

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. Robert

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