeast Missouri State, he commenced what would be a long and laudable career in education.

Mr. Lukens has dedicated his life to public education over the past 31 years. He embarked on his teaching career in the Cape Girardeau, Missouri, public school system, where he served as a language arts teacher for 21 years. Throughout his time in the Cape Girardeau Public Schools, he served in several capacities for many extracurricular activities, including sponsor of the Red Dagger Club and set director for theater productions. In order to play an active role in the lives of even more students, Mr. Lukens pursued a position in school administration.

In 1996, Mr. Lukens accepted a position as Assistant Principal at R.O. Hawkins Junior High School and has served the school in this capacity for the past ten years. During his tenure, Mr. Lukens has overseen several massive construction projects to the school, a growing student population, and the everyday challenges associated with the instruction of adolescents. As the faces change every year in the halls of R.O. Hawkins Junior High, Mr. Lukens' dedication to education and cultivating the leaders of tomorrow remains a constant. To the students of R.O. Hawkins Junior High, Mr. Lukens is more than just a school administrator, he is a friend and mentor.

Although Mr. Lukens has led an exemplary career in education, it would not have been possible without the love and support of his family. Mr. Lukens' wonderful wife, Ellen, and two loving children, Jennie and Laura, undoubtedly enhanced his ability to change the

lives of area youth. As I commend Mr. Lukens, I also recognize the efforts of his family to further his career. I once again congratulate Mr. Lukens on a successful career in education and wish him well in all his future endeavors.

IN HONOR OF THE VIETNAMESE
COMMUNITY OF CLEVELAND AND
THE 31ST ANNIVERSARY OF THE
FALL OF SAIGON

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance and recognition of the 31st Anniversary of the Fall of Saigon. This historical date commemorates the end of the Vietnam War, and represents the beginning of a new life for tens of thousands of Vietnamese people, as they began their hopeful journey to America.

On April 30, 1975, the ancient city of Saigon fell to the conquest of communist troops. This action solidified the communist takeover of South Vietnam. Thirty-one years later, I rise to honor the memory and sacrifice of the hundreds of thousands of American soldiers, South Vietnamese soldiers and civilians who made the ultimate sacrifice in the name of liberty.

Despite the takeover and the Communist rule that followed, the culture, spirit and hope reflected by the Vietnamese people remained steadfast. After the fall of Saigon, thousands of Vietnamese, determined to rebuild their lives, began a treacherous exodus out of Vietnam. Their daring escape was on foot, through thick jungles and over jagged mountains. They escaped by boat, through snake-infested rivers and across turbulent seas. They became refugees in many nations, including America, with nothing more than the clothes on their backs and the hope for freedom in their hearts.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me to honor and remember the hundreds of thousands of men and women who struggle for peace and freedom, then and now. We also honor agencies and churches such as The Vietnamese Community of Greater Cleveland and St. Helena Catholic Church, which offer a haven of support, services and hope to immigrants from all over the world. The Vietnamese culture, through the care and commitment of its people, has flourished in Cleveland and across America, yet remains forever connected to its ancient cultural and historical traditions that spiral back throughout the centuries, connecting the old world to the new, spanning oceans and borders in the ageless quest for peace—from Vietnam to America.

THE PORTER COWBOYS' 5A
SOCCER TITLE

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Porter Cowboys, winners of the University Interscholastic League Class 5A