

As many people know, Mr. Speaker, Buffalo is an area rich in cultural diversity, and Buffalo's Italian American community is a critical component of that diverse tapestry. Peter's leadership within our community is strong, serving on the Board of Directors of the Italian Heritage Festival of Buffalo, where literally tens of thousands of Western New Yorkers enjoy all things Italian along Hertel Avenue in Buffalo each summer. A longtime member of the Romulus Club and the Knights of Columbus, Peter also serves as president of the Buffalo-Torremaggiore Sister Cities Association, encouraging the continuation of shared cultural exchange between Buffalo and its sister Italian city. Peter is a faithful communicant of St. Anthony of Padua Church in Buffalo, where he performs in the choir and is a leader within the parish.

While Peter's commitment to his community and to his faith is clear; most notable, however, and almost certainly his most significant point of pride, is his family. Peter's wife Francine and children Sarina and Marco are his clear pride and joy, and their life remains full of the richness and wonder that any couple with a young family could hope to enjoy.

Mr. Speaker, America is a wonderful country where immigrant people who came before us populated communities like Buffalo and Western New York, hoping for a better life than the one they left behind. My people, coming from Ireland, did it, and Peter LoJacono's people did it when they came from Italy. People like Peter realize the sacrifice that his forebears made so that he could live the vaunted American Dream, and his contribution to the community he lives in can never be overstated. On behalf of the entire membership of the House of Representatives, I want to thank Peter LoJacono for his ongoing contributions to our community, and I want to thank you, Mr. Speaker, for this opportunity to honor Peter here.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DR. WILLIAM
H. BAILEY

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. William H. Bailey for his outstanding career in music and business, but more importantly for his contributions to the Civil Rights movement. On May 2nd of this year Dr. Bailey will be recognized at the formal dedication of William H. Bailey Middle School, which is named in his honor.

Dr. Bailey was born Feb. 14, 1927, in Detroit, where his father worked in an auto factory. When his father lost his job during the Depression, the family moved to Cleveland, where Dr. Bailey grew up and learned to sing in church choirs. He finished high school at 16, and his musical talent combined with his high grades won him a voice scholarship to Morehouse University in Atlanta. While working his way through college by performing in local night clubs, Benny Goodman and John Hammond recruited him to sing with Count Basie. He then toured the "Chitlin' Circuit," performing in black communities of big cities. He had three hit records: "Danny Boy," "The Worst Blues I Ever Had," and "Blue and Sentimental."

In 1950, Basie broke up his big band and Dr. Bailey became a student at the School of Radio and Television in New York City, receiving a scholarship from American Broadcasting Company. After he wasn't hired as on-air talent he tried for technical jobs, also without luck. Then, he heard about the Moulin Rouge in Las Vegas. Although Las Vegas was highly segregated, the Moulin Rouge Casino and Hotel was open to all. Dr. Bailey co-produced a show with black entertainers that became a hit, drawing a hip, interracial crowd. But when he started this job, he had to use the service entrance to reach the TV studio. He complained and the management decided to change their racist policy. Following his news casting career, Dr. Bailey developed a reputation for starting new ventures.

In 1957, he joined KTNV—Channel 13, where he hosted a variety show, and developed Las Vegas' first dance program for teens. In 1961 he also hosted current events talk shows. From 1965 to 1971 Dr. Bailey began working as a newscaster. In 1958, Dr. Bailey began working for gubernatorial candidate Grant Sawyer. The Legislature of 1961 established a commission to find out whether discrimination existed. Gov. Sawyer realized a great asset that he had and appointed Dr. Bailey as Chairman of the new commission. In this position he set up a dealers' school using loaned gambling tables and space from Al Benedict, a Stardust executive. At Dr. Bailey's suggestion, Benedict recruited managers from other casinos as teachers. Bailey also set up training programs in radio and television jobs, and other fields. More than 1,000 jobs were opened to minorities in 2 years because of his efforts.

In 1964 Dr. Bailey opened a club at Miller and Lexington avenues in West Las Vegas, named "Sugar Hill." In 1965, Bailey bought the riot-damaged West Owens Shopping Center and converted it to the Pan-Afro Auditorium, which featured great bands, including Sonny Charles and Ray Charles. Bailey also established the Nevada Economic Development Co., which helped minority businesses get \$300 million in government grants over 19 years. This success led to a job in Washington as Associate Director of the Minority Business Development Agency. Later, President Bush made him Deputy Director, overseeing MBDA's \$66 million budget.

Proud as he is of the civil rights laws he helped pass, Dr. Bailey believes that today, learning the ropes of business, professions, and technology will do the most to improve the lives of minorities. He believes that "education is the light that blinds ignorance" and is a strong advocate for parent participation in schools, a curriculum that includes fine arts, and preparing all students for college.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Dr. William H. Bailey on the floor of the House. I commend him for his contributions to this country and thank him for his continued service to young students in southern Nevada.

A TRIBUTE TO RUSNAK
AUTOMOTIVE GROUP

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Rusnak Automotive Group in cele-

brating 40 years as a premiere automotive dealer in Southern California. Paul Rusnak opened his first location in 1959 because he saw the beginning of a fascination with European sports cars.

Over the years, his business grew to include more than 25 different automotive brands, both domestic and European. From Culver City to Pasadena, Rusnak Automotive Group has centered its market in convenient locations for our community members.

A short distance from Art Center College of Design, where many automotive designers are inspired, is the intersection of Orange Grove and Colorado Boulevard in Pasadena, California. This location is where Rusnak showcases cars such as Jaguar, Porsche, Audi, Rolls-Royce, and Bentley in historic buildings that have served as automotive dealerships since the turn of the century. The famous Walter M. Murphy Motors and Murphy Co. Coachworks of Duisenberg fame was housed where Rusnak now displays Porsches. Also, the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics has designated the Rolls-Royce dealership as one of the nation's historic aerospace sites—it was the first plant for Aerojet Engineering Corporation, which was the site of the invention of rocket fuel.

The largest automotive mall in the world houses Rusnak/Westlake and BMW, Porsche, and Audi dealerships. Rusnak Automotive Group has received many awards over the years including the first J.D. Powers "Customer Approved Retailer." But—the best awards have come from the many repeat customers who have made Rusnak the number one volume Audi dealer in the Western United States and the fastest growing Mercedes-Benz dealer in Southern California. Looking to the future, Rusnak now has a new BMW dealership on the 101 Freeway in Thousand Oaks, California.

Mr. Paul Rusnak, his daughter, Liz Rusnak Arizmendi, Vice President Public Relations, and Rusnak Automotive Group are generous supporters of many local charitable organizations, including Childrens Hospital Los Angeles, Make a Wish of Greater Los Angeles, the Pasadena POPS Orchestra, the AIDS Service Center of Los Angeles, Hillside, Methodist Hospital Foundation, the American Red Cross and the Ronald McDonald House of Pasadena.

It is my distinct honor to recognize the contributions of Rusnak Automotive Group. I ask all members to join me in congratulating Paul Rusnak and his staff for celebrating 40 years of contributions to the community and automotive industry.

IN TRIBUTE TO KIRBY GODSEY

HON. JIM MARSHALL

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Dr. R. Kirby Godsey, of Macon, Georgia, who is retiring after a long, successful tenure as President of Mercer University. I rise to thank Dr. Godsey for his extraordinary wisdom, leadership and grace that blessed not only Mercer University and Middle Georgia, but me as well.

Mr. Speaker, on July 1, 1979, Kirby Godsey became the 17th president of Mercer University. For almost 27 years, Kirby guided Mercer