

body of President John Quincy Adams laying in state, and the famed Swedish soprano, Jenny Lind, performing at the Church in July 1851. Samuel Chapin, the subject of the St. Gaudans "the Puritan" statue, was an early deacon of the Church. Old First Church played a role in the Underground Railroad. In fact, Reverend Osgood brought in leading abolitionists from England to give speeches advocating against slavery. Daniel Webster attended Old First Church on more than one occasion.

The church also organized and annually hosted a series of musical presentations called "Music at First" which featured individual artists, chambers music, ensembles and choral groups. The New England Academy of Academic Artists was also annually provided with a venue for its Juried Show.

Old First Church, until its closing, hosted the largest and longest established Alcoholics Anonymous meeting in Western Massachusetts.

Beginning in 1977, Old First Church began to house "Open Pantry" the largest food distribution service for the needy in the Greater Springfield area. It also hosted and regularly staffed "Loaves and Fishes" providing two meals for the homeless each Saturday and Sunday. In recent years, during the winter months, the Church opened its door to "The Warming Place" supplying emergency shelter to the area's homeless.

Public Vigils to raise consciousness surrounding the issues of AIDS, domestic violence and other social issues have regularly been held at Old First Church as well as memorial services for the New England Association of Fire Chiefs.

The members of the congregation embraced and actively participated in "Walking United" a program designed to gather and distribute unused prosthetic devices in the United States to a clinic it established to aid the people of Nicaragua who suffered as a result of land mine and other catastrophic injuries.

Despite its conservative New England roots, Old First Church has been among the most socially progressive churches in Massachusetts. It has been a church which has paved the way for other congregations to follow and one that has always provided unconditional resources and support to those in need within and beyond the City of Springfield.

At the "Celebrations of the Life of Old First Church 1637 to 2007" those in attendance were invited by the Reverend Dr. J. Thomas Gough, the 23rd settled pastor of Old First Church, to come forward and accept "packets of seed" while offering this prayer:

"Gracious God, Creator of earth and sky, author of all living things, spirit of hope and grace and promise, be part of us now as your people here at Old First Church prepare to offer themselves as seeds of your love. Bless these packets of seed as symbols of your intention for us that we might venture forth into the world bearing what is necessary to grow in other soil.

"May it be your breath that blows us to other places. May it be your call that leads us to go forth from this place to be your people scattered in the world. May we follow in the paths you set before us and take root where next you plant us. Help us, above all, to flourish in new places and to bring the fruit of Old First Church to ripeness in other communities of faith. Let what we have learned in this place, what has given us life and meaning and purpose, create new and holy spaces wherever we are taken in your name."

Madam Speaker, it is my hope that Old First Church will continue to remain a historic landmark and preserved, as it is truly one of the most significant buildings in the city. The parish house has potential valuable uses for the city and it would be a tragedy if we did not do everything in our power to preserve this building. The memories made at the church will continue to live on in the hearts and spirits of the members.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, on March 12, 2008, I was unavoidably detained and was not able to record my votes for Rollcall Nos. 124–134.

Had I been present I would have voted:

Rollcall No. 124—"no"—On Motion to Adjourn.

Rollcall No. 125—"no"—Resolution Raising a Question of the Privileges of the House.

Rollcall No. 126—"no"—On Motion to Adjourn.

Rollcall No. 127—"no"—On Motion to Adjourn.

Rollcall No. 128—"yes"—On Motion to Table the Resolution.

Rollcall No. 129—"yes"—Providing for the consideration of H. Con. Res. 312, Congressional Budget for the U.S. Government for Fiscal Year 2009.

Rollcall No. 130—"yes"—Providing for the consideration of H. Con. Res. 312, Congressional Budget for the U.S. Government for Fiscal Year 2009.

Rollcall No. 131—"yes"—Generations Invigorating Volunteerism and Education Act.

Rollcall No. 132—"yes"—Providing for an adjournment or recess of the two Houses.

Rollcall No. 133—"yes"—Honoring the 200th anniversary of the Gallatin Report on Roads and Canals, celebrating the national unity the Gallatin Report engendered, and recognizing the vast contributions that national planning efforts have provided to the United States.

Rollcall No. 134—"yes"—To temporarily extend the programs under the Higher Education Act of 1965.

HONORING FRANKLIN SCHOOL FOR BEING NAMED AN ILLINOIS SCHOOL OF HONOR

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Mr. COSTELLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Franklin School, in Belleville, Illinois, for being named an Illinois School of Honor, one of only two schools in Illinois to receive this award.

