

named an Academic All American, New York State Public High School Athletic Association Women's Swim-Dive Scholar-Athlete of the Year and Half Hollow Hills High School East Female Scholar-Athlete of the Class of 2004. She has also received the Citibank/News 12 Scholar-Athlete Award and the 2004 Scholar-Athlete Milk Moustache of the Year Award.

This fall, Ms. Rudofsky will attend Princeton University, where she will be a member of the diving team. I congratulate her on her many achievements and am confident that she will have continued success in the future.

CONGRATULATING JUSTIN GATLIN
ON WINNING A GOLD MEDAL IN
THE ATHENS OLYMPICS

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 9, 2004

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor today to recognize one of the finest U.S. sprinters, Justin Gatlin, a 2004 Olympic gold medalist from Pensacola, Florida. As the youngest track and field champion in 36 years, twenty-two year old Gatlin won the gold medal in the men's 100 meters at the 2004 Olympic games in Athens, making him the "Fastest Man in the World."

As soon as the gun went off, he surged immediately to the lead. Never relinquishing his advantage, he finished in a personal-best, world-leading time of 9.85 seconds. After winning the gold he said, "It was going to be the most exciting race in the world, and it was. This is what I train for, that's why I shoveled the snow off North Carolina tracks. That's why I'm here. I'm here to win the gold medal."

Not only did he leave with a gold medal, but also took home a silver and a bronze in the men's relay and 200 meters, respectively.

Returning home as an Olympic medalist, it is Gatlin's self-composure and attitude that set him apart from the rest. "I want to show that nice guys can finish first. I feel that I'm likable. I feel that I'm honest. I go out there and give a good race for the crowd." Gatlin did more than just give a good race. He gave a superb race and is a shining example for all to follow in not only the first district of Florida, but around the world.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I would like to congratulate Justin Gatlin on his Olympic victories and thank him for representing Pensacola to the world in such a first-class manner.

TRIBUTE TO CHEVRONTExACO
AND THEIR EMPLOYEES LO-
CATED IN CALIFORNIA'S 11TH
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

HON. RICHARD W. POMBO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 9, 2004

Mr. POMBO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to rise to honor and congratulate ChevronTexaco and their employees located in California's 11th Congressional district on ChevronTexaco's 125th Anniversary.

Tomorrow marks the 125th anniversary of the merger of California Star Oil Works and

Pacific Coast Oil Co., which formed ChevronTexaco's oldest predecessor. ChevronTexaco's history is a story of great progress and innovation spread over dozens of companies that have come together over the last 125 years to become the ChevronTexaco family.

Over 100 years ago, a converted farmhouse and 80 employees in a rural area not far from San Francisco started handling 10,000 barrels of oil a day. Today, with bustling metropolitan communities surrounding the refinery, 1,300 employees move 240,000 barrels of oil per day.

ChevronTexaco is one of the world's largest integrated energy companies. They are involved in every aspect of the energy industry, from oil and gas exploration and production to transportation, refining and retail marketing, as well as chemical manufacturing and sales and power production.

Active in more than 180 countries, ChevronTexaco employs more than 50,000 people worldwide and about 9,000 in California alone. Over 4,000 of those employees are in San Ramon, the world headquarters for the company.

ChevronTexaco's vision—to be the global energy company most admired for its people, partnership and performance—runs throughout the combined history of all the great companies that today form ChevronTexaco.

The work undertaken by the many generations of ChevronTexaco has made a tremendous and positive impact on the lives of people around the world. I commend and congratulate ChevronTexaco on this very important milestone.

TRIBUTE TO MARY GRACE RAMEY

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 9, 2004

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, on July 23, 2004, McMinn County, Tennessee lost one of its sports legends. Mary Grace Ramey served as a teacher and cheerleading coach for McMinn Central High School since it opened in 1966. She was 73 years old.

Mrs. Ramey touched the lives of hundreds of cheerleaders and thousands of students who passed through the halls of McMinn Central High School. Her colleagues said she was always positive and cared deeply about her students.

Mrs. Ramey, a mother of one and grandmother of three, will be missed by all those who knew her.

I would like to call this Daily Post-Athenian article from July 26, 2004, on Mary Ramey to the attention of my colleagues and other readers of the RECORD.

[From the Daily Post-Athenian, July 26, 2004]

RAMEY LOSS LEAVES HOLE IN THE CENTRAL FAMILY FABRIC

(By Jack Slayton)

She never hit a home run, sank a clutch basket, or scored a touchdown, but McMinn County was stunned by the loss of a sports legend in her own right this past Friday.

Teacher and cheerleading sponsor Mary Grace Ramey passed away at Chattanooga's Erlanger Medical Center on Friday.

