

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.