

Mr. Parent is a native of Ohio, the oldest of 14 children. He is married to Barbara Ellis and father to Adam Parent, Ryan Nichols and Kevin and Melissa Ellis. Though retired from state service, he continues to offer his logistical expertise for national disasters through the Federal Emergency Management Administration.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time to recognize Michael Parent for his leadership and commitment to his community and to the people of the state of California. I would like to add my voice to that of the Humboldt County Democratic Club in offering thanks to Mike for his hard work.

IN HONOR OF ANN RICHARDS

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the late Ann Richards who passed away on September 14th. I had the pleasure to meet Ms. Richards on one of her visits to Minnesota. A true inspiration to others, she will be remembered for her leadership, strength, charisma and humor as well as her lifelong commitment to public service.

As a member of the Democratic Party, Ms. Richards began her political career as Travis County Commissioner from 1977 until 1981. In 1982, she successfully ran a statewide campaign for Texas State Treasurer and became the first woman elected to statewide office in 50 years. In 1988, Ms. Richards gained national attention when she delivered the keynote address at the Democratic National Convention in Atlanta, Georgia.

After two terms as State Treasurer, in 1990, Ms. Richards ran a successful campaign for Governor of Texas, and served as Chief Officer of the Lone Star State from 1991–1995. During her tenure as Governor, she worked tirelessly to eliminate gender barriers, revitalize the Texas economy, and decentralize control over education policy. She valued diversity, appointing the largest number of women and minorities to state boards and commissioners of any Texas governor up until that time. An idealistic, strong woman with a witty personality, Governor Richards connected with Texans and people across the United States.

Unfortunately, in 1994, she lost a close reelection for Governor against Texas baseball owner, George W. Bush. Following her term as Governor, Ms. Richards continued her dedication to public service. She was a senior advisor to the communications firm Public Strategies, Inc. in Austin and New York, as well as a senior advisor with a Washington, DC-based, international law firm. Ms. Richards also served on several corporate boards and taught classes at Brandeis University and the University of Texas-Austin.

I extend my thoughts and prayers to her four children, and eight grandchildren. Governor Ann Richards was a loving mother and devoted public servant. She will be remembered and honored in the highest regard.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in paying tribute to the life of Governor Ann Richards.

CONGRATULATING KENYA RAY
FROM PROVISO EAST HIGH
SCHOOL

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I express congratulations to Ms. Kenya Ray for her outstanding achievement in the area of screenwriting.

I also applaud the initiative by Scenarios USA and their collaborative partners, BET and the Kaiser Family Foundation, in creating a national story and script writing contest that attracted 500 youth across America who addressed issues dealing with the topics "What's the Real Deal, on Growing Up in the Age of AIDS?"

I am filled with pride that one of my constituents developed the award-winning script—a story about three young women trying to survive and sustain themselves amidst an environment filled with danger and pain. I am anxious to read Kenya's story about these three women creating and maintaining strong and lasting bonds with each other and members of their families. Our community needs real stories that show real heroes conquering adversity and having happy and healthy lives.

I also want to commend the village of Maywood for supporting this project and I look forward to professional film-makers shooting footage in the Maywood community. I am delighted that Kenya will work directly with professionals in making her script "come alive." Furthermore, it is exciting to realize that Kenya's feelings and perceptions will be seen on BET next February and will be shared with young people across America via Rap-It-Up curriculum kits promoted through cable in the classroom.

ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 46th anniversary of the Republic of Cyprus. It was on October 1, 1960, that Cyprus became an independent republic after decades of British colonial rule.

I am very fortunate and privileged to represent Astoria, Queens—one of the largest and most vibrant communities of Greek and Cypriot Americans in this country. Among my greatest pleasures as a Member of Congress are participating in the life of this community and the wonderful and vital Cypriot friends that I have come to know.

As a full-fledged member of the European Union, Cyprus is playing a vital role in European affairs while also strengthening relations with the United States. Last year, the United States and the Republic of Cyprus signed a reciprocal Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI) Ship Boarding Agreement, which is aimed at preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Cyprus was the first EU member to sign this agreement.

Unfortunately, the commemoration of Cyprus' Independence Day this year, as in the past, is clouded by the fact that Cyprus continues to be illegally occupied by the Turkish military forces, in violation of U.N. Security Council resolutions. On July 20, 1974, Turkey invaded Cyprus, and to this day continues to maintain an estimated 35,000 heavily armed troops. The peaceful and cooperative spirit in the person-to-person, family-to-family interactions between Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots is an encouraging sign for the successful reunification of Cyprus. However, it is time for Turkey to remove its troops from the island so that Cyprus can move forward as one nation. I remain hopeful that an end to this division will be achieved.

I believe that the United States must play an active role in the resolution of the serious issues facing Cyprus. Cyprus and the United States share a deep and abiding commitment to democracy, human rights, free markets, and the ideal and practice of equal justice under the law. Despite the hardships and trauma caused by the ongoing Turkish occupation, Cyprus has registered remarkable economic growth, and the people living in the Government-controlled areas enjoy one of the world's highest standards of living.

I also want to commend Cyprus for its critical support in helping citizens from many nations including the United States as they evacuated from Lebanon earlier this year.

The relationship between Cyprus and the United States is strong and enduring, and we stand together celebrating democracy and freedom.

RECOGNIZING "COMCAST CARES DAY 2006" IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the sixth annual Comcast Cares Day in Miami-Dade County on October 7, 2006. Several hundred dedicated Comcast employees and their families will join together to help the children of our South Florida community. Nationwide, over 30,000 Comcast employees will take part in hundreds of projects that are vital community service contributions.

This year, Comcast employees are donating their time to His House Children's Home. This exceptional program cares for South Florida children who have been abused, exposed to drugs, or neglected by offering them a home environment. In addition, His House provides necessary counseling and health care. And His House provides these services to over 200 local children in foster care.

Comcast employees will use this day to spend time with the children in the residential program and perform needed upkeep and maintenance on the residential building and surrounding grounds. The dedication to service exhibited by local Comcast employees and their families should serve as an inspiration to all the residents of South Florida.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to offer this statement declaring October 7, "Comcast Cares Day 2006."