

Alexandria Library and the 80th anniversary of the sit-in at the Kate Waller Barrett Branch of the Alexandria Library.

**HONORING CO-OP CITY LITTLE  
LEAGUE 50TH ANNIVERSARY**

**HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 3, 2019*

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, as a former resident of Co-op City for many years and an avid baseball fan, it is my pleasure to recognize the Co-op City Little League which this season will celebrate its remarkable 50th Anniversary.

Founded in 1969, Co-op City Little League has brought generations of families together for five decades, while providing children with great exercise and wonderful team building skills. In the early days, games were played at Pelham Bay Park, Haffen Field, and Seton Falls Park. In 1975, a plan was drawn up between New York City and the Co-op City manager, Riverbay Corporation, for the creation of the Co-op City Fields. The fields stand on the outskirts of the residential area, at the intersection of Co-op City Boulevard and Bellamy Loop, and consist of a pair of excellently maintained baseball diamonds. Both of the fenced fields contain dugouts and there is a walkway with bleachers, a small picnic area, and a comfort station for spectators.

Co-op City Little League began playing on the new fields several years after they were developed and have been going strong there ever since. The League has served as a launching pad for several professional players and has had over 25 District 22 champions over the years. In 1987, the District 22 championship team, coached by Bruce Lasky, made it all the way to the state championship game.

Madam Speaker, Co-op City Little League has been a staple in the community for almost as long as Co-op City has existed. Thousands of children and their families have enjoyed a day at the ballpark thanks to this wonderful, well run league, and I want to congratulate all involved on 50 great years. Here's to 50 more.

**HONORING THE LIFE OF DR. JOHN  
DAVID CHANDLER**

**HON. BRIAN BABIN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 3, 2019*

Mr. BABIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of my good friend, and fellow dentist, Dr. John David Chandler of Kerrville who passed away on May 15, 2019 in San Antonio.

Dr. Chandler was born on September 7, 1947 in Victoria, Texas and graduated from Victoria High School in 1965. He earned a bachelor's degree in biology from Sam Houston State in 1969 and a doctorate in dentistry from the University of Texas Dental Branch in 1973.

Following dental school, Chandler served as an officer in the United States Air Force Dental Corps at Yokota Air Force Base from 1973

to 1976. For the next year Dr. Chandler served as an Associate Professor at the University of Texas Dental Branch. In 1977, Dr. Chandler moved to Huntsville and started his private dental practice. Chandler practiced for 38 years in Huntsville, Texas from where he was recognized as an outstanding restorative general dentist and was beloved by his patients, friends and his peers. John and his wife, Janie, retired in 2015 and moved to Kerrville, Texas where their love for the outdoors led them to create a backyard sanctuary for birds, butterflies and other wildlife.

Dr. Chandler had a passion for continued education and teaching and mentoring young dentists. He served in a leadership role in numerous state and national professional organizations such as the Academy of General Dentistry, Texas Academy of General Dentistry, American Dental Association, Brazos Valley District Dental Society, and the Heart of Texas Dental Society.

Dr. John David Chandler leaves behind his loving wife of forty-nine years and eleven months, nearly half a century. John is also survived by his son Ty Scott Chandler of Austin, son Ryan Todd Chandler of Amarillo, brother and sister-in-law Jay and Ann Garner of Laguna Vista, and sister, Brenda Anderson of Austin.

Madam Speaker, my prayers and condolences are with the family and friends of Dr. Chandler.

**COMMEMORATING THE 101ST  
ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING  
OF AZERBAIJAN**

**HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 3, 2019*

Mr. ADERHOLT. Madam Speaker, last week, our friends in Azerbaijan celebrated Republic Day, honoring the 101st anniversary of the founding of their country.

On May 28, 1918, the National Assembly of Azerbaijan adopted a Declaration of Independence, and formed the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic, the first secular parliamentary democracy in the Muslim world.

In 1920, the Bolsheviks invaded the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic and established a Soviet government. Azerbaijan was forcefully incorporated into the USSR and suffered under the weight of the Soviet regime for many decades.

Following the collapse of the Soviet Union, the Republic of Azerbaijan restored its independence on August 30, 1991.

The United States recognized Azerbaijan as an independent state on December 25, 1991 and established official diplomatic relations with the Republic of Azerbaijan on February 19, 1992.

As they rebuilt from the wreckage of the failed communist empire, Azerbaijan grew into a strong and reliable ally of the United States.

Today, the Republic of Azerbaijan is not only a valuable partner of the United States, but also plays a critical role in the Caucasus and Central Asia. Azerbaijan was one of the first countries to render unconditional assistance to the United States after the terror attacks of September 11, 2001. It also has a strong friendship and partnership with Israel, one of the closest allies of the United States.

Azerbaijan, as a participant in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's (NATO) Partnership for Peace program, has supported NATO's peace operations in Afghanistan by providing troops from the Armed Forces of Azerbaijan to assist with the missions since 2002.

As we commemorate this 101st anniversary of the founding of Azerbaijan, the United States remains grateful for the strategic relationship and enduring friendship between our two countries. Furthermore, we look forward to this strong and close friendship continuing and even growing stronger in the many years to come.

**RICHARD MAXSON UKULELE  
CHAMPION**

**HON. BILLY LONG**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 3, 2019*

Mr. LONG. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Richard Maxson, a professor at Drury University in Springfield, Missouri, for winning the 8th Annual International Ukulele Contest in Honolulu, Hawaii.

Richard spent his youth performing in his hometown of Ventura, California, and working at Christian summer camps by providing the musical soundtracks to sing-alongs and services.

Little did he know where these experiences would take him.

In 2007, Richard was on a business trip in Hawaii when he came across a sign for free ukulele lessons. Curious to see if he had what it took, Richard signed up and learned his first song: Little Red Hibiscus. Inspired by this, Richard returned to Springfield, bought his first ukulele and became what he refers to as a recovering guitar player.

As much fun as Richard was having, he wanted others to join in on the fun. That's why in 2012 he formed a ukulele club at Drury University, called the DUKes. His goal was to attract Drury students by sitting in a coffee shop playing his ukulele. It worked. By 2013, 20 students joined the club and were drinking coffee and playing the ukulele with him.

Over the next few years, the DUKes, under the direction of Richard, performed at various events in Springfield. In August 2015, the DUKes traveled to Springfield's Sister City of Isesaki, Japan, to perform at the Isesaki Summer Festival. Richard also began performing with his wife, Karen, in a ukulele duo called Uke 66, performing in the United States, Mexico and Japan. On a whim, Richard entered the 8th Annual International Ukulele Contest in Honolulu in 2019. As the only contestant from the mainland United States, Richard was one of six finalists in his division of 19 and older. A few hundred people watched Richard on his way to victory as he performed an original piece, titled "Hedgehog Café," which was inspired by a trip he took to Japan with his wife in 2017.

Madam Speaker, the world needs dedicated individuals who are eager to share their gifts with those around them, and that is exactly what Richard has done and continues to do. That is why it is my great honor to rise today congratulating Richard Maxson on his award-winning performance and original composition.