

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.

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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.

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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.

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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.