

HONORING RESURRECTION
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 6, 2009

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Resurrection Elementary School in Dubuque, Iowa. The students, parents, faculty, and staff at Resurrection Elementary have earned the 2009 No Child Left Behind Blue Ribbon School Award. Resurrection is one of 320 schools in the United States and one of only 50 private schools that have earned the Blue Ribbon award this year.

The Blue Ribbon School Award is given annually to a select number of schools that demonstrate dramatic gains in student achievement. These schools are exemplary models that other schools can learn from. The students, families, faculty, and staff at Resurrection are a caring community. As part of the Holy Family Catholic School system, Resurrection is shaping students who believe in justice, peace, stewardship, academic and personal excellence, and civic responsibility.

Resurrection Elementary has worked hard to be one of the best schools in the country. I'm proud to represent Resurrection Elementary and the entire Holy Family Catholic Schools community in Congress and look forward to their continued success.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF CAROL STREAM, ILLINOIS

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 6, 2009

Mr. ROSKAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the incorporation of Carol Stream, Illinois, a vital part of my Congressional District.

The Village was founded by Jay Stream, a leading figure the city's first residential housing development, Carol Stream Estates, in 1959. Named after Jay's daughter Carol, the Village was incorporated on January 5th, 1959. From its early origins, Carol Stream has been a model for other cities and towns to follow, through its continued dedication building a friendly and welcoming community for residents and visitors alike.

On the occasion of this 50th Anniversary, we join together to celebrate Carol Stream's legacy of growth and prosperity and to look ahead to the opportunities facing our state and our nation. Today both marks 50 years of working together to build a brighter future, and reminds us that our work continues.

Madam Speaker and Distinguished Colleagues, please join me in recognizing Carol Stream Mayor Frank Saverino, the Carol Stream Village Legislative Board and the citizens of Carol Stream, and in wishing them every happiness on this special occasion.

RECOGNIZING OLIVIA PATRICIA
THOMAS, THE OLDEST LIVING
NATURAL BORN U.S. CITIZEN

HON. CHRISTOPHER JOHN LEE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 6, 2009

Mr. LEE of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Williamsville, New York resident Olivia Patricia Thomas, who recently became the oldest living natural born United States citizen.

Born on June 29, 1895, Olivia, or Pat as she prefers to be called, recently celebrated her 114th birthday with family and friends. Originally from Iowa, Pat met her late husband Frederick in grade school in 1923, and the couple then moved to Buffalo in 1946 when Frederick began teaching engineering at the University at Buffalo.

Described as a "social butterfly" by friends, Pat can often be seen moving to the beat of music in group activities classes at St. Francis Home, where she has lived for the last few years.

An avid plant lover, Pat is affectionately referred to as "the plant lady" by her former neighbors for her love of foliage and always keeping a beautiful garden at her previous home, where she lived by herself until she was 109 years of age.

Pat is a wonderful woman and an inspiration to us all.

Madam Speaker, in recognition of her incredible achievement, I ask that this Honorable Body join me in honoring Olivia Patricia Thomas.

HONORING LOGAN SMITH

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 6, 2009

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Logan Smith, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Logan has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Logan has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Logan Smith for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

THE DR. HECTOR P. GARCIA DAY
IN TEXAS

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 6, 2009

Mr. ORTIZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the State of Texas for honoring Dr. Hector P. Garcia, with its first official Day of Recognition as a civil rights leader and founder of the American G.I. Forum of the United States.

During this past legislative session, the lawmakers of the State of Texas saw it fitting to honor September 16 as the Dr. Hector P. Garcia Day of Recognition throughout the great State of Texas.

Dr. Garcia was born on January 17, 1914, in the Mexican village of Llera, Tamaulipas, Mexico, to Jose and Faustina Garcia. In 1918, at the age of four, Dr. Garcia's parents and his six brothers and sisters left Mexico during the Mexican Revolution and relocated to Mercedes, Texas. During a time of unprecedented Hispanic uprising, he along with five of his brothers and sisters became doctors.

He went on to earn his bachelor's degree from the University of Texas and his medical degree from the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston in 1940. In 1942, he enlisted in the United States Army and served in World War II. Army officials would go on to discover later during Dr. Garcia's enlistment that he was a medical doctor and he was asked to treat his fellow soldiers, a task he accepted.

While serving in Italy, he earned the Bronze Star Medal with six battle stars and also met his future wife, Wanda Fusillo, whom he married in 1945. In 1946, he was honorably discharged from the Army with a rank of major.

After the war, he moved to Corpus Christi, Texas, where he opened a medical practice, and founded the American G.I. Forum on March 26, 1948, to fight for the rights and benefits promised to returning Hispanic veterans' under the G.I. Bill. His civil rights movement would then grow to also combat discrimination in housing, jobs, education and voting rights.

Congress honored Dr. Hector P. Garcia, who died on July 26, 1996, at age 82. President Bill Clinton eulogized him as a national hero. Congress paid homage to Dr. Garcia in 1998 by granting the American G.I. Forum a congressional charter. This prestigious status places the American G.I. Forum on equal footing with the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars and other such veterans organizations. The American G.I. Forum is the largest Hispanic veterans organization in the country, with over 500 chapters throughout the United States.

Dr. Hector P. Garcia is survived by his three daughters; a brother, Dr. C.P. Garcia of San Antonio; and Dr. Dalia Garcia of Corpus Christi. A son, Hector Jr., died in 1962 at age 13.

Today, I ask that my colleagues join me in commemorating the Dr. Hector P. Garcia Day of Recognition in which his service and dedication to the State of Texas and this country will be remembered on September 16 for years to come.