

sure that the Friends of Charlton Garden would agree that we can build no monument large or grand enough to honor the men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice for this country. The closest we can come to repaying these soldiers is to work to ensure that the world knows war no more. As idealistic and impossible as it may seem it is what their souls cry out for. So, Mr. Speaker, it is what I will continue to work for and it is what I ask my colleagues to work for. Surely, there can be no greater monument to our soldiers than peace.

HONORING THE LIFE OF SISTER  
DOROTHY STANG

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 23, 2005*

Mr. TURNER of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I am an original co-sponsor of H. Con. Res. 89, legislation to honor a truly distinguished native of the city of Dayton, which I represent in Congress, Sister Dorothy Stang.

Sister Stang was brutally murdered in Brazil on February 12. She was a Sister of Notre Dame de Namur, and had moved to the Amazon region of Brazil 22 years ago to help impoverished families in the Amazon learn how to engage in sustainable farming, and help them in their struggle for land rights. It was while she was working for the poor that she was murdered. It was as Sister Stang was traveling to a meeting of impoverished farmers that two gunmen approached her. Sister Stang read from the Bible to the gunmen, who nevertheless shot her several times.

Sister Stang's commitment to the poor, her quest for fair treatment of those who felt they did not have a voice, and her belief in the power of faith serve as an example from which we all can draw valuable lessons. It is fitting that the House of Representatives will vote today to draw the attention of the Congress and our Nation to the life of this selfless and inspirational woman.

HONORING THE 70TH BIRTHDAY OF  
ROBERT HEDGER

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 26, 2005*

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to send the Congress's birthday wishes to Robert Hedger on the occasion of his 70th birthday celebration. Father to Matthew, Sarah, Adam, Douglas and Stephen—a valuable member of my personal staff—and grandfather to Allison, Jonathon, Samuel, Kristina and Sarah, Robert has brought a wonderful family into this world. I offer my best wishes for continued good health and good fortune for he and his family and for many more gatherings such as that which he will hold this Memorial Day weekend when he will be surrounded by his loved ones at his home in Corea, Maine.

HONORING THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF INDIAN AMERICAN ASSOCIATION (NFIA)

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 26, 2005*

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise on the House floor this evening to highlight the National Federation of Indian American Associations (NFIA). NFIA is an umbrella organization for over 200 associations, all of which represent the 2.2 million Americans of Indian origin.

Since the establishment of NFIA in 1980, the organization has served the Indian American community at the local, State and national level, by protecting the basic civil rights of Indian Americans and by promoting their rich cultural heritage. NFIA is a secular organization that accepts membership from all Indian Americans, irrespective of religious, regional, ethnic, professional or political affiliation. In addition to representing and encouraging political participation by Indian Americans, NFIA is also active in promoting strong relations between the United States and India.

NFIA is very active in the area of raising funds for natural disasters, both in the U.S. and India, and has funded many charitable projects. NFIA holds biennial conventions in various parts of the country to discuss, deliberate, and debate the contemporary issues facing the community. Lastly, NFIA conducts annual receptions on Capitol Hill in an effort to strengthen long-lasting relationships with Members of the House and Senate and to advance its agenda on behalf of Indian Americans and U.S.-India relations.

In closing Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor the National Federation of Indian American Associations (NFIA) for its dedicated service.

BAKASSI PENINSULA

HON. CHRIS CHOCOLA

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 26, 2005*

Mr. CHOCOLA. Mr. Speaker I would like to share with my colleagues a situation that has been brought to my attention. An October 2002 ruling by the International Court of Justice affirmed that the disputed Bakassi Peninsula belongs to The Republic of Cameroon. I urge the nations of Cameroon and Nigeria to act in accordance with this ruling and move expeditiously to withdraw Nigerian troops and delineate the final border. Continued talks between the two parties are greatly encouraged, and it is my hope they will lead to an effective resolution.

CONGRATULATING THE NAPERVILLE BASEBALL ASSOCIATION ON ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JUDY BIGGERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 26, 2005*

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Naperville Baseball Associa-

tion on its 50th anniversary and to thank its members for their enduring commitment to youth athletics throughout the Naperville community.

The Naperville Baseball Association is an institution that, for a half-century, has provided local children with a fun, safe way to play organized baseball. The association will be honored as part of "Naperville Baseball Day" on June 3, celebrating "baseball at its best for the past 50 years."

