

warm and compassionate personality which inspired those around him will be missed deeply and his life and his accomplishments will always be remembered.

TRIBUTE TO ALFONSO R. DE LEON

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2006

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in thanking U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, USCIS, Harlingen District Director Alfonso R. De Leon for his over 40 years of Federal service and in congratulating him on his upcoming retirement.

Mr. De Leon began his career in 1970, when he joined the Immigration and Naturalization Service, INS, as a radio operator with the U.S. Border Patrol in Del Rio, Texas.

In 1975, he transferred to Laredo, Texas, where he served with INS Inspections as Trainee, Journeyman, Training Officer, Special Case Officer, Supervisor, Assistant Port Director, Acting Port Director and, finally, Port Director.

In September 1988, at the height of the influx of asylum-seekers brought on by political turmoil in Central America, Mr. De Leon was selected as the Assistant District Director for the Harlingen, Texas, District Office. In 1991, he was promoted to Deputy District Director.

Mr. De Leon also played a leadership role during the establishment of the Department of Homeland Security, DHS, and in 2003 was named Interim District Director of USCIS. The following year he was promoted to USCIS District Director, a position he holds today.

I have known Mr. De Leon since 1970. My friend and former colleague is truly an American success story, having worked his way up through the ranks of INS and DHS. He has always exemplified expertise, dedication, and professionalism in every position he has held throughout his career.

As a result, Mr. De Leon has earned widespread respect from his colleagues and employees as well as numerous other local, state, and federal law enforcement officials. He has also been a leader in implementing innovative programs to enhance national security, eliminate the immigration caseload backlog, and improve customer service in the Harlingen District.

Most importantly, Mr. De Leon is also a devoted family man. He and his wife, Mary Blanch, have three children and four grandchildren. I know that of his many accomplishments, Mr. De Leon is perhaps most proud of his fine family, and deservedly so.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in expressing the House of Representatives' appreciation for Harlingen District Director Alfonso R. De Leon's service to our Nation and in wishing him all the best in his retirement.

COMMENDING MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY DEAN GEORGE E. LEROI FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE STUDENTS OF MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY AND HIS SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE SUCCESS OF THE COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES

HON. JOHN J.H. "JOE" SCHWARZ

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2006

Mr. SCHWARZ of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to take this opportunity to commend Michigan State University Dean George E. Leroi for his service to the students of Michigan State University, and his significant contribution to the success of the College of Natural Sciences. George Leroi's long career includes service as an assistant professor of chemistry at Princeton University and as a professor of chemistry at Michigan State University. During his tenure at both of these fine academic institutions, Dr. Leroi guided, supported, taught, befriended, and counseled numerous students throughout both their academic and professional careers.

Dr. Leroi was awarded a Ford Foundation Fellowship, a SURF Research Fellowship with the U.S. National Bureau of Standards, and served as a Research Collaborator with the National Synchrotron Light Source at Brookhaven National Laboratory. In 1996, George Leroi was named as the Dean of the College of Natural Sciences at Michigan State University, and he continues to serve in that position today. Dr. George Leroi's significant experience in chemistry and his personal commitment to the success of the Michigan State University College of Natural Sciences brings great credit to himself, the State of Michigan, and the United States of America, and we recognize him upon the date of his retirement, October 6, 2006.

CELEBRATION OF THE UNVEILING OF THE MOHANDAS GANDHI STATUE IN THE CLEVELAND CULTURAL GARDENS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the installation of a statue of Mohandas Gandhi in the Cleveland Cultural Gardens. The statue stands as a beacon for the ideals Gandhi promoted: peace, amity, and cooperation of all people of all nations.

The unveiling event is being co-hosted by the Cleveland Cultural Gardens Association and the Federation of Communities of India Communities Association. The Cleveland Cultural Gardens started as a 256-acre tract of land donated to the City of Cleveland by John D. Rockefeller in 1896. With the theme "Peace Through Mutual Understanding," the Gardens are represented by 24 nations from all around the world. These Gardens, which have become both a staple of Cleveland and the entire country, have inspired people of all backgrounds throughout its entire rich history. President Herbert Hoover once said of the

Gardens that, "Cleveland, by its series of cultural gardens, is setting a notable example to the nation."

The addition of a statue of Gandhi continues this shining example of peace and cooperation. The statue stands in the India Cultural Garden on a mixture of Indian and American soil. In accordance with the values taught by Gandhi, the earth, which belongs to us all, can only be stewarded through cooperation, understanding, and embracing diversity.

