

I extended my thoughts to her husband, Billy Roy Switzer, and her two sons, Loren and Keiller, as well as a long list of family members and friends. June Impson will be greatly missed by the many that are fortunate enough to have known her, and I am certain that her artwork will continue to inspire others for years to come.

HONORING THE COPPELL FIRE  
DEPARTMENT

**HON. KENNY MARCHANT**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 7, 2008*

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, a golden anniversary is indeed a special milestone, and today I am proud to recognize the Coppel Fire Department's 50th anniversary. This exemplary and dedicated group of firefighters continues a proud 50-year long tradition of excellence.

As emergency responders for the City of Coppel, Texas, the Coppel Fire Department prides themselves on building a safe community through exceptional services. The Coppel Fire Department provides fire prevention, fire suppression, transport emergency medical services, and technical rescue to the City of Coppel and the North Texas Region. The Department also offers special community services such as a Smoke Detector Program, Fire Extinguisher Training, Fire Safety Training, CPR Training, and Child Safety Seat Installation, just to name a few.

The Coppel Fire Department includes 92 highly trained members operating from four facilities strategically located throughout the city. Each member is fully committed to continuing the traditions of providing a level of public service that is second to none.

Chief Kevin Richardson and his department will be celebrating the 50th anniversary all year long. In honor of the occasion, a special commemorative helmet shield has been designed, restoration of the department's first fire engine is complete, and a commemorative album will be used to honor the department's 50 years of service to the community.

The Coppel Fire Department's 50 years of hard work and commitment to the citizens of Coppel is worthy of recognition. I offer my sincere congratulations on their golden anniversary, and I am most honored to represent this outstanding department in the 24th District of Texas.

CONGRATULATING THE 2007 WEST  
VIRGINIA BOYS SOCCER STATE  
CHAMPIONS

**HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO**

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 7, 2008*

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the 2007 West Virginia Boys Soccer State Champions, the George Washington High School Patriots of Charleston, West Virginia.

The West Virginia State Tournament took place in Beckley on November 3, 2007. The Patriots played defending champions, Hurri-

cane High School in the final game of the tournament.

Head Coach Tom Hopper, who was named 2007 WV Soccer Coach of the Year and assistant coaches; Dave Nelson, Kevin Cushing, Dan Thistlethwaite and Gordon Green led the young men to victory winning overall 18-4-3 season. The Patriots made George Washington High School history, as the first soccer team to win a state championship.

The players include captains; Connell Green, Sam McElwee, Yale Tiley, and Zack Claudio and Tyler Chiartas, Adam Boland, Jesse Dreyer, Christopher Power, Luca DiPiero, PJ Wolfe, Jake Stevens, Ian Thistlethwaite, Evan Loflin, Charlie McElwee, Andrew Robey, Kurt Suter, Thomas Edens, Blair Suter, Paul Stroebel, Shahir Amin, and Adeb Derakhshan.

Madam Speaker, it gives me great pride to acknowledge the George Washington High School Patriots as the 2007 West Virginia Boys Soccer State Champions. Again, congratulations to these talented young men.

IN HONOR OF JOSEPH ST. CLAIR

**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 7, 2008*

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a man of action and principle, Mr. Joseph St. Clair. Joe and his wife, Maria, came to the United States from Hungary in 1939. When this country entered World War II he was required to take his family back to Hungary. As a civilian English and history teacher in German-occupied territory, he was assigned to monitor American prisoners of war. He refused to cooperate with the Germans and had to go into hiding. The 6-week long winter siege of Budapest by the U.S. was a particularly difficult time for his friends and family, living in a bomb shelter and coming out at night to butcher frozen horses to feed themselves. Living through these experiences shaped his character and priorities: devotion to family, service above self, and leadership.

After the war he was again in danger, this time from the Communist Party. As friends and colleagues disappeared, he realized that he needed to get his family out of Hungary. With the help of Americans, Joe was able to get them all to Switzerland, and eventually back to the United States. He changed his family name to St. Clair and moved to Monterey, where in 1948, he became the founding chairman of the Hungarian Department in the newly formed Army Language School, now known as the Defense Language Institute. In 1970 his department was given the Abraham Lincoln Award of the American Hungarian Studies Foundation because ". . . never before nor anywhere else in the world has the Hungarian language and culture been taught so effectively to so many students of non-Hungarian background as it has been by the Hungarian Department of DLWC."

