

Randolph County Courthouse, built in 1975, stands today on the bluff overlooking the river.

The buildings along the river that were part of the original town of Chester have been razed. However, a number of the old homes which stood on the bluffs above the town overlooking the river still give evidence of the wealth and the architectural style of that period. Many riverboat captains and other patrons of the river settled to this riverboat row of homes with an impressive overlook of the river.

Chester has had a rich and varied history in the development of the state of Illinois and of the nation. Illinois' first Governor, Shadrach Bond, has his resting place in Chester. Bond, who had lived in nearby Kaskaskia, was elected Governor without opposition in 1814, when Illinois was founded. Chester is also home to the Gilster Mary Lee mills and operations, producing high quality baking products for use throughout the world.

Chester also counts several historic homes as part of its heritage and culture. The Pierre Menard home is the finest example of Southern French Colonial architecture in the central part of the Mississippi river valley. Menard was a busy trader, storekeeper and politician of his period. He served as Lt. Governor under Governor Bond.

Chester is also home to one of America's most beloved cartoon characters, Popeye. Popeye's creator, Elzie Segar, was born in Chester and spent much of his youth there. When Elzie was 12 years old, he worked at the Chester Opera House and during that time he did odd jobs, played the drums with the orchestra and became the theatre's projectionist.

While films were re-wound, Popeye and many other characters were born as Elzie drew and showed them on glass slides before the local townspeople. Elize Segar and Popeye still have a place in Chester.

Chester today is a community of over 8500 people and boasts many hotels, restaurants and businesses. It continues to serve as a historic focal point for the development of southwestern and southern Illinois.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the community and people of Chester, Illinois and to recognize its role in the development of southwestern and southern Illinois.

HONORING FATHER JAVIER DE NICOLÓ

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2004

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on my behalf and on behalf of Mr. LANE EVANS, Mr. SAM FARR, Mr. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA, Ms. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE, Mr. GERALD KLECZKA, Ms. BARBARA LEE, Mr. JAMES P. MCGOVERN, Mr. GREGORY MEEKS, and Mr. PETE STARK to honor the extraordinary contributions of Father Javier de Nicoló, a champion for the impoverished and forgotten children of Colombia. The methodology that he developed and instituted through the Bosconia Program, a child services program for children who live in the street without parents, serves as a model throughout the world.

Father Javier de Nicoló was born in Bari, Italy on April 29, 1928. At 18, shortly after the

end of World War II, he decided to join the Salesian Community in Naples, which has a strong record for its work with the poor. In 1948, he emigrated to Agua de Dios in Colombia to treat patients with Hansen's disease. In the late 1960s, Father de Nicoló served as the chaplain of the Carcel de Menores, a prison in Bogotá for minors.

There, Father de Nicoló learned that children entering Bogotá's prisons were beaten, robbed, and raped. This experience hardened them, making it difficult to reintroduce them into society. Father de Nicoló recognized the need to provide structure and guidance in the lives of abandoned children who roamed the street—before they found themselves in prison. In 1970, with 20 children released from the Carcel de Menores on his personal recognition, he organized Bosconia, a small, experimental learning community in the slums of Bogotá. Over time, Javier witnessed the transformation of hundreds of irresolute boys into confident and independent young adults through participation in his program.

In Bogotá, there are several thousand boys from ages 5 to 15 who live in anarchy. Death is a looming reality for Bogotá's street children. For many years, Colombia has experienced the highest child murder rate in the world. Vigilante groups engage in driveby shootings or "social cleansing" as they label it, which lead to the massacre of hundreds of children each year. Nearly all street children carry knives, which they use for protection and to intimidate others. Inevitably, some children kill each other in a scuffle that turns deadly. Dozens of children kill themselves by smoking highly addictive cocaine which can lead to paralysis. Child prostitutes contract AIDS and spread the disease.

What began as an experiment in the early 1970s has grown into an organization whose branches reach thousands of children in Bogotá, Cali, Medellín, and Buenaventura. The Bosconia Program is a mixture of vocational training and a boarding program designed to help the children ease themselves off the streets into a more traditional lifestyle. With only a handful of adult supervisors, it graduates a growing number of young adults into the workforce on a tight budget. Bosconia operates on the philosophy that the wit and spunk a child uses to survive in the street reflects an intelligence that the program's educators can redirect. In fact, the Bosconia Program has been replicated by many organizations in numerous countries. Nearly 20,000 youngsters from the street have been rescued by the Bosconia Program, saved from indifference and generalized violence, becoming elevated as individuals and members of society.

