

Mr. Speaker, I commend New America Media and the First National Ethnic Media Awards for its courageous goal to create a more equitable and integrated American society.

HONORING MR. JOHN STENCEL,
PRESIDENT OF THE ROCKY
MOUNTAIN FARMERS UNION

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 13, 2006

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. John Stencel, a tireless ally of rural America and the hardworking farmers and ranchers that call it home.

Mr. Stencel was born and raised on a farm near Greeley, CO, and from the beginning his commitment to agriculture was clear. He was active in 4-H, the Future Farmers of America, and the Farmers Union Youth Program. After graduating from Colorado State University in 1964 he began a career with the Rocky Mountain Farmers Union (RMFU). A few years later John served two years in the U.S. Army and was awarded the Army Commendation Medal for Outstanding Service. After his return, John was elected RMFU President in 1970. His strong leadership abilities were repeatedly demonstrated during his 23 years as president, and in 1993 President Bill Clinton appointed John as the Deputy Administrator for the Farm Service Agency in Colorado. He later worked in Washington, DC, at the Grain Inspection, Packers, and Stockyards Administration as Special Assistant to the Administrator. John then returned to Colorado in 2000 and was once again elected president of the RMFU in 2001.

Unbelievably, through all of this John Stencel also found the time to serve as the president of the Colorado 4-H Foundation, as the vice president of the Colorado Future Farmers of America Foundation, and as a member of the Colorado State University Board of Agriculture. His versatility, dedication, and uncharacteristic leadership are admirable.

I remember sharing time with John on the road during a series of renewable energy tours throughout rural Colorado over the past couple years. I learned quickly of the remarkable ability of this man. Whether the topic was wind power and methane digesters or crop subsidies and cooperative development projects, his grasp of the issues was second-to-none.

Mr. Stencel's forward thinking policies and actions have set an example in the agriculture world. He acknowledges and promotes ideas that need to be brought to the attention of small and large farmers alike. His pending retirement will mark the end of an exceptional career, and finding a worthy successor will undoubtedly be difficult.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring John Stencel for his accomplishments, his dedication, and his legacy. Citizens of Colorado and the United States as a whole have benefited from this man's service, and we owe him our gratitude.

TRIBUTE TO THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDIANA DUNES NATIONAL LAKESHORE

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 admiration that I wish to congratulate the members of the Save the Dunes Council as they celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. To commemorate this special occasion, the Save the Dunes Council hosted a 40th Anniversary Gala Event on Saturday, October 21, 2006, at Valparaiso University's Brauer Museum of Art in Valparaiso, Indiana.

From its humble beginning, the Save the Dunes Council, created in the Ogdens living room of Dorothy Buell and a mere dozen of her female neighbors, has become one of the most knowledgeable, involved, and respected organizations in Northwest Indiana and beyond. Founded in 1952 with the mission of protecting and preserving the Indiana Dunes, the Save the Dunes Council worked tirelessly toward their goal of creating a National Lakeshore, which they accomplished in 1966. Since that time, the Save the Dunes Council, comprised of local citizens, has continued to fight to protect the lakeshore from man-made intrusions and preserve the environment. Through the efforts of these dedicated individuals, the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore has nearly doubled in size. Currently, the National Lakeshore consists of more than 15,000 picturesque acres of land, while plans for continued expansion are in place.

The Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore has, for many years, been a popular tourist destination as well as a place where local families and groups can enjoy an afternoon together. Its scenic lake views and magnificent sandy beaches have made the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore a focal point of Northwest Indiana, while the spectacular Mount Baldy, the largest of the lakeshore's moving dunes at 126 feet, is a sight that visitors are sure to remember. In addition to the magnificent nature views, the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore offers a wide array of activities to satisfy the interests of all nature-lovers, including: hiking, swimming, bird watching, fishing, camping, and horseback riding, as well as many guided tours and other gatherings.

On Saturday, October 21, 2006, the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore 40th Anniversary Gala took place and featured a social hour and exhibit tours of the artwork of Frank V. Dudley, an artist who dedicated forty years of his life to the preservation and promotion of the Indiana Dunes. The evening proceeded with a silent auction, formal dinner, speakers, and music.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring the efforts of the members of the Save the Dunes Council, past and present, and in celebrating the 40th Anniversary of the establishment of the Indiana Dunes as a National Lakeshore. These selfless individuals continue to dedicate their time and unrelenting efforts to serve their community through the preservation of the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, and I am proud to represent them in Congress.

TRIBUTE TO THE HOUSTON DYNAMO AND THE CITY OF HOUSTON FOR WINNING THE 2006 MAJOR LEAGUE SOCCER (MLS) CUP

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 13, 2006

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Houston Dynamo and the city of Houston for winning its first 2006 Major League Soccer Cup.

In front of thousands of soccer fans at Pizza Hut Park, the Houston Dynamo emerged victorious against the New England Revolution with a score of 4 to 3 on penalty kicks after the teams played to a 1-1 draw through regulation and extra time.

This is a fitting conclusion to an amazing season. Congratulations to Kelly Gray, Stuart Holden, Dwayne De Rosario and Brian Ching who successfully converted from the penalty spot in the shootout. Brian Ching was recognized as the match's Most Valuable Player.

This is the Dynamo's first season in Houston, and they have surely made a warm welcome for themselves. The team is led by 2005 Major League Soccer Coach of the Year, Dominic Kinnear. Let me acknowledge Dynamo investor/operator Philip Anschutz for the time and commitment he has given to U.S. soccer and the city of Houston. I also congratulate the players and their families for making the transition (from San Jose) to Houston. For the players and their families to pick up and come to Houston, Texas and do what they've done this year is impressive. We welcome you with open arms, and we remain devoted to your success. Also, a big thank you and congratulations to Oliver Luck and the entire Dynamo management team family!

The team was created on December 15, 2005 when the San Jose Earthquakes were relocated, allegedly due to San Jose's failure to secure a soccer-specific stadium. Even though all of San Jose's players and coaches moved to Houston, the team's name, logo, history and statistics were not transferred.

The name "Dynamo" refers to Houston's industrial economy and is an allusion to the various Eastern European soccer teams who are called "Dynamo", most notably Dynamo Dresden, FC Dynamo Kyiv and FC Dynamo Moscow. Although unrelated, there was a previous professional soccer team called the Houston Dynamos that played in the old United Soccer League in 1984. The team colors are orange, white, and black.

The Houston Dynamo play their home matches at Robertson Stadium—a 33,000-seat sports stadium located on the University of Houston campus in southeast Houston. A three-year lease was signed to play at the stadium while plans for a soccer-specific stadium are finalized.

This is the Dynamo's first championship in this league, though several of their players won titles with the team's previous incarnation, the San Jose Earthquakes.

My heartiest congratulations, and I look forward to many more celebrations with Houston Dynamo in Houston, Texas.

I look forward to a community-based celebration in their home stadium in the 18th Congressional district at Robertson Stadium.