

partner in an investment banking firm before assuming the reins at the Yonkers Raceway.

Mr. Rooney's leadership in the racing industry has been well-documented. He is one of the owners of a stud farm in County Kildare in Ireland, and he serves as a director of the United States Trotting Association. He is the business manager of the family-owned Shamrock Farm in Maryland, one of the oldest horse breeding farms in the Terrapin State.

Mr. Rooney is also a devoted family man. He and his wife June are proud parents of 5 children and are devoted to their 17 grandchildren as well as 1 great-grandchild.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my distinguished colleagues join me in honoring Mr. Timothy Rooney, the grand marshal of New York's 2006 St. Patrick's Day Parade, the largest parade held in our Nation's greatest metropolis.

**AERAS GLOBAL TB VACCINE
FOUNDATION'S RESEARCH FA-
CILITY IN ROCKVILLE, MD**

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 16, 2006

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, we are marking a milestone in the global fight against one of the world's most deadly diseases—tuberculosis.

In Rockville, MD, the Aeras Global TB Vaccine Foundation opened a new research and production facility to meet the world's need for an advanced tuberculosis vaccine. The Aeras Foundation is currently testing multiple TB vaccine candidates. The facility will be capable of producing 150 million doses of vaccine per year. It will use the most advanced medical research and manufacturing technologies and will serve as Aeras's headquarters as well as its research and production center.

The world badly needs a new TB vaccine. More than 1.75 million people die from this disease every year. It is second only to AIDS as the world's deadliest infectious disease. The World Health Organization estimates that there are 8.8 million new cases of TB every year. TB is also the leading cause of death among people diagnosed with AIDS, accounting for about 13 percent of AIDS deaths worldwide.

The current TB vaccine, known as BCG, is nearly 100 years old and was developed in the early 20th century. One of the most widely used children's vaccines in the world, BCG is largely ineffective against TB in adults, who comprise the majority of TB cases.

A new vaccine is the best hope for controlling TB, because vaccination is the only medical intervention that has eliminated an infectious disease. This was the case with smallpox, and today, global polio vaccinations efforts are bringing closer the day when this human disease will be eliminated.

A better TB vaccine may be in reach within the next decade. At least four candidate vaccines have entered human trials recently, and others are in the development pipeline.

I am pleased that the Aeras Foundation has decided to make its home in the community I represent in the U.S. Congress. The Aeras Foundation was founded in 1997 for the purpose of developing new concepts and tools to control the global TB epidemic. Today, it is the

only non-profit organization in the world working through public-private partnerships with the sole focus of developing new vaccines against TB and ensuring their production and availability to all who need them.

In 2004, the Aeras Foundation received a grant of \$82.9 million from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation for new TB vaccine development. It has also received funding support from the U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention and the Government of Denmark.

Dr. Jerald C. Sadoff, president and CEO of the Aeras Foundation, has devoted more than three decades to developing vaccines for dozens of diseases, including malaria and chicken pox, and is one of the world's leading experts in this field. He and his team of researchers and scientists are dedicated to saving the lives of millions of people in some of the poorest places in the world from the scourge of this disease. But TB is not just a disease characteristic of the developing world; there are an estimated 8 cases per 100,000 people in Europe and 5 cases per 100,000 people here in the United States.

This month we will celebrate World Tuberculosis Day, a day to heighten awareness of and rededicate ourselves to the search for a TB vaccine. That goal is closer to reality thanks to the tireless work of the skilled and talented men and women of the Aeras Foundation at their new facility in Rockville, MD. I wish them the greatest success in their important and noble mission.

**TRIBUTE FOR THE EFFORTS OF
OPERATION MISSISSIPPI CHRIST-
MAS**

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 16, 2006

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, Hurricane Katrina crashed into the heart of the Gulf Coast on the morning of August 29, 2005, forever altering the landscape of New Orleans and the surrounding cities and towns, as well as the lives of those who called the region their home. It has taken the hands and efforts of many Americans of goodwill to help alleviate the hardships faced during this trying time.

Rebuilding the post-Katrina Gulf Coast has not been, and will not be, easy. Yet in the midst of one of the country's greatest natural disasters, countless selfless individuals have worked to create a sense of normalcy for those who lost everything in Hurricane Katrina.

Operation Mississippi Christmas was one such organized effort working out of St. Mary's County, Maryland, in my Congressional District. The members of Operation Mississippi Christmas volunteered their time and efforts in order to give the children of D'Iberville, Mississippi a much-deserved and enjoyable Christmas season. It is a privilege to be able to recognize the faith and determination of these men and women, as well as their dedication to such a worthwhile project.