Programming at Bosconia strengthens the character of children who once lived in the streets of Colombia and provides them with the resources that they need to become active participants in society. Attracted to the promise of a better life, boys voluntarily enter the courtyard of Bosconia. The mark of those anarchic days of stealing, starving half-freezing, fear and bravado passes from their faces. They have learned to respect themselves because Father Javier de Nicoló, his associates, and the other boys had respected them.

Although graduates of Bosconia have the character and the will to engage in the Colombian workforce, the unemployment rate is steadily rising. Decades of violence that include murder, robbery, and kidnappings that

has ravaged the countryside have brought millions of rural people into the country's cities. Those that graduate from Bosconia will need more than spiritual transformation if they hope to compete for jobs that will allow them to live with dignity. This cold reality has encouraged Javier de Nicoló to seek private funds to establish a program that will allow his pupils to receive on-the-job training, earn and save money, and gain experience in managing small enterprises.

Many social scientists believe that personalities rarely change after children reach their teenage years. To the contrary, Javier de Nicoló has taught us that the odds can be beaten and that we should never forfeit our children—our future—to the vices that plague our streets. We should nurture them, inspire them, and invigorate their minds with the dream of living healthy and fulfilling lives. The world can use more people with the compassion and motivation of Father Javier de Nicoló. The children of Colombia are truly blessed to have him as their guardian. We thank him for his work, his resolve to make a better life for destitute children, and we learn from the wisdom of his successful model, seeking opportunities to replicate this success globally.

By dedicating over three decades to rescuing and integrating lost children into society, Father de Nicoló inspires a call for global solidarity and responsibility—one that reaches beyond the geographic bounds of Colombia. He has developed a process to guide personal and social renovation, giving life to children who are waiting for an opportunity to rejoin their families and communities as well as exercise their citizenship without discrimination. We applaud this leader who is a tireless advocate for the human rights of all our world's children.

HONORING ROBERT MOSES FOR
LIFELONG COMMITMENT TO
EDUCATION

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2004

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Robert Moses who tonight will receive the prestigious Harold W. McGraw Jr. Prize in Education. Dr. Moses is a Civil Rights activist, math educator and creator of the highly acclaimed Algebra Project, which is located in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Along with Dr. Moses, Geoffrey Canada, Cecelia Cunningham and Janet Lieberman are being honored during an awards ceremony at the New York Public Library. The four have been chosen to receive the prestigious 17th annual award for dedicating themselves to closing the achievement gap. These individuals have worked tirelessly and creatively to give children with few advantages the opportunity to achieve, both academically and ultimately professionally.

Dr. Moses believes that math literacy is the key to 21st Century citizenship. He created the Algebra Project to help middle school students make the conceptual shift from arithmetic to algebra so they can be prepared for algebra in the eighth grade, and thus a college preparatory math sequence in high school. Three decades later, the Algebra Project

reaches approximately 9,000 students per year.

I salute Dr. Moses and the other honorees for their remarkable and untiring contributions to education. America's youth will reap the rewards of their selfless dedication. They are truly gifted educators who have made a tremendous difference in the lives of so many.

CONGRATULATING LANCE ARMSTRONG ON RECORD-SETTING VICTORY IN 2004 TOUR DE FRANCE

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 2004

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I offer strong support for House Resolution 761 that honors Lance Armstrong on his record-setting victory in the 2004 Tour de France. In July, Lance Armstrong proved again that he remains the world's greatest cyclist by winning his sixth consecutive Tour de France, an all-time record. I was pleased to advance this resolution to the House floor from the Committee on Government Reform, which I am privileged to chair, and I strongly urge its adoption by the full House.

As someone who previously coped with two bouts of melanoma, I am particularly in awe of Lance's perseverance to outlast a pernicious form of testicular cancer. Incredibly, at just age 25, Lance learned that cancerous cells had spread to his abdomen, lungs and brain. Through extensive treatments provided by his outstanding doctors, Lance was pronounced cancer-free within a year of his diagnosis.

Lance's wonderful recovery was perhaps only topped by his astounding comeback. Winning the 1999 Tour de France highlighted his return to racing, just over two years after he beat cancer. He became only the second American to ever win the race. As we all know, Lance did not stop after one victory. He has returned to France each of the last five summers, and he has won the race five more times.

Lance Armstrong personifies hope for those suffering from cancer and other serious illnesses, and indeed, all Americans. Therefore I am pleased that the House is taking time to pay tribute to his tenacity, work ethic and patriotism.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I congratulate Lance Armstrong on his awesome performance in the 2004 Tour de France and wish him the very best in his future pursuits.

NATIONAL PROSTATE CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2004

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, September is National Prostate Cancer Awareness Month. Education and advocacy are crucial in the fight against cancer. Imagine a disease that takes the lives of 30,000 U.S. men each year. Now imagine that disease ablated in just a few

hours with minimal pain and side effects. Ultrasound is revolutionizing prostate cancer treatment and is well on its way to replacing traditional treatment models.

