

RECOGNIZING THE AMERICAN RED CROSS CHISHOLM TRAIL CHAPTER ON THEIR 90 YEARS OF SERVICE

**HON. KAY GRANGER**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 27, 2006*

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Chisholm Trail Chapter of the American Red Cross as they celebrate 90 years of service in Texas, including my district in the Fort Worth area.

Chartered in 1916 in response to World War I, the American Red Cross Chisholm Trail Chapter has been present during both local and national events in U.S. history. The passionate volunteers and staff that make up the Chisholm Trail Chapter provide care, comfort and lifesaving skills to residents in my District. Headquartered in Fort Worth, the Chisholm Trail Chapter serves its neighbors by providing a variety of services throughout 23 counties, from the Tarrant County line to San Angelo.

The Chapter's variety of programs and services extend to all members of the Fort Worth community at home, in school, and in the workplace. Last year, over 111,000 people were helped by the WHEELS Transportation Service. This program assists older Americans and people with disabilities who need to help keeping their medical and vocational appointments by providing necessary means of transportation.

Constantly striving to ensure the health and safety of my constituents, the Chapter provides training in first aid, CPR, swimming, lifeguarding, and babysitting. Last year, the Chapter enrolled over 41,000 people in their Health and Safety Programs.

I am particularly impressed with their Armed Forces Emergency Services program. Twenty-four hours a day, 365 days a year, the Chisholm Trail Chapter helps military members and their families stay in touch by providing timely, accurate and verified information following the death or serious illness of a family member, the birth of a child or other critical family matter.

The Chisholm Trail Chapter has touched me personally as well. On March 28, 2000, an F-2 tornado formed and took aim at Tarrant County. Five lives were lost and homes and businesses were destroyed. The tornado began just west of downtown and made a direct hit on the Cash America building, where my office was located. From there, the storm intensified into an F-3 twister and leveled an Arlington neighborhood.

The Chisholm Trail Chapter responded in force to the tornadoes, meeting the physical and emotional needs of thousands of families. An American Red Cross Emergency Response Vehicle made its way to my office building several times each day for nearly two weeks, distributing meals and bottled water to the work crews attempting to salvage what was left from the debris.

In addition to meeting local community needs through essential programs and services, the Chisholm Trail Chapter has responded to the needs of our nation and the world by sending volunteers into a terrorist attack site following the events of September 11, 2001, and raising nearly \$2 million locally to help south Asian tsunami victims in 2004.

Prior to landfall of Hurricane Katrina, the Chapter deployed local volunteers to Louisiana.

The Chisholm Trail Chapter met the call to serve those left devastated in the wake of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita by opening eight shelters, housing 1,200 evacuees and providing 576,137 meals. During the months of September and October 2005, the Chapter served over 7,000 families and offered 6,606 mental health contacts to those in need of emotional assistance. This coordinated response exemplifies the Chapter's dedication to guaranteeing the health and well-being of those who have experienced the effects of natural disasters.

Mr. Speaker and fellow Colleagues, please join me in recognizing the American Red Cross Chisholm Trail Chapter on its 90th birthday. With congratulations and gratitude for the excellent work they do to enrich our lives, I am pleased to acknowledge their service to our communities throughout the Fort Worth area and all corners of this great nation.

HONORING MS. JOY TRICKETT

**HON. FRANK R. WOLF**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 27, 2006*

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor for me to recognize Ms. Joy Trickett of Leesburg, Virginia, for her outstanding work to address homelessness and poverty in northern Virginia. Ms. Trickett is currently board chair for the Good Shepherd Alliance (GSA) Emergency Homeless Shelters in Sterling, Ashburn, Leesburg, Luckettes and South Riding in Virginia's 10th District.

For many hours each week, she volunteers to make a difference, one person at a time. On any given day, you might find Ms. Trickett in the Good Shepherd thrift store in Sterling, working with her staff, or writing a grant proposal with her administrative director in Leesburg, or interfacing with other sister organizations like the Clothes Closet in Herndon, LINK in Sterling, Loudoun Red Cross and Northern Virginia Family Services in Fairfax. She serves on the board of directors for both GSA and LINK, and on the ecumenical council of her church. Joy believes we all have an inherent responsibility to serve the poor and needy. She is an energetic, God-loving woman who leads by example.

Joy has received several awards and recognition, including the Loudoun Volunteer Services 2005 Adult Volunteer of the Year award in Leesburg during April 2005 and the National Council of Negro Women (NCNW) 2005 Outstanding Humanitarian Award in Washington, D.C., during October 2005. During the 2006 Virginia General Assembly, House Joint Resolution No. 316 was passed commending Joy Trickett. Individuals are nominated for this recognition based on efforts that are considered to be of local, state or national significance.