Members of the St. Mary's Hurricane Relief Fund kicked off their efforts with a gift drive spanning the entirety of St. Mary's County. The generosity of the residents of St. Mary's County was uplifting; all but eight of more than a thousand boxes passed out for adoption of the younger children of D'Iberville were re-

turned with gifts. This feat can only be attributed to the great sense of humanity shared by the residents of St. Mary's.

The original plan for transporting the gifts was to organize a C-130 air transport mission, but this plan was abandoned for lack of certainty of plane availability and impending inclement weather. Undaunted, the volunteers were able to obtain two tractor trailers generously donated by the Bailey family and the defense systems company BAE at the last minute, which allowed them to transfer even more supplies to D'Iberville than the original airlift would have.

The organizers of Operation Mississippi Christmas laid out plans for a December 12 delivery of the goods and stuck to this plan with such tenacity that there was never any doubt of their success. On December 10, the loaded tractor trailers set out for Mississippi, while a team of eight St. Mary's Hurricane Relief volunteers flew commercially to Jackson and then drove the remaining 170 miles to D'Iberville.

The volunteers then presented the gifts to local children during a celebration in the D'Iberville Elementary School gymnasium that included food and a special appearance from Santa. The younger children received the presents donated by St. Mary's County residents and the upper middle and high school students received gift cards.

In addition to gifts for the town's children, the St. Mary's volunteers were also able to donate supplies sorely needed by the city of D'Iberville, including school supplies, first aid kits, computer systems, and medical supplies.

Mr. Speaker, it is wonderful that the efforts of so few were able to bring such joy to so many, and these efforts would not have been possible without the hard work and dedication to public service exhibited by the St. Mary's Hurricane Relief Fund. Today I honor the amazing fortitude of these individuals and would like to thank them for their contribution towards bringing a much-needed sense of hope back to the Gulf Coast.

TRIBUTE TO JIM HINGA

HON. JOHN T. SALAZAR

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 16, 2006

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you today to pay tribute to Jim Hinga, a beloved father of three and renowned lawyer, who passed away on March 5. It was a privilege to know Jim and I offer my deepest condolences to his family and friends.

Jim was born and raised in Indiana. He received his B.A. from Notre Dame in 1971 where he was known by many as "Muncie Milkman" of the Notre Dame basketball team. His achievements on the team led to his induction into the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame as a member of the Silver Anniversary Basketball Team. After earning a law degree from the University of Mississippi, Jim served as a litigator and widely respected mediator in Denver, Colorado for the next 25 years. Jim was often sought out for his talent, intellect, and expertise.

But Jim is remembered first and foremost as a compassionate friend and dedicated family man. He never missed a chance to attend one

of his children's school or sporting events. He took time out of his busy work schedule to call his children and tell them how proud he was of their accomplishments. Jim raised a determined set of talented children who will honor his memory with their good works for years to come.

We can all learn from Jim and can only hope to have his sense of dedication and compassion. His caring personality brightened the lives of those who knew him. Jim will be missed, but remembered by the hundreds of people whose lives he touched. May he rest in peace.

TRIBUTE TO DR. LOUIS J. AGNESE
JR.

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 16, 2006

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a person who has made an indelible impact on San Antonio and higher education, Dr. Louis Agnese Jr, the President of the University of the Incarnate Word (UIW.) On March 25, 2006, Dr. Agnese will celebrate his 20th anniversary as President of the university and during his tenure the school has been transformed from a small private school into a world class academic institution. Yet despite the changes at UIW, it remains a school committed to expanding both the minds and consciences of its students. I am proud that San Antonio can call UIW one of its schools, but we are especially thankful that Dr. Agnese has applied his talents and energy to making UIW into the institution that it is.

In 1986, Dr. Agnese was inaugurated as the 8th president of Incarnate Word College. He was the driving force that transformed the school from a college into the University of the Incarnate Word. In addition to the San Antonio campus, UIW now has sites in Corpus Christi, Texas, Guangzhou, China, and Mexico City, Mexico and 80 sister schools in 30 countries. During his presidency, UIW has doubled the size of its faculty, tripled the number of buildings on its main campus, and has greatly increased the school's endowment. Dr. Agnese has done nothing less than remake the school while remaining true to its founders' mission.

In the aftermath of the Civil War, Texas Bishop Claude M. Dubuis decided to establish a new religious congregation, the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word, dedicated to helping the poor and ill. He persuaded three sisters from a cloistered community of nuns in Lyons, France to emigrate to Texas and establish the Santa Rosa Infirmary, the first civilian hospital in San Antonio. The Sisters increased the scope of their mission as new circumstances arose. When they found that the hospital was caring for a significant number of orphans, they began orphanages, which led to starting schools to educate these children.

In 1881, the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word applied for and were granted a state charter to operate hospitals and schools. At first UIW opened and ran elementary and secondary schools but began offering college courses for young women around the turn of the 20th Century. Soon thereafter, the Sisters christened their school the College and Academy of the Incarnate Word.