The University of Illinois Extension has teamed with the Character Education Partnership (CEP) to conduct an award competition that recognizes schools that have implemented outstanding programs in character

education. Franklin School was selected in the state competition as one of only two Illinois Schools of Honor. This is a prestigious honor for Franklin School and brings well-deserved recognition to their very successful character education program.

With the emphasis in recent years on testing and meeting aggressive educational standards, it is refreshing to see that schools also realize that character counts. These schools demonstrate that well-rounded students can be developed by instilling values of respect for others and good moral judgment while also focusing on instruction in academic subjects.

The application process for the State School of Character competition is very rigorous and there are specific, objective criteria that must be met to qualify. In order to be considered, a school must demonstrate that they have implemented a comprehensive, effective and successful program for incorporating character development into their school environment. Winning this award reflects positively on the entire Franklin School community, administration, faculty and staff, students and families. All worked together to achieve this honor.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the administration, faculty, staff, students and families of Franklin School for their recognition as an Illinois School of Honor.

FREEDOM FOR RANDY CABRERA MAYOR

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak about Randy Cabrera Mayor, a prisoner of conscience in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Cabrera Mayor was imprisoned by the Cuban totalitarian dictatorship in 1989, a month before his 19th birthday. For his refusal to join the dictatorship's armed forces.

Eight months after his imprisonment, Mr. Cabrera Mayor courageously escaped the atrocious confinement facility known as "Ganusa", located in San Jose de las Lajas. He promptly built himself a makeshift boat and attempted to reach freedom in the United States. Unfortunately, Mr. Cabrera Mayor was caught ten miles off the coast of Matanzas by agents of the communist dictatorship. He was convicted by a sham tribunal on charges of "treason" and "illegal departure from the island." This would mark the first of many unsuccessful attempts by this brave political prisoner to achieve his god-given right to freedom.

My colleagues, I wish to bring to your attention the inhumane conditions Mr. Cabrera Mayor is currently living in. The food he is being provided is consistently under an advanced stage of decomposition to the point that it is propagating intestinal diseases. He spends long periods of time in solitary confinement without access to a bathroom and shackles have been attached to his ankles to hinder his movements. When not in solitary confinement, Mr. Cabrera Mayor and other political prisoners are held in the same cells as common criminals of the most dangerous kinds.

Madam Speaker, Mr. Randy Cabrera Mayor has engaged in numerous hunger strikes to

protest his conditions and those of other prisoners, and he has been met with threats of beatings and withholding of sustenance, all in accordance with the usual treatments that the brutal regime that currently oppresses Cuba affords its political opponents in the dark and cruel world of Castro's gulags.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, the conditions in which prisoners of conscience in Cuba are held are abominable and condemnable. We must demand the immediate release of Mr. Cabrera Mayor and all unjustly incarcerated prisoners, including all the political prisoners in totalitarian Cuba.

HONORING DR. MONA PERVIL
ULYSSE

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Mona Pervil-Ulysse, a native of Cap-Haitien, Haiti who arrived in the United States at the age of eleven where she attended elementary, junior and high schools in Brooklyn, New York.

Subsequently, Dr. Ulysse pursued her pre-medical requirements in the Sciences as a Biology Major at Brooklyn College and completing the Basic Sciences years of medical school at the Universidad del Noreste in Mexico. The last two years of medical school were pursued at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, and the Bronx Lebanon Hospital Center in New York. She completed her residency in Internal Medicine at Kings County Hospital and SUNY Downstate Medical Center, where she proceeded to specialized training in Rheumatology.

Dr. Mona Pervil-Ulysse is Chief of Rheumatology at Interfaith Medical Center since 1997. She is a clinical instructor at SUNY Downstate Medical Center and attending physician at the New York Methodist Hospital. She coordinates a well-organized arthritis clinic, (Orris G. Walker Clinic) and is a mentor to medical residents in training who rotate through the Rheumatology Division at the Interfaith Medical Center. She provides Rheumatology consulting services at various nursing homes and is in private practice. Dr. Pervil-Ulysse has been a co-principal investigator of different research projects during her specialized training in Rheumatology. Her clinical presentations and professional activities have received recognitions in medical journals and newspapers. She is a frequent lecturer of the various rheumatologic diseases, notably Systemic Lupus Erythematosus, Rheumatoid Arthritis and Osteoarthritis, among many others.

