

Detroit Public Library has been a cornerstone in the cultural and intellectual life of Detroiters. Throughout that time it has remained committed to its mission of enhancing the quality of life of the city's residents, and has worked to safeguard the history of Detroit and Michigan.

When the Detroit Public Library opened on March 25, 1865 its collection consisted of 5,000 books housed in a single room of Michigan's first State Capitol. The Detroit Free Press celebrated the library's inauguration by reporting that all Detroiters were anxious to support the new institution. The free access to information on the fields of science and literature was embraced as a public good worthy of praise. As enthusiasm for the library grew, so did its collection. On March 27, 1873 Michigan Governor John Judson Bagley signed into law a measure calling for the construction of a new library in Detroit.

On January 22, 1877, the new home of the Detroit Public Library was dedicated and its first librarian, Professor Henry Chaney, was appointed. The building, the first to solely house the library, was designed in the Second Empire style by the Detroit architectural firm of Brush & Smith. Much of the detail work was completed by a young George D. Mason, who later went on to design the Detroit Masonic Temple and the Grand Hotel on Michigan's Mackinaw Island. In addition to its grand exterior, the library included a large reading room that featured ornate iron columns rising to a central skylight. The new building cost \$124,000 or approximately \$2.5 million when adjusted for inflation, and housed a collection that had grown to 33,604 items.

Demand for the services of the Detroit Public Library continued to grow along with the city's population. In 1900, the Detroit Public Library opened three additional branches. In 1904 it opened two more. The library continued to expand over the next two decades, with each additional branch designed and constructed to highlight beauty as well as utility. The library also established 80 smaller stations located in schools, fire houses and factories throughout Detroit. Still, as the city boomed with the success of the automotive industry, the Detroit Public Library found itself in need of even more space.

In March 1910, the City of Detroit accepted financial assistance from Andrew Carnegie to encourage the construction of a new, larger public library. In light of Detroit's growth, officials determined the new library should be located north of downtown. The city purchased land along Woodward Avenue for nearly \$500,000—more than \$11.1 million today—and hired Cass Gilbert to design the new building. Mr. Gilbert, an architect from New York, had designed the library in St. Louis and the Woolworth Building in New York City. He would also go on to design the James Scott Memorial

Fountain on Detroit's Belle Isle, as well as the U.S. Supreme Court building in Washington, DC.

The Detroit Public Library's main branch opened at its current location in March, 1921. With a final cost of \$3 million—nearly \$38.45 million today—the Italian Renaissance inspired structure of white marble was immediately deemed the most beautiful building in Detroit. When it opened, the main library's collection included more than 500,000 items. The library continued to grow. On June 23, 1963, the Cass Avenue wings of the main branch opened, doubling the size of the library to accommodate a collection that had reached almost 2 million items and served nearly 2 million residents.

Today, the Detroit Public Library includes 23 locations and a collection of over 4.1 million items. It remains committed to increasing the quality of life in Detroit and addressing the changing needs of its residents. The library provides programs for adults, children, and teens designed to increase literacy and technical skill, encourage lifelong learning, promote multiculturalism, and ensure the equitable access to information. This year it is proud to celebrate the 50th anniversary of its Junior Great Books Program and the 75th anniversary of its Bookmobile. It has also continued to serve the entire State of Michigan through its outstanding special collections, which include the 100-year-old Clarence M. Burton Historical Collection, the E. Azalia Hackley Collection of African Americans in the Performing Arts, the Rare Book Collection, and the Ernie Harwell Sports Collection.

As the Detroit Public Library moves into the future, I am confident it will continue to contribute to the intellectual capital, diversity, creativity and community spirit of a great city. I am pleased to recognize the Detroit Public Library's Sesquicentennial and wish it another 150 years of service to the City of Detroit.●

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM E. RUSHING JR.

● Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, today I recognize William E. Rushing Jr. for his volunteer leadership to the American Concrete Institute, ACI, headquartered in Farmington Hills, MI, an organization whose work is fundamental to our Nation's critical infrastructure and economic competitiveness. I am honored to acknowledge Mr. Rushing for his career-long commitment to advancing knowledge of concrete in the United States and abroad.