Much has changed in the last 125 years. Today UIW is the largest Catholic University in Texas and the fourth largest private school. At the same time the school has grown, it remains committed to the core principles of its founders. UIW recognizes that service to others is the highest calling one can pursue. Moreover, Dr. Agnese has lived this credo as he has helped increase opportunities for young people to earn an education and look at the world in a broader way.

UIW truly is an international school with students from all over the world attending its main campus in San Antonio. This kind of diversity teaches young people to embrace and respect the cultural differences that make life enriching but also to recognize the similarities that bind us together.

In addition to increasing the diversity of the student body, Dr. Agnese also pushed to expand the academic programs at UIW and established the university's first Ph.D. program. Moreover, Dr. Agnese and the university have been sensitive to the challenges facing young Latinos seeking higher education and he has helped facilitate this process. Indeed, Dr. Agnese has said that "one of the proudest moments of my life occurred when I was selected as the national Hispanic Educator of the Year in 1996, even though I'm Italian-American."

In 1986, Dr. Louis Agnese had a vision of UIW could become. Yet, he did not just envision UIW as one of Texas' finest academic institutions; he also saw a school that would continue to educate young men and women who would work to improve our community. Knowledge may fire the mind but unless guided by a moral compass, it is little more than pedantry. UIW helps its students gain the moral guidance necessary to implement their education.

Of course, Dr. Agnese is also deeply dedicated to his family and has proven his commitment to San Antonio. He has helped make San Antonio the thriving city it is today and we are the better for his coming here. I wish Dr. Agnese many more years of success at UIW.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 1ST BATTALION, 69TH INFANTRY OF THE NEW YORK NATIONAL GUARD

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 16, 2006

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry of the New York National Guard who are being honored on St. Patrick's Day in New York City. I know that my distinguished colleagues will join me in extending our appreciation and gratitude to all of the brave members of the armed forces serving in the National Guard and the Reserve, who are so courageously and selflessly dedicated to their fellow Americans.

The National Guard in an integral part of a great tradition in American military history that began during the American Revolution. At that time, our Founding Fathers placed the country's security in the hands of citizen-soldiers who trained and organized into militias in their home colonies. To this day, members of the National Guard must be ready to serve their

state and their country, often at a moment's notice.

The members of the 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry continue to uphold a distinguished tradition in both battle and disaster response. As part of the famous Irish Brigade during the Civil War, the members of the 69th Infantry were renowned for their tenacity on the battlefield, leading Confederate General Robert E. Lee to bestow upon them the nickname of "The Fighting 69th." In acknowledgement of its proud heritage, the Fighting 69th participates each year in New York's St. Patrick's Day Parade.

The Fighting 69th are infantry soldiers—the "guns on the ground"—whose mission is to engage and destroy enemy forces in close combat. In addition to the Civil War, its members have also fought in the Spanish American War, World War I and World War II, where its soldiers served valiantly in the battles of Makin, Saipan and Okinawa, and its members just completed a tour of duty in Iraq, returning to the U.S. six months ago after serving with distinction. Sixteen soldiers in the Manhattan-based 69th National Guard Regiment have died in the Iraq War, including a member who was one of the New York firefighters who raised the American flag above Ground Zero, Christian Engledrum.

In April, six members of the 69th Regiment were awarded Purple Hearts after being wounded by roadside bombs in Iraq. The unit patrolled the infamous road to the Baghdad airport and was stationed primarily in the Sunni Triangle, where most of the insurgent attacks have taken place. In a speech at Fort Drum, New York, Vice President Richard Cheney paid tribute to the Fighting 69th, thanking its members for their "toughness in confronting insurgents around Baghdad." Nine members of the Fighting 69th are continuing to serve on active duty in Iraq today.

The members of the Fighting 69th also have mobilized during times of emergency in their home state of New York. The Battalion Commander, Lt. Col Geoffrey Slack, informs me that the Fighting 69th was the first National Guard unit to arrive on the scene following the devastating terrorist attacks of September 11th, 2001. In the hours after the attacks, the Battalion assisted medical teams treating the wounded and provided significant assistance to rescue and recovery operations, continuing in this mission for nearly a year.

Mr. Speaker, in recognition of its tremendous contributions to civic and public life, I request that my colleagues join me in paying tribute to the Fighting 69th Regiment of the New York State National Guard, who are great New Yorkers and great Americans. All Americans should be grateful for the dedication demonstrated every day by the men and women of the Fighting 69th as well as all of the brave individuals serving in National Guard and Reserve units throughout our nation. Their members' dedication to our country serves as an inspiration to us all.

MARCH IS WOMEN'S HISTORY
MONTH

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 16, 2006

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, in March, we celebrate Women's History Month and