Dr. Mona Pervil-Ulysse holds various leadership positions. She is the president of the Christian Community Health Team, the New York Chapter of the Baptist Medical Dental Fellowship from the Southern Baptist Convention. Also, she is president of the Aesclepius Medical Society and administrator of L'ASCH, a Brooklyn partner of the Lupus Foundation. Dr. Pervil-Ulysse participates in health fairs, lectures in schools in the tri-state area and conducts an annual health fair in Haiti with the French Speaking Baptist Church.

Madam Speaker, it behooves us to pay tribute to this incredible doctor who has dedicated

her entire career in caring for the ill and for her endless support of the struggle against health care disparities. Dr. Mona Pervil-Ulysse is a remarkable person and I am proud to recognize her today.

MISHA MAZURKEWYCZ

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Misha Mazurkewycz of Saint Joseph, Missouri. Misha is a very special young woman who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Girl Scouts of America, and earning the most prestigious award of Girl Scout Gold Award.

Misha has been very active with her troop, participating in many scout activities. In order to receive the prestigious Gold Award, Misha has completed all seven requirements that promote community service, personal and spiritual growth, positive values and leadership skills.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Misha Mazurkewycz for her accomplishments with the Girl Scouts of America and for her efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Girl Scout Gold Award.

HONORING LANCE CORPORAL
JERED CAMPBELL

HON. BILL SALI

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Mr. SALI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of my constituents, LCpl Jered Campbell.

Lance Corporal Campbell recently returned from Haditha, Iraq, where he served a 7-month deployment. He was assigned to Company "E" of the Second Battalion, Third Marine Regiment of the United States Marine Corps.

The city of Haditha saw unprecedented improvements where Lance Corporal Campbell's Company E served. Upon arrival, Haditha was considered one of the most dangerous regions in Iraq. By the end of Lance Corporal Campbell's deployment, the police force was rapidly growing, attacks on Iraqi police and Marine patrols were steadily decreasing, and relations with the Iraqi people were improving.

Madam Speaker, please join me in paying tribute to Lance Corporal Campbell, whose selfless actions benefit all Americans. Our Nation owes Lance Corporal Campbell and his fellow Marines a great debt of gratitude for their service.

HONORING LARRY FURROW IN HIS
ACCOMPLISHMENTS AT RETIREMENT

HON. STEVAN PEARCE

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Mr. PEARCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the great achievements of Lt. Larry Furrow. In the 41 years that Larry has served the U.S. military and Government, he continually showed great dedication, knowledge, and skill. I greatly admire his dedication to his work. His many years of education and lifetime of experiences make Mr. Furrow a noteworthy man and an exceptional example to other people.

Mr. Furrow's service to his country did not stop in the military after he gained the rank of lieutenant in 1993. He went on to become the chief of public affairs for White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico. These are all reasons to honor Mr. Furrow, but he is also admired for his great sense of humor that attracted people to him—whether it was in the military, flying people around, or working in public relations for White Sands Missile Range.

Among his many respectable traits, Mr. Furrow is also an enthusiastic outdoorsman who likes to spend time snowshoeing, skiing, and running marathons. He is not only adventurous and dedicated, he is also a loving husband, father, and grandfather.

In all of the years that Mr. Furrow has been in the workplace, he has exemplified hard work, dedication, and commitment to duty and country. It is inspiring to know and a privilege to honor Mr. Furrow in his time of retirement. On behalf of the people of the Second District of New Mexico, I congratulate Mr. Furrow on his outstanding career and know that he will continue to inspire others with the intelligence, leadership, thoughtfulness and humor that he displayed to so many throughout the years.

HONORING ANGEL DIAZ

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, I stand here today to honor a civic leader, innovative visionary, loving father and grandfather—Angel Diaz.

Angel was born in Los Angeles, CA, and eventually moved to Richgrove with his family where he attended Delano High School. After graduating from Porterville College in 1961, he served in the United States Army and received an honorable discharge in 1964.

Upon Angel's return to the Delano area, he began an inspiring life of activism due to his passion and fervor for community betterment.

As a founding member of the Kern County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, he also founded Adelante, a networking database that connects over 2.5 million registered Latino households in order to relay important community messages with the greatest priority necessary. Having sat on numerous boards in positions of authority, Angel is regarded with the utmost respect by community members and leaders alike. In the past, he has served as