

he could fill with a company specializing in message management.

Connolly and Company was started with one telephone, two computers, a secretary and one client. Seven years later, it's a thriving public relations firm whose dynamic staff services clients in telecommunications, commercial real estate development, health care and law—among many others.

Connolly and Company is an upstanding business in Texas that helps its many clients put their best foot forward. The firm has collected many awards and is regarded as one of the top firms in San Antonio.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have had this opportunity to celebrate the anniversary of Connolly and Company.

RECOGNIZING ANNIVERSARY OF
THE RATIFICATION OF THE 13TH
AMENDMENT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2005

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise here today to express my support for H.R. 196 that recognize the 140th anniversary of the thirteenth Amendment, which abolished slavery in the United States.

I applaud my colleague from Oakland, California, for her hard work on this resolution because of the efforts that have been made to ensure that the Thirteenth Amendment is respected in practice. There were many examples of seemingly deliberate attempts to bypass the 13th Amendment regarding slavery. For example, in Texas in 1867, African-Americans constituted about one third of the convicts in state penitentiaries. However, about 90 percent of those inmates were leased out for cheap railroad labor.

Apprenticeship laws also were embraced with increasing vigor throughout the South. In some States, such as Maryland and North Carolina, courts ordered African American children to be bound for labor to white "employers" without the permission or knowledge of the children's parents. Records compiled by the Freedmen's Bureau in those States indicate a virtual deluge of requests for assistance in obtaining the freedom of children enslaved through "lawful" State-court action. Of course, the State-court actions in these cases were inconsistent with Federal law, and the resulting involuntary servitude of these children was a violation of the Thirteenth Amendment. As founder and Co-Chair of the Congressional Children's Caucus, I assert that it is critical for the future of our children that we preserve the spirit of this Constitutional Amendment, for history has shown that children have been vulnerable in the past.

As members of Congress, we must ensure that this milestone in American history is recognized and celebrated. I am pleased to stand with my colleagues by being an original cosponsor of this legislation.

HONORING IRENE ALEXANDER

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2005

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize one of Chicago's treasures, Mrs. Irene Alexander.

Today Mrs. Alexander will perform a concert of Chopin and Gershwin pieces for victims of Hurricane Katrina. Following that, she will visit Walter Reed Hospital to perform for wounded soldiers. Her final performance of the day will be for Navy veterans at a concert in Bethesda, Maryland. While this schedule would be too much strain for most, it is the norm for Mrs. Alexander, who is 85 years old.

When she is back home in Chicago, Mrs. Alexander shares her musical gifts at nursing homes throughout the city, performing approximately 150 concerts each year. An accomplished pianist, she has played at Chicago's Orchestra Hall and at venues in Israel and China.

Mrs. Alexander has overcome several personal hardships in order to serve others. As a child, she overcame polio, and as an adult she battled breast cancer. For the past 15 years, she has suffered from macro-degeneration of the eyes, and is legally blind today. Through it all she has continued to perform and serve as a source of inspiration for many.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to stand in recognition of Chicago's most generous and talented citizens, Mrs. Irene Alexander.

IN RECOGNITION AND REMEM-
BRANCE OF THE LIFE OF U.S.
MARINE CORPS MASTER SER-
GEANT BRETT ANGUS

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2005

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I thank you for the opportunity to recognize and honor the life of U.S. Marine Corps Master Sergeant Brett Evan Angus.

Minnesota and St. Paul have lost another courageous serviceman. U.S. Marine Corps Master Sergeant Brett E. Angus served his Nation, his community and his family with honor in one of the military's most dangerous jobs, as an ordnance disposal expert. Master Sergeant Angus was serving his second tour in Operation Iraqi Freedom when, on November 26, 2005, an improvised explosive device detonated while he was conducting combat operations near Camp Taqaddum, Iraq. He was assigned to Marine Wing Support Squadron-372, Marine Wing Support Group-37, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, I Marine Expeditionary Force, out of Camp Pendleton, California. During Operation Iraqi Freedom, his unit was attached to 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing, II Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward).

Master Sergeant Angus was born in St. Paul, Minnesota. His family history of military service dates back to the Civil War, and he followed his father, uncle and grandfather into military service. He was an outstanding professional soldier who loved being a Marine and earned several awards and medals for his

service. He was eligible for retirement this year, but chose to return to Iraq for a second tour of duty. As an ordnance disposal expert, his family was constantly afraid of the danger his job put him in, but knew that his vital work was saving the lives of U.S. Armed Forces and the Iraqi people. His vast knowledge and expertise made him a valuable teacher for his fellow Marines.

I extend my condolences and share in the grief of his family and friends. Master Sergeant Angus' made the ultimate sacrifice while serving our Nation, and we will be forever grateful. The sympathies of all Americans go to his wife, Masami, his father, Russell, and to his family and friends.

Master Sergeant Brett Angus is the 26th service member from Minnesota to die in Iraq since 2003. I honor Brett Angus for his courageous service to this country, and his commitment to protecting our freedom.

TRIBUTE TO THUNDER RIDGE
HIGH SCHOOL VARSITY TEAM

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2005

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I would also like to applaud the accomplishments of a group of Highlands Ranch, Colorado student-athletes. The Varsity Football team from Thunder Ridge High School—Tyler Ames, William Ard, Cody Barday, Jesse Bartholomew, Damjan Bates, Dylan Baumgarten, Brian Behnke, Shay Belfiore, Kyle Black, Sean Brandon, Lucas Braun, James Breidel, Shawn Brevig, John Callahan, Evan Carter, Chris Carpenter, Hunter Calder, Josh Ceccarelli, Bryce Clark, Robert Clark, Phillip Clukies, Mike Coffey, Chris Collins, Richie Cooper, Evan Crabtree, Carlos Cristaldo, Justin Curnow, Scott Day, Matt England, Ben Faddis, Paden Faulkner, Matt Flood, Brennan Fox, Brendan Gallagher, Desi Gallegos, Cody Gibbs, Caleb Golter, Russ Gorhum, Alex Guesnier, Corey Hankins, Zach Hansen, Clay Harrison, Chris Hernley, Michael Hoffman, Cory Hofstetter, Ryan Huber, Matt Hutton, Ryan Jellum, Nick Kochan, Jordan LeMarinel, Brian Lawrence, Bryce Lines, Nick Lind, Benny Lopez, Nate McCarroll, Matt Maichele, Kyle Manhart, Cody Martin, Jordan Meek, Drew Miguel, Eric Moats, Brendan Nelson, Tyler Nelson, Brandon Nelson, Doug Nisenon, Alex Nittoli, Will Palamet, Tim Papik, Shane Pickrell, Brent Pokryfke, Chris Ray, Josh Roach, LeRoy Santos, Steven Savage, Alex Sawyer, Josh Schaner, Patrick Sharshel, Cory Sicard, Ethan Sizer, Ben Smith, Parker Smith, Travis Somma, Tyler Spieker, Andrew Tapp, J.T. Taylor, Bret Terechtien, Zach Tiedgen, Brandon Townsley, James Tucker, Andrew Ulmer, Danny Vail, Tyler VanderVegt, Jeff Watt, Riley Williamson, Derrick Youhas, Eric Zane, Chuck Zimmerman and their coaches, Joe Johnson, Joe White, Ryan Hollingshead, Jon Ackerman, Mick Ward, Marty Moon, Kent Milius, Matt Chapman, Steve Miller, John Reyes, Joe Wegner, Nick Grimm, Craig Kyllonen—won the Colorado State Division 4A Football Championship on December 3, 2005.

After their undefeated season, the Grizzlies gained the second place seeding in the State