I am honored to have a company in my district that is making this revolutionary treatment a reality. U.S. HIFU is a development company dedicated to fighting cancer and preserving patient quality of life with noninvasive high intensity focused ultrasound technology. High Intensity Focused Ultrasound, HIFU, is a state-of-the-art acoustic ablation technique for prostate cancer treatment that utilizes the power of ultrasound to destroy deep seated tissue with pinpoint accuracy.

HIFU is noninvasive, non-ionizing and 88–99 percent of patients treated have a PSA (prostate specific antigen) of less than 1 after one year, which indicates no evidence of recurrence.

Equally important is that there has been minimal to no incidence of incontinence and only 7 percent erectile dysfunction.

It can be preformed in one to three hours on an outpatient basis with an epidural anesthetic. Unlike other treatments, HIFU patients are up and walking around within hours of being treated.

The Sonablate 500, the HIFU device, targets tissue in the prostate in the same way that sunrays entering a magnifying glass burn a leaf. When a magnifying glass is held above a leaf in the correct position on a sunny day the sunrays intersect below the lens and cause the leaf to burn at the point of intersection. The scientific principles at work in this example are the same as those with HIFU. The energy source is the only difference. Instead of light as the energy source, HIFU utilizes sound.

In basic terms, the technology allows the physicians to get a live image of the prostate and cancerous tumor, carefully target cells with custom treatment planning and kill the tumor with a beam of clean ultrasound energy effectively destroying the cancerous tissue, leaving surrounding healthy tissue untouched.

HIFU involves no incision, and it can be applied repeatedly without damaging other tissue, unlike radiation-based therapies. As many as one-third of patients who receive either external radiation therapy or brachytherapy have a recurrence of cancer; fortunately, HIFU can be a salvage technique for these recurrent failures.

Prostate cancer is the most common type of cancer found in American men and the second leading cause of death in men. The American Cancer Society estimates that there will be about 230,900 new cases of prostate cancer in the United States in the year 2004. About 29,900 men will die of this disease.

TRIBUTE TO MAYOR GEORGE HARVELL, JR.

HON. JOHN S. TANNER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2004

Mr. TANNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to George Harvell, Jr., who, after 20 years as mayor of Millington, Tennessee, has decided not to seek reelection in November.

Mr. Harvell was born in Covington, Tennessee, but has lived in Millington since he

was 3 years old. He was spurred to public service in 1968 after hearing an alderman dismiss the effects of U.S. Highway 51 going through the city because it would not affect him personally. Mr. Harvell ran for alderman that year and served 16 years before becoming mayor.

As mayor, Mr. Harvell dealt with a 1987 flood, paddling through town in a boat to check on residents. He also turned the 1993 closing of the town's Naval Training Station into a positive thing for Millington by building a subdivision to attract more upscale housing. He recently helped recruit the University of Memphis to Millington, where classes on a satellite campus began this fall.

Known for his cool demeanor and fierce integrity, Mr. Harvell will be missed when he adjourns his last meeting December 6. I know he is looking forward to traveling and hunting as well as spending more time with Virginia, his wife of 50 years. But his departure certainly will be a loss to Millington and to the 8th District.

Mr. Harvell has been more than a mayor. He has been a friend to his community. He has been a friend to me. Mr. Harvell also has been more than a public servant. He has been a public example of the impact a single person can have on his community when he sets his mind to it.

Mr. Harvell has been a great mayor. He continues to be a great man and a great friend. I applaud his success and appreciate the time he has given and the commitment he has shown to Millington.

RECOGNITION OF LTC WILLIAM BOWERS

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2004

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of fellow West Point graduate LTC (Ret.) William Bowers. LTC Bowers was recently killed in Iraq while traveling between meeting locations. His vehicle was hit by an RPG, and then followed by small arms fire. LTC Bowers was killed in action as a result of the ambush.

LTC Bowers was a graduate of the United States Military Academy, Class of 1979. He was originally from the Chicago area but after retiring from the Army he moved to Huntsville, Alabama where he had become a Vice President and Program Manager at the SEI Group, INC.

Through his military career he served in a variety of engineering, training and leadership assignments. These assignments include, but are not limited to, combat engineer command and staff positions with the 5th Infantry Division, the 25th Division, and the 2nd Engineer Group. In other assignments he worked as a reserve component advisor, military instructor, and observer-controller at the Army National Training Center. Not enough can be said about the great sacrifice this man made for his country, he made the ultimate sacrifice. He is survived by his wife, Evelyn, and his two children, Brian and Jennifer. My thoughts and prayers go out to his family and all of his loved ones.