As a mother and a grandmother, I fondly recall my days of shepherding kids to and from various youth sporting events in my station wagon. As a former youth soccer coach, I remember trying to balance winning while ensuring that all the kids got a chance to play and have fun.

Each year as spring rolls around, kids across America grow excited with anticipation for baseball season. They come to the field hoping to emulate their big league idols, while their parents line the stands, anxious to see their son morph into the next Mickey Mantle or Ernie Banks, slamming the ball out of the park. After games, parents and kids, coaches and teammates, all congratulate one another and often celebrate over pizza or heaping scoops of ice cream. Mr. Speaker, this is youth baseball at its very best.

As our national pastime, baseball holds a special place in the hearts of so many Americans. For generations, families have bonded over hot dogs and Cracker Jack at Wrigley Field, Comiskey Park, and other legendary cathedrals of summer. But as vital as these familial baseball bonds are to encouraging a love of the game, organized baseball also remains an excellent resource for teaching invaluable life skills like teamwork, friendship, and sportsmanship.

The Naperville Baseball Association has promoted this vision of pure, timeless baseball for more than 50,000 children over its 50-year history. I am proud to add my voice to the many who wish to say thanks, and I am confident they will keep up the good work for at least another 50 years.

HONORING THE RECIPIENTS OF THE 21ST ANNUAL PROSECUTORS' OFFICE AWARDS

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 26, 2005*

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the recipients of the 2005 Prosecutors' Office Awards. These remarkable individuals have helped build a safer community through their faithfulness and perseverance while on duty. The following are this year's awards and recipients.

A Commendation for Valor is awarded to an officer for an extraordinary act of outstanding courage, without regard for personal safety, while in actual combat with an armed and dangerous perpetrator. This year a Commendation for Valor will be awarded to the following people: Officer Shay Sampson; Officer Melva Moss; Officer Buddy Camp.

A Commendation for Heroism is awarded to an officer for an act of outstanding courage, without regard for personal safety, which results in the saving of a life, or the futile attempt to save a life. A Commendation for Heroism may also be awarded to an officer who

makes an outstanding arrest while confronting an armed and dangerous perpetrator. This year a Commendation for Heroism will be awarded to the following people: Officer Evelyn Carlin; Det. Wayne Matthews.

The Commendation for Merit is given to an officer who has demonstrated intelligent and valuable police service. This year the Commendation for Merit will be awarded to the following people: Det. Bret Johnson; Inspector Dave McClintock; Sr. Investigator Patricia Taulane; Police Officer Thomas Jeffers; Patrolman Kevin Koykka; Sgt. Paul Sims; Ptlm. William Hawkins, Jr.; Ptlm. Sean Plasket; Ptlm. Howard Dawson, IV; Ptlm. Don Stone; Ptlm. Thomas Farrell; Sr. Investigator C. DeCristofor; Investigator Edgardo Perez; Investigator Carlos Plaza; Det. Angel Ramos; Sr. Inv. Martin Wolf; Inv. James Bruno; Det. Eric White; Det. Sgt. Michael Basileo; Sr. Inv. Ron Moten; Inv. Miguel Rubert; Inv. Felix Martinez; Sr. Inv. Steve Settles; Det. Thomas Kalick; Sr. Inv. Diane Wilson; Det. Wayne Matthews; Sr. Inv. John Greer; Det. Edward Fallon; Det. Sgt. Christopher Leone; Inv. Michael Dougherty; Inv. Matthew McKeown; Inv. James Pisano; Inv. Robert McCross; Inv. Fawn Ackerman; Inv. Catherine Fisher; Inv. Jim Dougherty; Sgt. W. Mahan; Inv. John Ellis; Det. Scott Beasley; Det. Michael Meyers; Sgt. Frank Gagliardi; Ptlm. Michael Williams; Ptlm. Keith Barrett; Sgt. Neil Larson; Inv. Amy Jewusiak; Inv. Mike Molle; P/O Gary Badger; P/O Timothy Tedesco; P/O Robert Kempf; Off. J. Valsquez; Off. Parrish Powers; Off. Robert Chew; Off. Michael Fosler; Det. Kirk Williams.

