

learn about Washington through English and seven foreign conversation groups and a book club. Programs include forums for discussion of issues that are worldwide in scope, such as health, human rights and education. We also have programs on government affairs, performing arts, art and architecture, and American history, among others.

In today's difficult world, THIS is a beacon of light, holding out the arm of friendship without expecting anything in return. THIS has made a difference in the lives of so many diplomats, and I would like to share with you a few comments from some grateful recipients:

"THIS has enriched my stay in the United States by enhancing my fundamental understanding of the culture and society."—Pakistan

"I would like to thank THIS for the wonderful work that you do and for your warm and friendly attention."—Miriam Barak, Israel

"I express both my pleasure and my gratitude to the THIS organization as a whole. THIS is a wonderful vehicle by which the best of America is portrayed. Such an organization can only be an influential force for good."—Ann Robinson, Great Britain

"THIS is a fantastic organization. It makes me feel very welcomed and comfortable . . . THIS has given me a better understanding of U.S. life and society and also has given me some new good American friends."—Ingela Beiming, Sweden

"THIS is a window that opens Washington for us and lets us experience and know it. It opens opportunities to meet different people."—Marilia Bulhoes, Brazil

Congratulations, THIS, on 45 splendid years. May you enjoy many more.

#### REGONIZING THE LATINO COMMUNITY OF BUFFALO AND THE PUERTO RICAN DAY PARADE

### HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 12, 2006*

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Buffalo's Latino community and the dynamic role they play in our region.

On Saturday, September 9, 2006, I joined with the city of Buffalo to celebrate and enjoy the Fourth Annual Puerto Rican Day Parade and the festivities that accompany it. I would like to acknowledge and thank this year's grand marshal, Andres Garcia.

The theme of this year's parade and related festivities was "United We Progress." This theme was chosen because it encompasses the attitude and spirit of this diverse and dynamic population and its interaction with the community of Buffalo as a whole.

The Latino community in the county of Erie encompasses over 30,000 people. Buffalo's Latino community is built upon peoples from all over Latin and South America. Their shared heritage has developed into a united force that has enabled them to positively impact our city for decades, and we expect, for decades to follow. The solidarity of the Latino community is a telling example of how by working together we accomplish good and great things.

According to the 2000 Census over 20,000 Puerto Ricans call the city of Buffalo and sur-

rounding areas their home. On this day, we celebrate the music, food, and history of their culture. A culture which has been shared with Western New Yorkers of all backgrounds, to the benefit of our community.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and gratitude that I stand here today to recognize the Latino Community of Western New York. I am honored to join in the celebration of Buffalo's Latino history and culture.

#### HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF EPPINGER MANUFACTURING CO.

### HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 12, 2006*

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Eppinger Manufacturing Company on the occasion of its 100th anniversary.

Lou Eppinger created his simple metal spoon lure in 1906. It quickly became known for its fish attracting wobble. He patented it as the "Osprey" in 1912. Following World War I, he renamed the lure to "Dardevle" in honor of the 4th Marine Brigade the Allies nicknamed the Dare Devils. It has since earned such accolades as one of "The 10 Best Lures in the World" and "50 Best Lures of All Time."

In the beginning Lou Eppinger sold 500 Dardevles a year. Today Eppinger Manufacturing sells over 2 million a year and produces 17,000 different varieties of lures. This can be attributed to his strong belief in advertising. Before he turned over the company to his nephew Ed Eppinger, Lou advised, "Advertise even if you have only a nickel left to your name."

At a time when many corporations are moving their business overseas, Eppinger has kept its manufacturing plant in Dearborn for decades. Many of its employees have been working at Eppinger for over 30 years. Today Eppinger is run by Karen Eppinger, the grandniece of the founder, and her two children, Jennifer and Wesley.

I must also mention my own personal affection for Eppinger's quality products. Whenever I had a chance to fish, I knew that with one of Lou's masterpieces on my line, the brook trout didn't stand a chance. I owe many big catches and many fine meals to Lou's masterful work and durable product.

I would like to ask my colleagues to rise and join me in commending Eppinger Manufacturing Company for 100 years of service to the community and area sportsmen. I extend my best wishes to Eppinger for continued success in the fishing lure business.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT RAYMOND PLOUHAR

### HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 12, 2006*

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of Sergeant Raymond

Plouhar, who gave the ultimate sacrifice for his Nation on June 26, 2006, while serving in Iraq. What follows is an inspirational poem Sergeant Plouhar wrote before he was killed in the line of duty.

