

devoted service to Bergen Catholic High School as an English teacher, guidance counselor, and basketball coach for 46 years.

Christopher Donfield grew up in Teaneck, New Jersey and earned a full academic scholarship to attend Fordham Prep in the Bronx. He continued on to Fordham University, where he majored in both English and Accounting. Shortly after graduating, Chris sought a teaching position at Bergen Catholic High School, where he quickly became a favorite of both students and colleagues alike. He also became coach to the high school basketball team. During his 40 year tenure as the Varsity Head Coach of the boys' basketball team, the Crusaders, Chris led the team to an astounding 648 wins in his 878 game career. This includes a streak of 31 straight winning seasons that began in the 1968–69 season. In addition to his accomplishments as a Varsity Coach, Chris led his team in an unprecedented achievement of 30 straight Bergen County Jamboree appearances, as well as qualifying for the State Tournament 33 times in 34 seasons and winning the Sectional Crown 7 times.

The most significant accomplishment of Chris's career, however, is the impact he had on the thousands of students that he has taught and coached over the years. Chris put his heart and soul into everything he did while he was at Bergen Catholic High School and it shows in the heartfelt respect and admiration the student body and the entire Bergen Catholic community have bestowed upon him.

Today, I would like to recognize Christopher Donfield's dedication to the Bergen Catholic High School community and congratulate him on his impressive coaching achievements. I send him my best wishes on his retirement.

TRIBUTE TO STAFF SERGEANT JONATHAN ROJAS

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 13, 2006

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect and deep sadness that I wish to commend United States Army Staff Sergeant Jonathan Rojas for his bravery in the field of battle and his willingness to fight for his country. Staff Sergeant Rojas was killed in action when his vehicle came under attack by small arms fire near Baghdad, Iraq on October 3, 2006. His sacrifice will be remembered by a community that has been struck hard by the devastating loss of one of its own.

Born in Mexico City, Mexico, Jonathan Rojas moved to Hammond, Indiana in 1990 to be with his family. Following his graduation from Hammond High School in 1997, he attended college for a year and eventually went on to work for several years at a local glass company, prior to joining the Army in 1999.

Jonathan's friends and family recall him as always being playful, the type to never refrain from cracking a joke. They also remember him as a good kid who was never in trouble and loved to spend time with his family. Jonathan was an avid sports enthusiast who participated in soccer and baseball while in school, and as with so many of his generation, he was a true video game aficionado.

Staff Sergeant Rojas leaves behind a loving family that misses him very much. He is sur-

vived by his devoted wife, Tasha (Sullivan) Rojas. The couple would have celebrated their fourth wedding anniversary on October 25, 2006, and planned to start a family upon Jonathan's return to civilian life. Jonathan also leaves to cherish his memory his adoring parents, Jose and Catalina Rojas, his brother, William (Norma) Rojas, his sister, Isaura Rojas, and his nephew, William Rojas, Jr., as well as his treasured companions, Diamond, Tyson, and Joker. Staff Sergeant Jonathan Rojas also will be greatly missed by a saddened but proud community and a grateful nation.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring a fallen hero, United States Army Staff Sergeant Jonathan Rojas. Staff Sergeant Rojas is the sixteenth service member from northwest Indiana to sacrifice his life during Operation Iraqi Freedom, and his passing comes as a setback to a community already shaken by the realities of war. Staff Sergeant Rojas will forever remain a hero in the eyes of his family, his community, and his country. Thus, let us never forget the sacrifice he made to preserve the ideals of freedom and democracy.

IN HONOR OF MARLAND "MARLEY" LYLE HOLTE

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 13, 2006

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the achievements of my good friend Marland "Marley" Lyle Holte, who was admired by many for his commitment to better the lives of the residents of San Benito County. Marley passed away Saturday, September 16, 2006 at the age of 80, but left a long history of community service. Holte moved to Hollister in 1966 where he was a teacher at R.O. Hardin School for several years before becoming its principal. He served in that position, and later at Rancho San Justo School, for a total of 18 years. Although he retired from teaching in 1987, he never really retired. He started a new vocation in the real estate business and in 1994 opened Crown Realty. That same year, he won election as mayor of the City of San Juan Bautista.

Marley was a familiar face in the community for decades, thanks to his efforts on behalf of the local youth, minorities and particularly the homeless. Friends remember him as a modest person who was reluctant to take credit for his good deeds. Marley served as President of the San Benito County Little League; Commissioner of Hollister's Parks and Recreation Commission; Director of the San Juan Bautista Chamber of Commerce; Member of the San Juan Bautista Planning Commission; President of 33rd District Agricultural Fair Board; and Chairman of the San Juan Bautista Rotary Club.

Marley founded the Community Assistance Program and provided free dinners on Thanksgiving and Christmas. He started the Christmas dinner tradition about 20 years ago after he and his wife decided to combine their money and feed the needy instead of buying gifts for each other. Several years later they started organizing Thanksgiving dinners as

well. The Holiday Dinners began in 1985 and have continued ever since. The annual dinners, which have more than doubled in size since their inception, are funded entirely by donations from area businesses and residents. Holte said the success of the dinners is the result of widespread community support.

Marley was well-liked by many for his ability to build consensus and transcend political, cultural and personal borders. He earned the admiration of the Latino community for his good deeds and was elected President of the San Benito County League of United Latin American Citizens, where he served in that position for 5 terms. Many in the Latino community referred to Marley as the "Norwegian-Latino" because of his love of the culture, music and most of all, its people. In addition to serving on nearly every local community organization, Holte had piled up an astounding collection of accolades, including "Realtor of Year" in 1993 and the LULAC "Outstanding Man of the Year" Award in 1996.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge all the wonderful things that my good friend Marley gave to all of us. He will be missed by many including his son, Dan. His departure fills us with sadness but his outstanding work is an example to the generations that come.

RECOGNIZING NEW AMERICA MEDIA'S FIRST NATIONAL ETHNIC MEDIA AWARDS

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 13, 2006

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize New America Media (NAM) and The First National Ethnic Media Awards. From its inception, NAM has worked to create a more inclusive public forum and to bring visibility and economic viability to ethnic media, a critical sector of American journalism that covers and serves our country's growing ethnic and immigrant communities that are often marginalized by barriers of culture and language.

NAM has continued to build the profile of ethnic media by developing first a California and now a national awards program to recognize journalists working in the ethnic media and covering stories critical to their communities.

NAM conducted a nationwide poll of ethnic communities in multiple languages that found 52 million adult Americans access ethnic media regularly; ethnic media represent the forefront of civic and independent journalism; it is where ethnic and immigrant Americans turn to find information about their communities, their states, their government, their healthcare, education for their children, their civil rights as citizens in our society—yet ethnic media has received only marginal recognition from the public and private sector.

NAM's work to highlight the important role that ethnic media plays is commendable. NAM's work to create bridges between ethnic media and the mainstream as well as cross-cultural understanding between ethnic communities is praiseworthy. NAM's commitment to honoring the ethnic media through an increasingly prestigious Awards Program is admirable.