

New York. This partnership will increase awareness of SONYMA products in low-income and minority neighborhoods, which have been the most effected by predatory lending and the sub-prime mortgage crisis.

Through the Neighborhood Housing Services of New York City, many communities including Flatbush, Brooklyn, will receive the much needed outreach and access to affordable mortgage products from reliable institutions. Today, I enter into the RECORD an article published by the Brooklyn Daily Eagle highlighting the efforts of the partnership in the advancement of homeownership in underserved communities.

[From the Brooklyn Daily Eagle, March 30, 2008]

GROUPS TEAM UP TO PROMOTE HOMEOWNERSHIP IN UNDERSERVED BROOKLYN COMMUNITIES

NEW YORK.—The State of New York Mortgage Agency (SONYMA), which offers low cost mortgages to first-time homebuyers, and NeighborWorks® America, a national nonprofit dedicated to promoting homeownership, have formed a partnership to promote homeownership in underserved neighborhoods in the state, including several in Brooklyn.

Under the one-year \$450,000 agreement, NeighborWorks America's Northeast District and six local New York NeighborWorks® organizations will work with SONYMA to increase awareness of SONYMA's products in low-income and minority neighborhoods. In the city, NHS of New York City is one of the NeighborWorks network organizations participating in the program and it covers all five boroughs, including Brooklyn. NHS will be reaching out to help people buy homes with SONYMA mortgages in Brooklyn's target areas—Sunset Park, Williamsburg, Bushwick, Bedford-Stuyvesant, Brownsville and Flatbush.

"This unique partnership with NeighborWorks® offers a tremendous opportunity to boost the visibility of SONYMA's programs in communities where they could do the most good," said Priscilla Almodovar, SONYMA president and CEO. "Homeownership, when done responsibly, creates strong neighborhoods and stable families."

Said Deborah Boatright, Northeast District director of NeighborWorks, "Now more than ever, low-income and minority communities need access to affordable mortgage products from a trusted source like SONYMA. It is these very communities that have been the most impacted by predatory lending and the sub-prime mortgage crisis."

HONORING CASEY LEE FIDDELKE

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Casey Lee Fiddelke of Kansas City, Missouri. Casey is 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 1247, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Casey has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Casey 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 Casey Lee Fiddelke for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

CONGRATULATING THE MASSENA RED RAIDERS UPON WINNING THE 2008 NEW YORK STATE DIVISION I BOYS HOCKEY CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. JOHN M. MCHUGH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2008

Mr. MCHUGH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Massena Red Raiders upon winning the New York State Division I Boys Hockey Championship. I am proud to represent Massena and note that this is the fifth hockey championship the Red Raiders have won since 1980.

On March 9, 2008, the Massena Red Raiders won the New York State Division I Boys Hockey State Championship when they defeated the West Genesee Wildcats by a score of 3 to 2 in triple overtime. Joe Laffin gave the Red Raiders the lead at 4:44 into the first period and Massena maintained that lead until 3:13 into the third period, when West Genesee tied the game. Massena regained the lead with 4:54 left in regulation when Nathan Pichette scored a goal, which was assisted by Antonio O'Geen and Laffin. However, with 1:07 to play in the third period, West Genesee tied the score again and the game went into overtime. After nearly three periods of overtime and 22 saves by Massena goalie Kyle Anderson, Captain Mike Mailhot scored to give the Red Raiders the game and the state championship.

The Massena Red Raiders finished the season with a 23–4–1 record. In addition, Coach Joe Phillips was named the New York State Division I Boys Hockey Coach of the Year. The Red Raiders were also coached by assistant coach Tim Hayes; Bob Belile, Tim Belile and Louie Trevino were team managers and Anthony Viskovich was the statistician.

Other team members include Clay Allen, Remy Boprey, Allen Bourdon, Tim Doud, Pat George, Captain and First Team All State selection Matt Hatch, David Henrie, Brian Holcomb, Josh Holmes, Alex Kormanyos, Mike Lashomb, William Lint, John-Paul Mailhot, Kevin Morris, Evan Raymo, Conor Riley, Matt Supernault, Dan Tyo, Dustin Vice, Matt Viskovich, Captain and Honorable Mention All State selection Jacob Witkop, and Taylor Zappia. Accordingly, Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me to recognize the Massena Red Raiders for their significant accomplishment.