Mohandas Gandhi, who pioneered the global civil rights struggle, has become a symbol of the movement for peace in international politics, brotherhood amongst diverse communities, and social progress through understanding. Gandhi, though a Hindu by practice, embraced diversity of all religions and expressions of spirituality and urged all human beings to stay in touch with a transcendental bond that connects us all. His life is a testament to strengthening international peace efforts through acknowledgement of each individual's power to make a positive peaceful change in this world.

Born in 1869 in Gujarat, India, Gandhi studied law at University College London where he found himself at a cultural crossroads trying to embrace English customs while still preserving the traditions of his Indian ancestry. Gandhi would go on to lead the civil rights struggle in South Africa and finally the independence movement in his native India. Though he studied, lived, and worked in many countries, Gandhi became more of a global citizen, adopting the idea that all humans on the earth share a common thread of wanting peace, security, self-expression, and individuality in a diverse society. It is this sense of global citizenship and acceptance of all people that is echoed in the Cleveland Cultural Gardens with the installation of this new statue.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognizing the contributions to peace and community of Mohandas Gandhi through this statue in the Cleveland Cultural Gardens.

PETS EVACUATION AND TRANSPORTATION STANDARDS ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 20, 2006

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be a supporter of H.R. 3858, the Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards Act. I was disappointed to miss the original rollcall vote on this important bill. Had I been present I would have voted "yes" in support of allowing people to save their vulnerable pets in the event of an emergency.

I am proud to be a cosponsor of this legislation. It will require local governments to include in their emergency plan options to accommodate people with pets or service animals. One of the most heartbreaking elements of the Hurricane Katrina aftermath was seeing the number of pets that were abandoned throughout the gulf coast and the number of people who stayed to care for their pets rather than leave them behind. People should not be forced to choose between their own safety and leaving their beloved pets. There is also

a health and safety concern created in a disaster area when a large number of animals are stranded.

People have a connection with their pets. They know that animals trust their caretakers to take care of them and not leave them abandoned. It is important that we give people the choice to bring their animals with them in an emergency, especially since they can serve as a source of comfort during a troubling time.

TRIBUTE TO GRACELAND
UNIVERSITY SIFE TEAM

HON. LEONARD L. BOSWELL

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2006

Mr. BOSWELL. Mr. Speaker, as a proud Graceland University alumnus, I rise today to honor the Graceland University Students in Free Enterprise, or SIFE, Team, who recently took home the second place trophy in the SIFE World Cup Competition in Paris, France.

SIFE is a global non-profit organization, with activities in more than 40 countries. SIFE strives to teach market economics, success skills, entrepreneurship, financial literacy, and business ethics to students. SIFE teams use their knowledge to work to create economic opportunities for their communities.

The SIFE World Cup Competition brings together SIFE teams from all over the world, and I am proud that the Graceland team represented not only its university honorably, but represented our great Nation with distinction. Mr. Speaker, the following students comprised the team that beat out 44 other national championship teams from around the world: Richa Acharya, Francis Ambrosia, Pooja Ananthanarayanan, Brittany Atwood, James Bailey, Andi Barber, Misha Barbour, Shara Barbour, Ben Berning, Karin Blythe, Tyler Bridge, Emily Brock, Kris Brown, Calee Bullard, Landon Burke, Ariana Bytysi, Curtis Calloway, Ashley Campbell, Sabina Curovac, Leatha Daily, Leonard Dalipi, Joe John De La Cerda, Stephen Donahoe, Cassie Eskridge, Allison Forth, Lindsay Garret, Tyler Garrett, Nicholas Gay, Shaw Geldreich, Shannan Graybill, Heather Gunn, Alexis Haines, Brianna Hattey, Clayton Hines, Allan Hughes, Travis Hunt, Doug Hunter, Mercedes Jenkins, Kasey Johnson, Cooper Jones, Tyler Jones, Olga Khrentsova, Erik King, Kendra King, Colin Kohler, Andy Lavender, Hava Maloku, Garet Manuel, Jacqui Everett, Flora Ferati, Abe Forth, Lauren McClain, Michaela McCoy, Amanda McLead, Ethan Mechling, Barrett Miller, Amy Morgan, Aaron Nugent, Toks Olushola, Terra Paialii, Maria Prieto, Ryan Richards, Charlie Rogers, Regan Russell, Guillermo Sanchez, Katherine Say, Michael Say, Reed Manuel, Sarah Marolf, Colin McClain, Jennifer Shumacher, Lauren Seaman, Jessica Serig, Andrea Stuck, Gellita Taddesse, Lora Toncheva, Lora Popourova, Eric Van Kuiken, Leah Webb, Cara Wildermuth, Briana Williams, Shelby Williams, Stuart Williams, Sarah Wouters, James Young, and Zana Zeqiri.

