

created the BEOG. Pell's dedication to providing assistance to college students in meeting the high costs of a college education will be remembered for years to come.

Claiborne Pell was also very dedicated to the Arts and Humanities. He was the author of the National Foundation of the Arts and the Humanities Act of 1965. Both of these led to the creation of the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities. The National Endowment for the Arts fostered many techniques and styles that are credited with making American artists distinguished worldwide.

Mr. Pell's outstanding leadership, patriotism and accomplishments will surely serve as an inspiration for many Americans.

CONGRATULATING THE SAINT FRANCIS SPARTAN FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 9, 2009

Mr. ROSKAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Saint Francis Spartans football team for their remarkable victory in the Class 5A Illinois State championship on November 29, 2008.

Saint Francis' road to the State championship is a great story of success through hard work and determination. In the previous two seasons, the Spartans struggled vigorously to overcome many obstacles. This year, all their hard work paid off. The steadfast Spartans pulled off a tremendous turnaround, ending the regular season with a record of 9–1.

In Saturday's championship game, the Spartans faced off against the top-ranked, 9-0 Metamora Redbirds. The Redbirds entered the game with a 27-game winning streak. Despite the steep challenge ahead, the Spartans stayed focused on the game. They tenaciously persevered, beating the Redbirds 49–35 and breaking the record for the most points scored in the 5A title game.

Madam Speaker and distinguished colleagues, please join me in commending the Saint Francis players and coaches for their intensity and dedication throughout the season. Their incredible performance in the State championship is a tribute to long hours of hard work, both on and off the field.

Spartans, your families, your school, and your community are extremely proud of what you've accomplished. I wish you all the best in the future. Go Spartans!

TRIBUTE ON THE DEPARTURE OF CHIEF OF STAFF DAVID GOLDENBERG

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 9, 2009

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my departing Chief of Staff, David Goldenberg. With great reluctance but immense gratitude, I bid farewell to David after almost 9 years in my office, nearly 2 as my Chief of Staff.

Madam Speaker, David will be sorely missed. His policy knowledge, political acumen, generosity of heart, and dedication to his work leaves an indelible impression, not only on myself but on all those members of my staff who work closely with him. David has served as a colleague, leader, mentor and friend to much of my staff over the years, and it is on their behalf, as well as mine, that I honor him today.

David is reliable and good-natured, hard-working and humorous. His leadership in my office has been marked by charity and devotion, acceptance and affection. David has been an asset not only to Florida's 23rd District, and not only to the State of Florida, but also to the entire country, as an advocate of those policies that seek to uplift people and better their lives.

Madam Speaker, as David and his wife, Nami, move from Washington, D.C. to Chicago, I wish them much happiness and the best of luck in this new chapter in their lives. I only insist that they both return to Washington to visit me as soon as possible.

David, I thank you.

GAZA

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 9, 2009

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, nearly 9,000 rockets, missiles, and mortars have been fired into Israel since 2001, terrorizing the Israeli people. More than 6,000 of them have fallen since Israel withdrew entirely from the Gaza Strip and Hamas took over its leadership in 2005. The range of these rockets continues to grow, putting more of Israel's population in danger.

The humanitarian situation in Gaza also worsens by the day, and scores of civilians have been hurt or killed in the fighting. Hamas terrorists embed themselves in private homes, schools, mosques, hospitals, and use innocent Palestinians as human shields.

I fully support Israel's right to defend itself against the constant barrage of attacks from Hamas. However, it is imperative that both the Hamas government in Gaza and the State of Israel stop this cycle of violence that has caused hundreds of casualties, before it gets worse. Israelis in Southern Israel and Palestinians in Gaza live in constant fear for their lives, and this is unacceptable.

The Bush Administration must immediately take all necessary measures, in conjunction with the world community, to broker a peaceful and sustainable resolution to this volatile situation. Should the President heed this call, it will bolster the incoming Obama Administration's efforts as it advocates for a lasting peace.

Military action will not result in an enduring resolution of these long simmering tensions. It is only through diplomacy and a strengthening of the Israeli Palestinian reconciliation process that a sustainable two state solution will be achieved. The violence must stop and the healing process begin, before more civilians are hurt and more lives are destroyed.

SECOND ANNUAL NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS DAY

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 9, 2009

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the second annual National Human Trafficking Awareness Day on January 11, 2009. Human trafficking is a modern form of slavery, and the largest manifestation of slavery today. It continues to be a multi-dimensional threat that deprives people of their human rights and dignity.