TAIWAN ELECTIONS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2008

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Taiwan for having successfully completed its 4th direct presidential election

on March 22, 2008. Dr. Ma Ying-jeou, a Harvard-educated attorney and former mayor of Taipei, won with a convincing margin. I wish President-elect Ma and the people of Taiwan good luck in the next 4 years, along with continuing economic success and meaningful political reforms.

Since President-elect Ma's victory on March 22, he has made many gestures of good will, which include encouraging Beijing to start meaningful dialogue between Taiwan and Chinese mainland on the issues separating them. It is my sincere hope that both Taipei and Beijing will soon resume dialogue on the issues of mutual interest, leading to the peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region. Also, President-elect Ma has indicated his willingness to strengthen Taiwan's good relations with the United States. I hope that he will be able to visit Washington before his inauguration on May 20. Even though our two countries do not have official ties, our ties are strong and growing. The issues between us and Taiwan include our defense commitments to Taiwan, trade with Taiwan, our support of Taiwan's participation in international affairs, and lifting of outdated restrictions imposed on high-ranking officials from Taiwan to visit the United States. As our friend, Taiwan wants to see us fully committed to the letter and spirit of the Taiwan Relations Act, enacted on April 10, 1979.

Again, my best wishes to President-elect Ma and the people of Taiwan. And that's just the way it is.

175TH ANNIVERSARY OF KALAMAZOO COLLEGE

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2008

Mr. UPTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Kalamazoo College on the occasion of its 175th anniversary. Established in Kalamazoo, Michigan in 1833, Kalamazoo College—affectionately known as K College—has distinguished itself as one of the Nation's oldest and most respected institutions of higher education devoted to the study of the liberal arts.

In addition to being nationally recognized for its high standards of academic excellence, K College has been a pioneer in the field of overseas studies, offering global learning opportunities to its students for the past 50 years. Over 80 percent of all K College students spend a portion of their undergraduate education abroad, partnering with over 50 foreign universities on 6 continents.

As a global champion of lifelong learning, Kalamazoo College also produces, per capita, more students who go on to earn a doctorate than any other American college or university. K College graduates also rank nationally amongst those who are accepted in the Peace Corps, Teach For America, and the Fulbright Scholar Program.

With new challenges emerging at home and around the world, it is comforting to know that Kalamazoo College continues to maintain its longstanding tradition of producing globally-minded leaders.

Again, it is my honor to stand today in recognition of Kalamazoo College for its 175 year

history as well as its 50 years of international fellowship. The college and its graduates have not only made a positive impact within the greater Kalamazoo community and the State of Michigan, but throughout the entire Nation and the world at large.

TRIBUTE TO FORMER CONGRESSMAN WILLIAM L. DICKINSON

HON. TERRY EVERETT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2008

Mr. EVERETT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of former Alabama Republican Congressman Bill Dickinson who passed away last night at the age of 82 after an extended illness. As many of my colleagues will remember, Bill Dickinson represented Alabama's Second Congressional District for 28 years. Barbara and I send our heartfelt condolences to Bill's wife, Barbara, their children, Christopher, Michael, Tara and Bill, Jr. and the entire Dickinson family at this time of personal loss.

A native of Opelika, Alabama, and a former city, county and state judge before coming to Congress, Bill Dickinson was a Republican in the Deep South when being a Republican was not popular. Bill Dickinson came to Washington in 1964 as part of the Goldwater sweep of the Deep South and gained a reputation as a formidable legislator and a strong conservative voice for southeast Alabama. He served during a time of momentous change in this House, from civil rights movements and political upheavals of the 1960s, through Vietnam, Watergate, and the Reagan Revolution.

