

improvements, and a new high school was built. Over the years, the school curriculum has also been significantly modified to create greater consistency and to focus on essential learning material, which has in turn helped raise student achievement scores. He credits much of his success to having quality school board members, great administrators, and dedicated employees in the school district. Nearly all the current school district employees were hired by Tim.

During his service, Tim has made a significant impact on the students and the entire surrounding community. His leadership will certainly be missed. I consider it an honor to represent Tim Hoffman in Congress, and I wish him continued success in his future endeavors.

HONORING MURFREESBORO, TENNESSEE AS A NATIONAL AMERICAN MUSIC CENTER

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize Murfreesboro, Tennessee as a national center for traditional American music.

The objective for the national center is to educate, market and preserve traditional American music, including old-time music. A learning center will offer concert and performance venues for individual artists.

The Uncle Dave Macon Day Festival has 30 years of experience promoting and developing the traditional music and cultural heritage of Middle Tennessee. Traditional American music includes folk music, blues, gospel, dance music and any kind of acoustic that is learned primarily from oral tradition.

With the aid of Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro can offer the community highly qualified graduates to manage and staff the national center for traditional American music.

MTSU College of mass Communication offers young people the chance to become major players in recording industry, journalism, photography, television and radio-all media on which Uncle Dave Macon Day depends.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO GLADYS MUHAMMAD-WARD OF SOUTH BEND, INDIANA

HON. JOE DONNELLY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Mr. DONNELLY. Madam Speaker, today I pay tribute to an outstanding citizen of South Bend, Gladys Muhammad-Ward, who devoted her life to the service of her community. Her impact on the city is immeasurable, the result of her unflagging efforts to improve the quality of life for all its citizens. She has been a blessing to her large and loving family as well as to the extended family of those whose lives she has changed.

Whether on the grassroots or executive level, Mrs. Muhammad-Ward's vision, talent

and energy have benefited young and old alike. In 1978 she helped establish and became the first director of the YWCA's Battered Women's Shelter, a post she held for six years. Subsequently, as the Deputy Director of South Bend's Code Enforcement, she was instrumental in helping to develop what had been a drug infested and dangerous neighborhood into sixty-five units of affordable housing and cultivating the Charles Martin Youth Center.

Mrs. Muhammad-Ward's influence extends to the national level. She was in the first class of the Washington D.C.-based Center for Community Change's "Change Agent Project." She was also invited to participate in President Clinton's roundtable on neighborhoods held in Little Rock, Arkansas.

Locally, Mrs. Muhammad-Ward has lent her talents to many organizations and served on numerous boards, including The Martin Luther King Jr. Foundation, the Saint Joseph County Democratic Party, the African American Community Fund, the Indiana University South Bend Civil Rights Heritage Center, Bridges Out of Poverty Committee and the Memorial Health Foundation Board of Directors.

Gladys Mohammad-Ward was awarded the key to the City of South Bend in 2007 and the Sagamore of the Wabash in 1998, and in 1994 she was inducted into the South Bend Hall of Fame and named YWCA Woman of the Year. In addition, she was named Citizen of the Year by the National Social Worker Association in 1999 and received the Distinguished Alumni Award from Indiana University South Bend. She has been honored by WNDU-TV, The Indiana Black Expo, Essence Magazine, Kiwanis Club and the YMCA.

So, today, on behalf of the citizens of Indiana's Second District, I thank Gladys Mohammad-Ward for her years of selfless dedication. As she continues her work on behalf of all of our citizens, regardless of race, gender or socio-economic class, let us pay special tribute to this outstanding woman who serves as a role model to us all.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT IS VITAL TO HOMELAND SECURITY EFFORTS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, Homeland Security shouldn't be left strictly to the Federal Government but requires the vigilant assistance of State, county and city police departments. When local law enforcement agencies choose not to detain criminal aliens for immigration enforcement officials, it is like a city police officer ignoring a bank robbery because it is a Federal crime. That kind of head in the sand mentality is ridiculous and will not make our Nation safer.

In Houston, Texas, Harris County Sheriff Tommy Thomas is blazing a path with a common sense approach to dealing with illegal aliens arrested for committing crimes. Sheriff Thomas recently announced that employees at the Harris County's Inmate Processing Center will receive Section 287(g) training from U.S. Customs and Immigration Enforcement officials.

This program will train deputies to identify, process and detain illegal aliens arrested for criminal activity in Harris County. Instead of catch and release, this new training will allow deputies to catch and begin the deportation process for criminal aliens.

This program will help take more illegals off the streets and make the county safer for Texas families. For example, illegal aliens will no longer have the opportunity to continuously endanger lives by getting arrested multiple times for DWI. The deportation process will start in the county jail the first time they are arrested.

Besides trespassing into our Nation, illegal aliens commit many other crimes such as driving without car insurance, drug trafficking, human smuggling, theft, burglary and murder. As a result, American citizens and legal immigrants end up carrying the financial burden created by illegal aliens such as increased medical and prison expenses.

Empowering local law enforcement officials to start the deportation process immediately after an illegal alien is arrested, sends a clear message that international trespassing will not be tolerated. Protecting citizens and legal immigrants from criminal acts by illegal aliens is the essence of Homeland Security.

By not passing off responsibility for dealing with criminal aliens to the Federal Government, like in some cities, Sheriff Tommy Thomas is finding solutions to reducing crime in Harris County instead of making excuses. He is setting an example that other agencies should follow.

He is a great sheriff who's recent actions demonstrate that he is committing to protect our communities from both foreign and domestic criminals. It will take the leadership of other sheriffs like Thomas and police chiefs with the backbone to enforce all of our Nation's laws, instead of just the ones they prefer, for effective Homeland Security.

Today, I salute Sheriff Tommy Thomas for his local efforts and leadership in moving Harris County, and the rest of our Nation, in the right direction to protect citizens and legal immigrants from criminal aliens.

And that's just the way it is.

IN MEMORY OF THOMAS G. BOLERJACK

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Thomas Bolerjack's memory and his lifelong contributions to his community, family, and country.

Tom's passion for life was apparent to everyone who met him. A man with a tremendous love for flying, it should come as no surprise that, at 16 years old, Tom was sitting in the cockpit of a plane testing for his pilot's license. He later enlisted in the Air Force, where he worked his way through the ranks and retired as a Colonel.

Tom's enthusiasm, both for flying and serving others, did not diminish upon his retirement from the Air Force. Aviation was an interest that brought Tom obvious joy for the remainder of his life, and his penchant for service became focused on local endeavors.