

For those of us who live here, we don't want to live among trash and pollution. Our region has turned the corner. We left behind the southern and eastern Kentucky of the past—one with stagnant economic growth and net outflow of people. We turned it into a region for the future—one where business opens its doors and people move in. Simply cleaning up a place invites people to stay.

PRIDE has produced great benefits to the environment. With modern wastewater treatment systems, there is no excuse anymore to dump raw sewage into our creeks and rivers. PRIDE's sweeping efforts to install modern treatment systems enabled our waterways to thrive with plant and animal life again. No longer do we have open sewers moving through our mountains.

What I like best about PRIDE is the spirit of volunteerism behind it. People caused this litter and pollution problem and now people are fixing it. It is an amazing thing to watch what happens when a community pulls together towards a common purpose. Ten years ago there were skeptics and doubters. Today, many statistics clearly show PRIDE's progress over the last 10 years.

Theodore Roosevelt understood the need to protect our natural resources and a short sentence he once said sums up so well the spirit of PRIDE today: "Believe you can and you're halfway there."

What a legacy we have built. There are now 27,907 homes with access to sanitary wastewater treatment. Nearly 2,500 illegal dumps have been eliminated and 500,000 bags of trash have been collected. And the hard work of 238,000 volunteers made this happen.

When we look back 10 years hence, we will see even more progress—a region of the country that is free of the pollution and trash that held it back. On this 10-year anniversary, we remember the PRIDE volunteers and community leaders who believed we could.

IN HONOR OF JOAN AND BOB  
RECHNITZ

**HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 9, 2007*

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Joan and Bob Rechnitz's contributions to the arts. This generous couple founded the Two River Theater Company providing the New Jersey community a place to experience the joys of theater.

Bob and Joan Rechnitz share a love for the theater. In 1994, the couple saw the opportunity to provide a home for Monmouth County's first professional regional theater in 30 years. After performing in different venues, in 2005, the Two River Theater Company opened a new, state of the art play house. The theater today provides an intimate space for 350 people to enjoy many fine performances.

Mr. Rechnitz serves as executive producer of the Two River Theater Company. He directs numerous plays including *True West*, *A View from a Bridge*, and *The Glass Menagerie*. Mr. Rechnitz was also nominated Best Director of a Comedy for the *Curse of the Starving Class* by Newark, New Jersey's *Star Ledger* newspaper.

After 13 seasons, New Jersey residents have benefited from the theater's diverse and stimulating array of performances and educational programs. In 2006, the Two River Theater was named Theater of the Year by the *Star Ledger* newspaper. From producing plays by George Bernard Shaw to providing a venue for Bruce Springsteen performances, the Two River Theater has achieved Mr. and Mrs. Rechnitz's vision of a thriving and dynamic community theater company.

Madam Speaker, I sincerely hope that my colleagues will join me in celebrating Joan and Bob Rechnitz. Through their cultural and artistic contributions, the Two River Theater Company has become an integral part of the New Jersey community.

RECOGNIZING LEE MICHAEL CARPENTER FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 9, 2007*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Lee Michael Carpenter, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 260, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Lee has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Lee has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Lee Michael Carpenter for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

IN HONOR OF SAN BENITO COUNTY COUNCIL #2890

**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 9, 2007*

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate San Benito County Council #2890 of the League of United Latin American Citizens, or LULAC, on its 20th anniversary. LULAC is the largest and oldest Latino national membership organization in the United States. This chapter was formed on October 17, 1987, and was the first Latino civil rights organization in San Benito County.

Since its formation, San Benito County LULAC has encouraged its membership to uphold and defend the rights of the Latino community, and serves as a circle of community influence and support. It promotes voter participation by encouraging the Latino community to register to vote, to participate in the electoral process, and to defend their voting rights against violations. The chapter encourages and supports San Benito County agencies and government bodies, ensuring that the Latino population has a voice that represents their needs and concerns.

San Benito County LULAC formed a Youth Council on October 5, 1989. It encourages youth participation in community and educational opportunities and has provided scholarship grants to over 140 students totaling \$136,000. They also formed a young adult council on February 10, 2000, whose local members attend colleges and universities throughout California. The chapter also served as the home State council for the local State director and State youth president.

LULAC believes that education is the foundation for the cultural growth and development of every community member. It organizes student conferences and retreats for youth development and leadership training. For the past eight years, this chapter has sponsored the after school Young Readers Program at the former Fremont School and Ladd Lane School, enabling over 240 first through third grade students and their parents to develop strong reading habits.

Madam Speaker, I commend San Benito County LULAC on its many accomplishments. Its exemplary record of civic involvement and extended support to the residents of this community personifies the very best of community involvement. I congratulate them on the 20th anniversary of their chapter's founding and invite all citizens of the county to celebrate their accomplishments.

HONORING ENERGY CORPORATION OF AMERICA

**HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO**

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 9, 2007*

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Energy Corporation of America for implementing one of the Nation's most successful employee health and wellness programs.

Energy Corporation of America, with operations in the Kanawha Valley, is being honored by the Wellness Council of America as the recipient of the Platinum Well Workplace Award. Already an honoree of the Gold Well Workplace award, the company had to undergo rigorous requirements and an extensive application process to be considered. Since its inception in 2001, only 21 organizations in the Nation have received the Platinum Well Workplace Award.

The corporation's unique approach to its employees and their well-being serves as a model for other organizations to follow. Compared to the national average, only 30 percent of wellness initiatives are met by employees and the ECA has 95 percent participation from both employees and their spouses. They participate in an annual health screening and health risk appraisal, and then meet with a health coach who outlines an annual regimen with many resources to guide them with their yearly health and wellness goals. Employees and their spouses receive an annual bonus as an extra incentive to meet their fitness goals.

The success of this program is most evident in the health and well-being of Energy Corporation of America's employees and the unprecedented success of the company's ability to contain its healthcare cost since the early 1990's. In a state and in a nation where the health of its citizens is constantly under criticism, it is my privilege to recognize the Energy