In short, Ms. Trickett has provided tremendous synergy for her work with Good Shepherd Alliance and LINK in Loudoun and Fairfax counties. I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing Ms. Trickett's work and accomplishments.

TRIBUTE TO FIRE CHIEF REYNOLD "RENNY" SANTONE, JR.

**HON. BILL SHUSTER**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 27, 2006*

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Fire Chief Reynold "Renny" Santone, Jr. of the Altoona Fire Department, in Altoona, Pennsylvania, who has been named "Person of the Year" by the Blair Bedford Central Labor Council. The distinguished fire chief was nominated for the award by his fellow members of the fire department. Chief Santone, marking 41 years of protecting the Altoona Area, was recently presented with this distinguished award at the Labor Council's annual awards dinner.

This award honors people like Santone "who work for a living and who are well respected and well-loved" for their contributions to employees, co-workers and the community, said the Blair Bedford Central Labor Council's President Robert Kurtz, while delivering remarks at the event. President Kurtz commended Fire Chief Santone, saying that he is "not a paper chief" who distances himself from his firefighters, but that "he's out there in the trenches with them."

Chief Santone joined ranks with the Altoona Fire Department in 1965, and looking back on the day he joined the force, said: "They hired me on April Fool's Day. What I was really waiting for was the red International Association of Fire Fighters sticker—to me that means I was a real professional firefighter."

Chief Santone has certainly proved his abilities as a firefighter in the Altoona Area. Fifteen years after joining the department, Firefighter Reynold Santone was named fire chief in 1984. Today, he leads the department's 4 fire stations and a standing staff of 13 on call firefighters. Chief Santone remarked, "I've always known what I've wanted to do and where I wanted to be," saying that he expects to retire from the same station on Washington Avenue that he joined in 1965.

Fire Chief Reynold "Renny" Santone, Jr.'s dedication to the protection of our local community, and its citizens, is admirable. We hope that others will follow in his footsteps and serve our community with the same pride and honor as Chief Santone has done for the past 41 years.

TRIBUTE TO BROTHER PAUL HANNON

**HON. VITO FOSSELLA**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 27, 2006*

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, on October 8, 2006 Brother Paul Hannon will celebrate 25 years of service as a Christian Brother and educator.

For the past 25 years Brother Hannon has worked as a teacher, athletic director, and hockey moderator. He has spent the past 10 years of his service at my Alma mater, Monsignor Farrell High School in Staten Island, NY.

Over the last quarter century Brother Hannon has served as a Christian Brother

whose assignments have been varied and enriching. His most fulfilling calls to service have been spent working with many youth, particularly those near and dear to me at Monsignor Farrell. His enthusiasm is unwavering, and he has created programs such as in-house television studios which have given students exposure to areas of study they never before would have imagined.

Brother Hannon is an invaluable member of the communities I represent and I commend him for his outstanding leadership and commitment to the people of Staten Island and Brooklyn.

IN RECOGNITION OF ANN  
HAMILTON

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 27, 2006*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ann Hamilton from Gainesville in her quest to provide outdoor carriage rides to disabled and handicapped citizens.

Ms. Hamilton's mission is to build carriages designed for disabled and handicapped individuals so that they too can experience the magnificence of the outdoors. These equestrian excursions allow disabled persons to make a connection with nature that they would normally have the opportunity to do.

I admire Ms. Hamilton's passion and willingness to take the initiative to bring new opportunities to people with limited mobility. Her dedication to this project will ensure equal opportunities to citizens of the 26th District of Texas as well as the rest of the state.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE RETIREMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS BAY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY EMPLOYEE ROBERT O'GARA OF BRAINTREE, MASSACHUSETTS

**HON. STEPHEN F. LYNCH**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 27, 2006*

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of a man who has dedicated the past 43 years to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as an employee of the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA).

Robert O'Gara, the son of Michael and Anna O'Gara, was born on October 28, 1941 in South Boston, Massachusetts. In 1962, after graduating from South Boston High School, Robert joined the MBTA as a Junior Clerk working out of the Everett Repair Shop. Robert developed a reputation for exceptional craftsmanship and a meticulous attention to detail. For the next decade, Robert restored trains at the Everett Repair Shop until he moved to Riverside Station as a Riverside repairman. Once he began working at the Riverside Yard, Robert took his dedication and hard work to a higher level and would place vehicle history on the dash of every vehicle sent in for repair. These notes, dubbed "O'Gara Grams", allowed repairmen to thoroughly inspect each train in order to ensure peak performance.

