

IN HONOR OF GINA BULLOCK'S SELECTION AS A 2005 PRESIDING OFFICER FOR THE YMCA YOUTH CONFERENCE ON NATIONAL AFFAIRS

### HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 21, 2004*

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, earlier this month the 2004 YMCA Youth Conference on National Affairs was held in Black Mountain, North Carolina. This annual conference brings together the best and brightest of the Youth and Government programs from across the country. Over 500 high school student leaders meet and discuss issues of national importance, and at the conclusion of the conference six graduating seniors are selected to serve as presiding officers for the next conference. This is considered one of the highest honors that one can receive in the YMCA Youth and Government program.

I join my colleagues in honoring Gina Bullock for being selected as one of the six presiding officers to serve for the 2005 YMCA Youth Conference on National Affairs. Gina becomes the first Texan to serve as a presiding officer at this conference since 1997, and she will be a great representative for the Lone Star State.

I wish her continued success and thank her for outstanding leadership for Texas.

### A BIRTHDAY GREETING FOR A HERO

### HON. TOM DeLAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 21, 2004*

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, yesterday in Pinar del Rio, Cuba, somewhere in the dungeon bowels of Prison Kilo Ocho, Dr. Oscar Elias Biscet—prisoner of conscience—turned 43 years old.

Dr. Biscet is a hero of the kind that men and nations yearn for their entire lives.

He is a human rights activist, a man of peace and justice, and therefore a sworn enemy of Fidel Castro and his terrorist regime in Havana.

A student of Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King, Dr. Biscet has led nonviolent opposition to Castro and his murderous, kleptomaniac government for years, whether on the streets of Havana or in the foul cages that pass for prison cells in Castro's Cuba.

Despite years-long separation from his wife and family, untreated illnesses, and ongoing abuse by prison guards, Dr. Biscet remains in high spirits today.

He is an inspiration to all who suffer for the cause of freedom, a threat to all who seek to undermine that cause, and a stinging indictment against free men the world over who would ignore the cries of injustice ringing out from an imprisoned island.

But this House and this Nation will not ignore, or forget, or bend in our determination to see human rights and human freedom restored to Cuba.

Mr. Speaker, these brief remarks may be little noted by journalists today and historians to-

morrow, but they merit the saying just the same.

That somewhere in Cuba today, an honest man suffers so his countrymen—so that all men—might be free is a heroic thing, one the world owes it to him, itself, and our Creator to notice.

I recognize Oscar Biscet today not because he needs us, but because we need him.

And I honor Oscar Biscet today, as we all should, Mr. Speaker, because by the life of service he has chosen, he honors all of mankind.

I wish him and his family health and strength for his 43rd birthday and send my hopes that this will be his last separated from his loved ones and suffering under the bootheel of evil.

### BOB MICHEL DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS OUTPATIENT CLINIC

SPEECH OF

### HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 20, 2004*

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, as a proud member of the Illinois delegation in which Bob Michel served with honor and distinction for nearly 4 decades, I rise as an original cosponsor and in strong support of naming the "Bob Michel Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic."

I didn't have the privilege of serving with Bob Michel in this chamber, but when I worked at the other end of Pennsylvania Avenue, I found that the Republican Minority Leader worked tirelessly across party lines to serve the best interests of his district, our State, and our Nation.

The distinguished gentleman from Peoria exemplifies the best values of Middle America. Indeed, the values that define Bob Michel as a man and a leader—values like hard work, honesty, integrity and loyalty—are the values that make the State of Illinois a great place in which to live and represent in this chamber. I am proud to share that common bond with him.

Naming the veterans clinic in Peoria is a fitting tribute to an Army hero and veteran of the Battle of the Bulge during World War II—who 10 years after his retirement from Congress remains one of my State's most respected and revered leaders.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to support this measure in recognition of Bob Michel's strength and leadership throughout 38 years of distinguished public service.

### ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN BOYERS, INC. 100TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

### HON. TIM HOLDEN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 21, 2004*

Mr. HOLDEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Association of American Boyers on the occasion of its 100th year anniversary.

In 1905, the Association of American Boyers held its first reunion in Dryville, Pennsylvania.

The original attendees of that grand day have now grown to over 4,000 members. During the first reunion a mission statement was adopted which read "The object of this Association is educational, to hold reunions, and to foster, encourage, and develop the family spirit of the Boyer people."

A two-day celebration to commemorate 100 years of existence for the "Association of American Boyers, Inc." will be held Saturday and Sunday, July 24–25, 2004, on the grounds of the Central Pennsylvania College. On these dates Boyers from around the United States and various overseas points of destination will gather to celebrate their heritage, history, and family accomplishments.

The legacy of the Boyer name can be traced to the fourth and second centuries before Christ. Carrying the name of Boiare early settlers moved into Germany, France and England. Many variations of the Boyer name such as Bayer, Baier, Beyer, Beier, Byer and Bowyer arose in the years to follow.

Segments of these first "Boyers" came to the United States in the 1600's. Transition of some family members brought a Boyer presence to Pennsylvania in the early 1700's. Approximately forty Boyers had settled in Eastern Pennsylvania by 1775 and many served as soldiers under George Washington. Boyers have since spread throughout all of Pennsylvania, maintain large populations in Ohio, Illinois, Iowa, Indiana, New York, California, and Maryland and are present in some number in all fifty states.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in acknowledging the long standing history of Boyers and their impact since coming to the United States and thank them for the many contributions they have made to the growth of our great nation.

### RECOGNIZING RICHARD "RIP" HAMILTON

### HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 21, 2004*

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Richard "Rip" Hamilton for his distinguished career in professional basketball and for the contributions he made to the 2004 NBA Championship team, the Detroit Pistons.

Rip Hamilton first made his mark in basketball when he was a high school student at the Coatesville Area High School in Chester County, Pennsylvania. During his senior year, he was voted to the First Team All-State Basketball team and participated in the McDonald's All-American game before his graduation in 1996.

Upon graduation from Coatesville Area High School, Rip continued to pursue his passion for basketball at University of Connecticut. At UCONN, Rip finished 2nd in career scoring and was the only Connecticut player to score at least 700 points per season twice in his career, and 500 points in his first three seasons. Rip spent three years at UCONN perfecting his game and, in 1999 after scoring 27 points in the Huskies' 77–74 championship win over Duke, Rip was voted the most valuable player of the Final Four. That same year, Rip was also voted 1st Team All-American by the AP and he was also awarded the Big East Conference and ECAC Player of the Year.