ACI has been a pioneer in all concrete-related fields: research and development, structural design, architectural design, construction, and product manufacture. With 100 professional chapters, 86 student chapters, and nearly 18,000 members spanning over 100 countries, the ACI provides knowledge and information for the best use of concrete. Through a host of activi-

ties including continuing education, certification, seminars, publications, and conventions, ACI plays an active and vital role in the concrete industry. Central to ACI's work is the development of codes and standards, which serve as a reference for building codes that impact many concrete projects in the United States. Further, in some 21 countries worldwide, the ACI 318 Structural Concrete Building Code provisions serve as a base for part or all of these nations' building codes.

Mr. Rushing received his bachelor of science degree in civil engineering from Louisiana State University, LSU, Baton Rouge, in 1981. He is a licensed professional engineer in Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Arkansas, and Arizona. Mr. Rushing is also a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers and the Structural Engineers Institute. He has been honored with election to the LSU Civil and Environmental Engineering Hall of Distinction.

Currently, William E. Rushing Jr. is a vice president with Waldemar S. Nelson & Co., Inc., New Orleans. He has been an active member of ACI for more than 30 years and was named a fellow of ACI in 1998. He previously served on the ACI board of direction, has chaired the ACI strategic plan drafting task group, and has skillfully managed institute finances for several terms as chair of the Financial Advisory Committee. As chair of the ACI Convention Committee, he has worked tirelessly to improve the experience for local chapters at its conventions. He has worked on several ACI technical committees that cover the full range of the institute's areas of knowledge and expertise. Through his work on ACI educational committees, he has been a strong promoter of ACI student activities programs. He also serves on the board of the ACI Foundation.

Mr. Rushing will complete his term as president of ACI on April 16, 2015, at The ACI Concrete Convention and Exposition in Kansas City, MO. His year-long presidency has been marked by implementing and advancing the goals of engagement, outreach, structure, and leadership in the ACI Strategic Plan. The ACI University Program was launched as a new method to deliver online learning modules to bring education information to all concrete professionals. A major development during his presidency was the rollout of the reorganized ACI 318-14 Structural Concrete Building Code, the culmination of a massive technical undertaking which took nearly 7 years to complete. In his outreach capacity, Mr. Rushing engaged concrete industry professionals and their broader network of stakeholders on the benefits of the reorganized code.

Over his decades of work in the concrete industry, Mr. Rushing has been honored with many awards for his outstanding leadership and service. In 2011, he was recognized with the ACI Henry L. Kennedy Award for his work

on many of the institute's committees. He also received the Chapter Activities Award from ACI in 2003. As a member, of the board of direction for the Louisiana chapter—ACI, he received its Chapter Activity Award in 2004 and its Chapter Distinguished Member Award in 2010. His service has also been recognized in his selection as vice chair of the ACI Fall 1996 Convention and co-chair of the ACI Fall 2009 Convention.

Mr. President, I am honored to ask my colleagues to join me today to recognize Mr. William E. Rushing Jr.'s leadership and service to the American Concrete Institute.●

REMEMBERING RAFAEL GARCIA

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I would like to speak to you about the loss of a remarkable young man who made a tremendous impact on my community.

This week, the city of Miami lost a firefighter, a devoted husband, an expectant father, and a selfless public servant named Rafael Garcia when he died very suddenly from a brain tumor that was detected just days ago.

Rafael, known as Ralf, was only 28 years old. He is remembered by the many who loved him as brilliant, driven, and selfless, and the all-too-brief record of his life confirms all three traits. He graduated salutatorian from Christopher Columbus High School in 2005. He chose to attend Florida International University to stay close to his family and the community he loved and went on to graduate summa cum laude as the only student in his class to have a perfect GPA.

With Ralf's natural gifts, he could have chosen virtually any career path—including jobs that would have paid lucrative salaries and kept him far from danger—but instead he chose to apply his considerable talents to serving his neighbors as a firefighter and EMT. So after graduation, he worked as a math teacher while attending Coral Springs Fire Academy, from which he graduated first in his class. He was then so eager to get started that he camped outside for 3 days so he could be first to submit his application for an opening. After winning that position, he attended Miami Fire Academy, where he once again graduated first in his class and won the award of Outstanding Recruit.