THIS IS WHO I AM

This is me, this is who I am  
I am a Marine to the very end  
I live by the motto that is Semper Paratus  
I come to countries in far off lands  
to fight for freedom for which most are to  
scared to stand

Do not judge me for what I do  
for what I do I do for you

I will kill for those who cannot kill  
I will die for those too scared to

I will leave my loved ones, my kids, my wife  
I will leave them all behind to give you a  
better life

I have seen and done things that will haunt  
my dreams

I have given up many things for you to be  
free

Do not feel pity for me, for this is my choice  
I chose this life so people like you can have  
a voice

I will die on my feet, I will not live on my  
knees

I will do this so America can stay free

This is me, this is who I am

I am a Marine to the very end.

#### HONORING ANNA SCHUBERT OF LOUISVILLE, COLORADO

### HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 12, 2006*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Anna Schubert, an excellent young scholar who has a bright future ahead of her. Anna was selected by the Alliance for Affordable Services to be the recipient of a \$2,000 scholarship for the 2006–2007 school year. While there are many deserving scholars in our communities, it is worth noting the outstanding caliber of students such as Anna. Young people like Anna will lead our country into the future, achieve new breakthroughs in science and medicine, and protect our environment for future generations.

Anna will have the opportunity to receive an additional \$1,000 every year of her undergraduate career, a goal that is accomplished by keeping a 3.5 overall grade point average. Although an arduous task for any student, I am confident this exceptional young lady will achieve it through her hard work and dedication.

It is an honor for the State of Colorado and this Nation to have bright, young individuals that are excelling beyond barriers. Such ambitions are necessary qualities in the next generation for the United States to maintain its leadership role in this new century.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing our congratulations to Anna Schubert and her family. We wish her the best in both her undergraduate career and in all her future endeavors.

HONORING H. MERLE JACKSON,  
VICE CHAIRMAN, NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE OF THE  
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

### HON. DARLENE HOOLEY

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 12, 2006*

Ms. HOOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a great Oregonian and a proud American, H. Merle Jackson.

Mr. Jackson, a native son of Oregon, served his country for 32 years. During his nine years on active duty in the United States Air Force, two years on active duty in the United States Navy and 21 years as a member of the United States Army Reserve, he served all over the world, including the Korean War and multiple tours in Vietnam, finishing his service to our Nation as a Master Sergeant.

After his retirement, Mr. Jackson continued his commitment to our Nation by taking up the cause of our retired fighting men and women through his work with the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW). He has served as a post and district commander, state chairman and from 1998–99 he was the Department Commander for the State of Oregon.

Today, Mr. Jackson continues his lifelong dedication to those who have sacrificed so much for our Nation, as he enters his fourth year on the National Legislative Committee to the Veterans of Foreign Wars and his first year as Vice Chairman of this prestigious committee. He is the first Oregonian to serve in this capacity, and I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing his dedication and determination to ensuring that we meet our responsibilities to our Nation's veterans.

### TRIBUTE TO DR. FRED BOSILEVAC

### HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 12, 2006*

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, Dr. Fred Bosilevac, one of the most beloved people in Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kansas, celebrates his 90th birthday on September 11, 2006. Since 1970, two years after its inception, Dr. Fred has been president of Congressional Forum, a monthly luncheon with the area's third Congressional District representative sponsored by the Kansas City Kansas Area Chamber of Commerce. In addition to me, my Third District congressional predecessors who have fond memories of Dr. Fred include Larry Winn, Jr.; Jan Meyers; and Vince Snowbarger. Dr. Fred is known for his pithy commentary, regardless of the subject or speaker. He is the heart and soul of the Congressional Forum.

Dr. Fred is a native son of Kansas City, Kansas, from the historic Strawberry Hill neighborhood. He was the first medical doctor of Croatian descent in the area. He started his practice in the Brotherhood Building in Kansas City, Kansas, in 1949. He later moved his practice to the medical building on 18th Street. He practiced ophthalmology for 49 years.

Dr. Fred is also notable alumnus of the University of Kansas, which also is in my congressional district. Dr. Fred was a member of

the 1937 University of Kansas men's basketball team, and he and his son, Dr. Fred Bosilevac, III, are among four father-son combinations that played for the Jayhawks. Dr. Fred's 1937 team also played in the Final Four, which guaranteed him god-like status in my congressional district.