A Letter of Commendation is awarded to an officer in recognition of police service, who is exceptional, and has served beyond the requirements of routine duty. This year a Letter of Commendation will be awarded to the following people: Inv. Janene Bahr; Det. Ken Nelson; Sr. Inv. Brian DeCosmo; Ptlm. William Lyons; Ptlm. Thomas Harchaw; Ptlm. Sean McGann; Inv. William Rummel.

A Citizen's Commendation may be awarded to any person who provides a significant contribution to the public safety through a specific act of outstanding courage, without regard for personal safety, which results in the saving of a life or the futile attempt to save a life. This year a Citizen's Commendation will be awarded to the following people: Ngoc V. Lee; Tracey Evans; Kim Belcher; Greg Parkill; Diane Schiavone-Loudon; Carlton Loudon; James Davies.

A Unit Citation is to be presented to any local, State of Federal Law Enforcement Unit, Agency, Department, Strike Force, etc. for outstanding performance and accomplishments made in the public interest. This year a Unit Citation will be awarded to the Camden Anticrime Partnership.

The Prosecutor's Service Award is given to any law enforcement personnel (officer or civilian) who, by personal dedication, thoroughness, competence, and a cooperative spirit, significantly facilitated the work of the Camden County Prosecutor's Office in the efficient and productive administration of justice. This year the Prosecutor's Service Award will be given to the following people: Timothy Kohlmyer; Sr. Inv. Kenneth Curcio; Asst. Pros. Mark Chase. Two special presentations will be made to Helmrich's Towing and Father Michael Manion for their support of the Prosecutor's Office and Camden County law enforcement.

The recipients of the 2005 Prosecutors' Office Awards have all demonstrated a strong

commitment to advancing law enforcement in their community. All of these men and women have committed themselves to improve the quality of life for county residents by attacking crime at every level. I thank all those who have helped to create a safer America by their commitment to law enforcement, and encourage my colleagues to support them in the U.S. Congress. Together we can continue to create better and safer communities throughout the country.

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A SALUTE TO KATIE BROWNELL

**HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 26, 2005*

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute a young girl who is in a league of her own—Kate Brownell. Katie is a shy 11-year-old girl of few words.

But when she gets on the baseball field she lets her pitching do the talking. And she rocks!

Brownell is the only girl in the Oakfield, Alabama Little League baseball program. She threw a perfect game for the Dodgers in an 11–0 victory over the Yankees. How dominant was she? Katie struck out all 18 batters she faced, yielding no more than two balls to any batter, in a six inning victory. Katie accomplished something league officials can't remember anyone—boy or girl—ever doing.

Brownell is not just good at pitching; she is also great at the plate. Katie's batting average is .714. When I first read her story I was so excited and inspired by this young girl's feat. I was so impressed that I wanted to be sure to come down to the floor and recognize her.

She exemplifies what you can achieve regardless of gender. Young women like Katie also serve to remind us that we can pretty much do everything men can, and sometimes better.

ON THE INTRODUCTION OF THE  
VISION PRESERVATION ACT OF  
2005

**HON. GENE GREEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 26, 2005*

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Vision Preservation Act of 2005. I am proud to introduce this legislation today along with my fellow co-chairs of the Congressional Vision Caucus: Representative ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, Representative DAVID PRICE and Representative PAT TIBERI. The four of us created the Congressional Vision Caucus in 2003 to increase education and awareness of vision problems among Members of Congress and their staff. The Vision Caucus has been fortunate to have the support of Prevent Blindness America and many other vision organizations in these efforts.

In 2004, Prevent Blindness America joined with the American Academy of Ophthalmology, the American Optometric Association, Lighthouse International and the National Alliance for Eye and Vision Research to put together an action plan to address vision problems. The legislation we introduce today is a legislative response to the recommendations outlined in that action plan.

Currently, an estimated 80 million people in the United States have a potentially blinding eye disease, 3 million have low vision, 1.1 million are legally blind, and 200,000 are more severely visually impaired. In my state of Texas alone, more than 370,000 people suffer from diabetic retinopathy. At least 90,000 Texans over 50 live with AMD. And cataracts affect more than 1.2 million people in my state.

Despite evidence that half of all blindness can be prevented, the number of Americans who suffer vision loss is expected to double by 2030 unless more effective prevention and treatment efforts can be implemented. The Vision Preservation Act will enhance current prevention and treatment efforts by focusing increased attention on vision research, expanding current federal vision programs, developing vision screening standards and providing for vision rehabilitation services under Medicare.