As a proud alumnus, I join Graceland University, and all of Iowa, in congratulating them and commend them for their great achievement.

RECOGNIZING DR. HILARY
KOPROWSKI ON THE OCCASION
OF HIS 90TH BIRTHDAY

HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2006

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to recognize the outstanding achievements of Dr. Hilary Koprowski—a man who has changed America, and the world, for the better.

Dr. Koprowski is one of the most distinguished and respected biomedical researchers in American history and is known for his work as a creative scientist. One of Dr. Koprowski's most notable achievements is his discovery of the first oral polio vaccine. Today, the Western Hemisphere has been declared free of paralytic polio, and eradication of polio around the globe is within sight. The pioneering work of Hilary Koprowski has made this possible.

Today, Dr. Koprowski is the author or co-author of over 860 articles in scientific publications and is co-editor of several journals. Currently, he is the President of the Biotechnology Foundation, Inc., Director of the Biotechnology Foundation Laboratories at Thomas Jefferson University and Head of the Center for Neurovirology at Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia.

Born in Warsaw, Poland, Dr. Hilary Koprowski was faced with a choice between a career in music or science. He received a degree in piano from the Warsaw Conservatory as well as the Santa Cecilia Academy of Music in Rome. In 1939, Dr. Koprowski obtained his M.D. and adopted scientific research as his life's work. Music remains a significant part of Dr. Koprowski's life. His compositions are published and are currently being played by various orchestras. Dr. Koprowski often compared science to music when he said, "A well-done experiment gives the same sense of satisfaction that a composer feels after composing a sonata."

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Hilary Koprowski is a hero. He has been a world leader in scientific research for over 56 years. His expertise and leadership in the field of science has helped save countless lives. I know the House will join me in paying tribute to this outstanding scientist on the occasion of his 90th birthday.

HONORING UNITED FOOD AND
COMMERCIAL WORKERS UNION
LOCAL 951 PRESIDENT ROBERT
POTTER UPON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. PETER HOEKSTRA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2006

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Robert Potter, President of the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Union Local 951, upon his retirement.

A graduate of Calvin College in Grand Rapids, MI, Robert Potter won election nine times as President of UFCW 951. Since 1980, he grew the organization from an unaffiliated union of 6,000 members into one of the largest local unions in Michigan and the largest UFCW local in the United States. Today,

UFCW 951 represents more than 35,000 members in an exemplary fashion: with innovative programs, a diverse and dedicated staff and professional management systems.

Robert Potter proved over the course of his career to be a skilled and pragmatic negotiator, facilitating several labor agreements that have preserved thousands of employee salaries and ensured the sustained prosperity of numerous businesses. In the early 1980s, he structured contracts with Kroger in West Michigan that allowed the grocer to remain profitable through today. The same contract model still guides other area employers. He also negotiated complex contracts covering all Michigan operations of Meijer, Inc. for 10 bargaining cycles without a single strike.

Robert Potter graciously shared his talents beyond his UFCW service by holding several officer positions within organized labor, including Vice President of both the Michigan State AFL-CIO and the Metro Detroit AFL-CIO. He also won election and re-election as an officer of the Michigan Economic Alliance of Business and Labor, serving from 1990 to the present.

Robert Potter's accomplishments and leadership will not soon be forgotten, and his years of dedicated service and expertise will continue to shape the UFCW long after his retirement. As Chairman of the Committee for the Future of the UFCW, he helped to guide the group that will undoubtedly play a significant role in ensuring the UFCW's future success.

Mr. Speaker, please let it be known that on this 27th day of September in 2006, the U.S. House of Representatives acknowledges the contributions and achievements of Robert Potter.

TRIBUTE TO COMMISSIONER
ISRAEL L. GAITHER

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2006

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great African-American, Commissioner Israel L. Gaither, National Commander of the United States Salvation Army. Commissioner Gaither is the first African-American to hold the position in the Salvation Army's 126-year history.

In his position, Commissioner Gaither heads a vast Army of 3,661 officers, 112,513 soldiers, 422,543 members, 60,642 employees and nearly 3.5 million volunteers, who serve more than 31 million people annually. He is the Salvation Army's chief spokesperson in the U.S. and coordinates matters of national concern to its mission. He acts as the chairman of the national board of trustees and is responsible for presiding over tri-annual commissioners' conferences, which bring together key executive leaders of the Salvation Army's four territories in the United States.

The General of the Salvation Army describes Commissioner Gaither as a "model of spiritual leadership . . . [whose] experience in South Africa and London give him a world-view of the challenges facing the Army today, while retaining the historical mission of the Army rooted in biblical truth and values."

Israel Gaither is a man who leads with total dependence on God and in partnership with