

District—Janice and Richard Oliphant. Jan and Dick are well-known throughout the Inland Empire for their commitment to bettering the community and their devotion to education. I am pleased to join the Indian Wells Rotary Club, which established the “Dick Oliphant Scholarship Endowment Fund,” in recognizing Jan and Dick for their exemplary work in our community.

Since moving to the desert in 1962, Jan and Dick Oliphant have been valued members of our community. The time and effort these two individuals have devoted to the valley is highly commendable and will have a lasting impact for years to come.

As a leader in the construction and development business, Dick’s projects, including designing golf courses, retirement communities, apartment complexes, and commercial and medical centers, have earned him international recognition, including some of the highest awards one can achieve in the building industry. Among his first projects in the desert was the development and construction of Palm City, later named the Palm Desert Country Club, which was California’s first retirement community and winner of 21 National Awards.

Both Jan and Dick Oliphant are firm believers in giving back to their community and are known for their philanthropic work in Southern California, especially in the area of education. Their service in numerous nonprofit organizations and community service projects has made them invaluable assets to our region. Additionally, Dick has served over two years as an Indian Wells Planning Commissioner, six years as a councilman, two years as the vice mayor and eight years as mayor. He is the founding chairman of the Coachella Valley Economic Development Conference and State of the Valley, the founder and chairman of the Coachella Valley Economic Partnership, and the founding Chairman of the Lincoln Club of the Coachella Valley.

Jan and Dick have truly enhanced our community with their support of and involvement with education. Jan has served as president and founder of several parents clubs, including the Katherine Finchy Parents Club in Palm Springs and the John F. Kennedy Parents Club in Indio. Both Jan and Dick are actively involved on countless advisory boards and committees, truly extending themselves to promote education in the Coachella Valley.

For over sixteen years, Dick has been a member of the California State University, San Bernardino Advisory Board, and he is also a co-chair in fundraising for a public/private partnership with the California State University, San Bernardino, Palm Desert Campus. He has been named a “fellow” by the A. Gary Anderson School of Business at the University of Riverside, where he spent a year lecturing and counseling graduate students on campus. Furthermore, nearly every city in the Coachella Valley has designated a “Richard R. Oliphant Day” because of his extensive work on valley-wide issues. For their outstanding contributions, in 1996, Jan and Dick were named the “Distinguished Citizens of the Year” by the Boy Scouts of America.

Both Jan and Dick Oliphant have graciously offered their resources and services to the benefit of our community and are well-deserving of our praise. Devoted to their family and to each other, Jan and Dick are truly exem-

plary citizens, and I am honored by their friendship and to serve as their representative in the 45th Congressional District of California.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring and recognizing Jan and Dick Oliphant, for their unwavering dedication, integrity, and outstanding public service. Their energy and passion to build our community and to foster learning and education, continues to benefit Palm Desert and our entire community.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE GIRL
SCOUTS OF AMERICA CROSS
TIMBERS COUNCIL

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 9, 2006

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Girl Scouts of America for their 94 years of dedication to this country.

The Girl Scouts of America are celebrating their 94th anniversary which was founded by Juliette Gordon Low in 1912 in Savannah, Georgia. Since then, they have had a long and exceptional history of instilling young girls with confidence, courage, and integrity.

More than 3.8 million current Girl Scout members and 50 million veteran members will be partaking in this momentous celebration.

Girl scouting opens all kinds of doors for a young lady’s future. This organization urges these girls to strive for higher goals than they could have ever possibly imagined. Hence, these young girls are on the way to becoming women that would make this world a better place.

In addition, I am thrilled to announce that the Cross Timbers Council, which serves my North Texas district, will be opening an additional office for the Girl Scouts so that they may better serve our community.

The Girl Scouts of America, their legacy and their purpose, have brought joy to North Texas but more important kindness and philanthropic hearts to the community. The Cross Timbers Girl Scouts have brought prominence and respect to the communities they serve in my district including Denton and Cooke counties. May spirit of perseverance and honor these young ladies bring be an example to us all.

HONORING LT. COLONEL RYAN
YANTIS

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 9, 2006

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of Lt. Colonel Ryan Yantis of the U.S. Army for his important contributions to service members and civilians alike in his capacity as Director, U.S. Army Public Affairs, Midwest.

While Colonel Yantis has been helpful to me and my staff on countless occasions, his assistance with SPC Rene Douroux merits particular attention and gratitude.