A Navy veteran, Bill Dickinson was a stalwart in national defense and was Ronald Reagan's point man on the House Armed Services Committee where he was ranking member for over a decade. As the committee's leading Republican he gave his support to President Reagan's defense build-up of the 1980s which made America more secure. Upon his retirement after 14 terms on the Hill, Congressman Dickinson listed his greatest accomplishments. After nearly three decades in office you can be sure the list is long, but here are some of the things he was proudest of. He saw aviation become a permanent full-fledged branch of the Army and Fort Rucker become the permanent home of Army Aviation. Furthermore, he secured Federal funding to help construct the U.S. Army Aviation Museum at Fort Rucker which bears his name. He was credited with getting Pentagon approval for the use of the Apache attack helicopter in the first gulf war. The Apache fired the first shot in the war. He oversaw the transformation of Gunter Air Force Station in Montgomery to an Air Force base before merging it with Maxwell to strengthen it. He also saw Maxwell restored to a major 3 star command and the establishment of the Air Force School of Law and the Senior NCO Academy for the entire Air Force at Maxwell-Gunter.

Bill Dickinson also took pride in securing the initial funding for the ongoing Outer Loop Interstate Connector south of Montgomery linking I-65 to I-85. This project is still underway. With the collapse of the Berlin Wall, the Warsaw Pact and the entire Soviet Union, he witnessed the validation of the concept of

"Peace Through Strength" for which he always worked. Bill Dickinson's legacy is still felt on many fronts, but today he is often credited with having laid the political foundation that kept the Second Congressional District in Republican hands for so long. I add my voice to those who mourn his passing and remember the dedication of this exemplary congressman.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2008

Mr. COBLE. Madam Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 147, 148 and 149, I missed votes because my flight was delayed.

Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on 147; "yea" on 148; and "yea" on 149.

HONORING JOSHUA DANIEL PIATT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Joshua Daniel Piatt of Lee's Summit, Missouri. Joshua is 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 1220, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Joshua has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Joshua 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 Joshua Daniel Piatt for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING COACHES DON AND BLAZE THOMPSON OF PAHOKEE, FLORIDA

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2008

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Coaches Don and Blaze Thompson, father and son, who are true living legends in the city of Pahokee, Florida and throughout Palm Beach County.

Don Thompson has been a part of the Pahokee Middle/Senior High School Blue Devils football team since 1984. As head coach, he led the team to its first state championship in 1989. In all the years since, he has been a mentor, friend and very important role model for the young men of Pahokee. Still an assistant coach of the team, Don Thompson is recognized and respected around the state of Florida as an expert at the sport of football. He is also a loving husband, father and grand-

father. As Don Thompson's son, Blaze Thompson has inherited his Dad's talent and skill for winning. In his first year as head coach of the Blue Devils, the team played the toughest opponents in its division and went undefeated, winning its 5th state championship. Blaze has already earned the love and respect of his players, fellow coaches, Pahokee's citizens and everyone who enjoys high school football.

Many of the boys Don and Blaze have coached have gone on to successful careers in professional football. As the first father and son to win Florida state championships with the same football team, it is fitting that Don was inducted into the Palm Beach County Sports Hall of Fame and Blaze named Coach of the Year on the same night. I have no doubt that Blaze will one day follow his Dad into the Hall. I am pleased that both of these fine gentlemen and the team they coach call the 23rd District of Florida their home. I am very proud of them. On behalf of the Members of the U.S. House of Representatives, I applaud coaches Thompson and Thompson for their service and commitment to the people of my district and throughout South Florida. We are all very proud of them.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF MARY TAVERNA ON HER RETIREMENT

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2008

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise with great pleasure today to honor a leader in my district who has done so much to help the terminally ill and their families face end-of-life issues. Mary Taverna is retiring after more than 30 years with the organization now known as Hospice By the Bay. She leaves behind an enduring legacy of hope and compassion to the people of Marin County, the San Francisco Bay area, and across the United States.

When she first began working as a nurse, Mary was concerned about the terminally ill and the lack of adequate care, so it was a natural step in 1976 for her to join what was then Hospice of Marin, which had been founded the previous year. At that time Hospice of Marin was only the second hospice in the United States, the first on the West Coast, and most Americans were unaware of what the hospice mission was. In fact, even the health care industry resisted it.

Mary was instrumental in changing all that, teaching that hospice was a specially designed program to address the comprehensive needs of the whole family system at the end of life, and that it was part of—not instead of—the health care support team. Two years after coming to Hospice of Marin, Mary became president of the organization. Under her leadership, Hospice nurtured community relationships as well as they did the families they served, including building a partnership with management of both county hospitals. Hospice of Marin is such a model that health care providers come here for training from all parts of the United States.

"I feel a great sense of pride in our organization's leadership and participation in hospice