

Registrars and Admissions Officers and want to thank Congressman MURPHY for his work on this important bill.

IN HONOR OF GUST SEVASTOS

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 30, 2009*

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mr. Gust Sevastos, as he is being recognized by the Cleveland AHEPA—American Hellenic Education Progressive Association—as the Socratic Award Honoree of the Year, at their 44th Annual Scholarship Awards Banquet.

Mr. Sevastos immigrated to Cleveland in 1958, with not much more than the clothes on his back, faith in his heart and the promise of the American dream. He married, started a family and began his own business. He also began a legacy of dedicated service to the Greek community of Cleveland. His service to others and spirit of volunteerism continues to reflect throughout our community.

Mr. Sevastos served as president of Annunciation Church, and was one of the founding members of the annual Greek Heritage Festival. His dedication to preserving his heritage while assisting others to succeed is also evidenced in the Chios Society, where he held leadership positions on both local and national levels. During his tenure with the Chios Society, he led many fundraising efforts and raise hundreds of thousands of dollars for medical clinics, including an eye clinic and hospital, to provide greatly needed medical services for the poor in the beautiful coastal town of Chios, Greece. Mr. Sevastos has also helped raise tens of thousands of dollars toward college scholarships for young adults in the Cleveland community. His significant contributions have not gone unrecognized. He has been honored numerous times by local, state and national leaders of the United States and Greece as well.

Madam Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor of Mr. Gust Sevastos upon his recognition as the Cleveland AHEPA's Socratic Honoree of the Year. His leadership, kindness, service to others and commitment to preserving the rich cultural heritage of his Greek homeland serves to deepen the diversity in our Cleveland community. Mr. Sevastos' lifelong spirit of volunteerism and dedication to helping others has enriched the lives of numerous families and individuals—from Cleveland to Chios, connecting us all in our shared humanity. I consider Mr. Sevastos to be a friend and mentor, and I wish him and his family an abundance of peace, health and happiness.

TRIBUTE TO IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY'S OFFICE OF BIOTECHNOLOGY

**HON. TOM LATHAM**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 30, 2009*

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the Office of Biotechnology at Iowa

State University in Ames, Iowa on their 25-year anniversary.

In 1984, Vice President of Research Daniel Zaffarano appointed a Biotechnology Council comprised of five colleges at the university: Agriculture, Engineering, Home Economics, Science and Humanities, and Veterinary Medicine. Despite facing early skepticism by some, within two years the Iowa General Assembly backed the biotechnology program with \$17 million in funding after the Council convinced the public of the benefits.

Over the last 25 years, the Office of Biotechnology has provided critical support to many of the university's academic colleges and to K-12 outreach programs. The office has also helped provide research funds to new faculty and equipment and resources to 28 different service facilities at the university.

I congratulate Iowa State University's Office of Biotechnology on this historic anniversary and for its great contributions to science and the State of Iowa. It is an honor to represent current director Walter Fehr, as well as each current and past member of the Office of Biotechnology in the United States Congress and I wish the Office great success in the future.

INTRODUCING THE PARENTAL  
CONSENT ACT

**HON. RON PAUL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 30, 2009*

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce the Parental Consent Act. This bill forbids Federal funds from being used for any universal or mandatory mental-health screening of students without the express, written, voluntary, informed consent of their parents or legal guardians. This bill protects the fundamental right of parents to direct and control the upbringing and education of their children.

The New Freedom Commission on Mental Health has recommended that the federal and state governments work toward the implementation of a comprehensive system of mental-health screening for all Americans. The commission recommends that universal or mandatory mental-health screening first be implemented in public schools as a prelude to expanding it to the general public. However, neither the commission's report nor any related mental-health screening proposal requires parental consent before a child is subjected to mental-health screening. Federally-funded universal or mandatory mental-health screening in schools without parental consent could lead to labeling more children as "ADD" or "hyperactive" and thus force more children to take psychotropic drugs, such as Ritalin, against their parents' wishes.

Already, too many children are suffering from being prescribed psychotropic drugs for nothing more than children's typical rambunctious behavior. According to Medco Health Solutions, more than 2.2 million children are receiving more than one psychotropic drug at one time. In fact, according to Medco Trends, in 2003, total spending on psychiatric drugs for children exceeded spending on antibiotics or asthma medication.

Many children have suffered harmful side effects from using psychotropic drugs. Some of the possible side effects include mania, vio-

lence, dependence, and weight gain. Yet, parents are already being threatened with child abuse charges if they resist efforts to drug their children. Imagine how much easier it will be to drug children against their parents' wishes if a federally-funded mental-health screener makes the recommendation.