Along with being a committed employee, Robert is a devoted husband and father. Rob-

ert has the enormous pleasure and tremendous good fortune to be married to his wife Mary of 38 years. They are the proud parents of eight children and the grandparents of seven adoring grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to take the floor of the House today to join with Robert O'Gara's family, friends and brothers and sisters of the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority to thank him for 43 years of remarkable service to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. I urge my colleagues to join me in celebrating Robert's distinguished career and wishing him a happy and full retirement.

HIV/AIDS

**HON. AL GREEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 27, 2006*

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I wish to bring to my colleagues' attention the devastating impact that HIV/AIDS continues to have on our country and, in particular, on African Americans.

African Americans make up only 12 percent of the United States population yet account for over 50 percent of all new HIV diagnoses. We must ask ourselves why this statistic is so high and continue to focus on ways to reduce it.

AIDS diagnoses among African Americans are increasing while diagnoses among other groups are decreasing. By the end of 2003, 172,278 African Americans were living with AIDS and studies show that number is rising.

This crisis is having an especially crippling effect on African American women who account for over two-thirds of new HIV/AIDS cases among women. Additionally, AIDS is the number one cause of death for African American women ages 25–34.

These statistics clearly reflect a catastrophic problem facing African Americans today. It is imperative that we continue to support prevention efforts and encourage a willingness to speak out about this disease in our community. We must assume the challenge of combating this crisis. If we do not, our complacency will only contribute to the devastation caused by this disease.

TRIBUTE TO MAYOR JOHN LYONS  
OF PEMBROKE PARK, FL

**HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 27, 2006*

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is with deep sorrow that I rise to pay tribute to the late Mayor John Lyons of Pembroke Park, FL. Mayor Lyons was a great community leader and role model, and his passing will be mourned throughout the community.

Mayor Lyons passed away on Thursday, September 21, 2006. The funeral Mass to celebrate his life will be held today beginning at 11 a.m. at Nativity Catholic Church, 5200 Johnson St., Hollywood, FL.

Mayor Lyons was a World War II veteran and a Chicago native. For over 20 years he worked for the Chicago Fire Department, from

which he retired as a lieutenant. He moved to South Florida and continued his career of community leadership. He served as chairman of Pembroke Park's code-enforcement board for 4 years. In 1991, Mayor Lyons was elected to the Pembroke Park Town Commission and was a member there for the rest of his life. In 2003, his colleagues elected him mayor.

Mayor Lyons was the loving and devoted husband of Mrs. Eleanor Lyons. He is also survived by his granddaughter, Kimberly, and her husband John Hasenberg; great-grandchildren Elinor and Binyamin; brother Leo Lyons; and brother and sister-in-law Raymond and Nan Lyons.

Mr. Speaker, Mayor Lyons was an institution in Pembroke Park, FL. He was a kind and giving man who dedicated his life to community service, and he will be sorely missed.

Both Pembroke Park and Broward County have lost a great leader. I offer my sincere condolences to his family and all who were touched by his kindness and service.

TRIBUTE TO NORMAN AND IRMA  
BRAMAN'S 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

**HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 27, 2006*

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of Norman and Irma Braman's 50th wedding anniversary, two individuals of Miami who have dedicated their lives to philanthropic ideals which send ripples throughout our great Nation. Mr. and Mrs. Braman have been dedicated to promoting the State of Israel and remembering the Holocaust to ensure that such tragedies never occur again and to beating the disease of breast cancer, of which too many women and families suffer.

In 1995, they established the Braman Family Foundation and in 2002 gave a gift of \$5 million to the Miller School of Medicine at the University of Miami to establish the Braman Family Breast Cancer Institute. With this establishment, they raise awareness of the importance of early detection and encourage regular self-examinations.

The couple have been leaders in the establishment of the Miami Beach Holocaust Memorial, where Mr. Braman is an original founder and previous president of the Board of Trustees. He has served as president and campaign chair of the Greater Miami Jewish Federation. Mrs. Braman has provided tremendous leadership to the Greater Miami Jewish Federation and has participated in numerous missions to Israel.

It is a privilege and an honor for me to call the Bramans my friends, and on behalf of the residents of Miami, I thank them for their dedication to our community and our country.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ED PASTOR**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 27, 2006*

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 483, 484, 485, and 486, I missed voting due