

than 2,000 campus concerts, art exhibits, theatrical productions, guest lectures, sports concerts and other events in a year.

With an athletics program rivaled by few Division I-A schools, the University of Florida fields some of the most competitive teams in the country. UF scholar-athletes have dominated in every sporting arena, and it is evident from their dozens of national titles. I am proud of the University of Florida's athletic program and foresee continued success.

I also want to congratulate the University of Florida football team for an admirable season. Gator fans across the country should be excited for this program and their new coach, Ron Zook. Coach Zook has put together an outstanding staff, and I look forward to seeing them back on top of the SEC.

Academic institutions shoulder a great responsibility in the health and progress of local communities. They not only teach young people skills in order to succeed, but also intangible advantages like broad-mindedness and a sense of the world around them. Education is our best defense against hatred and poverty, which is why we must invest in institutions that have a proven record of success.

As any Member of this body would be, I am proud to represent one such institution. I congratulate the University of Florida and President Charles Young and wish the university long-lasting success. God bless.

CONGRATULATING MILWAUKIE, OREGON, ON ITS CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BALLENGER). Pursuant to the order of the House of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, amidst all the international drama and trauma, it is sometimes easy to forget that the primary goal of government is to provide a partnership where our communities can be livable and where our families are safe, healthy and economically secure. My hometown of Portland, Oregon, has received international acclaim as one of America's most livable cities, but actually, Mr. Speaker, ours is a region of two dozen livable communities. Under Oregon's unique land use system, each community is encouraged to develop its own special identity.

One of the unique places that deserves special attention is the city of Milwaukie, Oregon, as it now celebrates its centennial this month, an example that thousands of small communities across the country could look to. Milwaukie's hard-working citizens are keenly interested in making the next 100 years something that is even better.

The community of Milwaukie has played a key role in the history of our

State. The city was actually settled in 1840 and played a critical role in shipping up and down the Willamette River. The commerce from those docks served to link Willamette Valley's pioneers with goods from the Hudson's Bay Trading Company and beyond. Oregon's founder, Dr. John McLaughlin, often supervised commerce on those very docks when he visited from his nearby home. Today, Milwaukie is the second largest city in fast-growing Clackamas County. It serves the Portland region as a transportation hub, hosting the intersection of two State highways and two freight railroads. But it is how Milwaukie has approached the future that is intriguing to me.

In the latter part of the 1990s, this city looked at how they were going to join the region's light rail system. Some had serious questions about what it would do to their community and how it was going to be compatible with how they wanted to grow with the rest of the region. Instead of joining the region's light rail system at that point, they took time out to reflect how they should grow and relate to the surrounding communities. In the course of the next 5 years, the community carried out literally thousands of hours of community meetings. Some were informal. There were scores of neighborhood association meetings and workshops.

As a result of this searching and introspection, the community, its neighborhoods and elected leaders, including some who were the most skeptical of earlier plans, are now among the most active and aggressive advocates of rail coming to their town; and not only light rail, but they are also supporting an innovative commuter rail system serving Milwaukie, as well. They are looking at other ways to make their community livable.

Milwaukie, Oregon, like so many communities across the country, made decisions early in its career that cut off its waterfront from the community. It is inaccessible now because of a State highway that makes pedestrian and other access impossible. This beautiful and historic resource is now out of their reach, home only to a treatment plant. Milwaukie residents are now working to overcome this barrier to connect their historic waterfront and natural resource with the heart of their downtown.

Milwaukie, Oregon is an outstanding example of how a livable community grapples with issues of growth, transportation, development, its past and its future. It is a community that other cities can look to for inspiration, how people of strong and varying opinions sitting down and working through their issues together for the common good can make a city safer, healthier and more economically secure.

I, for one, am proud to represent the "City of Dogwoods" as it celebrates its centennial. Congratulations, Milwaukie, Oregon.

CONGRATULATING THE M. ENSEMBLE COMPANY FOR ITS UPCOMING "MEDAL OF HONOR THEATER PROJECT"

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 7, 2003, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) is recognized during morning hour debates for 2 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate the M. Ensemble Company for its upcoming "Medal of Honor Theater Project," which honors the life and service of the first black soldier ever awarded the Medal of Honor for his heroism during the Vietnam War.

I would like to especially thank fellow Miamians Patricia E. Williams and Shirley Richardson who are cofounders of the M. Ensemble Company for all of their leadership and dedication to this praiseworthy organization. For more than 30 years, the theater company has been providing training and career-building opportunities for the south Florida community. This recognition is especially fitting as our country celebrates the countless African American contributions to our rich history.

Please join me in congratulating the M. Ensemble Company and its Medal of Honor project for its tremendous tribute to the cause of arts and learning for all.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 52 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. OTTER) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

O powerful and ever-living God, the lasting health of all who believe in You, hear our prayer on this World Day for the Sick.

In accepting our sufferings and our human limitations, Lord, You teach us the virtue of patience. We offer our prayers for our sick brothers and sisters, especially those who are near and dear to the Members of Congress.

On this special day we give You thanks for all those in health care ministry on every continent. Continue to call forth men and women of science and faith who will serve the weakest members of society as professionals in research, in medicine, and in health care. Sustain them and guide them