Universal or mandatory mental-health screening could also provide a justification for stigmatizing children from families that support traditional values. Even the authors of mental-health diagnosis manuals admit that mental-health diagnoses are subjective and based on social constructions. Therefore, it is all too easy for a psychiatrist to label a person's disagreement with the psychiatrist's political beliefs a mental disorder. For example, a federally-funded school violence prevention program lists "intolerance" as a mental problem that may lead to school violence. Because "intolerance" is often a code word for believing in traditional values, children who share their parents' values could be labeled as having mental problems and a risk of causing violence. If the mandatory mental-health screening program applies to adults, everyone who believes in traditional values could have his or her beliefs stigmatized as a sign of a mental disorder. Taxpayer dollars should not support programs that may label those who adhere to traditional values as having a "mental disorder."

Madam Speaker, universal or mandatory mental-health screening threatens to undermine parents' right to raise their children as the parents see fit. Forced mental-health screening could also endanger the health of children by leading to more children being improperly placed on psychotropic drugs, such as Ritalin, or stigmatized as "mentally ill" or a risk of causing violence because they adhere to traditional values. Congress has a responsibility to the nation's parents and children to stop this from happening. I, therefore, urge my colleagues to cosponsor the Parental Consent Act.

SALUTING HARLEM'S OWN  
RAMONA "MONA" LOPEZ

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 30, 2009*

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to salute and congratulate my dear friend, an outstanding businesswoman and community leader, Ramona "Mona" Lopez in celebration of the 369th Veterans' Association Annual Pre-Mother's Day Brunch taking place on Sunday, May 9 at the elegant Marina del Rey.

Affectionately known in Harlem as Mona by her many fans, friends, business associates and Jazz musician legends, was born on the Island of Puerto Rico and came to New York at an early age. Mona was educated in the Public School system, raised three daughters and embarked on a career that has spanned over three decades. Her daughters Joann, Eva, and Dolores have blessed her with four grandchildren, Margaret, Kimberly, Eva, and Jonathan.

Since December 1978, Ms. Mona Lopez has managed Showman's Cafe in all of its locations within my Congressional District. Showman's, originally located next to the

World Famous Apollo Theatre, over the years has been the home club of choice and hang-out for many of Harlem's renowned entrepreneurs and personalities. Since 1942, Showman's Jazz Cafe has showcased top musicians for Harlem and International audiences, as Mona, Co-Owner and retired Son of Sam New York City Police Detective Al Howard, and former barmaid "Lil" Pierce refer to as "family."

Madam Speaker, The Friends of Showman's roster include luminaries and entertainers like Count Basie, Billy Eckstine, Sammy Davis, Jr., Charles Honi Coles, Leroy Myers, Gregory Hines, Pop Brown, Nat Davis and Savion Glover. Personalities like Jesse Walker, Joe Yancy and Jimmy Booker. Performers like Bill Doggett, George Benson, Seleno Clarke, Irene Reid, Jimmy "Preacher" Robins, Gloria Lynne, Joey Morant, Akiko Tsuruga, Grady Tate, Frank Dell and the Prince of Harlem Lonnie Youngblood.

Mona has always been, and still is a "Hands-On" person and as Operations Manager she along with her dedicated and energized staff, is responsible for the reputation that Showman's has maintained for being "The Jazz Club in Harlem" since it was founded back in 1942. For her service to the community, Mona has been honored to receive a "Woman of the Year" award from the Tioga Democratic Club, the Women's Ministry Achievement Award, and a special award from the Greater Harlem Uptown Chamber of Commerce Association. In 2009 Ms. Lopez became a partner in Showman's Jazz Club.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 2009

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, on Wednesday, April 29, 2009, on rollcall number 216 I am not recorded. This rollcall vote on S. Con. Res. 13, the Conference Report to a Concurrent Resolution setting forth the Congressional Budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2010 and budgetary levels for fiscal years 2009 and 2011 through 2014, occurred while I was absent from the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

I would have voted "nay" on S. Con. Res. 13 because the budget significantly increases the Federal deficit and passes the burden of payment on to future generations of Americans. The reserve funds singled out for healthcare reform, climate change, affordable housing, and Medicare alone represent a dramatic expansion of the powers of the Federal government. I am committed to voting to improve fiscal responsibility and to reduce the size and power of the federal government. As a result of that commitment, I would not support this resolution. On April 2, 2009 the House of Representatives voted in favor of the House Budget Resolution (233-196), on that vote, I am recorded as voting "nay."