I had the opportunity to meet SPC Rene Douroux on September 13, 2005 when he was

in the middle of a 30-day leave from duties in Korea to his next assignment in Ft. Hood, Texas. Unable to go home to New Orleans in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, SPC Douroux was at an emergency facility set up in Chicago to assist those left homeless by the storm. SPC Douroux was distraught because he was unable to locate family members and had no idea whether his home was still standing. He was hoping to have some additional time to find his family, help settle them, and get his life in order.

Lt. Colonel Yantis responded compassionately, effectively and immediately to SPC Douroux’s plight. Not only did Colonel Yantis arrange for SPC Douroux to have more time, but he also arranged for a compassionate reassignment to Ft. Polk, Louisiana. Colonel Yantis helped reduce the trauma facing this young man and his family as they undertake the difficult tasks of rebuilding their lives in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.

I offer my heartfelt thanks to Lt. Colonel Yantis for his service, and extend my best wishes to him in his future endeavors.

HONORING DOLLY PARTON

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 9, 2006

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, Dolly Parton is living proof that the American Dream is alive and kicking. She worked hard, harnessed her God given talent, and touched the lives of countless millions.

Not only is Dolly a great entertainer, she’s a proven businesswoman and a philanthropist. She is the embodiment of a value my mama taught me—that you always work to give back more to your community than you take. And Dolly has given back so much.

Tennessee is proud of this Smoky Mountain daughter, and that’s why we join the 2006 Southern Women in Public Service Conference to honor her with the Lindy Boggs Award. As the U.S. Representative who has the lucky fortune to represent Dolly in Congress, I want to take a moment to be certain my colleagues here in the House of Representatives know just how much she has given back to all of us.

Dolly has put the same passion and leadership she used to make it to the top in business into improving child literacy. In 1996, Dolly’s vision led to the creation of the Imagination Library—a program that sends children books each month to help them improve their reading skills. What began in East Tennessee now includes over 600 communities and spans 41 states. There are hundreds of thousands of children across this country whose futures have been changed for the better because of her work.

We simply cannot put a value on the positive effect Dolly has had on these kids, their communities, and this country.

The Imagination Library is just one example of Dolly’s work to help raise up others. Today we honor Dolly for her passion and her determination.

TRIBUTE TO NORTHWEST
COLLEGIATE ACADEMY

HON. PHIL ENGLISH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 9, 2006

Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to commend the Northwest Collegiate Academy's recent success at the 25th Annual United States Academic Decathlon, USAD, in San Antonio, TX.

The USAD is a national competition in which teams of nine students, three from each recognized academic level, compete in 10 separate academic subjects, including mathematics, language and literature, social science, economics, art, music, and science. Each team member has to compete in each of the 10 subjects and their combined scores determine the overall team winner.

Once again, the Northwest Collegiate Academy made Erie and all of western Pennsylvania proud by demonstrating the scholastic excellence of its students. The Academy's team cruised through this year's local and State competitions, winning all three of the local events and the final State wide competition. Along the way, individual team members won numerous awards for excellence in all of the academic subjects and the team as a whole often took all the awards for a given subject.

However, the team's outstanding run did not end at the State level. The team scored 38,992.7 points out of a possible 60,000 during the 3-day national competition in San Antonio. This showing earned the team a well deserved silver medal in competition. Furthermore, the team members continued to show their individual brilliance by winning awards for their proficiency in specific subject areas. Matthew Faytak earned six different awards at the competition, including a gold medal in art and a gold medal for being the highest overall scorer at the honors level. Joining him on the podium was Christina Radder who won the bronze medal in music and the bronze medal for being third highest overall scorer at the honors level. Both Matthew and Christina were also recognized for high scores in economics, mathematics or science, as were four other team members, Greg Nieder, Dan Juilfs, Shane Kelley, and Alexandra Talarico.

Mr. Speaker, I hope my fellow members will rise with me at this time and commend the nine members of the Northwest Collegiate Academy team, Matthew Faytak, Christina Radder, Alexandra Talarico, Shane Kelley, Greg Nieder, Caitlyn Pierce, Dan Juilfs, William Steinbaugh, and David Zielewski. I congratulate each of these students for all of their academic achievements and wish them continued success in their future endeavors.

HONORING DICK KAY

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 9, 2006

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the long and distinguished career of my friend, Mr. Dick Kay, political editor, and host of the news show "City Desk." Mr. Kay

will retire in June 2006, with the honor of having been the longest-serving reporter in the history of Chicago's WMAQ—Channel 5 TV.

With 46 years in the business, Dick Kay has unparalleled political experience, knowledge and perspective. He arrived at WMAQ—Channel 5 in 1968, initially working as a writer/producer but soon switching to reporting. He later became their political editor as well as the host of "City Desk," the Sunday morning public service program.