Ramey, who taught Family and Consumer Sciences, was discovered behind the school on Friday, July 16, by two students where she had either accidentally fallen or suffered a seizure and struck her head, suffering a concussion.

Ramey (age 73) had shown some improvement and had been moved from the intensive care unit to a private room before her sudden passing Friday.

"Mary Grace," as I had known her over the past 30 years, had been a teacher for more than half a century and the cheerleading sponsor at Central High School since the doors opened in the 1996-97 school year.

"It's a sad day at Central High School," said Principal Roger Freeman of the last remaining member of the original staff at the school. "She was a legend—an icon of what everybody should aspire to be as both a person and a teacher. She was dedicated to her profession and students, always prepared and way ahead of the game."

Ramey touched the lives of hundreds of cheerleaders and countless thousands of students who passed through her classroom over the past 51 years.

"I don't know of anyone who didn't like Mary Grace—she was always so positive and cared deeply about her students," Freeman said. "It will be difficult, no impossible, to replace her. People like Mary Grace are rare."

Rare, indeed. In a day and time where most people can't wait to call it quits, Mary Grace never discussed retirement, despite being well beyond the required age and with her lengthy years of service.

She had returned earlier in the week from a stay in Knoxville where her latest batch of cheerleaders had attended a camp at the University of Tennessee.

She loved what she did and continued to serve the students of Central with a level of excellence and commitment equally rare today.

I would more often than not run into Mary Grace and husband, Jack, who recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary, going into games at Central or on the road—it seemed we always arrived at about the same time.

She always had a smile and chipper attitude as we exchanged pleasantries walking into the gym or stadium together.

I recall one time several years ago at a basketball game, with the skies threatening, Mary Grace asked me if I thought it was going to snow.

"Not a chance," I said.

Of course, it did and we faced a slippery ride home that night. She never let me forget it.

From that time on, regardless of the conditions, Mary Grace would look at me with that wry smile of hers and asked me if I thought it was going to snow.

The family will receive friends from 5-8 p.m. tonight and funeral services will follow with Bordwine Funeral Home in charge of arrangements (see Page 2 for complete obituary information).

Friends and family will gather at Sunrise Cemetery in Englewood at 11 a.m. Tuesday for the burial service.

And no, Mary Grace, I don't think it will snow.

HONORING OCEAN MIST FARMS

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 9, 2004

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor and pleasure that I am able to rise to

recognize Ocean Mist Farms, the premier grower and shipper of artichokes in the United States. Based in Monterey County, California of my congressional district, Ocean Mist Farms produces over a dozen other vegetables in addition to artichokes on its farms which are located throughout California. On Saturday, August 28, 2004, the people of Ocean Mist Farms celebrated their company's 80th anniversary.

In 1924, Castroville area farmers Daniel Pieri, Amerigo and Angelo Del Chiaro, Alfred Tottino and Louis Bellone combined formed a company to grow, ship, and market artichokes. Their little company persevered through the Great Depression and WWII to transform artichokes from an obscure ethnic specialty to a national delicacy. It took genius and hard work to accomplish this, and these characteristics have assured their success through today. Under the current leadership of the Boutonnet and Bengard families, Ocean Mist Farms employs more than 60 people in sales and administrative positions, more than 160 workers in its packing, shipping and cooling facilities, and nearly 600 individuals in related harvesting and production operations, as well as operating several affiliate operations throughout California and Arizona. It is a company that has helped make the Central Coast of California the most productive agricultural region in the world and it continues to give back to the local communities of the Salinas Valley.

Ocean Mist Farms is also an environmental leader in our region. It has remained in the forefront of innovations in farming methods designed to protect the environment. Using advanced techniques of irrigation and integrated pest and soil management, Ocean Mist Farms has proved itself to be truly invested in the preservation of the beauty and natural resources offered by Monterey County. It also took the lead in developing the world's largest reclaimed wastewater irrigation project.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to congratulate Ocean Mist Farms on its 80th anniversary. Monterey County has benefited immensely from their commitment to growing outstanding produce and I wish the company and all who work for Ocean Mist Farms the very best in the future.

TRIBUTE TO MR. VERNON
CUNNINGHAM AND MR. JAMES
SHEPARD

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 9, 2004

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to commend two of Northwest Indiana's most distinguished citizens, Mr. Vernon Cunningham and Mr. James Shepard of Portage, Indiana. On Saturday, September 11, 2004, they will be honored for their exemplary and dedicated service to the community.