Joe and Maria met during their college days at the University of Budapest where he was the leader of the Catholic men's service organization, and she was the head of the Catholic women's organization. They had four sons, Joseph Jr., Akos, George, and Robert, three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Joe spent many years as a Boy Scout leader and won special awards and citations from that organization.

Joe's life was one of service to his community. In addition to being his sons' scoutmaster, he was active in Kiwanis and the Knights of Columbus. At one time he held the record for donating more blood than anyone else on the Monterey Peninsula. After retirement he moved to Scotts Valley in Santa Cruz County. He volunteered with the Red Cross and became chairman of the board of directors of the California Gray Bears, a pioneering self-help organization of senior citizens. With the Gray Bears he harvested vegetables, distributed the food to home-bound seniors, and operated the largest recycling center in Santa Cruz County. For one of his awards, it was estimated that he had clocked over 10,000 hours of community service.

When Joe retired after 30 years at the Language School, he was given the Department of the Army's second highest civilian award for meritorious service. The wording on the citation in part sums up the man who was Joe St. Clair: "Mr. St. Clair understood the responsibility of the manager as being primarily one of leadership in the highest sense of the word. In whatever position or assignment he received, Joe St. Clair was invariably an enlightened guide, a relentless, demanding, but inspiring leader both to his students and his faculty."

Madam Speaker, I know my colleagues will join me in honoring the life of this admirable man, and we are grateful that he chose to become a citizen of our country.

CELEBRATING THE BIRTHDAY OF  
SINGER, SONGWRITER, ACTIVIST,  
AND INSPIRER BOB MARLEY

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 7, 2008*

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in reverent celebration of the birthday of Robert Nesta Marley, a man whose musical genius provided the soundtrack to the politically awakening times of the '60s and '70s. Through song, he attempted to forge a new world order, infusing his calls for nonviolence, unity, and faith with an enthralling reggae beat that propelled the sound of Jamaica internationally.

On this day, the anniversary of his birth, the world rejoices in the myriad contributions his unique voice made to reggae music, to Rastafarian religion, to social justice and peace. He serves, still, as an ambassador for the Jamaican essence, personifying through his undying image and legacy the diverse people of that island and its rich culture.

His sound sprung from the slums of Kingston. But—surrounded by economic devastation, political violence, and the intolerance of his mixed-race heritage—he clung to optimism, instead. The sanguine anthems of "One Love" and "No Woman, No Cry" gave voice to the oppression of poverty and its effect on the human spirit, captivating a generation and spanning the globe in its power and scope.

For this, we honor him—stirred, touched, inspired by his cause.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 7, 2008*

Mr. CONAWAY. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 30, H. Res. 942—Recognizing the significance of Black History Month, I was attending a funeral for a soldier killed in Iraq.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

## RECOGNIZING THE SIGNIFICANCE OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH

SPEECH OF

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 6, 2008*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of Congressman AL GREEN's resolution to honor Black History Month.

As the brainchild of Carter G. Woodson, the celebration of the many contributions of African Americans to this Nation has evolved from its 1926 inception as Negro History Week, to what we now know as Black History Month. As apparent by the change in titles, the mentality of our nation towards race and race relations has made significant improvements with each generation.

Although African Americans were an integral part of the founding of this nation dating back to at least to the colonial times, it was not until the 20th century that they gained a respectable presence in the history books. Prior to Woodson's vehement efforts to write African Americans into the history of the Nation, books largely ignored the African American population except to mention them in the context of slavery. That is why it is so important that the full history of African Americans continue to be preserved and taught so that future generations of all Americans will know our abundant heritage.

An ancient proverb states, "Who has no past. has no future." African Americans have made significant contributions to this nation's history, and we continue to build that rich legacy today. Because of the continued efforts of those who educate our schoolchildren, future generations will know about how a race of oppressed people overcame the social and political obstacles of slavery and Jim Crow to become great innovators, scientists, novelists, musicians, philosophers, and political leaders.

The inclusion of African Americans in academic curriculums ensures that children can continue to be inspired by Thurgood Marshall, Malcolm X, Mac Jamison, Benjamin Carson, Richard Wright, and Shirley Chisholm.

Black History Month has not only set a precedent by honoring the achievements of African Americans, but it has paved the way for other nationwide celebrations of the contributions of other races and cultures. Therefore, by supporting Congressman AL GREEN's Resolution to honor Black History Month. I also support the American idea of diversity and multiculturalism.

