

IN HONOR OF ISAIAH THOMAS AND
THE AMERICAN ANTIQUARIAN
SOCIETY

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 12, 1999

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute to Isaiah Thomas, a colonial patriot, printer and publisher on the 250th anniversary of his birth and in tribute to the American Antiquarian Society in Worcester, Massachusetts, an internationally recognized library of American history and culture.

Isaiah Thomas was a leading publisher of his day and was credited with more than 400 titles. The quality of his work received commendation from none other than fellow printer and patriot Benjamin Franklin. Thomas began his career as a printer's apprentice and established a printing operation in Worcester, Massachusetts in 1775 when the British occupation of Boston drove him from that city. He served actively in the War for Independence at Lexington and Concord. Through his newspaper, "The Massachusetts Spy", and numerous other publications, the colonists of New England learned of the events of their day. Through his writings and publications, Isaiah Thomas played an important role in the revolutionary movement by informing and inspiring fellow patriots. Thus, on the occasion of the 250th anniversary of the birth of Isaiah Thomas, we gratefully acknowledge the contributions of this great colonial patriot, printer and publisher.

I also rise to acknowledge the proud history and valuable contribution of the American Antiquarian Society in Worcester, Massachusetts founded in 1812 by Isaiah Thomas. The American Antiquarian Society is both a learned society and a major independent library which is internationally recognized as one of the finest repositories of early American printed materials in the world. The American Antiquarian Society library today houses the largest and most accessible collection of printed media and graphic arts materials printed through 1876 in what is now the United States, as well as manuscripts and other reference materials related to all aspects of American history and culture before the 20th century. As the American Antiquarian Society launches a capital campaign to make possible its continued mission, I rise to gratefully acknowledge its history, valuable contributions to scholarly research and the preservation of our history, and to commend its efforts to make possible similar resources for future generations.

IN RECOGNITION OF
OPERATIONSMILE

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 12, 1999

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the efforts of a humanitarian and medical relief organization that is in the midst of the largest-ever worldwide surgical relief—a mission that will enable some of the world's neediest children to smile for the very first time. At the same time, I would like to recog-

nize four members of one of New Jersey's leading associations that have helped to make this mission possible.

The humanitarian organization is OperationSmile, a group of volunteer surgeons and others who focus on correcting cleft lips, cleft palates, and other facial deformities. Their World Journey of Hope '99 is nine-week international mission for 18 developing countries that will transform the lives of more than 5,000 children.

The trip is made possible through the generous contributions of many companies, including four member companies of the Health Care Institute of New Jersey, an organization that promotes awareness of the research-based pharmaceutical and medical technology industry in New Jersey. Two of the companies, Johnson & Johnson and Warner Lambert, are charter sponsors of this mission. Two other companies, Becton Dickinson and Wyeth-Ayerst, contributed surgical supplies for the mission.

Founded in 1982 by cosmetic surgeon William P. Magee, Jr., MD, OperationSmile volunteers have provided free surgery to more than 45,000 children in 17 countries, including the United States. In addition to free medical treatment and aftercare, OperationSmile trains local medical professionals and provides vital medical equipment. Doctors and nurses in these countries continue the efforts after the volunteer team has left.

In addition to performing the miraculous task of transforming lives of children who would often otherwise be doomed to a lifetime of rejection and social cruelty, OperationSmile transform the live of volunteers who receive the gift of knowing that they have truly made a difference and have brought people together around the world.

Similarly, the four companies mentioned earlier who have contributed to this effort have gone beyond the scope of "business as usual" to achieve a larger mission, improving the health and well being of people the globe. They are to be commended for their support of this shared vision: the right of every human being to receive necessary health services.

I am proud to recognized the work of OperationSmile, and I thank Becton Dickinson, Johnson & Johnson, Warner-Lambert, and Wyeth-Ayerst for their role in continuing the work of this wonderful organization.

A TRIBUTE TO FATHER
MARCELLIN CHAMPAGNAT

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 12, 1999

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and achievements of Father Marcellin Champagnat (1789-1840), Founder of the Marist Brothers of the Schools.

Born in France in 1789, Marcellin Champagnat grew up in an isolated rural area, where education was in a sorry state. Remembering his own intellectual deprivation as a child, he insisted to his companions, "We must have Brothers, to catechize poor children and give them a basic education!" That conviction became the driving force in his life and led to the foundation of a new teaching congregation in the Catholic church, the Marist Brother of the Schools.

He began his dream in 1817, with two young parishioners, one that was illiterate and the other only fifteen years old. Dividing his time between his parish duties and his two new disciples he began to succeed little by little and by 1824, he had been released from parish duties in order to devote all his time and energy to the Brother and to the rapidly growing network of Marist Schools in France.

Through it all, Father Champagnat displayed the same attitude as had St. Paul: "We are often troubled, but not crushed; sometimes in doubt, but never in despair; there are many enemies, but we are never without a friend; and though badly hurt at times, we are not destroyed" (2 Cor 4:8-9).

Even after Father Champagnat's death, the Marist family continued to grow. In 1886 they came to the United States, where they now carry on their educational ministry in fourteen states and several overseas missions.

On April 18th, Marcellin Champagnat will be honored by the Catholic Church when he will be canonized in a ceremony at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome.

It is fitting and proper that we, too, honor Father Marcellin Champagnat.

A TRIBUTE TO JOE TORRE

HON. AMO HOUGHTON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 12, 1999

Mr. HOUGHTON. Mr. Speaker, today I'd like to recognize a hero. His team has won the World Series in two of the last three years (1996 and 1998). Last year he managed perhaps the greatest team in history, winning 114 regular season games (out of 162) and 125 overall. And after these victories, he said, "As far as the hunger and desire, I'll walk away from this game before I think I don't have to work hard." And that man is the New York Yankees' 31st Field Manager, Joe Torre.

But, Mr. Speaker, Joe Torre is a hero in another field as well, in the health arena, as a patient winning his fight against prostate cancer. Prostate cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death among men, with over 80% of all cases occurring in men over 65. African-American men tend to be diagnosed with the disease at later stages and to die from prostate cancer at a higher rate than do white men. Joe Torre was diagnosed by a screening exam that was conducted for the entire Yankee team.

Prostate cancer is the most diagnosed non-skin cancer in the US. In 1999, prostate cancer will kill an estimated 37,000 men in the US. In 1999, 179,000 men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer in the US.

The most important thing to do is to catch the cancer early. Generally, the earlier the stage of cancer at the time of detection, the higher the survival rate. Prostate-specific antigen screening PSA blood test and digital rectal examination (DRE) of the prostate gland are the most common of detection methods. The American Cancer Society recommends annual PSAs and DREs, to men aged 50 and older with at least a ten year life expectancy, and to younger men at higher risk, such as African-American men or men with a strong familial pre-disposition to prostate cancer.

Thankfully, for Joe Torre, this annual screening process detected the disease in its