

regarding the issue of 'otherness,' not the least of which is the extraordinary fact of electing an African American president. For me, the 'foreign-ness' which I felt so starkly in childhood and in my growing years, has gradually dissipated as I find myself tossed in the salad bowl of American society, proud to be in the skin I'm in."

Mr. Speaker, Mei T. Nakano has used the experiences of her life to inspire others and is now enjoying time with her husband of 69 years and her three children as well as her grandchildren and great grandchildren. She is also gardening, reading, responding to requests for writing articles, working on book of short stories, and, of course, speaking out when the need arises. Please join me in honoring this special activist who reminds us of the causes worth fighting for.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE REOPENING OF ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 24, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of St. Patrick's Church, one of the 11 Cleveland Catholic Diocese parishes that will be reopening this year.

In 2009 it was announced that several of the Cleveland Catholic Diocese's area churches, including St. Patrick's, were to close. However, just months ago, the Vatican overruled this decision and St. Patrick's will be reopening its doors on Sunday, July 22.

St. Patrick Parish, which was founded on March 17, 1848, is the mother church of 13 parishes on Cleveland's west side. The church was built using sandstone in 1898 and still has its original stained glass windows portraying the saints. The parish grounds also include a Community Center, Rectory, Cemetery, gym, and West Park Catholic Academy's two school buildings.

St. Patrick Parish had served more than 1,110 families in Cleveland's West Park neighborhood before being closed. Upon reopening, the parish anticipates that nearly 80 percent of their former parishioners will return to worship.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognizing the reopening of St. Patrick's Church, a beloved parish that has returned to the City of Cleveland.

IN HONOR OF DEVIL PUPS' 50,000 GRADUATES

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 24, 2012

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Devil Pups Inc. as it celebrates the 50,000 teenagers who have graduated from its program since its inception in 1954.

Mr. Speaker, I am one of those graduates, having completed the program in 1958. I continue to support the program as a member of Devil Pups' Advisory Board. I can personally attest to the program's success in building teenagers' self-confidence and in teaching them to take responsibility for their actions

through Devil Pups' Good Citizenship-Physical Development Program.

The program's impetus was the burning of an American flag by a group of teenagers at a Southern California high school in 1953. Aggravated by this activity and the attitudes of the American youth it represented, retired Marine Corps Colonel Duncan Shaw Sr. and a group of retired Marine Corps Reserve Officers asked the Commandant of the Marine Corps to help aid character development in teenage boys and girls and enable them to become healthier and more successful citizens.

The Commandant agreed to help if the former Marines would form a charitable corporation to solicit contributions needed for food, transportation, insurance, and other sustainable items the government is prohibited from paying for.

The next summer, Camp Pendleton Commanding General John T. Selden granted permission for the nonprofit corporation Devil Pups Inc. to bring aboard 1,800 14- to 17-year-old boys. In 1998, Devil Pups welcomed its first platoon of girls into the program. Through the efforts of the active duty and reserve Marines and Devil Pups volunteers, the program has grown into a highly successful annual project. This summer, Devil Pups will graduate its 50,000th pup.

The name "Devil Pups" was conceived after observing that German troops during World War I called U.S. Marines "Devil Dogs" because of their battlefield accomplishments and valor. This success and challenge under stress is a fitting precursor for the name "Devil Pups."

The Devil Pups program is a demanding physical and academic good-citizenship program. The program is more mental than physical, reflecting the whole person concept. The program foundations are intellectual, spiritual, social, and physical.

Because of the limited space and ongoing military activities at Camp Pendleton, the program is only open to teens 14 to 17 years old from California, Nevada, and Arizona. It costs nearly \$500 per teen to put on the program each year, but no teen has ever been asked to pay for the experience and no government funds are expended. The money raised to pay for the 10-day encampment is done through generous grants, fundraisers, and individual contributions.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be a Devil Pups graduate and for my continued association with its program. I know my colleagues join me in congratulating Devil Pups Inc. and its volunteers for reaching the 50,000 pup milestone and for their efforts to help shape our youth into confident, healthy, and productive citizens.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 24, 2012

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, July 23, I missed a series of rollcall votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on Nos. 499, 500, and 501.

CONGRATULATING ROBERT BAUMAN ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 24, 2012

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, today I'd like to congratulate Bob Bauman on his long-awaited and well-deserved retirement from the Butler County Rural Electric Cooperative, REC. Bob has served as CEO and General Manager in Allison, Iowa, since 1984, and has been very active in rural development. He was instrumental in establishing an economic development program at Butler County REC and building a \$1.8 million revolving loan fund for the program. In addition, he was the leader in forming Homeward Inc., a nonprofit housing provider assisting rural Iowans with their housing needs. Homeward has made more than \$10 million in loans in 25 Iowa counties and assisted 1,000 families as they acquire and maintain their homes.

He has served on the Governor's Task Force on Housing, the Iowa Institute of Cooperatives Legislative Committee, and on boards of directors for the Iowa Association of Business and Industry, the Community Vitality Center, the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation, CFC, and the National Cooperative Services Corporation. He's also served on the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, NRECA, Community and Economic Development Committee, and as chair of the NRECA/CFC Rural Housing Committee.

In March 2012, the Iowa Area Development Group honored Bob with the Silver Shovel Award for outstanding leadership, innovation, and achievement in business and community development.

Calling Bob a leader is an understatement. He has had a tremendous impact on the quality of life of thousands of Iowans, and he has been a good friend and adviser to me. I wish Bob all the best in his next endeavor, and I know his wife, Vicki, and all of their children, are proud of him.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 24, 2012

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall votes 499 and 500. If present, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall vote 499 and "nay" on rollcall vote 500.

RECOGNIZING MR. WILLIAM RASPBERRY

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 24, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the honorable Mr. William Raspberry. Mr. Raspberry was born on October 12, 1935 to proud parents Mr. James Lee