Mr. Vernon Cunningham will be awarded the Portage Township Citizen of the year. Vernon's qualities include a dedication to community causes. Vernon has been a resident of Portage, Indiana for over fifty years. Those who know him best describe Vernon as a kind, fun-loving person, who always wants to help others. His outstanding service and donation of time and money to Gabriel Horn's homeless shelter represents the epitome of

what a dedicated public servant should be. South Haven American Legion Post 502 will be filled Saturday night with friends and family who have been blessed with the opportunity to know and work with Vernon and who wish to celebrate with him as he receives his award. Vernon's work, which has earned him Portage Township Citizen of the Year, has been improving his community and the lives of Porter County residents for many years. Although Vernon has dedicated his time serving the community, he has never neglected to provide support and love to his family. Vernon and his late wife Peggy have three children Scott, Gail, and James.

Mr. James Shepard is being honored as the Portage Township Fireman of the Year. Mr. Shepard was voted by peers as Fireman of the Year for his outstanding service and dedication to the South Haven Volunteer Fire Department. James is a third generation fireman; his father was a volunteer fireman for South Haven and his grandfather was also a fireman. James graduated from the Georgia Fire Academy, the National Fire Academy, and he is also a Certified Fire Instructor. His career as a firefighter began in 1988 when he worked as a firefighter near Savannah, Georgia. In 1993, James became a Certified Emergency Medical Technician. He then moved to Porter County Indiana and has been a full-time fire fighter for the City of Valparaiso for the last eleven years. For the past ten years, he has also served as a volunteer fireman for the South Haven Fire Department. While James has dedicated considerable time and energy to his work and protecting the lives of others, he has never limited the time he gives to his most important interest, his family. He and his wife Stacy have two children, James and Samantha.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commending Vernon Cunningham and James Shepard for their outstanding contributions to Indiana's First Congressional District. Their commitment to improving the quality of life of the people of Northwest Indiana is truly inspirational and should be recognized and commended.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MARJORIE
STEIN

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 9, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to honor the life and memory of Marjorie Stein of Aspen, Colorado. Marjorie recently passed away at the age of ninety-four, and leaves behind a legacy as an active and generous member of her community. I am honored to join my colleagues in remembering Marjorie's life before this body of Congress and Nation.

Marjorie grew up in Chicago, Illinois and went on to attend Connecticut College where she studied abroad in Paris, France. Marjorie and her husband Henry first fell in love with Aspen in the late 1940's, when they purchased a second home in the small, developing town. Their time spent there inspired them to make Aspen their permanent residence, and for the next half century they made their home on the Mill Iron Ranch.

Marjorie took great pride in her good works for the community. Her great passion for music and entertainment inspired her to get involved with the Aspen Music Festival in the 1950s. She also had a desire to help people that led to her co-founding of the 'Blue Ladies', a group of volunteers at Aspen Valley Hospital in 1960. The 'Blue Ladies' of Aspen Valley Hospital took their name from a Red Cross group with the same name that Marjorie worked with during World War II. Both groups performed similar duties, providing their services to the hospital wherever it was needed. Outside her volunteering efforts, she also enjoyed tennis and skiing Colorado's slopes.

Mr. Speaker, Marjorie Stein was a selfless contributor to the Aspen, Colorado community. She passionately pursued her interests, and in doing so made Aspen a better place. In this difficult time of bereavement, I wish to offer Marjorie's family and friends my heartfelt condolences.

HONORING BRIG. GEN. DONALD
POLK, M.D.

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 9, 2004

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, today I want to take a moment and thank a leader who has served not only his community in Tennessee, but also our Nation. After a lifetime of service as an officer in the United States military and as a physician, Brig. Gen. Donald H. Polk, M.D. is retiring.

In 1976, my friend Dr. Polk began working with the Tennessee Army National Guard. As Deputy Commander, State Area Command, Tennessee Army National Guard, General Polk has been responsible for supervising and training 3,000 combat service support soldiers of the Tennessee Army National Guard. Over the years Tennesseans have come to know and respect his leadership abilities.

And as a family physician in Wayne County, Dr. Polk has cared for thousands of people across our community. Again, his leadership abilities shone through as Medical Director of Emergency Service at Wayne Medical Center.

We are grateful for Dr. Polk's dedication and today I am pleased to honor and recognize his many years of service.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF DR.
HUGH LANGDON ELSBREE

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 9, 2004

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Hugh Langdon Elsbree, who died on August 30, 2004. Dr. Elsbree served as the Director of the Legislative Reference Service (LRS), now the Congressional Research Service, from 1958 to 1966. He was a noted political scientist, academician, and dedicated public servant who led the Legislative Reference Service (LRS) in providing research to the Congress.

Dr. Elsbree joined LRS as a research counsel in 1945 and became a Senior Specialist in