According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, human trafficking is now the fastest-growing criminal industry in the world. About 80 percent of transnational victims are women, girls and up to 50 percent are minors. It is vital that the United States continue to expand our efforts to combat trafficking both within and beyond our own borders.

I am very proud that in my district, a number of agencies, including law enforcement, victims service providers, and community organizations have joined together to form the Orange County Human Trafficking Task Force. I hope that more local communities will stand together to protect every person's right to be free from forced marriage, prostitution, and labor.

Each of us has a responsibility to fight human trafficking and slavery. I urge my colleagues and all Americans to join me in recognizing National Human Trafficking Awareness Day, and working to stop human trafficking around the world.

TRIBUTE TO RUTH COLE-CHU

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 9, 2009

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of one of eastern Connecticut's most dynamic leaders, Ruth Cole-Chu of Salem, who passed away on Wednesday, January 7, 2009.

Ruth was born in Hweli, China where her parents were serving as Baptist Missionaries. After returning to the United States, Ruth attended Wheaton College in Illinois where she received her bachelor of arts in speech communications. She later attended Golden Gate University School of Law in San Francisco where she received her law degree.

Ruth was a devoted wife, mother, and public servant. She was also an attorney and an education consultant. As an active member of her community, she participated in various local boards and commissions. She served 6 years as a member of the Board of Education, including a term as chairwoman, where she fought tirelessly to expand opportunities for the students of Salem. While she began her career as an attorney, it was as an advocate for children that Ruth truly made her mark.

Ruth believed that school communities should be a place where children from all walks of life could grow and learn. She was an

unwavering advocate for multiculturalism and diversity, and it was with that in mind that she founded the Inter-district School for Arts and Communications, the ISAAC Charter School. Since 1997, the ISAAC school has offered a unique educational experience for students in southeastern Connecticut where they can learn about the importance of diversity and the value of community service.

Ruth's belief in compassion and open-mindedness is a message that she carried to all she met. It is a spirit that lives on in her own children, Emily, Hannah and Lily. While her compassion for all children marked her legacy, it was the love that she had for her own children that defined her life.

We in eastern Connecticut are blessed to have had such a dedicated public servant and those of us who knew her are blessed to have had such a friend. We will take solace in her memory and the example that she set for thousands of young people across our State. To Lee, her beloved husband, and the entire Cole-Chu family, please know that our thoughts and prayers are with you.

CITY OF BELLAIRE'S 100TH
ANNIVERSARY

HON. JOHN ABNEY CULBERSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 9, 2009

Mr. CULBERSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the City of Bellaire's 100th Anniversary. The prosperous and tranquil neighborhoods of Bellaire, Texas exemplify why so many new people and businesses move to Texas every day. The people of Bellaire take pride in their thriving city, which was founded in 1908 alongside the City of Houston. I grew up in West University Place, right next door, and I experienced what every young person in Bellaire enjoys today—the comfort and joy of growing up in a small town, even though we were in the middle of one of the biggest cities in America.

One of Houston's greatest strengths is the small town feel of neighborhoods all over Harris County, and nowhere is that small town safety, security, and prosperity stronger than Bellaire. The people of Bellaire look after one another, and take pride in their city and their neighborhoods and fill up every parking spot for blocks around whenever there is a parent meeting at a local school.

When Hurricane Ike knocked down trees and damaged property and knocked out the power, the people of Bellaire showed once again why their beautiful city is so successful. They did not sit around and wait for the federal government to help them. Neighbors simply pulled out their chain saws, and their hammers and tools and walked door to door on their street to see who needed help. Elderly or infirm residents were helped by their next door neighbors in the very best spirit of America.

Bellaire's small town roots go back to its founding six miles outside of Houston in 1908 by William Wright Baldwin. In 1918, when Bellaire was incorporated as an independent city, its population was 200, and during World War II the city grew rapidly. By 1948, the City of Houston had completely surrounded Bellaire, yet Bellaire has always maintained its independence as a home rule city.

Bellaire's fire and police departments are among the best in Texas. Building on a strong foundation of neighbors helping neighbors, Bellaire's firemen and policemen have helped make Bellaire one of the safest cities in America. People from all over Texas and America continue to vote with their feet and their dollars by moving their homes and businesses to Bellaire at a time when other communities across the nation are shrinking.

