

West Morgan High School has always upheld the highest standards of excellence in all its endeavors, and this team of outstanding athletes is no exception.

We commend the leadership of Principal Billy Hopkins and Coaches Keith Harris, Alesha Hutto, and Kenda Bradford on their successful careers with West Morgan High, and we look forward to the continuation of a tradition of solid and consistent performance in both academics and athletics.

Madam Speaker, we congratulate each member of the dedicated Lady Rebels softball team—Hannah Harris; Haley Willingham; Madison Jones; Whitlee Potter; Hayden Hamby; Brittany Thompson; Ashley Hooper; Rachel Harbin; Brilley Stephenson; Hallie Cunningham; Lauren Seibert; Hannah Amos; Hannah Draper; Heather Amos; Mary Kelley; Chelsea Boston; Delissa Tidwell; Baylee Carpenter; Mikinzie Steele; Ashley Crow; Jamie Rohr; Katie Brazier; Alexis Casteel; Kimberlee Denard; Bari Jones; Kristen Parrish—and their staff for their commitment to achieving this championship.

IN HONOR OF RON SARGENT

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2009

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues here in the House of Representatives to join me as I rise to extend warm greetings and offer my congratulations to Ron Sargent as he retires from the YMCA Retirement Fund. When Ron came to the Newark YMCA 40 years ago, I immediately saw his potential. He was eager to do the job as a well prepared and dedicated employee. During his 40 years in various roles with multiple YMCAs, he has been a credit to the YMCA's programs and we owe him our respect and gratitude for a job well done. It was a pleasure for me to personally work with him during his tenure with the YMWCA of Newark and Vicinity.

As Ron Sargent begins a new phase in his life, I want him to know the dedication and commitment he exhibited during his YMCA career will always be appreciated. It takes a special person to contribute to society in the way of YMCA service. Fortunately, while acting in his different capacities, he was able to make a difference in the lives of many through the programs he was involved in and/or instituted. Ron's effectiveness and creativity led to multiple awards being presented to him and his programs were featured in the YMCA Discovery Magazine. His career with the YMCA has certainly been one of accomplishment and leadership by example. As he is feted at a dinner in his honor on July 31, 2009, Ron should know that his many years of service to the YMCA are true testaments of his character and that his significant contributions will never be forgotten.

Madam Speaker, I know my colleagues agree that Ron Sargent has been a true asset to the YMCA and that they join me in wishing him well as he enters his retirement years.

HONORING THE LIFE OF NAOMI
DURST BOWDEN

HON. STEPHANIE HERSETH SANDLIN

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2009

Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Naomi Jane Durst Bowden.

Mrs. Bowden was born in Custer, South Dakota, on June 13, 1915, and lived there until 1948. She was the daughter of pioneers and a loving mother and homemaker. She moved to Jesup, Georgia in 1948 and was an integral part of the community, serving as a founding member and Lay Leader of the Epworth United Methodist Church. She taught as a substitute teacher in the Jesup schools, and, for a number of years, hosted a women's radio program on WBGR in Jesup. She had six sons, eighteen grandchildren, and twenty-four great grandchildren. Up until a short time before her death, she could name the names of all her grandchildren and great grandchildren—something she routinely did before she fell asleep. At age 93, Naomi Jane Durst Bowden passed away in her sleep on Monday, May 25th in Athens, Georgia.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the life and works of Naomi Jane Durst Bowden.

IN TRIBUTE TO THE FOREST
COUNTY POTAWATOMI COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION'S 20TH ANNI-
VERSARY

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2009

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Forest County Potawatomi Community Foundation. The Forest County Potawatomi Community Foundation was created in 1999 founded on the Potawatomi belief "to take what we need and give back what we can."

A review of the history of the Forest County Potawatomi Tribe will help to understand their desire to give back to the community. The tribe was forcibly removed from its homeland, endured strained relationships with governments, and lived in hardship and poverty. They survived by relying upon their internal strength and sharing with each other.

Through its foundation, the Forest County Potawatomi Tribe now provides to others who are struggling in the community. I believe that despite of or rather because of these centuries' old struggles, the Forest County Potawatomi Community Foundation has emerged to reflect their tribal values and beliefs to return assistance to the communities where they live and work. The Forest County Potawatomi Community Foundation supports civic and community projects, such as public health care issues, education, economic development, and the arts. They have funded many different types of organizations ranging from large, well known associations to small grass-

roots organizations. The foundation meets with any organization that applies for a grant and, if funded, works in partnership with the group to ensure success. The foundation feels each agency it funds allows them to carry on the Potawatomi tradition of "giving back what we can."

Now celebrating their 20th Anniversary, the Forest County Potawatomi Community Foundation has delivered over \$18 million dollars to more than 250 charities and nonprofit organizations throughout the Greater Milwaukee area. I am grateful for their empathetic spirit of giving.

Madam Speaker for these reasons, I am honored to pay tribute to the Forest County Potawatomi Community Foundation for their support, dedication and service to the people of my district and throughout Wisconsin.

HONORING MRS. MELENA
BOGHOSIAN

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2009

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of an Armenian Genocide survivor, Mrs. Melena Boghosian. She passed away at her home in Fresno, California at the age of one hundred and three.

A fifty-five year resident of Fresno, California, Mrs. Boghosian was known around the community for her amazing survival story during the First World War, when the Ottoman Turks massacred an estimated 1.5 million Armenians. Born in Erzurum Turkey, she fled her home as a young child after her parents and siblings were murdered, in an attempt by the Ottoman Empire to eliminate any Armenian presence in the area. Missionaries took young Melena to an orphanage in Syria where she lived for several years.

During her stay at the orphanage, Melena began corresponding with her future husband Avedis Gegaregian. At the age of sixteen, she left the orphanage and married Avedis in Beirut, Lebanon. Shortly after they were married, the two traveled by ship to the United States and immigrated through Ellis Island in New York City. Avedis and Melena settled in Camden, New Jersey until Avedis' death in the mid-1950's.

After the death of her first husband, Melena moved to the Central Valley of California, to be closer to family and friends. While living in Fresno, she worked in alterations at Berkeley's Department Store. She later met, and married, her second husband, Nooregan Boghosian, and they lived together until his death. Melena was an active member of the Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church and a life long member of the Armenian Relief Society. She is survived by her daughter Jessy Shahbazian.

Madam Speaker, I stand today to honor the extraordinary life of Mrs. Melena Boghosian. I invite my colleagues to join me in this tribute to this incredible woman, and hope that her legacy lives on for future generations.