TRIBUTE TO JAMES GRABAU

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 2009

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize James Grabau, a resident of Boone, Iowa, and president of R. H. Grabau Construction Inc.

James, who has been the president of R.H. Grabau Construction Inc. since 1984, was recently honored with The Master Builders of Iowa "Build Iowa Award." The award is given to one Master Builder member each year who best exemplifies skill, integrity, and responsibility in the construction industry and in the member's community.

James has offered his time and talents to many community organizations. Among many other contributions, he has served as President of Boone's Future, the Boone Chamber of Commerce, Boone's Industrial Development Corporation, and the Master Builder's of Iowa. He has served on the boards of Boone County YMCA and Hawkeye Federal Savings Bank. Additionally, he has served as Global Ambassador for the Rotary Group Study Exchange to Australia, Church Elder, and Chairman of the Congregation of the Trinity Lutheran Church. Through his work, he has been honored with such awards as the Al Kinney Award, DMACC Alumni Award, National Leadership Award, and the Associated General Contractors of America Chapter President of the Year Award while President of the Master Builders of Iowa.

I know that my colleagues in the United States Congress join me in commending James Grabau for his professional contributions to the construction industry, his leadership and dedication to representing Iowa in his career, and committing time to his community. I consider it an honor to represent James and his family in Congress, and I wish him the best in his future endeavors.

CONGRATULATING STACEY DONALDSON 2009 MISSISSIPPI TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 2009

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I would like to congratulate the 2009 Mississippi Teacher of the Year, Stacey Donaldson.

The Teacher of the Year program, sponsored by the state Department of Education and the Mississippi Teacher Center, awards certified public school teachers for their outstanding performance. Donaldson, a 37-year-old Murrah High School English teacher, was selected for exhibiting leadership, excelling in the classroom and being active in her community.

Stacey, a graduate of University of Southern Mississippi, obtained a bachelor's degree in Broadcast Journalism and a minor in speech communications. She worked as a broadcast journalist before changing careers and becoming a teacher. Stacey earned a master of teaching degree from William Carey College and became a national board certified teacher

and completed the Advanced Placement Institute at Millsaps College.

Prior to teaching at Murrah H.S., Ms. Donaldson taught at Bassfield High School in the Jefferson Davis School District and at Sumner Hill Junior High in Clinton, MS. "The art of teaching is bigger than the subject one teaches," Donaldson said. It is no surprise to those who know Stacey best that she would be recognized for her achievements. Donaldson's father, Allen Hall, "noticed his daughter's potential and encouraged her to be the best she could be". With this in mind, Stacey serves as a member of the Murrah site council and sponsor of the school's Not Here Club, which discourages students from substance abuse, as well as coordinates Murrah's Seatbelt Safety Project.

Stacey's husband, Johnny Donaldson, describes her as passionate, hardworking and devoted. She is the mother of two daughters, 10-year old Camaryn and 5-year old Cailyn. In addition to her role as wife, mother and teacher, Stacey finds time to give back to her church and community. She is a member of Greater New Jerusalem's scholarship committee and is a young women's ministry volunteer for the Sims House Stewpot Ministries.

I am very proud of Ms. Donaldson and all of her accomplishments. She is truly a remarkable example of the talented, dedicated and hardworking teachers that help to educate Mississippi's best and brightest children.

Please join me today in congratulating Ms. Stacey Donaldson, the 2009 Mississippi Teacher of the Year.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 2009

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, on Wednesday, April 29, 2009, on rollcall number 223 I am not recorded. This rollcall vote on H.R. 1913, the Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2009, to provide Federal assistance to States, local jurisdictions, and Indian tribes to prosecute hate crimes, and for other purposes, occurred while I was absent from the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

Violence, whether it's based on a perceived or actual threat, is of enormous concern when it is combined with constitutionally protected rights. Race. Color. National Origin. Religion. Gender. Disability. All of these fundamental rights are protected by our Constitution and hate crimes themselves have additional protection in Section 280003(a) of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994. Any hate crimes perpetrated in violation of either law should be fully prosecuted by the U.S. Department of Justice and we, as the DOJ's appropriators, should give them all the resources they need to prevent any hate crimes from occurring.

I believe existing federal law is more than adequate to prosecute hate crimes and, as such, should I have been present I would have voted "nay."