Bellaire was a part of the Seventh Congressional District in 1966 when the District's first Congressman was future President George H. W. Bush, who was followed by the Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee Bill Archer. Population growth in the greater Houston area caused District 7 to be drawn farther west until 2006, when Bellaire once again became part of this historic congressional district.

As someone who grew up next door in West University, with many fond memories of Bellaire, I am especially proud to represent the people of this great city as their Congressman in Washington, D.C. It gives me great pleasure to congratulate the people of Bellaire on building one of the safest, most prosperous, and most pleasant cities in America over the last 100 years, and I will always do everything I can to preserve, protect, and defend Bellaire's wonderful quality of life for the generations that will follow us in the next 100 years. Congratulations Bellaire.

HONORING BERNIECE HUGHES

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 9, 2009

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Madam Speaker, I stand up today before my esteemed colleagues to honor a lifelong resident of my district who just flat-out loved politics. Nothing—short of time with her three children, five grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren and nine great-great-grandchildren—made Berniece Hughes of Conroe, Texas, happier than getting mad at what we all had to say on her favorite all-news channels. The daughter of the late W.V. and Lennie Galloway Holliday of Polk County, Berniece Hughes did her growing up during the Great Depression. She was a girls' basketball and track team member at Goodrich High in Polk County where she was in the 1934 graduating class. The oldest of six, Berniece is now reunited in heaven with her brothers and sisters and her sweetheart, B.F. "Bert" Hughes.

A master of the one-liners, Berniece, even at 92, was—as her daughter puts it—a "doodle mama just like Driving Miss Daisy." Likening her mother and father to screen giants Tracy and Hepburn, Lana says quick quips and laughter were just part of growing up a Hughes. Berniece thoroughly enjoyed being home with her children—B.F. "Mike" Hughes, Jr. of Livingston, and Wayne Hughes and Lana Hughes of Houston—as they were growing up. She was even more delighted to spend the second half of her days in Conroe enjoying watching her children bring her grandchildren and her grandchildren bring her great-grandchildren and so on. Everyone who met her described Berniece as "a pistol."

Once again, Madam Speaker, I thank my colleagues for allowing me to share the story

of a life well lived and ask for their thoughts and prayers as Berniece's large, loving family will gather together at the Forest Park Lawndale Cemetery and Funeral Home to say their final goodbyes to their "doodle mama," this Saturday morning.

IN RECOGNITION OF MARSHALL
BILLINGSLEA, DEPUTY UNDER
SECRETARY OF THE NAVY

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 9, 2009

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Marshall Billingslea, the outgoing Deputy Under Secretary of the U.S. Navy. I am proud to recognize his service to the Nation and thank him for his contributions to our national defense.

Marshall entered public service after receiving his master of arts in law and diplomacy from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy in 1995. He served for over 6 years as the Senior Professional Staff Member for National Security Affairs on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. During this period, he was the senior advisor to the chairman and members of the committee on all proliferation, arms control, defense, intelligence, and counter-terrorism issues. These experiences provided an enormous breadth of knowledge and laid the foundation for a career of outstanding public service.

Mr. Billingslea later joined the Bush administration as the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Negotiations Policy and served as the chief negotiator for all major international agreements. In this capacity, he was the principal Department of Defense representative on numerous U.S. arms control delegations, and the U.S. Head of Delegation for Transparency and Verification negotiations with the Russian Federation in connection with the Moscow Treaty on Strategic Nuclear Reductions.

In recognition of his outstanding accomplishments, he was appointed the Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations/Low-Intensity Conflict. As the principal civilian advisor to the U.S. Secretary of Defense on Special Operations Forces and counter-terrorism efforts against al Qaeda and other terrorist groups, he had enormous responsibility to safeguard the American people in supervising all special operations activities in the Department of Defense.

Prior to his current position, he served as NATO's assistant Secretary General for Defence Investment. He bolstered the national security of the United States by promoting NATO armaments cooperation policies and programs, and for military common funding. Additionally, he served as Chairman of NATO's Conference of National Armaments Directors (CNAD) and Chairman of the Board of Directors for NATO's Consultation, Command, and Control Organization.

As the first Deputy Under Secretary of the Navy in over 7 years, Marshall has been the senior advisor to the Secretary of the Navy on a wide range of policy and intelligence matters. His advice and counsel to the Secretary during a time of war, as well as his leadership in standing up the DUSN organization, has been invaluable to the Secretary and the Department of the Navy as a whole.