

men of peace. These included Koffi Adjoi, Alvaro Costa, Baendegar Dessande, Amadou Moctar Gueye, Jason Hunter, Andrew McCurrah, and Ibikunle Williams.

Maitre Beye's relatives, friends and colleagues will commemorate the life and times of this great man and to honor the others who died that day by hosting a memorial service at the New York Headquarters of the United Nations—the institution he loved and in whose service he ultimately gave his life—on June 26, 2008. The program for Maitre Beye will not be a sad memorial, but a joyous celebration of the life of this great man of wisdom and humor, and a tribute to the peace he and his colleagues sought to bring to the world. We wish them our best in this honorable endeavor.

TRIBUTE TO HIGHLAND BULLDOGS

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to an outstanding group of young men from Highland, Illinois, who last week completed an amazing baseball season by winning the state championship.

The Highland Bulldogs defeated Crystal Lake Central in the semifinals, then knocked off Rock Falls 6–2 on Saturday, June 7, to clinch the Class 3A state title at Silver Cross Field in Joliet. It was the first baseball state title for Highland.

My congratulations go to Head Coach Joel Hawkins, Assistant Coaches Sam Weber, Jason Wiegand and Caleb Houchins, Trainer Jamie Wagner, and the members of the 2008 state champion Highland Bulldogs team: Gary Kharibian, Travis Becherer, Brandon Koisher, Randy Knebel, Chris Sudhoff, Luke Potthast, Ben Fieker, Sean Gagen, Gabe Fuehne, Corey Gall, Wes DeGroot, Josh Ammann, Andrew Kimmle, Jake Odorizzi, Justin Huelsmann, Dan Gifford, Brent Kuper and Luke Haberer.

These young men represented themselves, their families and their community in a first-class fashion, and I wish them all the best in their future endeavors, both on and off the field.

HONORING THE ROTARY CLUB OF MONROE FOR 90 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the Rotary Club of Monroe, which for 90 years has faithfully carried on the mission of Rotary International to "Serve Above Self."

First established in 1918, Monroe, LA's Rotary Club bears the distinction as one of our Nation's oldest Rotary clubs, founded only 13 years after the original club—the Rotary Club of Chicago—was established. To date, Rotary International includes approximately 31,000 clubs in more than 165 countries.

With a membership of approximately 240 men and women from a host of vocations, the Rotary Club of Monroe takes an active role in the community through many local civic and charitable organizations including the American Cancer Society, American Red Cross, Salvation Army, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, YMCA, Monroe Youth Baseball, the Food Bank of Northeast Louisiana, Camp Quality, and the Salvation Army Christmas Party which provides gifts to needy children.

The Rotary Club of Monroe also actively assists local high schools by sponsoring Interact Clubs at four Monroe schools and also sponsoring two high school students to attend Camp RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards). The Rotary Club of Monroe also assists attendees of Boys' and Girls' State and funds an endowed scholarship at the University of Louisiana at Monroe.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Rotary Club of Monroe, which will celebrate its 90th anniversary on June 26, 2008, for the countless ways the club has worked since 1918 to enrich the surrounding community and through each individual member's commitment to putting "Service Above Self."

JUNIOR GROUP PERFORMANCE TEAM FROM MOSHEIM MIDDLE SCHOOL FOR THEIR FIRST-PLACE PERFORMANCE IN TENNESSEE HISTORY DAY.

HON. DAVID DAVIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Junior Group Performance Team from Mosheim Middle School for their first-place performance in the Tennessee History Day competition. They will now move on to the national competition next week.

The Mosheim Middle School team, composed of students Brianna Morrow, Melissa Kinser and Brittany Loveall, took first place with their performance on the Salem Witch Trials.

To understand and present these topics in an articulate way is a noteworthy and outstanding accomplishment. The students have represented Mosheim Middle School and East Tennessee in an exceptional way.

With their first-place performance, the team will travel to the University of Maryland and compete against other students from across the country at the 2007–2008 National History Day competition.

It is a pleasure to see that these students are taking the initiative to represent their schools in the most upstanding way. Their dedication to knowledge, excellence and hard work is honorable and I congratulate them on their successes.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring Brianna Morrow, Melissa Kinser and Brittany Loveall and in wishing them the best of luck at next week's National History Day competition.

TRIBUTE TO GENE AND CAROLE VUKELIC ON THEIR 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. and Mrs. Gene and Carole Vukelic on their 50th wedding anniversary.

Gene and Carole have raised seven children, and their five sons, Paul, Jeff, Tim, Peter, and Matthew, all work for Try-It Distributing, the company Gene's father started in 1928 and a recipient of the Canisius College Center for Entrepreneurship Family Business of the Year.

A devoted Western New Yorker, Gene was raised in Lackawanna, New York and attended Canisius High School and LeMoyne College in Syracuse. The son of a Croatian immigrant, Gene learned the value of hard work and tenacity in the face of adversity from his father, Stephen. Stephen only went to school until the sixth grade and worked wherever he could, including at the Bethlehem Steel plant in Lackawanna. According to Gene, however, Stephen Vukelic was "an entrepreneur at heart". When he was 28 years old, Stephen opened the Try-It Bottling Works company in a small building with one truck, and started bottling soft drinks in Lackawanna. Today, Try-It Distributing Co., Inc. is a hugely successful beverage firm.

Gene has carried on his father's spirit of entrepreneurship and is now Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Try-It Distributing Company. His five sons work with him to develop the business their great grandfather started 80 years ago.

Madam Speaker, it is a great honor for me to recognize Gene and Carole Vukelic for their tenacity, passion, and dedication to the Western New York community. I would like to offer my sincere congratulations in celebration of their 50 golden years together, and extend my best wishes to the Vukelics and their family on their 50th wedding anniversary.

IN HONOR OF THE MINNESOTA ASSISTANCE COUNCIL FOR VETERANS

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, since its founding in 1992 with the financial assistance of a local VFW post, the Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans, MAC–V, has been serving Minnesota's veterans with pride and honor. Back then, it started by providing 4 homeless veterans with shelter and support. Today, it serves hundreds all across the state.

Too often, our brave heroes return from service to find the life they had left behind has left them behind in their absence. MAC–V helps our veterans pick up the pieces of their shattered lives in so many ways. In addition to providing shelter to veterans who return from service and find themselves in need of this basic need, MAC–V also helps veterans struggling with alcohol and drug addiction, provides important job training skills, and more.