Over the years, Dick Kay has interviewed mayors, Governors, Congressmen, Senators, and countless other public leaders. Viewers have come to rely on his thoughtful yet fearless approach to covering politics and public policy.

Dick Kay's hard work and insightful reporting have been recognized by numerous awards over the years. Among others, Dick has received a Peabody Award—the highest honor in TV broadcasting—as well as 11 Emmys, a National Headliner award, and a Jacob Scher award for investigative reporting. In 2001, he was inducted into the Television Academy's Silver Circle Hall of Fame, which honors those who have made major contributions to Chicago broadcasting for 25 years or more.

In addition to his work as a reporter and editor, Dick was the longtime president of the local unit of the American Federation of Television and Radio Artists. In this capacity, Dick successfully persuaded Illinois legislators to ensure that on-air employees had the freedom to move to competing stations.

I am sure Dick's wife, children and grandchildren will be glad to enjoy more time with him. The rest of us will miss his hard-hitting investigative work, insightful commentary, and engaging Sunday morning discussions.

Mr. Speaker, I wish Dick and his family the best of luck during his retirement and throughout his future endeavors. Political reporting in Chicago will not be the same without Dick Kay, dean of Chicago political reporters.

INTRODUCTION OF INDIAN
HEALTH CARE IMPROVEMENT
ACT REAUTHORIZATION

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 9, 2006

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to introduce legislation to reauthorize the Indian Health Care Improvement Act Reauthorization (IHCIA) with my fellow colleagues.

The Indian Health Care Improvement Act (IHCIA) requires reauthorization. It became Public Law 94-437 in the 94th Congress (September 30, 1976), and has been amended seven times. The IHCIA provides for health care delivery to over 2 million American Indians and Alaska Natives. Congress enacted a one-year extension to extend the life of the Act through FY 2001 but efforts at further extensions were interrupted due to the events of 9/11. Appropriations for the Indian health have continued through authorization of the Snyder Act, a permanent law authorizing expenditures of funds for a variety of Indian programs, including health.

This bill responds to the changes that have occurred in the delivery of Indian Health serv-

ices in the decade since the last reauthorization of the IHCIA. In this period, more than half of the tribes in the United States have exercised their rights under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act to assume responsibility to carry out programs of the Indian Health Service (IHS) on their own behalf. This, along with improvements in the IHS direct operations, have led to hospitals being accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditations of the Healthcare Organizations, and health delivery systems being tailored to expanded outpatient and home and community based services had become commonplace in the private sector. Medicare, Medicaid and other third party revenue were important to achieving these gains and are crucial for retaining them. Equally important is the need to reinforce the authority provided to tribal health programs under self-determination and self-governance to establish their own priorities and to determine the best way to respond to the specific needs of their tribal members.

Some highlights of the ways this bill addresses these changes:

Section 3. Declaration of Health Policy. Declares that it is the priority of the United States that the health status of American Indians and Alaska Natives should be raised by 2010 to the same level as is set for other Americans, instead of establishing lower thresholds as has previously been accepted, and establishes a policy requiring "meaningful consultations" with Indian tribes, tribal health organizations and urban Indian programs.

Section 4. Definitions. Modernizes current IHCIA definitions and makes them consistent with the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act. Definitions of "health promoting" and "disease prevention" are expanded to encompass the full scope of these activities as recommended by the World Health Organization. Includes a definition of "traditional health care practices" that reflects the value of Native health practices.

Title I, Indian Health, Human Resources, and Development. The purpose of this title is to increase, to the maximum extent feasible, the number of Indians entering the health professions and providing health services, and to assure an optimum supply of health professionals to the Indian Health programs and Urban Indian Organizations involved in the provision of health services to Indians.

Title II, Health Services. The purpose of this title is to establish programs that respond to the health needs of American Indians and Alaska Natives. For example, American Indians and Alaska Natives have a disproportionately high rate of diabetes (death rate for this disease is generally more than 300% of the rate of the U.S. population), so this title has a specific diabetes provision. It also includes the Indian Health Care Improvement Fund through which the Appropriation Act supply funds to eliminate health deficiencies and disparities in resources made available to American Indians and Alaska Native tribes and communities.

Title III, Facilities. The purpose of this title relates to the construction of health facilities including hospitals, clinics, and health stations necessary for staff quarters, and of sanitation facilities for Indian communities and homes.

Title IV, Access to Health Services. This title addresses payments to the IHS and tribes for services covered by the Social Security Act Health Care programs, and to enable Indian