I commend Congressman GREEN for bringing this important resolution to the floor, and I strongly urge my colleagues' support.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF INDIANA REPRESENTATIVE RICHARD MANGUS OF LAKEVILLE, INDIANA

**HON. JOE DONNELLY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 7, 2008*

Mr. DONNELLY. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the life of distinguished former State Representative Richard Mangus. Mangus, age 77, suffered a heart attack Monday, February 4, 2008 and sadly passed away.

Mr. Mangus' career in public service began in 1972 upon his election to the Indiana General Assembly. After his initial term was complete, Mr. Mangus won 15 additional elections, serving a total of 32 years. A dairy farmer for 60 years, Mangus excelled in representing the agricultural community—he knew the farmers and the types of issues they faced, and he shared a great concern for the environment. During his time in office, Mangus served as Chairman of the House Election Committee, the House Environmental Committee, and the House Natural Resources Committee. Inside the Assembly, Mangus was known for his fiery spirit, his use of theatrics and drama to prove a point, and his no-nonsense wisdom. It has been said that Mangus did not speak often, but when he did, it deserved complete attention, for he was a true political genius.

Dick Mangus' illustrious career of service has been recognized by numerous honors and awards; in fact, he was a three-time winner of the Sagamore of the Wabash honor. He has been honored as both Police Legislator of the Year and Professional Firefighter Legislator of the Year; he received the District Soil and Water Conservation Special Recognition Award for Support of District Programming, as well as the 4-H Leadership 20 year Service Award, Izaak Walton League Environmental Achievement Award, and the award for the Junior Chamber of Commerce Outstanding Citizen of the Year. Mangus was also appointed as a member of the Department of Natural Resources Commission.

Outside of his career in the state legislature, Dick Mangus served his country in the United States Army as well as owned and operated a successful family dairy farm. In 1951, he married his sweetheart, Mary, and they were together for 56 years. During this time, they raised five children: Marcia, Russell, Richard, Ronald, and Ryan. Mangus was a grandfather of seven and great-grandfather of ten.

Despite his claim to be "just a dairy farmer from Lakeville," Mangus will be remembered as much more. His legacy as a public servant will be defined by his passionate advocacy, creative methods, and humble approach. He will be dearly missed by his family, his constituents, and all Hoosiers. It is with great pride and honor that I enter former State Representative Richard Mangus' name into the United States CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

HONORING LESTER RAY WISEGERBER

**HON. TED POE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 7, 2008*

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize the fine work and outstanding public service of my friend, Lester Ray Wisegerber. In 2004, Lester Ray Wisegerber became president of the Dayton Chamber of Commerce. He drew upon his diverse background to lead and represent the city of Dayton. Being a true Texan and Dayton resident for 72 years, his happy spirit and love of the town made Lester Ray a natural promoter of the city.

Celebrating their 57th wedding anniversary last December, Lester Ray and his wife Betty Jo are the proud parents of four children, twelve grandchildren and eight great grandchildren. During his lifetime Lester Ray has worn many hats, working for instance as a rancher, and a rice farmer. He helped form the Seaberg Rice Company and is also an inventor. His inventions include the "Easy Start", Dr. Hennessey's Dental Flosser, and a fuel saving motor.

Lester Ray has a long career in public service. Throughout the years, he has assisted and been recognized by numerous boards and organizations. For two terms, he served on the Dayton City Council. He served on the board of the Liberty County Farm Bureau. He served on the Dayton ISD school board for fifteen years. His service to Dayton ISD has helped improve both the life and education for the children of our community. As a former bronco football player, Lester Ray's love for sports gave way to the organization of the Bronco Booster Club Oyster Supper. For twenty four years, Lester Ray served in the Dayton Volunteer Fire Department. The list of this model citizen's accomplishments will have lasting effects on our children and our community.

Actively involved in local politics, Lester Ray currently serves as the chairman of the Liberty County Republican Party. During this time, he has successfully promoted candidates for numerous elected positions. His hard work and love for Liberty County has earned him enduring respect throughout the community.

On behalf of the Second Congressional District of Texas, I commend this remarkable Texan for his exemplary service and dedication to the city of Dayton.

And that's just the way it is.

## HONORING THOMAS O. MEFFERD

**HON. PETER J. ROSKAM**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 7, 2008*

Mr. ROSKAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Thomas Mefferd for his 22 years of dedication and service to DuPage County.

Tom began his career in emergency management in 1971 as the Civil Defense Director for the Village of Plainfield, IL, a position he held for 10 years.

In 1981, Tom left municipal government and became an instructor for the Federal Emergency Management Agency, FEMA. While