

Poitier, 52, a volunteer specialist with the Miami Police Department, plunged into activism when she was 12 and the Youth Club was formed in Overtown to keep kids busy and off the streets. She became a member and as a result, Poitier says, she developed "respect" and a commitment to help the police department improve relations with the community.

Throughout the years, Poitier has served on several city boards and today is president of her neighborhood Crime Watch. Beyond that, friends say, it's the small things Poitier does for other people that make a big difference, like remembering the loss of someone's loved one when she is leading a prayer.

"It's my business to remember," Poitier simply says.

Her goodwill doesn't stop at home.

She helps her daughter Vandetta, who is working on a master's degree in business, and son-in-law Harold Scott care for their twins, Harold and Vaniecia. "My Josie," the children call her. Whenever she can, Poitier takes the children to her volunteer work.

"And they help," she said. "I make sure they know what I do. It enriches them."

Josie Poitier has demonstrated her commitment to strengthening and linking the communities in Dade County. Her enthusiasm and exceptional service to the community are special qualities. By any standard, she is a remarkable individual who is greatly appreciated by so many. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of our entire community, I offer Josie Poitier my deepest thanks for her outstanding service and our best wishes for her continued success.

TRIBUTE TO PENINSULA HIGH

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 20, 1997

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Palos Verdes Peninsula High School's Academic Decathlon team, which took fourth place statewide and first place in its division during last weekend's California Academic Decathlon held in Pomona, CA.

This nine-member team earned 44,540 points in events designed to test academic knowledge in areas ranging from economics to science. They came away with 29 gold, silver, and bronze medals for various events and overall performance. In addition, one of the team members, Chris Luhrs, scored the most points of any student in Peninsula's division.

I am proud to represent these intelligent and talented students, and I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating them and their families for their achievements.

HONORING MARK NICHOLS

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

HON. ESTEBAN EDWARD TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 20, 1997

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, it gives my colleague, Mr. TORRES, and me great pleasure to

pay tribute to Mr. Mark Richard Nichols of the Cabazon Band of Mission Indians, who will be recognized on April 12, 1997, as man of the year by the East Valley Jewish Community Center of Palm Desert, CA.

Mr. Speaker, it is truly fitting that Mark Nichols is being honored for all of his work as a tireless advocate in his community. For almost two decades, Mark Nichols has worked for the Cabazon Band of Mission Indians, helping the tribe become self-sufficient and maintain a strong cultural heritage. Since 1989, Mark has served as the chief executive officer of the tribe, where he had earned a national reputation as an outspoken advocate on behalf of Native American sovereign rights.

It is the work of people like Mark Nichols that reminds us of the importance of being involved in one's community. Mark understands that an investment in education of a person, is an investment in the future of our country. In his service on the University of California chancellor's executive roundtable, Mark has worked to make sure education is accessible and affordable for every person that desires to learn. Mark has also dedicated himself to helping those who are the most vulnerable in our society. He is the president of the Desert Chapter of the American Diabetes Association, he volunteers at Martha's Kitchen/Food and Shelter for the homeless, and he serves as the telethon sponsor for the Arthritis Foundation.

What Mark Nichols has accomplished, and what this award represents, is the recognition of the difference one individual can make if they put their mind to it. It is the devotion, dedication, and spirit of Mark Nichols that makes him such a unique person. We are proud to call him our friend.

Mr. Speaker, we respectfully request that the Members of the U.S. House of Representatives join us in honoring the work and life of Mr. Mark Nichols. The community of Palm Desert, CA, is truly fortunate to have a person like Mark Nichols as a community leader. His commitment and dedication has improved the quality of life for so many people in our country.

LEGACY OF LEADERSHIP REMEMBERED

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 20, 1997

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a member of my community who passed away this week after a long bout with cancer. Judge Thomas M. Burns will leave a great void, not only to his family who mourns this loss, but to the City of Saginaw, the State of Michigan and our Nation.

Thomas Burns was a unique spirit in many respects. His dedication and deep commitment to public service distinguished his career. He graduated from St. Stephen's High School in 1932, attended Bay City Junior College and graduated from the Detroit College of Law in 1939. From the beginning of his long career, he dedicated his life to the community.

Almost 60 years ago, Thomas Burns started his career as an assistant prosecuting attorney

in Saginaw, MI. He served in that capacity from 1939 to 1952. His civilian service, as with so many of our citizens, was interrupted by World War II. From 1942 to 1946 he exchanged the front lines of prosecution for the battlelines of war.

As Captain in the Armored Infantry Battalion, 14th Armored Division under General Patton, he served his country admirably. Mr. Burns was recognized for his valor not once, but several times. He was awarded many honors including the Combat Infantryman Badge, the Bronze Star, three Battle Stars and earned the Purple Heart for wounds sustained in battle. When the war was over, he put his legal background to work as a special prosecutor in the Nuremberg Trials.

Six years after his military service, Thomas Burns became interested in politics. He was elected to the Michigan State House of Representatives and served honorably from 1952 to 1956. Following his term, he was appointed to the Michigan Public Service Commission and eventually became its chairman in 1962.

In 1962, Mr. Burns found his final calling. This time when he ran for office it was for the Michigan Court of Appeals. Elected appellate judge in 1968, Judge Burns served honorably in that capacity for the next 18 years. In 1981, he was elected Judge of the Year by the Michigan Trial Lawyers Association. He was a member of the Society of Irish American Lawyers and the Michigan Supreme Court Historical Society.

Thomas M. Burns was predeceased by his son Thomas, who, as a lawyer and brewmaster, founded one of the first micro breweries in Michigan. Judge Burns is survived by his wife, Alice, and his daughters, Bridgett Spence and Mary Neer.

Mr. Speaker, from his distinguished background it is easy, even for those who never had the pleasure of knowing Judge Burns, to envision his leadership. His résumé pays only partial tribute to his distinction as a man and as a public servant. Judge Burns was not distinguished solely by the titles he held, but by the manner in which he fulfilled his responsibilities.

Drawing from his vast experience, Judge Burns served as a vanguard of civil rights. His opinion always focused on the welfare of his community. One lawyer in my community remembered that Judge Burns "was able to simplify things, so much so that most complicated issues could be explained in layman's terms." And he did so without ever failing to lose his sense of humor.

Mr. Speaker, my community, and our Nation, would benefit if there were more outstanding individuals like Thomas M. Burns. He is an outstanding role model and a shining example of positive community leadership in our complicated and often cynical world. In all of his various roles as prosecutor, legislator, judge and father, Judge Burns instilled in others a devotion to life and service that was deeply evident in his words and deeds.

Judge Thomas M. Burns enriched our lives, bettered our community and showed the rest of us, by example, what public service is all about. I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to an outstanding individual who will be missed by his family and all those whose lives he has touched.