As a firefighter, Ralf was more than just a hero who rushed into infernos while others fled; he also served our community in smaller moments, protecting the little pieces of this country that make America home. It is firefighters like Ralf who place a rescued teddy bear in the arms of a scared child. It is firefighters like Ralf who extinguish a blaze before it destroys the business a man worked his whole life to build. It is firefighters like Ralf who save a young mother from the twisted steel of a car wreck. And it is firefighters like Ralf who help to provide my children—and all children—with the knowledge that they are safe

and that should anything happen, there are men and women ready to blare sirens, stop traffic, and break down walls to get to them if that is what they have to do.

Ralf is remembered as a “firefighter's firefighter.” Many children grow up dreaming of becoming firefighters, and many who achieve this dream aspire to be a firefighter like Ralf.

His supervisor, Lieutenant Christopher Cope, told the Miami Herald he was “one of those subordinates that you wish you could clone to staff your entire department.”

When his tumor was discovered earlier this month, Ralf was in the process of studying for his lieutenant's exam. Remarkably, with all of his responsibilities as a firefighter and soon-to-be father, Ralf also found time to touch lives in other ways.

He spent any time he could spare tutoring high schoolers in Miami struggling with math and serving as a substitute teacher. His father tells of multiple parents who have reached out this week to express their gratitude for how Ralf helped their children achieve better test scores.

But even with all of his service in life, perhaps the greatest demonstration we have of Rafael Garcia's character is the dignity, love, and selflessness he demonstrated in his final days. A surprise prognosis that would have left many of us bitter and defeated instead brought out what was best in him.

Before he passed, his wife Maeghan wrote on Facebook of his final days when he resolved to donate his organs to others. She wrote, “I truly believe that the only reason he is still holding on is because he knows he will continue to help others even after his passing. In true Ralf fashion, I can just imagine him not wanting to ‘be selfish’ by letting go too soon. That was his nature,” she wrote, “always thinking of others first.”

Miami has lost an irreplaceable member of our community this week in Rafael Garcia, but I know his legacy will live on for many years in the lives of those he touched. Today, Jeanette and I hold in our prayers his wife Maeghan, his soon-to-be-born son, who is due in May, and his parents, Juan and Patricia.●

RECOGNIZING MARUCCI SPORTS

● Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, entrepreneurs and small business owners have a unique skill of seeing what their community is missing and fulfilling that need. As such, these ideas are often conceived through personal experiences and the backyard projects we take on for our children, family, and friends. This week's Small Business of the Week, Marucci Sports of Baton Rouge, LA, was similarly inspired.

Back in 2002, Jack Marucci and his son Gino began studying the wooden bats of their favorite baseball players

so that Gino could pick one to play with in his Little League games. When Jack couldn't find the perfect bat for his son, he decided to craft one in his garage down in southeast Louisiana. Gino's homemade bat quickly became popular around the neighborhood, and Jack picked up orders to produce personalized ones for his son's friends. Shortly thereafter, a Major League first baseman put in an order, as well. As the former Louisiana State University athletic training director, Jack knew a thing or two about proper sports equipment, and Marucci Sports has since grown to be one of Louisiana's top cutting-edge companies for quality baseball and softball products. Today, Marucci Sports continues to provide wood bats to youths learning the game for the first time, as well as to over one-third of the Major League Baseball's players.

Due to Jack's legacy of meticulous attention to detail and quality, Marucci Sports is on the forefront of innovating athletic equipment. Most recently, the company announced the creation of a new smart fabric with the capability to help diagnose head injuries for athletes. In recent years, the long-lasting effects of head injuries, including concussions, have come into the limelight as a serious issue for athletes. In response to those concerns, Marucci Sports developed new BodiTrak's Head Health Network helmets, which are lined with a pressure-mapping fabric designed to track each contact the helmet receives as it happens. If there is particularly strong contact to the head, the helmet will notify the coach or trainer who can then make sure the player is alright. This technology has the potential to prevent generations of folks from developing damaging head injuries and protect future generations of athletes.

It is innovative ideas such as these from Marucci Sports and other small businesses that make our country great. Congratulations again to Marucci Sports for being selected as Small Business of the Week. Thank you for your commitment to safety, creating quality products, and one of Louisiana's favorite past times.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)