

Church, he received a particularly fitting tribute. On that day, a group of his former Eagle Scouts gathered to present Mr. Butler with a statue of a scoutmaster as a simple expression of thanks for the important role he had played in each of their lives. Among the Eagle Scouts gathered that day were his own two sons, as well as several fatherless boys who considered him very much like a father.

Charley Butler has also been widely recognized by the broader community. He received the "Civic Achievement Award" for 2007 from the alumni association of Kettering University (formerly GMI Engineering and Management Institute) of Flint, Michigan. In 2003, he received the Brundidge Business Association "Humanitarian Award." Active for many years in the Brundidge Rotary Club, he has been recognized frequently by that organization. He is a three time recipient of the group's "Service above Self Award," a 2001 recipient of the "Rotary Special Service Award," and in 1986, the recipient of Rotary's highest recognition, the "Paul Harris Fellow Award." More recently, the Brundidge Rotary Club presented Mr. Butler a "Lifetime of Service Award" for his outstanding service from 1975 to 2007.

Madam Speaker, Charley Butler truly personifies the motto "service above self." His sacrifices of time, effort and energy have truly made his community a better place. His legacy is well-established and will be long-lasting. I am proud to add my name to the list of those recognizing him, and I offer him best wishes on his eightieth birthday.

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JOHN R. CARTER**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 27, 2007*

Mr. CARTER. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 549, I was unavoidably detained and unable to be present to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON**

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 27, 2007*

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 284, passage of H.R. 1429, Head Start for School Readiness Act, I was unavoidably detained and unable to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

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CONGRATULATING BARBARA  
WHITNEY CARR ON HER RETIRE-  
MENT

**HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 27, 2007*

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Barbara Whitney Carr, the president and CEO of the Chicago Botanic Garden for over a decade.

Barbara Carr presides over one of America's preeminent public gardens located in

Glencoe, Illinois. For over a century, the Chicago Botanic Garden has been a sanctuary for over 2.2 million plants, including over 8,000 unique species. The 23 unique gardens spread over 385 acres include horticultural displays, natural habitats, and lakes that attract more than 750,000 visitors annually. By embracing its mission to promote the enjoyment, understanding, and conservation of plants and the natural world, the Garden has become one of the finest botanic displays in the country and one of the 10th District's most stunning features.

Barbara led a 10-year master plan for the garden and launched a capital campaign that saw 15,000 donors contribute a total of \$148 million. This drive led to construction and renovation of eight new gardens and the restoration of nearly 6 miles of shoreline. She also oversaw completion of the Botanic Garden Center, Children's Learning Center and the renovation of the 100,000-square foot Regenstein Center.

Thanks to Barbara's leadership, the garden is now partnered with some of the leading academic institutions in Illinois. She created an academic affairs program that now offers a master of science in plant biology and conservation, a master of landscape architecture and a bachelor's degree in horticulture. Barbara spearheaded the effort to develop a partnership with the Royal Botanic Gardens in Kew, England, to preserve endangered prairie plant species and has launched a major science initiative including collaboration with leading organizations.

Madam Speaker, Barbara Whitney Carr is a remarkable woman whose dedication helped to make the Chicago Botanic Garden one of the finest institutions in the country and an essential place of tourism, education, and beauty within the 10th District. I wish her all the best in her retirement and thank her for her years of service.

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RECOGNIZING THE OFFICIAL DEDI-  
CATION OF THE BETTY J.  
PULLUM FAMILY YMCA IN  
NAVARRE

**HON. JEFF MILLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 27, 2007*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is an honor for me to rise today to recognize the dedication of the Betty J. Pullum Family YMCA in Navarre, Florida.

This celebrated facility is named in remembrance of a tireless leader who devoted herself to improving her community and who saw the good in everyone. Ms. Betty J. Pullum was known to her family as "Big Deal." It was her vision and desire to give back to the Navarre community that has made it the close-knit community that it is today. Because of her generosity, it is only fitting that the Navarre YMCA is named in honor of her.

On August 19, 2006, the newly constructed Betty J. Pullum Family YMCA building opened to serve the community of Navarre, Florida. The state-of-the art facility was conceived by Bart Pullum, President of the Navarre Beach Area Chamber of Commerce. As a Navarre native he believed that the youth of Navarre

needed a YMCA of their own where they could come together to have fun in a safe environment.

He brought the idea to his friend Henry Loper and they presented it to the directors of the Pensacola YMCA. It was there that the project grew. Bill and Jeannie Pullum donated the land for the project and the Bill and Martha Pullum Family Foundation donated a lead gift of half a million dollars. The rest of the fundraising was organized by groups and individuals in the community who loved the idea of having a family-oriented facility that promotes active and healthy lifestyles.

The Betty J. Pullum Family YMCA is the perfect place for a family to balance a healthy lifestyle with fun and games. All the exercise equipment is new and free fitness assessments and personalized exercise programs are offered. There are also gymnasiums for shooting hoops and a children's playroom that allows parents to exercise while children are supervised by the attentive staff. The YMCA also offers classes such as aerobic kickboxing and kids' cardio for children ages 3-6 to make a healthy and active lifestyle a lifelong habit. The biggest draw for children is the outdoor pool which features lanes for lap swimming, water slides and a wading section for small children featuring baby slides and fountains.

The Navarre YMCA has about 700 membership units, which represents about 1,600 individuals. Now that we are into the heat of summer, the Navarre YMCA is expecting its membership to grow. This facility will allow families to build healthy lifestyles together and have fun at the same time. It is a safe place for children to play and is an enormous benefit to the community of Navarre, Florida.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to recognize the dedication of the Betty J. Pullum Family YMCA in Navarre, Florida.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED  
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS  
ACT, 2008

SPEECH OF

**HON. SILVESTRE REYES**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 26, 2007*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2643) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes:

Mr. REYES. Madam Chairman, I rise today in strong support of an amendment by my friend and colleague, Chairman DICKS, to increase funding for the Border Environment Infrastructure Fund, or BEIF, under the U.S.-Mexico Border Program by \$15 million.

I also want to thank Chairman DICKS for producing a good piece of legislation and for being so responsive to me and other concerned Members from border districts. His willingness to listen to and take into account new information regarding the program are true marking of a fine chairman. As my friend the chairman noted, BEIF has recently instituted measures to ensure that program funds are