In addition to playing basketball, Dr. Fred played championship football at KU and was pressured to sign with a professional team after graduation. Nevertheless, he decided to attend medical school on the advice of his mother who reminded him that doctors made a good living.

Dr. Fred is an all around athlete and remains an avid hunter and golfer. A spring hunting accident in which he tripped and dislocated a shoulder required some surgery but has not deterred him from swinging a golf club daily.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in wishing Dr. Fred Bosilevac our heartiest wishes for a joyous day, and many more years for us to enjoy his marvelous example of a good and happy life.

### IN MEMORIAM OF A SON OF TEXAS: JUDGE JAMES DEANDA

### HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 12, 2006*

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in great honor and solemn regret for a great son of Houston that passed away last Thursday. I stand in honor of the late U.S. District Judge James deAnda who passed last week from a battle with cancer.

The son of Mexican immigrants, James deAnda was born and raised in North Houston and graduated from my alma mater, Jeff Davis High School. He went on to graduate from Texas A&M University, but not before he joined the U.S. Marines and served in the Pacific during WWII. Once returning from service he graduated from the University of Texas School of Law.

With a resume of this caliber James deAnda could have gone on to private practice and plea cases that would have made him a very rich man. Instead he went on to fight for the disproportionate and unrepresented Texans of that time. James deAnda went on to work cases, pro-bono cases, to fight segregation of Hispanics within Texas' schools, he also won a Supreme Court ruling stating that Hispanics were a separate group deserving of the same constitutional protection as other minorities.

While his career was a long and great one, cases such as these serve as witness to the type of character that Judge deAnda was. A man that never sought after the limelight or recognition.

Fortunately for all of us, he did gain recognition 1979, when President Jimmy Carter appointed James deAnda to serve as Federal Judge for the U.S. District Court of the Southern District of Texas. He later would serve as Chief Judge of the Southern District of Texas. He became the second Hispanic to be appointed to a Federal Judge bench.

He served in this role with distinction until he retired in 1988, he went back to work in the private sector until he began cancer therapy.

Judge James deAnda leaves us with a great sense of honor and pride. The footprints that

he has left for us will be hard to follow. Judge deAnda took part in the creation of the Texas Rural Legal Aid and he was the co-founder of the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, but most importantly he changed the law to work for all men and women during a time when there were many that were opposed to such change.

Mr. Speaker I ask for one minute of silence in honor of Judge James deAnda, not only a son and public servant of Texas but also of this great Nation. I ask this as his service takes place back home in Houston.

### SALUTE TO RUSTY HAMMER

### HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 12, 2006*

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my best wishes and sincere gratitude to Rusty Hammer, who, after 5 fruitful years, left his position as president and chief executive officer of the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce.

In keeping with the chamber's 118-year history, Rusty dedicated himself to improving the quality of life and economic prosperity of the Los Angeles Chamber's 1,500 members, who represent more than 600,000 employees throughout the Los Angeles region. Under Rusty's strong leadership, the Los Angeles Chamber has successfully built partnerships between business, community, labor and civic organizations. These partnerships have reestablished the chamber as the Los Angeles region's premier business advocacy organization.

During Rusty's tenure, he pioneered many noteworthy projects. For example, Rusty spearheaded the chamber's effort on local business tax reform and established a highly successful workforce development program. His leadership role in creating "Mobility 21," a transportation advocacy coalition, helped secure over \$2 billion in State and Federal funding for transportation improvements in Los Angeles. By partnering with the organization UNITE LA, Rusty helped create a badly needed and extremely valuable college scholarship program that has provided scholarships, application assistance, and college access information to nearly 30,000 students in the Los Angeles region.

Under Rusty's stewardship, the chamber's annual trip to Washington, DC, has become one of the most successful advocacy efforts on behalf of the Los Angeles region and the Los Angeles business community. In addition, his weekly opinion article, "The Business Perspective," provides an insightful and informative look at business issues facing the Los Angeles region.

Rusty's talents, innovative strategic thinking and willingness to work with stakeholders on all sides of the political spectrum have played an integral role in the Los Angeles area's economic growth. He has truly earned the respect, admiration and gratitude of all who know him and have worked with him.

While Rusty Hammer will truly be missed in Los Angeles and at the Los Angeles Area Chamber, we will all continue to benefit from his many contributions. We are fortunate that we will also gain from his talents as he continues to work on issues that affect California's economy and quality of life.